

Summit Hill Borough Council
March 24 2014, 7:00 p.m., Borough Hall

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

Roll Call – President Jesse Walck, Michael Alabovitz, Greg Kosciolk, John O’Gurek, Bill Chapman, William O’Gurek, Solicitor Michael Greek and Mayor Paul McArdle were all in attendance. Vice President Michael Kokinda was absent.

Minutes – Motion was made by Bill Chapman and second by William O’Gurek to approve the February 4 and February 24, 2014 meeting minutes. The motion was opened to the floor for comment; none made. Motion carried unanimously by Council.

Floor Session

1. Mayor James Romankow of Lansford read a letter of Commendation regarding Officer Jeff Ohl and Officer Todd Woodward. He stated that he commends them for taking quick action during a domestic situation at 439 W. Patterson Street in Lansford, which had escalated into a double shooting on February 22, 2014. Their actions were done in a very professional manner protecting the rights of the suspect and the victims and the surrounding neighborhood. God bless in a job well done and in bringing a sense of pride to the Summit Hill Police Department.

Mayor’s Report – Mayor Paul McArdle reported the magistrate income from February 2014 was \$863.42. Motion was made by Bill Chapman and second by Greg Kosciolk to accept the Mayor’s report for the month of February 2014. Motion was opened to the floor for comment, none made. Motion carried unanimously by Council. Mayor McArdle also asked Council to elevate Jeffery Ohl off his probation and named regular full-time status. He stated that Officer Ohl has demonstrated his ability to perform all duties assigned to him in an excellent and professional manner over the past six months and he continues to be a good role model for the Borough of Summit Hill, both on and off duty. Motion was made by Bill Chapman and second by William O’Gurek to remove Officer Ohl from his probation and elevate him to regular full-time police status. Motion was opened to the floor for comment, none made. Motion carried unanimously by Council.

Police Report – Chief Joe Fittos read the Police report for February 2014. He stated that he has a letter of resignation from Officer John Pruitte to be effective February 25, 2014. Motion was made by Michael Alabovitz and second by Bill Chapman to accept Officer Pruitte’s letter of resignation effective February 25, 2014. Motion was opened to the floor for comment, none made. Motion carried unanimously by Council. Motion was made by William O’Gurek and second by Bill Chapman to accept the Police Report for the month of February 2014. Motion was opened to the floor for comment, none made. Motion carried unanimously by Council.

Planning and Zoning Report – Zoning Officer, Bill Kirklosky, read the zoning report for the month of February 2014. Motion was made by Bill Chapman and second by Greg Kosciolk to accept the Planning and Zoning Report for the month of February 2014. Motion was opened to the floor for comment, none made. Motion carried unanimously by Council. Mayor McArdle asked Council if the Zoning Officer can be the UCC Inspector for the borough. Kira informed him that he would have to be certified. Atty. Greek added that for the Uniform Construction Code he would have to take courses and be licensed by the state but if it is enforcement of the borough’s property maintenance code, he could do it but a review of the ordinance would be necessary to be sure he is qualified. Bill Chapman asked what is going to happen with the Stone Property. Atty. Greek stated that he will work on it and get the ball rolling. Thomas Tkach said that it

was over a year ago that it went for citation. Atty. Greek said he will check into it and have the information for the next meeting.

Work Leader Report - Motion was made by Greg Kosciolk and second by John O'Gurek to accept the Work Leader Report for the month of February 2014. The motion was opened to the floor for comment, none made. Motion carried unanimously by Council.

Tax Collector Report – Nothing to report at this time.

Wage Tax Report – Borough Secretary, Kira Steber, read the Wage Tax Report for the month of February 2014. Berkheimer submitted a total EIT of \$35,544.99 with a Commission of \$620.73 and Postage Charges of \$97.15. Total LST submitted was \$54.74 with \$1.12 commission and postage of \$3.05. **Motion was made by Bill Chapman and second by William O'Gurek to accept the Wage Tax Report for the month of February 2014.** The motion was opened to the floor for comment; none made. Motion carried unanimously by Council.

Receipts – Borough Secretary, Kira Steber, read the receipts for the month of February 2014. General Fund receipts were \$42,838.70, Sanitation Account receipts were \$71,725.80 and Community Center receipts were \$50.00. **Motion was made by Bill Chapman second Greg Kosciolk to accept the receipts for the month of February 2014.** The motion was opened to the floor for comment; none made. Motion carried unanimously by Council.

Committee Reports

Streets – John O'Gurek stated that they have cold patch and are trying to get potholes filled as quickly as possible and are working on fixing the sewer drains.

