

THE CITY OF SUMMIT

N E W J E R S E Y

CITY HALL 512 SPRINGFIELD AVENUE SUMMIT, NJ 07901

Preview of September 20 Common Council meeting agenda by Council President Marjorie Fox

This preview will use a different format and will provide more in-depth information about a few items that council will be considering at the next meeting on Tuesday, September 20 at 7:30 PM in Council Chamber at City Hall.

Council will consider a Finance Committee resolution to authorize an emergency appropriation to fund Summit's share of the unfunded portion of the Phase I flood mitigation project for the Joint Meeting of Essex and Union Counties. The Joint Meeting, which was formed in 1898, is currently comprised of 11 member municipalities and operates a wastewater treatment plant for those 11 member municipalities, as well the City of Elizabeth. The Joint Meeting plant suffered flood damage in 2012 during Superstorm Sandy and the Joint Meeting began planning for flood mitigation measures to prevent damage to the facility from future storms. The Joint Meeting cannot borrow for its capital projects and must rely on the member municipalities to fund their respective shares of operating and capital expenses. The Joint Meeting received a commitment from FEMA that 90% of the cost of the work would be reimbursed to the municipalities upon completion and the notes were to be issued by the New Jersey Infrastructure Bank, or I Bank. In 2020, the city issued and sold notes to the I-Bank for \$1,790,000 to fund its share of Phase 1 of the project. The project has suffered delays from many causes including COVID-19, the financing process and lengthy delays in receiving permitting approvals from New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection. The project finally went out to bid and when bids came back in July 2022, the bids received were substantially more than the amount that was financed through the I-Bank. Those increased costs were attributable to the delays in soliciting bids, increased costs of construction materials and fuel, supply chain issues, and labor shortages. To award the contract with the lowest bidder and avoid the need to pay back the funds borrowed from the I-Bank; the Joint Meeting will require additional funds. Summit's allocable share of this increase is \$1,849,545. This emergency appropriation will be funded by a bond ordinance prior to the adoption of the 2023 budget.

The Capital Projects and Community Services Committee will introduce a resolution seeking approval of a grant application from the New Jersey Department of Transportation's Transportation Alternatives Program for non-traditional, community-based surface transportation projects. Summit is seeking \$1.5 million in funding for the second phase of the Summit Park Line project. This program does not require a municipal match and the funds would be used to enhance the segment of the rail corridor between Morris Avenue and Ashwood Avenue with permeable pavement, striping, signage, fencing, landscaping, and other features. The Summit Park Line Foundation is currently working with the City of Summit on the placement of a pedestrian bridge over Morris Avenue that would create a one-mile-long linear park along the abandoned Rahway Valley Railroad line.

Finally, the Safety Committee will introduce a resolution to authorize the purchase of a body worn camera (BWC) system for the Summit Police Department over a period of five years. This purchase will upgrade the BWC system to the latest technology and will include the introduction of conducted energy devices, or tasers, which reduce the potential for lethal force. This new equipment will be incorporated into the evidence.com database that allows BWC data, motor vehicle recorders, and detective bureau interview room data to be accessible under one platform. These resources will allow the police department to provide services and protect public safety more effectively and efficiently.

Members of the public may comment by email to cityclerk@cityofsummit.org.

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Comments must be received by noon on September 20. The rules for public comments are posted on the city [website](#). Duplicative or substantially similar comments may be summarized by the clerk and the clerk will stop reading emailed comments after 3 minutes.

Every Common Council meeting is broadcast live on the City of Summit [YouTube Channel](#), and HTTP Verizon channel 30 and Comcast channel 36 and 34.

To view the complete Common Council agenda, go to:

<https://www.cityofsummit.org/AgendaCenter/ViewFile/Item/605?fileID=46016>

Next Common Council Meeting: Thursday, October 6, 2022, at 7:30 PM