

Summit Hill Borough Council
May 28, 2026, 6:30 p.m. Borough Hall

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

Roll Call – Vice President Joseph Weber, Joan Morana, Sherri Buzik, Edward Kane, Marlene Basiago, and Mayor Karen Ruzicka were in attendance. President Wargo (excused due to illness). Solicitor Robert Ruzicka was absent.

Letters of Interest for Council – Vice President Weber said two letters of interest were received. He stated that the letters are from George Ruzicka and Leigh Ann Kruslicky and read the letters so that they can be entered into record. A copy of the letters will be attached to the minutes.

Councilwoman Basiago wanted to know what each candidate would bring to Council since they are saying they are an asset to the community. What would be their plan and goal for the community. Mr. Ruzicka stated that he has a business background, but for the community he would work to clean it up and beautify the town. He added that he would also like to update ordinances. Ms. Kruslicky stated that she agrees with Mr. Ruzicka and would like to see ordinances updated and help the community. She has lived here her entire life and would like to give back to the community. She added that her letter says it all.

Councilwoman Buzik nominated Leigh Ann Kruslicky to fill the vacant Council seat.

Vice President Weber asked if there were any other nominations for the seat.

Councilwoman Basiago nominated George Ruzick to fill the vacant Council seat.

Vice President Weber asked for a roll call vote for the first nomination for Leigh Ann Kruslicky.

Vice President Joseph Weber	Yes
Joan Morana	Yes
Sherri Buzik	Yes
Edward Kane	Yes
Marlene Basiago	No

Roll Call vote ended in 4-1 vote. Motion carries unanimously to appoint Leigh Ann Kruslicky to the vacant seat on Council.

Leigh Ann Kruslicky was sworn into office by Mayor Karen Ruzicka.

Letters of Interest for the Sewer Authority – Vice President Weber said five letters of interest were received. He stated that the letters are from Darryl Cunfer, Nicollette Scheitrum, Marlene Basiago, George Ruzicka and John Dowling and read the letters so that they can be entered into record. A copy of the letters will be attached to the minutes.

Councilwoman Basiago nominated John Dowling to fill the vacant seat on the Sewer Authority Board.

Vice President Weber asked if there were any other nominations for the seat.

Councilwoman Morana nominated Darryl Cunfer to fill the vacant seat on the Sewer Authority Board.

Vice President Weber asked if there were any other nominations for the seat. No further nominations.

Vice President Weber asked for a roll call vote for the first nomination for John Dowling.

Vice President Joseph Weber	Yes
Joan Morana	No
Sherri Buzik	Yes
Edward Kane	Yes
Marlene Basiago	Yes
Leigh Ann Kruslicky	Yes

Roll Call vote ended in 5-1 vote. Motion carries unanimously to appoint John Dowling to the vacant seat on the CLSH Sewer Authority.

Floor –

1. August Altemose, 137 East White Street, had questions and concerns about Memorial Park. He gave a refresher as to the history of the park. The old Presbyterian Cemetery was not traditionally relocated with the physical remains moved elsewhere. Instead, the site was converted to a town park in 1972. Most headstones were removed and the area was rededicated as the Summit Hill Community Memorial Park in 1974. The remains of those buried remain on the original ground and are now resting quietly below Memorial Park. The list of those buried there can be found on findagrave.com or contact the Summit Hill Historical Society.

