

The regular meeting of Council was called to order by President Steffey at 7:00 p.m. in the Municipal Centers, 925 Old Clairton Road. Following the Pledge of Allegiance, Councilwoman Bucy, Vice President Budd, Councilman Lynch, Councilman Montgomery, Councilman Reynolds, Councilwoman Ruscitto, President Steffey, and Mayor McCaffrey answered to roll call. Solicitor Cromer, Chief Dziezgowski, Engineer and Acting Borough Manager Glistner, and Public Works Director Volpe were also present. Consulting Engineer Minsterman, Finance Director Haberstock, and Borough Manager Stinner were absent.

REPORT FROM BOROUGH BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

Dana Farabaugh, Library Director, thanked everybody who contributed during Love Your Library month. We raised about \$1,600.00 more than last year, which is always really nice. I know, right now, with inflation and the cost of living everybody is being very deliberate about where they spend their money, so we do really appreciate every single dollar.

The main reason I am here tonight is to let everybody know and to acknowledge her for her work. Joyce Schmidt, who was our very first librarian, passed away late last week. I wanted to take some time to talk about her legacy and thank her and her family for sharing her with us because she started the library with a group of volunteers in 1959 when she was 17 years old, which is ridiculously impressive. I was not doing anything like that when I was 17. She was the first paid employee in 1963. She came on as library director and worked until 1994. She really saw the library through quite a bit of change and growth. She is 100% responsible for it transforming from a collection of about 100 books in the dusty old Borough Building to a place that really inspires creativity, inspires exploration, really a place for everybody in the community but especially kids. That was really her passion. She also had a passion for local history. She is a founding member of the Jefferson Hills Historical Society because after she retired from the library, she just could not sit back. I really just wanted to take the time to give her the recognition she deserves, because she really was a lovely woman. She was very hardworking, very dedicated, believed in making the world a better place, leaving it better than you found it and also just ridiculously kind. She really was one of the nicest people I have ever met. So, thank you and thanks to her family because she spent a lot of time here and we are very grateful for all of it.

PRESENTATION BY JOHN KAUFMAN, ALLEGHENY COUNTY VETERANS' COORDINATOR

John Kaufman, Allegheny County Veterans Coordinator, stated I'm with Allegheny County Veterans Services. We are housed in Soldiers and Sailors Memorial Hall in Oakland. The primary function of our office is to connect veterans to federal, state, and county-level benefits. A lot of service members, when they're getting out of service, they know the VA exists, they know that there's VA benefits, they know that there's some state benefits. The mystery is, how do you access them? You know, the service is really good for preparing you to get out but that's kind of whenever it stops. Our office fills that gap. Our office walks through the application process, whether it's enrolling for VA healthcare for eligible veterans, service-connected disability compensation, education benefits, or home loan assistance. Some veterans will qualify for the Pennsylvania real estate tax exemption. There is a financial assistance program that the state runs. Allegheny County ranks number one in veteran population across the state of Pennsylvania,

and it's top 10 in the country. We have a lot of veterans out there. There are pamphlets back here that have our office's phone number. If you know a veteran, send them our way. I would say 80% of the vets we talk to don't even know that they're eligible for veteran benefits. Traditionally, our office has kind of been in-house down in Oakland. Our goal now is to get out into the community. It's easy for the Vietnam era, Korea era to get to our office when it's 8:00 to 4:00, Monday through Friday but we're missing a whole lot of returning veterans from OEF-OIF. We'll have a VSO across the hall here on November 17th from 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. If you know a veteran, send them our way. Every conversation usually ends with a veteran who had no idea that they were entitled or eligible or qualified for benefits applying before they leave our office. We have seen, especially in the younger generation, that a lot of times getting financial assistance from the VA or service connection disability compensation allows that veteran to stay in school a little longer because the VA is paying them, which helps go towards food, rent, and allows them to go for their master's rather than settling for their bachelors. I'm asking everybody here that's watching to help us reach more. I would love to sit down and discuss how communities can fill some of the gaps that we're seeing in veteran care. Right now, you know, the VA is doing hybrid appointments, this older generation has no idea how to log into an iPhone and wait 20 minutes for an appointment and how it works. We're seeing a lot of veterans that are missing their appointments falling behind on care. Our next big project is going to be to see how the communities can fit in and if we can make some secure facilities to where veterans may be able to come here to the library, for example, and attend their appointments. I'm trying to keep this brief because I can talk for three hours on the world of VA benefits. Please feel free to send any veteran, family members of veterans. There's a ton of family programs out there, whether it's spouse, kids. Send them our way. We want to help these people. Allegheny County has a whole lot of veterans that we're not reaching, and we need to.

