

Borough of Jefferson Hills
Regular Meeting of Council
July 9, 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, Sockman, Vice President Weber and President King answered to roll call. Finance Officer Bennett, Solicitor Shimko, Chief Roach, Borough Engineer Glister and Public Works Director Volpe were also present. Council Member Reynolds was absent.

CITIZENS/TAXPAYERS COMMENTS:

Max Stanton, of 1348 Walton Road, stated he no longer wanted to speak regarding a driveway access bridge at 3035 Walton Road that was replaced with a pipe and stone culvert crossing because Mr. Glister relayed to him before the meeting that the Borough was already aware of the situation.

Ernie Stevens, of 2063 Old Clairton Road, stated he had removed one hundred twenty tires from the drain near his home where nine (9) feet of water and silt had collected because of the tires. Mr. Stevens requested to have workers from the Borough pick up the tires that are along the creek bed near his property so that they will not go back into the creek and cause an overflow again when there is heavy rain. Vice President Weber asked if Mr. Stevens knew from where these tires came and if there was a property owner responsible. Mr. Stevens responded he believed the tires came from a property on Vine Street and the property owner is deceased. President King stated this needs to be handled quickly and asked Mr. Stevens if it was okay to have Mr. Volpe and Mr. Glister get back to him. Mr. Stevens stated he did not know if he could file for any type of compensation for the cleaning he did and feels he should not be responsible to do so. Mr. Khalil offered that he would give Mr. Stevens the contact information for Andrew Tomer, who is Emergency Management for the County, and Mr. Tomer may be able to provide information for funding through FEMA. President King stated, if there is a problem with a Borough street, the Borough needs to fix that. Vice President Weber suggested Council direct Mr. Glister and Mr. Reis, the Borough Building Official/Code Enforcement Officer, to survey the area and make a recommendation. President King asked Mr. Volpe to remove the rest of the tires from the area.

George Pholar, of 309 Joan of Arc Court, stated he and other residents of Joan of Arc Court are having flooding issues because the Gill Hall Road properties above them have water flowing from downspouts and driveways over the hill onto their properties. Mr. Pholar stated he proposed that the Borough build a swale last year, but the request was denied due to the fact that it is private property. President King asked if Mr. Pholar could get the video he has put on a flash drive and provide it to Council and, if there is something the Borough can do or enforce, it will absolutely do so. Vice President Weber stated he feels this is another instance where Mr. Glister and Mr. Reis should review this situation.

Karen Bucy, of 410 Deer Park W. Drive, stated she had asked about vacancy postings for the Planning Commission and the Zoning Hearing Board at the last meeting and asked if the expiration

date could be added to the information on the website and if a letter could be mailed to anyone applying for these positions letting them know their application/resume was received and will be reviewed. President King stated Council will take this into consideration. Ms. Bucy asked, regarding the Feasibility Study for the fire hall merger, how the public can make an informed decision if all the costs are not listed in the study. President King responded it is still in its infancy stages and we are not at that point yet so we do not yet know what all those costs will be. President King stated Council does not even know if the Task Force assigned to this issue will even be making a recommendation to go in a specific direction. Ms. Bucy asked what the purpose of the Feasibility Study was. Mr. Khalil replied this is a working document and the numbers are estimates. Mr. Khalil stated there will not be concrete numbers until this comes to validity and we are moving forward. Mr. Khalil stated it is unreasonable to expect specific numbers as to how this will play out in a year or so and the Feasibility Study is merely a guide to help with the initial decision. Vice President Weber stated the three (3) fire companies came to Council requesting the Feasibility Study to find out what their resources were, what call volumes were to see if efficiencies and safety for the community as well as the fire fighters could be improved. Vice President Weber stated, in reading the study, there is a hugely disproportionate response in this Borough from the different fire departments and one (1) of the goals is to increase training and participation so that every resident, regardless of their location in the Borough, will receive adequate fire protection and every firefighter who responds will have adequate training.

MINUTES:

Vice President Weber moved the minutes of the agenda meeting June 6, 2018 be approved, seconded by Mr. Sockman and carried unanimously.

Mrs. Ielase moved the minutes of regular meeting June 11, 2018 be approved, seconded by Mr. Montgomery and carried unanimously.

MONTHLY BILLS:

Mr. Sockman moved the June bills be approved, seconded by Mr. Khalil and carried unanimously.

MONTHLY PAYROLLS:

Mrs. Ielase moved the payrolls for the month of June in the amount of \$380,510.99 be approved, seconded by Vice President Weber and carried unanimously.

AGENDA ITEMS:

Mr. Sockman moved to enact Ordinance No. 869 Pursuant to the Borough Code and Eminent Domain Code to authorize the filing of a Declaration of Taking in order to acquire an easement interest in the land now or formerly of William, Edward, John and Charles Wilson and Emily Pauls (Block and Lot No. 1135-J-112) for the purpose of constructing, operating and maintaining a sewer line, seconded by Mr. Montgomery and carried unanimously.

