

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

Mrs. Steffey moved agenda item No. 10 to the top of the agenda.

Mrs. Budd moved to present a proclamation to the TJ Boys' Volleyball Team for their fundraisers benefitting McKeesport Officer Charles Thomas, seconded by Mr. Lynch, and carried unanimously.

Mayor McCaffrey read the Proclamation.

“WHEREAS, the Thomas Jefferson Boys Volleyball Team has exhibited extraordinary dedication, compassion, and community spirit through their remarkable efforts in organizing and hosting multiple fundraiser events; and

WHEREAS, these driven young athletes have selflessly dedicated their time to support fallen police officer, Sean Sluganski, and injured officer, Charles Thomas of McKeesport, PA; and

WHEREAS, their collective efforts have touched the hearts of many and are also a testament to their true character, empathy, and desire to make a difference in the lives of others; and

WHEREAS, their unwavering commitment to organizing these events has fostered unity, rallied multiple communities, and created a platform for remembrance and support; and

WHEREAS, their actions show solidarity, resilience, and have inspired the entire community, serving as an example of the positive impact that can be achieved through teamwork; and

NOW THEREFORE, I, Carrie McCaffrey, Mayor of the Borough of Jefferson Hills, do hereby proclaim that the Thomas Jefferson Boys Volleyball Team is recognized and commended for their tremendous work in organizing and hosting fundraiser events; and

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the Borough of Jefferson Hills to be affixed this 12th day of June 2023 in recognition of their commendable efforts in the community.”

Mayor McCaffrey read the names of the Thomas Jefferson Boys Volleyball Team members receiving recognition; Jaiden Wadlow, Aidan Janicky, Aiden Dushack, Cole MacNeil, Logan Palko, Josiah Reilly, Troy Brown, Riley Burdett, Robert Quinlan, William Stewart, Zach Strutt, Chris Bobak, Braeden Artman, Julian Rambharose, Luke Witkowski, Aaron DeNardo, Alex Blaker, and Sumukh Desabhotla.

Mrs. Steffey thanked the team for all their efforts.

REPORT FROM BOROUGH BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

None

BOROUGH RESIDENT/TAXPAYER COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS

None

AGENDA ITEMS

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

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

Mrs. Budd moved to approve minutes of agenda meeting May 3, 2023, seconded by Mrs. Bucy, and carried unanimously.

Mrs. Bucy moved to approve minutes of regular meeting May 8, 2023, seconded by Mr. Montgomery, and carried unanimously.

Mrs. Ruscitto moved to table the appointment of the Borough of Jefferson Hills Solicitor, seconded by Mr. Montgomery.

Mrs. Budd stated I agree if it is for 30 days.

Mrs. Bucy asked is the intent to see if they can get any more applicants?

Mrs. Steffey responded no; the RFP is closed.

After discussion, motion carried unanimously.

Mrs. Steffey stated this item will be tabled for 30 days or less, in the event that we want to have a special meeting.

Mrs. Ruscitto moved to appoint Dr. Judith Kaufmann to one seat on the Environmental Advisory Council expiring December 31, 2023, seconded by Mrs. Bucy, and carried unanimously.

Mrs. Bucy stated Dr. Judy Kaufmann is one of our Jefferson Hills residents. She is a doctor of epidemiology. She is willing to commit her services to the Environmental Advisory Council for the safety of all the children in the world. She will be a tremendous asset due to the fact of her many medical degrees.

Mr. Montgomery moved to advertise one seat on the Jefferson Hills Borough Police Pension Advisory Committee, seconded by Mrs. Ruscitto, and carried unanimously.

Mrs. Budd moved to adopt Ordinance No. 900 amending Section 616 of Ordinance No. 535, as codified in Chapter 15, Section 15-402 to modify the defined no-parking areas by street, seconded by Mrs. Ruscitto, and carried unanimously.

Mrs. Budd moved to adopt Ordinance No. 901 amending Chapter 19 of the Code of Ordinances, to add Section 19-106 “to require all applicants to file a separate permit application for each proposed temporary sign design, with a separate permit fee and/or separate posting of cash bond, as established from time to time by Borough Council resolution”, seconded by Mrs. Bucy, and carried unanimously.

