

The regular meeting of Council was called to order by President Steffey at 7:01 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. Finance Director Haberstock, Solicitor McPeak Cromer, Chief Dziezgowski, Engineer and Acting Borough Manager Glistler, and Public Works Director Volpe were also present. Consulting Engineer Minsterman, and Borough Manager Stinner were absent.

REPORT FROM BOROUGH BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

None

BOROUGH RESIDENT/TAXPAYER COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS

None

AGENDA ITEMS

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

Vice President Budd moved to approve the monthly payroll, seconded by Mr. Montgomery, and carried unanimously.

Mr. Lynch moved to approve minutes of agenda meeting November 8, 2023, seconded by Vice President Budd, and carried unanimously.

Mrs. Bucy moved to approve minutes of regular meeting November 13, 2023, seconded by Mr. Montgomery, and carried unanimously.

Vice President Budd moved to approve the permanent appointment of Sergeant John Haas to the rank of Sergeant 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 4.12 "Probationary Period", seconded by Mrs. Bucy, and carried unanimously.

President Steffey congratulated Sergeant Haas.

Mr. Lynch moved to promote Brian Henze from Park Laborer to Road Laborer per the collective bargaining agreement with Local #1058, seconded by Vice President Budd, and carried unanimously.

Vice President Budd moved to promote Garrett Patterson from Park Laborer to Road Laborer per the collective bargaining agreement with Local #1058, seconded by Mr. Lynch, and carried unanimously.

President Steffey amended the motion to advertise for the Park Laborer position in the Borough of Jefferson Hills Public Works Department to motion to hire _____ for the Park Laborer position in the Borough of Jefferson Hills Public Works Department.

Mr. Montgomery moved to hire Ryan Gilesie for the Park Laborer position in the Borough of Jefferson Hills Public Works Department, seconded by Mr. Lynch, and carried unanimously.

Vice President Budd moved to table the motion to appoint _____ to one (1) seat on the Borough of Jefferson Hills Civil Service Commission as an alternate for a term expiring December 31, 2026, 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.

Vice President Budd moved to table the swearing in of the Civil Service Commission member(s) by the Mayor of the Borough of Jefferson Hills, seconded by Mr. Lynch, and carried unanimously.

Mrs. Bucy moved to advertise two seats on the Borough of Jefferson Hills Recreation Board for a 4-year term expiring December 31, 2027, seconded by Mr. Montgomery, and carried unanimously.

Mrs. Bucy moved to advertise one seat on the Borough of Jefferson Hills Planning Commission for a 4-year term expiring December 31, 2027, seconded by Mrs. Ruscitto, and carried unanimously.

Vice President Budd moved to advertise one seat on the Borough of Jefferson Hills Zoning Hearing Board for a 5-year term expiring December 31, 2028, seconded by Mrs. Bucy, and carried unanimously.

Mrs. Ruscitto moved to advertise three seats on the Borough of Jefferson Hills Environmental Advisory Council for a 3-year term expiring December 31, 2026, seconded by Mr. Lynch, and carried unanimously.

Mr. Lynch moved to advertise one seat on the Borough of Jefferson Hills Environmental Advisory Council for the remainder of the term expiring December 31, 2025, seconded by Mrs. Ruscitto, and carried unanimously.

Mrs. Ruscitto moved to advertise three seats on the Jefferson Hills Public Library Board of Directors for a 3-year term expiring December 31, 2026, seconded by Vice President Budd, and carried unanimously.

Mr. Lynch moved to advertise meeting dates for the Borough of Jefferson Hills Council and for the Boards and Commissions of the Borough of Jefferson Hills, seconded by Mr. Montgomery, and carried unanimously.

Vice President Budd moved to adopt Ordinance No. 903 amending Ordinance No. 206 of 1964, codified as section 1-101 of the Borough Code of Ordinances to modify the time of meeting to be held on the first Wednesday and the second Monday of each month and every month at 7:00 p.m., seconded by Mrs. Bucy. 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. Montgomery moved to adopt Ordinance No. 904 authorizing the condemnation and taking by eminent domain of Parcel ID 1134-J-116 commonly known as Maryland Avenue for the PICCO Pump Station Project, seconded by Mrs. Bucy, and carried unanimously.

Vice President Budd move to adopt Resolution No. 38-2023 rescinding Resolution No. 43-2022 relating to capital reserve funds and setting a new unreserve fund balance at 40%, 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 ratify Resolution No. 34-2023 authorizing application for Local Share Assessment (LSA) grant through the DCED for \$120,000.00, seconded by Mr. Montgomery, and carried unanimously.

Mrs. Bucy moved to adopt Resolution No. 35-2023 amending the fee schedule of the Borough of Jefferson Hills for 2024, seconded by Mr. Montgomery, and carried unanimously.

Mr. Lynch moved to adopt Resolution No. 36-2023 amending the salaries, compensation, and wages for Borough employees for the year 2024, seconded by Vice President Budd, and carried unanimously.

