

The agenda 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, Councilman Bentz, Vice President Budd, Councilwoman Mares, Councilman Montgomery, Councilman Polick, President Steffey, and Mayor McCaffrey answered to roll call. Borough Manager Stinner, Finance Director Haberstock, Solicitor McPeak Cromer, Chief Dziezgowski, Engineer Glister, Consulting Engineer Minsterman, and Public Works Director Volpe were also present. Councilman Lynch was absent.

4. Report from Borough Boards and Commissions

None

5. Update on the Jefferson Hills Public Library by Dana Farabaugh, Library Director stated

Dana Farabaugh, Library Director, stated I just wanted to take a little bit of time first of all to introduce myself to the new council members. I am Dana Farabaugh. I am the director of the Jefferson Hills Public Library. I have been here for three years now which is very surprising. I started in January 2021. I wanted to take a couple minutes to share a few accomplishments from 2023, and what we are looking forward to in 2024.

First of all, I would like to thank the Borough and Council for your continued support of the library. Your contribution to the library is really an investment in the community. I see our responsibility as showing a return on that investment, and I think with 2023 we have done a really great job. I am excited to tell you about some of the things that we have done, and we would not be able to do without the support of the Borough and of Council. In 2023 we had another record-breaking year. Since we returned to full service after the COVID-19 pandemic, our usage statistics in every area have been going up every single month. We increased our total circulation by 14%. Last year we had six visits shy of 29,000, which is pretty impressive. We just needed six more people to come through the door. That is still a really, really good number. We had a 50% increase in our Wi-Fi usage. We do provide free Wi-Fi through our county-wide tech organization. We doubled the number of children's programs that we offer and attendance at all of our programs for children, teens, and adults increased by 45% which is stunning and amazing. I am so proud of everybody who has been doing programming for the library.

A couple highlights from 2023. We hired a full-time children's librarian thanks to an increase in funding from the Borough. Her name is Susie Benitez. She worked with the Miami-Dade County Public Library in Florida for about a decade before moving to Jefferson Hills with her family. She comes with a ton of experience, a really great background in children's services, and we are very, very lucky to have her. We also became a fine free library. Most of the libraries in Allegheny County now at this point are fine free. We do not charge fines for overdue materials, but items still do have a due date and people are charged for them if they never show back up at the library. Our part of the decision behind this was, number one, we did not want to be one of the only libraries in Allegheny County to charge fines. Number two, we feel that we are taxpayer supported. People are supporting us. Charging a 10-cent fine for a book that is a few days late because somebody's kid was sick just does not really seem fair. Probably the biggest deciding factor was our fine income in 2022 was about \$600.00. The cost of staff time collecting these did not really make sense for the bottom line. Most importantly, we waited. We were not one of the first

libraries to go fine free in Allegheny County because I wanted to make sure using the other libraries as a guinea pig, that they were still getting stuff back on time, that it was working for them, and it was. The reports have shown over the past year that people still return stuff on time, whether we charge them or not. I am really proud of that. It makes it a little bit less stressful to come to the library.

Susie Benitez received a grant through the PAsmart program to host STEM-based gaming clubs and that has been a really fun endeavor. So, through the grant, we have received iPads and Nintendo Switch, some robotics kits, and board games. We also received computer parts and the club actually built a gaming computer that you can see over in the library. We will also be getting a 3D printer within the next few months. That is bringing in a really great audience of people that we have not really seen too much of, which is a pre-teen middle school boys and their dads coming in every week. It has been really fantastic.

We also achieved gold star recertification through the Pennsylvania Library Association's PA Forward program. That certification shows that our library provides materials, programs, and services that build the financial health, information, civic, and basic literacy skills of our communities. It shows that we are much more than a place to check out books, even though you can still do that, that we are providing resources for people to really be fully well-rounded and informed individuals.

