

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 (via Zoom), Councilwoman Mares, Councilman Montgomery, Councilman Polick, and President Steffey answered to roll call. Finance Director Haberstock, Solicitor McPeak Cromer, Chief Dziezgowski, Engineer Glistner, and Public Works Director Volpe were also present. Mayor McCaffrey and Consulting Engineer Minsterman were absent.

REPORT FROM BOROUGH BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

None

REPORTS

Fire Chief

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

EMS

Not Present

Engineer

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

Mr. Glistner stated our 2024 Paving Program started today in the Tepe Plan and hopefully will continue for the next probably 2 or 3 weeks.

Consulting Engineer

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

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 I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who attended the Office Dale Provins' 4th Annual Blood Drive that was held last Sunday. We had a great showing. We collected donations of \$2,430.00 which will go to the Westmoreland Community College, ACT 120 scholarships to promote individuals who are pursuing a career of a police officer. We had 40 blood donations. Each donation saves 3 lives, what a great event. Thank you to everybody who showed up for that and the community who showed up, we had a great time.

Mayor

Not Present

Acting Manager

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

Solicitor

Solicitor McPeak Cromer stated I have nothing to add to my written report; however, I would like the record to reflect that Council did hold an executive session following the agenda meeting last week in regard to litigation updates and personal matters.

BOROUGH RESIDENT/TAXPAYER COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS

President Steffey stated I had a comment from Mrs. Caulkett, she is not here this evening. She stopped in the administration office and her questions were answered, she said we did not need this read.

President Steffey read a comment from Dr. Eric Lauver, 6013 Independence Drive. "I am pleased to see the proposed settlement finalizing the pavement issues in the Southersby developments in the Borough. I am urging the Council to approve the recommended settlement to bring nearly 15 years of disagreements over the road surfaces in our neighborhood to a close. I am thankful that after those years, all parties seem to have reached a compromise."

President Steffey read a comment from Brandon Machi, 8008 Independence Drive. "It's my understanding that at tonight's meeting, topic #27 is about our streets in Patriot Pointe. I cannot make meeting since my daughters dance recital is tonight. We have lived here for 15 years now, and the streets have been an issue since we moved in June of 2009. All the heavy trucks needed to complete the plan have destroyed the streets. The weather, the Borough plows, and now the last 2 years the Costa Homes trucks all drive down Independence and back through the plan and out New World have also contributed to the roads demise. The streets are literally falling apart to the point children cannot ride bikes/scooters in certain areas because they will get caught in the broken asphalt and the random cement rectangular slabs randomly on Independence and South Randolph. Come drive through Patriot Pointe, and see for yourself how horrible they roads have become. Dips, broken down concrete and asphalt are what we drive

through, and our children play on. It's not safe and we need you all to do what's right and get these streets repaved.”

President Steffey stated it was close to 2 years ago, a former Councilwoman and I did certainly heed the complaints of the Patriot Pointe residents. I have a number of friends that live over there and I drive through there a lot. I did see the condition of the roads. At that time, we also had our paving department go over and do some repairs. So, this has been on our radar for quite some time as far as looking into things and helping out as much as we possibly could until we came to a resolution with Southersby. This is not something that Council has been ignoring at all. When you are in litigation it takes quite a while for things to come to a completion. Finally, we are close to that point. We wanted to make sure that everybody understood that this is not something that we have overlooked for years at all. This is actually something that we spearheaded and took responsibility for in moving forward to make sure that the residents' voices are heard. I hope that we will be seeing happier residents over there soon.

Terry Hakala, 3051 Chestnut Ridge Drive, stated my wife and I moved into our house in June of 2021. The construction had been delayed by the sewer tap issue. We watched Council meetings from our temporary apartment in Maryland. What we learned from the experience is that the Borough of Jefferson Hills was willing to listen to not only its residents, but its future residents, and thank you to the members on the board who helped us through that issue. Since the issue surrounding the proposed cell tower first became apparent, I tasked myself with attending as many school board and Borough meetings as possible to educate myself. Although my education continues, I am thankful for the many people who make Jefferson Hills a great place to live. Through some twists and turns of fate, my wife and I, my daughter, my wife's favorite son-in-law, their two children, one of our two sons, and one of my two favorite daughters-in-law are all residents of Jefferson Hills. In addition, there are grandpups. They were very concerned about the new Ordinance 906, but were relieved after a discussion last Wednesday.

