

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

#### REPORT FROM BOROUGH BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

President Steffey stated Chris Kujawa stopped by our recreation board meeting last week. He had a presentation. I will let him tell us a little bit about why he is here and what his proposal is.

Chris Kujawa stated I live here in Jefferson Hills. I moved here about two years ago. We have a couple of sons. All of our kids could be out playing ball if our infields were turfed at most of our facilities. So that's what I'm here to present tonight. Some of the challenges and some of the opportunities that we can overcome within the community, not raising people's taxes, but really just doing a lot of fundraising and other corporate type sponsorships. Some of the stuff my companies do bring to the table to provide those services either for free or at cost for turf.

Tonight, my son, amongst many other families in this community, was supposed to be down at 885 playing baseball. The game got canceled. The reason is the infields. There's a lot of maintenance, a lot of drainage issues. When we have the rain that we just had, you lose play. I'm just not talking about baseball. There are the soccer fields, softball fields, and other types of athletic facilities that we have outdoors. The two fields specifically, and let me talk to those. I'm not separating these two fields from many other ones because they all have their challenges. I'm just more accustomed to these. My sons are playing there, and I thought, how hard can it be for the little dollars it will take, these are two of the smaller fields probably within the community, outside the high school and some others, to just add new drainage, new artificial turf in the infields and allow a lot more playability, availability to all rec and travel team's needs. One of the biggest issues is the infield drainage and playability due to weather. So, as you know, we just experienced all this rain. We had a game for our travel team on Sunday. Infield was turf, outfield was grass. It's been raining. We were still able to play. We'd be able to play right now if we had infield turf with additional drainage.

Availability, first time couple weeks ago when I was invited to the rec meeting, and I got to hear some of the ongoing issues. I'll be honest, that was the first time in terms of coming to a meeting, just hearing some of the availability issues, but we've all heard it in the community. Not enough sports fields. Obviously, when you don't have enough facilities and then you add in the rain, the weather, that couples it and you lose half of your practice time, half your daytime.

Maintenance. We all know whether the Borough maintains it, you have volunteers like community days or opening days. Volunteers and the Borough are down there raking the fields, adding more infield soil, lining the fields, everything. That's at a very minimal level. Artificial turf. Yes. Is there a cost to it? Certainly. But what you get out of it in terms of availability for practices, games not being canceled. At

the end of the day, it is a more upfront cost, but you're going to reduce by 75% of your maintenance costs over time. You're not going to have to be replacing soil, sending guys down there raking the field, lining the field, buying those materials and stuff.

To give you a little bit of background about my companies. One of the companies I own is an engineering and construction management general contracting company. Another one that I have partnered with is an artificial turf business. So, we know the cost. We do business day in, day out. No question there. So, what we did was we proofed up two general concepts. This was just to give a flavor for what could be done in these two fields. Over the past couple weeks since I came to the rec meeting, I had the opportunity to meet with some of the high school coaches and others within the community. These were two designs; the upper one is the larger field when you first come down off of 885. Again, we threw in the Jaguar logo, the TJ one too. But this infield would have all new subsurface drainage that would outfall, take that water away from the infield and both brown and green turf. You can make the whole infield brown if you want to. Many different ways. These are just two concepts. But at the end of the day, the entire infield would be playable after all the rain that we just had. We wouldn't be canceling. One of the things you could add, even though it is the larger field, you could add it where you have four different base lengths, which gives you availability at play, additional availability to different age groups. So, by offering that, it's a matter of pulling out a quick plug just like we do now. But we would add that in because I'm not sure those are even out there right now. For this larger field, right now, the drainage improvements in the turf, total cost \$225,000.00 to \$300,000.00 in general. Field number two, the middle field, same exact concept, infield drainage between \$200,000.00 to \$275,000.00. Really what the variable is, is just the amount of drainage where we have to outfall to. We think basically where we see it now, we know what it's going to take, but until we do a site survey, see all the drain in that, that's where we'll be able to make that. So that's where there's a little bit of variable in cost there. Obviously, these are more on conservative end. If you went to hire a contractor to go do it, that's not what we're proposing. When I get to the next slide where I want to pull in some of our services and then also others in the community, you know, let's do this as more of a community project or keep the business within the communities. I have spoken to some people that can construct concrete curbs to install the artificial dirt, and that we can bring them in, just to reduce that. But these costs here are if you were to go out, hire someone to come in and it's going to have their overhead profit. So that's why I say they're more conservative numbers than what we should be asking.