Mr. Montgomery asked are you the best contact for veteran issues?

Mr. Kaufman responded we have a team of six veteran service officers. We are fully funded by the county, so we're not anybody you see on TV with commercials that are going to take a percentage of this or require payment. We're certified VSOs through the VA, paid by Allegheny County. So, to answer your question, yes.

Mr. Lynch stated I know that within this past year, with our library board, we have been trying to establish an actual veteran resource center within our library. It has been a tall mountain to climb so far because there are so many programs out there, and we are trying to find that good starting point for anybody to come in and not only to assist them, and provide a comfortable atmosphere. Helping them, whether it is just applying for a home loan or maybe even trying to get a resume together or prepare for an interview for a big job. We can definitely use your help in trying to get this off the ground.

Mr. Kaufman stated we're here to make the community better. Our job is to make Allegheny County better. Anytime anyone wants to sit down with new ideas, that's our goal.

Mr. Lynch stated I will be more than happy to talk with you after this. We can definitely use your assistance on this as well. Allegheny County is the largest out of Pennsylvania. I could tell you right now the bulk of them are right here in the South Hills and the Mon Valley. We can be beneficial for Jefferson Hills and even our surrounding communities just to avoid the traffic going downtown. Especially for our younger veterans that are coming back from OEF-OIF and Operation New Dawn, whatever we can do, whatever you can do.

Mrs. Bucy stated my husband is a Vietnam veteran, and he recently turned 76 years old. For the last three months he has gotten some benefits because he did not apply until recently. No matter what age, you still can pursue this. He is currently under care at the Veterans Hospital in Oakland, and it is absolutely top-rate medical assistance for the veterans that are there. That is also a wonderful opportunity for them. He went through Natalie Mihalek's office in Upper Saint Clair in Upper St. Clair. Since we have an office right here in Pleasant Hills with our state rep Andrew Kuzma, that also could be something that you might be able to explore. That was where the American Legion is set up, every Tuesday. He would go there because the forms are daunting, The amount of information that you have to supply them with, especially when you're older, probably takes about six months at least to get everything together.

Mr. Kaufman stated they require a lot of information. The state reps are definitely on our list.

Mr. Montgomery stated if you would like to come down to Representative Kuzma's office, I would be glad to set that up for you. We refer all the veteran issues to the county. We have all these books from the Commonwealth.

Mr. Lynch stated do not forget about Senator Robinson too, who is actually a prior service Marine.

Chief Chalfant stated we have a social hall; you can use it.

BOROUGH RESIDENT/TAXPAYER COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS

None

AGENDA ITEMS

Mr. Montgomery moved to approve the monthly bills, seconded by Mrs. Bucy, and carried unanimously.

Mrs. Budd moved to approve the monthly payroll, seconded by Mrs. Ruscitto, and carried unanimously.

Mrs. Budd moved to approve minutes of special meeting August 31, 2023, seconded by Mr. Lynch, and carried unanimously.

Mrs. Bucy moved to approve minutes of agenda meeting September 6, 2023, seconded by Mr. Montgomery, and carried unanimously.

Mr. Lynch moved to approve minutes of regular meeting September 11, 2023, seconded by Mr. Montgomery, and carried unanimously.

Mr. Lynch moved to hire Michael Nolder for the Park Laborer position in the Borough of Jefferson Hills Public Works Department, seconded by Mrs. Ruscitto, and carried unanimously.

Mrs. Ruscitto moved to approve the permanent appointment of Officer Nicole Honick as full-time police officer for the Jefferson Hills Police Department after successful completion of a 12-month probationary period per the Borough of Jefferson Hills Civil Service Rules and Regulations, Section 3.20 "Probationary Period", seconded by Mr. Lynch, and carried unanimously.