Mr. Lynch left the meeting at 7:11 p.m.

Mr. Montgomery moved to adopt Resolution No. 14-2023 approving the sale of the 2008 Ford F-250 (VIN 1FTSW21548EE40377) for \$5,100.00 and the 2013 Ford Explorer (VIN 1FM5K8AR7DGC35189) for \$5,000.00 to the best responsible bidders through the Perryopolis Auto Sales Auction, 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	ABSENT
Mr. Montgomery	YES
Mr. Reynolds	NO
Mrs. Ruscitto	NO
Mrs. Steffey	YES

Mr. Reynolds stated I vote no. We should rerun it thru the auction to get a higher price.

Mrs. Ruscitto stated I voted no because Mr. Reynolds does this for a living and he would probably know best.

Four members voted yes, and two members voted no, motion carried.

Mrs. Budd moved to adopt Resolution No. 17-2023 amending the salaries, compensation, and wages for Borough seasonal employees for the year 2023, seconded by Mrs. Bucy, and carried unanimously.

Mr. Montgomery moved to adopt Resolution No. 18-2023 recognizing South Hills Mothers of Multiples as a civic and/or service association under the Local Options Small Games of Chance Act, seconded by Mrs. Bucy.

Mr. Montgomery asked if any organization needs to do small games of chance, will they have to do this in the Borough?

Mrs. Steffey responded through the Borough, yes.

After discussion, 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	ABSENT
Mr. Montgomery	YES
Mr. Reynolds	NO
Mrs. Ruscitto	YES
Mrs. Steffey	YES

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

Mrs. Bucy moved to approve a Settlement and Discontinuance of National Casualty Co. v. Jefferson Hills Borough, Docket No. 2:23-CV-00429-WSS, at no cost to the Borough, seconded by Mr. Montgomery, and carried unanimously.

Mrs. Budd moved to approve a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Jefferson Hills Police Department and the Allegheny Intermediate Unit-Mon Valley School which establishes procedures to be followed when certain incidents occur on school property in accordance with the Safe Schools Act, seconded by Mrs. Ruscitto, and carried unanimously.

Mrs. Bucy moved to perform a formal title search of Lobb’s Run Park with the intention to acquire parcels to expand Lobb’s Run Park, seconded by Mrs. Ruscitto, and carried unanimously.

Mrs. Budd moved to instruct the Borough Manager, Borough Engineer, Public Works Director, and Borough Planner to investigate and perform a needs assessment on current park playgrounds, seconded by Mrs. Bucy, and carried unanimously.

Mr. Montgomery moved to adopt Resolution No. 15-2023 authorizing Stanley L. Gorski of SHACOG to file the Act 152 Grant application in the amount of \$60,350.00 for the Demolitions at 102 Arch Street, 1412 Worthington Ave, 1420 High Road, and 613 Cochran Mill Road estimated at \$71,000.00 with a Borough share of \$10,650.00, 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	ABSENT
Mr. Montgomery	YES
Mr. Reynolds	NO
Mrs. Ruscitto	YES
Mrs. Steffey	YES

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

Mrs. Budd moved to adopt Resolution No. 16-2023 declaring the structures proposed for demolition at 102 Arch Street, 1412 Worthington Ave, 1420 High Road, and 613 Cochran Mill Road as blighted structures, seconded by Mrs. Bucy, and carried unanimously.

Mr. Montgomery moved to approve Application for Payment No. 3 and Final from State Pipe Services, Inc. in the amount of \$13,151.40 for work completed on the Joint Municipal SHACOG O&M

CCTV – Year 12 Project, subject to the receipt of an invoice from SHACOG, seconded by Mrs. Bucy, and carried unanimously.

Mr. Montgomery stated that it was less than expected on the expenditures for that.

Mr. Montgomery moved to approve Application for Payment No. 1 and Final from Robinson Pipe Cleaning Company in the amount of \$14,934.72 for work completed on the Joint Municipal SHACOG Preventative Maintenance – Year 12 Project, subject to the receipt of an invoice from SHACOG, seconded by Mrs. Bucy, and carried unanimously.

