

**COUNTY OF SUMMIT  
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES  
January 5, 2026**

The 2026 Council Organizational Meeting took place at 4:30 pm. Councilwoman At-Large Erin Dickinson was elected President and Councilwoman District 6 Christine Higham was elected Vice President.

A Caucus was held prior to the meeting to discuss Agenda items. Council members Darrow, Dickinson, Donofrio, Ford, Higham, Kacyon, Licate, McKenney, Schmidt, Walters, Wilhite were present.

Before the start of the Council Meeting, several community members addressed Council with a public comment.

The following items were addressed before Council at the Caucus:

- 2026-001 Holly Miller from the Community and Economic Development Department addressed Council on this first reading passage request.
- 2026-002 Tommy Smoot from the Division of Public Safety-Emergency Management Agency addressed Council on this first reading passage request.
- 2026-003 Phil Montgomery from the Executive’s Office addressed Council on this first reading passage request.
- 2026-004 Phil Montgomery from the Executive’s Office addressed Council on this first reading passage request.
- 2026-010 Phil Montgomery from the Executive’s Office addressed Council on this first reading passage request.

The Council Regular Meeting was called to order at 04:52 PM in Council Chambers.

ROLL CALL- Present: Mrs. Darrow, Ms. Dickinson, Mr. Donofrio, Mr. Ford, Ms. Higham, Mr. Kacyon, Mr. Licate, Mrs. McKenney, Mr. Schmidt, Ms. Walters, Mr. Wilhite; Absent:

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MINUTES FOR APPROVAL: Ms. Higham moved to approve the minutes of the regular Council meeting(s) held December 8, 2025.

Voice Vote on the motion.

Yes: Darrow, Dickinson, Donofrio, Ford, Higham, Kacyon, Licate, McKenney, Schmidt, Walters, Wilhite

The Minutes were approved 11-0.

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ANNOUNCEMENT OF GENERAL INTEREST:

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ANNOUNCEMENT FROM EXECUTIVE:

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ANNOUNCEMENT OF OFFICEHOLDERS:

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## **MOTIONS FOR COUNCIL**

**M-001-2026 A Motion of Council amending M-003-2025, stating the correct term of 1/27/25 to 1/26/26 for the appointment of Traci Buckner, the correct term of 1/27/25 to 2/26/27 for the appointment of Molly Hartong, and the correct term of 1/27/25 to 1/26/27 for the appointment of Howard Parr to the Summit County Regional Arts & Culture District.**

Movant - Ms. Dickinson

Mr. Schmidt moved to recommend passage.

Voice Vote on the motion.

Yes: Darrow, Dickinson, Donofrio, Ford, Higham, Kacyon, Licate, McKenney, Schmidt, Walters, Wilhite

Motion passed - Voice Vote: 11-0

Motion M-001-2026 was adopted.

**M-002-2026 A Motion of Council confirming the reappointment of Traci Buckner to the Summit County Regional Arts & Culture District.**

Movant - Ms. Dickinson

Ms. Walters moved to recommend passage.

Voice Vote on the motion.

Yes: Darrow, Dickinson, Donofrio, Ford, Higham, Kacyon, Licate, McKenney, Schmidt, Walters, Wilhite

Motion passed - Voice Vote: 11-0

Motion M-002-2026 was adopted.

**M-003-2026 A Motion of Council confirming the appointment of Councilman David Licate (replacing Councilwoman Erin Dickinson) to the Planning Commission.**

Movant - Ms. Dickinson

Mr. Wilhite moved to recommend passage.

Voice Vote on the motion.

Yes: Darrow, Dickinson, Donofrio, Ford, Higham, Kacyon, Licate, McKenney, Schmidt, Walters, Wilhite

Motion passed - Voice Vote: 11-0

Motion M-003-2026 was adopted.

