

Borough of Jefferson Hills  
Regular Meeting of Council  
November 12, 2018

The regular meeting of Council was called to order by President King at 7:00 p.m. in the Municipal Center, 925 Old Clairton Road. Following the Pledge of Allegiance, Mayor Cmar and Council Members Ielase, Khalil, Montgomery, Reynolds, Sockman, Vice President Weber and President King answered to roll call. Finance Officer Bennett, Solicitor Shimko, Chief Roach and Borough Engineer Glister were also present.

CITIZENS/TAXPAYERS COMMENTS:

Joe Imbriale, of 5001 Dana Drive, stated he is president of the Jefferson Estates homeowner's association and asked Council to confirm that the proposed Frank Street Bridge would be built to accommodate emergency vehicles only. President King responded it is still Council's desire that the bridge be emergency access only. Mr. Shimko stated all the permitting going forward and all the talks about building are being done specifically with the idea that the bridge would be emergency access only.

Triscia McCann, of 427 Elliott Road, thanked Council and the Planning Commission for the text amendment regarding the UPMC residential issues and the public hearing being scheduled for the same and asked Council to vote yes on the motion to advertise for enactment of the Ordinance.

Joan Atkinson, of 105 Redcliffe Drive, stated she was at the meeting when Jefferson 885 VFC asked for \$30,000 for a boat because some woman got stuck on Cochran Mill Road and Council had no hesitation to give the funds. Ms. Atkinson said this bothered her because it is easy to spend someone else's money. Ms. Atkinson stated she does not feel the Borough needs another hospital because, if Council is going to keep spending money, the Borough needs tax revenue. Vice President Weber explained when Jefferson Fire and Rescue, not Jefferson 885, asked for funds for the water rescue boat it was due to the fact that there were five (5) rescues needed in a four (4) week period in the Borough.

Karen Bucy, of 410 Deer Park West Drive, thanked Council for having the expiration dates for the members of the Boards and Commissions put on the website. Ms. Bucy asked if there are still two (2) vacancies on the Planning Commission and President King confirmed there are. Ms. Bucy thanked members of Council who speak to members of the audience and to each other in a respectful, civil tone and manner. Ms. Bucy stated she does not want or expect all members of Council to agree with each other on all issues, but she does expect that all of Council give each other the respect they deserve. Ms. Bucy stated the fire company merger is an unresolved issue and she doesn't want to hear any more negative thought about it.

Dave Oster, of 6009 Walton Road, stated, in 2016, the Foreign Fire Insurance allocation was an even split between companies and, at that meeting, there was some discussion on how to handle it in the future. Mr. Oster indicated, in 2017, Jefferson 885 received seventy percent (70%), Gill Hall received twenty-three percent (23%) and Floreffe received seven percent (7%), but there is no

discussion in the minutes about why that split was made the way it was. Mr. Oster asked Council to please document the basis for the allocation in the minutes.

Lisa Buckiso, of 3041 Shady Timber Lane, stated she has done some reading and spoke to unbiased parties about the fire company merger and it is her understanding that two (2) companies are for it, but Gill Hall is opposed, but she is not sure why. Ms. Buckiso expressed she does not care where the firefighters come from if her house is on fire, but she does care that they are all properly trained and able to go into a burning structure to save lives. Ms. Buckiso stated it goes both ways and the people in the audience also need to respect Council and what they do. Ms. Buckiso indicated she is disturbed by the mob mentality that seems to have taken over and asked what is meant by *ostop corruption* on the fire hall merger signs. Ms. Buckiso stated there is an online site slandering President King, Vice President Weber and Mr. Khalil and noted that the creator of the site is anonymous, but in reality known. Ms. Buckiso asserted she wants them to know that she appreciates all they do and hopes, when they consider the merger, the first concern is safety and the second concern is taxpayer dollars; everything else is just noise.

