

Borough of Jefferson Hills
Agenda Meeting of Council
February 8, 2023

The agenda 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, Council Members Bucy, Vice President Budd, Lynch, Montgomery, Reynolds, Ruscitto, President Steffey and Mayor McCaffrey answered to roll call. Borough Manager Stinner, Finance Officer Drager, Solicitor Gabriel, Chief Dziezgowski, Engineer Glister, Consulting Engineer Minsterman, and Public Works Director Volpe were also present.

Mrs. Steffey stated unfortunately, during my time here as a councilperson, we have had to do this one too many times. Can we please take a moment of silence in honor of fallen Police Officer Sean Sluganski.

4. Report from Borough Boards and Commissions

Mr. Lynch, Environmental Advisory Committee, stated we had our annual reorganization meeting. We have unanimously selected Mr. Richard Moore as our new chairperson. We introduced a vice chairperson, which will be Dr. J. Alexandra Hakala. We want to congratulate them both as we continue to move forward. We discussed modernizing the EAC, to be a little more flexible considering the busy schedules that we have. We are shifting from Zoom over to Microsoft Teams. This will give us more flexibility getting our platform, sharing documents, and conducting meetings. We formalized our letter outlining our preparation efforts for the EQT well in Union Township. I will discuss this letter in general business today. We do not have an update to report regarding the interpretive wetland for the abandoned gas wells and mines. Last weekend, one of our members, Terry Ackman, gave a presentation about the abandoned gas wells. There is nothing to report for the air quality at US Steel Clairton. Our website development is beginning. Our next meeting will be February 22 at 6:30 p.m.

5. Borough Resident/Taxpayer Comments on Agenda Items

Mrs. Steffey moved Agenda Item #29 Borough Resident/Taxpayer Comments on Non-Agenda Items to accommodate residents in the audience.

Mr. Robert Laskovics, 201 Oneida Drive, stated we have a property at 1329 State Route 885. On December 16th, while Waste Management was removing the trash, the truck took out the cable TV wires and tore the siding off of the house. We called Sherry at the Borough. She was very helpful. She passed on information for Jonathan Petrik from Waste Management. We cannot get any response from him. We notified our insurance company, but we really wanted Waste Management to step forward and respond to the damage. I am looking for some guidance.

Mr. Stinner stated I would be happy to help you. I have your contact information. We can get together and discuss this matter. We would be happy to help facilitate any conversation with Waste Management you may need for this issue.

6. Discussion to approve the monthly bills

Mrs. Steffey stated on page three of the bills we have Brickhaas Plumbing HVAC. This is for an emergency repair at the GBU. Can you explain what the issue was? I know we have had multiple issues at that building as far as plumbing goes. I was under the impression that the main sewer lines were repaired.

Mr. Volpe responded it has nothing to do with the sewers. After the cold spell at Christmas, the main water line coming into the GBU froze and broke. The janitor found it. We could not locate the shut off anywhere in the main coming off of Gill Hall Road. We were forced to get a plumber to come out in the middle of the night to shut the water down. We had to do emergency repairs to shut the water off. Everything has now been fixed at the GBU. The main water line, the water meter, and the pressure regulators were all the repairs at the building.

Mrs. Steffey stated completely understandable. Is there a shut off valve there now? Do we know where the shut off is for next time?

Mr. Volpe responded we put the new valve coming into the building, but the water company has no record where the tap on the main line on the street is. They think may be under the basketball court. They are going to try to find the curb box in summertime.

7. Discussion to approve the monthly payroll
8. Discussion to approve minutes of agenda meeting January 4, 2023

Mr. Montgomery stated on page 100 Chief Pascoe's name is misspelled.

