

The agenda meeting of Council was called to order by President Steffey at 7:00 p.m. in the Municipal Centers, 925 Old Clairton Road. Following the Pledge of Allegiance, 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, Consulting Engineer Minsterman, and Public Works Director Volpe were also present.

4. Report from Borough Boards and Commissions

None

5. Reports

Fire Chief

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

EMS

Chief Pascoe stated our subscription drive went out within the last week. First of all, I want to thank the members of Council that have used their social media savviness to get the word out to everyone that is greatly appreciated by us. There was one bit of confusion. We've been fielding some phone calls from some concerned residents, and it has to do with fraud. This day and age people take advantage of the elderly whether it be saying a loved one is in jail and needs bail money or what have you. Our subscription address lists the Jefferson Hills location 2121 Century Drive, which is correct. We receive mail there, but it also lists mail the checks to 911 Swiss Way in Elizabeth. That is also correct. Our administrative offices were in Jefferson Hills. We had the need to relocate them to create more training space at our Century Drive location to accommodate public CPR training, internal staff training, et cetera. We did move the administrators over to the Elizabeth office. That created some concern for the residents. Why am I paying this company out of Elizabeth for services in Jefferson Hills? They can send it to either location, whatever they're more comfortable with, both are valid.

Vice President Budd stated Councilwoman Mares and I have been learning a little bit about this. The one thing that I have discovered is a lot of people seem to be under the impression that our EMS is funded just like our police department and that they are fully under the umbrella of the Borough. They are not. Southeast Regional serves nine communities. They are our provider. There are many different ways of funding that, part of the reason for the subscription. There are many benefits. Please go to their website to find out what the benefits are. The subscription offsets the need for them to raise taxes. We have an agreement in place, the Borough does with Southeast Regional that we agreed on the numbers. They asked us for those numbers. That is what we give them annually. The subscription is an addition and residents benefit from it. What I was disappointed to find out, as we discovered only 13% of households in Jefferson Hills subscribed last year. That is 906 households out of 6,700 approximately. When people say they do not need ambulance or I might not need it, I am young, there are many benefits that could come into this,

including copays. I have the list here, but you can help me out if I miss something because you are better versed at this. No fee for treatment without transport. Unlimited emergency transport to local or specialty facilities. No fee for lift assist and significant savings for those without insurance in cases of hardship. It helps to fund our EMS service so that, that one time you need them, you can guarantee they will be there. I beg everybody to please take a look at this. Please support our EMS so that they can continue to serve our community.

President Steffey stated I noted in my social media when I shared the subscription status that a majority of the calls that I hear are a need for lift assist. Seeing that being covered on the subscription itself, I think is a huge benefit. I paid \$75.00 for my entire household. I think it is a huge benefit for those that can. I think it is well worth it.

Engineer

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

Mr. Glister stated our 2024 paving program is set to kick off. There was a possibility it was going to start off this week, but it looks like it is going to be sometime next week. We will be starting over in the Tepe Plan off of Ridge Road. We did a little more than half of that plan last year. We are going to get in there and finish that plan. I will work with Caitlin to get some notifications up on the website and social media as they come through.

Consulting Engineer

Mr. Minsterman had nothing further to add to the Gateway written report is on file in the administrative office

Mr. Montgomery asked for the PRP standards, am I reading between the lines, are you going to change them?

Mr. Minsterman responded not so much the PRP, pollution reduction plan, but possibly the scope of the program will change. There is a new permit cited. They still have not announced or listed the new analytes for the new permit. So, they still have to provide a draft permit. So, we will see at that point. They are still not saying what they are going to be asking for communities to provide.

Mr. Montgomery asked who makes that decision.

Mr. Minsterman responded the State Department of Environmental Protection makes that decision.

Mr. Montgomery stated there are a couple of the work authorizations off like Frank Street and the CMA phase II, did you want to add to them or are they done?

Mr. Minsterman stated I do not know about Frank Street. CMA is still going.