2024, I am calling my year of evaluation. We are really looking at everything we do, everything we provide, the spaces that we have, and making sure that they are meeting the needs, wants, and the aspirations of the community. Caitlin MoyerDinardo just completed a review of our website. That is the first step. We will be looking at making improvements. We did recently do a website redesign, but there are always changes and always improvements that can be made. That really is our 24-7 virtual branch. You can go online and find out, ideally, everything you need to know. We are going to make sure that it is easy to access. We are also going to be launching a community survey this summer to determine how we can improve everything that we do and to gauge where our residents are in terms of what they would like to see from us. We are also working on a new resident mailer. This is in the beginning phases, but it is coming. Working with some folks at the Borough, our plan is to create and send out a postcard to new residents. When you move into Jefferson Hills, one of these shows up in your mailbox. It will direct you to a webpage that has information. My dream is everything that a person moving to Jefferson Hills would possibly need to know. I know that's a really big goal, but I think we can do it. We are working with different Borough departments to make sure that we are providing all the information that a new resident needs. We are also getting ready for the April 8th solar eclipse. If you remember 2017, it was a big deal, especially with libraries. We received free eclipse glasses and the demand for them was astounding. Luckily we were able to learn from that. So, I ordered a lot more this year. We will be giving out eclipse glasses starting March 18th, first come, first serve. They are probably going to run out pretty fast even though I did order a lot. Stop by on March 18 and get your eclipse glasses. We're also hosting a program with a local astrologer leading up to the eclipse. We're inviting everyone to join us, bring a blanket or a chair on April 8th from 2:00 to 4:00. We're going to be having a viewing party with a snack bar. Because I like a good pun, we'll have moon pies, Starburst, and Sun Chips, and a couple crafts. Summer reading planning is underway. Our kickoff party will be on May 16th. More information to come. Summer is our busiest season at the library for adults and for kids. We're planning a lot of really fun stuff and I'm excited to get that news out once everything is finalized. We're also continuing our children's programs. We host baby story time every Tuesday at 10:00 a.m. This is something new that Ms. Benitez started and it's probably my favorite day of the week. We have a lot of new moms, and stay-at-home moms bringing in their babies. There are some stories and songs, but the secret is it's mostly for the moms. It's a great chance

for them to connect. We've had a lot of friendships being built. They'll go out for coffee now and it's perfect. It's exactly what I wanted to happen. We also have a Spanish story time, a bilingual story time every other Wednesday at 10:00 a.m. It is a really nice way to kind of introduce your young child to learning a new language, to learning some simple Spanish vocabulary words. Of course, we're continuing our toddler story time every Thursday at 10:00 a.m. A couple of really exciting upcoming things we have going on. In a few weeks, two teachers from the Pine-Richland School District will be here in the community room. They climbed Mount Kilimanjaro. They will be sharing the stories from what it took to get to the place where you could climb Mount Kilimanjaro and then actually doing it. That should be a lot of fun. The Friends of the Libraries Used Book and Boutique Sale will be April 18th through the 21st. We have a lot of books, and we don't like packing them up at the end. Please come and buy some books from us. If you're interested in learning more about the Friends and what they do to support the library and how you can help with that, you can visit the Friends page on our website. It's a really great group and a lot of the work that we do wouldn't be possible without those folks.

Those are just a couple things. We have a lot going on and we are always adding more stuff. If you visit [jeffersonhillslibrary.org/events](http://jeffersonhillslibrary.org/events), you can see our brand-new events calendar with everything that we have going on. I would love to see everybody at some of our stuff.

6. Borough Resident/Taxpayer Comments on Agenda Items

None

7. Discussion to approve the monthly bills

Mr. Montgomery asked on page 22, the fire escrow refund, what is that about? There is one that says fire escrow refund. It is for \$57,509.00.

Vice President Budd asked does that possibly have to do with Banana Peppers?

Mr. Haberstock responded that is exactly what it is. It is the refund of the escrow monies for the fire at the restaurant.

8. Discussion to approve the monthly payroll

9. Discussion to approve minutes of agenda meeting February 7, 2024

10. Discussion to approve minutes of regular meeting February 12, 2024

11. Discussion to accept the signed resignation of Ronald W. Naylor III as a Police Officer with the Jefferson Hills Police Department, effective February 26, 2024

12. Discussion to authorize the Jefferson Hills Police Department (JHPD) to advertise and test in accordance with the Jefferson Hills Civil Service requirements to develop a current eligibility list of candidates for the position of full-time police officer

13. Discussion to appoint \_\_\_\_\_ to one (1) seat on the Borough of Jefferson Hills Environmental Advisory Council for a 3-year term expiring December 31, 2026

Vice President Budd stated we have one name in our packet and there are the two spots. The name in our packet is potentially for that seat on the EAC.