9. Discussion to approve minutes of regular meeting January 9, 2023
10. Introductory presentation by West Jefferson Hills School District (WJHSD) Superintendent Dr. Janet Sardon

Dr Janet Sardon stated it's nice to be here today. I want to spend a few minutes talking a little bit about the district, and a little bit about myself, so we can get to know each other a better. I am hoping to be able to do this on regular basis so that we have a good collaboration between the school district and Jefferson Hills Borough. A little background about myself. I am a lifelong resident of the West Jefferson Hill School District. I grew up in Pleasant Hills on Old Clairton Road. I lived there until I got married. I moved out for a little bit and then I built a house in Jefferson Hills in 2002. I graduated from West Jefferson Hills in 1989. My daughter went to school here from second grade and graduated in 2012. I have been in the district for a good portion of my life. It is a great place to be. I am excited to be back here as superintendent. I think there's a lot of benefit to have grown up here, lived here and spend my time within the community. I found that to be a benefit over the last six months. Today is, for everybody's knowledge, my sixth month anniversary.

A little bit of my background. I started my career here in the district. I was a long-term substitute teacher for special education students at the middle school. I was a teacher and principal at South Allegheny School District. I spent a good portion of the start of my career there. I moved from there to McKeesport, where I was Director of Technology. Then I was Assistant Superintendent and Superintendent at West Mifflin there for a period of time. Yough was where I was prior to West Jefferson Hills. I spent eleven years as Superintendent in Yough School District and now I am hoping to finish my career here in the West Jefferson Hill School District. I found it to be a really great welcoming place. I

was really thankful about a month ago when the *IN Community Magazine* came out and I saw some of your pictures on the cover instead of mine. I was glad that that whole introductory phase was over, even though I got to meet a lot of people.

Within the district right now, we just finished our comprehensive plan and I know you guys have been working on your strategic comprehensive plan over the last couple of months. As a resident, I got to take your survey. As a superintendent, I had the opportunity to talk to people on the council, on the board, police and so forth, to give some input as to where you guys are headed. Our comprehensive plan was approved by the state at the beginning of this week. We had about 60 people on our comprehensive planning committee. It was made up of administrators, teachers, community business, and residents, to decide where we are headed as a school district overall. Within that plan that we are talking about is what can we do to help improve some of the great things that are happening. We are currently focusing on our mathematics curriculum across the board for K to 12. We are in our second year of our new English CKLA curriculum in the district, which has proven to be going very well. We have been fortunate enough to have some of the surrounding districts come and visit our classrooms, and work with our teachers and staff to see what we are doing because it is working. We had Canon McMillan here last week, and we had Bethel Park here the week before that. Doing some of those collaborations is good for us as a district to build those partnerships across the board.

Academically, our kids are doing well. Our Future Ready Index, our PVAAS, all of those scores that we are judged by continue to improve across the district. We are excited about that. Our most recent honor roll at the high school, had 726 students on honors with about 340 of them at 3.8 or higher.

The new high school is obviously up and running and going very well. At our old high school we had an open house to come and take some of the state office furniture that was located in our gymnasiums. It was a success. We had about 200 people standing outside the door at 7:30 a.m. We opened at 9:00 a.m. Last month at the board meeting, the board approved the hazardous materials abatement of the inside of that building. It is going to take about 90 days. After that, the plan is to do some engineering to move the utilities out of the building because that's where the utilities are located down to the stadium area. We are going to look to demolish the building and then do whatever plans we need to do engineering wise for the next step is for that building. That is still in discussion but know that the plan is to take that building down here in the very near future.

We recently did some concrete work across the district at Jefferson, at Gill Hall, McClellan, and the middle school. We are going to go out and do some asphalt work, hopefully in the spring, just to get some of our parking lots where they need to be.

The exciting part is growth across the district. We are currently the number one growing school district in our county. We're number ten in the state of Pennsylvania. Our growth in our enrollment is exciting.

We've had a number of meetings. We met with Mr. Glistner and Mr. Stinner. We are trying to get a handle on what's happening not only here in Jefferson, but also in Pleasant Hills and West Elizabeth. We have some good growth numbers to go on. We are doing a demographic study to verify some of the numbers that were done a few years ago in a study to get our projected growth in enrollment is. We do know that in our elementary schools are getting full because we have a lot of enrollments. We know that

Jefferson needs some work. We are trying to come up with a comprehensive plan for the next five to seven years that makes sense based on what those numbers are.

