

BOROUGH OF AKRON COUNCIL MEETING – May 24, 2021

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

Others present – Mayor John McBeth; Susan Davidson, Borough Manager/Secretary; Sean Molchany, Assistant Borough Manager, and Police Chief Eric Higgins.

Visitors – Larry Alexander, Ephrata Review, and John Taylor.

Meeting opened at 6:32 p.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Council Roll Call: Thomas J. Murray, Sr. – Yes
Kleon Zimmerman – No
Paul Swangren, Jr. – Yes
Randall Justice – No
Michael Morris – Yes
Justin Gehman, Vice-President – Yes
Nathan Imhoff, President – Yes
Mayor John McBeth – Yes

Approval of Minutes

Thomas J. Murray, Sr. made a motion to approve the May 10, 2021 Borough of Akron Council Meeting minutes. Paul Swangren, Jr. seconded the motion.
Motion carried.

Bills

Thomas J. Murray, Sr. made a motion to approve the payment to West Earl Township for Police Services in the amount of \$58,728. Justin Gehman seconded the motion.
Motion carried.

Reports

Police Report

Chief Higgins reported that West Earl Township swore Officer Blessing in at their last meeting. The Chief asked Officer Blessing and Officer Mertz to stop by Akron Borough Office this evening to introduce them to Council.

Chief Higgins asked the Council if they would like police presence at their June 12th Akron Day in the Park event.

Susan Davidson stated they would like police presence at the event. Ms. Davidson will be meeting with some of the Committee members next week and would like Chief Higgins to attend that meeting to introduce him and to discuss the event.

Mayor Report

Nothing to report.

Borough Manager Report

Gave a report in the Old Business.

Assistant Borough Manager/Zoning Officer Report

Gave a report in the Old Business.

Finance Report

Thomas J. Murray, Sr. and Susan Davidson will be meeting tomorrow Tuesday, May 25, 2021 to discuss preparations for the next Council meeting.

Community Relations

Michael Morris asked if Council would like to move forward with the purchase of 28 Christmas wreaths (\$38.88 each) using funds from the Community Fund in the amount of \$1,088.64, and have a sponsorship ability of \$40 for each wreath throughout the year to pay back the fund.

Sue Davidson stated they have about \$3,500 in the budget for Community Relations.

The Borough got approval to hang the wreaths on poles, and Comcast will be helping to hang the wreaths.

Paul Swangren, Jr. made a motion to spend \$1,088.64 for the Community Wreath program, and then solicit sponsorships for the wreaths. Justin Gehman seconded the motion.

Motion carried.

Back to Police

Chief Higgins introduced Officer Josh Mertz who has been with West Earl Police for two years now. Officer Mertz started with the Road Crew and then laddered over to the Police Department.

The Council thanked Officer Mertz for his service and for stopping by to introduce himself.

Parks and Property Report

Susan Davidson stated she had a telephone conference call with Sean Molchany and Randall Justice this morning to discuss the Akron Pines Playground in Loyd H. Roland Memorial Park, and what the price would be to get it cleaned up and stained.

Thomas J. Murray, Sr. stated he received several complaints last week about the condition of the park.

Sean Molchany said the Akron Pines Playground has not been maintained very well over the last five years. The playground was power washed and stained in house previously, and it took the staff a week or so to get that task completed.

Mr. Molchany said he reached out to COSTAR providers to see who would provide that service in the area. He got a price from CertaPro Painters. He then met with CertaPro Painters to look at power washing, repainting and staining. The proposal is \$21,830.

Mr. Molchany also got a cost for a 400 cubic yards wood carpet at a price of \$14,780.

The total for the project is \$36,610.

Mr. Molchany stated that Randall Justice is in favor of the project.

Thomas J. Murray, Sr. made a motion to spend \$21,830 to CertaPro Painters for pressure wash, stain and paint; as well as \$14,780 for wood carpet. To be paid – \$10,000 from playground equipment capital (budgeted); \$6,000 aerators capital (budgeted), and the remainder balance will come from general reserves. Paul Swangren, Jr. seconded the motion.

Justin Gehman stated lately it seems like they are coming up with unbudgeted funds for different projects and are dipping into the reserves a lot. Mr. Gehman wants to make sure they are covered if they ever come to a crisis, and they need to decide that they have a safety cushion. He believes it needs to be a priority that at one of these meetings they figure out what that safety cushion is and they do not spend below that. He suggested they start budgeting and getting a five-year plan of what needs to be done so they do not have any surprises.

Paul Swangren, Jr. agreed that there are too many unbudgeted emergencies coming up. Mr. Swangren said the Council discussed various projects with a five-year plan, like streets, parks, building maintenance, etc., so they do not have any surprises in the future. He believes that the Council is expecting to have a five-year plan in the future.

Sean Molchany stated their goal is to have this as part of the budget next year.

Motion carried.

Nathan Imhoff would like to put the reserve matter on the agenda for discussion topic, next time they have a light agenda.

