

Borough of Jefferson Hills
Agenda Meeting of Council
October 4, 2017

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

1. Pledge of Allegiance
2. Roll Call
3. Citizen/Taxpayer Comments

Julianne Sprites of 609 Old Clairton Road expressed her concern with the Old Colonial Drive-in property and part of the Practice T property being sold to UPMC to build a cancer center. Ms. Sprites presented this in August as well and, again, wanted to know why the citizens aren't being informed and why Council knew nothing about it. Mr. Khalil responded that he had chaired the August meeting and explained that there was no discussion at that time with UPMC. UPMC has not come to Council to make any type of a vote. There is a process and UPMC is going through that process preliminarily. When the item is brought to Council for vote, it will be on the Agenda and the public will be able to make comments.

4. Report from Borough Boards and Commissions

A) Jim Kingsley, Library Board, provided the following information:

- PA State Department of Education provided an \$800 grant to use for materials and supplies to be incorporated into STEM related activities that can be incorporated into a story line.
- The removal of the recycling bin is still ongoing. The company is not responding well.
- The Library Fall Festival by the Historical Society is on Saturday, October 14 between 1:00 and 5:00 p.m. Twenty-five crafters have signed up for the event so far.
- The Library will be closed on October 9 in observance of Columbus Day.
- Revisit the parking lot lighting issue. It seems the lights are being blocked by nearby trees. Mr. Weber commented that someone will take a look at this.

B) Holly Rubinoff, Recreation Board:

- The Recreation Board had their meeting last night and are compiling the list for next year's budget.

- Mr. Khalil added that there was a preliminary discussion with the school regarding the possibility of a Community Center in the Borough. The school district's comprehensive plan should be completed by January of 2018 and they should then have some good information about what will be done with the high school. The high school appears to be the ideal location if we do move forward with a Community Center. Another comprehensive plan for the community and a recreational comprehensive plan will need to be completed as the previous plan is approaching ten years old and the new plan would help determine whether this is something the community wants.

5. Motion to approve minutes of agenda meeting September 6, 2017
6. Motion to approve minutes of regular meeting September 11, 2017
7. Motion to approve the monthly bills
8. Motion to approve the monthly payrolls
9. Motion to enact Ordinance No. 864 regarding the PENNVEST application through the Local Government Unit Debt Act

Mr. Shimko stated the Borough's bond counsel and he have asked the Borough to pull this from the Agenda and not enact on Monday night. PENNVEST is claiming that a particular debt obligation document qualifies as a guaranteed revenue note and neither he nor Borough's bond counsel is certain or comfortable this is the case.

10. Motion to adopt Resolution No. 24-2017 directing distribution of the Borough's allocation of General Municipal Pension System State Aid for 2017 in the amount of \$224,824.41 as follows: Police Pension Fund \$146,824.11, Service Employees Union Pension Fund \$64,235.55, Administrative Pension Plan \$13,764.75
11. Motion to ratify the issuance of seven (7) Street Opening Permits to Verizon for the purpose of growth and facilities upgrades along Timber Lane, Hidden Oak Drive, Acorn Lane, Shag Bark Court, Southwood Drive, Andrew Drive, Aber Drive, Shellbark Street, Towne Hall Entrance, Majestic Drive, Stevens Ridge Drive, Wanda Lane, Council Place, Providence Drive, McKinley Drive, Cherrywood Drive, Ridgewood Drive, and Willem Drive
12. Motion to approve Application for Payment No. 1 and Final for State Pipe Services, Inc. in the amount of \$19,400.00 for the SHACOG Sanitary Sewer Lining – Year 11 Contract, subject to the receipt of an invoice from SHACOG
13. Motion to approve Payment Application No. 1 to State Pipe Services Inc. for the 2017 Manhole Rehab Project in the amount of \$33,966.00

14. Motion to approve additional Work Authorization dated September 21, 2017 from Gateway Engineers, Inc. for additional work needed to finalize and advertise for bid documents for the West Elizabeth Sewershed Act 537 Plan in an amount not to exceed \$15,000.00
15. Motion to approve additional Work Authorization dated September 28, 2017 from Gateway Engineers, Inc. for construction administration and inspection and the Growing Greener Grant closeout for Peters Creek Phase 5 Project in an amount not to exceed \$10,000.00
16. Motion to approve Payment Application No. 1 to Insight Pipe Contracting, LLC for the Jefferson Estates Sanitary Rehabilitation and Repair Project in the amount of \$94,823.97
17. Motion to accept the proposal from RAM Industrial Services, LLC in the amount of \$8,143.00 for the repair of the Back-up/Spare Pump for the 4th Street Pump Station
18. Motion to accept the proposal from RAM Industrial Services, LLC in the amount of \$3,988.18 to furnish and install one (1) 8” Gate Value Replacement for the 4th Street Pump Station
19. Discuss Property Maintenance Board of Appeals

Ms. Levander stated it was recently learned that the Borough does not have a Property Maintenance Board of Appeals for the Property Maintenance Ordinance. A Board needs to be appointed by Council and an appeal fee needs to be set. A copy of the Ordinance has been provided. Mr. Shimko recommended past Public Works employees who still live in the Borough for the Board. The appeal fee would need to be passed by Resolution.

