

1 **Borough of Akron Council Meeting-October 9, 2023**

2

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

5

6 **Others Present:** Mayor John McBeth, Susan Davidson, Borough Manager; Sean Molchany,
7 Assistant Borough Manager; Suzanne Lausch, Minute Taker

8

9 **Visitors:**

10 John Taylor, 216 S 8th St Akron

11 Sue Glick 119 S. 10th St Akron

12 Tom Burnett 724 Fulton St. Akron

13 Abby Balmer, Ephrata Public Library

14 Laura Brandt, Ephrata Public Library

15 Chris Beiler, 40 S. 10th St Akron

16 Heather Martin-46 Knollwood Dr. Akron

17 Chief Eric Higgins, West Earl Police Department

18 Maria Rotella-Ephrata Recreation Center

19

20 **Roll Call**

21 Kleon Zimmerman-present

22 Paul Swangren, Jr-present

23 Ryan Cochran-present

24 Bonnie Young-present

25 Nathan Imhoff President-present

26 Justin Gehman Vice President-present

27 Tonya Haynes-present

28 Mayor John McBeth-present

29

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

31

32 **Approval of Minutes**

33 Motion to approve minutes for *September 11 and September 18, 2023*

34 Motion to approve minutes for September 11 by Paul Swangren, Jr; second by Kleon
35 Zimmerman-11th

36 No discussion

37 Motion approved

38 Motion to approve September 18, 2023 minutes-budget meeting

39 Motion to approve Paul Swangren, Jr; second by Justin Gehman

40 Discussion: Page 3 line 13 3.0-3.3ml or 3.35 ml (change “to” to “or”)

41 Motion approved

42 **Visitors/Comments from Public**

43 1. Ephrata Recreation Center-Maria Rotella representative.

- 1 a. Maria discussed the Ephrata Recreation Center’s summer municipal camps for
2 2024. Informational brochure handed out to Council and Mayor. Four new
3 camps added this year including youth pickle ball, boys’ volleyball and girls’
4 basketball and paper crafting. Enrollment was down this year so budget request
5 is down a bit due to lower enrollment. Breakdown of municipalities to show
6 number of participants in Akron.
- 7 2. Ephrata Public Library
- 8 a. Abby Balmer interim director handed out a power point presentation to Council
9 and Mayor.
- 10 b. Abby reviewed her current role as interim director at Ephrata Public Library.
- 11 c. Abby reviewed stats from Ephrata Library; increase of people accessing the
12 library since 2021 to 2023
- 13 d. Akron circulation stats: 34,000 items
- 14 e. Circulation staff handle library circulation and questions from the public
- 15 f. Summer reading program was successful over 200 programs this summer
- 16 g. Many programs offered at the library span over a lifetime
- 17 h. Full time programing manager with several assistants
- 18 i. Passport office has employees from library and this helps fund the library
- 19 j. Tonya Haynes asked about 2022 statistics and whether there was any for 2023
- 20 k. Also asked about workforce development and if participants are required to be
21 from local areas
- 22 l. Bonnie Young said that borrowed items was impressive from Akron
- 23 m. Tonya Haynes was impressed by number of programs offered by the library for
24 all ages
- 25 n. Mayor McBeth asked about the HUB building. The library owns the building and
26 the land of the HUB building. It is called the “Community Commons”. Ephrata
27 Borough owns the building and the land for the library. The Community
28 Commons is a partnership of community groups. The Mayor also asked if there is
29 a separate financial statement for the Community Commons building? Abby
30 Balmer replied no that it is included in the library statement. Mayor commented
31 that the rent was very small.
- 32 o. Ryan Cochran asked Abby Balmer to describe her interim status and what is the
33 process for moving forward. Abby took over the end of July 2023 and the board
34 of directors is in charge of the search for a new director. Abby will be applying
35 for the position.
- 36 p. Akron Council and Abby looking for better relationship with the Ephrata Public
37 Library.
- 38 q. Heather Martin commented that she was at a meeting last year where it was
39 stated that if the winter weather was mild some additional funds may be added
40 to the library donation. Nathan Imhoff commented that the budget is currently
41 being discussed.

