

Borough of Jefferson Hills
Special Meeting of Council
February 2, 2022

The special meeting of Council was called to order by President Montgomery at 6:00 p.m. in the Municipal Center, 925 Old Clairton Road. Following the Pledge of Allegiance, Council Members Budd, Reynolds, Ruscitto, Steffey, President Montgomery, Vice President Bucy and Mayor McCaffrey answered to roll call. Solicitor Gabriel and Mr. Volpe was also present. Mr. Stinner, Mr. Glister, Chief Dziezgowski and Mr. Drager were not present.

President Montgomery took a moment of silence for Keith Polick.

CITIZEN AND TAXPAYER COMMENTS:

Paul V. Calise, 1301 McKinley Drive, it is a bittersweet night, the passing of Keith is really a sad event for everyone in this Borough. He was just a great guy and I think that was attested to at his service that was held here. However, now as you know it comes time for the appointment to take his place and that there will big shoes to fill. I can think of no one else or that I know no one else. He is an honorable man. He served as a Seabee for eight years in the Iraq war. He is currently OCS Officer Candidate for the Pennsylvania National Guard, and he is currently on the Jefferson Hills Environmental Advisory Council. Plus, if you back at his, Seabee experience with the National Guard, he has served nationally, he has served admirably and he was a PhD student in organizational management. I would really love for you all to support Joey Lynch, mentored by Keith Polick. I know Joey felt very strong towards Keith and Keith loved him and he loved Keith. I would like to see a unanimous vote for Joey Lynch, thank you so much and I appreciate it.

Lisa Buckiso, 3041 Shady Timber Lane, I'm here tonight to ask for your support to appoint Joe Lynch to Council. Joe's a Navy veteran and will soon be serving in the Army National Guard as well. He has been a dedicated member of the Jefferson Hills Republican Committee for years, stepped up to serve on the Environmental Advisory Council and has embraced Jefferson Hills as his home. He is incredibly intelligent, mild mannered and very thoughtful and controlled in his decision making. He's a tireless worker with a big heart who is always willing to listen and lend a helping hand. Those words lead my mind to another dear friend, and sadly the reason we are here to make this appointment. Keith Polick was one in a million and the voters overwhelmingly supported him and the republican slate in November's election. Keith can never be replaced on Council or as our friend. He is missed every day by me and so many. We would be naive not to consider who Keith would want to take this seat and carry on his wishes to move this community together in unity. There is no doubt in my mind that if he could be here to speak today, he would 1,000% support Joe for this seat. Joe was like a part of his family, like Keith made everyone who was close to him feel like. Joe, we couldn't be more proud of you as a person and as a potential representative on Council, I humbly ask all of all of you to support Joe Lynch to continue his service.

Carol Sweeney, 404 Gill Hall Road, Pete Doel has stood up for the residents at numerous Council meetings. I feel he is more than qualified to fill vacancy of Borough of Jefferson Hills Council. Please consider.

Judy Manfredi, 204 Andrew Drive, first, I'd like to offer my sincerest condolences to the family, friends, and colleagues of the late Council President, Mr. Keith Polick. Second, I'd like to urge the Council to respect the will of voters when naming a replacement. Brian Militzer is a long-time resident of the Borough, a business owner, a former auxiliary policeman and former member of Council. In the November 2021 municipal election, Mr. Brian Militzer received over 1,300 votes and finished fifth in the race for the four open Council seats. The voters have spoken. Mr. Brian Militzer should be appointed to fill the vacancy on Council. Thank you for your time and careful attention to this matter.

Sandy Seeman, 1221 Gill Hall Road, as a lifelong resident of Jefferson Borough, I would like to make a comment regarding the appointee to be made to Jefferson Borough Council. I would hope that this Council would be willing to appoint someone from amongst the candidates who ran for the office. I would hope that the position would not be awarded to someone who has not presented their viewpoints to the residents or someone who is appointed because they are a friend or have a connection with someone currently sitting on Council. I think it is only fair that the appointee be someone who has invested their time, and even finances as a candidate and showed an interest in serving on Council. I think it would be totally unfair to the past candidates if someone who never campaigned would be considered for the position. I think the appointee made by Council will show the residents the character of those serving on Council. It is unfortunate that we lost such a well-liked Council member who no doubt would have been an asset to the Borough and that he never had the opportunity to serve the residents.