Ultimately you got to time it for off season so you can get in there and get out. Fundraising design phase, working with our marketing people, others within the community. I haven't reached out to them specifically, but I know there's other graphic artists in the community. We can put together some fundraising marketing plans that entail everything from corporate sponsors. There are several people I know that have businesses. We deal with the sporting goods; those would be the first big ones to go to. Whether it's a naming a field for three seasons or season, hanging banners on the outdoor fences, different types of level of donations, putting a plaque up somewhere on the field that would showcase certain level sponsorships. Brick pavers with the people's names, different ideas. Bar Bingo, I know that was a famous one for football season and some other ones. The initial thing would be to start the fundraising and the design phase. The design phase, you're looking between two to three months by the time you do the survey, get the grading drainage and all that back. Both these fields, we'd be disturbing each. Even if you combine them together, total disturbance is less than on acre. We're not going to be required to go through the whole NPDES process, whether we combine them both or separate. It's small enough areas that we're surveying, a lot fewer permitting requirements and so forth. So, as we do the design phase, which is going

to take a few months from surveying all the way through getting ready to submit to the Borough for approval, that's where we'll be doing a lot of fundraising.

The design, I'm willing to completely contribute the full design cost for the two fields. The only fees that I would look to ask out of the fundraising that we do is to cover the survey, which is going to probably be close to 10k, somewhere around that range. Maybe somebody here locally does survey. But if they do, obviously we ask for possibly a donation of some of their services. Obviously, any permitting fees and infiltration tests. Those are the three things we really don't cover in house. But of all the design work, we would take on those two fields 100% free of charge. The permitting phase and pre-construction phase. So as the permits are being submitted, we're then taking a look at who can do the work. You know, ultimately if we're doing this through non-profit or different other avenues and we're not getting grants, that's not what I'm proposing or raising people's tax dollars. We don't have to do the traditional approach where you have to go out and do the typical prevailing wage and public bids and all that, I think we have to confirm with the solicitor, but we should be exempt from having to do that, which drives your prices down.

At the same time, with our turf company, we open it up to anybody else that wanted to help. With our artificial turf company, we would do nothing but direct cost. There are several people within our baseball league that do concrete work. I've already talked to them, shown them the details of the concrete curbs that are associated with artificial turf. They're willing to do that and come to the table as well. I think between the community and us, turfing is pretty easy. You've got some excavation; you've got plastic drainage pipe with pans. You got stone, concrete turf and artificial turf, and rubber. As we get prepared for the construction phase, understand who's all doing the different scopes of work. We would help manage that, put all that together and then execute right in the off season, when the fields' no longer being used. These two fields about two to three months in total. We would try to get that exactly on the last day of play, hit the ground running and start some of the work. The grass outfield will be left as is other than just seeding and mulching wherever we meet up against the turf and there's a little bit of disturbance in those areas.

