

Summit Hill Borough Council
May 23, 2016, 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 Michael Kokinda presiding.

Roll Call – President Mike Kokinda, Karen Ruzicka, Greg Kosciolk, William O'Gurek, Bill Chapman, David Wargo and Solicitor Michael Greek were all in attendance. Vice President John O'Gurek and Mayor Paul McArdle were absent.

Minutes – Motion was made by Bill Chapman and second by William O'Gurek to approve the minutes from the April 25 and May 12, 2016 meeting. Motion was opened to the floor for comment; none made. Motion carried unanimously by Council.

Floor –

1. Jim Szczecina, Summit Hill Historical Society Member, stated that he was here last year in regards to taking care of the issues with the gazebo. Unfortunately, it did not get done last year. They were able to get the work done this year at a cost of \$835.00. There were three boards that were rotted and were replaced and the shingles were also replaced. He expressed that the maintenance of the gazebo is very important. He noted that it now needs to be painted and if we don't do something about it, we will face the same problems that they had before. They are willing to pay for the paint and supplies and asked if it would be possible to have the Borough power wash it and paint it. The next big event is the Hootenanny, which is only a few weeks away. He spoke with Bill about it and feels very strongly that this needs to be taken care of before we lose it. Would the Borough consider having the work done to it. He mentioned hiring students that are looking for work over the summer to help. Mike Kokinda expressed his concern of community service or students helping out and said will they do a good job or make more of a mess out of it. Chief Fittos stated that he read in the paper that the adults in the prison are released for community services. Kokinda explained with only having two workers who have to do all the grass cutting and vehicle and borough maintenance, it might be hard to get them there to do the painting. He said they have an hour or two to power wash it but not three or four days to paint. Fittos said that he can call the prison to see what the details are and get back to Council. Kokinda asked Ron Gower to put it in the paper that we are looking for volunteers. William O'Gurek said that he will try to round up some volunteers to get together on the weekends and get it painted. He asked Fittos to let him know about the prisoners first and if that doesn't work out he will get together volunteers. Kokinda stated that we will do what we can to make sure it get done. Mr. Szczecina thanked Council for their help.
2. Roobhenn Smith, President of the Anthracite Little League Association, stated that there are still some issues with parking down at the Little League Field. He knows there were issues back around July or August of last year and Vice President, Brian Binder, has already been in contact with the zoning officer to get started with a permit for off street parking to make a portion of the field area into parking. We are nonprofit, we are individuals that have full-time jobs during the day and we try to do our best to make sure we are part of our community. Without the communities of Summit Hill and Nesquehoning, they would not have a Little League. Whatever it is that he can do with respect of being compliant in the best wishes of the neighbors of Richards Avenue. He has professed to the parents and visitors to not park in the alley and explained that they are looking at providing parking. He just wishes that when there is an issue he would be contacted. He is pretty easy to find in respects to his cell phone number is on the Little Leagues website as well as his email and his number is also listed in the phonebook. If there are concerns that need to be addressed, he will try to make sure that they are addressed with respects of anyone in the community that has an issue, complaint or concern. He just wants to be a partner to the community and try to resolve this. He is asking for the community's patience and would like to be an adult and competent individuals who can address it much quicker than calling the police. He does not know how it has gotten to be this big of an issue but he is actively seeking to remedy the issue. David Wargo asked where they are looking to place the parking. Roobhenn said they are planning on putting it in the area right in front of the concession stand and make it angle parking. It was discussed back in October at the Council meeting and he also went to the Recreation Commission meeting, when Mike Alabovitz was still on Council. The Vice President has been in contact with an excavator and he had been in touch with Bob Stempa who was going to take a look at the field and provide them with some options. They are currently soliciting

