

**Jacobus Borough Council Meeting**  
**Meeting Date: March 6<sup>th</sup> 2024**

**Call to Order**

Council President Sandy Sheffer called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.

**Opening Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance**

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

**Roll Call**

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

**Minutes and Treasurer's Report**

- Minutes of February Council Meeting – Donald Wright made a motion to approve the February Council Meeting minutes as presented. The motion was seconded by Dawn McElhiney. Motion carried unanimously.
- Treasurer's Report – Profit & Loss Statement along with bank account summaries were reviewed by all council members present. A motion was made by Donald Wright to approve the Treasurer's Report as submitted. Jill Conner seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

**Persons on the Agenda/Public Participation**

- Mike Wakeling, Jacobus Jackals – Mr. Wakeling was not present.
- Joel Washok, Penn Waste Inc. – Mr. Washok was present to answer and discuss concerns from residents of the Borough regarding the new thrash/recycling contract with Penn Waste.
  - A resident who had recently moved into the Borough stated that he does not have a contract with Penn Waste and does not need thrash services as he brings his thrash to his place of work. Said resident therefore felt that he should not have to pay Penn Waste for services that he does not need nor use. Attorney Doyle explained that the Borough has a refuse ordinance which states that it is mandatory to have thrash serviced through the Borough's contracted hauler. Jeff Hammers also explained that no resident has individual contract with Penn Waste.
  - A concerned resident asked for explanation of the big rate hike from \$83 per quarter to \$107.25 per quarter. Mr. Washok stated that in 2020, the Covid pandemic impacted labor force and Penn Waste had to

increase their pay scale 25 – 30% to attract labor. Since the last contract for the Borough was bid in 2019, the main cause for increase is to support labor costs. To circumvent that, Penn Waste is moving towards automated trucks where only a driver is needed. However, the automated trucks are costly, but necessary.

- A resident read from the Borough Council meeting minutes which stated that there were inquiries from four interested parties after the refuse contract was advertised for bidding, but only two companies submitted bids. Said resident questioned “why”. Jeff Hammers explained that garbage collection is a very hard industry with little profit. Not many companies in the area that would be interested and it is by law that the lowest bidder wins the contract. Which in this case, Penn Waste was the lower of the two bids.
- A resident stated that other municipalities have their garbage rate gradually increase annually. Why does Jacobus have its garbage rate increase so dramatically? Attorney Doyle stated that our refuse contract also has a yearly rate increase that is gradual. It is with a new contract which reflects new costs that presents the jump in rate.
- A resident stated that this new trash contract only provides two options. One option for two 96-gallon toters and one option for one 35-gallon toter. She states that every family have different needs, why aren’t there three options – one option for one 96-gallon toter, one option for two 96-gallon toters, and one option for one 35-gallon toter. Attorney Doyle explained that there is only a small difference in cost in having one versus two 96-gallon toters, as is the case in Crossroads Township. Should the resident determine that two 96-gallon toters is not needed for their household, the resident can arrange with Penn Waste to pick up the unwanted toter.
- A resident wanted to know the factors that determine the price for each municipality as every municipality appears to have a different price for garbage removal. The examples she cited were Spring Grove at \$80 per year, Abbotstown at \$60 per year, and West Manchester at \$60 per year. Mr. Washok stated that both Spring Grove and West Manchester townships are at the end of their contract term and upon renewal, their rates will be more at par with the Borough’s in keeping up with cost adjustments. Meanwhile, Abbottstown is in a different county and therefore uses a different incinerator as well. Donald Wright stated that cost also depends on the distance to the incinerator, size of the municipality, population size, etc.

- A resident questioned why the “bag” system is not utilized, where one would pay for thrash per bag. The resident cited the example of Penn Township where residents pay \$6 per bag of thrash. Her argument being that residents who are on fixed income or have a small household would only pay for the little thrash they each generate. Attorney Doyle commented that the bag system would end up driving cost up for everyone else in the Borough as that would increase labor costs tremendously. Jill Conner also commented that it would be hard to monitor the bag system.
- A resident asked if there would be a senior citizen discount, to which Mr. Washok responded with a negative as the cost for the pick-up still remains.
- A resident was concerned that garbage days will be a problem on Main Street as his opinion is that there will not be space to place the toters three-feet apart per Penn Waste instructions alongside the vehicles that are parked on Main Street. Mr. Washok responded that their drivers can work with tight spaces, but will send Penn Wastes’ operation supervisor to assess the situation for possible alternatives. The resident was also concerned that the toters will get crushed and did not want to be charged should this happen. Mr. Washok assured that Penn Waste will replace any damaged toters free of charge.
- A resident asked if there is a weight limit for the thrash in the toters. Mr. Washok responded that there is not a weight limit as the automated arm of the truck should be able to lift heavy cans.
- A resident stated that according to Borough Council meeting minutes, the award to Penn Waste was approved in October 2023 and questioned why the delay in informing residents till March of 2024. Attorney Doyle stated the reason being the new contract with Penn Waste does not commence until April 1<sup>st</sup> 2024.
- Brett Martin, Kinsley Construction – Mr. Martin was present to brief Council and residents that Columbia Gas will be replacing the gas main line along Main Street, George Street and Susquehanna Trail. The work will start at the intersection of Main Street and Valley Road on March 6<sup>th</sup> and will be working in the direction heading North. Donald Wright enquired on the distance of the new line from the water service, to which Mr. Martin responded the gas line will be on the opposite lane from the water service. Jeff Hammers asked for a completion date, to which Mr. Martin responded that the lines will probably be in place by the end of the year, but the State will repair and resurface the roadway realistically in Spring of 2025. Mr. Martin also assured that the lead foreman had already communicated with the

fire company of the dates when work will commence in front of the firehouse. A resident inquired if the sidewalks will be cut, to which Mr. Martin stated that there will be some sections of sidewalk that will be cut.

