

Jacobus Borough Council Meeting
Meeting Date: May 6th, 2026

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 followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call

Present were Sandy Sheffer, Mayor Lance Beard, Solicitor Walter Tilley, Phyllis Bowers, Mike Hammers, Bill Rodgers and Trent Brown. Rick Somerville and Jill Conner were absent.

Minutes and Treasurer's Report

- Minutes of April 1st Council Meeting – Phyllis Bowers made a motion to approve the April Council Meeting minutes as presented. The motion was seconded by Bill Rodgers. Motion carried unanimously.
- Treasurer's Report – Profit & Loss Statement along with all bank account summaries and a "budget vs. actual" year-to-date report were reviewed by all present on Council. A motion was made by Phyllis Bowers to approve the Treasurer's Report as submitted. The motion was seconded by Bill Rodgers. Motion carried unanimously.

Persons on the Agenda/Public Comment

- Sandra Markel, resident at 18 Greenbriar – Mrs. Markel was present about the loud and frequent emergency siren. Mrs. Markel stated that her family moved into their home in September after saving very hard to afford the home, thinking that Jacobus would be a good place to raise her children as the Borough website claims tranquility. She claims that the Borough is not tranquil, but it is disruptive with unpredictable and frequent sirens going off day and night. Her children would be awakened by the siren scared, with "their hearts pounding out of their chests". Even when they have guests, people do not know if they should be taking cover or ignore the siren. Mrs. Markel stated that children need sleep and post-partum mothers need sleep too. She cited that at 9:48 a.m. on Tuesday, the siren went off while she was on a conference call and took her 23-minutes to refocus. Last year, she had talked to Mayor Lance who informed her that the siren is to keep citizens

safe. And that the Borough has the Savvy Citizens app, but that the last post was in February for a snow emergency. Mrs. Markel even pointed out that realtors are not alerted to inform new residents of the siren. She stated: 1) please limit outdoor siren use, 2) actively promote using Savvy Citizens and 3) asking respectfully to be heard. Council President Sheffer asked Mrs. Markel her suggestion on what the Borough should do as the siren is there to notify the community of an emergency. Mrs. Markel stated that emergency responders are already alerted in other ways and the community can possibly be alerted through the Savvy Citizens app. She stated that right now the siren is causing a lot of anxiety and is “living hell for our family”. She stated that “Hannah Platt is also on the same boat”. Sandy Sheffer asked if it would help to silence the siren from 10:00 p.m. to 5:00 a.m. Mrs. Markel stated that she would appreciate to have “quiet time”. Mayor Beard stated that the siren has been going on more frequently lately because the fire company is called for medical assist as well now. Steve Overmiller, President of the Goodwill Fire Company, commented that the fire company is now set up to run medical calls too so overall, they are responding to more calls. Trent Brown stated that the siren is there to alert people to be aware that there is an emergency response and to watch the road as the fire truck will be coming through. Mrs. Markel stated that she believes nobody is intentionally traumatizing her children. Mr. Overmiller stated that he lives on Greenbriar too and has been there since 1988. With his windows shut, he hardly hears the siren. Sometimes, he would hear the siren from New Salem even louder than the one from the Borough. At this point, Mrs. Hannah Platt stated that she recorded the siren from inside her house with the windows shut and played the audio recording. Mike Hammers asked if there is any new technology that might help in eliminating some of the sirens while alerting the first responders. Mr. Overmiller stated that they already use Chief360, but that system seems to be down a lot and unreliable. Phyllis Bowers asked what other communities do. Mayor Beard stated that Dallastown has their siren silenced daily from 10:00 p.m. to 5:00 a.m. Attorney Tilley stated that ultimately, the emergency responders should state their needs. Phyllis Bowers suggested practicing daily silence of siren from 10:00 p.m. to 5:00 a.m. for a few weeks to see what the results are. Sandy Sheffer instructed Mr. Overmiller to do some research on new technologies that may help eliminate some of the siren to continue discussions at next month’s meeting. Mr. Overmiller stated that the County dictates the siren calls/responses and where they purchase their communication equipment. The example he cited was the \$500,000 for radio equipment that was just spent. Attorney Tilley suggested exploring grants to fund this new

equipment and that the trend is to move away from sirens on to systems that can get emergency information to volunteers faster. Attorney Tilley recommended working with Attorney Kathy Silcox from his firm to identify possible grants that would help fund a emergency communication overhaul that would replace the siren currently in use.

