

**MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 4, 2018
COMMON COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SUMMIT**

Distributed: 9/14/18

Approved: 9/17/18

The meeting was called to order by Council President David Naidu at 7:30 PM. The City Clerk then read the following notice:

“Adequate notice of this meeting has been provided by the City Clerk in the preparation of the Council Annual Meeting Notice of Closed Session and Regular Meetings, dated January 8, 2018 which set forth the date, time, and place of this meeting and by properly posting such notice and forwarding the notice to those designated newspapers and the persons requesting meeting notices. Please be further advised that the FIRE EXITS are to my RIGHT your left, and at the BACK OF THE ROOM.

Please be further advised that the City has an Assistive Listening System for the hearing impaired. We have three (3) assistive hearing devices. If anyone needs them, please raise your hand and the device will be brought to you. Please return them to the City Clerk or leave them with the Police Dispatcher.”

CALL TO ORDER

ROLL CALL

PRESENT: Councilmembers Bowman, Fox, Gould, Little, McTernan, Ogden and Council President Naidu

ABSENT: None

Also in attendance were Mayor Radest and staff members Rogers, Cascais, Evers, Gerba, Licatase, Weck and City Solicitor Giacobbe.

Minutes of this meeting are recorded on CD # 2018-18: 7:46:25 pm – 9:48:43 pm

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE - John Keiser

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Regular and Closed Session Minutes of July 31, 2018 – On motion of Councilmember Gould, duly seconded, the minutes were approved by the following vote:

RESULT:	APPROVED
MOVER:	Gould
SECONDER:	McTernan
AYES:	Fox, Gould, Little, McTernan, Ogden
ABSTAIN:	Bowman, Naidu

REPORTS

Items/issues noted hereunder, if any, reflect those recommending and/or needing action by City department(s) or at a future council meeting.

- Mayor, City Administrator and Council President (Summit Historical Minute)

CEREMONIAL AWARDS

Mayoral Proclamation - Summit Volunteer First Aid Squad Month - Mayor Radest presented the proclamation to Squad President John Buscaino, and Squad Chief Kari Phair.

PRESENTATIONS

History of the Summit Beacon - John Kieser, Summit Resident, read from a prepared statement, which is hereto attached.

Visual Arts Center of New Jersey - Melanie Cohn, Executive Director, gave an overview of the Arts Center operations.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Parking - Lordes Aboud, 39 Briant Parkway, shared her frustration with trying to find parking closer to where she was shopping. Ms. Aboud shared her thoughts regarding the 90 minute meters that it may not be an attractive feature to those considering buying a home in Summit.

Council President Naidu commented as follows:

1. Referred to a Summit Planning Board report from 1944, commenting on the similarity in addressing ways to help downtown businesses, just as we do today.
2. City is trying to work with Summit Downtown Inc. (SDI) to find ways to increase parking turnover.
3. The DeForest Lots have one hour free parking.

Councilmember Ogden:

1. Parking kiosks were implemented in response to parking frustrations and to make parking experience more customer friendly.
2. Kiosks allow for 15 minutes free parking on the front side.
3. Signs at kiosks have been improved to clarify zones.
4. The Parkmobile App is an added convenience to make paying for parking easier.
5. Shop owners are seeing turn over and hopefully more business.

Councilmember Little

1. The downtown has a limited numbers of spaces and the City is trying to be creative with spaces that are available.
2. 90 minute meters are the prime spaces in the downtown and were designed to create turnover.
3. For quick errands, it is recommended to use longer term lots on DeForest and the tier garages on Springfield and Broad.

Councilmember McTernan commented that the City should improve on its promotion of free parking.

ORDINANCE FOR INTRODUCTION

BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS

<u>Number</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Hearing Date</u>
18-3173	AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND AN ORDINANCE ENTITLED:"ORDINANCE GRANTING PERMISSION TO HOLD A PRIVATE SALE OF A PORTION OF THE REAL PROPERTY ON BLOCK 3204, LOT 7, LOCATED ON 1000 SUMMIT AVENUE, IN THE CITY OF SUMMIT, COUNTY OF UNION, AND STATE OF NEW JERSEY," <i>(amend ordinance 18-3164 to include minimum price of property at 1000 Summit Avenue, Block 3204, Lot 7)</i>	09/17/18 <i>(Mon.)</i>

RESULT:	INTRODUCED [UNANIMOUS]	Next: 9/17/2018 7:30 PM
MOVER:	Fox	
SECONDER:	McTernan	
AYES:	Bowman, Fox, Gould, Little, McTernan, Naidu, Ogden	

RESOLUTIONS

(Resolutions, which were not identified on the agenda as same, do not appear in the minutes in the actual order in which they were addressed at the meeting, but under the proper committee heading after those that were on the agenda. Those with the name of another committee in italics after it indicate the other committee might have had some input.)

