

1 **Borough of Akron Council Meeting-November 14, 2022**

2

3 **Council Members Present:** Nathan Imhoff, President, Kleon Zimmerman, Paul Swangren, Jr.,
4 Ryan Cochran, Randall Justice, Nathan Imhoff, Justin Gehman-Vice President, Bonnie Young

5

6 **Others Present:** Susan Davidson, Borough Manager; Sean Molchany, Assistant Borough
7 Manager; Suzanne Lausch, Minute Taker; John Taylor; West Earl Police Officer Ryan Fields and
8 West Earl Police Officer Jacob Waltz.

9

10 **Roll Call**

11 Kleon Zimmerman-present

12 Paul Swangren, Jr-present

13 Randall Justice-present

14 Ryan Cochran-present

15 Bonnie Young-present

16 Nathan Imhoff-present

17 Justin Gehman-present

18 Mayor John McBeth-present

19

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

21

22 **Approval of Minutes**

23 Motion to approve minutes for October 24, 2022 by Ryan Cochran, second by Kleon
24 Zimmerman. Mayor McBeth asked for a correction on page 1 line 41 and said that it was
25 Colonial Drive and not Colonial Park as opposed to it being the park itself.

26 Motion carried.

27

28 **Visitors/Comments from Public**

29 No comments

30

31 **Bills**

32 Motion to approve October disbursements by Ryan Cochran, second by Paul Swangren, Jr.

33 Motion carried.

34

35 **Reports/Announcements**

36

37 **Police Report**

38 Report from document on police activities include officers will be participating in the fund
39 raiser, "Beards for Brothers" which raises funds to assist local police/fire/EMS officers who have
40 been afflicted with Cancer. A new officer, Ryan Fields introduced himself to the council
41 members. Paul Swangren, Jr commented on how he was impressed with all the community
42 activities that the Police department was able to attend in the community.

43

44 **Mayor Report-** John McBeth hosted the Council of Mayors which was well attended.

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28
29
30
31
32
33
34
35
36
37
38
39
40
41
42
43
44

Borough Managers Report

Act 57 took effect October 10, 2022. Act 57 directs all tax collectors to waive additional charges for real estate taxes in certain qualifying situations which is mostly related to mobile homes because there is no settlement just transfer of title for the home.

Staff met with Mayor McBeth and Bonnie Young at Colonial Park to look at the proposed location for the pavilion.

The improvements to the park house in Roland Park have been completed. -Staff recommended taking pictures of exterior of the house with updated improvements.

A full-time public works employee was hired and began work on October 18, 2022. A personnel meeting was held on October 24, 2022 and Council, Mayor and staff met for a meet and greet with the new public works employees. Meeting was well attended.

Section 15-605 Overnight Parking Regulations draft was distributed to Council and Mayor for review and comments.

Sidewalk permits continue to be approved for sidewalk installation and repair on Edgehill and Manor Ridge Drives.

M-S999 form was forwarded to Penn Dot which is the completion report for the S. Ninth Street Inlet Project.

Letters were mailed to homeowners on Circle Drive for their response on removing the tree and curb and paving that area. The Public Works department will remove the tree and curbing.

Street patching was completed on Prince Street and Oak Street.

The final 300 water meters were delivered on Friday, October 28, 2022 and appointments were made with remaining residents to install meters. 60 meters have been installed through November 9, 2022.

Akron Borough will no longer be recycling Christmas trees. The borough no longer uses the mulch. Ryan Cochran asked if signs will be put up that Akron Borough is NOT taking Christmas trees this year so residents don't dump trees there as in previous years.

Bonnie Young will be writing an article on the Tree Lighting Event that takes place on November 25, 2022.

The Tree Lighting Event will take place on Friday, November 25, 2022 at 6:30 p.m. at the Weiser's parking lot. Santa arrives at 7:00 pm and the tree will be lit soon after Santa arrives.

There will be donuts, cookies and hot chocolate.

All paperwork for the Active Transportation Plan grant has been submitted and all grant money has been received.