Meghan Daily, of 1614 Jefferson Ridge Drive, stated she was a social member at Gill Hall VFC in the past, she works for the Borough, lives in the Borough and has a son in the School District. Ms. Daily expressed that she recently experienced a fire at her residence. Gill Hall VFC responded with one (1) firefighter and that firefighter is no longer there because he resigned. Ms. Daily indicated everyone was safe and the fire was extinguished because everything went perfectly, which, as we know, is usually not the case. Ms. Daily said Jefferson 885 VFC did show up after with about twelve (12) to fifteen (15) firefighters and then Floreffe VFC with about six (6). Ms. Daily expressed the Borough is lucky to have all three (3) fire companies, but Gill Hall is in a very dire circumstance right now and does not have the necessary resources to fight fires.

Gregg Daily, of 107 Tangelo Drive, stated this is a large and growing Borough with significant numbers of new families and new houses and he does not think anyone in this Borough wants to lose any fire departments, nor does he personally believe anyone on Council favors that either. Mr. Daily stated there is a huge difference between closing a fire department and consolidation. Mr. Daily commented there is zero excuse for not having unified command and control and coordinated training.

John Thatcher, of 604 Gill Hall Road, Chairman of the VFC Task Force, stated, at last Wednesday night's meeting, representatives of Gill Hall VFC indicated they removed Jefferson 885 VFC from their in-service notifications because they did not want Jefferson 885 VFC to have access to all their call performance statistics. These statistics are critical in evaluating the performance of any fire department, but can only be reviewed or retrieved with proper security access. Mr. Thatcher stated the real question he has is, if Gill Hall VFC does not want anyone to see these numbers, what are they trying to hide and is this an implied admission that they are not performing. After the Sohyda feasibility study was released, Floreffe VFC admitted they had a performance problem, but they were willing to improve and have become a much better company for it. Mr. Thatcher indicated, if the consolidation goes through, he will probably be voted in as President and he is offering to do this purely to serve his community and assist with the transmission of the administrative affairs. Mr. Thatcher stated in December 2017 on a motion made by Mrs. Reynolds, Council voted unanimously to form the Task Force. The Task Force has spent numerous hours

creating the bylaws, the organizational structure, officer qualifications and has met all of its goals, except for Gill Hall VFC's agreement to merge. Mr. Thatcher commented he personally agrees with Vice President Weber's suggestion to give Gill Hall VFC just \$1.00 because they continue to be only an obstacle to this consolidation and need to be incentivized to merge. Mr. Thatcher stated it is in Council's hands to do what is in the best interest of the Borough. Vice President Weber commented that Mr. Thatcher mentioned Jefferson 885 VFC being removed from Gill Hall VFC's Active 911 and stated Active 911 was described as a tool that allows fire companies to know when other fire companies are out of the district and may not be available for calls. Vice President Weber asserted this is a safety issue and is unacceptable. Mr. Thatcher agreed that it was a serious safety concern. President King stated he did not fully appreciate the severity of this situation when it was discussed last week, but it is creating a safety issue that should not be tolerated.

Andrew Tomer, of 1312 Hornbake Drive, Fire Chief for Jefferson 885 Fire Department and Emergency Management Coordinator, stated a comment was made earlier to stop talking about the merger and he agrees that the talk needs to stop and the discussion needs to be what actually needs to be done to make this happen. Mr. Tomer indicated there are thirty-five (35) members of Jefferson 885 VFC are currently, nationally certified as Firefighter 1, eight (8) members have given a verbal commitment to get certified in the spring and six (6) members are exterior firefighters only. Mr. Tomer mentioned one of the things discussed in his department is making Firefighter 1 a requirement to be an active interior firefighter and is done in Mt. Lebanon, after which he would like to model Jefferson 885 VFC. Mr. Tomer reiterated there are no paid firefighters in the Borough, but there is a paid shift crew, which is paid through the Borough, and are not classified as firefighters.

Brian Chalfant, of 6618 Willem Drive, Assistant Chief of Jefferson 885 Fire Department and President of Jefferson Fire and Rescue, stated there was a statement made earlier about Jefferson 885 VFC requesting money from Council for a boat, but, on that night, the request was being made for Jefferson Fire and Rescue, not for Jefferson 885 VFC. Mr. Chalfant stated, regarding the fire Ms. Daily experienced, there was a second Gill Hall VFC firefighter that showed up five (5) to ten (10) minutes later. Mr. Chalfant reiterated, because of social media comments, Jefferson 885 VFC is not paid, but are one hundred percent (100%) volunteer. Mr. Chalfant indicated there are three (3) representatives from each fire company on the Task Force for the consolidation, so the members were not hand-picked by Council. Mr. Chalfant expressed, as a taxpayer, he would like to know the reason why the fire companies do not want to merge, especially after Council stated they will provide funding for training and equipment.