Mrs. Budd moved to extend a conditional offer of employment to Ronald Naylor III as a Probationary Patrol Officer contingent upon passing a physical and psychological examination and obtaining certification in accordance with the requirements set forth by the Municipal Police Officers Education and Training Commission (MPOETC) with a start date to be determined by the Chief of Police, seconded by Mr. Lynch, and carried unanimously.

Mr. Montgomery moved to authorize Brian Haberstock as signatory for the Borough of Jefferson Hills Police Pension Advisory Board, seconded by Mrs. Budd, and carried unanimously.

Mrs. Bucy moved to renew two-year contract with Hoffman’s Boarding Kennels for animal control services in the Borough of Jefferson Hills in the amount of \$400.00 per month or \$4,200.00 per year, seconded by Mrs. Ruscitto, and carried unanimously.

Mrs. Bucy moved to adopt Resolution No. 22-2023 directing distribution of the Borough’s allocation of General Municipal Pension System State Aid for 2023 in the amount of \$349,673.29 as follows: Police Pension Fund \$531,063.00 and Administrative Pension Plan \$7,651.00 with the Borough’s contribution being \$189,040.71, seconded by Mr. Montgomery, and carried unanimously.

Mrs. Budd moved to pay proceeds from the 2023 Volunteer Fire Relief Allocation to the Volunteer Fire Relief Association of Jefferson Hills in the amount of \$79,877.79 within 60 days of September 21, 2023, seconded by Mr. Lynch.

Mr. Reynolds asked could we get that straightened out, what we were discussing on Wednesday?

Mrs. Steffey responded I re-watched the meeting. From what I could tell, it was already stated in the meeting. Are you talking about the relief association, the way it is worded?

Mr. Reynolds stated I am asking, are we paying the right organization? They respond to the fires as 885, Station One, Floreffe, Station Two. We are using government funds to pay an organization that is not responding to the calls right now. Are we going to look into that to make sure? They are obviously going to get the money. It is just a matter of how we pay them. Are we paying them the right way?

Mrs. Budd stated it is the relief association versus the fire company.

Mr. Reynolds asked if they are not merged as JHFR and responding as calls as JHFR, if they are still going to station one and station two, are we paying the right organization?

Mrs. Steffey stated in previous years, this was the same question was brought up. Jon Drager clarified and said that this is the organization that the check is supposed to go to.

Mrs. Budd stated it was worded the same the last time we received this check as well.

The vote was not unanimous, and a roll call vote was taken per Borough Code, which requires that the minutes show the actual votes by name, below are the votes of each Council Member.

Mrs. Bucy	YES
Mrs. Budd	YES
Mr. Lynch	YES

Mr. Montgomery	YES
Mr. Reynolds	NO
Mrs. Ruscitto	YES
Mrs. Steffey	YES

Six members voted yes, and one member voted no, motion carried.

Mrs. Steffey stated we should also point out that this was a letter from our auditor general of Pennsylvania, who has on here it is to go to the Fire Relief Association.

Mr. Reynolds stated I am not saying the Fire Relief Association. There was a Floreffe Relief Association, there was an 885 Relief Association, there was a JFR and EMS Relief Association, there's a JHFR Relief Association. Do you not understand that?

Mrs. Budd stated the relief associations are merged.

Mr. Reynolds stated we just sat here a month ago and Chief Chalfant said they were not merged.

Mrs. Budd stated the relief association, and the fire department are two separate organizations. This is going to the relief association.

Solicitor Cromer stated the motion carried, so I think the conversation is over. I believe they explained it. We were ordered by the state to make the payment.

Mr. Reynolds stated I am just trying to make sure we are not paying an organization that does not exist. I am trying to make sure that the borough funds go to the right organization.

Solicitor Cromer stated we will make sure the borough funds go to the right organization. Understood.

