

Summit Hill Borough Council
March 9, 2015, 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 Vice President Michael Kokinda presiding.

Roll Call - Vice President Mike Kokinda, Michael Alabovitz, John O'Gurek, Bill Chapman, William O'Gurek, Solicitor Michael Greek and Mayor Paul McArdle were in attendance.

Motion was made by John O'Gurek and second by Bill Chapman to have Council reorganize. Motion was opened to the floor for comment; none made. Motion carried unanimously by Council.

The meeting was turned over to Mayor Paul McArdle.

Mayor McArdle asked for a nomination for Council President. **Motion was made by John O'Gurek and second by William O'Gurek to nominate Mike Kokinda as Council President.** Mayor McArdle asked if there were any other nominations; none made. **Motion was made by John O'Gurek and second by William O'Gurek to make Mike Kokinda the new Council President.** Motion was opened to the floor for comment; none made. Motion carried unanimously by Council. The audience clapped.

The meeting was turn over to Council President Mike Kokinda.

Mike Kokinda asked for a nomination for Council Vice President. **Motion was made by William O'Gurek and second by Bill Chapman to nominate John O'Gurek as Council Vice President.** Mike Kokinda asked if there were any other nominations; none made. **Motion was made by William O'Gurek and second by Bill Chapman to make John O'Gurek the new Council Vice President.** Motion was opened to the floor for comment; none made. Motion carried unanimously by Council. The audience again clapped.

Mike Kokinda asked for a nomination for President Pro Temp. **Motion was made by William O'Gurek and second by John O'Gurek to nominate Bill Chapman as President Pro Temp.** Mike Kokinda asked if there were any other nominations; none made. **Motion was made by William O'Gurek and second by John O'Gurek to make Bill Chapman the new President Pro Temp.** Motion was opened to the floor for comment; none made. Motion carried unanimously by Council.

Floor

1. James Szczecina, East White Bear Drive, thanked all five members of Council who listened to the residents to do what they did. It took a great deal of courage. He said he was going to suggest reorganizing Council, but they just took care of that. He stated that it is very disturbing when government is ruled by personal agendas and vendettas. He has a very hard time adjusting to that type of politics. He looks at Council and has a great deal of confidence in them. He said that he knows some of them, he taught some of them and he really appreciates the fact that they use the office to not take personal vendettas out and tax some of our better citizens of this town. He appreciates what has transpired. Mike Kokinda thanked Mr. Sczcenia for his comments. The audience again clapped.
2. David Hiles, East White Street, thanks Council as well and said it's the first step they are taking to straightening out the town because there has been a lot of nonsense going on. He too was going to talk about the personal agendas and vendettas going on in the town. David then asked about the recent storm that occurred on Friday. He stated that everyone on the north side of the street on his block moved to the south side. He plowed because he knew that the ordinance was not going to be a big deal. After he was done plowing, everyone moved back over. The next day they all got tickets because it was suppose to be the day that the Borough plowed. He stated that he has to believe that it was not a fault in the police department because the police have been following orders from certain

