

Borough of Jefferson Hills
Agenda Meeting of Council
August 3, 2022

The agenda meeting of council was called to order by Vice President Budd at 7:03 p.m. in the Municipal Centers, 925 Old Clairton Road. Following the Pledge of Allegiance, Council Members Bucy, Lynch, Montgomery, Reynolds, Ruscitto, Vice President Budd, and President Steffey (via zoom) answered to roll call. Borough Manager Stinner (via zoom), Finance Officer Drager, Solicitor Gabriel, Chief Dziezgowski, Borough Engineer Glister, Consulting Engineer Minsterman and Public Works Director Volpe were also present. Mayor McCaffrey was absent.

4. Report from Borough Boards and Commissions
5. Borough Resident/Taxpayer Comments on Agenda Items

Debra Caley, 1532 Marian Dr, Finleyville stated I live near the corner of Larkspur Drive and Marion Drive. I moved there about six years ago. The speeding & traffic along these streets has happened a long time, there are now more children at the lower end of Marion Drive. There are actually five boys and one little girl that live near that intersection of Marion Drive and Larkspur. What happens is that people coming from Ridge Road are speeding down Larkspur Drive. They get down to Willem, and they are coming from work or whatever, and they slow down because there are kids in that neighborhood. They don't know there are kids in the upper end. There are now five young boys and a little girl that live really close to that intersection. From my front porch, I have watched many near misses. People pulling out of the stop sign on Marion Drive to go on to Larkspur are flying down the hill from Ridge Road. After they come from 51, they get on Ridge Road, and they just fly down. Then they must stop down on Willem because there's a stop sign there. But, again, coming up from Willem and going up to Larkspur, they speed up, they go up to Ridge Road. Something must be done because there is going to be a terrible accident. I've watched many near misses. Especially with kids crossing the street. I do have a personal agenda. I have a grandson that lives on the other side of Marion Drive, and he gets excited, he's coming to my house, and I have to yell at him. His name is Braden. I say "Braden, stay there, stay there. Just wait, just wait." The people are just speeding up there and have no care about coming through that area. I propose either a sign or some monitoring. Maybe if they caught some of these speeders, they'll realize that you can't go that fast for this plan. I did notice on Cherrywood, they do have a slow children or watch children sign. I don't know if a sign will do it. You can put the sign up, but I think monitoring or even lines that may call their attention to slow down here. That is my whole concern. School's starting, there is a bus stop between Marion and Larkspur so there's kids coming on at that intersection. Just a couple of weeks ago, there was a little kid in Pittsburgh, he was hit at an intersection because of speeding. It's just an accident waiting to happen in that intersection. I just shudder to think about anything happening. Whatever you think is the best way to slow those drivers down is beneficial. Thank you.

Chief Dziezgowski responded Mr. Glister and have already been looking into speed humps. There are some parameters. We have spoken with the engineer from Gateway Engineering about it. We are looking into speed humps to see if it is feasible for Jefferson Hills. We are evaluating policies from other areas to see if it fits within Jefferson Hills. Some concerns that I have with the speed humps are more for public works. We must do road maintenance during the wintertime. Putting in permanent speed humps would be a little problematic for the salt trucks. We must take all these things into consideration when we decide what direction we're going. We are looking into that right now.

Mr. Montgomery stated I was just with Chief Finnerty last week and you must follow PennDOT guidelines for permanent speed humps. If they are temporary speed humps, you must remove them for winter.

Chief Dziezgowski stated we are looking at areas that already have speed humps in place. We are looking at their policies and how they have enforced them to make sure that it is right for Jefferson Hills. I look at enforcement being the number one. I was made aware of it on my return on Monday. The area of Marion and Larkspur is already on the list for enforcement. You will see a police presence in that area.

As far as the signs, unfortunately, "Slow Children at play" signs are cautionary. They are not regulatory signs. You need something that's going to regulate the traffic. We will look at the best possible alternative.