Our biggest projects are the demolition of that building and making sure our enrollment and growth match what our facilities have to offer to make sure we're providing the best we can for the kids. Obviously being fiscally responsible surrounding that.

I want to say thank Chief Dziezgowski. I have had the opportunity to work with him on a number of different things since I started in the district, and I have had wonderful cooperation. We have talked to each other and really done some great things across the board. One of our biggest things that's happening right now is we are having annual safety meeting that's coming up here on February 21st where we're trying to get all of our local first responders and people from the district together to talk about best practices and any new and improved safety things we should be doing as a district to make sure we keep our kids safe.

We are doing some trainings coming March 13th with our staff with regard to CPR, first aid, and ALICE threat assessment. Personnel wise across the district, we are constantly looking for cafeteria, maintenance, and paraeducators to fill positions within our district. It seems as though those are the positions that are open most of the time. If you know of anyone out there that is interested in doing some work within the district, we always have those positions open. We are trying to recruit as many people as we can for substitute teachers as well because there is a shortage of teachers within the district.

Our musical is coming up in the middle of March. We are finishing up our winter sports season in next few weeks. We have our teams going to some of the WPIAL playoffs. WJHS Cheer is competing in Florida.

We all know that it is a time of year that then can be challenging. Obviously as a district, we are looking to make sure we are providing for our kids, providing for our facilities and our community while still being fiscally responsible. That will be something we are working on over the course of the next couple of months to meet our budget deadline, which final budgets are due for districts in June.

Chief Dziezgowski stated thank you for the relationship with the community.

Mrs. Steffey stated this is definitely a breath of fresh air. We certainly look forward to pursuing the camaraderie and working together. We have a lot of great ideas that involve the school district as well, and I am sure it is vice versa. A group of us have elected to go to the safety committee meeting.

Dr. Sardon stated the district, prior to COVID happening, had started a Hall of Fame Committee in the areas of academics, arts, and athletics. Back in 2019 and 2020, there was a group of people that had graduated from West Jefferson Hills School District that were nominated to be inducted in this hall of fame. When COVID happened, that all went on hold. On March 4, we are having a banquet at the Georgetown Center. We are inducting 29 graduates from the West Jefferson Hills School District in the areas of academics, arts, and athletics into this new hall of fame that we have started. Two athletic teams are being recognized at that banquet as well. We are going to have some of our student there to play music. Some graduates are going to be there. Tickets are \$60 a person. The paid tickets help us cover the costs for the inductees who are invited to attend free of charge. There will not be as many every year that we induct, but this is our first big event. If anyone would like to attend, I would be happy to send that

information over. We would love to have you there to celebrate the success of the people that have come here and graduated from here and represent our district and our community also.

Mrs. Steffey stated it would be great if you could forward the invitation to Mr. Stinner and he will make sure to get it out to us. Thank you so much. We appreciate it.

11. Discussion to appoint _____ to one seat on the Borough of Jefferson Hills Zoning Hearing Board for a term expiring December 31, 2024

12. Discussion to advertise one seat on the Jefferson Hills Borough Police Pension Advisory Committee

13. Discussion to advertise one seat on the Environmental Advisory Council expiring December 31, 2023

14. Discussion to advertise Request for Proposals (RFP) for auditing services for fiscal years ending 2022, 2023, 2024 and 2025

15. Discussion to adopt Resolution No. 04-2023 authorizing the disposition of certain public records consistent with the schedules and procedures for the disposition of records as set forth in *The Municipal Record Manual* approved on December 16, 2008, as amended March 28, 2019

16. Discussion to adopt Resolution No. 05-2023 which provides preference in rentals of Shelter and Community Centers for all active members in good standing in one of the three agencies recognized by the Borough of Jefferson Hills to provide emergency services to the residents

Mrs. Budd stated under the first paragraph it says how the boards and commissions are entitled one rental per three-year term. How would that work with members of any of the public safety entities since they are not on there for a specific term? Or is it just per year, per three years?

