

Summit Hill Borough Council
October 8., 2012, 7:00 p.m., Borough Hall

The regular scheduled meeting of the Summit Hill Borough Council was held at the above place and time with President Michael Kokinda presiding.

Roll Call – John O’Gurek, Michael Alabovitz, William O’Gurek, Jesse Walck, William Chapman, Mayor Paul McArdle and Solicitor Michael Greek were all in attendance.

Minutes – Motion was made by John O’Gurek, second by William O’Gurek to approve the minutes from September 10, 2012 Council Meeting; all in favor; motion was opened to the floor for comments; none made; Motion approved.

Floor –

- 1) **John O’Gurek, 220 E. Lehigh Street;** John stated he was speaking as a taxpayer of the borough and not council member at this time. He stated he received a quote of \$1600.00 for replacing the transmission for the police car that is in need of these repairs and had the borough secretary rely this information to all council members to review and discuss at this month’s meeting. The borough worker has also received other quotes for the transmission that were a lot higher in cost; \$1800.00 / \$3200.00. John stated since the vehicle is not worth a lot, the borough should not spend a lot to repair it and since there are currently no grants available for the borough to get any assistance to buy a new police vehicle; spending the least amount of money to replace the transmission is the best option at this time since budget workshops will start next month he doesn’t want to raise taxes again this year.

At this time, President Michael Kokinda introduced Zachery from PFM Group to review, discuss and present to Council Members the options of Refinancing the 2008 Series Go Bonds. This is on the agenda under Old Business; Zach requested to be moved up on the agenda prior to the meeting. Minutes are recorded under Old Business.

- 2) **Shireen Parsons, 113 E. Holland Street;** Shireen stated she has submitted a complaint form again concerning the property located at 116 East Amidon Street and it seems nothing has been done; Shireen stated there are several children not being supervised by adults at this home along with the property is not being taken care of; the property is littered with garbage, paint on the side of the home. Susan Gibiser, Borough secretary stated the Zoning officer is aware and a letter will be sent to the owner of the property.

Mayor’s Report – Council received a copy of the Mayor’s Reports for September 2012. The magistrate income for September was **\$1241.39;** Motion was made by John O’Gurek, second by Jesse Walck to approve the Mayor’s Report for the month of September 2012; all in favor; motion was opened to the floor for comment; none made; Motion approved.

Police Report – Council received a copy police reports for September 2012; Chief Fittos stated there was a meeting with the police committee, Mayor and himself to interview Ryan Kennedy as a Part-Time police officer for the Borough. 2012. A Motion was made by William Chapman, second by Jesse Walck to hire Ryan Kennedy as a new Part-time police officer for the borough effective immediately; motion was opened to the floor for comments; none made; Motion Approved. There was a discussion among Council members pertaining to: replacing the transmission or purchasing a new police vehicle. A motion was made by William Chapman, second by Jesse Walck to replace the transmission at the approx. cost of \$1600.00; motion was opened to the floor for comments; none made; Motion approved. A Motion was made by William O’Gurek, second by William Chapman to approve the Police Report for the month of September 2012; all in favor; motion was opened to the floor for comment; none made; Motion approved.

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Code Enforcement Report – Council received a copy of the Code Enforcement report for September 2012. Council members questioned property #321011.P13 for Charles Bott; Council members stated this has been on the report for several months and the property owner is not complying with UCC codes; Council stated to the Borough secretary to have Barry Issett contact Mr. Bott and issue citations if this property is not taken care immediately. **Motion was made by William Chapman, second by John O’Gurek to accept the Code Enforcement Report for September 2012;** motion was opened to the floor for comment; none made; Motion approved.

Planning and Zoning Report – Council received a copy of the Planning/Zoning report for September 2012. Council Members will be reviewing proposals received from Barry Issett and Lehigh Engineer pertaining to property maintenance and zoning; this will be addressed at next month’s meeting. **Motion was made by William Chapman, second by John O’Gurek to accept the Planning/Zoning Report for the month of September 2012;** the motion was opened to the floor for comments; none made; Motion approved.

Work Leader Report – Council received a copy of the Work Leader Report for the month of September 2012. Council Members stated the borough workers are doing an excellent job and the report submitted shows all the work being done through out the borough. **Motion was made by Michael Alabovitz, second by Jesse Walck to accept the Work Leader Report for the month of September 2012;** all in favor; motion was opened to the floor for comment; none made; Motion approved.