Mr. Montgomery stated this was less than budgeted also.

Mrs. Budd moved to approve Quote #88011 from Sportsfield Specialties, Inc. for two (2) tension style batting tunnels, for two (2) overhead style batting tunnels, foundation sleeves, and assembly for Andrew Reilly Memorial Park in the amount of \$53,199.00, seconded by Mrs. Ruscitto. 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	ABSENT
Mr. Montgomery	YES
Mr. Reynolds	NO
Mrs. Ruscitto	YES
Mrs. Steffey	YES

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

Mrs. Budd moved to accept the \$20,000.00 CDBG Year 49 7.5 allocation received from Allegheny County Economic Development for the Andrew Reilly Memorial Park ADA Upgrades – Phase 6 project with Borough local match covering the remaining difference, seconded by Mrs. Ruscitto, and carried unanimously.

BOROUGH RESIDENT/TAXPAYER COMMENTS ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Mrs. Steffey read a letter from Lori Folino, 5130 Oak Road.

“To Whom It May Concern, I am writing this letter once again to voice my concern regarding the property located at 5126 Oak Road, Jefferson Hills. This is getting to be ridiculous that every year I must contact the Borough regarding this property not being maintained.

Over the past few years, I have filed a complaint with the Borough about this property not being maintained. Now another year has gone by, and the property is not maintained again. As my son and husband have noticed while cutting grass a snake is coming from the property and we have noticed mice as well which we have NEVER had. The property is a breeding ground for ticks and other insects and rodents to live and it is completely wrong. We have problems pulling out of our driveway because the grass is well over 3ft. high. The grass is growing through the fence between our property lines as well.

People's Gas thinks that it is ok to maybe cut this property once or twice a year, well let me tell you that it is not OK!

People's Gas shouldn't be allowed to continue to let this property get out of control. Jefferson Hills has an ordinance to keep property cut and maintained and I feel that because this is a company, our Borough is overlooking this. I have lived in this Borough since 1977 and if my property or any other resident's property looked like that I would be notified and given a fine.

I hope that this matter will be addressed once and for all. As I stated before, there are snakes, mice, and most definitely ticks living in that well over 3 feet high grass. I don't feel like my family should be a prisoner in our own home and not able to sit or play outside with fear of the danger right next door. It would be very sad if an accident happened due to the condition of this property and the Borough did not act against People's Gas especially after being warned year after year."

Mrs. Ruscitto stated Mrs. Folino came to speak with me regarding this situation. She also spoke with Mayor McCaffrey. We certainly agree about pursuing this issue for her. I agree with Mrs. Folino that because it is a company, that should not distinguish or make them any different from anybody else within the Borough. Hopefully, after discussions with Mr. Seskey and Mr. Reis, we can move forward and help the Folinos out.

Mr. Reynolds asked are they going there tomorrow? It should be that important. It should be prioritized.

Mrs. Ruscitto responded they have already been there and gave the gas company a notification. But there is a process. Sadly, it takes a long time.

Mr. Reynolds asked in the meantime, can we send public works out to cut the grass and send Peoples the bill?

Mrs. Ruscitto stated I do not know about that legally.

Mrs. Steffey stated that is going to have to be a decision for Mr. Reis.

Mr. Drager stated We have maintained properties in the past. It is typically delinquent properties where we have cleaned it up and then billed them.

Solicitor Gabriel stated it is possible to do a municipal lien on this situation.

Mrs. Steffey stated we will contact Mrs. Folino tomorrow after we speak to Mr. Reis.

Mrs. Steffey read a letter from Mariah Provins, Sean Cooper, and Geri Prinkey.

"Jefferson Hills Council, thank you so much for all that you have done to build and unveil the memorial. It means so much to us that so many people have come together to honor my Dad's memory. We appreciate all of the support. The memorial is beautiful and more than we could have ever imagined. We are forever grateful. Thank you so much."

REPORTS

Fire Chief

Not Present

EMS

Not Present. The EMS written report for May 2023 is on file in the administrative office.

Engineer

Nothing Further to add to the written report on file in the administrative office.

Consulting Engineer

Not Present. The engineer's written report is on file in the administrative office.