Solicitor Gabriel responded it stated they would be given preference once every three years.

17. Discussion to adopt Resolution No. 06-2023 requiring all Borough Boards and Commissions to conduct a reorganization vote to elect officers during the first meeting of each year

18. Discussion to move an additional \$2,000,000.00 to the Borough of Jefferson Hills PLGIT account to capitalize on higher interest earnings

Mr. Drager stated with the rates increasing every month, we earned an additional \$5,000.00 in interest earnings more than expected for a total of \$28,000.00 last month. The rates are significantly higher within PLGIT, so we want to make sure we capitalize on that additional interest.

Mrs. Steffey asked was that your reasoning for suggesting to move the additional \$2,000,000.00?

Mr. Drager responded yes. It is just in a different account, earning interest. The PLGIT account has a significantly higher rate right now.

Mr. Montgomery asked what is the rate?

Mr. Drager responded today, it was 4.69%.

19. Discussion to approve a 3-year subscription agreement between Cyclops Technologies, INC., a Florida Corporation d/b/a Platesmart Technologies and the Jefferson Hills Police Department (JHPD) which would permit the JHPD to utilize proprietary license plate recognition software called "Platesmart" at the cost of \$325.00 per existing and all new License Plate Recognition (LPR) cameras licenses (8-LPRs X \$325.00=\$2,600.00) during the term of the agreement along with an annual subscription fee of \$2,200.00 as recommended by the Allegheny County District Attorney's Office and Western Chiefs of Police Association. The total annual cost is \$4,800.00

Chief Dziezgowski stated I would like to give you a brief synopsis. There is a more detailed explanation in my report. This came about late last September when the company that was running our system decided to sell the interest in the LPRs without any knowledge of the chiefs and the district attorneys and the other entities that are part of this within the five counties. Our Chiefs of Police Association formed a committee to evaluate and research an option. This is the best option for the district attorneys. We are unified across the five counties for law enforcement agencies so we can all share in the system itself. This means we have access and can see all the cameras that are on this system. If we splinter off, the system is no good to anyone. Everyone is signing this contract within our organizations. This is for our two traffic intersections at 51 at Coal Valley and 51 at Turnpike 43 and Old Clairton Road.

Time is of the essence. I need to get this done, hopefully, get this into them tomorrow so we can start the process of onboarding with them. Then we can have access once again to our cameras.

Mr. Stinner stated do we need to change the language on 19 to reflect it's a ratification?

Solicitor Gabriel responded if Chief Dziezgowski is planning on moving forward tomorrow, yes, we should change it to read ratify for the voting meeting.

20. Discussion to authorize the sale of the one asphalt paver and one roller from the Borough of Jefferson Hills Public Works Department on Municibid

21. Discussion to authorize the advertising of the Ordinance and the public hearing for the rezoning of lot and block 1134-C-200 located along Scotia Hollow Road from R-2 Medium Density Residential District to C-1 Commercial District as recommended by the Borough of Jefferson Hills Planning Commission

22. Discussion to advertise and initiate the review of amendments to the 2022 Zoning Ordinance No. 891

23. Discussion to adopt Resolution No. 03-2023 granting preliminary plan approval for land development addition and alterations for Steel Center CTE designated as SP-3-2022

Mr. Montgomery stated the plans are here if you want to see them.

John Galbo, HHSDR Architects & Engineers, stated to give you a brief history, we submitted the plan to the Borough. It has been reviewed by the Borough Review Engineer and recommended for

approval. It has been reviewed by Allegheny County Planning Department. We have responded to their comments and presented the plan to the Planning Commission. We have their recommendation for approval. We have also submitted to the Allegheny County Conservation District and have an approved erosion and sediment control plan. The owner has executed the operation and maintenance agreement and provided that to the Borough. That's where we stand today here before you for preliminary plan approval.