Mr. Sockman moved to hire John O'Connor to the position of Police Officer conditioned upon the conditional appointee undergoing a physical and psychological medical examination and a determination that the conditional appointee is capable of performing all the essential functions of the position, seconded by Mr. Montgomery and carried unanimously.

#### MINUTES:

Mr. Khalil moved the minutes of the agenda meeting October 3, 2018 be approved, seconded by Vice President Weber and carried unanimously.

Mr. Sockman moved the minutes of regular meeting October 8, 2018 be approved, seconded by Mrs. Ielase and carried unanimously.

MONTHLY BILLS:

Vice President Weber moved the October bills be approved, seconded by Mr. Khalil and carried unanimously.

MONTHLY PAYROLLS:

Mrs. Ielase moved the payrolls for the month of October in the amount of \$234,786.08 be approved, seconded by Mr. Montgomery and carried unanimously.

AGENDA ITEMS:

Mr. Sockman moved to enact Ordinance No. 870 to adopt and incorporate the Allegheny County Stormwater Management Ordinance into The Borough Stormwater Management Ordinance, Chapter 26 of the Borough of Jefferson Code of Ordinances; to provide for an effective date of this Ordinance; and providing for severability and repeal of all prior inconsistent ordinances or ordinance provisions, seconded by Mr. Montgomery and carried unanimously.

Mr. Khalil moved to enact Ordinance No. 871 amending Chapter 1, Administration and Government, Part 3, Appointed Officials of the Code of Ordinances of the Borough of Jefferson Hills to provide for the ability of Borough Council to appoint a fire chief and assistant fire chief and providing for severability and repeal of all prior inconsistent ordinances, ordinance provisions, resolutions, and resolution provisions, seconded by Vice President Weber. The vote was not unanimous and a roll call vote was taken. Council Members Khalil, Montgomery, Sockman, Vice President Weber and President King voted yes. Council Members Ielase and Reynolds voted no. Motion carried 5-2.

Vice President Weber moved to adopt Resolution No. 35-2018 granting a modification request to Borough Subdivision and Land Development Ordinance Section 22.303.3.B requiring submission of the Allegheny County Conservation District's approval of the Erosion and Sedimentation Control Plan before final approval can be granted and final approval to the Land Development Plan known as SP-8-2018, William J., Robert G., and Lillian Kozel Proposed Storage Garage Development located at 1456 State Route 51, seconded by Mr. Khalil and carried unanimously.

Mrs. Ielase moved to adopt Resolution No. 36-2018 granting a modification request to Borough Subdivision and Land Development Ordinance Section 22.609.1 to allow storm sewer pipe grade less than 2% and preliminary approval to the Land Development Plan known as SP-3-2018, Marlow ó Jefferson Hills, seconded by Mr. Montgomery and carried unanimously.

Mr. Khalil moved to authorize the proper Borough officials to prepare necessary ordinance(s) and/or resolution(s) to effectuate the Borough's financing of fire protection in the

event of a consolidation of volunteer fire protection services, seconded by Vice President Weber and carried unanimously.

Mr. Montgomery moved to authorize the proper Borough Officials to advertise for enactment of an Ordinance amending Chapter 27, Zoning, of the Borough of Jefferson Hills Code of Ordinances, Article 200, Residential Districts, to remove hospitals as a permitted conditional use in the R-1 Residential-Agricultural and R2 Low Density Residential Zoning Districts and providing for severability and repeal of all prior inconsistent ordinances or ordinance provisions, seconded by Mr. Sockman and carried unanimously.

Mr. Khalil moved to approve bids for the SHACOG Purchasing Alliance 2018 Fall Commodities, seconded by Vice President Weber and carried unanimously.

Mrs. Ielase moved to approve Change Order No. 3 from Global Heavy Corporation in the amount of \$4,071.69 for the Jefferson Hills/West Elizabeth Sewershed ACT 537 Plan Capital Improvements Project Contract A, seconded by Mr. Sockman and carried unanimously.

