BOROUGH OF AKRON COUNCIL MEETING – March 8, 2021

Council Members present – Susan Davidson Borough Secretary had roll call for Council Members present- Nathan Imhoff, President; Justin Gehman, Vice-President; Paul Swangren, Jr.; Randall Justice; Thomas J. Murray, Sr., Kleon Zimmerman and Michael Morris.

Others present – Mayor John McBeth; Susan Davidson, Borough Manager/Secretary; Sean Molchany, Assistant Borough Manager, and Police Chief Eric Higgins, Lora Gomboc, Stan Brighton, John Taylor, David Martin, Donald Reese. (Zoom- Monica Hersh, Joe & Tracy)

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

Nathan Imhoff announced that Council voted-in a new member to Akron Borough Council to fill the vacancy left by Darryl Witmer, which was done at a public meeting last Thursday, March 4, 2021 at 6:30 p.m. The Council elected to have that seat filled by Michael Morris.

Oath of Office
Mayor McBeth administered the Oath of Office to newly elected Council Member, Michael Morris.

Nathan Imhoff stated they are going to start doing a roll call from now on to make sure those signed in on Zoom know which Council members are present.

Approval of Minutes
Justin Gehman made a motion to approve the February 22, 2021 Borough of Akron Council Meeting minutes. Paul Swangren, Jr. seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Police Report
Chief Higgins reported they had their first Police Liaison Meeting last Monday, March 1, 2021 which went very well. The Chief encouraged the Council to visit the West Earl Township Police Station to see what services they are providing and what equipment they are using. He also recommended they sign up for a ride-along with one of their officers.

Sue Davidson added that the title for the last police vehicle has been turned over to West Earl Township.

Visitors – Lora Gomboc, Stan Brighten, John Taylor, David Martin and Donald Reese.

David Martin, Akron resident, complimented the Council for taking steps to improve the parking issue on Main Street as it has been a long time concern for him.

Donald Reese let the Council know that he purchased a bike rack for the trail, and asked for guidance on where the Council would like the rack to be installed.

Also, Mr. Reese stated he would like to see more police presence in the Borough.

Mayor Report

Mayor McBeth reported that at their County Mayors' Association have expressed their concern to the State Senator and Representatives on the Governor's proposal to fund the State Police. Although Akron Borough pays for its own police, under the Governor's proposal, they will have to pay $1.85 per person, total of $7,427 per year. West Earl Township will have to pay $15,501.

Back to Police

Advertise Ordinance for Police Services

Thomas J. Murray, Sr. made a motion to advertise the Ordinance for police services. Paul Swangren, Jr. seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Borough Manager Report

Sue Davidson stated they received four RFP's for the Solicitor. It will be on the agenda for the March 22, 2021 meeting.

There was a Zoning Hearing Continuance for North Ninth Street requesting a variance to convert 2 commercial units into one residential unit. The Zoning Hearing Board approved the special exception to expand a non-conforming use and to provide off street parking on another property to accommodate the proposed use subject to conditions.

The 2021 Real Estate Taxes have been mailed the end of February.

Administration/Finance

February 2021 financials have been reconciled and March 2021 payables have been reviewed by the Finance Committee.

Approve Bills

Thomas J. Murray, Sr. made a motion to pay the February bills as reviewed by the Finance Committee. Kleon Zimmerman seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Thomas J. Murray, Sr. stated they will be meeting with Sue Davidson, Sean Molchany, the Treasurer and Herbein + Company to review their 2020 audit. Herbein + Company will also do a presentation at a public meeting, possibly on April 12, if the Council is in favor.

Thomas J. Murray, Sr. also stated the Auditor General's office has started the pension audit for uniform and non-uniform pension funds for 2017 to 2020.

Thomas J. Murray, Sr. reviewed the February 2021 Revenues and Expenditures Report.

The February 28, 2021 month-end cash balances were read into the minutes.
General Fund $173,370.29

Water Fund $469.91
Sewer Fund $112,381.04
Hwy Aid Fund $45,772.33
General Reserves $261,065.07
Water Reserves $286,115.19
Sewer Reserves $226,063.63
Capital Projects $374.14
Community Fund $4,191.22
Total $1,109,802.82
Escrow Fund $5,961.64

Parks/Property
Ephrata Library Storybook
Randall Justice presented the packet for the Storybook project, which was discussed at their previous meetings. The Ephrata library has already raised the money for the Storybook signs through a grant. The remaining items for the Borough would be to approve the project and to decide where it would be placed. Abigail Balmer, Ephrata Public Library Assistant Director, was proposing that it would be near one of the playgrounds, but is looking for guidance from the Council. Mr. Justice suggested they tell the library to get in touch with Sean Molchany for placement and methodology as he knows all the appropriate considerations.

Randall Justice made a motion to approve the Storybook walk as a concept, as proposed by Ephrata Public Library. Part of the proposal is that the Public Works perform the installation of the posts, and that the specifics of the location of the Storybook walk would be worked out between the Assistant Borough Manager and the library representatives, with the final mutually agreed upon location between those parties to be brought back to Council for final approval. Thomas J. Murray, Sr. seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Colonial Park Pavilion
Randall Justice noted that there was some discussion that the price may be significantly increased for the pavilion. In his conversation with the Mayor, as they worked with the Rosenberger, they contemplated that there would be some cost to the Borough, and that Rosenberger was picking up the cost of the structure. The budget that they are now talking about is not what they contemplated. In their original discussion, they had the belief that some of their existing Public Works persons could assist with pick up and/or placement in a way that would help manage or diminish some of the cost. The Council did not talk about things like Stormwater Management and ADA in contemplating the pavilion.

Discussion followed.

Personnel
Paul Swangren, Jr. reported that he is going through an investigation on the Crossing Guard with Sean Molchany to move forward on the Crossing Guard policy procedures.

Paul Swangren, Jr. made a motion to appoint Sean Molchany, Assistant Borough Manager, as the Zoning Officer. Justin Gehman seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Streets

Justin Gehman, Paul Swangren, Jr., Sue Davidson and Sean Molchany met with Hanover Engineers and Construction Masters on Front Street two weeks ago and came up with a plan to repair the low spot toward Main Street side. They are still waiting for Construction Masters to get back to them with the figure to bring before the Council.

Paul Swangren, Jr. stated Liquid Fuels is $105,981, which is for the capital projects for 2021.

Public Utilities

Kleon Zimmerman reported that sewer flows went up exponentially because of the rain and the snow melting. The Borough was out of the penalty for almost a month and a half, but now the numbers are back up.

Last month they had a couple water main breaks. Most of them were found.

Kleon Zimmerman asked if there is a plan on which fire hydrants need to be flushed out. Sue Davidson will send Mr. Zimmerman the schedule for flushing hydrants.

New Business/Old Business

Comcast

Sue Davidson and Sean Molchany are still waiting on Comcast for their security, some permits and some money they owe the Borough, before they move forward.

Paul Swangren, Jr. made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Thomas J. Murray, Sr. seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 7:53 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lydia Kovalchuk
Minute Taker

LK