Vice President Weber moved to adopt Resolution No. 20-2018 granting modification requests to the Borough Subdivision and Land Development Ordinance Sections 22.609.1, 22.609.2, 22.609.10 and 22.610.2 and final approval to the Subdivision Plan known as S-4-2018, Hunters Preserve Plan No. 1 Subdivision located West Bruceton Road (Block and Lot No. 563-H-410), seconded by Mr. Montgomery and carried unanimously.

Mrs. Ielase moved to ratify award of contract to Charles Swenglish & Sons in the amount of \$35,800.00 for the Pennsylvania DEP Stream Improvement Program Grant with funding to be provided by DEP and requiring no Borough match or reimbursement, seconded by Mr. Montgomery and carried unanimously.

Mr. Khalil moved to approve Payment of Invoice 18-319 from Test Boring Services, Inc. in the amount of \$4,874.00 for the Jefferson Hills/West Elizabeth Sewershed ACT 537 Plan Capital Improvements Project, seconded by Vice President Weber and carried unanimously.

Mrs. Ielase moved to approve Application for Payment No. 1 and Final to Soli Construction, Inc. in the amount of \$12,592.50 for the Peters Creek Emergency Repair Project, seconded by Mr. Sockman and carried unanimously.

Mrs. Ielase moved to approve Application for Payment No. 1 to Mele & Mele & Sons, Inc. in the amount of \$574,458.39 for the 2018 Paving Program, seconded by Mr. Montgomery and carried unanimously.

Mr. Khalil moved to approve Application for Payment No. 5 from Global Heavy Corporation in the amount of \$172,350.00 for work completed on the Jefferson Hills/West Elizabeth Sewershed ACT 537 Plan Capital Improvements Project Contract A, seconded by Vice President Weber and carried unanimously.

Mr. Sockman moved to approve Application for Payment No 3 from Jet Jack, Inc. in the amount of \$205,770.15 for work completed on the Jefferson Hills/West Elizabeth Sewershed ACT 537 Plan Capital Improvements Project Contract C, seconded by Mr. Montgomery and carried unanimously.

Vice President Weber moved to approve Application for Payment No 3 from Jet Jack, Inc. in the amount of \$342,640.53 for work completed on the Jefferson Hills/West Elizabeth Sewershed ACT 537 Plan Capital Improvements Project Contract D, seconded by Mr. Khalil and carried unanimously.

Mr. Montgomery moved to approve Work Authorization dated June 27, 2018 from Gateway Engineers, Inc. for general engineering and consulting services within the Borough in the amount not to exceed \$10,000.00, seconded by Mr. Khalil and carried unanimously.

Vice President Weber moved to reject the low bid of \$125,000.00 plus cost plus methodology from Richard Goettle, Inc. for the Waterman Road Slope Stabilization Project as the bid amount and work proposed is not quantifiable per the conditions of the contract, seconded by Mr. Khalil and carried unanimously.

Mrs. Ielase moved to approve the award of a contract to Geobuild, LLC in the amount of \$352,500.00 for the Waterman Road Slope Stabilization Project, seconded by Vice President Weber and carried unanimously.

Mr. Sockman moved to approve purchase of a power broom attachment for the Bobcat skid loader in the amount of \$4,739.60 under PA COSTARS State Contract Number 4400011419, seconded by Mr. Khalil and carried unanimously.

Mr. Sockman moved to approve purchase of a 2018 Polaris All-Terrain Vehicle, Model, Ranger XP 900, from Moody Sales of Mars PA in the amount of \$10,439.00, seconded by Mrs. Ielase and carried unanimously.

BOROUGH ENGINEER'S REPORT:

Mr. Glister noted, regarding the Gill Hall Park ADA chair lift and door project and change order discussed at the last meeting, the cost for replacing railings outside the scope of the original contract is approximately \$2,900.00. Mr. Glister stated he does not recommend this change order at this time because it is only an aesthetic change and the cost in the future would likely be similar or even less. Mr. Khalil asked if it were possible to negotiate and, if not, he stated he was fine in delaying it, but would like to see it completed. Vice President Weber stated, if it is structurally sound and will not need replaced for five (5) or ten (10) years, he is also fine with waiting, but also likes the idea of a counteroffer. Vice President Weber asked Mr. Glister if he could provide some more definite numbers for an estimated cost. Mr. Sockman asked Mr. Glister what the cost was for just the railings. Mr. Glister responded he did not know. President King asked Mr. Glister to provide the contractor's response to negotiating a counteroffer.

PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

Nothing to report.

POLICE CHIEF'S REPORT:

Chief Roach stated Officer Gawlas announced his retirement date of July 25, 2018 after twenty-eight (28) years of service.