John Supp, 4023 Rustic Woods Dr, Jefferson Hills stated I've been in this Borough for 15 years. I've been involved in the soccer organization for the better part of 12 years. I served as the president for three years for the youth organization. I've also coached at the high school level. With me is Anthony Frisoli who's the current president of TJ Youth Soccer Club. I was at 885 Park a couple of weeks ago. I had the pleasure of running into Nicole and Dave down there. They were gracious enough to have a tent up along with the planner. That tent was taking ideas about what people want the Borough to look like going into the future. I think they had a pretty large number of ideas pinned up to the tent. Not sure where those go but I'm sure they're somewhere. I had a chance to talk to them for a period of time and approached them with an idea of turfing the field at Beedle Park. Our organization is over 600 deep. A large percent of youth in our community play soccer. I know a lot of people have a lot of ideas and they're a lot of good ideas but the one different thing with regards to our idea is we want to work with the Borough to help pay for it. You probably don't hear that too often, but we have \$130,000 in account right now. We can make that \$200,000 within the next 24 months. We raised \$130,000 in less than three years. We haven't raised a penny in the last three years because of COVID and because of a lack of direction for the funds. The idea was always to turf a field to provide a quality surface for our children to play upon. I'm not here for my daughter. My daughter's going to be a senior, she'll never step a foot on that turf. I'm here to speak on behalf of all the children of the borough. A lot of the residents want something good for the kids. We would love nothing more than to work with the borough and hopefully with the state to move forward with a project down there. We've already met in the past down there with the solicitor I believe. Also, the gentleman from the Rec Board has met with us on multiple occasions to talk about this as well. I know there are multiple phases supposedly happening down there, but we would like to see the current field turfed sooner rather than later. We don't necessarily want a 10-year plan. We have money now. We have good leadership in the organization. The same people have been there for a good number of years but as you know and I know, things change, people move on, other people move in and who knows where those funds will end up. We would love to try to move forward.

Mr. Stinner stated I spoke with Mr. Glister a bit right before the end of the school year. We spoke about meeting some time here in the next couple of months to discuss the turf field that you have approached us with. The Rec Board would also like to be involved. I have already talked with Mr. Glister about preliminary designs for the field for possible submission for the DCNR park financing grants that are offered the first part of 2023. Up until last summer, our ability to apply for grant funding was not possible because we had not been aligned with a plan the DCED had financed many years ago. The completion of the concession stand, put us back in good standing.

After the maintenance schedule is finished, Mr. Glister will look at what your organization and recreation want to do with the field. When we have community partners such as your organization that brings money for a project, it bodes much better with the application than if we are applying as a Borough alone. I think the pieces have been put on the table, we just need to organize them to move forward. I will work with Tom Dugan to reach out to you.

6. Discussion to approve the monthly bills
7. Discussion to approve the monthly payroll
8. Discussion to approve minutes of agenda meeting June 8, 2022
9. Discussion to approve minutes of regular meeting June 13, 2022
10. Discussion to approve minutes of agenda meeting July 6, 2022
11. Discussion to approve minutes of regular meeting July 11, 2022
12. Discussion to recognize Sergeant John O’Leary on his retirement after 25 years of service to the Jefferson Hills Police Department and the community of Jefferson Hills
13. Discussion to appoint _____ to the Borough of Jefferson Hills Recreation Board

Mrs. Steffey informed Council we have previous Recreation Board letters of interest from four or five different people including one that was most recent. I felt that it is important to keep moving these letters of interest back into submission whenever there's an open seat. We did advertise a few months ago. We did approve one more letter of interest by Mr. Stoyanoff. He's our most recent. I wanted to make sure that we weren't selecting the most recent applicants to make sure that everyone gets a fair chance.

14. Discussion to hire _____ to the position of Laborer inside the Borough of Jefferson Hills Public Works Department
15. Discussion to hire _____ to the position of Laborer inside the Borough of Jefferson Hills Public Works Department
16. Discussion to adopt the 2021 International Property Maintenance Code subject to amendments as recommended by the Planning Commission

Mrs. Steffey thanked Councilman Montgomery for getting together the committee that went through this IPMC and offered their suggestions. The committee being Mr. Jeffrey Dean, Mr. Derek Reckard, and Mr. Kerry Ripley. We expected to have this on the agenda for July. I waited a month for adding it to the agenda to make sure that Council had enough time to look over all of their very valuable suggestions and improvements to the IPMC.

Mrs. Bucy noted the IPMC and the recommended amendments were voted upon unanimously by the Planning Commission.

17. Discussion to adopt Ordinance #890 the permitting and regulation of fireworks, including the display and discharge of fireworks within the Borough

Mr. Montgomery noted some typographical errors.

Mr. Montgomery asked will there be anything done with residential fireworks because this seems to be only commercial?