These are just the two I am proposing at 885. But you'll see in the fundraising that I'm not looking just to stop at 885. I know we have softball fields, soccer fields. The only reason why I didn't really get a chance to talk to anybody on that, I know there's fundraising done with others. So, I didn't want to step on their toes because I know they've raised quite a bit of money in those areas. I'm happy to talk to them and all of us put our heads together on how we can make this happen to make this better for the kids. I know there's a rec board, I'm not sure how it's structured. We need to set up a nonprofit. I know a finance guy who will set all that up for us. Aet a board, an organization if there's not one, that we can prioritize the different fields, make sure all the decisions, everyone is aware. So that way there's no surprises and the community is involved at all times too. I put \$700,000.00 knowing that the two costs I gave you before were covering those two fields. It gives us extra latitude to go ahead and get started on the next fields that become a priority. As we're starting the design and even prepping for the construction of these two, we already have money in the bank while we're raising more money to start the design on whatever fields are the next ones chosen. I would like to get together a comprehensive list of all the different fields and meet with everybody to see what their recommendations are for improvements, what the minimum and then what the dream is to see what we can do.

President Steffey stated following up on that comprehensive list of all of our fields, it is good for you to stay in touch with the recreation board. So as far as timeline goes for this, we were talking about

this year's off season. Obviously, there is no money in the budget for this. The budget for this year is already completed. We are talking about 100% fundraising. The solicitor would have to clarify the prevailing wage and outsourcing the bids and things like that to make sure that everything is on the up and up when it goes to bidding process. Local government, we get certain bid lines and cannot just hand somebody a job. The solicitor going to check and see if it is 100% fundraised is there a difference.

Solicitor McPeak Cromer stated if it is fundraising dollars and donations and all that kind of thing, and then you were graciously donating your services. That is one thing. That is already your project.

Mr. Kujawa stated that is the plan. I don't want anybody to lift a finger other than say yes.

Solicitor McPeak Cromer stated we are stuck with the fact we must do prevailing wage; we have to put it out to bid.

Mr. Kujawa stated I am very familiar with zoning and municipal work. We are currently doing the one in Elizabeth. I know about that whole red tape, which is why I am trying to avoid that. Because that takes years, money, time, and effort. I want to see my kids play on these fields before they are too old. They are five and nine right now.

President Steffey stated the only thing I had listed here was surveyor, permitting fees, infiltration testing, and planning. If they wanted to donate their time, I do not know as far as surveyor goes, but those are the things we mentioned that you can help from your firm.

Mr. Kujawa stated I'll do it myself. I'll fundraise it. It's probably 15-days between survey and infiltration. As for the permit fees, I'd have to talk to Mr. Glister and find out what, based on the budget, what that permit fee might look like. You know, ideally, I would look to see if the Boroughs since it is their property, would pay the permit fee. But if that's something that takes longer or has to do something different, then the permit fees are probably something we could fundraise for.

President Steffey stated I know Mr. Volpe is very familiar with those fields. He has been battling with them for many years. He has done a great job to keep up with everything that has been biting back at him. My concern is you get into this and there is way more involved than you anticipated, which is a possibility knowing that field. Is that something that you would take on as your responsibility?

Mr. Kujawa stated ideally, we would build a contingency whenever we go to come up with a final budget for the jobs. If there is something that someone in the community is aware of what those fields are used for, we should be aware of. There are always the construction variables. We would probably do it in like a 10% contingency. If we exceed it then okay, we'll have to come up with something for that. But the idea is those are very conservative numbers. If we all come together and some of the folks I've been talking to do other work, like the concrete, we should probably be at two thirds of those costs, maybe 80% of those costs. So even if you do put that 10% contingency in, you're still not exceeding those.

President Steffey asked the donor of these services, is that your company?

Mr. Kujawa responded yes; one company I own 100% of one. The other company is 50/50 with another owner. But I've already talked with him and we're all on the same page.

Solicitor McPeak Cromer asked would some type of agreement of donation be okay just so God forbid if there is a misstep, say something happens midway, we know you are going to finish it.

Mr. Kujawa responded yes. Essentially, we would raise all the money. We would go through the design; we would prepare for the execution of construction. All we need, because it's Borough property, is obviously your approval to say, yes, you can improve these fields. You guys are going to see the designs, we're going to submit them for permits and that and that's it. We would be essentially through the fundraising and ourselves financially responsible for the entire project, or projects.