The Shoe-In committee met to discuss the Annual New Year's Eve Event that takes place at the Broad St. Park.

Planning Commission meeting was held on Thursday, November 3, 2022 to discuss proposed zoning updates. The committee discussed signs, parking and accessory uses.

Justin Gehman suggested planting trees along the Roland Park bike path to honor police and fire fighters. Susan Davidson suggested pavers (similar to what the Akron Lions Club did at the pavilion at Roland Park).

The 2009 Durango is too expensive to maintain and won't pass inspection so the Akron Volunteer Fire Company would like to take it for vehicle rescue training. Council would need to approve the title transfer to the Akron Volunteer Fire Company.

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28
29
30
31
32
33
34
35
36
37
38
39
40
41
42
43
44

Community Relations Report

Bonnie Young attended a meeting with the Akron Comprehensive Implementation Committee Task Force at the Ephrata Community Library. Bonnie reported that there was a discussion on disbanding this group as they do not wish to be associated with Akron Borough. She also reported that Debra Fast and John Williamson had resigned from the Task Force. Discussion ensued by Council about this task force and that it had been created to implement items that the Council requested and that a formal motion to disband would have to be made by Akron Borough Council.

Motion to disband Comprehensive Implementation Plan was made by Ryan Cochran and second by Bonnie Young. Motion carried.

Bonnie also interviewed Katrina Zimmerman for an article regarding the wreaths and the tree lighting during the Christmas holiday.

Parks and Property Report-

Randall Justice requested that Sean Molchany, along with Bonnie Young recommend a location for the Colonial Park Pavilion. Randall suggested that another company other than Eby Exteriors be contacted to estimate a price for the Pavilion as Eby has not been communicating with the Borough.

Sean Molchany will get another CoStar contracting price.

Sean reported that the Park House has two minor repairs on exterior that need completed and suggested that Council members go view the completed updates.

Mayor McBeth requested that handicap accessibility be added to the Gazebo at Roland Park and commented that he has been asking for that for several years. Sean Molchany stated that only if the building is updated that it would be required.

Paul Swangren, Jr. commented that he thought that the Akron Lions Club was going to be responsible for the accessibility. This was not discussed with budget for last year. Paul suggested to put on capital improvement list for years out so this is not forgotten.

Nathan Imhoff asked about the condition of the Gazebo and Sean Molchany replied that there are needed updates including roof and staining. Molchany has estimates on cedar shakes and a metal roof. Mayor McBeth wondered if there was some ADA exception related to geography. Only the State is allowed to interpret ADA requirements.

Personnel Report

At the next meeting, November 28, 2022 there will be personnel meeting prior to Council meeting to discuss job descriptions.

Streets Report

Once the Overnight Parking ordinance is accepted by Borough, the Borough Solicitor will advertise it and then plan a Public Borough meeting.

Paul Swangren, Jr. expressed concerns regarding the written ordinance noting that the exemption for overnight was not included in the written ordinance.

Nathan Imhoff would like language added that if exemption is received by Police Chief for 24 hours that hitched trailer could be parked overnight. Nathan asked for consensus from Council

1 to add 24-hour exemption from police for parking overnight. Ryan Cochran asked if language
2 would be needed about safety. Sean Molchany says that is addressed within the Ordinance.

3
4 Circle Drive concerns by Justin Gehman: if the tree is removed how will water wash off affect
5 the Park? Sean Molchany mentioned that the SRBC grant will address this concern and the new
6 design will be able to handle water and is being addressed by the Roland Park project.
7 Residents near tree were sent letters addressing the removal of the tree. Probably will not be
8 completed this year, but it will be based on the weather and asphalt availability.

9
10 **Public Utilities Report**-last of water meters being installed. A new fence was installed around
11 well number 8 as it was in violation and should now be compliant.