Finance Officer/Treasurer

Nothing Further to add to the written report on file in the administrative office.

Public Works Director

Nothing Further to add to the written report on file in the administrative office.

Police Chief

The JHPD COP Monthly report is on file in the administrative office.

Chief Dziezgowski thanked everyone who turned out for the Third Annual Dale T. Provins Jr. Blood Drive. It was a success. We had 39 blood donations which will help 117 people. Through donations and baskets, they were able to collect \$2,888.00, which will go to scholarships in the name of Dale T. Provins Jr.

Mayor

Mayor McCaffrey thanked the Recreation Board for the amazing job they did on Community Day. We had a beautiful day. It was great to see so many people come out. For Public Works, the Police Department, and the Fire Departments, thank you all for all of your hard work that day.

Manager

Not Present. The managers' written report is on file in the administrative office.

Solicitor

Solicitor Gabriel noted for the record that Council and the mayor did meet in executive session to discuss personnel matters. There will not be an executive session after this voting meeting.

GENERAL BUSINESS

Mr. Montgomery thanked the Recreation Board for the tremendous job they did. As usual, it makes the community look better. It pulls everybody together. I am thankful that they do that for us, and for the community.

Mrs. Bucy and I received a memo yesterday, to look at the playgrounds. We have to get something in this week because the appropriations committee is meeting.

Mrs. Bucy congratulated the Rec Board for a well-organized Community Day. A special thank you to Public Works, EMS, and Jefferson Hills Police for keeping us safe during that time.

I also would like to remind everybody that June 14 is Flag Day. Please display your flag proudly in your yard. June 20 is the next Cloverleaf Ecumenical Food Bank distribution.

I would really like to thank all the people who worked on getting the four blighted homes, up for demolition through the SHACOG. The people that live by these homes have been very patient and have displayed perseverance in attempting to demolish these blighted properties. A thank you the people who were a part of this process. Residents have been waiting well over a year and a half for these demolitions.

Mrs. Ruscitto stated an idea that was suggested came to fruition with lobbying alongside Solicitor Gabriel that the landslide insurance is going to be available to residents through the PSAB. That is huge. It is going to be offered to members just like Mine Subsidence Insurance is at a reasonable rate. Many community members within the Borough are affected by landslides. I am glad to relay this good news for our residents.

I would like to thank the Rec Board and the first responders for such a seamlessly smooth day for Community Day. It was a great day.

Congratulations to the boys' volleyball team. That was very commendable on their part for all the fundraising that they have done.

It was an honor and a privilege for me to come on Sunday and donate blood for Officer Provins Memorial Blood Drive. The least that you can do is go and donate some blood. One person donating saves three lives. It was packed that day, so thank you, everybody that came.

Lastly, Happy Father's Day to all of us that are fortunate enough to still have our fathers. Sadly, I do not. Please, remember them, thank them, love them, and appreciate them this weekend.

Mrs. Steffey stated to Mrs. Ruscitto do not sell yourself short. It was your idea on the landslide abatement and insurance. You deserve credit for that.

Mr. Reynolds stated I have had some residents complain about a piece of property up on Decker. I will give you the exact house number after the meeting. The residents are saying there is no building permit, and they are doing a lot of renovations.

Mr. Reynolds stated to Mr. Volpe, there is a home plate here. The umpire almost did not let Macklin's co-ed team play at Beedle Park because of the metal spike that comes up through home plate. Could you change that as soon as possible? I figured I would supply you a home plate, being that Public Works takes care of that.

Mr. Reynolds thanked Mrs. Bucy and Mr. Montgomery for all the hard work that they are doing with the playgrounds. They need a facelift, something bad. It is great that you guys are doing that.

Happy Father's Day to all.

ADJOURNMENT

President Steffey adjourned the meeting at 7:29 p.m. on a motion by Mrs. Budd, seconded by Mrs. Ruscitto, and carried unanimously.

John P. Stinner
Secretary/Borough Manager

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 Lucas v. Jefferson Hills Borough, GD 22-004622; JHFR-162 CD 2023, 30 MN 2023; Nat. Casualty Co.-2:23-CV-429; AG v. GHVFC-No. 6007 of 2022