24. Discussion to approve the Work Authorization dated February 3, 2023, from Gateway Engineers, Inc. for work on the revised voting district mapping and legal descriptions that was previously completed in the amount of \$8,000.00

Mrs. Bucy stated this is the first time in 30 years that we have redone the voting maps of this municipality. We did receive good word from Solicitor Gabriel, and I can read his great news. "The hearing went very well. Judge James approved our petition and directed the election division to proceed with all the necessary steps to get the new districts and the new polling places in place for the May primary and signed the court order."

It did cost \$8,000. Over the course of 30 years, with approximately 12,700 people in our voting district. The cost was about 75 cents per person to have this done. I recommend that we place the voting district map in the front hallway in case residents had questions about their voting districts. Voters will be sent information from the Allegheny County Election Office notifying them any change in voting districts. We will have districts eight and nine in St. Thomas A'Becket Church, which is adequate for handicap usage and for parking. This is very good news for us and well worth 75 cents per person. Thank you to everybody that was on the Reapportionment Committee.

Mr. Montgomery asked is there any possibility of putting it on the website?

Mr. Stinner responded yes.

Solicitor Gabriel stated Judge James did direct Allegheny County to put it on their website.

Mrs. Steffey stated this is a perfect opportunity also to point out that the county is in dire need of poll workers as well. We are going to need a lot of staff on hand when these changes are made to point people in the right direction.

Mrs. Bucy stated members of the Reapportionment Committee did meet with Principal Peter Murphy and the assistant principal. Allegheny County is having a program of student poll workers. They are willing to pay them for their services. They have to be at least 18 years of age, and it is considered community service.

25. Discussion to approve the Work Authorization dated February 3, 2023, from Gateway Engineers, Inc. to provide the Borough with general Operations and Maintenance support for all 2023 Operation and Maintenance Projects in the amount not to exceed \$11,000.00

26. Discussion to approve the Work Authorization dated February 2, 2023, from Gateway Engineers, Inc. for General 2023 GIS assistance in the amount not to exceed \$8,000.00

27. Discussion to approve the Work Authorization dated February 3, 2023, from Gateway Engineers, Inc. to assist the Borough with contract development and construction administration and inspection services for the 2023 Paving Program in the amount not to exceed \$5,000.00

28. Discussion to approve Work Authorization dated February 1, 2023, from Gateway Engineers, Inc. to assist the Borough with preparing revised conceptual designs and cost estimates for a new soccer field at Beedle Park and to help prepare a DCNR grant application in the amount not to exceed \$8,000.00

30. Reports

Fire Chief

Not Present

EMS

Not Present

Engineer

Nothing Further

Consulting Engineer

Nothing Further

Finance Officer/Treasurer

Nothing Further

Public Works Director

Nothing Further

Police Chief

Chief Dziezgowski stated I want to ask everyone to have prayers for McKeesport PD and their officers.

Mayor

Mayor McCaffrey offered her condolences to the McKeesport Police Department, their officers, all their first responders and their families.

Manager

Nothing Further

Solicitor

Solicitor Gabriel noted for the record Council and the Mayor did not meet in executive session prior to this meeting. We will meet briefly after the meeting. We will not return following that executive session.

31. General Business

Mr. Lynch stated I want to extend my condolences to the family and friends of Officer Sean Sluganski, the McKeesport Police Department, and to our neighbors of the City of McKeesport. I also continue to pray for the speedy recovery of fellow McKeesport Police Officer Charles Thomas. To those who continue to remain on watch, I offer this prayer. Blessed are the peacekeepers, for they shall be called the children of God.

I would like to read the letter that we have approved from the EAC. I will try to condense this a so I do not take up too much time, but it relates to our community preparedness for responding to potential issues related to the Sarah Well Pad in Union Township.