Tara Welsh, 1501 Decker Avenue, I am writing this in regard to the vacancy on Council. I think it would be in the best interest for it to go to Pete Doel. He has been at several meetings and talked about how he offered some commonsense solutions to problems that Council keeps ignoring. He has the best interest of the residents at heart. It would be nice to have someone up there willing to listen and get work done for the residents.

Peter Pawlikoski, 1008 3rd Street, Wall Plan, I am a resident in the Wall Plan. I understand when we get snowstorms that the plow trucks come around and plow. What I don't understand is why an entire alley is being plowed into my front yard. I am talking about a very large alley. (The entire neighborhood) Several years ago we talked to one of the plow truck drivers about plowing the alley the opposite direction and that's what they did. Come spring, our lawn and shrubs are dead from salt and asphalt from the alley being plowed into the front lawn and not to mention the unsightly large piles of dirty, salty water from the snow runoff. There is nothing on the other end of the alley. Thank You for listening, concerned Wall Plan taxpayer.

PRESENTATION BY APPLICANTS

Brian Militzer: Thank you for the opportunity to be here. I too got along very well with Keith. Working the polls was always a pleasure with Keith. I appreciate the opportunity to come and speak. I moved here in October of 1989. Got hooked up with Emerson Christofel, he took me under his wing, got me involved with the auxiliary police. I served 21 years with the auxiliary police. From there, I got on the Planning Commission. From Planning Commission, I got on the Council, served seven and a half years on Council, two of them as being president.

My family history is, I'm a father of four, three children still reside in the Borough with my new daughter-in-law and my new granddaughter. I have three grandchildren and hopefully they do well in our school district.

My business history is I'm self-employed for 40 and a half years. I know the ins and outs of business. The Borough is a business. You have to buy insurance; you have to buy supplies; you have to negotiate. You have to have a network of people who will give you a better deal because you know them, and I do have an extensive knowledge of that from dealing with a lot of different people. One hand helps the other, and the Borough ends up being the same.

When I was on Council, my phone number was listed, I got calls at home. I'd go to your house; I'd go to your residence. Saturday's, weekends whenever they wanted to meet me. I have had an open-door policy, had no problem with going out and doing but I needed to do or what I could do for the residents, and I believe in good open rapport with people. With the business being 40 years on, I think it says a lot especially now and, in this day, and age it's so hard. Auto business is really hard, very competitive. But so far so good with God's blessing. But I think I can be an asset to your Council. I'm levelheaded with real common sense. God blessed me with a lot of common sense. I can see both sides of the fence, will listen to both sides of every argument, come to the best agreement. But it's always for the Borough, never for me. I never had a political agenda. Never wanted anything for myself. My salary was donated to youth football and the library when I was on for seven years, so it wasn't about any kind of money or any of that kind of stuff. I just wanted to help somebody else. I would appreciate the opportunity to serve again. I'm probably going to run again. There's going to be four seats again in a year and a half, two years. My name will probably be back on the ballot then. But if you chose to put me on now, I think you'd be well pleased. I think I could do a good job for the Borough. Thank you.

Pete Doel: First I wish we were here under better circumstances and would like to offer my condolences to the family and friends of Keith Polick. But since we are here now, I'd like to say a little bit about my background. I have 30 years' experience in project implementations and project management. I've worked on thousands of projects in that time, many involving multiple organizations, all with their own agenda and goals. In that time, I've never once had a project failed or even be delayed due to something that was my responsibility or under my control. That takes a lot of work and often a lot of compromise. I felt that experience could work well with Council.

In the time that I've lived in the Borough, I've seen a lot of areas where we need improvement, recreation, fire protection, bringing business into the area. We continue to bring in new housing plans yet, we aren't working on the infrastructure needed to handle the increase in population. I've seen little to no progress in the areas. I've come here many times offering help in discussing solutions and still no progress. I feel my experience could help in these areas.

I also believe that this position should be given to someone who ran for office and comes to the monthly meetings. We need people who are going to work for the residents and give this their all. As all of you sitting up there know, it takes a lot of work to just run for Council. I feel

someone wanting this position, they should have put the time and energy in to run. They should also be attending the monthly meetings.

In the last year, I worked a very hectic job, I went through training to become a foster parent, taking in two foster Children. At any given time, I've had 8 to 12 case workers and therapists involved with us, requiring multiple visits and meetings per week. In addition, I've trained for and ran two marathons. There were many Saturdays during the campaign in both the primaries and general elections, where I was getting up at four a.m. to run 16 to 20 miles, then spent 5 to 6 hours walking through the Borough going door-to-door campaigning. Like I said, this takes a lot of work, and we need someone who's going to work just as hard to work for the residents.