Mr. Lynch moved to permit the JHPD to budget for and pay the annual software and cloud fees for four traffic radar signs that are being purchased by the West Jefferson Hills School District, in the amount of \$425.00 per sign, for a total of \$1,700.00 annually for years 2024, 2025, and 2026, as a traffic safety partnership with the school district, which will allow the JHPD access to programming, messaging, and analytics for those signs, seconded by Mrs. Budd, and carried unanimously.

Mr. Lynch moved to dispose of a 2001 Traffic Speed Data Trailer, Model RU2 Fast 1000, Serial #2001-49, which has exceeded its service life, seconded by Mrs. Bucy, and carried unanimously.

Mrs. Budd moved award quote from L & M Fencing in the amount of \$9,591.20 to replace the chainlink fence fabric and repair fence post at Tepe Field, seconded by Mr. Lynch. The vote was not unanimous, and a roll call vote was taken per Borough Code, which requires that the minutes show the actual votes by name, below are the votes of each Council Member.

Mrs. Bucy	YES
Mrs. Budd	YES
Mr. Lynch	YES
Mr. Montgomery	YES

Mr. Reynolds	NO
Mrs. Ruscitto	YES
Mrs. Steffey	YES

Six members voted yes, and one member voted no, motion carried.

Mr. Reynolds stated I voted no because I believe that Tepe Field and the residents and the kids deserve more of an upgrade than this. I believe this is just putting a band-aid on it. I would like to see the Borough address it for the kids.

Mrs. Bucy moved to authorize sending 2013 Ford Explorer #258 (VIN# 1FM5K8AR5DGC35188) to the Perryopolis Auto Auction in October. Vehicle #258 was assigned to Code Enforcement and will be replaced by the CHIRP vehicle, seconded by Mr. Montgomery, and carried unanimously.

Mrs. Steffey called for a motion to award Quote #20014634 from Pennsylvania Correctional Industries in the amount of \$4,619.68 for park signage at 885 Andrew E. Reilly Memorial Park, Tepe Park, Beedle Park, and Gill Hall Park for the Phase 1 Borough Signage Project.

Mrs. Bucy stated not only do I want these signs, but I also would like to have the signs that are in front of the Borough Building, on Large Hill, and down at Coal Valley addressed, too. Mr. Volpe has spoken with Mr. Glister, and they are going to have some vendors because those signs also need to be replaced. That is why this was now changed to phase one.

Mrs. Bucy moved to award Quote #20014634 from Pennsylvania Correctional Industries in the amount of \$4,619.68 for park signage at 885 Andrew E. Reilly Memorial Park, Tepe Park, Beedle Park, and Gill Hall Park for the Phase 1 Borough Signage Project, seconded by Mr. Lynch. The vote was not unanimous, and a roll call vote was taken per Borough Code, which requires that the minutes show the actual votes by name, below are the votes of each Council Member.

Mrs. Bucy	YES
Mrs. Budd	YES
Mr. Lynch	YES
Mr. Montgomery	YES
Mr. Reynolds	NO
Mrs. Ruscitto	YES
Mrs. Steffey	YES

Six members voted yes, and one member voted no, motion carried.

Mrs. Bucy moved to approve Application for Payment No. 3 from Morgan Excavating, LP in the amount of \$38,706.80 for work completed on the 2023 Road Program, seconded by Mr. Montgomery.

Mr. Montgomery asked did they ever give any definitive answer on whether they are going to come back and finish that?

Mr. Glister responded no. They have not gotten back to me with a definitive answer yet, but I plan on following up again this week.

After discussion motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Lynch moved to approve Application for Payment No. 1 and Final from SHACOG for Nick Pollice Plumbing and Construction, LLC in the amount of \$53,360.00 for work completed on the CD 48 Andrew Reilly Memorial Park ADA Upgrades – Phase 4 Project, subject to the receipt of an invoice from SHACOG, seconded by Mr. Montgomery, and carried unanimously.

Mrs. Budd moved to approve Application for Payment No. 1 and Final from State Pipe Services, Inc. in the amount of \$6,100.00 for work completed on the 837 Pump Station Wet Well Cleaning Project, seconded by Mrs. Bucy, and carried unanimously.