Buildings – Mike Alabovitz explained that the community center is still being cleaned up from the fire and smoke damage. Kira stated that she spoke with Servpro and they had the duct people in over the weekend and they still have to paint. They are coming to do a final walk through with her on Wednesday and would like if Council would take a look and see if there is anything they do not approve of and she will discuss it with Servpro and not sign off on the project. She said that the odor is still a problem and they did set off a bomb to try and clear the smell and will be setting another one off on Wednesday after the walk through. She expressed that the borough had extra tile and they did replace the damaged ones and it sticks out pretty bad. Mike Alabovitz explained that Andy McFadden is going to have to do some additional work due to the way the walls were put in. They did not leave room for flexibility and that is the reason for the walls cracking. Council asked Kira how many events are booked at the community center. Kira said that she had to cancel all the events for February and March but she is booked solid starting April straight through the end of summer.

Fire and Emergency Services – Nothing to report at this time.

Recreation – Jodi McAndrew, President of the Recreation Commission, said that Easter on the Hill will be April 18th at 1:00p.m., a Memorial Day Run/Walk, which will be the Sunday before Memorial Day. She asked what she would need to do to have the Police and Fire Police assist with the run/walk event. Kira stated that she should write a letter to Council asking permission for the assistance. She said that the route for the event was going to include the track at the Ginter Field but she noticed the bottom end of the track is a mess and was wondering if it could be fixed before the race. Kira stated that the ruts are probably from the Breaker Boys driving on the track. Mike Alabovitz said that they need to be told that they cannot be in the field with their vehicles and if it happens again, they will not be allowed to use the field at all. Jodi told Council that one of the next park projects they would like to work on is a skate park. There is a lot of community interest in a skate park and kids have been come to their meetings expressing interest. She said it is all preliminary right

now but needs to know what she needs to do with Council to get this approved. Kira asked where they are looking to put the park. Jodi stated that there are two areas, either right next to the basketball courts or in the corner of the Ginter Field. The kids are looking something small that won't attract people from other towns or the riff-raff. She said that group of kids that are asking for the skate park are the some group of kids that show up whenever Rec. needs help and feels they are very deserving of a park. Jodi said the commission is going to look into costs and also look into grants. Kira said that she would need to talk to the insurance company to make sure that there are no additional requirements on their end. Jodi stated that they have received their first donation towards the T-shirts, St. Luke's will be providing a van and will be giving away sunscreen and donation letters will be sent out this week to businesses in town. Kira asked that she add to the letter the route so that they know what streets need to be closed. Kira informed Council that there is a letter of renewal as well as letters of interest for the Recreation Commission. Jodi McAndrew for Renewal, Melissa Crampsie, Joanne Griffin and Anita McArdle as new members. **Motion was made by Greg Kosciolk and second by Mike Alabovitz to approve the letters of interest for the Recreation Commission with all terms expiring December 2015.** The motion was opened to the floor for comment, none made. Motion carried unanimously by Council.

Motion was made by William O'Gurek and second by Bill Chapman to accept the Committee Reports. Motion was opened to the floor for comment, none made. Motion carried unanimously by Council.

Communications – See attached

Communications for the Months of February and March 2014

1. Notice of Assessment from the Board of Assessment & Revision of Taxes
2. Board of Assessment and Revision of Taxes 2014 Tax Duplicate Notification
3. Letter from Larry Alabovitz in regards to the Snow Plowing Ordinance – See Attached
4. Information from the PSAB 103rd in regards to the Annual Conference and Exhibition

Motion made by John O'Gurek and second by Greg Kosciolk to accept all communications for the months of February and March 2014. The motion was opened to the floor for comment; none made. Motion carried unanimously by Council.

Bills – Borough Secretary, Kira Steber, reported total expenses for the month of February 2014. General Fund bills were \$87,691.16, Sanitation Account bills were \$22,924.67 and Community Center Account bills were \$90.00. Total expenses for the month of March 2014, General Fund bills were \$45,881.54, nothing for the Sanitation Account and Community Center Expenses were \$22.42. **Motion made by Greg Kosciolk and second by William O'Gurek to approve the bills for the month of February and March 2014.** The motion was opened to the floor for comment; none made. Motion carried unanimously by Council.

Old Business

Snow Plowing Ordinance – Mike Alabovitz stated that he is personally for this ordinance and feels that we need to do this to protect the borough. He said the only way that we can allow them to do it is we block the street and put up flags. He stated that as a taxpayer and Councilman he does not want to be held responsible for someone else's actions. He said I can't just send a backhoe to someone else's property to clean it and it is only a matter of time before someone gets killed. Bill Chapman added that it is no different than quads running up and down the streets and running someone over. Mike stressed that it is illegal to ride quads on the streets in town. He also added that we cannot allow people to park facing the opposite way in the winter because it is a state law and we can't have ordinances stating that they are to face the opposite direction either. A brief discussion took place in regards to the parking the opposite direction in the winter. **Motion was made by Mike Alabovitz and second by Greg Kosciolk to adopt Ordinance #1 of 2014 – Winter Parking**

Regulations to update placing/plowing snow into borough streets. Motion was opened to the floor for comment, none made. John O’Gurek, Bill Chapman and William O’Gurek oppose. A roll call vote was taken.