I realize on the national scale, parties are quite divided, but we're talking local politics here. We won't be making the type of divisive change that they do on a national level. Here, we're talking about the needs of our local Borough as stated above, recreation, fire protection, business and infrastructure. Those are the needs that our Council needs to be focusing on and those are the areas I feel we're failing the residents. I've been coming to these meetings for close to two years. I've offered my time; I've offered solutions and I've offered areas of compromise. We're no further along in the areas of concern than we were 2-3 years ago. Just something for you to think about, you could have me up there working alongside you, working on solutions that would work for everyone or you can have me coming up to these meetings month after month continuing to offer help, continuing to offer solutions, and continuing to bring up the areas where Council has failed the residents. Thank you.

David Bentz: I wish we were here under better circumstances, and I offer my condolences to everybody here. The reason I'm here is to offer my services to be on the Council. I just moved here about five years ago with my family. I have a young son that goes to Pleasant Hills Middle School, a wife that works from home, she works for Highmark. I work in the school district. I also am a supervisor at New Outlook Academy where I supervise a residential facility.

I've been on my HOA Jefferson Ridge for three years now. Not quite to this scale, but we deal with the budget roughly about 1/15th of what you guys deal with. But we deal with the same kinds of issues that you guys deal with. We deal with the snow removal, landscaping, we deal with upkeep, general upkeep, complaints, and the residents' concerns. So, I've had quite a taste of a lot of those things the last three and a half years.

I just thought that maybe you guys would need someone a little bit more pragmatic, these days tends to be really divisive, as he was pointing to. I've looked at a lot of what's been done with the Council and to be honest with you, I think a lot of it, it's a tough business, but I think you guys have done a pretty decent job. I see my community just being a recent resident, I've noticed a lot of things that have changed for the better. I live off right off at Gill Hall in Jefferson Ridge and I see the park and the beautification of that area, the roads leading up to Old Clairton and I just wanted to be part of that. So having said all that, I have a lot to offer in those areas and I wish you'd consider my help. If not, I'm always available for other things. Thank you.

Joseph Lynch: To the members of Council, I want to thank you all for allowing me to speak here this evening and having me considered in this field of outstanding applicants. Applicants like myself, who are willing to step up and take the challenge of helping our community get through

this tragic time and move forward. When I first moved to Jefferson Hills, I did not know what to expect at this point in my life. I was just a mechanic living in a small apartment at a corner that people never paid attention to. However, as I watched this community grow, I would like to say that I grew with it. This is a place where I was welcomed with open arms and have met the greatest people in the world. In fact, I do not consider them to be my friends, they are my family. And now here we are mourning the loss of a great member to our community, or should I say the Jefferson Hills family. It was this community, the reason why I bought my very first house here. It was this community, the reason why I have set out on my educational journey and exceeding my potential with my current career in transportation management and planning. It was this community, the reason why I returned to uniform as an officer candidate in the Pennsylvania Army National Guard. It was this community, that reminded me that my passion was servitude as a member of the Environmental Advisory Council. I know I may be younger than the rest of the candidates, I may not have lived here all my life, nor have a name that is prominent in Jefferson Hills, I'm just an ordinary resident with a can-do attitude. Which has been my work ethic since my days as a Navy Seabee and serving in the Iraq war. My time serving our great nation and our community has not only developed my work ethic, but also my values of compassion, leadership, duty, courage, and commitment. They have taught me to be strong for the weak. They have taught me the most single important value, which now I believe, has led me to this point, and that's honor. I tend to carry on these values that you have all taught me, if I'm chosen as your next member of Council. This is my thank you to Jefferson Hills. This is my thank you to Keith Polick. Thank you and God bless.

Lori Bartrug: Good evening. I too like the other candidates; I would like to start by giving my condolences to the Polick family and friends. As you know, I'm Lori Bartrug, but the residents in this community know me as Lori Sekulich. I'm proud to say that I've been a resident for this community for the majority of my life. I graduated from TJ, and over 80 years ago my grandfather came to this Borough. He bought a 50-acre farm, which my family and I still own today. My husband Hugh, a 22-year retired Navy Seal veteran and I purchased a home one mile from where I grew up in 2016.