individuals on Council. He is glad to see that it has been taken care of tonight. That day they ticketed the cars in the 200 block and there were no tickets immediately after. He took a ride and there were no tickets on the 100 block or the 300 block on the north side; tickets were only on his block. He feels it was a personal vendetta against him. He asked Council to drop the charges on those tickets. Chief Fittos explained that the officer that issued the tickets was a former Lansford officer. Unbeknown to him, in Lansford you are not suppose to park there whether the street was cleared or not and you are still issued a ticket. As far as what happened with the other blocks, he didn't get to speak to that officer yet, but if he didn't ticket the cars he is sure he had a good reason or he eventually got there later. He hasn't looked at all the tickets but he knows that the officer is an honest and good police officer. As far as the tickets issued to places that were already cleared, he will straighten some of that out with the plow drivers and speak to the officer. As for the areas that were pre-cleared, one of them being the west block of Ludlow Street on the north side, it was cleared on Friday due to most of the businesses being there. The officer also issued tickets there because of what he was used to. Those tickets will be taken care of but the streets that were not cleared will still have to pay the tickets. Mr. Hiles explained that the tickets started on the 200 block of Eat White Street and that is why he felt like it was let's give it to Dave Hiles. He is not saying that the police came after him but it looked like it to him because his block was the first block to be ticketed. Fittos said he has already ticketed cars and had people question why cars didn't have tickets and it was because the people have already removed them. He assured Mr. Hiles that it was nothing personal. Hiles expressed he knows that the police do not have a personal thing against him. He has dealt with the officers before and they have been very cordial and respectful every time he had to call for any issues. There are certain individuals on Council who feel they have the power to call the police and order them to do things. He wanted to remind Council that it is the same as the school board. He was board president for seven years and he couldn't tell anyone to do anything; the board had to tell them. The Mayor is the person that should be telling the police department what to do. If there is a suggestion, you have to go through the Mayor. He isn't saying that it is the guys who are here tonight; he is just glad to see a change in leadership because he feels that is what the town needs. He also asked that Council take a look at the whole plowing ordinance. Bill Chapman said that this meeting was set up as a workshop. Hiles said he thought it was a regular meeting, not a workshop. What he is saying is that the ordinance needs to be looked at more than it has been. Bill Chapman stated that he would like to see everyone who has a plow come and sit down with Council and help brainstorm something that works for everyone. Hiles said that he would love to help. If you look around town, there is a mess in town. He is not blaming anyone but he is kind of blaming the ordinance and how it is written. If there is a snow storm on a Wednesday and you wait until Friday to plow the north and west sides, the snow is going to be crushed down and turn into ice and there is no way you are going to be able to move it. He said that we have to come up with a plan that is going to get the streets cleaned quicker. Chapman explained that there were three back to back storms and before we got the chance to do what we wanted to do it was frozen and we couldn't do anything; Hiles agreed. Hiles said that they need to develop a plan where the snow can get off the street a lot quicker than waiting a day or two and he thinks that whoever is on Council and whoever is interested can work it out and get it done but they really need to look at the plan. Bill Chapman suggested having Joe Kosalko because he would have some input on things. Mr. Kosalko stated that he never had a problem; it is called common sense.

Mike Kokinda asked Chief Fittos how many tickets were written on Sunday. Fittos said he thought around 35. Kokinda stated that he received some phone calls about the north side of the street. After the sun was out on Friday, the north side of the street was pretty well cleared of snow and that is when people were asking if they were suppose to move or just stay there. Chief Fittos said that they did go around and ticket on Friday then the following day there were areas that we really couldn't tell. He again explained that the officer that was on duty tried to do the best job he could. Wayne Gryzik added that the officers do a good job but asked why they just don't void the tickets. He feels this would be fair to the people and to the police department. Michael Alabovitz said that he doesn't have a problem with doing that. He did mention that the night before he drove down White Street and all the cars were on the opposite side of the street to be plowed; he thinks it was just general confusion.

Sometimes the snow and ice gets built up so much that you cannot tell if it is cleared or not. He received a phone call from a guy asking what side of the street they were to be parked on and he didn't know what to tell him because he wasn't even sure. He said some people got tickets because he received phone calls about it but he is not sure the reason why they got the tickets. Fittos explained that people on Friday, the south side, got tickets and if there were some areas that were questionable, tickets were not issued because it was hard for him to tell. Because of the ice, even after they plowed, you couldn't tell if it was touched or not. Prior to that, we had two storms that were less than three inches and it was not plowed curb to curb. So that is two storms built up and now another storm with three inches. This is hard for the people and they are saying that we didn't do curb to curb last time and now you are. Joe said that he thinks one thing that Kira had been really great at doing is handing out the paper explaining how you can get notices on your cell phone. He explained that anyone with a cell phone can get notifications about any emergencies in Summit Hill. If something would happen to the water, you would be alerted through your phone. Kira does have that information if anyone is interested. It is a good thing and it is very helpful to the citizens. Mike Kokinda said he knows that Council has talked to the Water Authority about getting together for emergencies but it was never approved. Fittos stated that this is something through the County that you can sign up for at no cost. Kokinda asked if this is something that we can out through a letter. Kira explained that she put it on the Borough's Facebook page a few times but we can get it out there. Mike asked if Ron Gower can get it out in the paper. John O'Gurek suggested having Kira make sure it is on the Borough's website as well. This way people will know when the Borough is plowing curb to curb.

Joseph Kosalko said he has a few questions. He stated that he heard the Chief protecting his officers by saying that while going around the cars he couldn't tell if the area was plowed but yet he still put tickets on cars. He then asked who determines and how is it determined if there is three inches of snow. Mike Kokinda said that last he remembered there was a gentleman from town that has a weather station that we used. Bill Chapman said he thinks it is Mogilski and he doesn't believe that he does it anymore. James Szczecina said since there is a lot of confusion with this storm, why can't we take the tickets away. Kokinda stated his only concern is what happens the next time. If Council wishes to take them away, then he is ok with it. Mr. Szczecina expressed that there seems to be much confusion now that we are drifting away from what we were originally talking about. He feels a vote should be taken. Kokinda asked if it was Council's place. Solicitor Greek explained that it is up to the Mayor and the Chief. They need to decide if they are going to take the tickets away. They are the executive branch and are responsible for enforcing it and so it is their decision. You are in a situation that you cannot do that with any other statute that you have, so it is up to them to do it. Greek said the he doesn't think that as a body you can direct them to do it. Chief Fittos explained that for the people who were parked in the areas that were already cleared, the tickets will be taken back. Kosalko feels that is not fair and it should be all or nothing. Kokinda stated that he didn't have any complaints about Friday; Saturday was the issue. It will be a judgment call on Chief Fittos' part.