Mike Alabovitz	Yes
Greg Kosciolek	Yes
John O’Gurek	No
Jesse Walck	Yes
Bill Chapman	No
William O’Gurek	No

Motion was a tie and turned over to Mayor McArdle for a final vote. Mayor McArdle stated that to keep the borough out of any liability, he agrees with the ordinance and votes yes. Motion to adopt Ordinance #1 passes. **Motion was made by Mike Alabovitz and second by Greg Kosciolek to adopt Ordinance #3 of 2014 – Winter Parking Regulations to remove the section that states Holland Street out of the ordinance.** Motion was opened to the floor for comment, none made. Motion carried unanimously by Council.

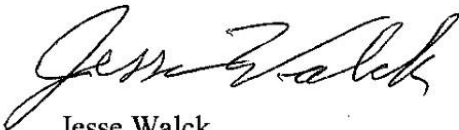
John O’Gurek said that before we move on he would like to get something clarified because there seems to be an issue at the table. Prior to the first meeting of this year Council made an exception to the meeting dates for a particular individual and this certain person has been at the first meeting of the year and hasn’t been at a meeting since then. We changed the meeting date for him and he isn’t showing up at the meetings. He commended the Vice President for being appointed and doing a good job. He wanted to be Vice President but can’t even show up for a meeting. Mike Alabovitz stated that you cannot remove someone from Council because of their absence. Atty. Greek explained that you cannot remove someone from office unless there is a crime or misuse of office.

New Business

1. **Advertise for Part-Time Police Officer – Motion was made by John O’Gurek and second by William O’Gurek to advertise for Part-Time Police Officers.** Motion was opened to the floor for comment, none made. Motion carried unanimously by Council.
2. **Internet/Phone Service at Borough Garage –** John O’Gurek explained that over in the borough garage there is no cell phone service and to talk to anyone they must walk outside. Computer Pals said that they can put a wireless service up between the borough office and borough garage to get internet service, which in turn they can then get phone service. They gave a one-time fee of somewhere around \$250-\$300. **Motion was made by Mike Alabovitz and second by Bill Chapman to approve wireless access for the borough garage not to exceed \$500.00.** Motion was opened to the floor for comment, none made. Motion carried unanimously by Council.
3. **Acknowledgment and Release Form –** Kira stated that she has an Acknowledgment and Release form from the Break Boys to use Ginter Field, as well as a copy of their insurance. This would be approved with the understanding that they stay off the field with all vehicles. John O’Gurek said he feels that they are starting too early in their season and they are over there shoveling snow off the field. He asked if they could move their start time up a few weeks to prevent any further damage to the field. **Motion was made by John O’Gurek and second by Mike Alabovitz to allow the Breaker Boys to use the Ginter Field for their 2014 Football Season, with the understanding that they must keep the vehicles off the field.** Motion was opened to the floor for comment, none made. Motion carried unanimously by Council.

4. **Proposal to Remove Bleachers in Ginter Field** – Michael Alabovitz said that for years the insurance company has been stating that the bleachers are not safe and the borough has to do something about it. He spoke to the borough engineer about the best way to get this addressed. He called Northeast Industrial Services Corp. to get a quote for demolition. According to the proposal, if the company removes the bleachers, leaving the concrete, they will pay the borough \$1,000.00. If they remove the bleachers and the concrete, the borough will owe them \$1.00. Jesse Walck stated that he feels we need a plan before we tear down the bleachers. Mike said we should sit down with the engineer and get plans drawn up for a salt shed to replace the bleachers. **Motion was made by John O’Gurek and seconded by Mike Alabovitz to table the proposal until plans can be drawn up for a new structure.** Motion was opened to the floor for comment, none made. Motion carried unanimously by Council.
5. Chief Fittos said that there is a program through the county that people can sign up for that they can get notifications for things that are going on in the borough. The program is called Alert Carbon. Jesse said that we also discussed having a Facebook page for the borough. Kira said that the Summit Hill Borough group has already been created and it was a matter of talking to Council to get approval. Kira also stated that she would like to create a Facebook page for the borough that would be strictly informational only, no one would be allowed to make comments and that she would be the only person taking care of the page. Council agreed to both the Alert Carbon program as well as the Facebook page for the borough.

Motion was made by Bill Chapman and second by Greg Kosciolek to adjourn at 8:03 p.m. until the next regular scheduled meeting on April 28, 2014 at 7:00 p.m. Motion opened to the floor for comment, none made. Motion carried unanimously by Council.



Jesse Walck
Council President



Kira Steber
Secretary/Treasurer

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