

**Council Members present-** John Williamson, President; Thomas Murray Sr., Vice-President; Justin Gehman, Monica Hersh, Nathan Imhoff, Keith Landis, Darryl Witmer.

**Others present-** John McBeth, Mayor; Thomas Zell, Police Chief; Thomas Murray, Jr., Kay McEllhenney, Jeff Shirk, Tina Thompson (From Senator Ryan Aument's office), Sam Baughman, Dick Wanner, Ephrata Review.

John Williamson, President of Council called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM. Justin Gehman led the Pledge of Allegiance. John Williamson stated Susan Davidson, Borough Manager, would not be attending tonight's meeting. Minutes will be taken by Tom Murray, Sr.

**Approval of Minutes**

Justin Gehman made a motion to approve the Borough of Akron Council Meeting minutes for January 8<sup>th</sup> 2018, and January 22<sup>nd</sup> 2018. Motion seconded by Keith Landis. No discussion or changes. Motion carried.

**Visitors**

Tina Thompson - with Senator Ryan Aument's office. The Senator had intended to attend tonight's meeting but he was unable. He wanted the Borough to know he is available to assist the Borough. Please contact the Lititz or Harrisburg office with any concerns. There is a Municipal Breakfast this Thursday. The President, Vice-President, Mayor and Manager should have received invitations. As of today, no one from the Borough has RSVP'd.

Kay McEllhenney – I would like to speak with the person in charge of Parks. There are two ways to spend money – wants or needs. What was the need to put the trail in at Colonial Park?  
Nathan Imhoff – Access for handicapped individuals in that part of the community. Kay – Did someone call and ask for it? Nathan – Yes. Kay – How many people? Nathan – Several from that community. A handful, 5 or 6. People who needed that access. Kay – Fulton Street wasn't good enough? You have to walk a little further. I am just saying we had to raise taxes this year and I think in the future we need to have a real need. That type of money needs to be spent down at Roland Park and the driveway coming down by the Fire Company to the parking lot. Somebody is going to fall and break an ankle. That is a need. Nathan – It wasn't all taxpayer money. Some of the funds were raised through GoFundMe. Kay – Why was pervious material used? Nathan – That was done for MS4 requirements in the Borough.

Jeff Shirk – Thought the cost of the Colonial Park trail was in the \$5,000 to \$6,000 range. Read in the Ephrata Review the cost was \$22,000. It must have been a misprint. Is that the cost? How did we go from \$5-6 grand to \$22 grand? Part B, since pervious materials were used has something been done to add the sidewalk and trail to a maintenance plan? Pervious material has to be cleaned every few years. Nathan Imhoff – Yes, we know the pervious material must

be cleaned. Cost rose as one thing led to another. Rather than install a small section of sidewalk to access the trail we installed sidewalk along the entire length of the park. This led to the need to place an ADA access crossing at the corner of Colonial and Manor Ridge.

Dick Wanner – Sidewalk at Colonial Park is crumbling on the side away from the street. Does the installer have any kind of guarantee? Nathan Imhoff – The fact it is not back filled may be causing the sidewalk to crumble. We will have the Borough Manager look into this issue.

***Mayor Report***

The Mayor stated he gave a copy an article from the Ephrata Review to each council person about the potential to buy back from PPL our streetlights. The article in the Ephrata Review was about Denver buying their streetlights back. Adamstown is also looking at buying their streetlights back from PPL. Of course, Ephrata already owns theirs. They are in the process of installing LED lights. The Mayor urges Borough Council to take a look at this. It appears there is a considerable savings. Streetlights are a lucrative market for PPL as we pay over \$20 a month for each streetlight. A brief discussion was held on the concept. Mayor thanked our state senator for passage of the radar bill. He urged Council to call our state representative and ask for passage. The Mayor briefly discussed the current radar bill. The Mayor also discussed the fourth quarter Drug Task Force report.

***Police Report-*** Chief Zell

Report is in the book. Hopefully the new DVR at West Earl will work so we can move along with the install of the video/audio security equipment. Sensenig will be installing a new handcuff rail in our prisoner holding area. Cited 35 property owners this winter for not clearing snow and ice off their sidewalks. We have now cited a total of 68. We had been giving out warnings but it just was not working. It was in the November newsletter that sidewalks need to be cleared. We have been without phone service since 2 PM this afternoon. We had issues with the Verizon phones last month. The dog picked up is now in a very good home.