Vice President Budd moved to adopt Resolution No. 37-2023 appointing Erika Horvat as Acting Open Records Officer of the Borough of Jefferson Hills and also appointing Chief Ronald Dziezgowski as Jefferson Hills Police Department Open Records Officer pursuant to the Pennsylvania Right-to-Know Law, seconded by Mr. Montgomery, and carried unanimously.

President Steffey called for a motion to adopt Resolution 33-2023 approving the sale of the 2013 Ford Explorer (VIN# 1FM5K8AR5DVC35188) for \$3,500.00 to the best responsible bidder through the Perryopolis Auto Sales Auction.

Mr. Reynolds stated I am willing to vote to approve the bid that was far below market value. Somebody else can make a motion. I am not.

Vice President Budd stated this is just to ratify the purchase.

Vice President Budd moved to adopt Resolution 33-2023 approving the sale of the 2013 Ford Explorer (VIN# 1FM5K8AR5DVC35188) for \$3,500.00 to the best responsible bidder through the Perryopolis Auto Sales Auction, 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. Ruscitto moved to distribute the Real Estate Ambulance Tax of \$69,000.00 to Southeast Regional Emergency Medical Services (SEREMS), seconded by Mrs. Bucy, and carried unanimously.

Vice President Budd moved to distribute the balance of \$36,000.00 to Southeast Regional Emergency Medical Services (SEREMS) for the annual ambulance services agreement, seconded by Mrs. Ruscitto, and carried unanimously.

Vice President Budd moved to distribute the 2023 Real Estate Fire Taxes in two, separate payments of \$40,000.00 to Floeffe Volunteer Fire Company and to 885 Volunteer Fire Company with remaining funds to be allocated to the Jefferson Fire Rescue (JFR) Truck savings account, 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
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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 said I would support the individuals of the Gill Hall Fire Company, and stand behind them to the last day that I sit in this seat. That is why my vote is no.

Mr. Montgomery moved to approve Application for Payment No. 4 and Final from Morgan Excavating, LP in the amount of \$28,269.56 for work completed on the 2023 Road Program subject to the receipt of the maintenance bond for 50% of the final contract amount for a duration of two-years and approval of the maintenance bond by the Borough Solicitor, seconded by Mrs. Bucy, and carried unanimously.

Vice President Budd moved to approve Quote No. 2023-637801r1 from Evoqua Water Technologies LLC to rent a VaporLink Hydrogen Sulfide Sensor for a one-year period in the amount of \$6,600.00, seconded by Mr. Lynch, and carried unanimously.

Mr. Montgomery moved to approve Work Authorization dated November 28, 2023, from Gateway Engineers, Inc. for miscellaneous Borough engineering and consulting services in 2024 in the amount not to exceed \$10,000.00, seconded by Vice President Budd, and carried unanimously.

Vice President Budd moved to approve Work Authorization dated November 28, 2023, from Gateway Engineers, Inc. for miscellaneous engineering and consulting services in 2024 related to the Clairton Sewershed in the amount not to exceed \$10,000.00, seconded by Mr. Montgomery, and carried unanimously.

Mr. Lynch moved to approve Work Authorization dated November 28, 2023, from Gateway Engineers, Inc. for miscellaneous engineering and consulting services in 2024 related to the West Elizabeth Sewershed in the amount not to exceed \$10,000.00, seconded by Mr. Montgomery, and carried unanimously.

BOROUGH RESIDENT/TAXPAYER COMMENTS ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

President Steffey read a comment from Henry and Valarie Lantz, 1305 Collins Avenue.

“I would like to know if the paving that was approved on the 2023 paving budget will be completed in 2024? In specific the three alleys in the Floreffe section (Union Avenue, Dixon Avenue and the Avenue between 2nd Street and 3rd Street off of Alice Avenue). The Public Works Department was unable to complete them due to not receiving the new paving machine.

I would also like to make the suggestion of taking the extra garbage bill fee from the reserve fund and lower the residents bill back to the \$50.00 dollars. This should help residents that are on a

budget plan. It sounds like we are going to lower the current amount needed in reserve fund to help our 2024 budget and utilizing around 3 million dollars of it for other items.

I do understand that taxes will have to increase, with the community mainly being a residential tax base for income. The more housing the higher operating cost. Before adding any additional new expenses (new parks, community rec center, Borough departments, etc.) let's get a true balanced budget of the current expenses and future projected expenses of employee contracts and increase operating cost. Then we can look into adding new things to the Borough. This may take a couple of years to balance out. Council has the duty to balance operating costs for the long-term future of the Borough.

With the School District growing and running out of room again, so will their budget. Taxes will be going up for them to add more room and staff to the schools. As council stated they have no control of the School Districts budget, but it does have a large effect on what the borough can offer its residents.

It is also great when agenda items are explained so the residents understand what's going on. Most of the time residents don't know what's going on until it's on the agenda. I feel more information should be put on the social media sites to inform what's going on and then the residents can talk with council members on their thoughts before the agenda meeting. Agenda items can be posted as they come up throughout the month instead of the day before the meeting. Let's keep increasing the transparency of our borough government.”