Mr. Stinner responded the concern came from a couple of events where large-scale fireworks were put off by other entities in the community. The borough and borough Fire Marshal were not informed they would be discharging this level of fireworks. As a result, we felt the need that the ordinance should have specifications as to when large scale fireworks could occur and notification to the proper authorities these events are taking place.

The Ordinance prohibits the use of display fireworks by the general public but allows for public display of display fireworks by professional competent pyrotechnicians in a safe manner. It does include the law regarding fireworks not being able to set off within 100 feet of any structure, residential property, vehicles, and roadways.

Chief Dziezgowski stated this ordinance follows very closely the actual statute that's in place right now as law. Display fireworks are measured by the actual propellant powder inside each firework. Display fireworks are for commercial use only. There are consumer fireworks that have less of the powder inside. It is enumerated on the packaging as consumer fireworks. Personal purchasing of display fireworks is still illegal under the state statute. This ordinance was reviewed and aligns with the state statute. Other than penalty, the penalty at the state statute is \$100, the penalty on this ordinance is \$1,000.

If we get a complaint of significant fireworks going off, an officer will investigate. If there is evidence that the individual is in possession of fireworks against this ordinance, we as the police have the power to seize those fireworks and cite them under state statute when this ordinance goes in effect.

18. Discussion to adopt the Allegheny County Municipal Snow and Ice Agreement for the following winter seasons: 2022-2023, 2023-2024, 2024-2025

Mr. Montgomery stated last year we had 52 inches of snow. Are they going to reimburse us like the state does?

Mr. Stinner answered no because they have a different formula. The County uses an average snow fall. It is not as straightforward as the state's. We were told we would not be reimbursed in the amount of snow we received last year. Council initially voted on this two years ago. The county operates in a three-year cycle. We opted into the program halfway through that cycle. This will be our three-year contract with the county.

Mrs. Bucy stated on the facts and figures, it does go up every year. In 2022-23, the reimbursement is \$40,449.92, 2023-24 is \$41,663.45, and in 2024-25, it is almost 43,000. It does increase with each year.

19. Discussion to participate in the SHACOG 2022-23 Rock Salt Agreement for _____ tons at the purchase price of \$88.96

Mr. Drager stated item 19 and 20 go hand in hand. Currently we have an agreement with SHACOG. Item 20 is with COSTAR. The possibility of supply chain issues could come into play. Either way, the two price options are a little bit different. This scenario would save us approximately \$31,000 this upcoming calendar year assuming we use the same amount of salt as we did this past year. It could vary depending on how much salt we use. Also, this scenario will give us the flexibility having two suppliers of salt.

Mr. Stinner commended Mr. Drager for his work on this deal. We have an agreement with SHACOG in place. He found a way to satisfy our COSTAR and our SHACOG salt bid as well as look at a cheaper alternative for salt. We can give it a trial run to see how it stacks up next to the SHACOG program while capitalizing a lot of cost savings.

20. Discussion to participate in the COSTARS (Account #: 10479) 2022-23 Rock Salt Agreement for _____ tons at the purchase price of \$_____

21. Discussion to reallocate \$155,000 from account *01-499-740 – PW Trucks* to *01-499-741 – PW Equipment* in the General Fund for the purchase of a new backhoe at the price of \$120,331.00

Mr. Montgomery commented because of supply chain problems, they can't get the truck. Mr. Volpe found this backhoe that we can get. The only thing we must keep in mind is we're going to be backed up with two trucks if the supply chain's reset itself. We will have to do some due diligence to see what we can do or not do.

22. Discussion to authorize the proper Borough officials to execute a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for Police Services between the Steel Center for Career and Technical Education and Jefferson Hills Borough Police Department

Chief Dziezgowski stated this is a normal document. The MOU is renewed every two years between the schools and the police department for safe schools. It allows for the continuous exchange of information back and forth if there are any events that happen with the school where the police must get involved.

23. Discussion to authorize the proper Borough officials to execute a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for Police Services between West Jefferson Hills School District (WJHSD) and Jefferson Hills Borough Police Department

24. Discussion to issue Request for Proposals for investment management services and custodianship of Jefferson Hills Police Department (JHPD) pension investment funds

Mr. Montgomery stated this is to authorize RFPs for investment management. We need to improve our performance from what it is today. It is just an index fund with PSAB. They are for smaller communities. We have grown to the point where we need to do this.

