

**COUNTY OF SUMMIT
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
March 16, 2026**

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

Councilman Jeff Wilhite presented a commendation to Mark Greer for his work as Executive Director with Akron 200, Inc.

Dr. Noah Fritz from the University of Akron addressed Council on Resolution No. 2026-055.

Pamela Pinkney addressed Council with a public comment.

The following items were addressed before Council at the Caucus:

- 2026-064 Mike Vinay from the Department of Sanitary Sewer Services addressed Council on this first reading passage request.
- 2026-065 David Magura from the Court of Common Pleas addressed Council on this first reading passage request.
- 2026-066 Phil Montgomery from the Executive’s Office addressed Council on this first reading passage request.
- M-021-2026 Damon Mullen addressed Council on this motion.

The Council Regular Meeting was called to order at 05:55 PM in Council Chambers.

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

MINUTES FOR APPROVAL: Ms. Walters moved to approve the minutes of the regular Council meeting(s) held March 2, 2026.

Voice Vote on the motion.

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

Absent: Donofrio

Minutes approved 10-0.

ANNOUNCEMENT OF GENERAL INTEREST:

ANNOUNCEMENT FROM EXECUTIVE:

ANNOUNCEMENT OF OFFICEHOLDERS:

MOTIONS FOR COUNCIL

M-021-2026 **A Motion of Council confirming the appointment of Damon Mullen (replacing Caitlin (Elrad) Smith) to the Northeast Ohio Four-County Regional Planning & Development Organization (NEFCO) General Policy Board.**

Movant - Ms. Dickinson

Ms. Walters moved to recommend passage.

Voice Vote on the motion.

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

Absent: Donofrio

Motion passed - Voice Vote: 10-0

Motion M-021-2026 was adopted.

FIRST READINGS

2026-064 **A Resolution confirming the award by the Board of Control of a purchase agreement with Brown Equipment Company, under TIPS cooperative purchasing association pricing, for a 2026 Peterbilt Vacuum Tank Truck, for an amount not to exceed \$273,965.00, for the Executive's Department of Sanitary Sewer Services, and declaring an emergency.**

Sponsor - Executive Shapiro

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

Mr. Wilhite 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, Ford, Higham, Kacyon, Licate, McKenney, Schmidt, Walters, Wilhite

Absent: Donofrio

Motion passed - Voice Vote: 10-0

Mr. Wilhite moved to adopt.

Voice Vote on the motion.

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

Absent: Donofrio

Motion passed - Voice Vote: 10-0

Resolution 2026-064 was adopted.

2026-065 **A Resolution authorizing the Executive to execute any documents necessary to apply for a public safety grant from the United States Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Assistance, for the HOPE Court, for the period of October 1, 2026 through September 30, 2027, for an estimated amount of \$674,575.52, with an estimated local cash match requirement of \$387,750.49, for an estimated total amount of \$1,062,326.01, for the Court of Common Pleas – General Division, 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, Ford, Higham, Kacyon, Licate, McKenney, Schmidt, Walters, Wilhite

Absent: Donofrio

Motion passed - Voice Vote: 10-0

Mr. Licate moved to adopt.

Voice Vote on the motion.

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

Absent: Donofrio

Motion passed - Voice Vote: 10-0

Resolution 2026-065 was adopted.

2026-066 **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. Wilhite 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, Ford, Higham, Kacyon, Licate, McKenney, Schmidt, Walters, Wilhite

Absent: Donofrio

Motion passed - Voice Vote: 10-0

Mr. Wilhite moved to adopt.

Voice Vote on the motion.

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

Absent: Donofrio

Motion passed - Voice Vote: 10-0

Resolution 2026-066 was adopted.

2026-067 **A Resolution to extend the final design report due date to December 31, 2026 for Northfield Center Township's Dorwick ditch petition pursuant to Section 6131.12 of the Ohio Revised Code, and declaring an emergency.**

Sponsor - Mr. Wilhite

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

Committee First Readings

2026-068 **A Resolution to extend the final design report due date to November 30, 2026 for Coventry Township's Hinman (Penguin area) ditch petition pursuant to Section 6131.12 of the Ohio Revised Code, and declaring an emergency.**

Sponsor - Mr. Wilhite

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

Committee First Readings

2026-069 **A Resolution confirming the award by the Board of Control of a construction contract with JD Williamson Construction Co., Inc. for the Snyder Avenue Bridge Design/Build Project, located in the City of Barberton, in Council District 7, for a total amount not to exceed \$1,690,386.70, for the Engineer, and declaring an emergency.**