President Steffey stated I think it is fantastic. When Mr. Kujawa reached out to Mr. Dugan and myself, obviously we were excited, but I did not know how you wanted to pursue this. It does take people like yourself to notice the things that a community needs and if there is some way that you can help and provide services, provide volunteer hours for your expertise, we're always willing and, open to it. So, we appreciate you coming forward, especially reaching out to the recreation board. We will have our solicitor look at everything.

Mr. Kujawa stated I will have our attorney look into this as well.

Solicitor McPeak Cromer stated have he or she reach out to me. We can come up with some type of agreement. We have to look at the plans, so that there is no cost to the Borough.

Mr. Kujawa stated the maintenance is very little, but obviously that would be the work that has to be done.

Mr. Polick asked that was my question, what about maintenance?

Mr. Kujawa responded the turf, so you know is typically warranted for eight years for the materials, as long as you maintain, and keep up with general maintenance, these fields last for 20 years.

## REPORTS

### Fire Chief

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

Chief Chalfant stated I apologize, I could not make the meeting last month, but I emailed my reports. In March, we responded to 97 calls for assistance. April did not fail; we had 91 calls for assistance. In May, we are running right on track, we are at 18 calls for assistance, with a total of 341 calls for the year so far. Next thing I want to talk about is this God-awful odor that we are all experiencing. On Thursday, May 2nd at 10:00 a.m., I attended a meeting at the West Mifflin Fire Department put together by County Councilman Rob Macey. There were U.S. Steel representatives, Turnpike Commission representatives, PUC representatives, Peoples Natural Gas, Columbia Gas, and many more there. There was a whole bunch of people there collectively trying to figure out what this awful smell is. I wish I could tell you, but we do not know. They do not know. We had the unfortunate experience, we almost had to evacuate Jefferson Hospital. We had a smell of gas in the ER, pharmacy, first floor, and second floor. Columbia Gas came out with Peoples Gas. We searched everything. We could not find anything. Pretty much determined that they were sucking the odor in from outside air handlers. That escalated to now where the EPA is involved, DEP is involved, and a whole bunch of other state agencies. They are actually

putting monitors out there that will be collecting air samples to try to narrow down what exactly the smell is and start tracing back to the different facilities that could be producing this odor. As of right now, no one has any idea what it is.

We encourage everybody to still call 911. If you think you smell gas in your house, give us a call. We went out last night at Hunters Field, reassured everybody. She smelled it when she called, but by the time we got there it was gone. That seems to be the common denominator in all six communities this is heavily affecting. Peoples Gas said since February 16th, they had 800 callouts for detection and found maybe one or two actual leaks, minor leaks. So again, we don't think it's natural gas, we're not sure what it is. We're still telling you to call 911 if you smell it. We don't want to take that chance of the one time you actually have gas smell in your house, and we have a catastrophic incident because you didn't call for our assistance. I wish I had an answer for the general public, unfortunately, we're still in investigative mode.

U.S. Steel says it's not them, Turnpike says they haven't uncovered anything. So, they're all collectively working together to try to find out what this is because it's affecting six communities. Once I have an answer, I can report back to you and give you a heads up. But as of right now, we know nothing.

EMS

Not Present

Engineer

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

Consulting Engineer

Not Present

Finance Officer/Treasurer

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

Public Works Director

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

Police Chief

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

Chief Dziezgowski stated May 15th is Police Memorial Week. With it coming, many law enforcement agencies are having their memorial. The JHPD had their memorial for our fallen Officer Dale Provins Jr. on Saturday. Just a brief memorial due to the fact that Allegheny County Community and

Police together donated a wreath for our memorial. Several officers attended Saturday morning, the LEOM Memorial that they hold every year. So, we had an impromptu memorial for our fallen Officer Dale. It was well attended. It was brief but we never will forget our officer who has fallen. I ask that you keep all law enforcement and first responders in your prayers.