20. Discuss Work Authorization dated September 28, 2017 from Gateway Engineers, Inc. to assist with the preparation of an application for a Green Light Go Grant for upgrades to the traffic signal at the intersection SR 837 and Walton Road

Mr. Khalil stated spending between \$40,000.00 and \$50,000.00 for one light doesn't seem reasonable. Mr. Montgomery asked if it was required to be replaced. Mr. Minsterman replied it is only required to be replaced if it is malfunctioning and right now it is not malfunctioning. The opportunity is 80 cents on the dollar with this Grant and this is the last year for the Green Light Go Grant. Mr. Minsterman explained that the condition of this light is the worst in the Borough and will need to be replaced at some point. Without the Grant, the cost to replace the light will be \$200,000.00 to \$250,000.00. Mr. Weber instructed that this item be placed on the Agenda for Monday.

21. Discuss Waterman Road Guiderail Bids (Bid opening 10:00 a.m. on 10/2/2017, recommendation letter was provided on 10/4/2017)

Mr. Minsterman stated that the bids came in approximately \$6,500.00 more than estimated. We estimated \$33,000.00 to install this guiderail and the bid came in at \$39,500.00. Mr. Minsterman added that contractors are busy at this time and only one bid was received. It can be rebid in the spring to try and bring the amount down, but the guiderail will be at sub-height while we are waiting. Mr. Montgomery asked if Mr. Bennett

could verify this would be covered in the budget. Mr. Bennett stated the budget would be able to cover this cost if Council desires. Mr. Weber instructed that this item be placed on the Agenda for Monday.

22. Discuss report of the Feasibility Study of Consolidation of Fire Services

Mr. Sockman stated he had attended several meetings with Mr. Khalil and members of the fire departments and he feels that some hard, fast decisions need to be made so we can move on, but believes we are pretty close. Mr. Khalil stated there was a vote at one of the meetings as to whether to move forward with Chief Sohyda's study and four (4) votes were to move forward with the study as is and seven (7) votes were to not move forward. Mr. Khalil stated he then asked all of those who voted against the study to provide a report outlining budgetary items, apparatus, personnel, etc. Mr. Khalil stated no reports were received. Mr. Khalil also stated that he asked everyone at the meeting if they were satisfied with the service that is currently being provided at this time and no one voted yes. Everyone said they are deficient. Mr. Khalil stated that he disagrees with Mr. Sockman and feels we are light years away from a decision. Mr. Khalil asked Council if they would provide their opinions about the consolidation. Mr. Sockman stated he is in favor of three (3) fire stations and not putting money into the Large Fire Station. Mr. Weber stated the study is very compelling and he would like to have more conversations with Mr. Khalil and Mr. Sockman. Mr. Weber also stated that the study talks about distribution of taxpayer funds and that 2007 General Assembly of Pennsylvania House Bill 1133 states the Borough must require the fire companies to submit an annual financial accounting of all funds received from the Borough before allocating funds for the next year. Mr. Weber asked Ms. Levander to form a letter that the Borough will need an accounting before allocating the funds this year. Mrs. Ielase stated she believes the Borough needs three (3) stations and a head committee to keep them on financial budget. Mr. Weber, Mr. Khalil and Mr. Sockman formed a subcommittee for the fire services consolidation. Mr. Weber asked that when meetings are set up to please include Mayor Cmar since she is the direct report for police, fire and EMS.

23. Reports

Consulting Engineer Mr. Minsterman reported:

- Request from PENNVEST for a pre-application meeting for the CMA 537 Project on October 25, 2017 at 10:30 a.m. at the DEP Office.

Finance Officer/Treasurer Mr. Bennett reported:

- The 2018 budget season has begun and we had our first meeting last week.
- Capital Improvements will need to be prioritized after Monday night's Engineering Committee meeting.
- Another budget meeting will need to be scheduled in October.

Public Works Director Mr. Volpe reported:

- The basketball courts have been completed at Gill Hall.
- The paving and restoration of the new pickle ball court has been completed.

- Most of the in-house paving on West Bruceton and Third Street has been done.
- Roof leaks at the Borough Building and Public Works Building are being addressed.