Mr. Lynch moved to adopt Resolution No. 26-2023 authorizing Stanley L. Gorski of SHACOG to file Year 50 Community Development Block Grant application in the amount of \$30,534.00 for the Gill Hall Community Park ADA Upgrades – Phase 2 Project, seconded by Mr. Montgomery, and carried unanimously.

Mrs. Bucy stated these grants have allowed us at Andrew Reilly Park to fix both the restrooms by the stage and also in the concession stand. I see these gradual upgrades coming through. I just want to thank the people that are involved in writing these grants, and making sure that this is possible. Usually that is Mr. Glister and with the help of Mr. Volpe. I want to commend them for their service.

Mrs. Budd moved to adopt Resolution No. 27-2023 authorizing Stanley L. Gorski of SHACOG to file Year 49 Community Development Block Grant application in the amount of \$35,100.00 for the Demolitions at 102 Arch Street, 1412 Worthington Avenue, and 1420 High Road, seconded by Mrs. Bucy.

Mrs. Budd stated I was just curious as to why either this one and the following one do not have the actual addresses of the locations on there?

Mr. Glister responded that in beginning of September, the pre-applications for the CDBG Year 50 were due. Right now, these two applications, the one for the demolitions and the one for Gill Hall ADA upgrades, are still pending review, and have not been approved to move to the full application. The full application is due in the beginning of November. Presumably, they will move to the full application, but we need to have these resolutions approved before November because we would be passed the deadline. Unless the pre-application is approved, we do not have the actual application number so that is why they are blank.

Mr. Montgomery stated that also goes with Act 152. They require the same thing. They require the condemnation resolution to move forward.

Mrs. Steffey stated that there are a number of residents and neighbors that are anxiously awaiting these demolitions. Once we make the full application, what is the timeline just to give or take an estimate?

Mr. Glister responded for CDBG, now we typically do not hear back from them until June of the following year. We would not hear back on these applications until June 2024. This past June, though, we did apply for Act 152, which is a different funding program. We are supposed to hear back from that sometime here in the fall. This is only the third year they have done Act 152, so it is sort of inconsistent. They have not really quite figured it out. It is very popular, and they are getting a lot more applications.

Mr. Montgomery stated Act 152 is so backlogged. They are still on the first year on some of the applications. They do have a considerable amount of money compared to CDBG for demolition, but they do not have enough people in the department to make it work right.

After discussion motion carried unanimously.

Mrs. Bucy stated we talked about this in engineering with the Solicitor, Ms. Cromer, and we might have to pursue another avenue for this. These people have been waiting close to three years. It is unbelievable that Allegheny County could be that backed up. Maybe, Ms. Cromer could talk about a little bit about what you told us in engineering.

Solicitor Cromer stated what we have done in the majority of our municipalities when there is a dilapidated structure like that and the code officer will confirm that it meets the standards under the IPMC that it could be condemned and demolished, we file a complaint, equity. We get a preliminary injunction, and we seek an order of court ordering them to tear it down. If they do not remediate and/or tear down, then the borough has the ability to go in and do it. It is nice to try to do that in conjunction with getting the money. A lot of times, we start that process because it takes a while. Then, we have an order of court authorizing that demo for when we have the money.

Mr. Reynolds stated are we doing what we can on the public works side to help with the upkeep? Are we still sending invoices and putting a lien against them?

Mr. Volpe responded yes; we are. We mow the grass and cut the trees. We file a lien against them.

Mrs. Bucy moved to adopt Resolution No. 28-2023 declaring the structures proposed for demolition at 102 Arch Street, 1412 Worthington Avenue, and 1420 High Road as blighted structures, seconded by Mr. Montgomery, and carried unanimously.

BOROUGH RESIDENT/TAXPAYER COMMENTS ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

None

Mrs. Steffey thanked the three young gentlemen that are sitting here tonight with the Cub Scouts. I was told that you had to come here because it was required. Are we going to get a grade? Did we do good? Thank you, guys for attending.

REPORTS

Fire Chief

The JHFR written report is on file in the administrative office.