Mayor

Mayor McCaffrey stated a reminder that Monday, May 27th will be our Memorial Day service. It begins at 10:00 a.m. at Floreffe Fire Hall. We will proceed down to the cemetery for the conclusion.

Acting Manager

Mr. Glister had nothing further to add.

Solicitor

Solicitor McPeak Cromer had nothing further to add to the written report submitted to Council.

#### BOROUGH RESIDENT/TAXPAYER COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS

None

#### AGENDA ITEMS

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

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

Mr. Bentz moved to approve minutes of agenda meeting April 3, 2024, seconded by Mr. Montgomery, and carried unanimously.

Vice President Budd moved to approve minutes of regular meeting April 8, 2024, seconded by Mr. Polick, and carried unanimously.

Mr. Lynch moved to appoint Kenneth Puglisi Sr. to one seat on the Zoning Hearing Board as an alternate for the remainder of the term expiring December 31, 2025, seconded by Mr. Bentz, and carried unanimously.

Vice President Budd moved to ratify the approval of the execution of the separation and release agreement with John P. Stinner, seconded by Mr. Polick, and carried unanimously.

Mr. Polick moved to advertise for the position of Secretary/Borough Manager within the Borough of Jefferson Hills, seconded by Mr. Lynch, and carried unanimously.

Vice President Budd moved to advertise for the position of Building Code Official/Zoning Officer apprentice within the Borough of Jefferson Hills, seconded by Mrs. Mares, and carried unanimously.

Mr. Bentz moved to authorize the preparation and advertisement of the stray cat ordinance, seconded by Mr. Polick, and carried unanimously.

Mr. Montgomery moved to authorize the preparation and advertisement of the tree ordinance, seconded by Mr. Bentz, and carried unanimously.

Mr. Lynch moved to authorize the preparation and advertisement of the Ordinance amending the Property Maintenance Ordinance No. 895, seconded by Vice President Budd, and carried unanimously.

Mr. Lynch moved to approve the agreement between the Borough of Jefferson Hills and JMD Real Estate LLC regarding the donation of the existing dek hockey rink to the Borough of Jefferson Hills, with the Borough of Jefferson Hills being responsible for the deconstruction and removal of the dek hockey rink, seconded by Mr. Polick, and carried unanimously.

Mr. Montgomery moved to approve quote from Travelers Casualty and Surety Company of America for Cyber-Risk Insurance in the amount of \$8,485.00 for the policy period April 15, 2024, to April 15, 2025, seconded by Mr. Bentz, and carried unanimously.

Vice President Budd moved to award the website redesign to Civic Plus in the amount of \$25,484.00 with an annual subscription cost of \$6,393.60, seconded by Mrs. Mares, and carried unanimously.

Mr. Lynch moved to approve agreement with PennDOT to update the traffic signals at SR 51 and Coal Valley Road, SR 51 and Jefferson Boulevard, SR 51 and Old Clairton Road, and SR 51 and Dick Corporation, seconded by Mrs. Mares, and carried unanimously.

Mr. Glister stated the Chief was asking if we could verify that the proposed controllers that would be installed by PennDOT would have a port to plug in a backup generator. So, in the instance when the power goes down, they can go down and hook up generator rather than have an officer go down there and work the intersection. We only have one of those at those intersections right now, but I did verify with PennDOT that all the proposed new controllers will have that port that the chief was discussing. They indicated that if there is a certain threshold of power outages per year, they will even upgrade us to one for battery backup when the power goes out. They will run the intersection for another five to seven hours. I need to check with Chief Dziezgowski and Mr. Volpe to see if we qualify for that. But at a minimum, they will have the port for the generator backup.

Mr. Bentz asked do we need to purchase generators?

Mr. Glister stated the work will not be happening until 2025. We will budget for that next year.

Mr. Polick moved to adopt Resolution 08-2024 authorizing Council President to execute and submit the Traffic Signal Maintenance Agreement (TSMA) with PennDOT, seconded by Vice President Budd, and carried unanimously.