their canvas so that they can continue to do project in and around the field. Chief Fittos said his officers get calls from the residents that live down there and he does not think that anyone has been ticketed as of yet. The officers usually go down, get on the loud speaker and announce for people to move their vehicles and they do move. The people who make the complaints are the residents that live there. Their complaint is whether or not they have to get out of their garages, which is a moot point because they shouldn't be parking there. They would like the police to start issuing tickets. He knows that tickets have not been issued yet. He doesn't feel that it has to come to this as long as people move when they are told but we are being faced with the complaints from the citizens who not only call the police but they also call the Mayor and send messages to members of Council. This is what the department is faced with and they will continue to respond and get the people to move. Roobhenn said without sounding argumentative, they have people walking their dogs on the field and in the middle of baseball games they are scooping up dog poop. The police don't want to be called because someone is walking their dog on the field. Fittos said they have been called for that issue already. Roobhenn said he does not want to go tit for tat with people in the area. He just wants to come to a resolution. Fittos stated that some of the people who call for the parking also call for the dog issues in that area and people have been cited for it. He explained that they have not ticketed anyone yet but the people who live there are asking that they start. Roobhenn was grateful that they have not ticketed anyone. Fittos said these are normal citizens, not criminals, and we try to work with you. But, when they receive complaints, they have to act on it. Roobhenn said he completely respects that and this has nothing to do with the police, the neighbors or whether or not you move your cars. That is a moot point. It is the premise of blocking the area. There haven't been issues with the Little League and he has been part of it for the past 8 years. Last year was a really pronounced issue because there was a tournament. Fittos asked what the Little League owns; Roobhenn was not exactly sure. Kira Steber explained that the Little League Association owns the entire area from Spruce Street to Elm Street. However, there is a line drawn behind the baseball field and that area from behind the field all the way over to Elm Street is leased to the Borough for 99 years and grants were obtained to the basketball and tennis courts. Even though it is theirs, they signed a lease agreement with the Borough back in 1979 for 99 years. So it is theirs, but not theirs. Chief Fittos suggested they find out what they own and if it is your property, then they can park there. Roobhenn said they are trying to figure it out so they can make parking there and this does not become a further issue because he would like to see baseball continue for another 50 some years. Mike Kokinda said it is unfortunate that now that it is Summit Hill and Nesquehoning parents can't walk to the field because they can't walk from Nesquehoning. When his son plays, he needs to drive him to Nesquehoning but they also have more parking down there. He does not want this to turn into the Borough against the Little League. It is not the Little League's problem anyway. Parents come to a game and if they can't park there, they are going to have to park up the street and walk a little further. That might be a hardship on some people but her does appreciate him trying to come up with a resolution and he knows it is not going to happen overnight. It is going to take some work. People need to understand and be a little more cooperative but he can also understand the frustration with the residents who live down there because two or three days a week they are not able to get out of their garages. Roobhenn said he absolutely understands but they are not there to make people angry. They have their games coming up on Memorial Day weekend and they will remind everyone that they are to not park along that alley and if they don't get there early they will have to park on the street down by the tennis courts and anywhere else throughout. Kokinda said maybe people can carpool. Greg Kosciolk suggested putting barricades up at both ends of the alley. Steber asked about the residents who want to leave. Fittos said they would have to move the barricades to get out and then move them back. David Wargo asked Chief Fittos what the minimum width that the street needs to be to allow clearance. How wide does the street have to be to say someone is blocking a garage when they are parking across the street. Fittos said he does not know that off the top of his head. Kokinda asked Fittos if it is the same 2-4 individuals who complain or are there a lot of complaints. Joe stated that it is pretty much the same 4 or 5 people who complain. People think they are not doing their job but they are dealing with normal citizens. Roobhenn stated that if it is the same 4 or 5 individuals that are having a problem, he would be willing to talk with them and address that they are actively seeking a solution to the problem. Fittos said he cannot tell them who they are. Roobhenn said that is ok but they have his phone number, cell number and the Little League's number on file and he is not a hard person to find or talk to. He would convey to these people like he is conveying to Council that if they give him some time, he will work on it and make sure that no one parks in the area. He will tell the people and hope that they respect him enough to not park there and if they do park there, he will tell them they can't park in this area. There was a game on Saturday and he sent a message to every single visiting coach explaining that they cannot park on Richards Avenue because it is completely restricted and they conveyed the message. Someone did park there, they were told that they were not allowed to park there and they moved their vehicle. He doesn't