Chief Chalfant stated for the people and the residents watching, for the month of September, we responded to 81 calls, another busy month for us. Our average response time year-to-date is seven minutes, 11 seconds from the time of dispatch, we have an apparatus on scene, whether it be from the station one or station two location. There have been some questions that have arisen on social media about the Banana

Peppers fire. To clarify, I do have the official documentation from the 911 center. I have the audio recording. The first call that the 911 center received was at 10:37.15. We were dispatched at 10:38.45. Both trucks were in route by 10:40. First arriving truck was six minutes and 40 seconds later. That is the benefit of having people inside the fire station. They heard the call come in. It was given to the police department first. It popped up on their CAD. An officer was sitting next to our crew when they were getting ready to demo the power plant. He said, hey, you have a fire. They in turn jumped in a truck and took off. They were already in route before the call was even dispatched. 20-some seconds later, our second engine arrived on scene. So, yes, for those residents out there saying that a firefighter from a neighboring department got there first; it was a deputy assistant chief of Pleasant Hills who responded in his personal vehicle when he was dispatched. However, the first two arriving fire trucks putting water on the fire were two trucks from Jefferson Hills. The engine from station two and a ladder truck from station one. I have all the official documentation here if anybody has any questions.

Automatic smoke detection saves lives. There were local smoke detectors in the residents and in the business, but it did not go anywhere. It took somebody, a resident, a civilian, seeing the smoke and the fire had well advanced before we were even notified. It also did not help that someone kicked the doors in, thinking there was somebody inside of it and left the doors open. That creates a flow path, and it feeds air to the fire. Not to mention that the exhaust fan was also on, too, so that's sucking everything through causing the fire to grow fast. Early detection is key, whether it's in your residence, or if it's in your business. Smoke detectors save lives and also save time.

EMS

Not Present

Engineer

Mr. Glister had nothing further to add to the written report on file in the administrative office.

Consulting Engineer

The engineering report is on file in the administrative office.

Finance Officer/Treasurer

The finance report is on file in the administrative office.

Public Works Director

Mr. Volpe had nothing to add to the written report on file in the administrative office.

Police Chief

The JHPD COPS report is on file in the administrative office.

Chief Dziezgowski stated I wanted to alert the residents, Council, and Mayor McCaffrey that we have a new feature and information on our website, the police website, which is attached to the Borough website. That is crime mapping and statistics. If you go to the police website and click on crime stats and statistics, it comes up. Based upon our RMS calls within Jefferson Hills, you click on a map during a period of time, and it will actually pinpoint what type of calls they were, and where the calls happened. Also, you have a countywide crime mapping for all the participating agencies, so you can do it countywide. As part of my monthly report to council, you also have the crime statistics and police activity for that month on there. Residents, please use the website and look around, and you will find a lot of useful information.

Mayor

Mayor McCaffrey offered her condolences to the family and friends of Joyce Schmidt. Joyce leaves behind an enormous legacy. Her love of children, books, and history was evident every time you spoke with her. I was truly honored to know her, and I am forever grateful as a former student and resident for all she has done for our library and historical society. She will be deeply missed. Second, I would like to just reiterate what I said last week, Halloween will be on Tuesday, October 31st, from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m., rain or shine. Congratulations to Officer Honick.

Acting Manager

Mr. Glister had nothing further to add to the written report on file in the administrative office.

Solicitor

Solicitor Cromer noted for the record there was an executive session in regard to personnel matters immediately prior to the meeting, and there is one after the meeting also.

GENERAL BUSINESS

Mr. Montgomery stated I would like to echo what the mayor said about Joyce Schmidt. She was a phenomenal lady. She made the library work in that little room downstairs, which many of you have never seen. When I had to write term papers in high school, she is the lady that got me through that process. I have nothing but gratitude to express to her for that.

In the chief's report on emergency preparedness and response for all communities of faith, I think that's very important. I have access to addresses. If anybody is willing to agree that we should include our churches and synagogues to make them aware of this. I think it is really important.

There is a PennDOT invitation challenge for grades nine to 12. Developers plan to replace aging, multi-lane roads that separate neighborhoods. They are encouraging the use of bicycles and pedestrians. It is a team effort, and there is a \$4,000.00 prize. It will be judged by PennDOT Secretary of Transportation Carroll and a panel of judges. It is a way for potential engineering students to get some money for college. I think it is a worthwhile program. If anybody wants to do it, I have the contact information.