Vice President Weber moved to approve Application for Payment No. 9 from Global Heavy Corporation in the amount of \$215,555.00 for work completed on the Jefferson Hills/West Elizabeth Sewershed ACT 537 Plan Capital Improvements Project Contract A, seconded by Mr. Khalil and carried unanimously.

Mrs. Ielase moved to approve Application for Payment No. 7 from Jet Jack, Inc. in the amount of \$242,569.20 for work completed on the Jefferson Hills/West Elizabeth Sewershed ACT 537 Plan Capital Improvements Project Contract C, seconded by Mr. Khalil and carried unanimously.

Mr. Sockman moved to approve Application for Payment No. 6 from Jet Jack, Inc. in the amount of \$43,012.21 for work completed on the Jefferson Hills/West Elizabeth Sewershed ACT 537 Plan Capital Improvements Project Contract D, seconded by Mr. Montgomery and carried unanimously.

Vice President Weber moved to approve Application for Payment No. 2 from State Pipe Services, Inc. in the amount of \$14,008.50 for work completed on the 2018 Operations and Maintenance Manhole Rehabilitation Project, seconded by Mr. Khalil and carried unanimously.

Mr. Sockman moved to approve Application for Payment No. 1 and Final from Pellegrini Electric in the amount of \$13,840.00 for work completed on the Municipal Building parking lot lights, seconded by Mr. Montgomery and carried unanimously.

Mrs. Ielase moved to approve SHACOG to award the bid of the CD 44 7.5 Borough Building ADA Door Project to Select Contracting, LLC. in the amount of \$20,200.00, seconded by Mr. Montgomery and carried unanimously.

Mr. Khalil moved to approve distribution of the Pennsylvania Foreign Fire Insurance allocation in the amount of \$59,711.53 as follows: \$37,980.31 (approximately 63.606%) to

Jefferson 885 VFC Relief Association, \$1.00 (approximately 0.002%) to Gill Hall VFC Relief Association and \$21,730.22 (approximately 36.392%) to Floreffe VFC Relief Association, seconded by Vice President Weber.

President King commented he asked Calvin Felix on Wednesday if he would share the amount spent on the attorney and was told by Mr. Felix he could not because of attorney-client privilege, but when asked about the political mailings Mr. Felix said he did not know the amount off hand and could provide the amount after reviewing the books. President King asked Mr. Felix if he could tell him the amount spent on the mailing today and Mr. Felix indicated his attorney told him he could not provide that amount also due to attorney-client privilege. Vincent Talarico, of 151 Margaret Street, Apartment 4, Pittsburgh, asked if he could speak and President King allowed him to do so. Mr. Talarico stated the gear provided to the firefighters at Gill Hall VFC was purchased with grant money and by law is required to be left at Gill Hall VFC. President King commented that is a very strong statement in favor of the consolidation.

The vote was not unanimous and a roll call vote was taken. Council Members Khalil, Vice President Weber and President King voted yes. Council Members Ielase, Montgomery, Reynolds and Sockman voted no. Motion failed 3-4.

Vice President Weber moved to approve distribution of the Pennsylvania Foreign Fire Insurance allocation in the amount of \$59,711.53 as follows: \$37,980.31 (approximately 63.60633%) to Jefferson 885 VFC Relief Association, \$2.00 (approximately 0.00334%) to Gill Hall VFC Relief Association and \$21,729.22 (approximately 36.39033%) to Floreffe VFC Relief Association, seconded by Mr. Khalil. The vote was not unanimous and a roll call vote was taken. Council Members Khalil, Vice President Weber and President King voted yes. Council Members Ielase, Montgomery, Reynolds and Sockman voted no. Motion failed 3-4.

Mr. Sockman moved to approve distribution of the Pennsylvania Foreign Fire Insurance allocation in the amount of \$59,711.53 as follows: \$29,855.77 (approximately 50%) to Jefferson 885 VFC Relief Association, \$5,971.15 (approximately 10%) to Gill Hall VFC Relief Association and \$23,884.61 (approximately 40%) to Floreffe VFC Relief Association, seconded by Mrs. Ielase.

