

Borough of Akron Council Meeting—October 14, 2019

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

Others present: Mayor John McBeth, Susan Davidson, Borough Manager; Thomas Murray, Jr., Jason Smith, Penny Talbert, Ephrata Public Library; Jean Putt, library board member; Cindy and David York; Dick Wanner, Ephrata Review; Ken Asper; Brenda Royer, Walnut Street; Dawn Stauffer, Carolyn Sensenig, 11th Street; Tracey Craft, Joe Latrell, John Taylor, Jeff Shirk, Lions Club; Jeanne Wentz, Ephrata Rec Center; Jeff Keith, John Weber, Glen Weaver, Jim Shenk, Donald Reese.

Meeting brought to order at 7 pm.

Motion made by Monica Hersh to approve meeting minutes from September 9 and September 23, 2019.
Seconded by Nathan Imhoff
Motion Approved.

Jean Putt and Penny Talbert spoke about the Ephrata Public Library. They shared a brochure showing current offerings in the library and online. The brochure also includes information on programs being offered, as well as activities and resources for all ages. They also shared information on the HUB shuttle. The Community Garden at the Library sent a lot of produce to the Food Bank this summer. Funding by the government has been increased for next year. Lynn Brubaker, employee of the Library, read some statements from Citizens of Akron about how the Library plays an important part in their daily lives.

Dawn Stauffer inquired about getting rid of the leaves in the fall on South Tenth Street. Getting rid of the leaves has been getting costly for her. She questioned whether there could be some kind of leaf pick-up by the borough. Carolyn Sensenig brought up the idea some kind of a fee structure for collecting leaves. She mentioned that MS4 comes into play with the leaves and water.

Jeff Shirk from the Lions Club thanked the borough for their help with the fair. They had a record setting year. The Lions sold 12,000 toasted cheeseburgers, 4,800 fries, 907 hot dogs, 338 hamburgers, and 6,500 drinks. The Lions Club is currently working with the Boy Scouts on a project in Loyd Roland Park.

Jeff Keith from Akron Grace Church requested permission to post signs for the Church's November 2, 2019 Craft Fair at the following locations: 1250 Main Street, 530 Main Street, and 128 North 7th Street.
Motion made by Thomas J Murray, Sr.
Seconded by Nathan Imhoff.
Motion approved.

Jeanne Wentz from the Ephrata Recreation Center thanked the Borough for their support. She mentioned Swimming Lessons, Soccer Camp, Craft Camp and Art Camp as some of the more popular events offered by the Ephrata Recreation Center and enjoyed by Akron Borough Residents. For next year's budget, she is again requesting a budget of \$32 per capita. This is the same amount as requested last year.

Don Reese mentioned that his mother lives on Walnut Street. He said that when there is snow, it is being plowed from Diller Street onto her property. He would like another strategy for future snow events.

OFFICER'S REPORTS:

Mayor McBeth showed a video created by Mayor Sorace and the City of Lancaster regarding Senate Bill 607 which would allow local law enforcement to use radar for speed enforcement. Chief Thomas Zell stated that it would be safer for everyone since currently, when officers observe a speeder using the timing method, the Officers have to wait until the offender crosses the second line to consider it an offense. In order to catch the speeder, the Officer often has to speed up to 80 mph to catch the speeder going 60 mph.

Mayor McBeth has approved closing streets for Trunk or Treating on October 24th. The following street will be closed between 5:30-8:00: South 11th Street from Broad Street to New Street.

Mayor McBeth showed Christmas Cards produced by the Historical Society of the Cocalico Valley for their fund-raiser which features two scenes from the Akron Park during the winter. The one card features the Gazebo and the other features the House in Roland Park. Local photographer Don Reese took the pictures and the cards were imprinted on the antique letter press at the Historical Society. Cost of cards is \$12.00 for pack of 10—5 of each picture per pack.