Mr. Stinner stated the RFP is planned to be released a week from Sunday if Council votes to release it. We will be collecting bids during the process. The information will be going to the pension council and the pension committee.

25. Discussion to authorize the execution of an administrative agreement with the South Hills Council of Governments concerning the SHACOG Joint O&M CCTV Inspection and Cleaning Project-Year 12

26. Discussion to authorize the execution of an administrative agreement with the South Hills Council of Governments concerning the SHACOG Joint Municipal Sanitary Sewer Lining Project – Year 16

27. Discussion to award the Lobb’s Run Stream Restoration project to C. Crump, Inc., the lowest responsible bidder, to satisfy the Borough’s Pollution Reduction Plan in the amount of \$116,940.00

Mr. Montgomery congratulated Mr. Glister. We estimated it at \$120,000. It came in less due to Mr. Glister’s efforts.

28. Discussion to approve Work Authorization dated July 21, 2022, from Gateway Engineers, Inc. to provide construction administration, and inspections services for the Lobb’s Run stream restoration project in the amount not to exceed \$13,000.00

29. Discussion to adopt resolution 29-2022 granting preliminary and final approval to the Phil DiMarco Subdivision designated S-6-2022, Wray Large Road

30. Reports

Fire Chief

Nothing Further
EMS

Not Present

Engineer

Mr. Montgomery asked about demolitions. We didn't get the demolition through SHACOG from what your report said.

Mr. Glister stated correct. for CDBG Year 48, we applied for the demolition of the three properties. It wasn't anything with the application. They said they did not have the funding to move forward with it. The same three properties are currently under review for consideration for grant funding under the 2022 Act 152 grant program.

Mrs. Ruscitto asked about the email that was sent regarding the Pipeline and the Turnpike Commission. Shouldn't that have been determined by the DEP at the beginning of the project? Why is the need to relocate the line suddenly come to light?

Mr. Glister responded that is dictated by the Turnpike Commission as they progress through their design or finalized their design and the utilities that are impacted. The turnpike covers the majority of the relocation cost since the lines would not have to be relocated if it wasn't for the proposed extension of the expressway. One of the things they have looked at is the borough Peters Creek Interceptor near the parking lot. That is a major line. It is I think 30 inches and they are

going to have a bridge pier nearby. They're doing the same process with all the utilities. They determined that a couple of months ago. Our line was OK. It wasn't going to be impacted for any future maintenance. It took until now for them to get their agreements in place to where they could authorize the gas company to go ahead and start the relocation efforts.

Consulting Engineer

Nothing Further

Finance Officer/Treasurer

Nothing Further

Public Works Director

Nothing Further

Police Chief

Chief Dziezgowski announced to the residents several modules to assist our residents in reporting things to the Police Department or other departments is up and running on our website. I would direct our residents to check out the features on our website. It will be under the information for residents tab. We are still trying to make it more user friendly. If the residents go to the information for resident's tab, under that tab there are several icons. One is for at-risk residents. At-risk residents are anyone that may have a disability or need special care or attention if the police are called to your house. It provides information that a guardian or a loved one, parent, or whoever would supply in this database. It's a secure database. It only goes to the police to assist us when responding to calls to your residence or your loved one's residence. The next one is a condition report. For an example, if someone sees a pothole, dead animal on the road, they can click on and report it and it will go to the appropriate division. The next is a vacation watch, if someone's going out of town, rather than come into the building and fill out a piece of paper or call on the phone, the resident can fill this out on their own online. It gets immediately submitted with the conditions that they want their house or residence to check, completely secure. The next one is very important also. It's a key holder database and that's for both businesses and residents. This keeps the Police Department and the Borough up to date on key holders and names and numbers, contact information in the event there's an emergency. It also has a tab to designate whether you have exterior surveillance cameras which will assist us in any investigation if we have it in your area. Lastly, as a little friendly option, we have pet management for anyone that wants to upload a picture of their pet. If they are lost, stolen, or found, at least the police will have that information that you can update. The Council thought this was a great addition to the website. It gives our residents a little more freedom to offer up information when they need it.

Mayor

Not Present

Manager

Nothing Further

Solicitor

Solicitor Gabriel noted for the record, Council did meet in executive session to discuss personnel matters prior to this Agenda Meeting. We will turn to executive session following this meeting.