FINANCE OFFICER/TREASURER:

Mr. Bennett noted Summer Camp is going on at Gill Hall and 885 Parks and is a successful program in the community.

Mr. Bennett stated the Borough received a non-matching grant from the Redevelopment Authority of Allegheny County for seven thousand dollars (\$7,000.00) regarding improvements on the Montour Trail.

Mr. Bennett reminded everyone that UPMC will be holding a public information meeting on Thursday, July 26, 2018 from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. at the Municipal Building.

MAYOR'S REPORT:

Mayor Cmar recognized Chief Roach and the Borough police department for the safety provided to our community. Mayor Cmar stated while attending St. Thomas A'Becket fair, she received many compliments regarding the Borough's Public Works department and would like to pass that along.

Mayor Cmar stated she is working with Jefferson Hospital's Behavioral Department to provide a program on mental health for the Borough residents.

GENERAL BUSINESS:

Mr. Montgomery noted Council is in receipt of a letter from Keith Polick requesting appointment to the Planning Commission. Mr. Montgomery motioned to appoint Mr. Polick to the Planning Commission, seconded by Mr. Sockman and carried unanimously.

Mr. Montgomery also noted he received an email from Representative Saccone's office regarding a potential grant opportunity called Keystone Community Grant for neighborhood rehabilitation, including road and sewer infrastructure, planning and paving in distressed areas. Mr. Montgomery asked if this is something the Borough would want to apply for and stated the application has to be submitted by the end of August. President King said yes and asked Mr. Montgomery to get the information to Mr. Bennett.

Mr. Montgomery thanked Council for supporting the Pickle Ball Court.

Mr. Sockman noted he had the opportunity to travel on Waterman Road West and, even though it is a temporary fix until the stabilization is complete, it is very much improved.

Vice President Weber asked if any progress has been made on the cell tower lease from Md7, acting on behalf of T-Mobile discussed at the last meeting. Mr. Bennett responded he has left a message and received a message back, but, unfortunately, has not been able to speak with anyone as of yet. Mr. Bennett stated he should have something to discuss next month.

Vice President Weber asked Brian Chalfant if he would come forward and address Council. Vice President Weber stated, based on Council's last meeting, there was some concern about swift water rescue events that occurred in the Borough, not only this year, but last year as well. Vice President Weber noted Council received some swift water rescue apparatus cost proposals from Jefferson Fire Rescue for consideration and he asked Mr. Chalfant to share why this would be an important asset/apparatus to have in the community. Mr. Chalfant stated on June 11 the Borough had a swift water rescue situation where volunteer firefighters were called upon to rescue someone who tried to drive through about five (5) feet of water where a father and two (2) daughters being swept away in a pickup truck. All three (3) fire companies responded, but were not able to get to them because none have swift water training or equipment. Mr. Chalfant stated they had radioed

911 for a swift water team, but none were available because they were in Bridgeville, where flooding was also occurring. Fortunately, the water receded and the father was able to rescue himself and his two (2) daughters. Mr. Chalfant stated he felt helpless and does not want this to happen again. Mr. Chalfant said he has members that want to train and would like to get the equipment. Mr. Chalfant explained the invoices provided to Council for consideration of supporting Jefferson Fire Rescue will provide training and equipment for eight (8) individuals to be swift water trained and ready. Vice President Weber stated Mr. Chalfant discussed this with the Task Force and appropriate leadership of the fire companies and Mr. Chalfant made it clear to him that he was making this request on behalf of all three (3) fire companies. Vice President Weber motioned to appropriate \$31,978.70 to Jefferson Fire Rescue earmarked for the purchase of the swift water rescue equipment, seconded by Mr. Sockman. President King asked Mr. Bennett to explain where this money may be acquired. Mr. Bennett explained there are capital improvements budgeted throughout the year that we may or may not use all of the funding in those programs. Mr. Bennett stated there is a line item for General Administration Equipment that has not been used yet and is usually reserved for unforeseen capital expenses throughout the year and he believes this is a good use for that. Mr. Bennett continued to say there are also some reserves in the budget that may also be drawn on as well for this worthwhile expense. Mr. Sockman asked if that amount was the total to get started. Mr. Chalfant responded that will put eight (8) rescuers in a complete outfit, have technician level training and provide a boat, motor and trailer. Mr. Chalfant also stated ice rescue training will also be done to provide winter water rescue as needed. Mr. Sockman asked if there was any way to entice more fire fighters to get this training. Mr. Chalfant responded he hopes that more will want to be trained once this gets started. The motion was carried unanimously.

Vice President Weber thanked Mr. Polick for requesting to be on the Planning Commission and congratulated him on his appointment.

ADJOURNMENT:

Mr. Sockman moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:10 p.m., seconded by Mrs. Ielase and carried unanimously.

Charles W. Bennett
Secretary/Interim Borough Manager