Tax Collector Report --Borough Secretary, Susan Gibiser read the Tax Collector’s Report for the month of September 2012; Alice Kane submitted total taxes as \$4,027.49; with a commission of \$201.38; **Motion was made by John O’Gurek, second by William Chapman to accept the Tax Collector Report for September 2012;** all in favor; motion was opened to the floor for comment; none made; Motion approved.

Wage Tax Report –Borough Secretary, Susan Gibiser, read the Wage Tax Report for the month of September 2012; Total submitted for EIT taxes from Berkheimer was \$9,599.56; Commission of \$143.99; Additional EIT from August 2012 is \$6,151.65; Commission of \$329.05; LST for September was \$ 28.75, with no commission; Total submitted for EIT from Centax was \$8,445.00 with a commission of \$104.58. **Motion was made by William O’Gurek, second by John O’Gurek to accept the Wage Tax Report for September 2012;** all in favor; motion was opened to the floor for comment; none made; Motion approved.

Receipts –Borough Secretary, Susan Gibiser, reported the General Account receipts for September 2012 were \$96,303.16; Sanitation Account receipts were \$17,650.29. **Motion was made by William Chapman, second by John O’Gurek to accept the receipts for September 2012;** all in favor; motion was opened to the floor for comment; none made; Motion approved.

Committee Reports –

Streets – John O’Gurek stated most of the storm drains have been cleaned and repairs; borough workers are still working on the repairs of some drains.

Building – Michael Alabovitz stated the A/C and heating units at the fire company is not working properly; Michael stated he will look into having a company that manufacturer that type of unit look at it and see about repairs.

Fire and Emergency Services— Shawn Hoben stated the Narrowband system is almost done from the county; he suggested the Borough donate it to the fire company which will then take care of the maintenance on the equipment. There will be an Open House at the Fire Company on Thursday, October 11th at 7:00pm. William Chapman asked Shawn about a financial report from the fire company; Shawn stated there is a monthly meeting at the fire company which states the financial status of the Fire Company and council members are welcome to attend the meetings.

Recreation--- Monica Marshall was not present at the meeting for a report.

Motion was made by William O’Gurek, second by Jesse Walck to accept the Committee reports for September 2012; all in favor; motion was opened to the floor for comment; none made; Motion approved.

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- 1) Letter from Aurelia DeMatto.....requesting to use the Gazebo on Saturday, October 13, 2012 at 12:00pm to hold a public Rosary.
A motion made by John O’Gurek, second by William O’Gurek to approve Aurelia DeMatto to use the Gazebo on Saturday, October 13th; motion opened to the floor for comments; none made; Motion Approved.
- 2) Letter from POST 269, Palmerton, PA.....Inviting the Mayor, Council Members and Leaders to participate in the Carbon County Veteran’s Day Parade on November 11, 2012 @ 2:00pm.
- 3) Letter from Leighton Ambulance Association, Inc.....Disclosing their 2011 tax return and requesting any financial assistance for 2013.
- 4) Invoice from Joshua Finsel.....requesting reimbursement from the Borough for \$62.57, which is half of the amount on the invoice....He is requesting the other half from SHICO...this is from the damage he obtained to his equipment because of the electrical problems during the Hootenanny.
A motion made by Michael Alabovitz, second by William Chapman to DENY a request from Joshua Finsel reimbursement from the Borough for repairs to his equipment; motion opened to the floor for comments; none made; Motion Approved.
- 5) Email received from MMD Financial, LLC.....information about leasing, purchasing borough equipment such as police cars, trucks, loaders, etc.
- 6) Notice of Property Assessment and Revision of Taxes
 Increase of Occupation.....2
 Decrease of Occupation...9

Motion was made by William Chapman, second by John O’Gurek to accept communications for the month of September 2012; all in favor; motion was opened to the floor for comments; none made; motion approved.