## **FIRST READINGS**

2026-001     **A Resolution authorizing the Executive, subject to the approval of the Board of Control, pursuant to Section 177.08 of the Codified Ordinances of the County of Summit, to execute Change Order No. 1 to a professional service contract with Quality Control Inspection, Inc., for additional move consulting services for the Ohio Building Project, in an amount not to exceed \$40,000.00, (for a cumulative increase of 53.5%), for a total amount not to exceed \$114,800.00, for the Executive's Department of Administrative Services-Physical Plants, and declaring an emergency.**

Sponsor - Executive Shapiro

Staff Contact: Mark Potter, (330) 643-2726, mpotter@summitoh.net

Ms. Walters moved to suspend Council Rule 8.01 (A): the requirement of three readings at a Regular Council meeting.

Voice Vote on the motion.

Yes: Darrow, Dickinson, Donofrio, Ford, Higham, Kacyon, Licate, McKenney, Schmidt, Walters, Wilhite

Motion passed - Voice Vote: 11-0

Ms. Walters moved to adopt.

Voice Vote on the motion.

Yes: Darrow, Dickinson, Donofrio, Ford, Higham, Kacyon, Licate, McKenney, Schmidt, Walters, Wilhite

Motion passed - Voice Vote: 11-0

Resolution 2026-001 was adopted.

2026-002     **A Resolution authorizing the Executive to advertise for bids for one HazMat meter, for the Summit County Special Operations Teams, HazMat Branch, for an estimated total amount not to exceed \$75,000.00, for the Executive's Department of Public Safety-Emergency Management Agency, and declaring an emergency.**

Sponsor - Executive Shapiro

Staff Contact: Kent Starks, (330) 643-2074, kstarks@summitoh.net

Mr. Licate moved to suspend Council Rule 8.01 (A): the requirement of three readings at a Regular Council meeting.

Voice Vote on the motion.

Yes: Darrow, Dickinson, Donofrio, Ford, Higham, Kacyon, Licate, McKenney, Schmidt, Walters, Wilhite

Motion passed - Voice Vote: 11-0

Mr. Licate moved to adopt.

Voice Vote on the motion.

Yes: Darrow, Dickinson, Donofrio, Ford, Higham, Kacyon, Licate, McKenney, Schmidt, Walters, Wilhite

Motion passed - Voice Vote: 11-0

Resolution 2026-002 was adopted.

2026-003     **A Resolution establishing the compensation for members of the Summit Human Resource Commission, for Fiscal Year 2026, at a bi-weekly rate of \$385.39, with no fringe benefits, to be paid in 27 equal payments, for the Executive’s Department of Finance & Budget, and declaring an emergency.**

Sponsor - Executive Shapiro

Staff Contact: Kent Starks, (330) 643-2074, kstarks@summitoh.net

Mr. Donofrio moved to suspend Council Rule 8.01 (A): the requirement of three readings at a Regular Council meeting.

Voice Vote on the motion.

Yes: Darrow, Dickinson, Donofrio, Ford, Higham, Kacyon, Licate, McKenney, Schmidt, Walters, Wilhite

Motion passed - Voice Vote: 11-0

Mr. Donofrio moved to adopt.

Voice Vote on the motion.

Yes: Darrow, Dickinson, Donofrio, Ford, Higham, Kacyon, Licate, McKenney, Schmidt, Walters, Wilhite

Motion passed - Voice Vote: 11-0

Resolution 2026-003 was adopted.

2026-004     **A Resolution appropriating funds in order to meet projected expenditures for the balance of 2026 as set forth in Exhibit A, for the Executive’s Department of Finance and Budget, and declaring an emergency.**

Sponsor - Executive Shapiro

Staff Contact: Kent Starks, (330) 643-2074, kstarks@summitoh.net

Mr. Donofrio moved to suspend Council Rule 8.01 (A): the requirement of three readings at a Regular Council meeting.

Voice Vote on the motion.

Yes: Darrow, Dickinson, Donofrio, Ford, Higham, Kacyon, Licate, McKenney, Schmidt, Walters, Wilhite

Motion passed - Voice Vote: 11-0

Mr. Donofrio moved to adopt.

Voice Vote on the motion.

Yes: Darrow, Dickinson, Donofrio, Ford, Higham, Kacyon, Licate, McKenney, Schmidt, Walters, Wilhite

Motion passed - Voice Vote: 11-0

Resolution 2026-004 was adopted.

