

Jacobus Borough Council Meeting July 10th, 2024

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 followed with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Council President called for a moment of silence in memory of the passing of Mayor Greg Gruendler, who passed away on July 2nd 2024.

Roll Call

Present were Sandy Sheffer, Lance Beard, Jill Conner, Phyllis Bowers, Jeff Hammers, Dawn McElhiney and Jason Sabol, Esq. Council Member Donald Wright was absent.

Minutes and Treasurer's Report

- Minutes of June 5th 2024 Council Meeting – Phyllis Bowers made a motion to approve the June 5th, 2024 Council Meeting minutes as presented. The motion was seconded by Jeff Hammers. Motion carried unanimously.
- Treasurer's Report – Profit & Loss Statement for June was provided along with statements from all bank accounts. Dawn McElhiney motioned to accept the Treasurer's Report as presented. The motion was seconded by Jill Conner. Motion carried unanimously.

Actions to be Taken

Council President handed over the floor to Attorney Sabol for the subsequent actions:

- Resolution filling vacancy in the position of Mayor
 - Attorney Sabol remarked that Council has 30 days from the passing of a Mayor to fill the vacancy. Council can appoint, by vote, any resident of the Borough who have resided in the Borough for at least one year. Four votes are needed to appoint said nominee, who will serve till the end of 2025.
 - A motion was made by Jeff Hammers to nominate Lance Beard to be the new Mayor of Jacobus. The motion was seconded by Phyllis Bowers. Motion carried unanimously.
 - Notary Public Teri Williams swore in Lance Beard as the Mayor of Jacobus.
 - "A Resolution Filling The Vacant Elected Position Of Mayor By A Registered Elector Of Jacobus Borough", Resolution 2024-1 was signed.

- Resolution filling vacancy for Borough Council Member
 - Attorney Sabol remarked that now there is a Council seat open. Dawn McElhiney inquired about the duration of time to wait for the position to be filled. She referred to the event of past Council Member Brian Dell’s passing, when the position was advertised. Attorney Sabol explained that there is no minimal time required to fill the position. It is entirely up to Council when to fill the position and advertising is not necessary. The term for this Councilperson will be till the end of 2025 as well.
 - Council President Sandy Sheffer presented a candidate, Bill Rodgers. Mrs. Sheffer stated that Mr. Rodgers has been a long time resident of the Borough, have been in the community where he raised his children, and a member of the Salem Lutheran Church in Jacobus. She also stated that the presentation of this candidate choice was her sole decision. Jake Bahn, a resident who was present, attested that Mr. Rodgers has been a great neighbor and is a good candidate for Council. Councilman Jeff Hammers stated that very seldom do volunteers come forward for Council positions.
 - Therefore, a motion was made by Jeff Hammers to nominate Mr. Rodgers for Councilman. The motion was seconded by Phyllis Bowers. Motion carried unanimously.
 - Notary Public Teri Williams swore in William Rodgers as a Councilman of Jacobus.
 - “A Resolution Filling The Vacant Elected Position Of Borough Council Member By A Registered Elector Of Jacobus Borough”, Resolution 2024-2 was signed.
- Appointment of Vice-President of Council
 - Attorney Sabol remarked that Council now has to elect a new Council Vice-President, as vacated by Lance Beard. He explained that Council can nominate anyone, even if he or she is not present.
 - A motion was made by Dawn McElhiney to nominate Donald Wright to the Council Vice-President role. There was no second to the motion. Attorney Sabol called for another nomination. A motion was made by Phyllis Bowers to nominate Jill Conner to the Council Vice-President’s role. The motion was seconded by Jeff Hammers. Motion carried unanimously.

Persons on the Agenda/Public Participation

- Andrew DiProspero – H.A. Thomson

Mr. DiProspero was present to review the insurance coverage of the Borough for liability, property and worker’s compensation. He briefly ran through the list of items that were covered, along with associated value and deductible amounts for each. Attorney Sabol suggested for this list to be reviewed in detail by the Finance and Budget Committee before renewal.