After graduating, I received my bachelor's degree in business administration. After working for PepsiCo for 10 years, I was recruited by Campbell's where I currently work as a business director of noncommercial sales. I'm responsible for creating strategy, driving execution and growth for \$135 million dollar business. My work includes budget and project management, contract development and negotiations as well as key customer responsibilities. In the past 20 years, in six of those years, I was recognized by each company with their most prestigious award given to an employee. I have two PepsiCo Ring of Honor's and four Campbell's Merit awards. In the past year I received a prestigious award from my customer, the Zenith Award. It's awarded to the top manufacturing partner.

So, what has made me so successful over the years? I listened respectfully, work well with others, and make strategic decisions to move an agenda forward. Strong communication, leadership and financial acumen are key skill sets which I possess. I conduct myself with integrity, I am responsible and dedicated.

After my mom passed away, I found myself with free time and I became more engaged with the Borough. I was appointed by Council to sit on two different boards, EAC and WESA. In April of 2019 our Planning Commission had special meetings for a proposed new zoning

ordinance. I was one of a handful of residents who attended the meetings and provided recommendations to enhance our Borough's ordinance. In 2018 and 19 I attended numerous special meetings held by Borough to prevent deep well fracking. This Borough asked me to support their case. I worked with John Smith, the Borough's attorney and testified on behalf of the residents. No other resident was asked to do this. This work stopped the largest fracking well in the state of PA from being placed next to our new high school.

During this exact time, I was fighting breast cancer. One of the meetings I attended, it was four days after my surgery. The meeting that I was asked to testify at, I was receiving radiation treatments. I can tell you; I didn't miss one of those meetings. That shows my commitment to this Borough.

With all due respect to the other candidates. I can tell you in the past five years I've attended more Council meetings. So why am I here tonight? I want to give back to this Borough, which I love. I am passionate about the community and will work hard for the Borough and its residents. I have the knowledge, skills and values which are necessary to be a successful Council member. I thank you for the consideration.

Mr. Reynolds made a motion to appoint Brian Militzer to fill vacancy of Borough of Jefferson Hills Council, term of appointment shall run until the next municipal election cycle, seconded by Mrs. Bucy. The vote was not unanimous, and a roll call vote was taken. Per the Borough Code, which requires that the minutes show the actual votes by name, below are the votes of each Council Member:

President Montgomery	NO
Vice President Bucy	YES
Mrs. Budd	NO
Mr. Reynolds	YES
Mrs. Ruscitto	YES
Mrs. Steffey	NO
Mayor McCaffrey	NO to break the tie vote

Solicitor Gabriel stated, for the residents here and for the public. There's a section of the Borough Code which governs the situation when there's a 3/3 tie. Title 8 Borough Statutes, Section 1003 indicates that the situation of a tie vote. If by reason of a tie or split vote and the Council shall be unable to fill any vacancy in its membership, the mayor, if an attendance in the meeting may at the mayor's option cast the deciding vote or shall direct at the meeting that the matter be tabled until another special meeting of Council. The mayor clearly under this statutory authority has the option to cast the deciding vote.

Mr. Reynolds made a motion to appoint Lori Bartrug to fill vacancy of Borough of Jefferson Hills Council, term of appointment shall run until the next municipal election cycle, seconded by Mrs. Ruscitto. The vote was not unanimous, and a roll call vote was taken. Per the Borough Code, which requires that the minutes show the actual votes by name, below are the votes of each Council Member:

President Montgomery	NO
Vice President Bucy	NO
Mrs. Budd	NO
Mr. Reynolds	YES
Mrs. Ruscitto	YES
Mrs. Steffey	NO

Mrs. Ruscitto stated Mrs. Manfredi wrote a letter and stated that the next highest vote getter in the election should get the seat since it's a Republican seat that's vacant, I think the next highest vote getter that it was a Republican should get that seat and that was Ms. Bartrug.

Mr. Reynolds stated Lori it may not have been recognized here but thank you for your dedication. The residents see it and is much appreciated. You know what you did to fend off that that well was more than what anybody could have asked. So, I thank you very much, much appreciated.

Mrs. Steffey made a motion to appoint Joe Lynch to fill vacancy of Borough of Jefferson Hills Council, term of appointment shall run until the next municipal election cycle, seconded by Mrs. Budd. The vote was not unanimous, and a roll call vote was taken. Per the Borough Code, which requires that the minutes show the actual votes by name, below are the votes of each Council Member:

President Montgomery	YES
Vice President Bucy	NO
Mrs. Budd	YES
Mr. Reynolds	NO
Mrs. Ruscitto	NO
Mrs. Steffey	YES
Mayor McCaffrey	YES to break the tie vote

Mayor McCaffrey administered the Oath of Office to swear in Mr. Lynch.