Sponsor - Executive Shapiro

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

Committee First Readings

2026-070 **A Resolution approving the time, place, and expense of the Engineer's annual meeting of county and township authorities on May 5, 2026, at Lala's in the Lakes, located in the City of New Franklin, in Council District 7, in an amount not to exceed \$6,000.00, for the Engineer, and declaring an emergency.**

Sponsor - Executive Shapiro

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

Committee First Readings

2026-071 **A Resolution, pursuant to Sections 709.14 to 709.16 of the Ohio Revised Code, and Section 125.01 of the Codified Ordinances of the County of Summit, granting the annexation of 11.47 acres of land in Springfield Township to the Village of Mogadore, in Council District 8, and declaring an emergency.**

Sponsor - Ms. Walters

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

Committee First Readings

2026-072 **A Resolution authorizing the Executive to execute a lease agreement amendment and renewal with Project: Learn of Summit County for a portion of the 1st floor at 175 South Main Street, located in the City of Akron, in Council District 4, for educational and/or charitable use for the Executive, and declaring an emergency.**

Sponsor - Executive Shapiro

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

Committee First Readings

2026-073 **A Resolution authorizing the Executive to execute a lease amendment and renewal with Service Corps of Retired Executives Association, Chapter 81 aka Akron Score for a portion of the 2nd floor at 175. South Main Street, located in the City of Akron, in Council District 4, for educational and/or charitable use for the Executive, and declaring an emergency.**

Sponsor - Executive Shapiro

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

Committee First Readings

2026-074 **A Resolution confirming the award by the Board of Control of a professional service contract with The Great Life Spay Neuter Wellness, LLC for veterinarian services at the Animal Control Facility, for a one-year term, for the period 4/1/26 to 3/31/27, in a total amount not to exceed \$114,400.00, for the Executive's Department of Public Safety, Division of Animal Control, and declaring an emergency.**

Sponsor - Executive Shapiro

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

Committee First Readings

2026-075 **A Resolution confirming the award by the Board of Control of a professional service contract with Pay it Forward for Pets, Inc., as a Best Practical Source, to provide Volunteer Coordinator Services at the Animal Control Facility, for a one-year term, for the period of 4/1/26 through 3/31/27, in an amount not to exceed \$95,000.00, for the Executive's Department of Public Safety, Division of Animal Control, and declaring an emergency.**

Sponsor - Executive Shapiro

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

Committee First Readings

2026-076 **A Resolution declaring the month of April 2026 as Child Abuse Prevention Month in the County of Summit and encouraging residents to join in this acknowledgement and Wear Blue Day on April 8, 2026, for the Executive, and declaring an emergency.**

Sponsor - Executive Shapiro

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

Committee First Readings

2026-077 **A Resolution declaring April 1, 2026, as Start by Believing Day throughout the County of Summit, supporting the Start by Believing campaign which raises awareness of survivors of sexual violence, and encouraging all businesses and residents alike to show their support by wearing teal on April 1, 2026, for the Executive, and declaring an emergency.**

Sponsor - Executive Shapiro

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

Committee First Readings

2026-078 **A Resolution authorizing the Executive to execute an intergovernmental agreement with the Ohio Auditor of State, for the 2025 financial audit for the County of Summit, in an amount not to exceed \$146,981.00, for the Internal Audit Department, and declaring an emergency.**

Sponsor - Executive Shapiro

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

Committee First Readings

2026-079 **A Resolution confirming the award by the Board of Control of a marketing agreement with Alliance Media for the Veterans Service Commission 2026 Advertising Campaign, for a one-year term, from 2/15/26 through 2/14/27, with three options to renew for an additional one-year term, in an amount not to exceed \$250,000.00, for the Veterans Service Commission, and declaring an emergency.**

Sponsor - Executive Shapiro

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

Committee First Readings

2026-080 **A Resolution confirming the award of the Board of Control of the contract identified in Exhibit A, as a Best Practical Source, in an amount not to exceed \$200,000.00, and confirming the applicability of confidentiality provisions under Ohio Revised Code §§ 9.64 and 149.433, for the Office of Information Technology, and declaring an emergency.**

Sponsor - Executive Shapiro

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

Committee First Readings

Routine Agenda Motion(s)

Mr. Schmidt 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, Ford, Higham, Kacyon, Licate, McKenney, Schmidt, Walters, Wilhite

Absent: Donofrio

Motion passed

Mr. Schmidt moved to adopt.