3. Mike Kokinda addressed Eric Thompson from the Breakboys. Eric said he was there to talk to Council about having the entrance cleared at the Ginder Field. John O'Gurek explained that he already spoke with Eric and has no problems with them using the field. O'Gurek said that Mr. Thompson stated that they needed the field cleared and asked if the Borough could clear it for them. John told him that we cannot take the equipment onto the field. Eric stated that his main concern is the front entrance because it is a safety concern. Mike Kokinda said they will talk about it later and address all the issue. John said that he has no problem with them using the field as long as they abide by the Borough's rules. Chief Fittos said there are issues with bringing vehicles onto the field and ripping it up. The police would have to enforce it but the Borough would need to purchase signs to put there first. The vehicles are putting ruts in the field and the track. Eric stated that quads ripped up the field. Kokinda said we will address all of this a little later.
4. Stanley Szczecina, East White Street, mentioned the incident that Mr. Hiles was referring to on Saturday morning. He was on his porch waiting for a ride, saw Lisa Hiles on the 100 block and asked

her what was going on. She said that she couldn't believe that everyone on her block on the left side got tickets and no one on the 100 block did. He looked up the street and saw that she was right. About 10 minutes later his ride came and as he was getting in the vehicle he saw a police officer pull in and gave his neighbor a ticket. So at least one person on his block got a ticket. Mr. Szczecina said that he is very disappointed with the snow removal this year. Summit Hill was noted for having the best snow removal compared to the neighboring towns. There was so much friction between residents and Council that he doesn't know if the ordinance is compatible with what is posted. With the new ordinance, he doesn't know what he is suppose to do. John O'Gurek explained that the new ordinance was for people plowing their own areas and that ordinance has been rescinded. O'Gurek said that Michael Alabovitz had a good idea. Instead of worrying if there is three inches, we will just plow curb to curb despite how many inches there are on the ground. These are the kind of things that need to be discussed at the workshop and maybe tweak the old ordinance. Maybe the three inch rule should be changed to four inches. We can make sure to put it on the Borough's website so that people will know when we are going to plow curb to curb. David Hiles said that one thing that use to work well was when the police would go around and blow the sirens. Chief Fittos explained that when there is only one officer on duty they have to try and go ahead of the plows to warn everyone. Mike Kokinda stated that he is hearing a lot of cooperation and common sense talk about all of this. One thing that does happen a lot is when Kira gets phone call from residents stating that their neighbor parked in front of their house, didn't move their car, the plow went around the car and two days later they finally moved it; why didn't they get a ticket. Kokinda said that the car may or may not have been on the right side of the street and that is why a ticket was not given. We are trying to legislate courtesy and common sense and it doesn't work. It is unfortunate to say that if your neighborhood works together and the block is clear we can come and plow your street. If there is one car parked there, we can't force them to move, we can't give them a ticket so we will just go around them. John O'Gurek said that if there is one car parked there, that is the neighbors problem to get them to move to have it plowed a day early. If the entire block is moved, then why can't we just do both sides. After the last snow storm, the Borough decided to plow curb to curb on both sides and no tickets would be issued. He drove through town and said that about 90% of the town was plowed curb to curb. He told them with the current situation go around the vehicles and do what you need to do. The Borough went out the next day with the loader and cleaned up maybe twenty spaces and the whole town was pretty much done.