Mrs. Bucy stated many of the candidates have stated that they were interested in serving. I would just like to announce that we did formulate our agenda for the following meeting on February 9th, and there is a planning seat available that Keith Polick also resided on. If anybody here would like to apply for the vacant position, it will be advertised shortly.

Mr. Reynolds stated I'd like to make a motion that we take this the full distance, and we reorganize.

Mr. Montgomery stated it's not on the agenda.

Mr. Reynolds stated well, I'm making a motion to put it on the agenda. I'm making a motion right now that we reorganized. Is there a second?

Mrs. Ruscitto seconded.

Solicitor Gabriel stated I just want to state for the record. I do believe that this is advertised only as a special meeting for the purpose of filling the vacancy. But any other business can be brought up. We have we do have a voting meeting coming up on February 9th.

Mrs. Steffey asked, do you mean for the next agenda meeting?

Mr. Reynolds stated I'm saying right now let's get to the point. If it's brought up and then the motion is made, and it's seconded our solicitor just said that we can in fact vote on it.

Mrs. Steffey asked, we can do that tonight?

Solicitor Gabriel stated well, I think it's probably more appropriate to vote on it in the next meeting.

Mr. Reynolds asked is it more appropriate or is it right or wrong?

Solicitor Gabriel stated this is only advertised, we can check the advertisement. I believe it was a special, the purpose of this meeting was advertised only for special purpose of filling the vacancy on Council.

Mr. Reynolds stated but if emotions made seconded, we could vote on something else, correct?

Solicitor Gabriel stated we can defer it until the next voting meeting.

Mr. Reynolds stated you're not answering my question. If a motion is made and seconded, can we vote on it?

Solicitor Gabriel stated typically, you can but in a meeting that's advertised for general business. But this one was only advertised for a special purpose to fill the vacancy on council.

Mr. Reynolds stated so, the answer to my question is yes, we can vote on it.

Mrs. Bucy stated no, I think the answer to the question, if I may interpret here, Solicitor Gabriel is saying that the answer to that question is no, because it was advertised as a special meeting. It was not advertised as a general meeting. Could you please explain that again?

Mr. Reynolds stated you used the word typically; these are not typical circumstances.

Solicitor Gabriel stated I understand, but we're confined by the advertisement that went out for this meeting. It was advertised a special meeting only for one purpose to fill the vacancy on Council. The reorganization there can be emotions made at the next Meeting, but that would be February. I believe February 14th is the next meeting of the general business. Can you hold the motion until then?

Mr. Reynolds stated I'd like it done now. We need to move forward as a Borough. We have a responsibility. We have people in temporary positions. I would like to put somebody in the position full time. The sooner that they can get on the ground and the sooner to keep our community moving in the right direction, you give them the opportunity to do that and that's what I would like to do. A motion was made, it was seconded. There's nothing that prohibits us from voting on it. I understand it's not typical, but like I said, it's this is not typical circumstances. So, I would like to reorganize right now.

Mr. Montgomery stated it doesn't say that.

Mrs. Steffey asked if it would be breaking the law if we did that?

Solicitor Gabriel stated the problem is if it's challenged and we have not advertised for any other business to be conducted, we only have one special meeting items.

Mr. Reynolds stated so we're breaking the law by doing that? Well then with that being said on the agenda for Wednesday, can I make the suggestion that we had to reorganize at that point?

Mrs. Ruscitto stated I'll second that.

Mrs. Bucy stated for the agenda meeting to discuss it and then it votes on the next meeting.

Mr. Montgomery stated that's not a voting meeting.

Mrs. Bucy stated he wants he wants to place it on the agenda meeting and then it will be discussed and then it will be voted upon on the next voting meeting in February.

Mrs. Steffey stated I'll also support that motion because I believe that in Borough Code if you have one third, it absolutely has to be put on the agenda, correct. Instead of just having a first and a second. If you do a third, that's in favor. It has to be put on the agenda.

Mrs. Ruscitto stated that's correct.

President Montgomery adjourned the meeting at 6:23 p.m. on motion by Mrs. Budd, seconded by Mr. Lynch and carried unanimously.