“As a community with multiple schools, outdoor recreation sites, and a rapidly growing residential base, the EAC is increasingly concerned about the potential for environmental, public safety, and health impacts related to the Sarah Well Pad development. As such, we recognize that maintaining a high quality of life standard is critical to the future of our community, as well to the health and safety of our residents. Given the proximity of the Jefferson Hills community to the Sarah Well Pad, we have a vested interest in those decisions which have broad environmental impacts, especially air quality, watershed, land disturbances, and pollution. Our council conducts research and reviews environmental impact statements and assessments to evaluate how our community may be affected. We are responsible for providing our findings and assessments to our community, constituents and our Borough elected officials. Accordingly, our council has been actively reviewing and discussing the appending Sarah Well Pad using our collective subject matter expertise to render a set of practical recommendations for Council's consideration. Upon review our recommendations to adequately prepare for any potential environmental risks or impacts, we are recommending that Jefferson Hills Borough Council commission a special task force to request access review and evaluate all available documentation from EQT on the Sarah Well Pad. This is all included but not limited to copies of environmental impact statements, the conditional use permits that were issued in December 2021, any supplemental information, timelines, and details, and when different activities are going to be planned on the site. Also, to include a site master plan and including the potential impact between the roadways or the residences in the area and also our parks that are also within the vicinity of the well pad. We also recommend that we work with Jefferson Hills Borough Manager to engage and coordinate the Borough functions and adjacent communities, emergency services and committees to review emergency response and protocols and preparedness. We also would like to review additional considerations for community education and preparedness. For example, like whenever we had Ms. Marcucci come in here to educate us and also, we can relate this to our residents so they can understand the scale of the proposed operation and prepare for the impacts. Another recommendation, even though this might put us at a fiscally constrained from our budget standpoint, considered a GIS based environmental study, but we can also seek alternatives to do this potentially funded from local universities or preservation groups. There remain several gaps in our current knowledge around potential, immediate

and longer-term health, safety, and environmental impacts related to the Marcellus Shale operations in adjacent communities with proximity to the Jefferson Hills community. Industrial operations, which fall just beyond the Borough's legislative jurisdiction, still have impacts to our resident's water, air traffic and quality of life. With that said, the EAC recommends that Jefferson Hills Borough Council consider a study of related impacts to parks and recreation facilities, including to, but not limited to Beedle Park, Tepe Park, Peters Creek and other borough supported maintain recreation facilities within the five-mile radius of the Sarah Well Pad.”

Mrs. Budd stated the Jefferson Hills Public Library has an opening for a full-time children's librarian. There is more information that can be found on the library's web page on their employment page. AARP and the library are partnering to provide free income tax preparation for eligible individuals. Call 445-895-9665 to make an appointment. Some upcoming programs and events they have are the Grief Support Group that begins on Tuesday, February 28 at 6 p.m. This will help participants explore and understand the grieving process. You can register on the library's website. CCAC and Synergy Group will offer retirement planning made simple on March 7th and March 14th. The mahjong, scrabble, knitting and crocheting clubs continue to meet weekly at the library. You can visit the library's event calendar for more information about dates and times. I am also happy to report that last month the CPR and AED class held by the library and taught by Southeast Regional EMS staff, was well attended. The second class was needed for the overflow registration, and in total, 60 people became certified in CPR and AED. There will be more classes coming this fall, but as always, you can contact Southeast Regional EMS at 412-384-0111 to check their schedule of CPR classes.

My prayers remain with all law enforcement, since, yet again, this region is dealing with another tragic loss of a police officer. Hearts are still heavy from what happened in Brackenridge last month, and now this. The loss of Officer Sean Sluganski and the injuries to Officer Charles Thomas are hitting a little closer to home this time. This incident did not occur that far from here, and many people know one or both of these officers. I ask of you, however you deem appropriate, to positively support the police. I also ask the same support for all firefighters, medics, 911 dispatchers, and hospital staff, especially those who are directly affected by this incident. At the very least, please do not take for granted what they do for us every day. None of them know what they are going to face when they go to work every day, but they do it, and for that, I'm grateful.