- Grant Anderson, Site Design Concepts (SDC) – Mr. Anderson was present to report on the following:
  - Stormwater Management Site Plan for 257 N Main Street (John’s RV) was conditionally approved a year ago. The conditions have not been satisfied to date.
  - “Notice to Proceed” for resurfacing of E. Greenbriar by Long’s Asphalt is ready for endorsement by Council President. The project is targeted for a start on April 1<sup>st</sup>, with completion projected for June 1<sup>st</sup>. Mr. Anderson had instructed Long’s to provide the Borough and residents affected of a notification two weeks prior to the beginning of said work.
  - Mr. Anderson reported that a “Sight Distance” study had been performed at the intersection of George Street/Greenbriar Road where an engineer from SDC verified that the sight distance exceeded 500-feet for a vehicle travelling southbound on George Street.
  - Mr. Anderson stated that SDC will be inspecting the work of Columbia Gas within any Borough street’s Right-of-Way as the work progresses in replacing gas main line.
  - Mr. Anderson reported that he has not heard back from Christ Church regarding cooperative work for stormwater mitigation off of Circle Drive.
  - A resident questioned whether a “crosswalk” sign on Main Street can be removed as it hinders seeing on-coming traffic due to the placement between two driveways. Attorney Doyle recommended for the resident to contact the Borough’s code officer to discuss.
- Craig Lipinski, Goodwill Fire Company – Mr. Lipinski presented that there were 15 calls in February. The Fire Company’s Bingo fundraiser continues to be well attended, with 168 attendees in the last Bingo night. Mr. Lipinski also stated that the Gun Bash fundraiser is still to be held in April, and membership letters will be mailed out within the next two weeks.
- Earl Click, Jacobus Lions Ambulance Club – Mr. Click reported for February, there were 131 total calls, which was an increase of 4% from last year. Of the total calls, 88 were for Advanced Life Support and 43 were for Basic Life Support. Of these calls, 6 were for within the Borough, and 13 calls were missed. Mr. Click also reported that the Ambulance Club should be receiving their refurbished truck by the end of May. At which time, additional crew will be hired. They also recently obtained two grants, one in

the amount of \$45,000 which will be used towards the purchase of new Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), and the other in the amount of \$28,000 which will be used towards the purchase of new equipment such as a CPR machine and an AED. The Ambulance Club was also recently awarded a “Medical Safe”, the third in the last 12 months.

- Sage Gionet, resident – Mr. Gionet inquired about increasing the number of “yard sale” days with permit to more than once per calendar year. Jeff Hammers stated that the ordinance was placed to prevent residents from having prolonged yard sales. However, he reminded Mr. Gionet that there are also “free” weekends in the year where yard sales are allowed without permits. Attorney Doyle recommended to discuss a change in ordinance for an increase in the number of yard sale days per year at the next Council Meeting.
- Brett Martin, resident – Mr. Martin brought to Council’s attention that furniture delivery trucks from Smith Village Furniture Shop tears up his yard when they make the wide turn from Pleasant Avenue onto Valley Road. He has had this problem repeatedly and would like Council’s assistance to remedy this situation. Donald Wright said that someone will reach out to Smith Village to discuss.

### **Action to be Taken**

None at this time.

### **Borough Reports**

- **Mayor & Emerg. Mgmt.** – Mayor Greg Gruendler was not present, however the following report was distributed to Council: \*YCRPD report for January 2024. There were 131.58 Service Hours, 25.14 Admin. Hours, with a running total of 19.15 hours. There were 18 Response Calls. \*There were two Fire Police requests – one from Springfield Township for the Cancer Crushin’ 5k Fun Run/Walk event on April 7<sup>th</sup> 2024 starting at 12:30 p.m., and another request from Shrewbury Borough for their Annual Firemen’s Carnival on June 24<sup>th</sup> through 29<sup>th</sup>. A motion was made by Donald Wright to approve the Fire Police requests for Springfield Township and Shrewbury Borough. The motion was seconded by Jeff Hammers. Motion carried unanimously.
- **Office Manager**
  - Annual Municipal Recycling Report – the report was submitted for grant considerations.
  - Annual municipal audit by Hamilton and Musser – the annual on-site audit was successfully completed

- Park facilities – de-winterization of all park facilities have been scheduled for March 28<sup>th</sup> with Miller Home Climate Control.
- Stormwater on Greenbriar – letter was received from the York County Conservation District who investigated property at 9 Greenbriar Drive based on a complaint from the homeowner that water runoff from the street is causing erosion to his backyard. The District found that “there is no active earth disturbance and therefore not within the District’s jurisdiction” and that “ultimately runoff will flow onto his property”.
- **Solicitor** – Attorney Doyle did not have any report at this time.
- **Streets** – A 5-year historical road maintenance report was given to Council, and Donald Wright voiced that he will have a 5-year future plan for road maintenance for Council soon.
- **Buildings and Grounds** – Lance Beard presented that a Randy Miller will be installing the antennae and pole at the Borough building for emergency radio services.

**New Business** – Council President call for an executive session. Attorney Doyle concluded the session.

**Adjournment** – A motion was made by Donald Wright to adjourn the meeting at 8:35. The motion was seconded by Jeff Hammers. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted by  
Sue Cheah  
Office Manager/Treasurer