Mr. Sockman stated his reasoning for this distribution is because he feels Gill Hall VFC is just down right now and there is no reason it can't climb out of it. Mr. Sockman said if they cannot sit down and iron out their differences, he will never vote for them to have another penny. Mr. Khalil responded he was adamant about closing Floreffe VFC about a year ago, but he changed his opinion because of Mr. Sockman stating the Borough is growing and needs three (3) fire departments. Mr. Khalil maintained the difference is Floreffe VFC wanted to be better and he sees the consolidation as a way to make all three (3) departments better. Mr. Khalil stated he does not feel Gill Hall VFC wants to be part of the consolidation and make things better. Mr. Montgomery stated his reason for wanting to distribute the money more evenly is because he does not want to see any department not have the funds to maintain their equipment. Mr. Khalil stated as a taxpayer he does not want to fund a fire department that cannot protect the community and is in a downward spiral. Mrs. Reynolds thanked everyone for doing a very good job tonight to bring Gill Hall VFC down again. Mrs. Reynolds stated a meeting should be held again between Jefferson 885 VFC, Gill Hall VFC and Floreffe VFC. Mrs. Reynolds indicated Jay Girman, of Floreffe VFC, told her

last year that he was not in favor of a consolidation, so what made him change his mind. President King responded probably the realization that the consolidation will be best for the Borough. Mrs. Reynolds asked Jay Girman to answer the question of what changed his mind. President King asked Mr. Girman to come up to the podium. Jay Girman, of 1385 Third Street, stated Mrs. Reynolds was correct with her statement, but he wants to do everything he can to keep the fire company going. Mr. Girman indicated they have changed their officers and changed training that is now done with Jefferson 885 VFC. Mr. Girman stated the feasibility study was a wakeup call for Floreffe and he is just thinking about the fire company and the Borough. Mrs. Reynolds said there has to be a reason why Gill Hall VFC does not want to consolidate and asked are they being bullied. Mr. Girman said there is no bullying happening. Mrs. Reynolds asked what is it that is attracting people from out of town to go to Jefferson 885 VFC. Mr. Girman responded they have very good training. Mrs. Reynolds asked why the paid shift crew at Jefferson 885 VFC do not clock in and out. President King asked Mr. Chalfant to answer that question. Mr. Chalfant responded there is a schedule, all the fire chiefs get the schedule, each person is scheduled for a nine (9) hour day and get paid for eight (8) and the payroll hours are sent to Mr. Bennett. Mrs. Reynolds asked if it was clocked and Mr. Chalfant explained they do not have a punch clock. Mr. Chalfant indicated he knows they are there. They have cameras and, if anyone needs to leave, they text him and he gets coverage to be sure there are always two (2) people there. Mrs. Reynolds asked how she knows, if they leave to go to a fire in West Mifflin, whether the Borough residents are paying for that. Mr. Chalfant explained they are employees of Jefferson Fire and Rescue and are paid administrators. When they go outside the Borough, yes, they are still being paid, but, when Pleasant Hills shift crew comes into Jefferson Borough, they are also paid. Mr. Chalfant asked when the police department goes on a call outside the Borough, do they go off the clock. President King replied no. Mrs. Reynolds stated the residents should not pay for someone to go to West Mifflin. President King commented for the record there are no time clocks for the clerical or management staff. Mrs. Reynolds responded there should be a time clock. Mr. Khalil expressed the discussion is getting off track and stated the decision needs to be made about distributing the money. Mr. Khalil said Council wants all three (3) companies to be part of the consolidation and the future of this community, but if the company is not performing and does not want to be part of the team, in my opinion, they should not get a dime. Mr. Khalil asked Mr. Sockman if he would amend his motion to give Jefferson 885 VFC fifty-five percent (55%), Floreffe VFC forty percent (40%) and Gill Hall VFC five percent (5%), which would be approximately \$3,000 and is about what Floreffe got last year. Mr. Sockman stated he would like to stand firm with his motion. Vice President Weber stated he asked Mr. Sockman about a month ago whether Gill Hall VFC had provided the information he requested. Mr. Sockman replied no, they have not. Vice President Weber said Mr. Felix has refused to answer basic questions such as how much was spent on a political mailer and an attorney and firefighters are being driven away by a toxic culture at Gill Hall VFC. Vice President Weber stated that is not mediocrity, but is a failing organization. Vice President Weber continued to say Council's obligation is to provide the best public services they can, Council also has a fiscal responsibility to manage the taxpayers' money in a responsible manner and he is concerned about even giving Gill Hall VFC \$3,000. Vice President Weber stated when the consolidation occurs, if Gill Hall VFC chooses to be part of the consolidation, it will be made whole again. Vice President Weber indicated Council is not asking anything of Gill Hall VFC that the other two (2) services aren't willing to do.

