

Borough of Jefferson Hills
Regular Meeting of Council
November 13, 2017

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. Borough Manager Levander, Finance Officer Bennett, Solicitor Shimko, Chief Roach, Consulting Engineer Todd and Public Works Director Volpe were also present. President King wished everyone a belated Veteran's Day.

CITIZENS/TAXPAYERS COMMENTS:

George Moresea, Jr. of 1203 Walton Road spoke against closing the Floreffe Fire Hall.

Deb Tritt of 100 Neilson Drive discussed the change in distribution of the PA Foreign Fire Insurance allocation. Mr. Khalil explained that in a meeting with all three fire departments, it was agreed that the work being done by each fire department was disproportionate and the distribution would correlate with that conclusion.

Sue Mackulin of 1376 Third Street questioned if any decision was made regarding the fire departments.

Michael Siemon of 1155 Alice Avenue stated his support for the fire hall consolidation, but feels as though the fire halls should be given a chance to meet the requirements expected. Mr. Siemon also commented that the Foreign Fire Insurance Allocation should be done according to percent of population in their area.

Mike Walker of 116 Tangelo Drive stated that he feels Council is too involved with the fire hall consolidations and that the fire halls should resolve this on their own.

Calvin Felix of 1228 Gill Hall Road, President and Assistant Chief of Gill Hall VFC, spoke against the uneven distribution of the PA Foreign Fire Insurance allocation and stated that the Fire Chief will have to find some way to make up for the lack of funds.

Larry Bucar of 733 Waterman Road discussed keeping all three fire departments as their own entities and is against the consolidation.

Keith Reynolds of 1313 Collins Avenue volunteered his service for the task force being assembled for the consolidation of fire halls. Mr. Reynolds apologized for his language at the last meeting. Mr. Reynolds wanted to know why he was not permitted to visit Beedle Park to check the progress. President King reminded Mr. Reynolds that he was instructed to contact the Recreation Board if he had any concerns with the work being done at Beedle Park.

MINUTES:

Vice President Weber moved the minutes of the agenda meeting October 4, 2017 be approved, seconded by Mr. Khalil and carried unanimously.

Mr. Montgomery moved the minutes of regular meeting October 9, 2017 be approved, seconded by Mr. Sockman. Mr. Khalil asked that a correction be made to the minutes and they be tabled until next month. Vice President Weber moved to table the minutes for vote next month, seconded by Mr. Sockman and carried unanimously.

MONTHLY BILLS:

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

MONTHLY PAYROLLS:

Mrs. Ielase moved the payrolls for the month of October in the amount of \$214,910.59 be approved, seconded by Mr. Sockman and carried unanimously.

AGENDA ITEMS:

Vice President Weber moved to tentatively adopt the proposed 2018 Borough Budget, seconded by Mr. Khalil and carried unanimously.

Mr. Sockman moved to enact Ordinance No. 864 regarding the PENNVEST application through the Local Government Unit Debt Act, seconded by Mr. Montgomery and carried unanimously.

Mrs. Ielase moved to adopt Resolution No. 27-2017 granting modification request to the Borough Subdivision and Land Development Ordinance Section 603.3.D and final approval to the Land Development Plan known as S-4-2017 – Betler Plan of Lots, seconded by Mr. Montgomery and carried unanimously.

Mr. Sockman moved to appoint Marcus A. Costanza 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.

Mr. Khalil moved to appoint John B. Haas 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. Sockman and carried unanimously.

Mr. Sockman moved to appoint Nicholas H. Sell 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 Mrs. Ielase and carried unanimously.

Mr. Khalil moved to approve bids for the SHACOG Purchasing Alliance 2017 Fall Commodities, seconded by Vice President Weber and carried unanimously.

Vice President Weber moved to authorize the proper Borough officials to execute the Hardware and Software Support Service Agreements with Edmunds and Associates for the period January 1, 2018 through December 31, 2018 for a cost of \$5,804.00, seconded by Mr. Khalil and carried unanimously.

Mrs. Ielase moved to authorize the proper Borough officials to execute the Memorandum of Understanding between The Allegheny District Attorney and the Borough of Jefferson Hills to comply with the Pennsylvania Legislature-mandated referral of all requests for audio and/or video recordings relating to criminal matters to the District Attorney for review and intervention as necessary to ensure and/or prevent the dissemination of such recordings to protect the integrity of criminal investigations and prosecution, seconded by Mr. Montgomery and carried unanimously.

