

## **BOROUGH OF AKRON COUNCIL MEETING- FEBRUARY 10, 2020**

***Council Members present-*** Thomas J. Murray, Sr., President; Justin Gehman, Vice-President; Nathan Imhoff, Kleon Zimmerman, Paul Swangren, Randall M. Justice. (Darryl Witmer not present)

***Others present-*** Mayor John McBeth, Susan Davidson, Borough Manager; Police Chief Thomas Zell, Kenelm L. Shirk III, Solicitor; Dick Wanner, Ephrata Review; George Wolf, Ed Browne, Cheryle Swangren, Robert Weaver, Erv Miller, Eric Miller, Pamela and Jerry Balmer, Ken Asper, Chris & Josh Doughty, Tom Bender, Jeff Dull, Marci Dull, John Taylor, Tracey Craft, Joe Latrell, Mark Brance, Bob Lynn, Hanover Engineering; George D. Wolf, Tom Sheaffer, Rachel Sensenig, Kyle Robinson, John Roche, Vision Engineering, Hannah Omelas, Marlin Martin, Thomas Murray, Jr. , Dwight Yoder, Gibble, Krayblill & Hess

Meeting opened at 6:30 p.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance.

### ***Approval of Minutes***

Paul Swangren made a motion to approve the January 27, 2020 Borough of Akron Council Meeting minutes. Justin Gehman seconded the motion. Motion carried.

### ***West Earl Township Police Chief***

Chief Zell introduced the new West Earl Police Chief, Chief Eric Higgins. Chief Higgins started at the new West Earl Police Chief on January 6, 2020.

### ***Borough Vacancies***

#### ***Council Member***

Paul Swangren made a motion to appoint Randall Justice as a Council member. Nathan Imhoff seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Council voted – Kleon Zimmerman- yes, Justin Gehman-no, Paul Swangren-yes, Nathan Imhoff-yes, Thomas Murray, Sr.-yes. Motion carried.

Mayor McBeth administered the Oath of Office to Randall Justice the newly appointed Council member.

Paul Swangren thanked Tracey Kraft for her wanting to serve on Akron Borough Council.

### ***Treasurer***

Justin Gehman made a motion to appoint Ryan Cochran Borough of Akron Treasurer as a check signer for the Borough. Nathan Imhoff seconded the motion. Motion carried.

### ***Visitors/Comments from Public***

Nothing to report

### ***Reports***

#### ***Mayor***

Mayor McBeth had nothing to report

**Police**

Distributed report

**Borough Manager- Tax Collector- Fire Chief, Zoning Officer Report**

**Borough Manager Report**

2019 Annual audit completed with no issues

A Workman’s comp Audit is scheduled for February 18, 2020 and a Liquid Fuels Audit scheduled for February 28, 2020.

Schuylkill Paving is scheduled to begin paving on Walnut Street mid to late April 2020.

Hanover Engineering has completed the survey and design work on Front Street.

Civil charges have been filed against the owners of 115 N. Ninth Street, Akron for operating a short term rental. A hearing is scheduled for February 20, 2020.

The purchase of a new Public Works truck is on the agenda for tonight’s meeting.

**Tax Collector**

There is no Tax Collector report. 2020 Real Estate Taxes should be mailed within the next week or two.

**Fire Chief Report**

January 2020 Report in Council books

**Zoning Officer Report**

January 2020 Zoning Officer Report in Council books

**Administration/Finance Committee Report**

Justin Gehman made a motion to pay the bills as reviewed by the Finance Committee and Mayor. Kleon Zimmerman seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Sue Davidson read into the minutes the January 2020 month-end balances

General Fund	\$ 48,083.68
Water Fund	\$ 28,187.67
Sewer Fund	\$ 26,942.47
Hwy Aid	\$131,292.41
General Reserves	\$268,024.64
Water Reserves	\$244,665.47
Sewer Reserves	\$124,191.86
Capital Projects	\$ 372.53
Community Fund	\$ 2,203.08
Total	\$873,963.81

Escrow Fund \$ 5,878.61

Sue Davidson reviewed the January 2020 Revenues and Expenditures Report.

### **Community Relations Committee Report**

A copy of the Akron 125 Anniversary insert is in the Council books. Patron listings are \$20.00, pre-orders for books are \$10.00 and buying ads are also available.

Mayor McBeth mentioned the Akron Historical Group will be donating approximately \$800.00 and this will be placed in a separate Borough Fund.

### ***Conditional Use Hearing for Handi-Vangelism Ministries***

Kenelm L. Shirk III, Solicitor for the Borough of Akron mentioned that Handi-Vangelism is requesting a change for an access road off Rothsville Road.

Dwight Yoder from Gible, Kraybill and Hess was there to represent the Borough of Akron and Ed Brown from Nicholas and Hoenadel was representing Handi-Vangelism.

Kyle Robinson Executive Director of Handi-Vangelism Ministries shared what Handi-Vangelism is all about. Robinson also mentioned that the amount of daily traffic for office employees is 6 to 8 employees and summer camp is May through August, Monday through Friday with staggering times for arrival of campers. There are 30 campers per week.

