

BOROUGH OF AKRON COUNCIL MEETING-OCTOBER 28, 2019

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

Others present- Mayor John McBeth, Susan Davidson, Borough Manager; John Taylor, Tom Murray, Jr., Michael Hoffman, Ken Asper, Brad Meashey, Brenda Royer, Kleon M. Zimmerman, John Weber, Glen Beiler, Hope Stayer, John Redcay, Randall Justice.

Meeting called to order at 6:30 p.m.

Vacancy Interviews for Council Member

Kleon Zimmerman, 429 S. Ninth Street was present to be interviewed for the Council vacancy. Kleon is a foreman at Brubaker Electric. Mr. Zimmerman is interested in helping the community.

John Williamson asked Kleon Zimmerman, "What does Akron mean to you?" Kleon Zimmerman mentioned that it is home and enjoys living in Akron, it is quiet and safe.

Michael Hoffman, 314 Broad Street was present to be interviewed for the Council vacancy. Michael Hoffman is owner of Modern Cleaners in Ephrata and is semi-retired and wants to use his talents to make Akron grow and succeed.

John Williamson asked Michael Hoffman, "What does Akron Mean to you?" Michael Hoffman responded that it is my hometown, I bought my first house in Akron, Akron is close knit, has much to offer, has its own police department and wants to see those things continue and he is good at dealing with the public.

Council thanked Kleon Zimmerman and Michael Hoffman.

School Resource Officer

Justin Gehman made a motion to approve the 2020-2022 School Resource Officer Agreement with the one change. Section 11 was changed by removing the term, any renewal term thereof. Thomas Murray, Sr. seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Akron Mennonite Church Sidewalk Alternative

Darryl Witmer made a motion to approve the plan for a Sidewalk Alternative as presented by the Akron Mennonite Church and that Section 22.502.2 of the Sidewalk Ordinance requirement be waived and a future path or sidewalk must be built when Diamond Station Road and Diamond Street is reconstructed following the recommendation of the Akron Borough Planning Commission. Justin Gehman seconded the motion. Motion carried but not unanimous. John Williamson, Thomas Murray, Sr., Justin Gehman, Nathan Imhoff and Darryl Witmer voted in favor of the motion. Monica Hersh voted against the motion.

Public Works Shop Building Roof Replacement

Thomas Murray, Sr. made a motion to authorize the repair of the Akron Borough Public Works Shop Roof in the amount of \$14,200.00 from Greenbank Construction, LLC, Ronks, PA. Nathan Imhoff seconded the motion. Motion carried. Other quotes- Sensenig Co., Ephrata PA-\$22,800.00 & Zimmerman's Roofing, \$19,895.00

Akron Church of the Brethren

Thomas Murray, Sr. made a motion to release the \$13,498.00 to the Akron Church of the Brethren as recommended by Hanover Engineering for completion of the Akron Church of the Brethren parking lot expansion. Monica Hersh seconded the motion. Motion carried.

2020 Proposed Budget

Council reviewed the proposed 2020 Budget.

Visitors

The Borough Manager will contact Concrete Authority tomorrow to remove cones at driveways.

Hope Stayer from Bomberger Road asked when the Bomberger Stream Embankment work will be finished. Council mentioned it will be finished next year.

Glen Beiler of the Akron Republican Committee mentioned that he is here to support Michael Hoffman and Randall Justice.

The Borough Manager will meet with Evan Shupp of Public Works and get information on what has been done with the Lantern Fly problem and the park and to come up with a strategy to work on this problem.

The Borough Manager will contact Chris Martin and tell him the sidewalk work on Walnut Street needs finished by next Friday.

Interviews for Council Member Vacancy (cont'd)

Randall Justice, Meadowview Street was interviewed for the Council vacancy. Randall Justice is a civil, injury litigation and family law attorney. He is interested in serving his community.

John Williamson asked Randall, "What does Akron mean to you?" Randall Justice mentioned Akron is a small community where we look out for each other and the first place in my life to call home and put down roots.

2020 Proposed Budget (cont'd)

Council reviewed the proposed 2020 budget.

Salaries need to be updated as discussed at the October 7th meeting.

Tom Murray, Sr. asked when was the last time the Akron Fire Company contribution was increased?

Nathan Imhoff mentioned purchasing a leaf sucking equipment for the Borough. Justin Gehman mentioned that type of equipment works better for rolled curb and Akron Borough has very little rolled curb.

The proposed 2020 budget must be ready for the November 11, 2019 Council meeting.

Personnel

Monica Hersh made a motion to go into Executive Session to discuss the Non-Uniform Employee handbook and 2020 proposed insurance changes.

Monica Hersh rescinded her motion.

Monica Hersh made a motion recommending the increase for health insurance deductions for the Borough of Akron Non-Uniform employees effective January 1, 2020. Nathan Imhoff seconded the motion. Nathan Imhoff mentioned that these numbers are fair for our non-uniform employees. Motion carried.

Police Budget

Justin Gehman mentioned that he does not want to raise taxes and feels that we could use an extra part-time officer in the police department.

Nathan Imhoff agreed with Justin Gehman.

Monica Hersh mentioned that she would be in favor of an extra part-time officer or a full-time police officer without raising taxes.

Darryl Witmer mentioned hiring a full-time officer only if we don't raise taxes.

Tom Murray, Sr, mentioned that he does not want to raise taxes and do we want to continue having a police force of our own.

Tom Murray, Sr. mentioned it would cost approximately \$60.00 per household if the Borough increases taxes for a new full-time police officer.

Monica Hersh made a motion to approve the Borough of Akron Non-Uniform Employee handbook.

Justin Gehman seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Tom Murray, Sr. did not participate in any discussion or voting of this motion.

Monica Hersh made a motion to go into Executive Session to discuss union issues. Darryl Witmer seconded the motion. Motion carried. 9:49 p.m.

Justin Gehman made a motion to reconvene the meeting at 9:55 p.m. Monica Hersh seconded the motion. Motion carried. Tom Murray, Sr. and Mayor John McBeth did not participate in the Executive Session.

Monica Hersh made a motion to have the Borough Manager prepare and send a letter to the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers with Option 1 as Council' reply. Nathan Imhoff seconded the motion. Motion carried. Tom Murray, Sr. did not participate in any discussion or voting on this motion.

New Business/Old Business

Mayor McBeth asked about the pothole at Manor Ridge and Edgehill Drive. The Borough Manager mentioned that she would contact Martin's Paving and remind them to take care of this.

Nathan Imhoff made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Monica Hersh seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 10:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Davidson
Borough Manager/Secretary

SD