14. Discussion to appoint \_\_\_\_\_ to one seat on the Zoning Hearing Board as an alternate for the remainder of the term expiring December 31, 2025

15. Discussion to advertise the revised meeting dates for the Public Safety Committee on the first Wednesday of each new quarter for the remainder of 2024: April 3, July 3, and September 4, 2024

Vice President Budd we discussed today with the Borough Manager about those dates listed falling on the same day as the agenda meeting. We discussed potentially moving the dates to April 29th, July 29th, and September 30<sup>th</sup>. Is that something to do for Monday or do I make a motion to amend this?

Solicitor McPeak Cromer responded you could just put it on the agenda for Monday that way.

Vice President Budd stated those dates, and I would suggest the same time as 2:00 p.m.

President Steffey stated we decided to scale back a little bit on our public safety committee meetings during the day at 2:00. We do have a number of our staff that attend those meetings. We felt that having it every single month without much to go on our agenda every single time, we are going to scale it back to one meeting per quarter. If anything were to arise as far as public safety, obviously, we would be able to implement a meeting, or roll it into one of our agenda or voting meetings.

16. Discussion to permit the West Jefferson Hills Historical Society (WJHHS) to place a bench honoring Joyce Schmidt outside of one of the second-floor entrances to the Borough Building

17. Discussion to authorize the preparation and advertisement of the Request for Proposal (RFP) for a new Borough-wide telephone system including the servers, all individual telephone units, and any new wiring or IT equipment to facilitate use

Mr. Polick asked can someone describe to us briefly what is the situation now and what the goal is?

Mr. Stinner responded we were notified recently that our current provider, Mitel, which has been an industry leader for a number of years, was actually acquired by the Ring Doorbell Company. Not knowing what the service will eventually look like, we thought we would take a look at finishing our contract, which was a three-year contract that started a while back, and with those two things intersecting, we decided to open the contract and take bids to look at what else is out there.

18. Discussion to approve the rental of portable lighting towers from CAT One Call Rentals for \$615.00 per month for temporary lighting at Tepe and Beedle Park Fields from April to October 2024 for a total of \$4,305.00

President Steffey stated the reason why this was brought to light on the agenda is, as we have discussed numerous times our Borough is quickly and already has been running out of field time allowance for our baseball and soccer rec teams. Beedle Park and Tepe Park do not have lighting and that does not permit any longer use past dusk. We do not have anything on the plan in the near future to put permanent lighting in there. However, with the possible closure over in Pleasant Hills of Breisinger Field

for the soccer players and also an overabundance of applications for permits for our fields, we felt that it might be necessary to look into some temporary lighting in order to help our sports communities out, and provide them with some extra time after dusk which happens to come early certain times of the year. We are not saying that these are 100% going to be used, whether this passes or not on Monday. It is just an option. I am meeting with some members of the recreation board tomorrow with Mr. Stinner to go over and finalize all of our applications for permit use mostly for softball and baseball fields, some for pickleball usage as well. Those will be finalized tomorrow but we did receive an abundance of applications as we do every year. It is becoming very difficult to squeeze these times in. We do not want to not approve certain applications. We are finding a better way to allow more time for these sports communities to get their practices in with the lack of lighting on our fields. We are also working with the recreation board to come up with a different application for next year. It has been an assumption that applications are turned in on a first come, first served basis. That was never stated anywhere. It is not written anywhere. It is not on the application anywhere. That was assumed this year as well. For those that had turned in permit applications this year under that assumption, we did not want to make things difficult. We have been tirelessly trying to puzzle in these numerous applications that we received in order to provide everybody as much time on the fields as we possibly can without turning anybody away. Adding in this temporary lighting motion was one way to possibly get some more applications approved.

Mr. Montgomery stated Breisinger and Pleasant Kingdom are going to be closed for two years.