Mr. Montgomery stated I will start with the SHACOG report from last month. The police chiefs met in January and December. Defensive driving training is complete, and we will train again in March. The CIRT team had one call out in December. The investigative response team had zero callouts in December and January. The reconstructive team had no callouts in January or December. They had 21 callouts for the year. The tactical vehicle specifications are complete and ready to order. There is a \$90,000.00 grant received from Senator Devlin Robinson. The rest of the funds are coming from region 13. That is a three-step approach. One of the three-steps has been completed. The fire chiefs met to focus on training, recruitment, and retention. The joint police civil service test will continue this year. The test site has changed to Keystone Oaks High School. The date of the test is April 29, 2023. The solid waste specifications are coming to a head after much effort. There will be an automated or a manual pickup available. Some areas will get a hybrid automated system. The manual pick up generally is double the price of automated. The specs call for each resident to receive one 96-gallon container from the hauler. They call them carts. The carts are warranted to last ten years. If a family would want a second cart, the hauler will sell them one. It is recommended that they buy the cart from the hauler because there is so

much force in the arm that picks it up that it would crush a normal garbage can. Glass will be returning to the recycling list in all colors, as well as some more plastics. The bulk items will be picked up easier if automated pick up is selected. After the specifications are finalized, the bids will go out in April. The last time this was done, Waste Management got all the bids. We know at least Waste Management and Republic Services will be bidding. The current salt price now is \$87.29 a ton. As far as vehicle bids, they are all closed down for 2023 because all manufacturers are very difficult to get anything from, so they are waiting for 2024. The Public Works Committee met in December. The new Vector is in full service. The Route 51 flood study that Senator Robinson got the grant for is starting. The RFP for the engineering firm is being prepared by Gateway to be bid out in April. The two demolition projects for 2021 are in progress. Three projects that are awarded for 2022 are held up by the *Post-Gazette* strike. CDBG 47 projects are still underway. CDBG 48, which is the current project current year, the bid opening was delayed by the *Post-Gazette* strike also. The funding levels for CDBG 49 funding announcements will be made in April.

On a separate note, I spoke with Jeff King of Senator Robinson's office, if those who remember, we met with him about the tolling of emergency vehicles on Route 43. He said PennDOT is going to refund the money for the tolls paid by the Borough for the emergency vehicles that were on Route 43. However, they have not eliminated the tolling. The tolling will continue, yet they are going to refund the past tolls. It is illogical, if they're going to refund it, why are they going to continue to toll? He said we are working on it.

Chief Dziezgowski stated this has been the problem since day one, which is what resulted in us getting all of the easy passes. We have to spend man hours and time away from our regular duties fighting and trying to get documentation to get our \$15.20 back every time we hit the turnpike. After a long battle, we are 99% of the time victorious in getting our money back. However, the same thing happens the very next time we get onto the Turnpike. I agree with you from day one that this should not have happened, but the Turnpike Commission, who regulates that is their own entity and think that they are God. They hand out these regulations. The answer that I got was in an email was that they have to answer to their trustees, and so they have to hold everybody accountable that goes on the Turnpike, which I do not agree with, but that is their answer.

Mr. Montgomery stated the logic escapes me. When you are going to refund all the tolls that have been paid, but then you are going to just keep doing it. Obviously, by refunding it, you are admitting that there was an error, and now but you're going to continue the error.

Chief Dziezgowski stated when you think of the logistics involved here, of how many law enforcement or first responder entities drive a vehicle on the Turnpike for emergency purposes. They have to take the time out to get all this documentation to send to them, all this data that they already have because they have our plate of a municipal vehicle on the Turnpike, it is ludicrous. And I clearly agree, but this is the way that they will continue to operate, and they are not going to change.

Mrs. Steffey asked does Senator Robinson's office feel that there is nothing more that they can do?

Mr. Montgomery responded they are working on it.

Mrs. Steffey stated we should not give up. We are a council that likes to get things done.

Mr. Reynolds asked what is the yearly expense to our taxpayers?

Mr. Drager responded it is about \$670.00 per year.

Mr. Reynolds stated we are sitting here spending time, time after time after time talking about something that is actually a \$200.00 impact on our budget.

Mr. Montgomery stated they refunded the money. If we would not have said anything, they would not have refunded it.

Mrs. Steffey stated did I hear you correctly that glass is going to be put back into the recycling?

Mr. Reynolds stated it is already on the mailer that was delivered last week.