The respective Committee Chairman, Committee member, or Councilmember, as indicated for the Committee, introduced the following resolution(s) and on motion, duly seconded and on roll call, unanimously adopted or adopted by the vote shown, if any:

FINANCE/PERSONNEL

- 38499 1. Approve 2017 Audit Corrective Action Plan
- 38500 2. Cancel Improvement Authorization Funds - Capital Accounts
- 38501 3. Authorize Extension of Sick Leave With Pay - Finance Department
- 38502 4. Extension of Sick Leave With Pay - Fire Department Employee

SAFETY

- 38503 Authorize State Contract Purchase - Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus (S.C.B.A.) - Fire Department - \$98,586.00

BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS

- 38504 1. Authorize Grant Application Submission - Summit Area Public Foundation - Hometown Heroes
- X 2. Authorize Execution of Agreement with NJ Transit to Permit Installation of a Bicycle Storage Facility *(pulled)*

BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS

- 38505 3. Authorize Grant Application Submission - NJ Clean Energy Program 2018-19 Local Energy Audit
- 38506 4. Authorize Execution of Memorandum of Understanding Between the City of Summit and the Park Line Foundation

Council President Naidu explained the benefits of the Memorandum of Understanding, commenting as follows:

1. The MOU outlines obligations of the City and the Parkline Foundation to define what each party's responsibilities are regarding maintenance, construction costs, etc.
2. A workshop will be held to discuss safety various issues or concerns the public may have.

Several members of the public shared their thoughts, both for and against the project, with key points as follows:

1. The trail will be a benefit to the residents and the community.
2. Safety and costs concerns regarding 45 degree slope of part of the trail.
3. Summit has no shortage of parks, money would be better spent on our schools rather than spend on future maintenance and security costs.
4. Need to hear from experienced people regarding the affect the trail will have on property values.
5. Tired of projects being "rammed down the throats" of the citizens in east Summit.
6. New construction going up on the other side of town on River Road
7. The trail is an opportunity to walk to Briant Park without dealing with traffic.
8. Concerns regarding costs for trail maintenance, security, public safety, indemnification of the City.
9. From the embankment, people will be able to look into neighbors' backyards, affecting privacy and quality of life.
10. Parking issues will be created on Russell Place.
11. Will create a safe way to schools for those in east Summit.
12. Traffic and parking issues on Briant Parkway will increase and it will be necessary to increase police enforcement.
13. The park is meant to be an amenity to the City to encourage walking, healthy living and connectivity from east Summit to the downtown.
14. Meetings to discuss the project have been held and some were held in east Summit.
15. Police will be called every time there is an issue with noise or lights after park is closed.
16. There are ideas to re-engineer the path which might be more agreeable to neighbors.
17. Neighbors are interested in being involved and having a voice in the decision making process.

Councilmember Little clarified that the purpose of the resolution being considered was to clearly define the responsibilities of the City and the Parkline.

Councilmember Fox reiterated the reason for the MOU and stated that if the project were to move forward, there will be opportunities for the public to share their thoughts and concerns and be involved. She emphasized that at this point there is no plan in place.

Councilmember McTernan:

1. Advised that he has received emails from the public and has spoken to members of the community both for and against the project.
2. The agreement also lays out safety concerns and the community will be kept abreast of any safety concerns from Police and Fire.
3. Expressed support for the Parkline, sharing some of the reasons, and also expressed that he had some concerns as well regarding safety, screening, etc.

Councilmember Ogden stressed the importance of transparency going forward, giving the public the opportunity to share thoughts and concerns.

Councilmember Bowman advised that he lived along a bike trail in the past and has experienced both pros and cons of living near it and how he was involved in addressing safety and other concerns in that process.

Council President Naidu stated the MOU gives transparency to the process going forward, so that conversations can take place to discuss all aspects of such a project.

WORKS

- 38507 1. Award Bid - City Hall Air Conditioning Cooling Tower Replacement Project - \$113,000.00
- 38508 2. Award Bid - Hobart Avenue Section 1 Improvement Project - \$333,010.00
- 38509 3. Authorize Change Order #1 and Final - Blackburn Road Improvement Project (-\$74,648.01)

GENERAL SERVICES

- 38510 1. Authorize Submission of the Recreation Opportunities for Individuals with Disabilities (ROID) 2018-2019 Grant Application and Acceptance
- 38511 2. Authorize Change Order #1 & Final - Purchase and Installation of Artificial Turf - Upper Tatlock Field - \$5,550.00

CONSENT AGENDA

Staff reports are attached, as appropriate, when resolution is not self-explanatory. Matters authorizing action, licenses, or granting permission have met all department qualifications.