Mr. Montgomery moved to approve the Peters Creek Sanitary Authority (PCSA) proposed revision to expand their existing service area, seconded by Vice President Budd, and carried unanimously.



President Steffey called for a motion to ratify the approval of the Natural Gas Agreement between the Borough of Jefferson Hills and Snyder Brothers, Inc. to purchase natural gas at \$4.99 per Dekatherm for the period of June 2024 through May 2027.

Mr. Haberstock stated we had a contract that expires this month that was also with Snyder Brothers to provide natural gas to the Borough building. Annual deal contract was five years. I was not really comfortable with a five-year term, so this is a three-year term. During that term, if rates go significantly lower, we can get it reset.

Mr. Montgomery asked how many times can you reset it?

Mr. Haberstock responded twice.

Mr. Bentz moved to ratify the approval of the Natural Gas Agreement between the Borough of Jefferson Hills and Snyder Brothers, Inc. to purchase natural gas at \$4.99 per Dekatherm for the period of June 2024 through May 2027, seconded by Mrs. Mares, and carried unanimously.

Vice President Budd moved to award quote from Mastro Signs, LLC for reflective lettering and logo on the Code Enforcement and Engineering vehicles in the amount of \$1,100.00 per vehicle for a total of \$3,300.00, seconded by Mrs. Mares, and carried unanimously.

Mr. Montgomery moved to recommend to SHACOG the award of a bid to Robinson Pipe Cleaning Company, the lowest responsible bidder, for the Joint Municipal SHACOG O&M CCTV Year 14 Project in the amount of \$195,122.00 with the Borough's share of \$76,737.50, seconded by Mr. Polick, and carried unanimously.

Vice President Budd moved to approve Work Authorization dated April 25, 2024, from Gateway Engineers, Inc. to assist the Borough with completing NPDES earth disturbance permit due diligence on the Beedle Park access road and field project in the amount not to exceed \$8,000.00, seconded by Mr. Lynch, and carried unanimously.

President Steffey called for a motion to approve Work Authorization dated April 2, 2024, from Gateway Engineers, Inc. to continue assisting the Borough with updating the Subdivision and Land Development Ordinance, the Grading and Excavating Ordinance, and the Stormwater Management Ordinance in the amount not to exceed \$10,000.00.

Vice President Budd stated the work authorization is dated April 24th. We have April 2<sup>nd</sup> on the agenda. The first one we just did was for April 25th for the NPDES permit. This one I have on the agenda, it says April 2<sup>nd</sup>, but the authorization is dated April 24th.

Mr. Montgomery moved to approve Work Authorization dated April 24, 2024, from Gateway Engineers, Inc. to continue assisting the Borough with updating the Subdivision and Land Development Ordinance, the Grading and Excavating Ordinance, and the Stormwater Management Ordinance in the amount not to exceed \$10,000.00, seconded by Mr. Bentz, and carried unanimously.

Borough Resident/Taxpayer Comments on Non-Agenda Items

President Steffey read a comment from Cindy Caulkett, 1424 High Road. "At the Council Agenda meeting last week, Councilman Polick discussed all of the trash that was picked up on the scheduled Borough trash pickup day. He noted that there is so much trash that it might be a good idea to have this on a quarterly basis. He also spoke to the Chief of Police during that discussion to see if it might be possible to set up cameras in specific locations around the Borough.

My neighbors and I are always discussing the trash that is around the area where we live. I did also contact the State department regarding the trash on the off ramps and on route 51.

Today, a neighbor that lives on Hilltop Street told me that a while back she was walking her dogs and noticed a pickup truck going down High Road towards route 51. She said they were tossing old windows off of the truck into the brush. She yelled over to another neighbor who was outside, and I think they were able to get the plate number. She said the other neighbor also called the police department.

This is an area on High Road that should have a camera or two or three installed to try to catch these folks who are dumping their trash.