Police Chief Roach reported:

- The police officer entry level testing is complete and Civil Service certified a new eligibility list.
- Two (2) officers have been assigned to run background investigations.
- Shortly into November he will have candidates to Council to recommend for hiring.

Manager Levander reported:

- A payment application was received for Roach Brothers. Council approved adding this to the Agenda for Monday.
- Two (2) change orders were also received from the Architect for Roach Brothers. Council approved adding these to the Agenda for Monday.
- The Winter Traffic Services Agreement with PennDOT will be changed to add .6 miles. A Resolution will need to be passed regarding the change.
- The engineering position has not yet been advertised, but she will do so.
- The rainwater runoff situation presented by George Pholar last month has been reviewed by Gateway and a memo has been provided. Mr. Weber asked that a letter be sent to Mr. Pholar with a synopsis of the Gateway findings.
- Last year the number of water shut-offs for delinquent sewer bills was increased from one (1) to three (3) times per year. It was reported that the third shut off was just completed and we only had twenty-six (26) certified letters to send; normally there are hundreds. Increasing the water shut-off has really made a difference.

Mayor Cmar reported:

- Jane Milner, Coordinator of Community Relations, asked to remind you if anyone has events coming up to let her know so that she can put them in In Community Magazine.
- The annual Fall Festival is on October 14 from 1:00 p.m. -5:00 p.m.
- Gill Hall Fire Hall has a buffet and comedian on October 14 doors open at 6:00 p.m.
- Floreffe Ladies Auxiliary is having a spaghetti dinner on October 28 from 3:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

24. General Business

Mr. Montgomery noted:

- The SHACOG fire departments met in August and continued emphasis on training, discussed recruiting, retention and other common departmental issues.
- The SHACOG Technical Rescue Team had intense focus on training.
- SHACOG will have a meeting with the public works representatives regarding rock salt purchasing on October 19.
- Bid openings for SHACOG Fall Commodities took place on September 25.
- The next major SHACOG bids will be police and passenger vehicles, which are due October 6.
- The SHACOG Public Works Advisory Committee met September 5 exploring mutual aid agreements.
- SHACOG joint paving meeting will be on October 13.
- SHACOG joint bid for the solid waste collection and disposal is a work in progress and is a very complex undertaking.
- The SHACOG Franchising Authority Program had an initial meeting last week with the Cohen Law Group to negotiate the renewal of a franchise agreement with Verizon.
- No bids were received for the ADA Wheelchair Lift at Gill Hall Park. This will be rebid.
- CD 44 – there were twelve (12) submissions to SHACOG for review and four (4) of them were ours. Not sure if this will survive the budget process because it has no support.
- Attended a meeting with the Clairton Municipal Authority and found that there will be a \$12.2 M increase in costs on its sewage treatment plant construction. This was the first time this has been mentioned.
- The new minister at Jefferson United Methodist Church, Cindy Bloise, contacted me and offered to assist in any type of opioid program if we decide to have one.
- The local pickle ball players have offered their services to teach the rules of pickle ball to anyone interested.

Mr. Sockman noted:

- Last month Chief Roach indicated that there were some issues regarding Gill Hall and Ridge Road where there was water seepage. There are markings on the road indicating upcoming work and, in talking to Mr. Volpe, we found that the state will look into some of the other sinking issues on Ridge Road as well.

Mr. Khalil noted:

- He had received Chief Pascoe's report regarding the consolidation of the EMS and distributed it to Council.
- Last December an email was sent to the fire chiefs regarding the relief distribution and setting some criteria for the point-rating system. Mr. Khalil asked if we should task each department with supplying this criteria or should we just use Chief Sohyda's report. If we would like the departments to supply this, it may take a little time. Mr. Weber suggested waiting until after having some meetings with the fire companies.
- Would like to start looking into preparing a comprehensive plan in 2018. Mr. Montgomery stated that there is a requirement to wait ten (10) years since the last plan. Mr. Shimko stated that there is a funding consideration and the Borough would have to follow the eligibility time lines for the grant if it is still available.

Mr. Weber noted:

- A plan needs to be put together regarding what type of tax credit the Borough can offer for volunteer firefighters and emergency responders through Act 172.
- In thinking about meeting with the fire chiefs, maybe there is someone who can be asked to attend the meetings that would be a type of mediator to help with getting a resolution. If anyone knows of someone in this capacity, please provide this information to Council.

25. Adjournment

Mr. Weber adjourned the meeting at 9:03 p.m. with an executive session to follow from which Council would not return on motion by Mr. Khalil, seconded by Mr. Sockman and carried unanimously.

26. Executive Session – Personnel, Labor, Real Estate, Legal, Privileged, Legally Confidential and/or Legal Investigatory Matters

Tricia Levander
Borough Manager