Mr. Montgomery moved to approve Application for Payment No. 1 and Final from Niando Construction, Inc. in the amount of \$47,456.34 for the SHACOG Sanitary Sewer O&M Point Repairs Project, Year 6 Contract, subject to the receipt of an invoice from SHACOG, seconded by Mrs. Reynolds and carried unanimously.

Mrs. Ielase moved to approve Payment Application No. 2 to State Pipe Services, Inc. for the 2017 Manhole Rehab Project in the amount of \$23,731.92, seconded by Mr. Montgomery and carried unanimously.

Mr. Khalil moved to approve Application for Payment No. 1 from Jet Jack, Inc. in the amount of \$30,346.02 for the SHACOG Sanitary Sewer Lining Project, Year 11 Contract B, subject to the receipt of an invoice from SHACOG, seconded by Mr. Sockman and carried unanimously.

Mr. Khalil moved to approve Payment Application No. 1 to Swede Construction Corporation for work completed on the Beedle Park Baseball Field Improvements Phase 1B Project in the amount of \$37,287.00, seconded by Vice President Weber and carried unanimously.

Mr. Khalil moved to approve Payment Application No. 1 and Final to Russel Standard Corp. for work completed on the 2017 Seal Coating Program in the amount of \$88,835.53, seconded by Mr. Montgomery and carried unanimously.

Mrs. Ielase moved to approve Work Authorization dated October 25, 2017 from Gateway Engineers, Inc. to assist the Borough in providing the needed PENNVEST documentation and requirements and to complete the bid award process for the Jefferson Hills/West Elizabeth Sewershed Act 537 Plan in the amount of \$35,000.00, seconded by Mr. Sockman and carried unanimously.

Vice President Weber moved to approve Work Authorization dated November 3, 2017 from Gateway Engineers, Inc. for the CMA Act 537 Plan work in the amount of \$75,000.00, seconded by Mr. Khalil and carried unanimously.

Mr. Khalil moved authorize the distribution of the Pennsylvania Foreign Fire Insurance allocation in the amount of \$64,929.19 as follows: Jefferson 885 VFC Relief Association (70%) \$45,450.43; Gill Hall VFC Relief Association (23%) \$14,933.71; Floreffe VFC Relief Association (7%) \$4,545.05, seconded by Vice President Weber. A roll call vote was taken. Council members Ielase, Khalil, Montgomery, Sockman, Vice President Weber and President King voted yes. Council member Reynolds voted no. Motion carried 6-1.

Mr. Montgomery moved to approve Application for Payment No. 2 to Roach Brothers in the amount of \$35,852.25 for the Wall Refinishing Project, seconded by Mrs. Ielase and carried unanimously.

Mr. Khalil moved to authorize the Borough to enter into easement agreement with CNX RCPC, LLC in the amount of \$5,000.00 for a 400 ft. x 30 ft. sanitary sewer easement on Block & Lot 1133-K-99 in West Elizabeth Borough as part of the Borough of Jefferson Hills Act 537 Plan Implementation Capital Projects, contingent upon Consulting Engineer and Solicitor approval, seconded by Vice President Weber and carried unanimously.

Mr. Sockman 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 Mr. Montgomery and carried unanimously.

CONSULTING ENGINEER'S REPORT:

Nothing to report.

FINANCE OFFICER/TREASURER:

Mr. Bennett stated the financial statements were provided to Council for the month ending October and it appears that the budget projections are within estimate. Mr. Bennett also stated that the 2018 budget will be advertised and he would like to hold another Budget Committee Meeting between now and December.

PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

Nothing to report.

POLICE CHIEF'S REPORT:

Chief Roach thanked Council for voting to hire the three (3) probationary candidates, congratulated the officer candidates and expressed to the residents of Jefferson Hills that the future officers have much potential and will be great additions to the police force.

MANAGER'S REPORT:

Nothing to report.

MAYOR'S REPORT:

Mrs. Cmar welcomed the three (3) new police officers and reminded everyone that Light Up Night is November 27 at the Borough Building starting at 6:00 p.m.