It's becoming a real problem in this Borough. Having multiple trash days would really help too."

President Steffey read a response from PennDOT regarding litter on SR 51. "Thank you for submitting your concern. Your concern has been addressed with the following information from PennDOT. As we continue to do our normal litter sweeps, we will make sure to add this one. Litter is an issue all over Allegheny County. Amazing how much trash people throw out their windows. It's sad when you see people throw trash out the windows as our crews are cleaning up. We have scheduled litter days, and we will continue to pick our highways. I would like to ask if you would be interested in helping us clean the highways and be recognized for it at the Adopt-a-Highway program." Then it just gives more information about the Adopt-a-Highway program.

President Steffey read a comment from Jack Zirkle, 329 Waterman Road. "I have been a resident at this address for almost 40 years. I don't get any mobile cell phone service at my home address now, or ever in the past. I am for the new phone tower at TJ's football field."

Mary Ellen Voelker-Brown, 1039 Gill Hall Road, stated I've been a resident of Jefferson for roughly 10 years. My problem is with Legal Tax Service. They send out our sewage bills. I'm receiving bills with double service charges, \$34.00 for one bill. Their comment is that it's for more than one period, while it's one bill. So, you have to pay one service charge is \$17.00, \$34.00 service charge is absolutely ridiculous. There are probably residents that got a service charge higher than their sewage, and it's just not right. I feel that everybody that was overcharged at \$34.00 should get a \$17.00 credit. I received two bills with \$34.00, and I don't think it's right. Their attitude is that if the time period is over 30 days, they have that right. They sent me one bill. It should be one service charge.

President Steffey stated on my bill right here, it does say on the side due to the billing delay, and they do reference PAMS in this as the reason why they are double billing, the billing cycles are double. This billing will reflect January and February 2024 usage. Next month will reflect one-month usage. We called about that multiple times when we were even with PAMS. They certainly did charge a service fee with PAMS. It was just always rolled in, and you never saw it.

Mrs. Voelker-Brown stated I remember when it went from \$5.00 to \$17.00 and that was something you had to live with. But it's one bill. As a resident, I don't feel that's fair to me to have to eat that. I feel that that's wrong. I really do.

President Steffey stated you were not double charged. It was for your bill for the month of January and for the month of February.

## GENERAL BUSINESS

Mr. Montgomery stated tomorrow is the hard-to-read license plate event at what was the County Fairgrounds in South Park, down by the clock. So, if you have a bad license plate, it is a good time to get it changed. I will be there doing that with the AAA and with help from the County Police and the Port Authority Police.

Mr. Lynch stated I wanted to remind our residents of the library event Travel Back to Vietnam hosted by a war veteran, retired Lieutenant Colonel Nick Edinger. Presentation takes place tomorrow night at 6:00 p.m. in the community room. Still, plenty of seats available. So, if you are not busy check this out and experience some history and reflect on cultural changes. Feel free to register at [jeffersonhillslibrary.org](http://jeffersonhillslibrary.org) or just stop at the library.