Mr. Glister stated CMA is ongoing. That will be ongoing until beginning of 2025. So, it is getting there. That is something I noticed, and we will have to replenish that. For Frank Street, we are close to

getting our final resubmittal into the DEP for our joint permit. For now, what we are looking to do is get that resubmission in. Once it gets to this last round of reviews, we will have a permit in hand and that will essentially terminate our role in Frank Street because the Borough's responsibility is to obtain the permit, and then once the permit is in hand, it is up to the developer, which is Maronda Homes to construct Frank Street. There may be some ancillary items that we may need some assistance with. But once we get approval, we will be kicking that over to Maronda. We will evaluate what, if any, help we need from Gateway at that point. We are pretty much done with Frank Street here at this point. The only thing we are waiting on for the resubmittal was the easement agreement through the HOA, which we did get signed back last week. We are going to get some signatures on it tonight. That is the last piece of the puzzle that we need for the resubmission package. There were a lot of other items, but that was just the one that was sort of holding everything up. We will be getting that back to the DEP.

Mr. Montgomery asked do we have to inspect what they do?

Mr. Glistler responded we have not discussed it. It probably would make sense to have some oversight. I cannot remember if that is outlined in the consent order. When we get a little closer, we will evaluate that as well.

Finance Officer/Treasurer

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

Mr. Haberstock stated the HVAC contract for the public works building with ABM has expired. McCarl's put together a bid that I have since accepted and sent back to them that will be on the Monday meeting agenda. Before agreeing to it, I checked with Solicitor Cromer, the price on it was too good to believe. It was \$2,000.00 per year versus ABM, that was charging us \$7,700.00.

I did hear back from the Penguins Foundation. They currently have an opportunity outstanding, but it is an invitation only request for proposals open to people that currently have a dek hockey rink that was installed by the Penguins Foundation. But they said that if we have any type of programmatic or other need, we can submit a general grant request. I reached back after them for clarification. So maybe there is a chance we can get some help with concrete slab or something.

McCarl's had done work on this building, if you recall, a month ago it was really hot and humid. When they came and did the work, they found that our second stage was failing. That is not the backup. It is when it gets really hot and the system gets overloaded, there is an additional fan that kicks on to boost the power. They said that one needs repair, and that repair was estimated that just around \$12,000.00. I don't know if we need to add that to agenda to be approved.

President Steffey stated I would like it on the agenda just for clarity.

Public Works Director

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

President Steffey asked just to make sure we are all on the same page with the dek hockey rink. I know we are looking into completing the concrete pad in house and everything. We are definitely waiting until after Community Day. So, what is your timeframe on this project?

Mr. Volpe responded that the game plan right now through Community Day is to take the dek hockey rink down. We want to try to get the in-house paving done. After that we will start the big project. That will probably be August.

Police Chief

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

Chief Dziezgowski stated I have two announcements. First announcement is the camera project for Tepe Park and Beedle Park has been completed. They are up and running right now. Lastly, I just wanted to remind all the residents out there that this Sunday we are holding the Fourth Annual Officer Dale T. Provins Jr. Blood Drive. We do this in his honor to save a life through blood donations and also to raise funds for his scholarships to his school. Blood drives are vital, as we all know. I am hoping that everybody can show up. There will be food trucks, gift baskets, and prizes to be awarded, so hopefully everybody can show up. Thank you.

Mayor

Mayor McCaffrey stated Saturday, June 15th is our Community Day. We will have food and drink vendors, kids' area, local business vendors, shows, and fireworks, beginning at around 9:15 p.m. or dark.

President Steffey stated the shuttle begins running at 1:00 p.m.

Acting Manager

Mr. Glister stated I have nothing this evening. I will get a report together for the packets for Monday.

Solicitor

Solicitor McPeak Cromer had nothing to add to the written report.

6. Borough Resident/Taxpayer Comments on Agenda Items

None

7. Discussion to approve the monthly bills

Mr. Montgomery asked on the rental on Cleveland Brothers, on page eight.