think that the parents are very difficult to deal with. Fittos suggested having someone stand there just to inform them that there is no parking allowed in that area and then they can continue on with their game. Kokinda asked if there was access to the grass off of Elm Street or is it all curb. He said there is probably room in the grass to put 10-15 cars. Roobhenn stated that the problem is that it technically is not theirs. Kira noted that they did talk about turning the courts into a parking area but when she was looking into it she found paperwork that said the courts were done by a grant and because it was done by a grant, she is not sure what the stipulations of the grant are. Kokinda stated that in the meantime, there is an area below the courts that can be used for parking. Wargo asked Solicitor Greek if there is a way to find out the specifics and terms of the grant to see about backing out of it. Michael Greek said you could if you have any of the paperwork. Steber stated that the grant was from the early 80's. Wargo asked if it would be filed somewhere or archived. Greek said it is hard to say because you would need to know a place to start so that you can get in contact with the right entities. Kokinda suggested having the Borough workers go down, put some stone down in the area and make a ramp to get up onto the grass to park. He feels that putting the parking area near the concession stand is a bad idea because of all the kids that are throwing balls around, playing and people who are going to get something to eat. Wayne Gryzik suggested putting no parking posters up and down that street. Kokinda said that it is marked no parking. Neighbors can't park there either. They are not able to be parked back there either. If they do not want people parking there, then neither should they. He said he will go down and take a look at the area and see what he can come up with for a parking solution. They will try to get access from Elm Street for temporary parking. He said if they are leasing to the Borough then they can give them the permission to park there. As far as the grant is concerned, we can't change anything. Mr. Szczecina asked if the tennis courts are available to make parking. Steber said it depends on the stipulations of the grant and since it is from the 80's, it may not have been as strict as the rules are now. Kokinda asked Kira to look into the grant further and see how long it has to be maintained. He told Roobhenn they will do their best to help them out and Roobhenn said he will do his best to make sure they are in compliance.

Mayor's Report – Chief Fittos read the Mayor's report for the month of April 2016. Total received from the District Magistrate was \$1,134.14. **Motion was made by David Wargo and second by Greg Kosciolek to accept the Mayor's report for the month of April 2016.** Motion was opened to the floor for comment; none made. Motion carried unanimously by Council.

Police Report – Chief Fittos read his report for the month of April 2016. He mentioned that there is an Operation Trojan Horse Training seminar being held at the Lackawanna Public Safety Center on June 7th that he would like Officer Ohl to attend. There is not cost for this seminar and his shift will be filled in with a part-time officer. **Motion was made by Bill Chapman and second by William O'Gurek to allow Officer Ohl to attend the Operation Trojan Horse seminar for Heroin and Prescription Drug Overdose Investigations on June 7, 2016 with no cost to the Borough.** Motion was opened to the floor for comment; none made. Motion carried unanimously by Council. Fittos explained an estimate received from Schuylkill Electronics to purchase a base station antenna for the Police Department. He said the reception is terrible in the office and they need an outside antenna for the radios. There are times the dispatcher can't be understood because of the reception. The estimate for the outside antenna is \$720.00. He stated that once they switched over to narrowband, it got worse. Bill Chapman suggested tabling this until Kira can provide Council with budget numbers. **Motion was made by David Wargo and second by Bill Chapman to accept the Police report for the month of April 2016.** Motion was opened to the floor for comment; none made. Motion carried unanimously by Council.

Planning and Zoning – **Motion was made by William O'Gurek and second by Greg Kosciolek to accept the Planning and Zoning report for the month of April 2016.** Motion was opened to the floor for comment, none made. Motion carried unanimously by Council.

Work Leader Report – Karen Ruzicka asked why on April 8, 2016 both of the Borough workers took the police car to get tires and an alignment which took 4 hours. Why do both of them have to go and sit there for 4 hours. Why can't one follow the other there, drop it off, come back and do some work and then go pick it up when it is ready. Chief Fittos said he cannot explain why both of them went but they had to take the car to Hazleton because they are the only place that would sell those type of tires at a reasonable price. Karen said that is fine if one person goes and wait but why do both have to go. She said she notices it a lot in the report Summit Hill Borough - May 23, 2016 Council Meeting

that they are both doing this together when one guy could be doing one job in one place while the other is somewhere else getting things done. She feels that we need to separate them a little bit to be more efficient. **Motion was made by Bill Chapman and second by William O'Gurek to accept the Work Leader report for the month of April 2016.** Motion was opened to the floor for comment; none made. Motion carried unanimously by Council.

Tax Collector Report – Borough Secretary, Kira Steber, read the Tax Collector Report for the month of April 2016. Alice Kane submitted total taxes of \$141,181.57 with a commission of \$5,647.26. **Motion was made by Bill Chapman and second by William O'Gurek to accept the Tax Collector Report for the month of April 2016.** Motion was opened to the floor for comment; none made. Motion carried unanimously by Council.