12
13 **Public Hearings/Presentations/Appointments**

14 Nothing to report

15
16 **Old Business**

17 Nothing to report

18
19 **New Business**

20 **2023 Budget Preparation.**

21 Nathan stated that 2023 proposed budget funds are balanced.

22 Funding projects is a concern the managers were asked for best use of available funds.

23 Does not include a real estate tax increase

24 Reflects new financial administrator person

25 No increase in water or sewer rates

26 Discussion around the Capital Fund and how to fund projects

27 Suggestion made to take operating reserves toward projects and Council agreed. Sue and Sean
28 suggested leaving \$150,000.00 in General, Water, and Sewer Capital Operating Funds and
29 using the remainder towards capital projects.

30 \$63,500.00 is needed for sewer line replacement project. Money in reserves should be used for
31 improvement projects that are necessary for Akron. \$23,000 for Colonial Park Pavilion project
32 and Bonnie wondered if more was needed to complete the Pavilion. Some things were not
33 included as part of project and Sean suggested an additional 20,000 be added to complete the
34 project. Bonnie recommended that would be good PR. Ryan Cochran asked about roof cost for
35 Roland Park Pavilion 1 and bathroom-Sean said \$12,300 +\$4600.

36 Municipal building repair-stage repairs was suggested

37 Nathan commented on a possible tax raise to be able to fund projects to prevent raising
38 taxes in the future at a higher rate which causes consternation to Akron residents. Incremental
39 raises would be better than an unexpected higher increase like several years ago.

40 Council proposed to keep the 2023 Ephrata Library donation at zero at this time and to see if
41 next year if the Borough has the funds to make an unbudgeted expenditure for a donation to
42 the Ephrata Public Library.

43 Paul Swangren, Jr. suggests the new financial person be focused on Grant money. Currently
44 Sean Molchany works on grants. Other suggestions are to move monies from one area to

1 another to fund budget projects. Justin is concerned about ghost projects for example the Circle
2 Drive project; not following budget and adding projects causes budget to be destroyed.

3
4 Paul Swangren, Jr. motioned to advertise 2023 proposed balanced budget with position of
5 finance administrator for half year under understanding that there will be no filling of position
6 unless Council voted on it. Second by Justin Gehman.

7	General Fund	\$1,931,596.00
8	Water fund	\$ 485,985.00
9	Sewer Fund	\$1,000,815.00
10	Highway Aid Fund	\$ 258,320.00

11 Motion carried.

12
13 **School Resource Officer Proposed Agreement-**

14 The SRO officer amount is reflected in the proposed 2023 budget and Council needs to sign the
15 agreement.

16 Council wants the Borough Solicitor to review the proposed SRO agreement prior to decision of
17 Council. Ryan Cochran would like to see section that says it is limited as to what is in agreement
18 document. Borough and Police only fees subject to fee schedule provided. This item will be on
19 agenda for next meeting, November 28, 2022.

20
21 **Akron Borough Implementation Committee**

22 See above under Community Relations Report

23
24 **Dedication area for Police and Fireman at Fire Station**

25 Suggestion was made to let the Akron Volunteer Fire Company work with Parks Committee to
26 discuss ideas for a dedication area for police and firefighters. Justin Gehman will send
27 information to Randall Justice so he can start the communication.

28
29 **Donating Dodge Durango to AVFC for training-**unable to pass inspection so suggestion to
30 donate to the Akron Volunteer Fire Company for training.

31 Motion by Ryan Cochran to donate Borough Dodge Durango to the Akron Volunteer Fire
32 Company for training purposes. Randall Justice second.

33 Motion carried.

34
35 **Motions and Decisions**

36 A motion by Paul Swangren, Jr. to approve Resolution #2348 requiring all taxing districts in the
37 Commonwealth to direct their tax collectors to waive additional charges for real estate taxes
38 within twelve months of a qualifying event. Motion second by Ryan Cochran.

39 Motion carried.

40
41 **Adjournment** -motion by Paul Swangren, Jr. to adjourn the meeting. Motion second by Kleon
42 Zimmerman.

43 Motion carried.

1 Meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

2

3 Respectfully submitted,

4

5 Susan Davidson

6 Borough Manager/Secretary

7

8 SD

9