I stand here tonight to express my concerns about Agenda Items 14 and 15. Given the presence of and discussion regarding Ordinances 906 which were on animals and 907 which were on trees on the June 5th Agenda, I was surprised to see item number 14, a motion to authorize solicitor to prepare an Ordinance and item 15, motion to authorize the advertising of Ordinance 908 without any discussion beforehand. So, it raised two questions: One, why were items 14 and 15 not on the June 5th Agenda and why the apparent rush? The second is, there has been no discussion as there was on other Ordinances. I did a little bit of research, and so on one hand, Home Rule Charter means to me more local control, less Harrisburg; sounds like a good thing. On the other hand, the new local control will allow for taxation with very limited restrictions, and that's just a potential cause for concern. I hope you'll delay action on items 14 and 15 until some discussion takes place.

President Steffey stated our solicitor will be happy to explain to you why this came up on our Agenda this evening. Home Rule Charter has been something that I have expressed interest in researching for quite some time now, probably since I joined Council. Mostly because of the roadblocks that we run into on a daily, and weekly basis for not having any government control even over the smallest minute things that I feel would hinder our residents instead of helping them. So, this is actually just motion to prepare, and she will explain it in the legal terms. We have discussed it before, not necessarily the discussion on the motion to have this, but this is just to form a commission so that we can research these items.

Solicitor McPeak Cromer stated I have been the solicitor for almost a year, and I have sat through multiple discussions in regard to Councils' interest in the Home Rule Charter process. You are correct, it is attempting to secure more local control so a remote community can be governed by rules and regs that are good for that particular community. The reason that this is on today is that there was a time crunch. If indeed they wanted to explore this and this is simply to explore, it had to be adopted in July to get to the county elections by the second week of August. So, they have to make the motion to advertise. They have to adopt it in July so they can submit it to the County, and all that is so it appears on the ballot establishing a commission. That commission has 18 months to review, assess, and research. This is a year's long process. Council is just interested in exploring, and if they wanted to explore in the near future within the next few years, they had to take action now. That is why it is appearing on the Agenda this evening.

President Steffey stated this is being put on the ballot in order for the residents to vote on whether or not they want to be governed by a Home Rule Charter.

Solicitor McPeak Cromer stated correct, and to establish a commission.

President Steffey stated we cannot just decide that we are automatically going to be a Home Rule Charter.

Vice President Budd stated as long as something is put on the Agenda with 24 hours' notice, then it is acceptable.

Solicitor McPeak Cromer stated if things are not addressed at the Agenda meeting, they can still be placed on the Voting Meeting Agenda as long as they are on the Agenda 24 hours before the meeting.

AGENDA ITEMS

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

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

Mr. Montgomery moved to approve minutes of agenda meeting May 1, 2024, seconded by Mr. Bentz, and carried unanimously.

Mrs. Mares moved to approve minutes of regular meeting May 6, 2024, seconded by Mr. Montgomery, and carried unanimously.

Vice President Budd moved to promote Matthew Cidboy from Special Laborer to Operator per the collective bargaining agreement with Local #1058, seconded by Mr. Bentz, and carried unanimously.

President Steffey congratulated Matthew Cidboy.

Mrs. Mares moved to approve an early retirement provision for Jefferson Hills Police Department (JHPD) after 20 years of service regardless of age subject to approval from Teamster Local Union No. 205 and Borough Pension Counsel, seconded by Mr. Polick, and carried unanimously.

President Steffey called for a motion to increase the amount of insurance for life, short-term disability, long-term disability, and accidental death and dismemberment (AD&D) for Borough employees with Madison National Life Insurance Company for \$31,405.32 per year.

Vice President Budd amended the motion adding subject to approval from Teamsters Local No. 205 and Laborers Local No. 1058.

Vice President Budd moved to increase the amount of insurance for life, short-term disability, long-term disability, and accidental death and dismemberment (AD&D) for Borough employees with Madison National Life Insurance Company for \$31,405.32 per year subject to approval from Teamsters Local No. 205 and Laborers Local No. 1058, seconded by Mr. Polick, and carried unanimously.

Vice President Budd moved to authorize Solicitor to prepare an Ordinance submitting the question of whether a government study commission of seven members shall be elected to study the existing form of the government of the municipality, to consider the advisability of the adoption of a home rule charter; and if advisable, to draft and to recommend a home rule charter to voters.

