

Summit Hill Borough Council
March 24, 2025, 6:00 p.m. Borough Hall

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

Roll Call – Karen Ruzicka, Alan Kruslicky, Edward Kane, Marlene Basiago and Mayor Jeffrey Szczecina were in attendance. President David Wargo, Vice President Joseph Weber, Lacey Gonzalez and Solicitor Robert Frycklund were absent.

Floor – No comments from the floor.

Committee Reports

Recreation and Building - Councilwoman Basiago noted that the tables at the community center are in desperate need of replacement. There is no guarantee that they are being cleaned after each event and the renter is responsible for wiping them down and putting them away. She recommends buying 5-7 new tables each year until they are all replaced.

Councilwoman Basiago mentioned that 14 people came to the pysanky egg painting class. Also, Easter on the Hill will be April 12th and a rain date of April 19th.

Special Purpose Parking – Councilwoman Basiago said there is a special purpose parking application for 153 East White Street. The committee recommends approving it. **Motion was made by Marlene Basiago and seconded by Alan Kruslicky to approve the handicap parking application for 153 East White Street.** Motion was opened for comment; none made. Motion carried unanimously by Council.

Old Business –

1. Councilwoman Ruzicka stated that two quotes were received to purchase a new Ford F-550 Dump Truck for the Public Works Department. Ms. Steber notified Council that currently it is taking 6-8 months to receive a truck once ordered. The prices quoted will only be good for so long. Even though they are discussing where the money is going to come from to pay for the vehicle, it would be in their best interest to get the truck ordered now since the delivery time will take us into October. No downpayment needs to be made to order the vehicle. As per the Work Leader, the current vehicle is not going to make it much longer. A brief discussion took place about the quotes and the financial information received from JTNB. **Motion was made by Alan Kruslicky and seconded by Edward Kane to approve the quote from New Holland at a cost of \$124,722.** Motion was opened for comment; none made. Motion carried unanimously by Council. Councilwoman Basiago said that if they order the truck now, they will not be able to apply for a grant. Through DCED you can apply for a loan at a rate of 2% for up to \$50,000. Councilman Kruslicky asked if there are still grants out there for debt consolidation. Another discussion took place about the financing for the vehicle.
2. Councilwoman Basiago said that Ludlow Park is the hub of the community and where most events take place throughout the year. The current appearance of the park needs attention. The trees around the monuments are overgrown. If they are trimmed, they will most likely die so she recommends having them removed. The wood in front of the trees is rotted and needs to be replaced with pressure treated wood. The monuments have moss, mildew, and dirt on them, and it makes it hard to read what is on the monuments. The larger monument also needs to be cleaned, and the soldier needs to be repainted. She received a quote from Trinity Artisans 2016 in the amount of \$4,750 to restore the statue and one from Church Services Group, LLC in the amount of \$9,875 to remove, transport and

return the statue. The total amount for the project would be \$14,625. She would like to apply for a grant with the Pocono Mountain Visitors Bureau in the amount of \$7,500, which is half of the cost. The borough would be responsible for the other half. She would like to borough to put some effort into it because nothing has been done in the parks for several years. The Blueprint Community had presented their goals and what they want to do for the area with tourism, development of businesses and economic development. We need to show pride in our community. The last time the soldier statue was painted was about 25-30 years ago. She would like Council's support and recommendation to move forward. Councilwoman Ruzicka said based on the total cost of the project, they would most likely need to go out for bid. Ms. Steber said that she knows there was an increase in the threshold but would have to check on what the amount has increased to. The grant is due on April 4, 2025. **Motion was made by Alan Kruslicky and seconded by Marlene Basiago to tentatively approve the quotes and apply for a grant with the Pocono Mountain Visitors Bureau in the amount of \$14,625 based on the information received from Solicitor Frycklund regarding the bidding process.** Motion was opened for comment; none made. Motion carried unanimously by Council.