Akron Volunteer Fire Company's Halloween Parade will be on October 23, 2019. Staging will on Broad Street at 6:15 pm. The parade will go down to Ninth Street then onto Main Street ending at the fire hall. The Borough will notify residents living on Main Street from Diamond Street to Dawn Street

Police Chief Thomas Zell mentioned that the video cameras went down twice last week. The issue was worked on and seems to be functioning ok now. Chief Zell said he will be attending a CSI meeting tomorrow. The new E-ticket system has some bugs in it. Chief Zell has scheduled a Drug Take Back for October 26 at Royer's Pharmacy. Chief Zell has been having issues getting hold of DEA for an authorized Drug Take Back Box. John Williamson suggested that Chief Zell should call our local representative. Chief Zell agreed. Mayor McBeth stated we are still having problems with Verizon phones. Monica Hersh thanked Chief Zell and his Officers for the speed enforcement on 9th street. Monica Hersh said it has made a difference. Chief Zell said they had a few drug arrests included with the speed offenses.

Borough Manager Susan Davidson stated the following:

September 2019 month end financials have been reconciled. September 2019 payables will be reviewed by Finance Committee. She met with Council on the proposed 2020 budget. The 2020 Uniform and non-Uniform MMPO information is on the October 14, 2019 agenda.

Concrete Authority will begin sidewalk installation and rework the week of October 14, 2019. Our Public Works Department will be doing the demolition work. MacMor will begin work on the week of October 21, 2019. Residents on Walnut Street have been sent letters informing them of this work. I have filed an errors and omission claim with our Insurance Company.

I met with Justin Gehman and Eric Kaylor from Hanover to look at curb and sidewalk on Front Street and marked areas that will need new curb and sidewalk.

I will be meeting with Nathan Imhoff to discuss 2020 budget numbers for park projects.

The sewer flows are coming down and we have been out of penalty since June 20, 2019. A water main break happened on Orchard Street, October 13, 2019. Repair work by the Akron Public Works Department began at 7 pm and finished at 2 am on October 14, 2019. Approximately 90,000 gallons of water was lost.

I met with two residents on Orchard Street in regards to stormwater erosion on their properties. I would like to set up a meeting with Justin Gehman to discuss this issue.

The annual MS4 report was submitted to DEP by September 20, 2019

Met with the Personnel Chairperson to discuss the proposed Non-Uniform Personnel Manual. Copies were given to Council Members and Mayor. Met again with a representative from Benecon to discuss non-uniform healthcare. I will be forwarding more information to Council and Mayor about this discussion.

A Planning Commission Meeting took place October 3, 2019 to review a sidewalk alternative for Akron Mennonite Church. The Akron Planning Commission made a recommendation to Council approving the sidewalk with conditions. A Planning Commission Meeting has been scheduled for November 7, 2019 for a subdivision at 1302 Diamond Street, Akron. A zoning hearing application was received by PenRac LLC (Enterprise-Rent-A-Car). A hearing was scheduled for September 19 and continued to October 17, 2019. A zoning application was received by Windy Mansion, LLC and this was also scheduled for September 19, 2019 and was approved by the Akron Zoning Hearing Board.

A zoning hearing is scheduled for November 21, 2019 for Rueben and Kathy Martin at 125 N Eleventh Street requesting a relief for setback and lot width requirements for a proposed house.

Akron Church of the Brethren submitted As Built Plans for their parking lot expansion. Hanover Engineering reviewed them and is recommending the escrow amount of \$13,398.00 be released.

I received a copy of Resolution for records destruction from our Borough Solicitor. I would like to look at some of this information before it is destroyed.

A donation of \$150,000.00 was given to the Borough on September 23, 2019 to be used for a new truck.

Commented [jw1]: Suggest not using I but She

Thomas J. Murray, Sr. asked if the Akron Church of the Brethren followed the exact same steps as we require from other organizations/churches. Susan Davidson stated that Harbor did not put the PO Box number on the mailing and, therefore, did not received the plans. Harbor will be resending the plans tomorrow and then the process will begin.