Mr. Haberstock responded that is not a rental. That is the trailer. It is noted wrong.

8. Discussion to approve the monthly payroll
9. Discussion to approve minutes of agenda meeting May 1, 2024
10. Discussion to approve minutes of regular meeting May 6, 2024
11. Discussion to promote Matthew Cidboy from Special Laborer to Operator per the collective bargaining agreement with Local #1058
12. Discussion 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

Mr. Montgomery asked does this include healthcare?

Chief Dziezgowski responded this is early retirement. It is not a full retirement.

Mr. Montgomery stated I just want to make sure that we can handle this.

Chief Dziezgowski stated this was recommended by our pension administrator to allow for early retirement and natural turnover. In addition to our already existing pension provisions which anyone hired prior to or before 2001, it was 50 years of age and 25 years of service. In 2001 that was changed to require 25 years of service and 55 years of age. Our pension administrator thought this was because the respondent after a cost benefit analysis, be no cost to the pension plan that this would be a good provision add 20 years of service regardless of age.

Mr. Montgomery asked does this open the contract?

Chief Dziezgowski stated this does not open the contract. If Council approves this, it will be added to the benchmark.

13. Discussion 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

Mr. Montgomery stated my understanding is you are going to standardize all departments. Is that the reasoning for this?

Mr. Haberstock stated it would make it same across the board for everybody, and fill in some gaps. Public Works, for example, does not even have short-term disability. So, this would increase it for them, increase the life insurance for everybody, and make the short-term disability better for everybody.

Chief Dziezgowski stated this is a complete package. From what the insurance company's representative said, this is the industry standard. This is what most of the government agencies have right now. Ours is not efficient.

Mr. Montgomery asked if this is what government does. Not private companies.

Mr. Haberstock stated the gentleman who brought this to us will be here before Mondays meeting to explain a little more for you in detail.

President Steffey stated the numbers look amazing. The coverage increased by 2.7 million. This is in opposition to the Hartford, which is what we have already. It is only an \$800.79 monthly increase.

Chief Dziezgowski stated Hartford is just short-term disability, very minimal coverage, some have no coverage. This new plan is including higher insurance, life insurance, AD&D, a standardized 60% short term and then long term 60%.

Mr. Polick asked does this also make us more competitive with the other Boroughs?

Chief Dziezgowski responded without a doubt. This helps with recruiting number one and also employer retention. In all of our Borough fields we have hired, and the employee then takes the job somewhere else because the benefits at another place are much better. This makes us very competitive in the Boroughs.

14. Discussion to adopt Ordinance No. 906 repealing and replacing Ordinance No. 826 establishing rules and regulations related to animals

Chief Dziezgowski stated our old ordinance was kind of mixed and matched all over the place. You have the dogs in one area, cats in another and other animals. So, this brings all of the animals together in one ordinance and it outlines what is a nuisance, what are the responsibilities of the pet owner, what are the violations if the pet owner does not take care of their pet, if they allow it to be a nuisance, and what are the remedies there if a pet is found roaming around. It gives the Borough some teeth where they can now solicit a business, an organization or a company or a person to come and assist us with problem areas like feral cats, for instance. We utilized that a couple months ago, where an organization that has a specialty in handling feral cats where they catch, they neuter them, spay them, and then they release them back into the population where they no longer will breed and cause more problems. In some areas we do not have the equipment or technology to handle those situations. This ordinance empowers the Council to look in different avenues to handle that problem when it persists. But in general, it clearly outlines for both us and the public what the ordinance covers, and it is all in one place.