I also just wanted to talk about the recent approval of the agreement of a dek hockey rink which was graciously donated to the Borough from JMD Real Estate. I wanted to especially thank everyone who was involved in this agreement with JMD and the former South Hills Dek Hockey operators as all of you recall this was a subject of discussion last year. If you do recall, there was an exploration of purchasing the South Hills Dek Hockey rink. The surrounding land as a way of enhancing our recreation and creating a new way for our Borough to attain a little revenue. Between collaboration with our rec board, the planning committees, the staff, and a couple of council members that worked diligently in pursuit of this dream, which I thought would have been exactly what this community needed. Unfortunately, during that time, there were some that disagreed. I do not like to point fingers, but there was one formal council member that created this disillusionment that our Borough was financially broke and in trouble, which obviously you can see now that was never the case. What really hit me hard was the blatant disregard we had for taking the advisement from the rec board and planning committees that had members who were backgrounded in business, real estate, and finance. I know we refuse to accept that fear. We stood by these resident volunteers who break their backs in trying to make our community better and formulate new strategies that meet those demands. However, it would be struck down. We were stuck in that mindset of the same old, same old. But things do have ways of working themselves out. Initially we had Lesker who came in who offered the idea of a partnership over South Hills Dek Hockey. It did not work out. But then with JMD coming in and willing to donate the Dek Hockey rink to us it was relevant to say that we had a network that was created. Here we are finding a solution that could benefit our community between our local business partners, residents, and governments alike. Just like earlier this evening when Mr. Kujawa gave his presentation about the baseball fields. Again, this is something that I envision. This is something that I really stress and want to get really aggressive during this term. It looks like now it is starting to come to fruition. I cannot say more about the huge steps we are taking to achieve our overall objective. To me, this dek hockey rink was a huge one for that matter. So along with our acting Borough Manager and Engineer, our Public Works Director the public works committee, including myself and Councilman Polick, we are already set and planning the resurrection of the dek hockey rink. We are ideally looking at 885 Park, which will carry on a legacy that the South Hills Dek Hockey was fortunate to offer our

community for 70 years. As this rink will see new life, I look forward to seeing the rec board taking the lead and offering new concepts and leads that will usher in the new program for Jefferson Hills and its neighbors to enjoy. I cannot thank everyone enough for what seemed like an impossibility towards seeing the light at the end of the tunnel. I hope everyone enjoys the warm spring weather.

Mr. Bentz stated just a reminder to our residents before our next meeting, school will be out. Hopefully, the weather will improve. There will be a lot more kids outside playing around, so just be mindful of that. I hope everyone will have a good rest of the week.

President Steffey stated we had a duck accident over at Hunters Field. It was brought to my attention by a couple of residents that reached out to me, and they were asking if we could do any type of study to possibly put in a stop sign. Their explanation was that coming from West Bruceton, no matter which direction you are coming, where the retention pond is, they have all the ducks, people are very quickly trying to get off of West Bruceton because you cannot see coming around each curb if there is oncoming traffic. So, they are turning in very quickly and there is a slew of ducks everywhere. So, unfortunately, three of them got removed last week. I know what our process is when it comes to traffic studies and things of that nature, but as far as putting in a stop sign. That road is busy. We are talking about possibly in-house paving a portion of that road by the end of summer. The potholes are going to be taken care of, which is fantastic, but then that gives people more of an acclimation to speed. Even worse, then we will have complaints about speeding also.

Chief Dziezgowski stated as far as the study is concerned for the stop sign, I have to go back to my original assessment. You need a study that supports stop signs, or the stop sign related. At this point, we do not have the justification for stop signs to be there. So that is out. I would like to discuss options with Council first before we put out the public. Mike Glister and I already have some options for Council that have been put on the backburner because of all the changes going on.

In 2025 or 2026, I am not sure if it got moved back. They are going to pave that roadway. You are absolutely right without the potholes people are going to be coming a lot quicker. I think that we can put some viable solutions out for Council to consider and to approve. We have to have a plan in place before we do that. That is what we want to discuss with Council before moving forward.

Finally, the ducks are wild animals. When people feed the ducks, they become domesticated. This is what you get. I love animals, but we still have deer getting hit. We still have other animals getting hit. At the end of the day not justifying it, but if people are driving and they have their family in a car and it's a choice between a wild animal and the safety of their family in the car, the ducks are going to suffer. That is kind of what happened in this circumstance. It is a shame, but that is why we do not feed wild animals. They look nice, but this is what happens. We have a lot of egress and ingress with vehicles coming that way. That is the primary safety concern.

#### Adjournment

President Steffey adjourned the meeting at 8:05 p.m. on a motion from Mr. Lynch, seconded by Mr. Bentz, and carried unanimously.

Michael Glister, PE  
Acting Secretary/Borough Manager