Vice President Budd stated I did email Solicitor Rosini earlier today to ask the difference in the numbers between 7, 9 and 11. The suggestion was seven, even though we are not the smallest of communities we are a smaller community that continues to grow, whereas the other numbers like 9 and 11 were for larger more established communities. That makes some sense to me. It seems to be a good number to try to work cohesively and get some stuff done. So, that is why I suggest seven.

Mr. Bentz asked can that be increased through another vote?

Solicitor McPeak Cromer responded no; you are going to use whatever the Ordinance says. You do not want to start all over again.

After discussion, motion was seconded by Mr. Bentz, and carried unanimously

Mr. Bentz moved to authorize the advertising of Ordinance No. 908 submitting the question of whether a government study commission of seven members shall be elected to study the existing form of the government of the municipality, to consider the advisability of the adoption of a home rule charter; and if advisable, to draft and to recommend a home rule charter to voters, seconded by Mr. Polick, and carried unanimously.

Mr. Montgomery moved to adopt Ordinance No. 906 repealing and replacing Ordinance No. 826 establishing rules and regulations related to animals, seconded by Vice President Budd, and carried unanimously.

Mr. Polick moved to adopt Ordinance No. 907 repealing and replacing Ordinance No. 511 to establish updated regulations, policies, and standards in relation to trees within the Borough, seconded by Mr. Bentz, and carried unanimously.

Vice President Budd moved to adopt Resolution No. 09-2024 authorizing the disposition of certain public records consistent with the schedules and procedures for the disposition of records as set forth in *The Municipal Records Manual* approved on December 16, 2008, as amended March 28, 2019, seconded by Mrs. Mares, and carried unanimously.

Mr. Polick stated that the current Resolution must be changed to Mr. Glistner, Acting Borough Secretary.

Vice President Budd moved to award HVAC maintenance contract for the Public Works maintenance Building to McCarl's Services, Inc. in the amount of \$2,000.00 per year, seconded by Mrs. Mares, and carried unanimously.

Mr. Montgomery moved to accept Proposal No. PP3062410 from McCarl's Services, Inc. for repair of the HVAC system in the amount of \$13,240.00, seconded by Mr. Polick, and carried unanimously.

Mrs. Mares moved to distribute \$351,403.10 to Jefferson Hills Fire Rescue (JHFR) for Insurance Claim No. F1H1765, seconded by Mr. Bentz, and carried unanimously.

Vice President Budd moved to distribute the remaining \$50,637.52 to Jefferson Hills Fire Rescue (JHFR) from Duncan Insurance, seconded by Mrs. Mares, and carried unanimously.

Mr. Polick moved to authorize Brian Haberstock as signatory for General Fund, Escrow, and Payroll accounts of the Borough of Jefferson Hills, seconded by Mr. Montgomery, and carried unanimously.

Vice President Budd moved to approve purchasing CivicPlus NextRequest Right to Know software - Economy Plan at \$4,491.00 for year one with an onboarding fee of \$750.00, seconded by Mr. Polick, and carried unanimously.

Mr. Bentz moved to approve the sale of the Hudson 9-ton tag-along trailer from the Jefferson Hills Public Works Department for \$1,826.00 to the highest bidder on Municibid, seconded by Mr. Montgomery, and carried unanimously.

Mr. Montgomery moved to authorize advertising and sending Unit #256 2013 Ford Interceptor Model P2M AWD (VIN#1FM5K8AR9DGA46737) to the Perryopolis Auto Auction in June, seconded by Mr. Polick, and carried unanimously.

Mr. Bentz moved to authorize execution of settlement agreements with Southersby Development Corp associated with litigation involving Patriot Pointe and Washington Square Developments, subject to final negotiations and the approval by the Borough Solicitor and the Engineer, seconded by Mrs. Mares, and carried unanimously.

Vice President Budd moved to authorize the execution of an administrative agreement with the South Hills Council of Governments concerning the SHACOG Joint O&M CCTV Inspection and Cleaning Project-Year 14, seconded by Mr. Montgomery, and carried unanimously.

Mr. Montgomery moved to approve the Work Authorization dated May 28, 2024, from Gateway Engineers, Inc. to assist the Borough with construction administration and inspection services for the 2024 Paving Program in the amount not to exceed \$12,000.00, seconded by Mrs. Mares, and carried unanimously.