GENERAL BUSINESS:

Mr. Montgomery welcomed the new police officers. Mr. Montgomery stated he was asked to serve as Vice President of SHACOG and he accepted. His nomination will be next Thursday and will become President of SHACOG in a year.

Mr. Sockman stated he had an opportunity to interview the three (3) new police officer candidates, feels they are outstanding and welcomed them to the Borough. Mr. Sockman also stated he hopes the bipartisan committee will provide the needed help for the fire department consolidation allowing Council to step back.

Mrs. Ielase welcomed the three (3) police officer candidates and wished them good luck.

Vice President Weber stated that he would like to get Act 172, which provides tax relief for emergency responders, instituted in January 2018. Vice President Weber asked for suggestions on how to roll it out and Mr. Montgomery responded he is in agreement with the sample ordinance provided, but felt a provision for fraudulent use should be added. Vice President Weber stated that a public hearing should be scheduled and suggested for Council's consideration that a flat deduction in Earned Income Tax of three hundred dollars (\$300.00) be offered to active members with fifteen percent (15%) or more in call volume with no Property Tax abatement in 2018. President King stated the public hearing would need to occur before December 8. The public meeting was tentatively scheduled for November 30 at 6:00 p.m.

Vice President Weber provided a document titled "The Three Points of Agreement on Volunteer Fire Company Consolidation." Vice President Weber stated the this document outlines the three (3) things that were conceptually agreed to last week: the fire companies will (1) jointly develop a set of rules, regulations, operating guidelines and bylaws; (2) jointly establish minimal training standards, initial and annual training requirements; and (3) operate under the supervision and direction of a fire chief appointed by the Borough. Vice President Weber suggested that a ten (10) member task force should be formed with two (2) active fire fighters from each of the three (3) stations, one (1) or two (2) non-affiliated residents from the Community and two (2) or three (3) Council members. Vice President Weber stated the term active firefighter also needs to be defined, which will be done when passing Act 172. Mr. Sockman asked why should there be Council members on the task force. Mr. Sockman added that he feels the task force should be more broad-based and have more presence from the Community and the firefighters and then make their recommendations to Council. Vice President Weber responded he was in agreement with that, but feels Council should be there as an ear, not necessarily a voice. President King asked for a

consensus from Council to move forward with the basics of Vice President Weber's suggestions. Mrs. Reynolds stated that she would like to think about it, but the rest of Council agreed to move forward.

Vice President Weber also addressed Mr. Reynolds comments regarding being asked to leave Beedle Park when he was there to check the progress. Vice President Weber explained that there is a mechanism that was spelled out very clearly to him in the October meeting and this mechanism needs to be followed. If there are questions, the question should be relayed to the Recreation Board, which will then be brought to Council's attention.

Vice President Weber's final comments were to welcome the new police officers, congratulate them and asked them to please be safe.

Mr. Khalil apologized for comments made and talking about the potential closure of Floreffa Fire Hall at the spaghetti dinner.

Mr. Khalil read parts of a Pittsburgh Post-Gazette article by Anne Cloonan published immediately before the election about the proposed consolidation and pointed out many inaccurate statements made in the article. One statement being that attempts to contact Council were unsuccessful. Mr. Khalil said that he did talk to Ms. Cloonan and commented to have the citizens read the report and come to the Council Meeting on Wednesday.

Mrs. Reynolds stated she feels that Jefferson Fire Rescue wants to become a business adjacent to our community rather than Jefferson Hills. Mrs. Reynolds questioned why Floreffa cannot have some of the paid fire fighters. Mrs. Reynolds stated we should take care of our own more than the other areas. Mrs. Reynolds commented she feels 885 Fire Hall is out to take control.

President King stated he disagrees with Mrs. Reynolds comments and feels the Borough is just trying to make sure that everybody in the community is safe when it comes to fire protection.

George Moresea interrupted from the audience. President King asked Mr. Moresea to refrain from speaking because he did not have the floor. Mr. Moresea continued to interrupt and became belligerent using unacceptable language. President King asked Mr. Moresea to leave the meeting.

President King also stated that ten (10) years ago Council adopted Robert's Rules of Order and wanted everyone to understand that is why we have certain rules that are followed at each meeting.

ADJOURNMENT:

Mr. Sockman moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:43 p.m., seconded by Mr. Montgomery and carried unanimously.

Tricia Levander
Borough Manager