19. Discussion to approve and adopt changes to the Borough of Jefferson Hills Civil Service rules and regulations as recommended by the Chief of Police and approved by the Borough of Jefferson Hills Civil Service Commission

Chief Dziezgowski stated that that Jefferson Hills Civil Service Commission met on Monday. The commissioners reviewed all the changes, and they approved all the changes prior to this meeting.

20. Discussion to adopt Resolution 06-2024 approving the sale of the 2016 Ford Taurus Police Interceptor (VIN# 1FAHP2MT3GG117626) for \$5,200.00 and the 2011 Ford Fusion SE (VIN# 3FAHP0HG0BR144835) for \$3,500.00 to the best responsible bidder through the Perryopolis Auto Sales Auction

21. Discussion to approve Quote No. 98188 from Sportsfield Specialties, Inc. for two (2) single tension baseball batting tunnels, associated ground sleeves, turf and seam fabric, and installation, one for Beedle Park and one for Tepe Park in the amount of \$49,926.25

22. Discussion to authorize the Borough Manager to pursue the *Fields for Kids* grant from the Pittsburgh Pirates for new batting cages at Beedle Park and Tepe Park

Mr. Stinner stated the *Fields for Kids* grant is a 50-50 match on the grant. We would be putting up \$25,000.00 and the organization will be putting up the other \$25,000.00.

23. Discussion to purchase a ZT7000 Zero Turn Riding Mower Quote No. 40811D041072 from Bobcat of Pittsburgh in the amount of \$12,799.00

Mr. Polick stated the Bobcat that is being described does have listed the warranty for 36 months or 2,000 hours. Looking at the other quotes, we do not have any warranties on for an apple-apple comparison of the pricing. Is that something possible we can get?

Mr. Volpe responded in the past when we bought them, they did not come with a warranty, but I will check.

Mr. Polick asked should we consider also the 72-inch? Meaning with the additional size, that should allow us to cut the grass faster. With the 72-inch, that saves us an hour a day and then other stuff can be finished instead of just cutting grass. I do not know what that cost-benefit would be, but again just looking at what makes us more efficient and able to get more things done.

Mr. Volpe responded our mower trailers will not handle a 72-inch. Some of the parks that have hills that a 72-inch mower could not do. That is why we opted to go with the 60-inch.

24. Discussion to approve Work Authorization dated February 1, 2024, from Gateway Engineers, Inc. for the 2024 MS4 Program in the amount not to exceed \$22,000.00

25. Discussion to authorize the advertisement of the 2022-GEDTF-145 Andrew Reilly Memorial Park ADA Bathroom Upgrades for project bid

26. Discussion to authorize SHACOG to advertise the Andrew Reilly Memorial Park ADA Upgrades – Phase 6 project bid

27. Discussion to adopt Resolution 07-2024 granting the Conditional Use to construct a wireless communications facility designated as CU-1-2024

Mr. Montgomery stated we discussed that at the hearing. Mr. Glister wanted to add some more conditions to that of a subject J. Do you want to put that on there for all those different ones?

Mr. Glister stated we can work to get those included.

28. Borough Resident/Taxpayer Comments on Non-Agenda Items

Cindy Caulkett, 1424 High Road, stated I wanted to give this information to the Solicitor. This is from 2014 when there was a property tax assessment for Allegheny County for 1420 High Road. I had mentioned in the last meeting that after Mrs. Brantner passed away that we had seen that the mailing address changed to a Patricia that has an address.

Solicitor McPeak Cromer stated I am happy to take it. We have ordered title searches which upon receipt we are going to contact people.

Mrs. Caulkett stated trash on Route 51 is unbelievable and it's everywhere. I've noticed a lot of it when you drive up Large Hill, and then when you come up from Elizabeth. There's a grouping of paint cans and tires. There is so much trash. I realize that that's probably state. Do you contact somebody? It's a mess. There's the sign that says, Welcome to Jefferson Hills, which needs another plant in it. It looks terrible. There's just so much trash in this Borough. It's crazy. Will you be having your annual trash pick-up? My neighbors and I have been picking up around our area already.

I wanted to ask if anybody knows, up at the top of Large Hill, there is a company up there called JMI. Does anybody know what that business is?