- John Hendrix, Easy-Dig – Mr. Hendrix was present to update council on the Meadow Street drainage repair project. He stated that he had lost half of his crew and is just now slowly catching up with a new crew. Mr. Hendrix projected that he should be able to start installation of the concrete structures that are already onsite within the next two weeks. Sandy Sheffer stated that he would need an extension to his contract because the current dateline for completion of the work is May 15th. Mr. Hendrix stated that he will not know how much of an extension he will need till he confirms with a paving contractor within the next two days. Sandy Sheffer asked on the status of crack sealing for Borough roads which he had agreed to complete in Fall of 2025, which Mr. Hendrix stated that he will have that done in the next few weeks.
- Brad Peters, Site Design Concepts (SDC) – Mr. Peters introduced Ryan Herbst who will be the Borough engineer moving forwards as Jordan Shenk had left SDC. Mr. Herbst has been with SDC for the last eight years and had previously worked together with Grant Anderson the Borough engineer in the past. Mr. Herbst presented the following report:
 - Jackson reverse sub-division plan – Mr. Herbst reported that the Breanna & Trevor Jackson reverse sub-division plan on Hidden Hill Farm Lane is now complete and has been recorded.
 - Meadow Street drainage repairs – Mr. Herbst stated that the dateline of the contract of May 15th would need to be adjusted. Attorney Tilley stated that it would have to be an action item for next month's meeting as the extension is not on the agenda.
 - Water Street – Mr. Herbst reported that he had inspected the work on Water Street with Mr. Peters and noticed that there was an area which had been saw-cut. They are going to reach out to C.S. Davidson to enquire on that before approving the work.
 - Main Street curb painting for restricted parking areas – council had approved in January 2026 for D.E. Gemmill to paint the curb on Main Street accordingly for no-parking. They will start painting when weather permits. Meanwhile, Mr. Herbst had met with the traffic engineer (TRG) to re-evaluate the no-parking area at the intersection of Church and Main. At time of inspection, there was large truck

parked and blocking sight lines. Another date has been set to reevaluate and will be discussed at next month's meeting.

- Farmington Drive infiltration beds – Mr. Herbst will continue to create site plans to eliminate the three stone infiltration areas on Farmington to be replaced with inlets for bidding if the Borough would still like to move forward with the project. Phyllis Bowers stated that the structures are non-functional, debris collects on them and people park over it. She stated that they should have been removed a long time ago and wanted to know why it's on hold. Sue stated for the council's informational purposes that a concerned resident had called voicing his concern of irresponsible spending by Borough council since \$200,000 or more was spent to put these infiltration beds in place and more money will be spent now just to dig them out. Mayor Lance Beard stated that he had thought that only the two at the top of Farmington were to be removed and not the one at the bottom as well since the bottom one does work. He suggested for the Streets Committee to meet with Borough engineer at the site once bid specs are ready so that everyone is of clear understanding the scope of work.
- Woodland Drive traffic calming – Mr. Herbst reported that the traffic study at Woodland was completed by Logan Schuman from Pennoni Associates under LTAP, the Pennsylvania's Local Technical Assistance Program. In summary, two radar traffic counters were installed along Woodland Drive from February 23rd through 27th. The data collected showed – 1) first location: average daily traffic of 577, with 85th percentile speed of 32 mph, six vehicles recorded speed of 45 – 50 mph going eastbound and four vehicles recorded speed of 40 – 45 mph going westbound. 2) second location: average daily traffic of 77, with 85th percentile speed of 29 mph, one vehicle recorded speed of 40 – 45 mph going northbound and one vehicle recorded speed of 40 – 45 mph going southbound. Mr. Herbst stated that based on the study, Pennoni recommended temporary rubber speed humps be installed. The recommendation for temporary ones to be installed is in consideration for ease of snow removal and also to assess effectiveness. Resident VonStein asked for a Stop sign to be put up in good faith, as a good faith instrument even though the sign is unenforceable. He believes a stop sign will at least slow people down. Phyllis Bowers stated that nobody wants children hurt, but the traffic study has already been done, three different times and it just does not warrant a stop sign. She suggested sending a letter to residents to help