5. Lisa Hiles said this all needs to be discussed at a workshop. She added that all the people who have lived in Summit Hill their whole lives, not from other towns, have cooperated. Years ago things were different because you knew your neighbor on both sides and even those across the street. People went to each other's doors and said you are not suppose to be on this side of the street today. Now we are at a different age where everything is about communication by Facebook, by the web, by texting, by email or by the guy that's got to ride around and get people to move. But, it also take all of us to knock on your neighbor's door and say you need to move your car instead of laughing that they got a ticket. There are people who are habitual. She doesn't think they are doing it on purpose, they just don't get it and they aren't going to ask. Some people are just ignorant but ignorant in the sense that they just don't know. Stanley Szczecina said his block is really bad and the alley is even worse. He hopes at the workshop we can take care of this. Kokinda stated that he hopes to have this worked out before next year.
6. Karen Ruzicka, West White Street, said her solution is to simplify the ordinance. Make is so everyone understands it and it is easy. If it snows on the odd day, the odd side should get done. If it is an even day, then the even side gets done. Everyone is getting confused. Chief Fittos said Lansford uses the odd even rules and it would be simple.
7. John Gawlik, North Spruce Street, said that two years ago we were the model town. This year you have people driving up and down the middle of the street with no cars on the south side and they are not plowing. Two days later is snowed again and they didn't do the north side. Mike Kokinda explained that it all stems from the ticketing policy. People are calling Joe and Kira and asking why

aren't you giving this guy a ticket. According to the ordinance, they could be parked there. Kokinda said this is all the stuff that needs to be discussed and hopefully get taken care of before next winter.


New Business


1. Adopt Ordinance No. 2 of 2015, Rescind Plowing Ordinance - Mike Kokinda said that we need to adopt this ordinance to repeal Ordinance No. 1 of 2014, Snow Plowing Ordinance. **Motion was made by John O'Gurek and second by William O'Gurek to adopt Ordinance No. 2 of 2015 to repeal Ordinance No. 1 of 2014, the snow plowing ordinance.** Motion was opened to the floor for comment. David Hiles asked if it was the contractors ordinance; Kokinda responded yes. Michael Alabovitz asked when they are going to hold a workshop. William O'Gurek agreed with Alabovitz saying that we shouldn't wait. Alabovitz said this is not going to be done in one night; it will take several meetings to get through it. Mike Kokinda asked if this was something that the whole board wants to sit on or is it just going to be the Street Committee. John O'Gurek said it needs to be an open meeting because we want input from everyone out there as well as our own input. Hiles asked if you can make it an informal meeting. Solicitor Greek said that you can't hold an informal meeting because it needs to be advertised. To label something as a workshop session, there is no such thing. It has to be advertised as a meeting and how you run the meeting is up to Council. You will have to have public input before you take official action. There is nothing in the Borough Code for workshops. Kokinda suggested that Council talk amongst themselves as a group and see what dates are available to hold a meeting. He stated that it would be best to have the Borough Workers here as well as Council, the public and have the ordinance available to look at to see how it is written and what we would like to change. William O'Gurek asked when the next Council meeting is; Kira stated March 23rd. William suggested having copies of the ordinance available for the public at that meeting and then two to three weeks later we can sit down and have a meeting devoted to the snow ordinances. Jeff Szczecina noted that it is not a bad ordinance, it is just how it is determined. He said that Tom McCready probably wrote the ordinance and it isn't bad, just the way everyone is interpreting it. John O'Gurek suggested setting a date at the next meeting, if that is ok with everyone. Motion was reopened to the floor for comment; no further comments made. Motion carried unanimously by Council.
2. Adopt Ordinance No. 3 of 2015, Handicap Parking Amendment - Solicitor Greek said that Council had discussed amending the handicap ordinance that gives you the ability on permanent disability where you don't have to re-file an application every time. He did not present it to Council before he looked at it because his staff threw it in the same advertisement with the ordinance to repeal the snow ordinance. This ordinance will allow Council to have the discretion to waive the renewal application. John O'Gurek asked if the fee will be waived as well. Chief Fittos stated that is was discussed to waive the part where you have to go see a doctor. Greek said you have the ability to do it however you want to do it. William O'Gurek asked if there is anything on the application that indicates that someone is permanently disabled. Kira said there are questions on the application that the doctor has to fill in that states if it is a permanent disability or not. Fittos again stated that this ordinance was to waive the person having to go see a doctor. **Motion was made by John O'Gurek and second by Michael Alabovitz to adopt Ordinance No. 3 of 2015 amending the Handicap Parking Ordinance to waive the doctor's visit fee from the renewal at Council's discretion.** Motion was opened to the floor for comment; none made. Motion carried unanimously by Council.
3. Letter from Chief Fittos regarding Officer Horos - Mike Kokinda read a letter from Chief Fittos asking that Officer Brian Horos be removed from his probation. Officer Horos was hired on August 25, 2014 and started on September 9, 2014 and has successfully completed his probationary period . He is recommending that Officer Horos be taken off of probation and elevated to full-time status. **Motion was made by Bill Chapman and second by John O'Gurek to remove Officer Horos from probationary status to full-time status.** Motion was opened to the floor for comment; none made. Motion carried unanimously by Council.