Mrs. Bucy stated that April 22, 2023, is Earth Day. Due to the COVID pandemic and bad weather last year, the Jefferson Hills Borough has not had a community cleanup in two years. Therefore, Mayor McCaffrey and I have organized a community cleanup from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. on April 22, 2023. We are asking the Jefferson Hills community residents, the Environmental Advisory Council members, and all of the council members and staff to donate their time and energy to pick up litter and debris around our Jefferson Hills community. We met with Principal Tim Murphy and gave him a list of the possible things that we could do with students to help with the community cleanup. We are still waiting to have any kind of finalization on those plans. We would like to have the Jefferson Hills community be a clean place to live.

Many people were asking about the Waste Management calendar, and it did come in the mail. The flyer had a list of everything that was recyclable.

We had a public safety meeting on January 27th. One of the major points was the emergency management plan. I think it is very timely, especially due to the accident in East Palestine, Ohio. Last year, we had an accident on Route 51. It was very similar, but certainly not to this extent. It could have very well been extremely dangerous when that truck came down and hit one of the train cars that were holding hazardous material. I would like to commend the Public Safety Committee for working on these emergency plans of evacuation including where we would house people in the event of an emergency.

I would like to also offer my condolences to all of the McKeesport policemen for their fallen Officer Sluganski and also the wounded Officer Thomas. Our hearts and prayers are with them.

Mrs. Ruscitto stated condolences to the McKeesport Police Department and always my thanks. Safe travels and prayers for all of our first responders always.

Two things this evening made my heart sing. The first one is the Environmental Advisory Council. I think most of the people that know me and know one of the reasons that I ran was to improve things within the Borough and how we handle situations. The positive steps forward by this committee thrills me. I am so excited to know that we are in good hands with the EAC. Secondly, Dr. Sardon, I had the pleasure and the privilege of working for this woman. I can say that my time with her was excellent. The things that she taught me as an educator, I cannot even begin to convey to everybody how much I have

learned from Dr. Sardon. I am so pleased that you're back. I am pleased that you're here with us now. I just want to say welcome home.

Mrs. Steffey stated I would like to reiterate what I said in our last meeting. It is important for our residents to understand that it is okay to call 911 in non-emergency situations after our hours of operation have concluded at the Borough. Chief Dziezgowski, if you would humor me for one second, I would like to do a hypothetical with you.

Mrs. Steffey stated for instance, my basement is backing up with either sewage or water. Do I call 911 or do I call the plumber or the water company?

Chief Dziezgowski responded it depends. If you feel that it is an emergency situation, call 911.

Mrs. Steffey stated when you call 911, all you have to do is state that this is not a life-threatening emergency situation. However, you would like that direction on who is to be able to assist you.

Chief Dziezgowski stated the 911 dispatcher will ask "what is your emergency". At that time, if it is a non-emergency, state this is a non-emergency, but I need police response. The police department will then triage it and get the right people to that location.

Mrs. Steffey stated another example might be about a deer that had just recently gotten hit by a car and was unfortunately still on the road and still alive.

Chief Dziezgowski responded in said situation, the officer will humanely dispose of the deer and then we have a contracted service with a company to remove the deer.

Mrs. Steffey stated we are trying to streamline everything here and unfortunately, we do not have an after-hours service to man our phones at the Borough Police Department. We would like to just remind everyone that 911 is safe to call.

I would like to wish good luck to the Pleasant Hills Middle School and the Thomas Jefferson High School cheerleaders who are leaving for their national competition tomorrow morning. We wish them all the best of luck and safe travels.

I would like to thank Dr. Sardon again for attending and starting the open dialog with us. It is very refreshing.

Our thoughts and prayers are with the McKeesport Police Department and also with every police department and for the fallen officer and injured officer's friends, families, loved ones.

32. Adjournment

President Steffey adjourned the meeting at 8:06 p.m. on a motion by Mrs. Budd, seconded by Mrs. Ruscitto 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, Patrick v. Jefferson Hills Borough, GD 22-004622*