42 **Zoom-none**
43 **Bills**

1 Ryan Cochran moved to approve the September 2023, Board of Akron disbursements and fund
2 the appropriate account for the disbursements as reviewed by the Finance committee. Second
3 by Kleon Zimmerman
4 Motion carried

5

6 **Reports/Announcements**

7 **Police-** report submitted to council

8 **Mayor Report-**none

9

10 **Manager's Report**

11 *Administration & Finance*

12 Month end financials for September 2023 have been reconciled
13 The Finance Committee reviewed the October 2023 payables 10-9-2023
14 Council, Mayor and staff met on Monday, September 18,2023 to discuss the proposed 2024
15 budget. A Real Estate tax increase for the General Fund was proposed; from the current 3 mls
16 to 3.3 mls. For the Water Fund an increase of \$7/1,000 gallons to \$8/1000 gallons was
17 proposed. No increase for sewer rates and no proposed projects in 2024 for Highway Aid.
18 Staff prepared an edited copy of the proposed 2024 budget for the council and mayor prior to
19 the October 9, 2023 council meeting. If council approves a real estate tax increase, an
20 ordinance for advertisement must be approved by November 13, 2023.
21 Minimum Municipal Obligation-MMOs have been completed for the Non-Uniform Pension plan
22 and mailed to Council and Mayor for approval at the October 8, 2023 meeting.

23

24 *Parks & Property*

25 Colonial Park pavilion has been completed but waiting for final inspection. Final inspection
26 could not take place until the final grading was completed.
27 Additional PPL pole needs relocated to run electric underground which would eliminate two
28 PPL poles
29 Cameras have been installed at the Broad St Park in September because of ongoing vandalism
30 Staff met with Chad from C.S. Davidson and reviewed the storm water project at Roland Park

31

32 *Streets*

33 The repair work on Tenth and New streets will take place on Friday, 13, 2023 and letters will be
34 sent to residents of the work being completed.
35 Staff met with Chief Higgins and Sgt. Ray in regard to an issue of farm tractors speeding on
36 Main St. This occurs in the spring and the fall of the year and has become a safety and nuisance
37 issue. There was an accident on Main St. caused by a car swerving to avoid the tractor and
38 subsequently hit a parked car. The driver of the tractor did not stop and both cars had to be
39 towed. The police chief will have his department watching on Main Street for any speeding
40 tractors and tractors that do not have the load covered.
41 Borough staff provided roadway widths to the engineer back in June 2023 and they are
42 currently preparing a roadway plan. The final ride along with staff is scheduled for the week of
43 October 19, 2023. Staff will have a presentation for council by the end of the year.

1 A Liquid Fuels (Highway Aid) audit was conducted by the Auditor General’s Office on September
2 28, 2023 for the years 2023 and 2022. There were no findings or recommendations.

3
4 *Public Utilities*

5 Sewer flows continue to look good.

6 Received the 2024 sewer treatment numbers and amortization numbers from Ephrata Borough.
7 The 2024 treatment numbers came in at \$335,660.00 as compared to \$427,185.00 in 2023 (a
8 difference of \$91,525.00). The 2024 amortization numbers came in at \$208,780 as compared to
9 \$186,767.00 in 2023 (a difference of \$22,013.00).

10 Received an estimate on the inlet repair at 451 S. Ninth St and staff does not have an exact
11 date, but the work should be finished by the end of the year. S. Ninth St. will be closed
12 intermittently for this work.

13 The standpipe and reservoir work are scheduled for October 31, 2023 for both exterior and
14 interior.

15 The annual MS4 report was sent to DEP by September 30, 2023. All full-time staff met with C. S.
16 Davidson to review our current MS4 reporting and paperwork to make sure we are prepared
17 for any unscheduled audits by EPA.

18
19 *Community Relations*

20 Bonnie Young did an article on the Akron Volunteer Fire Company Halloween Parade. The
21 parade will take place on Wednesday, October 25, 2023.

22
23 *Planning & Zoning*

24 No meetings scheduled at this time

25
26 *Personnel*

27 The Emergency Management Coordinator proposal was approved at the August 28, 2023
28 Council meeting and the signed copy was sent back to Randy Gockley. Staff met with Randy
29 Gockley to review the next steps for updating the plan. The meeting went well and the plan
30 should be completed by December 2023 or January 2024.

31 Staff moved forward with the advertising for the Director of Finance and scheduled interviews
32 for the week of September 11, 2023. Staff did interview and called back an applicant who is
33 qualified and would like to offer the job to this person. Personnel committee would like to
34 discuss this issue in Executive Session on Monday, October 9, 2023.

35
36 *Other Business*

37 Violation/ Weed letters continue to be sent out addressing grass and weeds at the curb line.
38 HVMI work is ongoing with the water line work and meter pit.

39 The New Year’s Eve Committee met on Tuesday, October 3rd to plan the next Shoe-In. Cindy
40 Hoffert is the new chairperson as Daryll Witmer has stepped down but will continue to serve on
41 the committee. The committee needs more volunteers.