Vice President Budd responded it is an insurance company.

Mrs. Caulkett stated it's interesting that one minute, there will be tons of cars there, and then there's nothing.

President Steffey stated in regard to the trash on Route 51, I completely concur with you. Every once in a while the State may come. Route 51 is not our responsibility. However, there are many people asking how they can help pick up trash, which has been amazing. Our only concern, it is a cause for safety wherever you are. We welcome people who want to volunteer their time to pick up trash. The Mayor is probably going to speak about Clean-up Day on Earth Day. The Chief wants people to contact the police department if they are going out to pick up trash. Now, with that being said, we obviously do not want you picking up trash on Route 51. Mr. Volpe, do they come randomly here and there to pick up trash on our state roads and county roads or do we call them?

Mr. Volpe stated if the Governor or somebody comes around, they are out the day before, other than that you will never see them.

President Steffey stated all we need is Governor Shapiro to make an appearance and we will have a spic and span Jefferson Hills.

Mr. Volpe stated they did offer when we have clean-up day, if we know we are going to have a big group out there they will assist with blocking one lane with an arrow truck. Other than that, you never see them unless some big tour is on their way.

President Steffey stated it is a shame. It definitely irks me every time I drive past as well. I know it does with other residents. It is not a good look for our community when people are driving through on Route 51. I know that our Public Works Department does give special attention to our Welcome to Jefferson Hills signs and planter boxes in the springtime. As far as Route 51, I do not think our Chief or anybody else can offer any help. Residents, I am sure you can contact the state and make your complaints.

When our public works crews are out there, and they are updating those signs and planter boxes they do pick up around them. We do try to keep up on the areas that we feel are safe for people to collect.

Dr. Janet Sardon stated I actually was here about the conditional use for the cell tower. I am here if anybody had any comments, and to see if it will be approved.

We are in the process of demolition of the old high school facility. We are ready to go. Our bids have been approved. Our companies are hired. We have a demolition company, an electrical company, both were approved. We are at the final stages. I know the architect submitted the last two permits that we need from you the Borough. We are ready to mobilize tomorrow. We submitted two permits yesterday. We submitted to Middle that needed to do some work. They are going to wait on the Borough to review those permits. Our plan is to have that building completely demoed by July 26th. Then the plan is to bid for a parking lot there. That parking lot bid, we show specs to the board in March for bidding in April for approval in May to actually start the parking lot as soon as the demolition is done. The quicker we get those permits done, the quicker we can get the building demolished, which means the quicker we can get that parking lot going. The field and things are going to be open during the demolition. We are going to have access to and from the building during that time. However, the quicker we are able to get done, the quicker we can get the parking lot in and be ready for those fall sports seasons.

We are excited to have that building down. We are doing some unique things with the floor from the gym and some bricks and some of that stuff will be coming out soon as a fundraiser.

## 29. Reports

### Fire Chief

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

### EMS

Not present.

### Engineer

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

### Consulting Engineer

The Gateway Engineers written report is on file in the administrative office.

Mr. Minsterman stated that I saw the emails regarding the year-end presentation. It is going to be happening, so just a reminder that that is occurring. It is prior to the next meeting.

Vice President Budd stated Mr. Glister and Mr. Minsterman do have to take some time to get the presentation together.

Mr. Glister stated the meeting is Wednesday, April 3<sup>rd</sup> starting at 4:30 p.m.

### Finance Officer/Treasurer

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

### Public Works Director

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

President Steffey asked is there any update on when the turf and everything is going to be put down in the batting cages?

Mr. Volpe responded we are hoping to do it this week.

President Steffey asked is it the same with the pickleball nets?

Mr. Volpe responded we do not want to get too ahead of ourselves because I think we are going to have a couple more snowfalls before Easter. The pickleball net and court is up at the GBU, just the three temporary ones.



Police Chief

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

Chief Dziezgowski stated you can go on to [customer care.penndot.gov](http://customer care.penndot.gov) for any concerns you may have with Route 51. We cannot guarantee that they will be responsive, but at least it gives you an avenue to document any concerns that you have.