- David Ferguson – resident

Mr. Ferguson was present with a concern. He lives at the North corner of Valley Road and Pleasant Avenue. A few weeks ago, the Stop sign at the corner of his property was knocked down by a tractor-trailer. The Stop sign was reinstalled, but it is now set back further in. He would like for it to be placed further towards the road as that would prevent vehicles from running over his sidewalk. Mr. Ferguson claims that the sidewalk is already falling apart from snow plows scrapping the sides over the years. Mr. Ferguson also was concerned that the yard of his neighbor across the street at 3 Valley Road is overgrown and harboring rodents. Attorney Sabol advised that the Borough will contact Commonwealth Code to investigate should there be a code violation. Mr. Ferguson proposed for speed bumps to be installed on Pleasant Avenue. He reported that vehicles, especially motorbikes frequently speed through Pleasant Avenue at high speed.

- Ken Mihalyov – White Rose Pickleball Association

Mr. Mihalyov was present to propose turning the two tennis courts at the park into six pickleball courts. He would like to see the courts resurfaced and lines painted for pickleball. Mr. Mihalyov understands that this would be a major expense, but is willing to explore the possibility of obtaining grant funding, and/or forming a partnership with the Intermediate School or the White Rose Pickleball Association to split the cost of such an undertaking. Attorney Sabol inquired if Mr. Mihalyov is a resident of Jacobus, to which he answered “yes” and shared his address. Lance Beard asked for more details, which Mr. Mihalyov shared that the first step is to resurface, and that Penn State York had recently turned two tennis courts into six pickleball courts as well, if Council would like to look for an example. As for nets, there are portable nets that can be set up as well. Attorney Sabol advised that this matter would have to be discussed at upcoming Budget and Finance committee meetings during budget planning for 2025.

- Grant Anderson – Site Design Concepts (SDC)

- Circle Drive – Mr. Anderson reported that Stewart and Tate, who were awarded the drainage structure remediation project last month, is scheduled out for a month and half. The work is projected then to start around the first week of August, lasting two weeks. Residents on Circle Drive will be notified prior to the start of the project.
- Storm Structure Maintenance – Mr. Anderson reported that Yohe Paving had submitted their performance bonds and certificate of insurance, therefore ready to start on the storm structure cleanout. SDC will coordinate a schedule with Yohe, most likely starting work in the second week of July.
- Meadow Street – Mr. Anderson reported that Easy-Dig quoted \$5,200 to fix the pothole on Meadow Street, as it would involve saw-cut of a 20x20 area then patching. Since there had been previous discussion of abandonment of that portion of Meadow Street, Council President suggested to just patch the hole itself with blacktop and not cut out the area in entirety as a temporary fix to prevent the hole from getting bigger. Attorney Sabol stated that he will

research on the legalities of a street abandonment, as Jeff Hammers inquired on who the ownership will turn to. Lance Beard was concerned that should the road be abandoned, there would not be a turn-around space for snow plows in the winter.

- **Steve Overmiller – Goodwill Fire Company**

Mr. Overmiller presented that their Chicken Barbeque was a sold-out event at the 4th of July BLAST. Their regular fundraisers of Bingo and Breakfast Buffet are also going well. Mr. Overmiller also presented the Fire Company's report for June – they responded to 26 calls, six of which were in Jacobus. Year-to-date, they responded to 154 calls. Mr. Overmiller also reported that on June 11th, their traffic unit vehicle was hit on-site responding to an accident on Indian Rock Dam Road. A new replacement vehicle has been identified and purchased. Mr. Overmiller then reported that during a response to an incident in the Borough, the firetruck encountered some overgrown vegetation along Cherry Lane. Attorney Sabol stated that Commonwealth Code will be contacted to investigate for possible code violations on Cherry Lane.