BOROUGH COUNCIL COMMITTEE REPORTS

Thomas Murray, Sr. read the following Month-End Figures as of September 30, 2019:

Revenue Year to Date:

General Fund \$1,800,573

Water Fund \$ 346,174

Sewer Fund \$ 539,064
Highway Aid \$ 129,028

Expenses Year to Date:

General Fund \$1,350,460
Water Fund \$ 322,896
Sewer Fund \$ 624,894
Highway Aid \$ 0

Month End Cash Balances as of September 30, 2019

General Fund \$ 439,747.29
Water Fund \$ 23,246.54
Sewer Fund \$ 42,283.01
Highway Aid Fund \$ 144,446.37
General Reserves \$ 204,581.02
Water Reserves \$ 278,504.13
Sewer Reserves \$ 173,684.03
Capital Projects \$ 370.53
Community Fund \$ 2,435.25
Total \$1,309,298.17

Escrow \$ 76,630.77

Thomas Murray, Sr. made a motion to pass the bills reviewed by the Mayor and the Finance Committee.
Monica Hersh seconded
Motion Approved

Mayor McBeth mentioned that Chief Thomas Zell would like to add an additional Officer to the force for better back up at night for current Officers. The Budget to add an additional officer would be approximately \$100,000/yr. John Williamson questioned citizens about adding an officer and raising taxes. He stated that the citizens he talked to were in favor of raising taxes to get another officer. John Williamson asked if she could present two budgets: One with additional officer, One budget without adding the additional officer.

Mayor McBeth would like an audit of where 30% of the budget went for 2019.

Darryl Witmer: Special Project coming up. Akron Christmas house decorating contest. There will be 3 categories. Notices will be going out soon.

Streets & Public utilities—Justin Gehman—nothing to report

Parks—Nathan Imhoff—will be meeting with Susan Davidson about 2020 park projects.

Personnel and Public Safety—Monica Hersch requested an Executive Session.

Non-Personnel: Search for open council position.

John Williamson: Comprehensive Implementation Task Force has met twice. Boroughs are asked to product an Identity Statement for the community. John Williamson passed out questionnaires to the

citizens at the meeting for their Input for the Identity Statement. The Task Force meets 1st Wed of each month at 6:30 at the Borough Hall

DISCUSSION:

Walnut Street

Susan Davidson was asked by Nathan Imhoff if Chris Martin of C.D. Martin Concrete was finished with the work. Susan Davidson said Chris Martin of C.D. Martin Concrete told her he would be done the by October 21st. Nathan Imhoff stated that C.D. Martin Concrete has been paid—he should be done.

Letters went out to Residents on Walnut Street. Several residents stated they had not received the letters. Thomas J. Murray, Sr. suggested that when the borough sends letters to residents, we should also send a copy to council members.

Richard Wanner from the Ephrata Review asked if Arro was going to put the cost of the Walnut Street work through their insurance. Susan Davidson stated that Arro refused to do that but that a claim had been put through to the Borough's Insurance as an Errors and Omission claim.

Richard Wanner then read a sidewalk ordinance stating that a Borough Manager can grant exceptions for common sense issues. He wonders why we don't do that on Walnut Street. Thomas Murray, Sr. stated that he doesn't believe we should be granting exceptions to the ADA.

Dawn Stauffer of 11th Street asked if she will need to redo her sidewalk or would she be grandfathered in when their street gets done. Jeff Shirk stated that very few sidewalks in Akron are easy to walk on. Mayor suggests we ask PPL to put poles behind sidewalk

NONUNIFORM EE HANDBOOK

Executive Session requested by Monica Hersh.

ComCast Hyperbuild

Farley Fry from Hanover Engineering will submit a letter to the Borough and Comcast about his recommendation. Susan Davidson said she believes they will ask for more information. Thomas Murray, Sr. said some of the homes on the Comcast info are not in the borough. He went on to say that the borough shouldn't be giving any information to the engineer that isn't accurate.