The vote was not unanimous and a roll call vote was taken. Council Members Ielase, Montgomery, Reynolds and Sockman voted yes. Council Member Khalil, Vice President Weber and President King voted no. Motion carried 4-3.

Mr. Khalil moved to authorize the proper Borough officials to execute an agreement with the West Jefferson Hills School District to retain law enforcement services for School District events, seconded by Vice President Weber and carried unanimously.

Mr. Khalil moved to issue a Street Opening Permit to Peoples Natural Gas Company for the purpose of mainline renewal for a distance of 1780 feet on Stilley and State Street, seconded by Mr. Montgomery and carried unanimously.

Mrs. Ielase moved to advertise and schedule a public hearing for December 12, 2018 from 6:00 to 9:00 p.m. to commence consideration of the Carol Ann Bucar Landowner Curative Amendment, seconded by Mr. Montgomery and carried unanimously.

Mr. Sockman moved to accept the voluntary resignation of Officer #32, seconded by Mr. Montgomery and carried unanimously.

**BOROUGH ENGINEER'S REPORT:**

Mr. Glister stated the Borough may have to provide another emergency repair on the Lick Run sanitary interceptor. Mr. Glister said he does not have all the information yet, but it does not look as if it is as bad as the issue earlier in the year.

**FINANCE OFFICER/TREASURER:**

Mr. Bennett stated a Budget Committee meeting will need to be scheduled to finalize the budget so it may be voted on in December and he will send out dates for consideration. Mr. Bennett wished everyone a safe, healthy and happy Thanksgiving weekend.

**POLICE CHIEF'S REPORT:**

Chief Roach thanked Council for the conditional offer to John O'Connor and expressed he feels Mr. O'Connor will be an exceptional candidate to serve the Borough.

**MAYOR'S REPORT:**

Mayor Cmar expressed Monday, November 26 from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. is the Holiday Celebration Night in the Borough. The police department is having a gift and gift card drive for needy families in the community. Please drop off donations at the police department between 8:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. until December 15.

## GENERAL BUSINESS:

Mr. Montgomery stated the salt supply is not as good as he was originally told and there is a major salt shortage to the north due to a salt mine fire under Lake Erie. Mr. Bennett commented the Borough anticipates receiving another load of salt just before the end of the year, which will put the Borough in a decent position, but understands there is a shortage overall.

Mr. Sockman stated the Recreation Committee asked him to announce that the community center public input meeting has been moved to January 16. President King asked what the time would be. Mr. Sockman replied he was not given a time, but would probably be about 7:00 p.m.

Mr. Sockman thanked Karen Bucy for her comments on civility and is something Council needs to keep in mind. Mr. Sockman also thanked Ms. Bucy for volunteering her time.

Mr. Sockman asked Mr. Bennett if there was any information about adding the oil cooler to the elevator. Mr. Bennett replied that it will be done, but not by November 26. Vice President Weber commented, because of the age of the elevator, maybe a more comprehensive analysis should be done. Vice President Weber stated the Borough does not want to pay for a band aid now and find out within twenty-four (24) months the elevator will need completely replaced.

Mrs. Ielase expressed she wanted to revise a comment she made at Wednesday night's meeting when she said her son was on a firetruck at twelve (12) years old. He joined with Andrew Tomer when he was fourteen (14). As a Council, the fire hall situation can be worked out if everyone puts the safety of the citizens first. Mrs. Ielase stated she has always been for the consolidation, but, somewhere along the lines, communication has broken down because Gill Hall VFC has done what they have done. Please take a step back and start communicating again.