42
43 *Board Vacancies*

44 Building Code Appeals Board

1 Planning Commission
 2
 3 **Finance**-reviewed by Ryan Cochran
 4 Fund balances September 30, 2023
 5 **General Fund**-\$317,543.67 **General Fund Reserves**
 6 **Water Fund**-\$17,065.34 Restricted (Goal) \$144,363.00
 7 **Sewer Fund**-\$191,159.75 Total-\$144,363.00
 8 **Highway Aid**-\$52,781.68
 9 **General Fund Reserves**
 10 Restricted-\$158,000.00
 11 Operating-\$117,273.27
 12 Capital-\$116,153.54
 13 Total-\$391,426.81
 14 **Water Fund Reserves**
 15 Restricted-\$72,992.00
 16 Operating-\$219,322.32
 17 Capital-\$0.00
 18 Total-\$292,314.32
 19 **Sewer Fund Reserves**
 20 Restricted-\$121,822.00
 21 Operating-\$203,491.44
 22 Capital-\$0.00
 23 Total-\$325,313.44
 24 **Capital Projects**-\$1,261.48
 25 **Community Fund**-2,087.95
 26 **Non-Uniform Pension**-\$3,764.64
 27 **Total**-\$1,594,719.08
 28 **Escrow**-\$6,317.39

29
 30 **Parks & Property**

31 Tonya Haynes shared that there is a grant for a rain garden but it is still in the design phase.
 32 Colonial Park Pavilion is completed but needs a final inspection for the grading. Nathan Imhoff
 33 would like to do a small ribbon cutting with Rosenberger and invite Randall Justice to the
 34 ceremony.

35
 36 **Community Relations**

37 Bonnie Young wrote about the Akron Fire Company Halloween Parade on October 25, 2023.
 38 Spoke with Representative Greiner and Representative Aument for a possible grant for new fire
 39 engine but is not looking hopeful. Justin Gehman had asked Bonnie to look into a grant for a
 40 new fire engine. Grant is a reimbursable grant meaning the Borough must cover the cost before
 41 the grant is released. Grant opens from September to November 2023.

42
 43 **Personnel Report**

44 No report-will move to executive session later in meeting

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

Streets Report-none

Public Utilities Report-none

Public Hearings/Presentations/Appointments

Old Business

New Business

Susan Davidson, Borough Manager is requesting another budget meeting.
Five students interested in being Jr. Council members and Justin Gehman would like them included in the discussion.

A. Resolutions

B. Ordinances

C. Motions and Decisions

- a. Ryan Cochran motioned to approve the Non-Uniform Minimum Municipal Obligation (MMO) for the 2024 non-Uniform Pension in the amount of \$39,319.00 second by Paul Swangren, Jr. Motion carried.
- b. Kleon Zimmerman motioned to approve the Akron Volunteer Fire Company 2023 donation remainder \$17,500. Second by Bonnie Young. Motion carried
- c. Motion to approve the Ephrata Public Library 2023 donation remainder \$10,600 for 2023 could be used for the upgrade of PCs which exceeds \$10,000.00. Original motion did not include that specific item, but could that be amended to include these items.

- 1. Ryan Cochran moved to approve the \$10,600.00; second by Bonnie Young and approved the monies for the upgrade of the PCs and monitors. Motion carried.

- d. Paul Swangren, Jr. motioned to go into Executive Session to discuss personnel issue; second by Kleon Zimmerman; motion carried time: 7:38 pm.
- e. Motion by Paul Swangren, Jr to resume Regular meeting at 7:54pm; second by Kleon Zimmerman; motion carried
- f. Motion by Paul Swangren, Jr to hire the Budgeted Position of Finance Director/Office Manager; second by Ryan Cochran; motion carried 7-0.

D. Acknowledgments

E. Other Business/Deliberations

- a. Justin Gehman indicated that he and Bonnie Young met with the Ephrata School Guidance Counselors regarding the Jr. Council Member. Justin indicated that there are five candidates for the position.
- b. It was suggested that the Personnel Committee interview the Candidates at the next meeting giving each candidate 5 minutes to present themselves.
- c. There was a discussion with the Board regarding attendance at the October 23rd Council meeting. Due to lack of quorum, it was suggested to move the meeting to October 30th.

1 d. On a motion by Tonya Haynes, seconded by Ryan Cochran it was
2 recommended to cancel the October 23rd , 2023 meeting and reschedule the
3 meeting for October 30th, 2023 with personnel meeting starting at 6:00 pm
4 and the regular meeting to start at 6:30 p.m. The Budget will be discussed as
5 part of the 6:30 p.m. Meeting. Motion carried 7-0.

6 **F. Correspondence and Petitions**

7
8 **Additional Comment:**

9
10 **Adjournment** -Motion to adjourn at 8:05 pm by Paul Swangren, Jr. second by Justin Gehman
11 Motion carried

12
13 Respectfully submitted,

14
15 Susan Davidson
16 Borough Manager/Secretary

17
18 SD