with the issue instead. Mr. VonStein wants something long term and does not see a downside for a Stop sign. Resident Devon Kolomick stated that she has been practicing municipal law for 15 years and has not found any liability issues for an unenforceable Stop sign. She states that there are seven kids on the street and that it is a walking community. Phyllis Bowers stated that parents need to take responsibility of where their kids are as times have changed. “We have reviewed, researched, and done the traffic studies”, it is worth a try to send out a letter asking folks to be responsible drivers. Attorney Silcox suggested reaching out to the police department to enforce. Resident VonStein stated that it has already been tried but the police says that there is not enough traffic for them to sit and enforce. Mr. VonStein reiterates that they are presenting a safety issue, not a traffic issue. Mr. Peters cautions that the Borough will need to have an ordinance in place for a traffic calming device to set the standard on how the Borough addresses speeding complaints throughout the Borough. Attorney Tilley stated that the Borough will have to advertise for said ordinance. And that there is no urgency at this time since this matter has been in discussion for months. From a legal perspective, Attorney Tilley reminded council that PennDOT recommends against using Stop signs for speed control and to take all data into consideration during deliberation. Phyllis Bowers still recommends sending a letter to let the community know that a lot of time has been spent on this discussion, that “this is the study, and this is the result. Just use common sense”. Resident Kolomick stated that this study was not done according to PennDOT recommendations of a minimum of seven consecutive fair-weather days. Rather, this study was done in the winter and for less than a week. Attorney Tilley stated that any action will be deferred until it is on the agenda and duly advertised.

- 35 Woodland Drive erosion concern – Mr. Herbst inspected said property and surrounding areas. He found that the conditions there were very similar to the conditions SDC reported in August 2020. The existing drainage channel appears to be created from stormwater runoff from existing homes. It would be the landowner’s responsibility to remediate.
- Steve Overmiller, Goodwill Fire Co. – Mr. Overmiller reported that the firehouse is looking for volunteers, and that with some training it is simple to be certified. The firehouse is also in need of help on the fundraising side. He did not have a monthly report as the fire chief was on vacation.

- Al Diehl, Jacobus Lion's Ambulance Club – Mr. Diehl presented the April Report for the Ambulance Club. In April, the ambulance responded to 124 calls, of which 14 calls were within Jacobus Borough. Mike Hammers asked why it is necessary now for the siren to sound for medical assist when it had not been the case for the last 40 years. Mr. Diehl answered that because the Ambulance Company now cooperates and work together with the fire company. Mr. Hammers then wanted to know of the 124 calls in April, how many resulted in the siren going off. Mr. Overmiller answered “less than 14” because not all of the 124 calls were Class1 calls.

Action to Be Taken

None at this time

Borough Reports

- **Mayor & EM Reports** – Mayor Beard presented the following; *Police Report for March 2025. There were 51.15 hours for Police Service Hours, 26.74 hours for Admin Hours, in total of 56.14 hours for the month of March. There were 22 calls in total with two reported deer hit on York Road; *Fire Police Requests:
 - The Borough of Glen Rock for their Glen Rock Memorial Day Parade on May 24th, the Susquehannock High School graduation on May 29th, the Glen Rock Art and Brew Fest on June 6th 8:00 a.m. till 6:00 p.m., the Glen Rock Tree Lighting on November 29th from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m., the Glen Rock Christmas Eve Carolers Event from December 24th to 25th. A motion was made by Phyllis Bowers to approve the fire police request by the Borough of Glen Rock. The motion was seconded by Trent Brown. Motion carried unanimously.
 - Eureka Volunteer Fire & Ambulance Company for the Stewartstown Fire Works on July 3rd with Raindate of July 5th, the Eureka Carnival on July 13th through 18th, the Eureka Parade on July 18th and the Halloween Event on October 31st. A motion was made by Bill Rodgers to approve the fire police request from the Eureka Volunteer Fire & Ambulance Company as stated. The motion was seconded by Phyllis Bowers. Motion carried unanimously.
 - Leader Heights Elementary for their Ribbon Cutting and May Day on May 8th from 4:30 p.m. till 8:30 p.m. A motion was made by Trent Brown to approve the fire police request from Leader Heights Elementary for their Ribbon Cutting and May Day. The motion was seconded by Bill Rodgers. Motion carried unanimously.

