

**Jacobus Borough Council Meeting
January 4th, 2023**

Call to Order

Council President Sandy Sheffer called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Opening Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance

Invocation was offered by Council President Sandy Sheffer and was followed with the Pledge of Allegiance by all present.

Roll Call

Present were Sandy Sheffer, Lance Beard, Jill Conner, Jeff Hammers, Phyllis Bowers, Dawn McElhiney, Donald Wright, Solicitor Sarah Doyle and Mayor Greg Gruendler.

Minutes and Treasurer's Report

- Minutes of December Council Meeting – Donald Wright made a motion to approve the December 2022 Council Meeting Minutes as presented. Motion was seconded by Jeff Hammers. Motion carried unanimously.
- Treasurer's Report – Profit & Loss Statement including bank account balances was reviewed by all present. Donald Wright made a motion to approve the Treasurer's Report as submitted. Motion was seconded by Dawn McElhiney. Motion carried unanimously.

Persons on the Agenda/Public Participation

- Steve Overmiller – Goodwill Fire Company #1
 - Mr. Overmiller reported that the fire company will be holding regular monthly fundraisers for the year. They will be holding Breakfast Buffet every third Sunday of the month and Bingo every first Saturday of the month. In addition, other fundraisers planned for the year include a Consignment Auction on April 15th, a Paint & Enjoy event on April 23rd, the Fourth of July Blast Chicken Barbeque, Labor Day event on September 4th, the Annual Christmas in Loganville on November 18th, and another Paint & Enjoy event on November 26th. This list of activities was circulated to Council, Jeff Hammers made a motion to approve the 2023 events for the Goodwill Fire Company as presented. The motion was seconded by Lance Beard. Motion carried unanimously.
- Earl Click – Jacobus Lions' Ambulance Club
 - Mr. Click presented that the Ambulance Club is currently working on being certified as a non-profit organization. Donald Wright enquired if the Ambulance Club is still facing bill collection issues. Mr. Click reported that the Ambulance Club is able to collect only 35% of bills at best. Jeff Hammers enquired on an estimated cost for an Automated External Defibrillator (AED) for the municipal building. Mr. Click estimates \$2,500 to \$3,000 for a unit. The Fire Company recently purchased a unit for roughly \$1,000.
- Mike Rompilla – resident
 - Mr. Rompilla was present to discuss the proposal he had submitted to Council for a burn ordinance in the Borough. Donald Wright stated that most residents will not be able to support the proposed burn ordinance as written. The example cited was on page seven of the proposal where it states "no fire of any kind shall be permitted which results in smoke". Jeff Hammers agreed that the proposal is written with too strict of terms. The example he cited was that "no fire shall be closer than twenty-five feet from any building or structure and not closer than fifty feet from any adjacent property line". Mathematically, Jeff Hammers states that this will automatically eliminate a third of the properties within the

Borough. Donald Wright also cited that “no burning of any yard waste” will be problematic as the Borough does not contract for leave pick-up. Mr. Rompilla argues that leaves and weeds are major smoke offenders. Donald Wright states that the entire Borough’s needs has to be considered, and not punish an entire community for one neighborly dispute. Lance Beard suggested a “chat” with the neighbor that prompted this proposal. Donald Wright suggested taking a civil action. A motion was made by Jeff Hammers to table the proposed burn ordinance pending further review and discussion. The motion was seconded by Donald Wright. Motion carried unanimously.

Action to be Taken

- **Approve Resolution 2023-1, Fee Schedule for 2023.**
The 2023 Fee Schedule was distributed to Council and Donald Wright made a motion to approve the 2023 Fee Schedule as presented. Motion was seconded by Dawn McElhiney. Motion carried unanimously.

Borough Reports

- **Mayor & Emerg. Mgmt.** - Greg Gruendler presented: *YCRPD report for November 2022 – there were 136.34 police service hours, 21.65 administrative hours, and -80.14 hours running total. There were 25 response calls; *There were no fire police requests.
- **Office/Manager** - *The final annual municipal audit by Hamilton & Musser has been scheduled for January 18th; *Painting for the interior of the municipal building has been projected for January or February, an exact date to be determined by the painter; *Met-Ed had started replacing some of the streetlights with LED lights; *annual Municipal Recycling Report data collection has been initiated.
- **Solicitor** – Attorney Doyle reviewed the current contract with Penn Waste for garbage and recycling. The current contract has an option for renewal for one year based on current prices, which Attorney Doyle recommends. A motion was made by Donald Wright to extend the current contract with Penn Waste for a year. The motion was seconded by Phyllis Bowers. Motion carried unanimously.
- **Streets** – Phyllis Bowers brought to Council’s attention that a road sign at the corner of Pine and Valley Road is bent. Donald Wright will check.
- **Buildings and Grounds** – Lance Beard reported that during the deep freeze over Christmas, thick ice formed at the corner of Nixon and Valley Road. Easy-Dig scraped the ice and cindered the area twice.

Adjournment

A motion was made by Donald Wright to adjourn the meeting at 8:00 p.m. The motion was seconded by Dawn McElhiney. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,
Sue Cheah