Mr. Volpe stated we still have not received the paver from back order. We are still getting the COVID issue of backlogs. On the paving, as soon as we get the paver, weather permitting, probably not until next summer, but it is on the list of things to do.

President Steffey stated that is on the list even for 2024. The \$50.00 going back for the garbage fee if anyone would like to speak to that. I know we have talked extensively about the garbage fee, but reducing it back down to \$50.00 is pretty extraordinary. I just do not foresee that stabilizing over the next five years for the contract that we signed and utilizing the unreserved funds for that. I would also like to point out that on our website, there is an option for lower income support for anyone who needs it. It is for sewage and trash help. If you look on our website you can go through the list of items that you would need to check the boxes to see if you are able to utilize that.

We typically have a pre-agenda meeting between me, Vice President Budd, our solicitor, and our department heads of the staff the Wednesday before our agenda meeting. Posting agenda items prior to that as they come up a month in advance just is not really realistic as things come up sometimes at the last minute. I hope that answers most of the questions.

Vice President Budd moved to swear in of the Civil Service Commission member(s) by the Mayor of the Borough of Jefferson Hills, seconded by Mr. Lynch, and carried unanimously.

Mayor McCaffrey administered the Oath of Office to Mr. Gary Williams of the Borough of Jefferson Hills Civil Service Commission.

Mr. Williams stated I, Gary Williams, do solemnly swear that I will support, obey, and defend the Constitution of the United States, and the Constitution of this Commonwealth, and that I will discharge the duties of my office with fidelity as Civil Service Commissioner. That I have not paid or contributed,

or promised to pay or contribute, either directly or indirectly, any money or other valuable thing to procure my appointment, except for necessary and proper expenses, expressly authorized by law; knowingly receive, directly or indirectly, any money or other valuable thing for the performance or non-performance of any act or duty pertaining to my office, other than compensation allowed by law.

REPORTS

Fire Chief

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

Chief Chalfant stated November was another busy month with JHFR responding to 72 calls. We recently took delivery of the new engine that we received on the FEMA grant that is outside today. It is in service. We also took delivery of the four-wheel drive mini pumper. This engine will be stationed in the Floeffe district. It is a smaller more compact engine that will allow for the fire department to go across the bridges in the Scotia Hollow area, and areas like that, that we cannot get the larger apparatus into. It allows us to get a firefighting piece up there or for those driveways that we cannot get the bigger pieces up. We brought those apparatus up here for you to look at tonight. Again, they are in service, and we are protecting the citizens of Jefferson Hills.

EMS

Not Present

Engineer

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

Mr. Glister stated Merry Christmas, and Happy New Year to everybody.

Consulting Engineer

Mr. Montgomery asked on the consulting engineer's report under Clairton Sewershed consulting, does he mean CMA instead of WESA on item there?

Mr. Glister responded that is correct.

Finance Officer/Treasurer

Mr. Haberstock had nothing further to add to the written report which is on file in the administrative office.

Public Works Director

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

Police Chief

Chief Dziezgowski had nothing further to add to the written report which is on file in the administrative office.

Chief Dziezgowski stated Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Mayor

Mayor McCaffrey wished everyone a Merry Christmas and also Happy New Year.

Acting Manager

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

Solicitor

Solicitor McPeak Cromer had nothing further to add to her written report.

GENERAL BUSINESS

Mr. Lynch stated everybody have a safe and wonderful Christmas and New Years and we will see you all come January.

Mrs. Bucy stated there is a Cloverleaf Ecumenical Food Bank distribution on December 20th. Happy holidays to all the residents and the staff. Welcome to the new Council Members. I hope that you have a prosperous future here.

Mr. Reynolds wished everybody Happy Holidays. Thank you to the residents for the opportunity to sit up here for four years, and try my best to support you, and be there for you when you needed it. I wish we would have accomplished more but unfortunately my term is up. Thank you for the opportunity of representing you. Have a good holiday.

Mrs. Ruscitto expressed gratitude for all the people that helped during this journey, especially my family. Their patience of all the time and effort that this job entails. This will always be a community that I love and regardless of the outcome, I will continue to serve the Borough. For those that won to congratulate you, having the opportunity to serve is an amazing gift. Please do not ever take that for granted. Speaking of gifts, this is the season for goodwill and love, and I wish this for you all. Happy Holidays.

President Steffey thanked the outgoing council members for their service, taking on this position is not for the faint at heart. We certainly appreciate the service that they put forth during their term here.

I would like to remind everybody that we will have a special meeting on December 28th, to approve our budget. That will be at 6:00 PM. It will be live streamed as well. For those of you that do not tune into the meeting on the 28th, I wish you a Happy Holiday, Happy Hanukkah, Merry Christmas, and Happy New Year.

Adjournment

President Steffey adjourned the meeting at 7:32 p.m. on a motion by Vice President Budd, seconded by Mr. Lynch, and carried unanimously.

Michael Glister, PE
Acting Secretary/Borough Manager