4. Breaker Boys - Eric Thompson, Owner, told Council that he has already spoke with Kira and the only thing hindering their ability to bring a slight increase in revenue in, by having a championship game or All Star game within their league, is the fact that they do not have facilities such as bathrooms or a concession stand for their games. What is he suppose to do when they come to the field and they do not have a bathroom. He does not want to come to the police station every time someone has to go. He has players on the other teams that use the woods, which he has no control over. He personally would like for this to not happen and again he has no control over it. John O'Gurek explained that the situation with the bathrooms is once they are winterized, they are winterized. When the weather gets warmer, it is not a problem. Eric asked how he can get the Borough to help with the port-a-potty situation. What are they supposed to do when they have teams driving for two hours to get to the game and the gas station will not allow them to use the facilities and they are the only business in town. John O'Gurek asked if the front doors are open at the Borough Building; Kira said they are only open during office hours. O'Gurek said if the bathrooms were heated it wouldn't be a problem. There is no other suggestion other than getting a port-a-potty. Eric stated that it is a public facility and doesn't understand why his team should be responsible for a port-a-potty when they should have public facilities available to them. John O'Gurek said that when the basketball league was across the street, they provided port-a-potties. Mike Kokinda expressed that not all private parks have bathrooms. William O'Gurek said that just because you are using a public park doesn't mean we have to have a port-a-potty for them. You are in a little bit of a different situation because you are playing football here and are bringing in a crowd. If the team wants to pay for a port-a-potty and put it in the field, he wouldn't have a problem. Eric stated that they are a non-profit team and are struggling, due to the local economy, even to get sponsors and cannot afford to pay for a port-a-potty. He would rather see the facility taken care of, whether that means they go in mutually in on it but he doesn't feel that they should be solely responsible for it. Michael Alabovitz said the taxpayers would not be happy to be paying for them. Mike Kokinda said we are not trying to be difficult. Eric explained that he just recently took over the Break Boys and he understands that they have a bad reputation from previous owners. He is just trying to incorporate the community. They held a Turkey Bowl up here and had a great turnout of fans but people were asking for facilities. He stated that it is not just fans from the other teams, it is fans from the whole community. Kokinda explained that they have already opened the bathroom before Memorial Day and have been burned because the temperatures have dropped and busted pipes. Eric asked if there is an alternate solution. Tom Tirpak said that even the bathroom facilities at the Panther Valley stadium are winterized this time of year. Kira stated that this is the problem with any outdoor facilities, they are all winterized. Kokinda asked if Eric had any other concerns. Eric said they have been storing their things in one room in the building over in the field and it has been vandalized, equipment has been taken from the team and the doors have been ripped off the hinges. He doesn't know if the solution is to fix the doors or if there is another place where they can store their stuff. Michael Alabovitz said obviously the doors need to be repaired, as do the bathrooms. But, there is a major vandalism problem up there. He asked that if you see kids playing up there to take a look and see if they are actually playing or if they are kicking in the doors. We had kids that tore the electric right out of the meter and someone is going to end up dead if they keep doing it. Eric's biggest concern is when they have respectable teams that have media coverage and bringing them into the Ginder Field, he doesn't want to bring any negativity to a respectable place. He knows there is a lot of history and heritage in the area. The last thing he wants to do is bring someone in and have them get a negative perception of the area. Kokinda said that we will have the doors either repaired or replaced. John O'Gurek asked Kira to tell the Borough guys to take a look at the door. Kokinda said it may have to wait until the weather cooperates and the piles of snow melt away from the entrance but we will see what we can do. Kira asked if they had a game this coming weekend. Eric said they ended up clearing another field because they couldn't wait. The first home game is the end of April and is hoping that everything will be taken care of as far as snow. Kira asked if he had a copy of the schedule to have on file. Eric will provide the schedule to her. Kira stated that she hopes by April everything will be gone, if not the Borough will try and get everything cleared away.

5. John O'Gurek said that Kira mentioned at the last meeting that the tape recorder was messed up and a new one would be around \$200.00. Kira stated that a new one was purchased. O'Gurek asked who authorized that purchase. Kira said all of Council did. O'Gurek said exactly.

Motion was made by Bill Chapman and second by William O'Gurek to adjourn at 8:05 p.m. until the next regular scheduled meeting on March 23, 2015. Motion was opened to the floor for comment; none made. Motion carried unanimously by Council.


Mike Kokinda
Council President


Kira Steber
Secretary/Treasurer