Personnel Report

Paul Swangren, Jr. reported that Personnel Committee met this evening at 6:00 p.m. There were no action items, but there were several discussions about the Crossing Guard program, Personnel, Public Works, Parks, as well as the Union and Borough relationship. Randall Justice was not present at the meeting.

Streets Report

Sean Molchany stated Mr. Rehab, LLC will be televising the sewer line this week.

Mayor McBeth reported seeing potholes in the park and asked when the potholes will be fixed in the Borough.

Sean Molchany said that anything that has been reported, has been repaired, and the park is scheduled for three locations in the turnaround and by the gazebo.

Nathan Imhoff asked that potholes be reported to Sue Davidson or Sean Molchany.

Public Utilities Report

Susan Davidson reported that the Borough is out of penalty.

Old Business

T-Mobile Agreement

Susan Davidson presented a Third Amendment to Water Tower Lease Agreement. The Borough Engineer as well as the Solicitor reviewed the agreement and they have no issues with it. The

building permit also looks good. Ms. Davidson said that T-Mobile owes the Borough a check for outstanding legal and engineering fees. The check will be mailed tomorrow, Tuesday, May 25, 2021.

Michael Morris made a motion to accept the Third Amendment to Water Tower Lease Agreement with T-Mobile. Thomas J. Murray, Sr. seconded the motion.
Motion carried.

Front Street

Sean Molchany repeated what was discussed at the last meeting saying that he has been out on Front Street a number of times after storm events and there was no puddling. He asked for thoughts on whether Council wants to cut into the roadway for a puddle that appears to be disappearing within an hour of a rain event. The Council did not want to move on that but they wanted to know if they can enter into a three way agreement with the engineer, the paving company and the Borough to split the fee. All parties would be willing to do that if Council chooses to do it. Council would like Justin Gehman's input before they act on it. Justin Gehman is in agreement with the decision.

Paul Swangren, Jr. asked if it would be in the Borough's best interest to ask for an extended warranty to 24 months instead of paying the fee. The Council was in favor.
Sean Molchany will send a letter to Construction Masters Services, LLC, and then will report on it at the next Council meeting so the Council can make a decision regarding releasing 10% of the cost.

Fulton Street

Susan Davidson brought up the emergency work on Fulton Street.
The Borough received a letter from the engineer indicating that the opening that is forming on Fulton Street is an emergency situation.
Ms. Davidson reached out to their PennDOT representative to see if they can use Liquid Fuels funds for the work. The Borough may do that; however, the Mayor would have to declare an emergency to be able to take funds out of the Liquid Fuels, without any bidding.
Nathan Imhoff suggested they put a plate over the opening and then have their engineer take a look at it before the next Council meeting, and if it meets the criteria of an emergency because it is going to be causing damage to surrounding properties, have them draft a letter for the Mayor.
Michael Morris suggested they get bids before the next Council meeting so they do not have to go through the emergency channel.
Sean Molchany said it is an emergency. Whether or not they can use Liquid Fuels for the emergency, or just repair it, they do not need bids in an emergency.
To Michael Moriss' point, Paul Swangren, Jr. added that they should have B.R. Kreider & Son, Inc. to come out and say what the ballpark figure is, because there are always unforeseen things once you start opening up the street, but at least he can give them an estimate.
The Council was in agreement.

Akron Fire Hall Driveway Repair Update

Susan Davidson stated the repair took four days and it is now finished. The line painting was done on Friday, so the driveway should be open now. It will be inspected by the Fire Engineer.

Emergency Management Coordinator Report

Susan Davidson stated she contacted their Emergency Management Coordinator Greg Leisey about rescinding the Declaration of Disaster Emergency. Mr. Leisey is not opposed to rescinding it at this point. He will talk to the Mayor regarding this matter, and will also provide the Council with a report for 2020.

The Council would like Mr. Leisey to come to one of the meetings before the Council rescinds the Declaration of Disaster Emergency.

Nathan Imhoff suggested they update the COVID-19 guidelines which are displayed on the front door.

New Business

Horse Tie

Justin Gehman stated he was approached about another horse tie on the West side of the Roland park. There were funds donated already, so they would just need the Council's approval to install the horse tie.

Paul Swangren, Jr. made a motion to approve the donated horse tie according to Public Works' recommendation and placement. Justin Gehman seconded the motion.

Motion carried.

Akron Insurance Associates (AIA) Letter

Susan Davidson notified the Council that Akron Insurance Associates (AIA) was sold to Harding-Yost Insurance located in Denver, PA. Ms. Davidson and Sean Molchany have been looking at other insurance companies. They will keep Council updated.

Akron Borough Waterline Looping Project

Michael Morris made a motion to authorize Borough staff to coordinate the advertisement of the Akron Borough Waterline Looping Project. Thomas J. Murray, Sr. seconded the motion.

Motion carried.

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

Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 7:36 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lydia Kovalchuk
Minute Taker

LK