Vice President Weber stated the fire companies have been working on a Task Force since January 4 when Council commissioned them and Mr. Thatcher has come to the podium on multiple occasions over many months and addressed the progress of the Task Force. Within a month, the Task Force had an organizational chart to which all three (3) companies agreed. Then, job descriptions for line officers were done which were a product of all three (3) companies working together. In July/August, the Task Force provided Council with bylaws, which were also a product of all three (3) companies working together. The question brought up by the Task Force is were all three (3) companies working together in good faith. Vice President Weber said there are two (2) companies that are willing to consolidate and understand the benefit, but he was told there is a certain group at Gill Hall VFC that is being obstructive of the consolidation. Council does not know the reason why Gill Hall VFC is opposed to the consolidation because the reason has not been provided even when Mr. Sockman asked for it to be documented. Vice President Weber asked Mrs. Ielase, Mr. Montgomery, Mrs. Reynolds, President King and Mr. Khalil if Gill Hall VFC has told them the reason why they do not want to consolidate and everyone replied no. Vice President Weber stated he believes Council made a mistake in giving Gill Hall VFC more money than they should have tonight.

Vice President Weber acknowledged the Library for being awarded the Gold Star in October, which is the highest level of the Pennsylvania Library Association and is an award that

culminates in a one-year effort by the library to meet a series of benchmarks that highlights their achievements in program services and resources to the residents of this community in areas of basic information, civil social health and financial literacy. Only 70 libraries of Pennsylvania's 456 libraries achieved the award this year. The library had a small function just before tonight's meeting with light refreshments and an opportunity to speak with the librarian and the directors and board. Vice President Weber stated this is a tremendous achievement and they are a benchmark for doing it right. Vice President Weber commented he is happy to report that the library will get increased funding for 2019. It is well deserved.

Vice President Weber welcomed Officer O'Connor and will work closely with Chief Roach to provide a few more new hires. Council has made the commitment to Chief Roach to get the staffing to the level that he feels is reasonable.

Vice President Weber asked Mrs. Ielase if the School Board was aware that she was a representative of Council and she replied yes. Mrs. Ielase said she did get the answer for when the high school would be open, but forgot to mention it will be sometime after the new year, most likely the end of February. Vice President Weber stated, in the School Board meeting report, the Board adopted Resolution No. 366-18 Opposing the Proposed Amendment of the Zoning Ordinance Repealing the Oil and Gas Overlay District and Authorizing Superintendent and Administration to Communicate the Board's Position and Concerns to the Elected Officials of the Borough of Jefferson Hills. Mrs. Ielase stated she mentioned that when she spoke on Wednesday. Vice President Weber expressed that is incredibly important for Council to know and he asked that Council acknowledge this and perhaps, if it is Council's will, to have Mr. Bennett respond that Council is willing to work with the School District if they have a concern about the overlay because Council needs to be in communication with them. Vice President Weber asked Mrs. Ielase to keep Council posted on this matter.

Vice President Weber stated he believes the Borough needs to educate the community regarding the pricing adjustment and the new recycling restrictions and asked Mr. Bennett if that was something that was planned for the month of December. Mr. Bennett replied yes that is planned once the resolution is passed in December and will put something on the website as well.

Vice President Weber expressed his gratitude to Veterans in observance of Veterans Day and the service at the high school was phenomenal.

Mr. Khalil reviewed the audit report for the 2017 budget and there was a healthy increase in the fund balance. Mr. Khalil thanked Mr. Bennett and everyone for their hard work.

Mr. Khalil stated he knows the intention for sewer increases is five (5) years, but would like to see the sewer increases cut back. Mr. Bennett commented something to keep an eye on with the sewer revenue fund is the possibility of the Clairton Municipal Authority project, which will cause an increase. There is a meeting with the DEP on Friday, November 16 regarding this.

Mrs. Reynolds thanked the residents that came to the meeting tonight and wished everyone a joyous and blessed Thanksgiving.

President King wished a happy and safe Thanksgiving to everyone.

ADJOURNMENT:

Mr. Montgomery moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:34 p.m., seconded by Mr. Sockman and carried unanimously.

Charles W. Bennett  
Secretary/Interim Borough Manager