Mr. Altemose expressed his concerns about the proposed Memorial Park project, which was the former Presbyterian Cemetery. He was born and raised in Summit Hill and has lived here for 31 years. Like many residents he has spent time in the park while growing up, however, regardless of how the land is used, the area was, is and will always be a cemetery. This fact should never be forgotten. The cemetery contains graves, tombstones, and remains of members of this community dating back generations. The remains were never relocated and still rest beneath the ground today. To him and many others in the community, it makes it a sacred and consecrated ground deserving of dignity, preservation, and respect. He supports the proper maintenance of the property and supports restoring the surrounding wall and respectfully preserving the space. Over the years trees had to be removed for environmental and safety reasons, however, there is a major difference in maintaining a historic cemetery and redeveloping it into an event center/public attraction. The proposal involves additional construction, excavation, stages, event spaces or expanded recreational structures are deeply concerning. Even if these ideas are intended to improve the borough, or generate tourism or revenue, he believes a cemetery is the wrong place for that type of development. Memorial benches or pavers, if done respectfully and tastefully, may be appropriate but no further digging, building or transformation of the cemetery should occur. While the reconstruction of Ludlow Park was done beautifully, not every grassy area in town should be redesigned for entertainment, tourism, or financial purposes. Especially land that still contains human remains. If the borough wishes to pursue larger event base projects, he believes that the Ginder Field would be a far more appropriate location. It has the space necessary to support those ideas and it is already a recreational area designed for public gatherings and activities. He asks the members of Council and the residents of Summit Hill Borough to take a moment and reflect on the history beneath that ground and the families connected to it. Imagine if your own loved ones were buried there, would you want the land excavated, redeveloped, and turned into a location for events, music, and large public gatherings. The cemetery represents part of the history of the town and the people who helped build this community long before us. Once historic ground like this is disturbed it cannot truly be undone. He respectfully asks Council to preserve the cemetery for what it truly is as a place of remembrance, history, and eternal rest. He thanked Council for their time.

Mr. Altemose was asked what he was referring to when he said excavating the cemetery. He explained that he saw in the initial proposal it mentioned stages and a museum. It was explained to him that it was never the intention to excavate or put any buildings in Memorial Park. The design for the park includes benches, lights, pavers, garbage receptacles and repairing the stone wall around the park. Vice President Weber said

he believes that he is referring to another project that was presented to Council by President Wargo. He was talking about building an attraction and having a stage added, which he wanted to potentially build in the Ginder Field. That project is now going in the Presbyterian Church, should the project move forward. The attraction has nothing to do with the Memorial Park project. Councilwoman Basiago explained what the goals are for Memorial Park and added that they have been running fundraisers to raise money to put towards the project. They have also applied for grants.

A brief discussion took place about the trash and dog waste that is all over the park.

New Business –

1. **Motion was made by Marlene Basiago and seconded by Joan Morana to adopt Resolution No. 05 of 2026 to request a Greenway, Trails, and Recreation Program Grant for Memorial Park in the amount of \$68,433.18 with Vice President Weber and the Borough Secretary as authorized signers for the grant.** Motion was opened for comment; none made. Motion carried unanimously by Council.
2. **Motion was made by Edward Kane and seconded by Sherri Buzik to adopt Resolution No. 06 of 2026 to approve changes made to the 2026 Fee Schedule.** Motion was opened for comment; none made. Motion carried unanimously by Council.
3. **Motion was made by Sherri Buzik and seconded by Joan Morana to submit a commitment letter to DCED for 15% matching funds for the Greenways, Trails, and Recreation Program grant for Memorial Park Project.** Motion was opened for comment; none made. Motion carried unanimously by Council.
4. **Motion was made by Marlene Basiago and seconded by Joan Morana to grant the request from the Carbon County Commissioners to send letters of support to local legislators in support of increasing funding to keep the call centers properly equipped.** Motion was opened for comment; none made. Motion carried unanimously by Council.
5. **Motion was made by Marlene Basiago and seconded by Sherri Buzik to approve the request from The Lutheran Church of St. John in the Heights for police and fire police presence on Sunday, September 27, 2026 for the 55th annual Switchback Scamper foot race.** Motion was opened for comment; none made. Motion carried unanimously by Council.
6. Email from Jim Thorpe Borough Manager, Maureen Stermer, looking for interest from Summit Hill to have a member sit on a steering committee for a DEP Source Water Protection Program. Councilwoman Basiago stated that she would be interested in sitting on the committee.
7. Proposal to replace the copier in the police department due to the current lease expiring. The cost will be \$51.90 a month; currently paying \$45.50 a month. Annual service agreement will stay the same. **Motion was made by Sherri Buzik and seconded by Edward Kane to enter into an agreement with Valley Business Systems to enter into a 4-year lease agreement for a new copy machine for the Summit Hill Police Department.** Motion was opened for comment; none made. Motion carried unanimously by Council.

Motion was made by Sherri Buzik and seconded by Edward Kane to adjourn the meeting at 7:16 p.m. until the next meeting of the Summit Hill Borough on June 9, 2026. Motion opened for comment; none made. Motion carried unanimously by Council.

Joseph Weber
Council Vice President

Kira Steber
Secretary/Treasurer