- **Earl Click – Jacobus Lions Ambulance Club**

Mr. Click reported that in June, the Ambulance received 136 calls, 78 of which were for Advanced Life Support (ALS) and 38 were for Basic Life Support (BLS). The Ambulance Club has set a date of September 28th 2024 as their Community Appreciation Day to be held at the Community Park from 1:00 to 5:00 p.m. Mr. Click requested a waiver of the fee to use the park for the Community Appreciation Day. A motion was made by Dawn McElhiney to waive the fee for the Ambulance Club's event on September 28th 2024. The motion was seconded by Jeff Hammers. Motion carried unanimously. Mr. Click informed that a 5K and a fun-run will take place that morning before the event, with the course running through Springfield Township as well. For the event, there will be search and rescue crews with demo, vendors, and food trucks present. Mr. Click presented that their new ambulance had arrived. However, there were paint and light issues with the truck which had to be addressed. He anticipated that the truck will soon be licensed to operate.

Borough Reports

- **Mayor & Emerg. Mgmt.** –*YCARPD report for May 2024 was presented where there were 91.35 police service hours, 38.34 administrative hours, with a running total of 132.22 hours; 19 response calls; *Springfield Township requested Fire Police assistance for the Jacobus Lions Ambulance Club's 2nd Annual Community Appreciation Day on September 28th 2024 from 1:00 to 5:00 p.m. A motion was made by Dawn McElhiney to approve the fire police request by Springfield Township for the Ambulance Club's Community Appreciation Day. The motion was seconded by Jill Conner. Motion carried unanimously; *Police Commissioner's report was also distributed to Council.

- **Office Manager**

- Police speed check report – Chief Damon of YCRPD had sent a report for a speed survey that was done at Woodland/Hillside on June 6th through 8th per concerns of speeding vehicles as articulated by Phyllis Bowers at June’s Council Meeting. The report was presented, showing that of the 258 vehicles that were travelling East during this time frame, only three were citable. Ms. Bowers stated that the speed check should have been for vehicles travelling Westward as those are the ones that tend to speed. She requested for another survey to be done, for traffic heading West.
- Traffic signal control box – Atlantic Transportation Systems had installed the controller for the traffic signal at the junction of Main Street and Valley Road. This is to replace the system that was severely damaged by the power surge which happened seven months ago.
- Off-season baseball field use – A youth team, the Badgers, had inquired to the office on using the baseball field off-season. Specifically, they would like to know fee for off-season, maintenance and scheduling. Jeff Hammers suggested that the representatives should approach Council to discuss the specific.
- Free books at park – Sue proposed for a structure to be constructed at the park as a place for free books to the public and volunteered to maintain the supply and integrity of books to be family-friendly. Sue also suggested to dedicate this “library” to Mayor Greg Gruendler in his memory as he was a lover of books and knowledge. A motion was made by Jeff Hammers to approve the construction and placement of this “library”. The motion was seconded by Dawn McElhiney. Motion carried unanimously.
- Park rental sign-up sheet for volunteers to open/close the park for July rentals was distributed to Council.

- **Solicitor** – *Attorney Sabol reviewed the Klugh Animal Control contract with Council and stated that there were some changes from the previous year’s contract. However, comparing with contracts from other municipalities, the changes appear to be fair. Attorney Sabol suggested to change the term of contract to end in December 2025 seeing that there is only six months left to this year. Council was agreeable to the changes discussed. Attorney Sabol will finalize the contract and present for approval at next Council meeting.

- **Streets** – Lance Beard presented that a “No truck” sign along with tonnage limit has been installed at the entrance to Pleasant Avenue from Smith Street. This is to prevent big tractor trailers from entering Pleasant to turn onto Valley Road and cutting onto the lawn of residences on Valley Road.

- **Buildings and Grounds** – Jeff Hammers brought to the attention of Council that a food truck has been seen doing business at the parking lot of the old Amp plant. He has approached the owner who could not produce a Transient Retail Business Permit. Mr. Hammers asked if Council thought that a permit is necessary for this business, and all agreed that one is needed. He will approach the food truck owner at next opportunity.

Adjournment

A motion was made by Phyllis Bowers to adjourn the meeting at 8:35 p.m. Jeff Hammers seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,
Sue Cheah
Office Manager/Treasurer