

Summit Hill Borough Council
January 23, 2023, 6:30 p.m. Borough Hall

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

Roll Call – President Michael Kokinda, Vice President William O’Gurek, Gino DeGiosio, Karen Ruzicka, Joseph Weber, David Wargo and Mayor Jeffrey Szczecina were in attendance. Solicitor Robert Frycklund was absent.

Floor – No one from the floor was signed in to speak.

Letters of Interest for Council – Kira Steber presented three letters of interest for the vacant Council seat. David Wargo asked that each letter be read to enter them into record. Letters of interest are attached to the minutes.

President Kokinda asked for nominations for the vacant Council seat.

Karen Ruzicka nominated Edward Kane.

David Wargo nominated Sherri Buzik.

Vice President O’Gurek nominated Alan Kruslicky.

President Kokinda asked for a roll call vote for Edward Kane

Michael Kokinda	No
William O’Gurek	No
Gino DeGiosio	No
Karen Ruzicka	Yes
Joseph Weber	Yes
David Wargo	No

Motion failed by a 2-4 vote to appoint Edward Kane to the vacant Council seat.

President Kokinda asked for a roll call vote for Sherri Buzik

Michael Kokinda	No
William O’Gurek	No
Gino DeGiosio	No
Karen Ruzicka	No
Joseph Weber	No
David Wargo	Yes

Motion failed by a 1-5 vote to appoint Sherri Buzik to the vacant Council seat.

President Kokinda asked for a roll call vote for Alan Kruslicky.

Michael Kokinda	Yes
William O’Gurek	Yes
Gino DeGiosio	Yes
Karen Ruzicka	No
Joseph Weber	No
David Wargo	No

Roll call vote ended in a tie. The motion was turned over to Mayor Jeffrey Szczecina to break the tie. Mayor Szczecina asked what the first two votes were for the other candidates. He thanked all three applicants for expressing interest in the position. With the vote being 3-3 he will vote yes for Alan Kruslicky. Motion to appoint Alan Kruslicky to fill the vacant Council seat passed.

David Wargo also thanked all applicants for expressing their interest in the position.

Alan Kruslicky was sworn into office by Mayor Jeffrey Szczecina.

New Business

1. David Wargo stated that letters were received from the Civil Service Commission and Chief Woodward recommending that Council hire Jason Bell as a full-time officer for the borough and also recommend that they waive the physical fitness examination. **Motion was made by David Wargo and seconded by William O’Gurek to hire Jason Bell as a full-time officer for the Summit Hill Borough.** Motion was opened for comment; none made. Motion carried unanimously by Council.
2. Karen Ruzicka requested approval to register for an online four-part series for grant writing at a cost of \$100. **Motion was made by William O’Gurek and seconded by Joseph Weber to allow Karen Ruzicka to register for a grant writing webinar to be held on March 2, 9, 16 and April 27, 2023 from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. at a cost of \$100.** Motion was opened for comment; none made. Motion carried unanimously by Council.
3. Vice President O’Gurek stated that they were able to come to an agreement with the police department to finalize their Collective Bargaining Agreement. The agreement will run from January 1, 2023 until December 31, 2026. He thanked Frank Lorah, who was the negotiator for the police. He said he was very easy to deal with during the process. It is a 4% wage increase for the next 4 years and shift differential was increased to .55 cents. One suggestion that he did make was that they do not have both contract expire at the same time. It was a lot to negotiate all at one time. **Motion was made by William O’Gurek and seconded by David Wargo to enter into the Collective Bargaining Agreement with the Summit Hill Police for the duration of four years running from January 1, 2023 through December 31, 2026.** Motion was opened for comment; non made. Motion carried unanimously by Council.
4. **Motion was made by Vice President O’Gurek and seconded by Joseph Weber to mend the agenda to add the bid award for the Summit Hill Heritage Center project.** Motion was opened for comment; none made. Motion carried unanimously by Council. President Kokinda stated that the bid is for electrical work to be done at the Heritage Center, which is covered under the grant. The Beers Engineering, LLC is recommending to accept the bid provided by Larry McCullion & Son Electrical Construction Service LLC. Although the amount is greater, that amount is not excessive, and they are perceived to be a more competent bidder due to correct interpretation of the Bid Specification. **Motion was made by William O’Gurek and seconded by Gino DeGiosio to award the bid to Larry McCullion & Son Electrical**

Construction Service LLC to do electrical work at the Summit Hill Heritage Center in the amount of \$34,900. Motion was opened for comment; none made. Motion carried unanimously by Council.

5. Mayor Szczecina asked when the effective date for Jason Bell will be. Kira Steber explained that Jason will need to give notification to his current employer. The effective date would be today, January 23, 2023 and he would start when he is available.

Motion was made by William O’Gurek and seconded by Gino DeGiosio to enter into an Executive Session at 6:46 p.m. Motion was opened for comment; none made. Motion carried unanimously by Council.

Motion was made by William O’Gurek and seconded by David Wargo to enter back into Regular Session at 6:55 p.m. Motion was opened for comment; non made. Motion carried unanimously by Council.

There was no further business to be discussed.

Motion was made by Joseph Weber and seconded by David Wargo to adjourn at 6:57 p.m. until the next regular scheduled meeting of the Summit Hill Borough on February 14, 2023. Motion was opened for comment; none made. Motion carried unanimously by Council.

Michael Kokinda
Council President

Kira Steber
Borough Secretary