15. Discussion 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

Mr. Glister stated ordinance number 511 is an old ordinance compared to now. Actually, looking at our website, that ordinance was adopted in 1984. It is a 40-year-old ordinance. It is time to be updated. When you read through what is online, there is really not a lot of substance in there. Additionally, the attempt for updating this ordinance is when we have trees or shrubs or whatever that are blocking line of sight, blocking signs, sidewalks, things like that we used to be able to address that underneath our old property maintenance code. But when we adopted IPMC, the International Property Maintenance Code, we lost that language that was in there. Mr. Ries and Mr. Seskey did not really have anything to use to enforce that. This is to address that. This will give them some teeth for when you have somebody that needs their hedges trimmed or whatever there will be some violations of stuff associated with that. Another item in here that they deal with all the time is dead trees. We did not really have anything like that in the

past. This gives them some information to help there as well. It will even enable us in a scenario where if we have a sewer line running through a yard and there are a certain nuisance trees listed. When we are doing our televising that we are having a lot of roots in the lines or things like that. It would actually give us the right to go after getting that tree removed as well. A lot of benefits and it is time to do this. What is in your packet is a draft. Mr. Ries and Mr. Seskey were working with the clerk to get our comments over to GTN. We got the updated version earlier today. We will have the updated version in the packets on Friday.

16. Discussion 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

Mr. Polick stated I assume we are just getting caught up with this, that we had obtained records that should have been destroyed a long time ago?

Mr. Glister responded that is correct.

17. Discussion to distribute \$351,403.10 to Jefferson Hills Fire Rescue (JHFR) for Insurance Claim No. F1H1765

18. Discussion to distribute the remaining \$50,637.52 to Jefferson Hills Fire Rescue (JHFR) from Duncan Insurance

19. Discussion to authorize Brian Haberstock as signatory for General Fund, Escrow, and Payroll accounts of the Borough of Jefferson Hills

20. Discussion to approve purchasing CivicPlus NextRequest Right to Know software at \$10,788.00 per year for the Standard Plan

Vice President Budd stated Right to Know Officer Erika Horvat had come to us with this to modernize and streamline the Boroughs right to know process. This particular one as opposed to the following item was geared more towards the helping the police department with their right to know process. Item 21 was a little better geared towards the administrative side. Chief Dziezgowski is willing to give Council a little bit of a heads up on the differences in terms of what the police department would be doing with right to knows.

Chief Dziezgowski stated the process would stay the same. I am recommending that Council go with Item 21, which would be roughly \$5,000.00 less due to the fact that the right to knows that the police handle are vetted by legal. There is a process already in place and anything that we do has to be on a secure network. That is the additional price for that plan in number 20 as opposed to 21. The Borough right now is handling more significant right to know requests than the police are. I believe unless legal counsel has any objections, that our process is vetted wisely and smoothly, we do not need that plan at this time. We can always reevaluate it, but I do not think it is necessary at this time for the Police. For the Borough, most definitely you want it.

Mr. Haberstock stated the prices stated on the agenda are no longer the prices. The plans would be 25% off year one, and there is an onboarding fee of \$1,500.00 no matter which of them you pledge to go with. The onetime fee for onboarding would be half off as well, so \$750.00 onboarding.

Vice President Budd suggested to remove item 20 so that we can discuss item 21.

21. Discussion to approve purchasing CivicPlus NextRequest Right to Know software at \$5,988.00 per year for the Economy Plan

President Steffey stated for Monday we can redo the numbers at 25% off and the \$750.00 for the onboarding fee. Did anyone discuss this with Erika Horvat?

Mr. Haberstock stated I talked to her about it, and she said that it would make life much smoother, much easier. She has been inundated with right to know requests. It has been burdensome and a hardship on the department because she cannot do her other work.

President Steffey stated she did say that there are multiple surrounding municipalities that have utilized this as well. She did call, and they had nothing but really good things to say about the program.

Mr. Glistler stated with CivicPlus working on a website, the actual form with how people submit right to know requests instead of printing it out, filling it out, bringing it in, they will be able to submit it directly to the website. There will be a lot of efficiency gained.

President Steffey stated not just for Mrs. Horvat, for the public as well.