***Borough Council Members Comments***

John Williamson – five council members attended PSAB boot camp training last weekend for new council members. Some items Council will be looking into include new borough policies on communication, purchasing, and public comment. The meeting held on the fourth Monday will be called Workshop Sessions – it will be an actual Council meeting with minutes taken but held mainly for discussion. Most action will continue to be taken at the Council meeting held on the second Monday of the month. We will be pursuing a part time person to take minutes. This will allow the Borough Manager to participate fully in the meetings. Thanks to the Borough Public Works department for keeping the streets clear during the winter weather and for fixing the water main leak. Chief Zell emphasized the job done by the Public Works department in keeping roads clear.

**Administration and Finance Committee-** Thomas Murray, Sr.

Tom Murray, Sr. made a motion to pay the bills as reviewed by the Finance Committee and Mayor. Justin Gehman seconded the motion. No discussion. Motion carried.

Tom Murray, Sr. read into the minutes the December 31, 2017 month end cash balances.

General Fund	\$29,573.11
Water Fund	\$11,397.18
Sewer Fund	\$18,178.66
Highway Aid	\$111,303.44
General Reserves	\$101,746.11
Water Reserves	\$266,891.00
Sewer Reserves	\$178,908.10
Capital Projects	\$66.53
Community Funds	\$2,108.21
Total	\$720,172.34
Escrow	\$60,731.86

John Williamson stated he believed the Escrow was mainly for the apartments being built on Fulton St. and was that correct. Tom Murray, Sr. stated that was his understanding. John Williamson then told the Mayor at the completion of the project an as built survey would be done and that would determine the impervious coverage.

Tom Murray, Sr. reviewed the January 31<sup>st</sup>, 2018 Revenues and Expenditures report.

A 5 year budget is being constructed and will be shared with Council in the coming weeks.

**Streets & Utilities Committee-** Justin Gehman

We found the big water leak. Numbers have been good since the repair. 2A stone is used to repair water leaks. Some of the stone filling the hole on South 10<sup>th</sup> street has washed down the hill.

**Personnel & Public Safety-** Monica Hersh

Tom Murray, Sr. made a motion to adopt Ordinance number 00092, an ordinance of the Borough of Akron relative to the establishment and maintenance of a police pension, annuity, insurance and benefit fund or funds, to amend certain provisions of the police pension plan or program applicable to the police employees of said Borough and which the Borough now desires the plan be modified to include DROP provisions. Nathan Imhoff seconded the motion. Ordinance has been properly advertised. No discussion. Motion carried.

Borough Manager and Monica have begun work on a Non-Uniform policy book.

***Parks Committee*** - Nathan Imhoff

The Borough Manager and Nathan are gathering estimates for different projects which includes ADA work.

***Property, Zoning, and Ordinances*** – Keith Landis

Borough Manager and Keith are working on several issues including paving at the Fire hall and a generator for the Borough office. There are also a myriad of things to bring to Council in two weeks.

***Community Relations and Special Projects***- Darryl Witmer

Darryl is putting together a calendar for special events. He will also be putting together a committee to work on special projects. Barnstormer night will be Friday, June 22. No meetings held yet.

Jeff Shirk stated that tentatively Akron Day in the Park is the second Saturday in June.

***Borough Manager***

Tom Murray, Sr. read highlights of the Manager's report. 2017 financials have been audited. The auditor will attend a Borough Council meeting to review the audit. Security door has been installed and some painting in the office has been completed. The report also includes a list of projects for 2018.

***Borough Solicitor***

Nothing to report

***Fire Chief***

Distributed January 2018 report

***Planning Commission***

Nothing scheduled at this time

***Zoning Hearing***

No Zoning Hearings scheduled at this time

***Tax Collector***

No Tax Collector Report

***Borough Treasurer***

Nothing to report

***Unfinished Business***

Keith Landis presented a report on the previous Steering Committee meeting. John Williamson stated the next Steering Committee is scheduled for Thursday, February 22, 2018 at 6:30 p.m. at the Fire Hall. The topic of discussion will be transportation needs. Red Rose Transit has been invited, along with bicycle clubs, PennDot, and the County Planning Commission.

***New Business***

The Historical Society of the Cocalico Valley has asked for our support of their project to preserve the Connell Mansion. Tom Murray, Sr. made a motion to send a letter to the Historical Society of the Cocalico Valley in support of their project to preserve the Connell Mansion. Darryl Witmer seconded the motion. No discussion. Motion carried.

***Council Workshop Meeting*** - Monday, February 26, 2018

Nathan Imhoff made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Justin Gehman seconded the motion. No discussion. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 7:57 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Davidson  
Borough Secretary

SD