Voice Vote on the motion.

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

Absent: Donofrio

Motion passed

Routine Agenda was adopted 10-0.

ROUTINE LEGISLATION UNANIMOUSLY AGREED TO BY COMMITTEE

2026-046 **A Resolution enacting a 4% salary increase for current non-bargaining, classified and unclassified employees of the Clerk of Courts, Council, Engineer, Executive, Fiscal Officer, Human Resource Commission, Internal Audit Department, Office of Information Technology, Prosecutor, and Sheriff, effective March 23, 2026, for the Executive’s Department of Human Resources, and declaring an emergency.**

Sponsor - Executive Shapiro

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

Resolution 2026-046 was adopted.

2026-047 **A Resolution authorizing the Executive to execute a grant agreement with the Summit Soil and Water Conservation District in the amount of \$300,000.00 for services to the Surface Water Management District and pursuant to the County’s MS4 permit, for the Executive and the Engineer, and declaring an emergency.**

Sponsor - Executive Shapiro

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

Resolution 2026-047 was adopted.

2026-048 **A Resolution confirming the award by the Board of Control of a professional service contract with The Osborn Engineering Company for engineering design services for the reconstruction of South Main Street and the replacement of the South Main Street Bridge over the Feeder Canal near Vaughn Road, located in the City of Akron and Coventry Township, in Council District 8, in an amount not to exceed \$250,000.00, for the Engineer, and declaring an emergency.**

Sponsor - Executive Shapiro

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

Resolution 2026-048 was adopted.

2026-049 **A Resolution confirming the award by the Board of Control of a purchase contract with A&H Equipment Co., at Sourcewell Pricing, for one new Ford T350 Transit Truck with a mounted minicam Storm Sewer Inspection System, in a total amount not to exceed \$248,000.00, for the Engineer, and declaring an emergency.**

Sponsor - Executive Shapiro

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

Resolution 2026-049 was adopted.

2026-050 **A Resolution confirming an award by the Board of Control of a construction contract with Wingfoot Rental and Development Co., Inc., for Project Q-836-1 Pump Station No. 82 Replacement and Force Main Replacement, located in the City of Tallmadge, in Council District 6, in an amount not to exceed \$1,865,285.00, for the Executive's Department of Sanitary Sewer Services, and declaring an emergency.**

Sponsor - Executive Shapiro

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

Resolution 2026-050 was adopted.

2026-052 **A Resolution confirming the award by the Board of Control of a purchase contract with Enterprise Fleet Management, Inc., as a Best Practical Source, for the buy-out of 27 vehicle leases, in an amount not to exceed \$38,816.77, for the Executive's Departments of Sanitary Sewer Services and Community & Economic Development, and declaring an emergency.**

Sponsor - Executive Shapiro

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

Resolution 2026-052 was adopted.

2026-053 **A Resolution confirming awards of the Board of Control of various Community Development contracts and authorizing the Executive to disburse funds, including those that exceed an aggregate of \$75,000.00, to Community Development contractors operating under contract with the Executive's Department of Community and Economic Development for housing programs in calendar year 2026, for the period of 1/1/26 through 12/31/26, in an estimated total amount not to exceed \$13,190,330.00, for the Executive's Department of Community and Economic Development, and declaring an emergency.**

Sponsor - Executive Shapiro

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

Resolution 2026-053 was adopted.

2026-054 **A Resolution confirming awards of the Board of Control of various Community Development contracts and authorizing the Executive to disburse funds, including those that exceed an aggregate of \$75,000.00, to Community Development contractors operating under contract with the Executive's Department of Community and Economic Development for the Home Weatherization Assistance Program (HWAP) program in HWAP Fiscal Year 2026, for the period of 7/1/25 through 6/30/26, in an estimated total amount not to exceed \$4,841,485.00 for the Executive's Department of Community and Economic Development, and declaring an emergency.**

Sponsor - Executive Shapiro

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

Resolution 2026-054 was adopted.