Vice President Budd stated one of the points she had brought up is if there are several requests for a specific item from the public you can post that document publicly. She did get our questions to Solicitor Rosini who did not see any issues with it. She was willing to work on setting up the responses to make sure that they fall within the right to know language. There are different ways to make it better so that the public can access it online, and fill out the forms online. There is a redaction tool as well. Mrs. Horvat is willing to spend some time talking to anyone to answer your questions about this.

President Steffey stated we approved a while back for Mrs. Horvat to have overtime. So, every time that I am here at the Borough, she is not taking lunch and she is staying an hour or two afterwards. So, we are paying her overtime in order to get this done. It kind of could be a tradeoff. We are putting money into a system, but we are also paying her overtime.

Vice President Budd stated it is another way to bring the Borough into the current century.

Mr. Polick asked do they just equate us for two years? You are saying the second year is full.

Mr. Haberstock responded yes; I do not know the exact numbers.

22. Discussion to approve the sale of the Hudson 9-ton tag-along trailer from the Jefferson Hills Public Works Department for \$_____ to the highest bidder on Municibid

President Steffey stated we have an amount of \$1,826.00.

Mr. Volpe stated yes, that is correct. James Miller was the highest bidder.

23. Discussion to authorize advertising and sending Unit #256 Ford Interceptor Model P2M AWD (VIN#1FM5K8AR9DGA46737) to the Perryopolis Auto Auction in June

24. Discussion 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

Mr. Montgomery asked are you satisfied with the condition of the sewers?

Mr. Glistler responded we are not aware of the condition of the sewers because we have not televised them. It is one of the unknowns of this. But, they are all functioning. We have not had any issues or backups or any anything like that.

President Steffey asked once this is finalized, how long of a timeframe do you think you will be able to announce which roads are going to be on the list in Patriot Pointe?

Mr. Glistler responded I think they will know before this is finalized potentially. I will defer to Solicitor McPeak Cromer.

Solicitor McPeak Cromer stated right now, we are negotiating on the final terms of the agreement. I would like to think that will be in near future, as long as we get that approval.

President Steffey asked this is not final?

Solicitor McPeak Cromer responded correct; it is not final. It is subject to the approval of the Solicitor and Engineer. That is basically to cover ourselves. Hopefully we come to an agreement with opposing counsel before the next meeting. But I am not okay with it yet.

25. Discussion 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

26. Discussion 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

27. Discussion 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

Mr. Montgomery asked is that another engineering firm or is that just you guys doing it again?

Mr. Glister responded that is for us. It is just to get existing conditions established for what is going on right now.

Mr. Minsterman stated it is recommended by the special counsel to collect that. Understanding what the surface looks like now would be valuable in the future.

Mr. Montgomery asked is Gateway going to do that?

Mr. Minsterman responded yes.

28. Discussion to ratify Resolution No. 10-2024 authorizing application to the Greenways, Trails, and Recreation Program (GTRP) grant through the DCED for \$158,100.00

Mr. Glister stated that grant was submitted last Friday.

29. Discussion to adopt Resolution No. 07-2024 granting preliminary and final plan approval for subdivision for Thatcher Plan of Lots designated as S-1-2024

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

Gloria Koehlinger, 5004 Blue Ridge Drive, stated on behalf of my many neighbors some of which are here with me tonight, and the 160 plus signatures that we had gathered to stop the construction of the cell phone tower on the 17-acre site that's owned by the school board that's currently the stadium. I want to thank you. I want to thank you for the Facebook update and for the Borough website update. The update that TowerCo has withdrawn all applications that there is no potential cell tower at this time. Should that change? It's my hope and my plea here that we're informed if and when TowerCo applies for any facility tower, et cetera, on any location on that 17-acre site of the football stadium property that's under the school district. But again, I'm here to thank you, thank you for hearing our concerns, for listening to our concerns, cooperating with us, and we're grateful for you. Thank you.