Bills –Borough Secretary, Susan Gibiser, stated the expenses for the General Account for September 2012 were \$101,553.90; total expenses for Sanitation Account were \$22,989.37 for September 2012; **Motion was made by William Chapman, second by William O’Gurek to pay all bills for the month of September 2012; all were in favor; motion was opened to the floor for comments; none made; Motion approved.**

Old Business

1) Proposal on Refinancing 2008 Go-Bond—Presented by Zach Williard, The PFM Group

Zach Williard presented to the Borough Council two (2) proposals about refinancing the 2008 Go-Bond with a lower interest rate; cost savings to the borough would be approx. \$60,000.00; maturity date would still be 2033. One proposal was with no money applied to the Go-Bond; other was with \$50,000.00 applied to the balance of the Go-Bond. Zach stated to council members tonight’s decision would just be to proceed with the process of moving forward, which would be gathering information from the Borough secretary. Council members asked questions of concerns such as how much the savings would be over time, the cost to the borough to refinance. **A motion made by Jesse Walck, second by William Chapman to proceed with the process of refinancing the 2008 Go-Bond; motion was opened to the floor for comments; none made; Motion Approved.**

Motion was made by William O’Gurek, second by William Chapman to accept Old Business; all in favor; motion was opened to the floor for comments; none made; motion approved.

New Business

1) Resolution No. 7 of 2012---Authorizing Official Grant Request--- Debra Ranck, Chairperson of the Board from SH Heritage

Debra Ranck was present at the meeting. Prior to Council members making any decision on authorizing the grant; Solicitor Michael Greek will review it; Council moved onto other business.

Michael Greek reviewed the letter and resolution and stated by Council members by authorizing the Grant Request, the Borough is taking on responsibility that the Summit Hill Heritage Center will use the funds according to the grant details. **A motion made by William Chapman, second by Jesse**

Walck to adopt Resolution No. 7 of 2012, Authorizing Official Grant Request for the Summit Hill Heritage Center; motion was opened to the floor for comments; none made; Motion Approved.

2) **Resignation Letter from Joseph Kosalko from Planning Commission**

President, Michael Kokinda read a resignation letter from Joseph Kosalko stating he submitting his resignation from Chairperson of the Summit Hill Borough Planning Commission effective September 12, 2012. **Motion made by Jesse Walck, second by John O’Gurek to accept Joseph Kosalko resignation from the planning commission; motion opened to the floor for comments; none made; Motion approved.** Michael Kokinda stated there are currently three vacancies on the Planning Commission; anyone interested, submit a letter of interest to the Borough Secretary. Questions of concerns about the planning commission were: can any plans be approved since there are not enough members on the board; would the vacancy board need to intervene if plans were submitted. Michael Greek stated that the Vacancy Board does not intervene for the planning commission only for Council member’s vacancies. Michael Greek stated if plans are submitted to the borough, the date received is when the time limit starts for when the planning commission must meet and review plans. He suggested to Council members to discuss getting members on the planning commission soon.

3) **Letter of Request of Refund from Gerard L. Valentino—For Per Capita Taxes**

Michael Kokinda read a letter from Gerard Valentino requesting a Per Capita tax refunds from 2009 to 2012 since his occupation classification was listed incorrectly. Michael Greek explained the tax refund request to Council members; he also stated refunding the current year (2012) would be appropriate but not past years. John O’Gurek stated this has addressed before Council members previous years and only the current year of taxes were refunded. **A motion made by John O’Gurek, second by Michael Alabovitz to only refund the 2012 Per Capita taxes at \$20.00; motion was opened to the floor for comments; none made; Motion Approved.**

4) **Handicap Parking Permits & Renewals**

1) **Robert Murlo, 456 West White Street;** A motion was made by William Chapman, second by William O’Gurek to **APPROVE** the handicap renewal application; motion was opened to the floor for comments; none made; Motion approved.

2) **Mary Anna Kovatto, 55 E. White Street;** Recommended by Chief Fittos application be denied by Council due to there is off street parking available, applicant residency, vehicle with expired plates, no doctor’s signature. A motion made by Michael Alabovitz, second by William Chapman to **DENY** the handicap application; motion was opened to the floor for comments; none made; Motion approved.

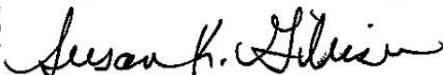
5) **Discussion & Review of Cell Tower Contract**

Michael Kokinda, President stated Solicitor Michael Greek has reviewed the contract with the Cell Tower company which currently automatically renewed for a five (5) year term which ends August 31, 2013. The Borough is under this contract until that date. The Borough Secretary stated the monthly lease has increased on a yearly basis; questions still remain as to whether the Borough is receiving additional rental fees for third party user on the tower.

EXECUTIVE SESSION---No Executive Session

Adjournment

Motion made by Jesse Walck; second by Michael Alabovitz to adjourn at 8:30 p.m. until the next regular scheduled meeting on November 12, 2012



Susan K. Gibiser
Secretary/Treasurer