31. General Business

Mr. Reynolds announced Vitalant sent me a message. Jefferson United Methodist Church is having a blood drive this Friday. It's from 1:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. They're low on blood all around. They're passing out gift cards there. They're giving you a \$6 gift card redeemable through email with the addition to being automatically entered into a random drawing for a \$3,000 gift card.

Mrs. Ruscitto congratulated Officers Murphy and Olsen. Glad to have them aboard. Thanks for the ceremony the other day, Chief. It was nice to be there and see what goes on.

I'm also pleased to announce the return of our outreach program that focuses on our elderly in the community. The new database will be perfect to help us contact people. It focuses on the needs of our senior community in Jefferson Hills. During the pandemic it was started, it was essentially just myself and Sherry Trbovich who I can't thank enough. Now I have help from our two fantastic librarians and Councilwoman Budd. This program I think will flourish and I'm excited to see that happen. I'd like to thank Dana and Brandy and Hillary. I'd also like to thank Joanne Everly, she is going to communicate between the sports teams. She thinks that the cheerleaders and some other sporting teams may be able to help us serve some of these elderly people.

Mrs. Bucy stated I only have two things. One is an update on the reapportionment of the voting districts. Dave Oster, Sue Mackulen, Dave Montgomery, and I met. We have finished reallocating the streets. We do have some people relocated to a much closer voting poll. We hopefully have a new voting poll location. We are trying to get no more than 1,200 voters at a voting place. We hope to have an article about this in the IN-community magazine.

I would like to say another thing in this time of inflation, the Cloverleaf Ecumenical Food Bank meets every other Tuesday. If you are elderly, you can send somebody on your behalf if you cannot make it there personally. There are three Tuesdays in August, August 2nd, August 16th, and August 30th. If anyone needs somebody to personally pick up items for them, they can contact me. I will be your source for picking up items. They have senior citizens boxes plus they have a multitude of food and personal need items.

Mr. Montgomery stated at the last Planning Commission, we discussed the subdivision ordinance. It hasn't been updated in many years. We would like to start doing that just like we did with the International Property Maintenance Code. It hasn't been updated in 20 plus years, from what they tell us it does need it.

The Personnel Committee came up with some job descriptions and submitted them to everybody. We would like to get some comments from you.

Mrs. Budd congratulated Officers Murphy and Olsen. Thank you, Chief, for the nice ceremony to make an event like that so special because it is. It's very special for those officers. It was nice to see some of their family members there, and Council members. A nice crowd to support them as they start their career here.

I have a report from the library on some upcoming events they have. On Tuesday, August 9th, they have a self-defense seminar for women. The first session is currently full but if you're interested you can sign up for the waitlist. If they do have enough people interested, they will add a second session. Wednesday, August 31st Vitalant will hold a blood drive in the community room. All donors will receive a \$6 gift card and be entered into a \$3,000 gift card drawing. The library will receive a \$15 donation from Vitalant and the Jefferson Regional Foundation for every registered donor. On Wednesday, August 31st at 7:00 PM, the Novel Prospectors Book Club will meet to discuss The Book of Unknown Americans by Cristina Henriquez. Pick up a copy of the book at the library. Thanks to a grant from the American Library Association's American Rescue Plan: Humanities Grants for Libraries program, a copy of the book is yours to keep. Pre-K Story Time with Miss Sharon will resume on Thursday, September 8th at 10:30 AM. And you can also visit their website for anything further, to register for these programs, or find out further information.

Mrs. Steffey thanked Vice-President Budd for running the meeting this evening. And again, my congratulations to our two officers that were just newly hired.

32. Adjournment

Vice President Budd adjourned the meeting at 7:55 p.m. on a motion by Mrs. Ruscitto, seconded by Mrs. Bucy and carried unanimously.

Executive Session: Personnel, Lawfully Privileged/Confidential, Public Safety Preparedness, Litigation Peters Creek Sanitary Authority, et al. v. Clairton Municipal Authority, Court of Common Pleas of Allegheny County, GD-17-017711; AUUE, Inc. v. Borough of Jefferson Hills Zoning Hearing Board, 328 WAL 2021, Court of Common Pleas of Allegheny County Appeal No. 871 CD 2020, SA-19-000748; PICCO Superfund site- potential litigation involving WESA and Ashland; Potential acquisition of real estate; threatened litigation from WESA.