Leo Stanton, 3015 Walton Road, stated there are two vacant homes there. They're right for vagrancy. The one is at 3005, that's my neighbor. It's all brand new on the inside, but the weeds are high and it's pretty bad. The other building is the old Stanton store where I grew up, it's deplorable and there were vagrants there. The Chief got rid of them last year. But I was wondering if somebody could put some pressure on the owners. If I knew who they were, I'd pressure them and tell them to clean it up, but I don't know who they are. Can somebody look into it?

President Steffey stated we will send Mr. Seskey out.

Mayor McCaffrey stated I think they were on the Code Enforcement report.

Mr. Stanton stated that store was red tagged to be either fixed up or demolished. I don't know where that went. I don't know the ordinances; it should have been demolished or brought up the conditions. The previous owner, which was my sister, was cited all the time and we had to comply. But for some reason the new owners don't really have to comply.

Pat Capolupo, 1070 Chamberlin Road, stated I want to thank each and every one of you for your cooperation in bringing about, hopefully, a conclusion to both cases. However, I wanted to explain that at this time we're not withdrawing the causes of action. I believe that the case is being assigned to Judge McGinley. She has a complete jurisdiction over the both cases to a certain extent. We would like to have more restrictive orders issued from her at that time, then we'll consider withdrawing the causes of action. The reason why we're considering getting the court order is because the school district owns 17 acres. My property is a little regular lot, and adjoins pretty much the whole extent of the school property other than one little section toward Beams Run Road, the road is no longer used. However, if they would place the facility on the other side, it would still be affecting my property because of the way the boundary lines are. So, I just wanted to explain it. I wanted to thank each and every one of you for your cooperation. Hopefully we can get it resolved through the court since we filed the actions and that at that time, we will address the issue of withdrawing. Thank you. You folks have been very, very helpful to us to the extent that you provided a lot of information. However, I believe that the record that was requested by Judge McGinley has not been provided. So, I urge Council to do that because normally the procedure is that the judge will request a conference call or a conference with the attorneys involved and hopefully, we can get it resolved at that time. Thank you again, each and every one of you.

Solicitor McPeak Cromer stated if I may just because I am confused. Are you talking about the appeal from the zoning hearing board variances?

Mr. Capolupo responded yes, and the cause of action that I filed personally.

Solicitor McPeak Cromer stated there is the Writ of Summons that that will just sit there. You are right. The Borough did not intervene in the appeal from the Zoning Hearing Board. So, I do not think the Borough can or has any obligation to do anything because we did not enter the action. I think it is just your appeal from the Zoning Hearing Board variances. As far as I know, since they were withdrawn, that is up to you guys. It is you and the Zoning Hearing Board. I do not think the Borough has any obligation or responsibility because we are not party.

Mr. Capolupo stated we named all the Council in my action.

Solicitor McPeak Cromer stated there might be some that I am not aware of. I am happy to look, but I know nothing has been directed to the Borough in regard to producing a record, because I know we chose not to intervene.

31. General Business

Mr. Lynch stated I want to thank everyone who came out to the Memorial Day Ceremony. Especially Mayor McCaffrey, who hosted the event, and Jefferson Hills Fire Rescue for allowing us to use their facilities. It was a very touching and emotional ceremony. As we continue to honor our heroes who made the ultimate sacrifice so that we can live free.

I do want to let everyone know that the EAC has requested a scheduled change for the June meeting. We want to reschedule from June 20th to June 26th at 6:30 p.m. If we can get that update for our residents, that would be much appreciated.

Vice President Budd stated Memorial Day was wonderful. Thank you to everyone who held it and hosted it. It was really a very nice event. Again, please get your EMS subscription.

