

BOROUGH OF AKRON COUNCIL MEETING – MAY 25, 2020

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

Others present- Mayor John McBeth, Susan Davidson, Borough Manager/Secretary; Police Chief Thomas Zell, Kenelm L. Shirk III , Solicitor; Kevin Wolford (via Zoom), Monica Hersh (via Zoom).

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

Visitors

Nothing to report

Parks

Paul Swangren, Jr. made a motion that when Governor Wolf allows Lancaster County to move to the yellow phase the Akron Borough playgrounds will be posted allowing not more than twenty-five (25) people on Akron Borough park playgrounds. Darryl Witmer seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Randall Justice made a motion to accept the donation of soccer goals for Colonial Park from Rosenberger of North America. Paul Swangren Jr. seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Personnel

Paul Swangren, Jr. mentioned to Council that the Personnel Committee along with the Borough Manager met at 6:00 p.m. today to discuss personnel issues.

Seasonal Help

Paul Swangren Jr. stated to Council that the Personnel Committee wants to move ahead to hire seasonal part-time helper, Elias Long. The Borough has budgeted \$7,000.00 for part-time summer help.

Property Maintenance

Paul Swangren, Jr. suggested to Council to authorize the Borough Manager to transfer the property maintenance duties to Public Works Staff. Council had no objections.

Minute Taker/Borough Secretary

No response on a meeting minute taker. Randall Justice suggested a transcription service as an option.

Paul Swangren Jr. mentioned the Borough Manager is doing dual duty as Manager and Borough Secretary and stated there should be a succession and transition plan. Paul also mentioned that throughout the next month he will be looking into the Borough Secretary position and will make a recommendation at the July 13, 2020 Council meeting.

International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers

IBEW reached out with a Right to Know Request for a copy of the most recent Akron Borough Police contract.

Paul Swangren, Jr. mentioned that the Borough Manager will reach out to representatives from International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers to set up a Zoom meeting to discuss proposed contract negotiations.

The question was asked if the Borough Secretary must live in the Borough. The Borough Solicitor stated that the Borough Secretary does not have to live in the Borough but must live in an adjoining municipality.

Police

Darryl Witmer made a motion to honor the Akron Borough Police contract and offer non-service disability compensation as provided to the other non-uniform employees. Randall Justice seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Kevin Wolford (via Zoom) mentioned that if we can't have a public meeting at this time for police services have the public send responses to the Borough office ahead of time and discuss at a public Zoom Council meeting.

Mayor McBeth mentioned we need costs and there is no sense in having a meeting without that information.

Paul Swangren Jr. disagreed and stated it is also about safety and services.

Chief Zell mentioned that people are going to ask about cost.

It was mentioned that a list of questions for the different police departments was sent to the Council President.

Justin Gehman (via zoom) stated that he wants to wait until we can have a large gathering before we invite the other police departments to make their presentations.

Paul Swangren Jr. made a motion to authorize Akron Civil Service Commission to look for two full-time police officers- one officer immediately and the other officer in the fall and this does not include a Police Chief. Darryl Witmer seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Streets

Sidewalk and curb are finished on Walnut Street. Schuykill Paving has been contacted to put Walnut Street paving on their schedule and to please give us a date ahead of time so the residents can be contacted.

Paul Swangren Jr. made a motion to have Hanover Engineering move forward with the street paving bid for Front Street and to send an updated engineering timeline schedule for Front Street. Darryl Witmer seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Public Utilities

1418 Diamond Street

Code Administrators posted and condemned the property at 1418 Diamond Street on May 14, 2020 for failure to maintain a working sewage pump. On Friday, May 15, 2020, Strohl Company pumped out the tank. The next step is to file charges with the local Magistrates office because no repairs have been made to the sewer pump and for any charges owed the Borough for cleaning out the tank.

Dead End Issues- New Street

Public Works is waiting on some items before completing the project on New Street flushing the dead-end line. That work should be completed by next week.

Sewer Laterals

Courtesy letters were sent to five property owners on S. Tenth Street letting them know that their sewer laterals need repaired.

New Business

Lancaster County is scheduled to move to the yellow phase on Friday, June 5, 2020.

Akron Borough Council will still have a Zoom Meeting at the Akron Volunteer Fire Hall on June 8, 2020 commencing at 6:30 p.m. The yellow phase will allow for not more than twenty-five (25) people to gather.

A list of 2020 proposed projects were distributed to Council and Mayor and will be discussed at the June 8, 2020 Council meeting.

Kenelm L. Shirk III mentioned that the COVID 19 could affect the amount of Liquid Fuels that municipalities receive in 2021.

Paul Swangren, Jr. made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Randall Justice seconded the motion. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Davidson
Secretary