T-Mobile

Susan Davidson sent information from Hanover Engineering on how much it would cost for inspection.

Lancaster County Drug Task Force—no action

Records Destruction Resolution—no action

Received letter about records that can be destroyed. Susan Davidson would like to make sure we have copies and would like to look at some of the documents before they are destroyed.

Akron Mennonite Church Side Walk Alternative

John Williamson showed a map of the area of the proposed Side Walk Alternative. Akron Mennonite Church would like to expand the cemetery. Akron Mennonite Church would like a waiver for an ADA path of pavement rather than a sidewalk. After the driveway to a neighboring farm, they would install a

sidewalk. Akron Mennonite Church would like the area with the parkway to be used as a nature preserve and/or memory garden. They want to save the trees and character of Diamond Station Road. Also, the pathway would take pedestrians away from the busy roadway. This matter was tabled to next council meeting.

FRONT STREET PAVING ESTIMATE—Tabled

Hanover Engineering gave an estimate for doing the engineering work for Front Street. It was mentioned by Nathan Imhoff that Dan Wolf complained about water coming off his neighbor's roof. Nathan Imhoff stated he would like to see something done before winter sets in this year.

AKRON CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN PARKING LOT AS-BUILT PLAN—Tabled

ACTION ITEMS

SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICER AGREEMENT—Tabled until next meeting on 28th

Monica Hersh asked if #13 PAYMENT FOR LATE PAYMENT was same as before—Sue will check prior agreement.

Akron Borough 2020 Uniform and Non-Uniform Minimum Municipal Obligation--Received by Council and Mayor before September 30, 2019 needs to be in minutes.

Clean Water Stream Restoration Grant

John Williamson is working on this National Grant through the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation which has a maximum amount of \$200,000. He stated that the grant needs to be matched at 30%. The Grant Money is only to be used for construction. John Williamson is hoping we can get a matching grant from a DEP Growing Greener Grant. The application for the grant is due by October 22. Mayor John McBeth asked how much employee time will be required for the rain garden. Nathan Imhoff asked if Hanover Engineering could also include the front parking lot in the runoff proposal. Thomas Murray, Sr. asked if we are going to submit the grant request.

Thomas Murray, Sr. made a motion to submit the grant to the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation. Seconded by Darryl Witmer seconded. Motion Approved.

COUNCIL RESIGNATION

Thomas Murray, Sr., made a motion to accept Keith Landis's resignation from Borough Council. Nathan Imhoff seconded. Motion approved.

John Williamson stated that this is a 2-year plus position until the end of 2021. He told those attending that interested parties need to come to October 28, 2019 meeting.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS— Standpipe painting is going to be quite expensive. John Williamson would like to know when that needs painted.

Executive Session re: Personnel Matter and Non-Uniform Employee Handbook.

Motion made by Monica Hersh to go into Executive Session. Seconded by Justin Imhoff. Motion approved.

Thomas Murray, Sr. left the meeting at 9:23 pm

Council meeting ended at 9:25 pm for an Executive Session.

At 9:55 pm Nathan Imhoff made a motion to end the Executive Session and Begin Council Meeting.
Seconded by Monica Hersh
Motion Carried

Monica Hersh made a motion to approve the changes made by the Labor Attorney on the Non-uniform Employee Handbook.
Seconded by Justin Gehman.
Motion carried.

Monica Hersh said council received a letter from the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers concerning our public works department. Letter was received by IBEW stating they want to represent our Public Works Department. No decision was made. The Borough Manager will forward a letter to the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers stating we received their letter.

Next Meeting will be held on October 28, 2019 at 6:30 pm and will focus on the 2020 Budget, the School Resource Agreement, Akron Mennonite Church, Interview for new council member, SRO Officer Agreement, Personnel Issues, and Walnut Street.

Motion to adjourn made by Darryl Witmer
Seconded by Monica Hersh.
Motion Approved.
Meeting adjourned at 9:59 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Dianne J. Hackman