Mayor

Mayor McCaffrey stated April 20th will be our cleanup day in the Borough. We are going to start at 9:00 a.m. We will meet here. We will finish up approximately around noon. I will have more details on Monday for the meeting.

Manager

Mr. Stinner had nothing further to add.

Solicitor

Solicitor McPeak Cromer had nothing to add to the written report. I do request an executive session following the meeting to address personnel matters.

### 30. General Business

Mr. Polick stated I definitely appreciate the update from the library. It is a huge value to our Borough with everything that the library has been doing and the programs being set. I would also like to acknowledge and welcome the three different businesses that we have seen in our Borough, the Domino's, Turnaround Restaurant down on 51, as well as JMI. If I missed anybody, I apologize.

One thing for the residents, articles this week with the Post Gazette, and The Tribune talking a lot about the potential appraisals happening with the properties. Westmoreland had another sticker shock as they were seeing their appraisals for the county real estate tax. The main thing from the Post Gazette that has been going on this week is, again, the large decrease in the appraisals of the commercial buildings in the town, which roughly right now is a reduction of almost \$8.4 million. That will be hitting the Pittsburgh School District, the city of Pittsburgh, as well as the county. Fortunately, in our Borough, we do not have a tax increase this year, but as they do these appraisals, it is going to hit our residents. I recommend you keep abreast of what is going on there. It is going to be a big concern because it is going to hit us all in the pocket.

Mr. Montgomery asked have the courts ever decided whether they are going to do it or not because they were just fiddling around with it last year?

Mr. Polick responded that I do not know. It is in the courts from what the paper is saying.

The other thing too that I appreciate you bring up about the litter. The other day I was coming from Ridge Road to 51 and it seemed like someone dumped 20 of those paint cans. It looks like someone just pulled on the side to empty their truck and moved on. Whatever we can do, if we see that, let's get a report to the police chief.

Chief Dziezgowski stated one of the reasons why we have a traffic division is a lot of the garbage that you see on the road is from unsecured loads and large trucks. They are carrying more than they can handle and of course, stuff is spilling over. That is why we are out in force looking for those violations, also to curb that from happening. Because not only does that cause litter on the on the roadways, but it's also a traffic hazard to other motorists

Mr. Montgomery gave the SHACOG report.

Mr. Montgomery stated the Southwestern Pennsylvania Planning Commission. They are the people that do the TIPs, transportation improvement plans, and the EPA are trying to get a large chunk of money that has to be spent by the end of the year. July will be the award. I talked to Mr. Stinner about it. It is a Greenhouse Gas Emission Reduction Program. It is something that the Biden administration wants to spend a lot of money on really quick. It can be stretched into things like replacing windows, more efficient HVAC, that sort of thing, and electric vehicles, electric charging stations. The most attractive thing of this is that there is no match. It is match free. It is supposed to open in April. Decisions will be made in July.

President Steffey stated I wanted to remind everyone, since we were talking about waste and trash on the side of the road, remember that County Hauling still does offer the e-waste collection, just as Waste Management did. If you go on the County Hauling website, these are for electronics and things of that nature, and register for a date that they are coming around, they will come and pick up. Hopefully, that can help stop some of our littering issues around here.

Just to reiterate some special important dates coming up with the Mayor's cleanup day, April 20th, as she said and then Recreation Board has solidified their dates for some of our community events. On April 13th is the ever-popular Fish for Fun Day. That is free fishing day for children down at Peters Creek. Community Day will be on Saturday, June 15th of this year in cooperation with our all-star baseball games. They have scaled down on having the summer concerts this year. I believe they had three or four concerts all throughout the summer last year. This year they are just going to concentrate their efforts on September 28th for Rocktoberfest. They did have that last year as well. It was pretty well attended. They are going to give that a go again this year. We are also having an Easter egg hunt on Easter Saturday, March 30th. If you go on Jefferson Hills Recreation Initiative page on Facebook, you can RSVP. There are certain age groups that are going to be allowed. That is going to be outside at the 885 Pavilion. They are going to have two separate areas, one for younger ages and one for older kids. Then December 7th is the beautiful Holiday in the Hills that the Mayor puts on as well.

### 31. Adjournment

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

John P. Stinner  
Secretary/Borough Manager