Support groups are from 10-15 people one evening a month and seminars are 20-40 people on Saturdays and Bible Club on three different evenings a month with 40 people at the most attending.

Randall Justice asked about walk in traffic. Kyle Robinson said not a lot of walk in business.

Nathan Imhoff asked if over the next ten years do you see the number of campers increasing and Kyle Robinson responded that we have plateaued at 30 campers and that is where we want to be so the staff can meet the needs of the campers.

Tom Sheaffer of 18 Ridgewood Drive asked if any traffic studies have been done. Ed Browne mentioned that not recently by the Borough and none in regards to this application but it will need to be done to get a Highway Occupancy Permit.

Dwight Yoder asked about special events. Kyle Robinson replied that the main banquets are at a satellite location and they will not lease for church services.

Joe Latrell, 2020 S. 4<sup>th</sup> Street asked what the peak traffic numbers of vehicles not people. Ed Browne mentioned that type of study was not done.

George Wolf, 16 Miller Road asked if the location has been approved by the State and Ed Brown mentioned that the Highway Occupancy Permit must be completed and it is in the process.

Dwight Yoder asked Kyle Robinson about staggering times and would you ever have a day camp. Kyle mentioned it would not be done in conjunction with an overnight camp. Kyle also mentioned that they would not take day trips during the week at this facility. Kyle also mentioned that Handi-Vangelism does not provide transportation.

John Roche from Vision Engineering showed the proposed sketch plan of Handi-Vangelism showing the moved driveway because of grading and setback issues.

Jeff Dull, 6 Fulton Street asked why wasn't this issue known earlier? Roche mentioned there was not a design plan done earlier.

Tom Sheaffer asked is there a potential for a traffic signal and Kyle Robinson mentioned we do not meet the 100 count.

Kyle also mentioned there is no change in the size of the proposed buildings.

Robert Lynn from Hanover Engineering did not see any issues in regard to the site distance for the proposed conditions.

Handi-Vangelism is requesting up to 5 years to complete the project that would included the subdivision land development plan, stormwater, permitting etc.

Jerry Balmer from 3221 Rothsville Road (called as a witness) voiced concerns about pulling out of his driveway onto Rothsville Road.

Tom Bender, 19 Heritage Road (called as a witness) said the previous owner (Golf Course) generated more traffic at certain times.

Paul Swangren made a motion to close the record and to continue on March 9, 2020 for a decision and to accept Exhibit S-1 listing the proposed conditions. Nathan Imhoff seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Handi-Vangelism Text Amendment

Paul Swangren made a motion to adopt Ordinance #00099 amending the Code of Ordinances by adding subsection 1237.18 to Chapter 27 part 12 in order to provide for special sign regulations for all Organizational Headquarter Campuses. Randall Justice seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Hearing closed.

Mayor McBeth mentioned that the Handi-Vangelism property has been kept nice.

***Personnel Committee***

Tom Murray, Sr. turned the meeting over to Justin Gehman, Vice-President.

Paul Swangren made a motion to allow for a 3% increase for all full-time non-uniform employees retroactive back to January 2020. Randall Justice seconded the motion. Motion carried.  
Thomas Murray, Sr. did not participate in any discussion or voting on this matter. (letter attached)

Meeting turned over to Thomas Murray, Sr. Council President.

Paul Swangren made a motion to adopt the Borough Manager job description. Kleon Zimmerman seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Meeting again turned over to Justin Gehman, Vice President.

Paul Swangren made a motion to allow Section 4.405 paragraph 2 to apply to all new employees hired after January 1, 2020 and the sick leave section to be for existing personnel. Paul Swangren withdrew motion.

Paul Swangren made a motion to allow Section 4-406 to apply to all new employees. Paul Swangren withdrew his motion.

Meeting turned over to Thomas Murray, Sr. Council President.

Paul Swangren read statement in regards to police services.

Chief Zell mentioned that quantity verses quality and we are going to lose service if we contract our police services. Chief Zell also mentioned that it is hard to maintain a police department and good morale in the uncertainty around the future of the police department.

Joe Latrell mentioned that once you contract you lose control.

Paul Swangren made a motion to have the Borough Manager get proposals for police contracting for a 5 year term from Ephrata Police Department, West Earl Township Police Department, Northern Regional Police Department and East Lampeter Police Department. Justin Gehman seconded the motion. Motion carried.

***Streets Committee***

Nothing to report

***Public Utilities***

Council wants Hanover Engineering at the next meeting to discuss sewer flows.

***Parks Committee***

Nathan Imhoff made a motion to allow the Cyclecross race to be held at the Roland Park on October 24, 2020. Paul Swangren seconded the motion. Lititz Bike Works will pay for traffic control and will name the borough as an added insured. Motion carried.

***Public Works Truck***

Nathan Imhoff made a motion to approve the purchase of the 2021 Freightliner Truck in the amount of \$146,001.00 (Co-Stars). Paul Swangren seconded the motion. Motion carried.

***Old Business***

Meeting turned over to Justin Gehman, Council Vice-President.

Paul Swangren mentioned there will be a secret ballot vote on March 4, 2020 for Public Works employees that want to join the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers.

Nathan Imhoff made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Randall Justice seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Davidson  
Borough Manager/Secretary

SD