2026-056 **A Resolution authorizing the Executive to execute any documents necessary to accept the award from the Ohio Department of Public Safety's Office of Criminal Justice Services of an Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant, for the period 1/1/26 through 12/31/26, in an amount not to exceed \$117,030.32, with a 25% local cash match requirement in an amount not to exceed \$39,010.07, for a total amount not to exceed \$156,040.39, for the Sheriff, and declaring an emergency.**

Sponsor - Executive Shapiro

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

Resolution 2026-056 was adopted.

2026-057 **A Resolution confirming the award by the Board of Control of a purchase contract with Hall Public Safety Co. for the purchase of up fit equipment for fifteen new vehicles, at Public Cooperative Purchasing Pricing, in an amount not to exceed \$183,306.60, for the Sheriff, and declaring an emergency.**

Sponsor - Executive Shapiro

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

Resolution 2026-057 was adopted.

2026-058 **A Resolution confirming the award by the Board of Control of a purchase contract with Montrose Auto Group for the purchase of fifteen 2026 Ford Explorer Police Interceptors, at State Term pricing, in an amount not to exceed \$662,949.00, for the Sheriff, and declaring an emergency.**

Sponsor - Executive Shapiro

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

Resolution 2026-058 was adopted.

2026-059 **A Resolution confirming the award by the Board of Control of a purchase contract with Montrose Auto Group for the purchase of two 2026 Chevy Traverse AWD vehicles, at CUE pricing, in an amount not to exceed \$84,863.72, for the Sheriff, and declaring an emergency.**

Sponsor - Executive Shapiro

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

Resolution 2026-059 was adopted.

2026-060 **A Resolution authorizing the Executive to advertise for bids for payroll services for youth and adult employment programs, for an estimated total cost not to exceed \$3,000,000.00, for the Executive's Department of Job and Family Services, and declaring an emergency.**

Sponsor - Executive Shapiro

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

Resolution 2026-060 was adopted.

2026-061 **A Resolution declaring the month of March 2026 as Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month in Summit County, recognizing people with developmental disabilities for their contributions to our community and their perseverance in breaking down barriers, for the Executive, and declaring an emergency.**

Sponsor - Executive Shapiro, Council as a Whole

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

Resolution 2026-061 was adopted.

2026-062 **A Resolution declaring the month of March 2026 as Women's History Month in Summit County, recognizing the women of America, the achievements they have made, and the struggles they have faced and continue to face today, for the Executive, and declaring an emergency.**

Sponsor - Executive Shapiro, Council as a Whole

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

Resolution 2026-062 was adopted.

2026-063 **A Resolution confirming the award by the Board of Control of a purchase contract with ZixCorp Systems, Inc., at GSA Co-op Pricing, for Office365 service with Zix/AppRiver/OpenText as a Cloud Solution Provider, for a one-year term, from 4/12/26 through 4/11/27, in an amount not to exceed \$286,250.40, for the Office of Information Technology, and declaring an emergency.**

Sponsor - Executive Shapiro

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

Resolution 2026-063 was adopted.

SECOND READINGS

2026-055 **A Resolution authorizing the Executive to advertise for bids for the Department of Public Safety and Emergency Management Build Out Project, located in the City of Tallmadge, in Council District 6, for an estimated total cost not to exceed \$1,500,000.00, for the Executive's Department of Administrative Services—Physical Plants and Department of Public Safety, 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, Ford, Higham, Kacyon, McKenney, Schmidt, Walters, Wilhite

Abstain: Licate

Absent: Donofrio

Motion passed - Voice Vote: 9-0-1

Ms. Walters moved to adopt.

Voice Vote on the motion.

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

Abstain: Licate

Absent: Donofrio

Motion passed - Voice Vote: 9-0-1

Resolution 2026-055 was adopted.

Presentation of New Business:

Presentation of Petitions to address Council:

Executive Session

Motion By: Ms. Higham

Seconded By:

Motion Type: Roll Call Vote

For: Mrs. Darrow, Ms. Dickinson, Mr. Ford, Ms. Higham, Mr. Kacyon, Mr. Licate, Mrs. McKenney, Mr. Schmidt, Ms. Walters, Mr. Wilhite

Against:

Abstain:

Absent: Mr. Donofrio

Outcome: 10-0

Call To Order: 5:05 PM

Reason: To discuss security protocol

Adjournment: Council adjourned at 5:18 pm. The next regular meeting will be held March 30, 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 16th day of March, 2026.

Signed by:

Monique Willis

CLERK OF BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Signed by:

Erin Dickinson

PRESIDENT OF COUNCIL