2026-005 **A Resolution confirming that the Engineer may proceed with tree cutting on land owned by Summit County in preparation for the Idle Brook Bankfull Wetland Project, located in Bath Township, in Council District 5, for the Engineer and the Surface Water Management District, and declaring an emergency.**

Sponsor - Executive Shapiro

Staff Contact: Mark Potter, (330) 643-2726, mpotter@summitoh.net

Committee First Readings

2026-006 **A Resolution confirming the award by the Board of Control of a professional service contract with The Thrasher Group, Inc. for the design of the Krumroy Road Resurfacing Project, located in the Village of Lakemore and Springfield Township, in Council District 8, in amount not to exceed \$200,000.00, for the Engineer, and declaring an emergency.**

Sponsor - Executive Shapiro

Staff Contact: Mark Potter, (330) 643-2726, mpotter@summitoh.net

Committee First Readings

2026-007 **A Resolution confirming the award by the Board of Control of a construction contract with Krumroy Cozad Construction Corporation for the Medical Examiner's Garage Addition Project, located in the City of Akron, in Council District 4, for an estimated total cost not to exceed \$597,400.00, for the Executive's Department of Administrative Services-Physical Plants, and declaring an emergency.**

Sponsor - Executive Shapiro

Staff Contact: Mark Potter, (330) 643-2726, mpotter@summitoh.net

Committee First Readings

2026-008 **A Resolution declaring the month of February 2026 as Black History Month in Summit County, recognizing the incredible accomplishments made by Black Americans in the face of adversity, as well as acknowledging the challenges of the present, for the Executive, and declaring an emergency.**

Sponsor - Executive Shapiro, Councilman Ford

Staff Contact: Kent Starks, (330) 643-2074, kstarks@summitoh.net

Committee First Readings

2026-009 **A Resolution adopting the Capital Improvements Program for 2026-2031 for the County of Summit and appropriating funds as set forth in Exhibit A, for the balance of projects in the 2026 Capital Improvement Plan, for the Executive's Department of Finance and Budget, and declaring an emergency.**

Sponsor - Executive Shapiro

Staff Contact: Kent Starks, (330) 643-2074, kstarks@summitoh.net

Committee First Readings

Mr. Schmidt moved to amend the Agenda to add Late Filings.

Voice Vote on the motion

For: Darrow, Dickinson, Donofrio, Ford, Higham, Kacyon, Licate, McKenney, Schmidt, Walters, Wilhite

11-0

### **FIRST READINGS LATE FILINGS**

2026-010     **A Resolution appropriating funds in order to meet projected expenditures for the balance of 2025 as set forth in Exhibit A, for the Executive's Department of Finance and Budget, and declaring an emergency.**

Sponsor - Executive Shapiro

Staff Contact: Kent Starks, (330) 643-2074, [kstarks@summitoh.net](mailto:kstarks@summitoh.net)

Mr. Donofrio moved to suspend Council Rule 8.01 (A): the requirement of three readings at a Regular Council meeting.

Voice Vote on the motion.

Yes: Darrow, Dickinson, Donofrio, Ford, Higham, Kacyon, Licate, McKenney, Schmidt, Walters, Wilhite

Motion passed - Voice Vote: 11-0

Mr. Donofrio moved to adopt.

Voice Vote on the motion.

Yes: Darrow, Dickinson, Donofrio, Ford, Higham, Kacyon, Licate, McKenney, Schmidt, Walters, Wilhite

Motion passed - Voice Vote: 11-0

Resolution 2026-010 was adopted.

Presentation of New Business:

Presentation of Petitions to address Council:

**Executive Session**

Motion By:

Seconded By:

Motion Type:

For:

Against:

Abstain:

Absent:

Outcome:

Call To Order:

Reason:

Adjournment: Council adjourned at 5:01 pm. The next regular meeting will be held January 26, 2026 at 4:30 pm

All deliberations concerning official business and formal actions by this County Council were conducted in an open public meeting this 5th day of January, 2026.

Signed by:

*Monique Willis*

CLERK OF COUNCIL

Signed by:

*Erin Dickinson*

PRESIDENT OF COUNCIL