Mrs. Bucy stated tomorrow the Cloverleaf Food Pantry will be having a distribution from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Last month, we had 194 families go through our system. This has been steadily growing over the past year. I would also like to publicly thank many of the associations and stores in our area that provide food for us, Panera Bread, Giant Eagle, and Pastries A-La-Carte. There are numerous places around us that send food to that food bank, so thank you very much.

I know that many of you see it on our webpage, et cetera, but the sewer bill has not come out yet. It is still in the works. You probably did not get a sewer bill for September and October. The sewer bill is going to be high because you have not paid it for a couple of months. The payment has been transferred over to Legal Tax.

The finance committee is meeting on October 19th. We will be going over our preliminary budget for 2024. Before Mr. Drager left, he gave us a projection of where we were, of what we had, and where we needed to be. Mr. Haberstock now will be taking those reins. We will be seriously looking at all those budget items.

Mrs. Ruscitto thanked Dana Farabaugh for speaking so eloquently about Joyce Schmidt on her behalf and her legacy. I was fortunate enough to be a middle school student when she was at our middle school working. She inspired me to become a librarian through her kindness, her helpfulness, and everything that she exuded. She was the greatest. Sympathies to the family, she will be missed for sure.

For Halloween, anybody that is out and about please be aware. There is a lot of distracted driving lately, cellphones, people not paying attention. Watch your speed and be aware that there are children out trying to enjoy their evening.

Mr. Lynch thanked John Kaufman for coming in today, and going through the motions to set up this veteran's benefits seminar which is going to be happening on November 17 from 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., in the community room right across the hallway. From somebody who is a military veteran who also knows like the trials and the frustration, whenever you are transitioning back to a civilian life, it is overwhelming. You feel like you just have no direction. I am hoping that this veteran's seminar, through Mr. Kaufman, will start to get a foundation together to where every veteran will get the right help, the right people, the right time, and the right benefits. You do not have to worry about having to drive all the way downtown and sit in traffic and pay for parking just talk with somebody only to pass you off to another person. This is something that I have been passionate about, especially since I have been on this Council. I know our library feels the same way. I am definitely looking forward to showing this community what our service members mean to us.

Mr. Reynolds asked Chief Chalfant is it possible that you could share the official results with me and my fellow members of council? Would that be the same for the accident that would involve the school bus on Gill Hall? Your organization gets roughly a million dollars in funding from taxpayers. I would like to read the report.

Chief Chalfant responded it is an official report. You are not entitled to it. Does Chief Dziezgowski give you his report? No. So, therefore you do not get ours. You are allowed to file a right to know.

Mr. Reynolds stated there is a lot of talk out there. I would like to have something that I could take a look at and share with the residents to calm the situation down.

Chief Chalfant stated residents can come see me.

Mr. Reynolds stated I feel I need to address the last meeting. When I tried to respond to Mr. Doel, I was interrupted by the solicitor, and that created some confusion. Some people could even say it was a little bit of chaos. For that, I do apologize to the residents. That was not my intention. When I accepted the seat on Council, I did not do it to become a politician. I did it to become a public servant. I did it to try to make sure that all residents were informed and treated fairly. To me, transparency was never a word just to be used around election time. Mr. Doel had interest and concern with our fire protection in this Borough for some time now. I felt I had some information that Mr. Doel would have shown interest in, and also some of the residents. The fire hall situation in my opinion has had a negative impact on our community for some time. That includes everything from coverage to the expense. I will continue to speak on behalf of some of the residents.

Mrs. Steffey stated I would be remiss if I did not take this time to state, I do not watch much local news or national news, but we all know that there is devastation going on in our world right now. It definitely hits close to home with my family and many others in Jefferson Hills. I would like to send out thoughts, prayers, and well wishes. It is just breaking my heart to see what the Israeli people are going through right now.

ADJOURNMENT

President Steffey adjourned the meeting at 7:53 p.m. on a motion by Mrs. Budd, seconded by Mr. Lynch, and carried unanimously.

Michael Glister, PE
Acting Secretary/Borough Manager