Mr. Polick moved to approve the Work Authorization dated May 29, 2024, from Gateway Engineers, Inc. to assist the Borough with the existing conditions survey for the Gill Hall Road Landslide in the amount not to exceed \$5,500.00, seconded by Vice President Budd, and carried unanimously.

Vice President Budd moved to approve the Work Authorization dated June 6, 2024, from Gateway Engineers, Inc. to continue to provide project management services related to oversight for the CMA Phase 2 Sewage Treatment Plant upgrade project in the amount not to exceed \$5,000.00, seconded by Mr. Polick, and carried unanimously.

Mr. Polick moved to ratify Resolution No. 10-2024 authorizing application to the Greenways, Trails, and Recreation Program (GTRP) grant through the DCED for \$158,100.00, seconded by Mrs. Mares, and carried unanimously.

Mr. Montgomery moved to adopt Resolution No. 07-2024 granting preliminary and final plan approval for subdivision for Thatcher Plan of Lots designated as S-1-2024, seconded by Mrs. Mares, and carried unanimously.

BOROUGH RESIDENT/TAXPAYER COMMENTS ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

None

GENERAL BUSINESS

Mr. Bentz stated I want to remind everybody that the kids are out there and to be mindful. It is summertime.

Mr. Montgomery stated PennDOT has announced that they are going to mill and resurface Route 51 from the Cloverleaf to Coal Valley later this summer. They are also going to synchronize the traffic lights which is long overdue. Anybody that drives by Southland, stop, stop, stop, they are going to try to eliminate that.

Vice President Budd stated I wanted to thank everyone who attended the Blood Drive on Sunday. It was an enjoyable time. There were a lot of people there. I am happy to hear there were so many donations. I especially want to thank the staff of the Police Department, Tara Revis specifically, who put a lot of time and effort in. I know it is close to your heart, but she really puts a lot of time into it. I am very grateful for that.

I have one question regarding Home Rule. Who is responsible for educating the public on this as it goes through the process? Are we responsible? Is the public responsible for educating themselves? Is the Commission responsible?

Solicitor McPeak Cromer stated I would not say the Council is responsible. I think it is a good idea to keep people updated whether on your Facebook or other social media. We can certainly explain the process to people moving forward. I think that just makes the most sense. I do not think you are actually "responsible."

Vice President Budd stated because it is an election-type process. It is on us to be careful on how we educate people.

Solicitor McPeak Cromer stated I have seen municipalities do it both ways. We can take a look and make sure that everything we do is appropriate.

President Steffey stated we can certainly make sure we put something on the website.

Mr. Lynch stated I look forward to seeing everybody at Community Day on Saturday.

I wanted to mention that the EAC is looking to have another cleanup day. We are currently looking at July 20th from 9:00 a.m. to noon. Obviously, we are going to have to just go over a couple more things to make sure we have a final confirmation, but I wanted it everybody's radar.

Solicitor McPeak Cromer asked based on what Mr. Lynch said, when you have a community volunteer-type event-the actual volunteers that come, do we have their information? Do they sign waivers?

Chief Dziezgowski responded yes we do.

Solicitor McPeak Cromer stated from the new Solicitor who is coming to Community Day for the first time with my associates and our husbands. We are not coming until the evening, so tell us a little bit about what is going on.

President Steffey stated if you are coming in the evening you will certainly have an opportunity to park behind 885 Fire Hall, because I think by that time the baseball rush will have moved out. They do play All-Star games all throughout the day. So, we do have baseball traffic that is there as well. We like to keep that upper parking lot open for the baseball players and families. You can certainly take advantage of utilizing the shuttle which starts at 1:00 p.m. at Jefferson Hospital lower-level parking lot and that goes until I believe 9:00 p.m. We will have one of our officers at the top of 885 entrance close to the ball field that will direct you either to park in the field behind 885 Fire Hall or to let you know that there is no more parking, and your best bet would be to go use the shuttle at Jefferson. We hope to see everybody out there at Community Day. It will begin at noon. We have an amazing list of vendors that will be there and performers all throughout the day with some events. Then the fireworks are in the evening when it gets close to dark.

I would like to thank the Police Department and Tara Revis for all of their efforts for the Blood Drive, and the Provins family as well. I know that is something that they definitely like to be involved with every single year. I was unable to attend this year for the first time, so thank you guys for all of that.

ADJOURNMENT

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

Michael Glister, PE

Acting Secretary/Borough Manager