Wage Tax Report - Borough Secretary, Kira Steber, read the Wage Tax Report for the month of April 2016. Berkheimer submitted total EIT of \$17,249.55 with a commission of \$298.42 and postage charges of \$35.20. Total LST submitted was \$203.30 with a commission of \$4.17 and postage charges of \$15.93. **Motion was made by Bill Chapman and second by Karen Ruzicka to accept the Wage Tax report for the month of April 2016.** 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 April 2016. General Fund receipts were \$176,248.98, Sanitation Account receipts were \$12,008.29, Community Center receipts were \$1,650.00 and Sewer Fund receipts were \$51,946.18. Kira mentioned that the money received in the Sewer Fund was the Safety Margin that was held from the Sewer Authority and will be used towards the inlet project on Pine Street. Mike Kokinda added that Penn DOT was at the job site with Mike Tirpak this morning and seemed to have everything figured out and hopefully the project will move forward. **Motion was made by David Wargo and second by Karen Ruzicka to accept the Receipts for the month of April 2016.** Motion was opened to the floor for comment; none made. Motion carried unanimously by Council.

Committee Reports –

Streets - Kira Steber said this is a very busy week getting the town ready for Memorial weekend and the parade. They will be busy putting up the flags, cutting grass and posting the streets for the parade. Mike Kokinda asked if they got the flags washed. Kira said that she took them home and soaked all of them in OxiClean to try and get as much of the dirt out of them as she could. She said they are the best they are going to be but we seriously need to consider replacing them. There was about a dozen flags that she didn't bring back because they were in such bad shape but she will give them to the Mayor to have them burned. She stated that they are not going to get any cleaner. Mike asked if Mr. Poko talked to her about the washing machine at the fire house. They have a big unit over there that they use to wash their gear. Kira said they definitely are not going to get any cleaner and she can't remember ever purchasing new ones and she has been here about 13 years. Definitely something for Council to consider.

Buildings – Kira Steber gave an update on Brian who is taking care of the community center on the weekends. He has been doing a fabulous job and many people have complimented on how clean it is and how clean it smells. He has no issues with the times to be there to open or to come back to lock the doors. There are times where the event is over really late but he comes back the very next day to clean. This way he is on top of things and has it ready for the next event. He does keep her updated on everything and he is worth every penny that we pay him. She also mentioned that Council should seriously consider increasing the rates to rent the community center. Right now we are charging \$50.00 to hold the center and \$25.00 per hour for the event. If we increase that rate to \$75.00, it will cover the cost to pay Brian. But, we still need to think about increasing the hourly fee to cover costs. We haven't had a lot of problems but we still have the heat, air conditioning, supplies and other costs. We need to consider upping the fee slightly but not too much that we gouge the people. Chief Fittos mentioned that the floors in the police department have only been stripped and waxed once since we moved into the building. When they are lucky enough to have someone who needs

community service, they at least get it mopped. But in order to protect the floor we need to get it stripped and waxed. Mike Kokinda asked Kira to get in touch with Mr. O'Gurek to see if he still does it.

Fire and Emergency Services – Kira Steber mentioned that Parrot Beach will be at the Fire Co. this Saturday night. The doors open at 7:00 p.m.

Recreation – Kira Steber mentioned that the Recreation Commission will hold the Stay-At-Home Race this Sunday with registration starting at 7:45 a.m. and the race beginning at 9:00 a.m.

Sanitation - Kira Steber stated that Council has made the motions about people who have not reapplied for their exemptions and having them pay the first quarter and reapply. We received a letter from a former resident who is the executor of her mother's house since she passed away. Council does have a copy of her letter in their packets. She is stating that she is not happy with the results of what we are telling her and is blaming other departments because she had her services shut off at the home and is claiming that they informed her that they would take care it. There is no way this is true because the other departments would never say this to her. They would have told her to call the Borough office because they do not handle the sanitation. This person did send a check and is stating that she would like to have the bill taken away, the check destroyed and to have no further bills sent to her for this property. She did reapply back in April but we did not accept it because she did not pay the two quarters that she owed. She is responsible for the first two quarters but needs to stop blaming other departments for this because this is the 3rd or 4th year that she has been on the exemption list. I could see if it was her first year and then I would give her the benefit of the doubt that she wasn't aware of it and work with her but this is at least her third year of being exempt. She was on the exemption list, she did not reapply so therefore she needs to pay. Bill Chapman said he read the letter that Kira sent to this person and see nothing wrong with it because she exactly what Council decided on. Kira stated that she will do whatever Council instructs her to do. Karen Ruzicka asked what happened to the people who did not reapply. Kira said they are still being billed. Anyone who reapplied after the fact and paid the first quarter was approved for exemption. Kira explained that there was a property that she let go because of the fact that the property owners changed and the new owners were not aware of the exemption due to it being in the previous owner's name. She is willing to work with people but in this case, she was well aware of the exemption. She asked Council if she should deposit the check. Mike Kokinda said to deposit the check Kira said that next month this person will be on the exemption list for approval and won't get any further bills. Kira asked Council if they were ok with her decision; Council was on the same page as her.