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Little
SECONDER:	Ogden
AYES:	Bowman, Fox, Gould, Little, McTernan, Naidu, Ogden

WORKS

- 38512 1. Authorize Pink Ribbon Display - Susan G. Komen Foundation - Breast Cancer Awareness Month
- 38513 2. Authorize Red Ribbon Display - Sharing Summit Together - National Red Ribbon Celebration to Raise Substance Abuse Awareness

FINANCE/PERSONNEL

- 38514 1. Authorize 2018 League Conference Attendance
- 38515 2. Amend Budget - Chapter 159 - Union County Recycling Enhancement Grant
- 38516 3. Amend Budget - Chapter 159 - NJDOT 2016 Summit Avenue & Elm Street Improvement Project
- 38517 4. Amend Budget - Chapter 159 - State of NJ Recreation Opportunities for Individuals with Disabilities (ROID) Grant
- 38518 5. Cancel 2018 Sewer Utility Charges
- 38519 6. Cancel 2018 Property Taxes and Refund Overpayment of 3rd Quarter 2018 Property Taxes/ Total Exempt Disabled Veteran
- 38520 7. Authorize Refunds - Property Use Escrow - American Legion Post 322 Flag Retirement Event
- 38521 8. Authorize Refunds - Department of Community Programs
- 38522 9. Authorize Parking Refunds - Summit SmartCard, Prepaid Parking, and Overnight Parking Permits
- 38523 10. Authorize Payment of August Bills - (7/27 - 8/16) - \$1,665,936.19
- 38524 11. Authorize Payment of August Bills - (8/17 - 8/30) - \$958,880.79

COUNCIL MEMBERS' COMMENTS/NEW BUSINESS

Items/issues noted hereunder, if any, reflect those recommending and/or needing action by City department(s) or at a future council meeting which are not already being addressed by a committee.

ADJOURNMENT REGULAR MEETING – On motion of Councilmember Gould, duly seconded and unanimously approved, the meeting was adjourned at 9:48 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Rosalia M. Licatase, City Clerk

MINUTES ATTACHMENTS

- History of the Summit Beacon - Presented by John Kieser.

Summit City Council Presentation

9/4/18

Summit Revolutionary War Beacon

- **My name is John Kieser.**
- **I am a member of the Summit Planning Board, SAR & Summit Historical Society**
- **Early in the morning of June 6, 1780, 238 years ago, there was an incredible cannon blast emanating from the hills of Summit. The blast was heard all the way to George Washington's Continental troops in Morristown and to the waterfront in Elizabeth, just south of today's Newark Airport.**
- **The sky was also lite up with a major fire signal beacon, also seen as noted above.**
- **New Jersey was under an invasion by 6,000 British troops and their Hessian mercenaries who were stationed in New York City. They had just landed in Elizabeth, just south of today's Newark Airport.**
- **The blast and beacon fire were alarms that were emanating from the Summit Revolutionary War Beacon, located at what today is 226 Hobart Ave, at the corner Beacon Road (appropriately named) and Hobart Ave.**
- **The alarms were sounded to alert the local New Jersey Minute Men who lived in the area and George Washington's Continental Army, camped out at Jockey Hollow. The British are coming!!!!**
- **The cannon was nicknamed "Old Sow" and the fire emanated from a major pile of logs and brush, created by the local Militia as ordered by George Washington.**
- **The goal of the invasion was Washington's troops and supplies at Jockey Hollow.**
- **To get to Jockey Hollow at Morristown, they had to go through: ~~Elizabethport, now known as Elizabeth~~
~~Connecticut Farms, now known as Union,~~
~~The Spring Fields, now known as Springfield~~
And Summit, which at that time was part of the Spring Fields,
And ultimately the Hobart Gap --**
- **As a direct result of these alarms, as issued at the Summit Beacon, the local Militia, and George Washington's Continental troops, were able to turn back the first invasion just past the Connecticut Farms Presbyterian Church.**

- **Unfortantantly the church and most of the village** was burnt to the ground by the British and they also murdered **Hannah Caldwell, the wife of James Caldwell, the Rebel Preacher.**
- **2.5 weeks later the Old Sow and Bonfire** were used again when a 2nd attempt by the British and Hessians was defeated at Springfield, site of the Presbyterian Church.
- The Summit Beacon was again resurrected for the **British War of 1812**, in the year of 1814, but never used.
- **If you look at the Summit logo**, it is a direct representation of the Summit Beacon.
- If you look at the **shoulder patch** of all Summit Police officers, there is a representation of the Old Sow Cannon and Beacon.
- **The Battle of Springfield** is sometimes referred to as the **Forgotten Victory**, but the battle is distinctly remembered every day, in **Summit.**
- **My associates and I are giving a detailed presentation on the Summit Beacon on Tuesday, Sept 25, at the Summit YMCA. The presentation is free.**