Mrs. Mares stated I wanted to thank the EMS for hosting Councilwoman Budd and myself last month for our ride along. I needed a nap after that, it was a lot more than I anticipated. It was so eye-opening and just seeing what all is involved from the time a call comes in and you so calmly react and just handle things not knowing what you are going into half the time. It was neat to see it from that perspective and getting to not just hear about it, but getting to actually see how you guys handle those things. I have the utmost respect and admiration for what you guys do. Councilwoman Budd and I, we had talked about months ago when she had asked me to join the board, I thought I have nothing to contribute to them. I really took it seriously though, and I wanted to make it a point to educate myself as much as I could and advocate for all of our first responders. But I think in doing that, it takes time to really educate ourselves, and truly understand, not just your jobs, but what it is that you need support in. We keep talking about these subscriptions, but I think what was eye-opening for me is learning why is that even in place in the first place? You guys are so busy answering calls, doing your job, taking care of our community on a daily basis. But what people do not realize is you are having to learn, having to figure out, navigate how to pay your bills, how to do payroll, how to fund the equipment that is mandatory for you to be able to function, which is very expensive. Just to name a couple things, and I will not take too much time, but I know that Councilwoman Budd and I, we were educated about the cost of an ambulance, \$220,000.00 completely unequipped. That is the average that was purchased in 2021. A stretcher system device, that is 25 to \$30,000.00. The Lifepack heart monitor, which is also required to be on the ambulance, \$50,000.00. So, these are all things, when we preach about the subscriptions, it is very important. Chief Pascoe educated us that back in, I believe the '70s, we were at 150 ambulance agencies. We are now down to 40 in Allegheny County. The rate is declining immensely with first responders, especially with our EMS and our paramedics. Just one more year of education allows you to become an RN. So, people are making that decision. Maybe I just want to become a nurse, work in a hospital and get paid better. They are really struggling just to recruit, like all of our first responders. I am so grateful for you all. If the least we could do is talk about the subscription or how we can better support you, I am so happy to do that. So, thank you.

Mr. Montgomery gave the SHACOG report.

Mr. Montgomery stated for the police testing, they had 23 applicants, three no shows, one failed the physical, and 19 took the test.

Chief Dziezgowski stated may I make one observation from Councilman Montgomery's report. It is important to note, and he explained it, but to put it, in reality, 19 people showed up for SHACOG tests for six departments, six departments, 19 people. That is before they do the background and do the oral interviews, which tend to get rid of a couple other people there because they do not pass the background. We are facing the same problem as we are trying to hire. Right now, we only have six applicants. This is what people have been saying up here for all the first responders, the fire department, EMS, and police. We are at critical stages right now trying to hire and retain people. This is just to show you how poor the numbers are. When I, 30 some years ago when I entered law enforcement, I was competing against four or 500 people for one spot. This is what it has come down to. So, I say that to, again, ask for your support for all first responders. Let people know that Jefferson Hills Police are hiring and put an application if they have the qualifications and for the other first responding cases.

President Steffey stated I would like to reiterate that we had a wonderful Memorial Day ceremony. It was beautiful. I was happy to see that it is growing in attendance. We had a number of people that brought their younger ones and said that they were going to continue to make this a yearly tradition, which is heartwarming. We want the youngsters to keep on attending and understanding what that day means, along with every other event that we put on here at Jefferson Hills. So just a reminder again, we are going to have a Community Day on June 15th.

Mr. Haberstock stated I forgot about the grant that Councilman Polick had sent. There is a grant that might be available to us for a clean air initiative. We are going to try to see if the library being a non-profit might be able to get some funding.

President Steffey stated I would like to applaud staff and Council Members that keep bringing grant opportunities to our attention. I think over the past couple of months we have really put the pedal down on grant applications. Mike Glister can attest to that. Grant applications are not easy to complete, especially the larger ones. So, we really appreciate his hard work and time along with the rest of the staff that contributes to all of the input that goes into a grant application. We just want to make sure that the community knows that we are looking into free money anywhere that we can possibly get it. It applies to any project that we have going on in the Borough.

32. Adjournment

President Steffey adjourned the meeting at 7:59 p.m. on a motion by Vice President Budd, seconded by Mr. Lynch, and carried unanimously.

Michael Glister, PE
Acting Secretary/Borough Manager