

THE CITY OF SUMMIT

N E W J E R S E Y

CITY HALL 512 SPRINGFIELD AVENUE SUMMIT, NJ 07901

News Release

For immediate release

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Summary of the Tuesday, February 7, Common Council meeting by Council President Greg Vartan

At the meeting, Fire Chief Eric Evers recognized the retirement of Bruce Cooper, after nearly 42 years of service as a volunteer firefighter.

Mayor Radest reported on pedestrian and traffic safety and shared updates about ongoing efforts by the Summit Police Department on this topic. Police Chief Steven Zagorski provided an update on criminal activity in Summit. View the presentation [here](#).

Council President Vartan provided an update on Council's course of action on a potential seasonal closure of Maple Street. View the slide presented at the meeting [here](#). He also outlined a process roadmap for the Broad Street West Redevelopment project where Mayor Radest and Common Council will continue to evaluate community feedback in the coming months and present a design proposal at a Town Hall event sometime in March. View the slide presented at the meeting [here](#).

Several resolutions were adopted and include:

- Two resolutions related to Broad Street West; the first removes sub-district 2 and 4 from consideration for development. These sub-districts include the areas between the YMCA and the library, and the block of shops and parking areas near City Hall.
- The second resolution renewed the city's contract with its planner, Topology. Principal and Founder Phil Abramson provided a retrospective summary of the project path and outlined how he envisions the process will be improved with his direct oversight moving forward. All councilmembers shared their thoughts and both BSW resolutions were adopted with unanimous support.
- Summit renewed its application for the 28th year to continue being a Tree City, USA, which allows for greater access to funding and resources.
- Two grant applications were submitted that relate to projects aimed at improving environmental sustainability including a solar-powered micro-grid for City Hall.

The public comment section on items that were not on the agenda featured approximately 30 speakers, a significant majority expressing support for a seasonal closure of Maple Street.

At the end of the meeting, several councilmembers shared updates on items related to their committee work:

- Councilmembers Levine, Fox, and Hamlet will meet with Union County's new Director of Parks and Recreation and will receive an update when rehabilitation work will begin on the pond at Briant Park.

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- Councilmember Hamlet shared that the city and a sub-committee of the Department of Community Programs Advisory board are reviewing possible plans for Mabie playground. Details will be shared with public shortly.

The agenda for the Tuesday, February 7, 2023, meeting is available here:

<https://www.cityofsummit.org/AgendaCenter/ViewFile/Item/634?fileID=52486>.

To view the meeting online go to: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GBxWTr8WaKM>.

Contact information for members of Common Council is available here:

<https://www.cityofsummit.org/260/Common-Council>.

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