Motion was made by William O'Gurek and second by Bill Chapman to accept the Committee Reports for the month of May 2016. Motion was opened to the floor for comment; none made. Motion carried unanimously by Council.

Communications -

1. Mike Kokinda read a letter from St. Joseph's Church requesting to block off certain areas of the 400 blocks of West White Street and Ludlow Street for the annual festival and use of the streets for the annual procession and Two Saint Scamper. **Motion was made by David Wargo and second by Greg Kosciolk to grant permission to St. Joseph's Church allowing them to block off the proper streets for their annual festival to be held July 15-17, 2016, to use the streets for the annual procession with the statue of St. Gabriel on July 17, 2016 and the use of the Borough streets for their Two Saint Scamper to be held on July 23, 2016.** Motion was opened to the floor for comment; none made. Motion carried unanimously by Council.

Communications for the Month of May 2016:

1. Letter received from St. Joseph Church requesting permission to block off the streets for their annual festival July 15 – 17, 2016 and requesting the use of the streets for the Two Saints Scamper on July 23, 2016.

2. Notice of 2016 Tax Duplicate from the County Board of Assessment and Revision of Taxes
3. Central Pennsylvania Teamster Guardian Newsletter

Motion was made by William O’Gurek and second by Karen Ruzicka to accept Communications for the month of May 2016. Motion was opened to the floor for comment; none made. Motion carried unanimously by Council.

Bills – Borough Secretary, Kira Steber, read the expenses for the month of May 2016. Total General Fund Expenses were \$ 60,258.70, total Sanitation Fund Expenses were \$24,426.53 and total Street Account Expenses were \$ 1,039.40. **Motion was made by Bill Chapman and second by William O’Gurek to approve the bills for the month of May 2016.** Motion was opened to the floor for comment, none made. Motion carried unanimously by Council.

Old Business – Nothing at this time.

New Business –

1. Pine Street Inlet Project - Kira Steber explained that she spoke with Mike Tirpak about the inlet project and he suggested that Council make a motion to advertise pending Penn DOT's review and approval for the project this way it will not be held up by waiting for the next meeting. **Motion was made by William O’Gurek and second by David Wargo to advertise for the Pine Street Inlet Replacement Project pending Penn DOT's review and approval of the non-standard inlet tops proposed for the project.** Motion was opened to the floor for comment; none made. Motion carried unanimously by Council.
2. Handicap Parking Applications - Mike Kokinda said there are two applications for renewal for the properties located at 24 West Walter Street and 223 South Chestnut Street. **Motion was made by David Wargo and second by William O’Gurek to approve the handicap renewal applications for the properties located at 24 West Walter Street and 223 South Chestnut Street.** Motion was opened to the floor for comment; none made. Motion carried unanimously by Council.
3. New Flags for Poles - Kira Steber said she went online and got a price of about \$4,000 to replace the 82 flags that we have for the poles. This was just something that she found online today but did not do any comparing in prices. She printed this one out just to get an idea of the cost. William O’Gurek asked if the ones we currently have are really bad. Mike Kokinda said they are in very rough shape. Kira said it is almost a disgrace to hang what we have. She will look around and get additional prices. She said we put them up for every holiday and everyone is in town for Memorial Day. Kokinda said we will definitely replace them we just need to get better prices.

Council entered into Executive Session to discuss Personnel matter at 7:45 p.m.

Council entered back into Regular Session at 8:35 p.m.

Motion was made by Bill Chapman and second by Karen Ruzicka to adjourn at 8:34 p.m. until the next regular scheduled meeting of the Summit Hill Borough on June 27, 2016. Motion was opened to the floor for comment; none made. Motion carried unanimously by Council.



Mike Kokinda
Council President



Kira Steber
Secretary/Treasurer