3. Councilwoman Basiago mentioned that she would like to have the trees/arborvitaes removed that are around the monuments. If they are trimmed, they will most likely die because they are all brown underneath. The Borough Workers will be removing the trees. The borough would also have to replace the rotted boarder and possibly place mulch down in the meantime to see what it will look like before they decide if they would like to replace the trees with something else. They also have to get the monuments cleaned. The Shade Tree Commission trimmed the trees and said there might be a few that will have to be removed. They will not be planting trees in April so the next planting will be in fall.
4. Kira Steber said that Council wanted to discuss their goals for 2025. Councilman Kane asked what is the amusement tax that Councilwoman Gonzalez was talking about at the last meeting. Councilwoman Ruzicka stated that it was explained to her that it is a tax the borough would collect for the gambling machines that are in gas stations and bars. The companies that bring in the machines would be paying the tax. **Motion was made by Alan Kruslicky and seconded by Edward Kane to table the discussion of their goals for 2025 until the next meeting due to absent members of council.** Motion was opened for comment; none made. Motion carried unanimously by Council.

New Business –

1. Ms. Steber said that President Wargo mentioned having a rededication for the cherub statue in Ludlow Park. She said the statue was fixed, the workers repainted it and it is ready to be placed back in the park. The workers also said that once it is placed back on the base, they will be putting posts and chains around it to keep the kids away. Councilwoman Basiago recommended waiting to do anything until the soldier statue is done and have a rededication for both at the same time.
2. Ms. Steber mentioned an email that was sent to President Wargo from Kevin Steber, SHB EMC, Safety Officer & President of the Fire Co. No. 1, regarding a safety concern on SR902 along Bugzie's Mountain and the White Bear Hill. His concern is that the drains are covered and blocked with debris, which causes water to flow across the roadway surface creating a very hazardous hydroplaning potential. President Wargo would like to draft a letter and send it, along with the email from Mr. Steber, to PennDOT and our representatives to get the issue resolved. **Motion was made by Alan Kruslicky and seconded by Edward Kane to draft a letter to PennDOT regarding the drainage issues on SR902 and cc our local representatives.** Motion opened for comment; none made. Motion carried unanimously by Council.

3. Ms. Steber said a letter was received from Brian Dolena and other members, requesting permission to reorganize the Evans-Zimmardo Adult Basketball League using the Ginder and/or Little League basketball courts. They will also ensure that every participant in the league will sign a ‘Waiver of Liability’ form at the beginning of the season. The start date would be June 5, 2025 and end the first week of August. Councilwoman Basiago asked if Ms. Steber would follow up with Solicitor Frycklund to verify that a waiver form will protect the borough if it would go to court. **Motion was made by Alan Kruslicky and seconded by Marlene Basiago to tentatively approve the request to allow the Evans-Zimmardo Adult Basketball league to use the Ginder and/or Little League Basketball courts for a Summer League on Thursdays from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m., Sundays from 4:30 to 8:30 p.m. and use Tuesday evenings for rain cancellation make-up days with the requirement that all participants must sign a Waiver of Liability form and based on the information received from Solicitor Frycklund regarding the waiver of liability forms.** Motion opened for comment; none made. Motion carried unanimously by Council.
4. Ms. Steber presented a letter that was received from Bob Barron, resident of 128 West Hazard Street, asking if Council is going to allow him to paint the gazebo in Ludlow Park. Councilwoman Ruzicka said that this is the guy who started painting the gazebo in December and made a mess by getting paint all over the garland that the Rec Commission had up for Christmas. **Motion was made by Marlene Basiago and seconded by Edward Kane to deny the request from Bob Barron to paint the gazebo due to liability reasons.** Motion opened for comment; none made. Motion carried unanimously by Council.
5. Ms. Williams, 313 East White Street, asked if Council could approach the Blueprint Community about grants to beautify the park. Mayor Szczecina said he will reach out to Mr. Dowling to let him know what the project is that Council is looking to do.

Motion was made by Marlene Basiago and seconded by Alan Kruslicky to adjourn at 6:45 p.m. until the next regular meeting of the Summit Hill Borough on April 8, 2025. Motion opened for comment; none made. Motion carried unanimously by Council.

David Wargo
Council President

Kira Steber
Secretary/Treasurer