- Springfield Township for the Jacobus' July 4th BLAST on July 4th, rain date July 5th. A motion was made by Phyllis Bowers to approve the fire police request from Springfield Township for assistance at the BLAST. The motion was seconded by Trent Brown. Motion carried unanimously.
- **Office/Manager** - *Penn Waste contract – current contract for thrash/recycling removal with Penn Waste will end March 31st 2027 with the option to renew for another year. Bill Rodgers stated that thrash bill has increased three times this year alone, definitely do not extend for another year. Council was of the same opinion. Attorney Tilley stated that his firm will then start drawing up a new contract for bidding; *Traffic light maintenance and repair contract – current contract is with Atlantic Transportation Systems (ATS). Recently, 13 other municipalities in the area communicated that they are contracting with C.M. High, Inc. of Myerstown for their traffic signal repair and maintenance. Since the Borough only has one traffic signal, C.M. High was contacted directly for a quote. Their pricing came back significantly cheaper than ATS's pricing. Council agreed to contract with C.M. High for 2027, contract to be reviewed closer to year end; *Retention pond on Nixon Drive has been cleared of saplings, brush and tall grass by E.P Snyder. Mayor Beard inspected the work and suggested that this clearing of the grounds to be performed annually; *Liquid Fuel's fund for \$51,357.10 was recieved; *Flag pole at the municipal building has been repaired with the help of Dallastown Borough's grounds crew who came with their vehicle that extended to the top of the pole and replaced the broken pulley. The toggle was also moved down to a reachable height. The toggle at the park flag pole was also moved down; *Borough accountant, Hamilton & Musser, brought to attention that Quickbooks will soon be phasing out and not be supporting the desktop version, and transitioning to online versions. This will greatly enhance security of data. A motion was made by Phyllis Bowers to approve the transition from Quickbooks Desktop to Quickbooks Online. The motion was seconded by Bill Rodgers. Motion carried unanimously; *Plumber from Wilbur Henry who dewinterized the community park had stated that there is a leak at the shut-off valve which caused water to freeze in the pipes of the men's bathroom and the water fountain in the pavilion. He recommended contacting York Water Company as it would be their responsibility to repair since the valve is before the meter. York Water Company has been contacted, waiting for a response; *Sue had a meeting with representatives from Saxton & Stump responsible for assisting in procuring grants for municipalities. This is in reference to funding for resurfacing the tennis and

basketball courts at the park. Based on the conversation with those at Saxton & Stump, the conclusion was that it would not be a sound return on investment for this project. This avenue will be considered for future large scale projects; *Dallastown Area Intermediate School had requested permission for parking for their volunteers on their year-end Fun Day on May 29th from 8:00 a.m to 3:00 p.m. A motion was made by Phyllis Bowers to approve the DAIS volunteers to park their vehicles at the borough park on May 29th during their annual Fun Day. The motion was seconded by Trent Brown. Motion carried unanimously; *Code officer's report included inspection of a home that was reported to be running a childcare business. Homeowner claims to only be babysitting, not exceeding three children at one time. Per Borough ordinance, such an operation is unregulated; *May park reservations – there are three reservations for the month, a volunteer sign-up sheet was circulated for the opening and closing of park facilities on rental days.

- **Solicitor** – *Per recommendation of Borough's attorney on record for the Zoning Hearing Board, Attorney John Miller, the fee for zoning hearing applications should be increased to cover costs and the application should also include verbiage for the applicant to supply name and addresses of homeowners within a certain radius of the property in reference for the zoning hearing. A motion was made by Phyllis Bowers to authorize Attorney Tilley to draft a new zoning hearing application to reflect a new fee and requirements. The motion was seconded by Bill Rodgers. Motion carried unanimously; *Attorney Tilley stated that the Fancy Shanty operating out of the parking lot at Smith's Village is not registered to do business in Pennsylvania. As such, it is considered a transient business and will need to obtain a Transient Retail Merchant License from the Borough. Additionally, this may potentially be a public health issue since the business is not registered and probably not inspected to sell food products. Code officer will need to notify business owner of violations; *Property at 119 N. Main Street continues to demonstrate a problem with junk all around. There is currently a judgement against the homeowners for a little over a \$1,000. The Borough can cite violation of "property maintenance" code to clean the property, then place a lien on the property for cost incurred by the Borough to clean said property. Alternatively, if there is knowledge of minors living at the property, Child Protective Services could be called to check. Similarly, if there are elderly persons at property, Department of Aging could be called to check. Mayor Lance Beard stated that there are three cars and a trailer that are unregistered in the backyard that should be removed. They are filled and probably harboring rodents and pests. He suggested

using the Form 952PP to remove those vehicles as abandoned vehicles. Attorney Silcox will research on proper procedures using referenced form by the Mayor.

- **Streets Committee** – Mayor Beard reported that he has a list of 25 road signs in the Borough that needed some work. Some just needs to be straightened while there are some that need new posts. Mayor Beard, Bill Rodgers and Mike Hammers will straighten this Saturday.
- **Buildings and Grounds Committee** - *Mayor Beard stated that the mower for the ball field has been sent to Harold Thomas for its annual servicing; *One mud scraper has been installed in front of the men's restroom for the ball players to use. The rest of the mud scrapers will be installed soon; *Flag poles both at the park and at the Borough office are fixed; *A new mailbox post has been installed for the mailbox at the Borough office. The old post rotted at the bottom.

Adjournment

Trent Brown made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:13 p.m. The motion was seconded by Bill Rodgers. Motion carried unanimously.

Others Present:

Trevor & Breanna Jackson

Ben Markel

Hannah Platt

Devon Kolomick

Tom Caltagirone

Matthew Von Stein

Attorney Kathy Silcox

Respectfully submitted by,
Sue Cheah