

1 **Borough of Akron Council Meeting-January 8, 2024**

2

3 **Council Members Present:** Nathan Imhoff-President, Justin Gehman-Vice President, Kleon  
4 Zimmerman, Paul Swangren, Jr., Ryan Cochran, Bonnie Young, Tonya Haynes, Max Herman-  
5 Junior Council Member, Earianne Evangelista-Junior Council Member. (Rebecca Abraham-Junior  
6 Council Member not present)

7

8 **Others Present:** Mayor John McBeth, Susan Davidson, Borough Manager; Sean Molchany, Asst  
9 Borough Manager; Valerie Wagner, Director of Finance; Suzanne Lausch, Minute Taker

10

11 **Visitors:**

12 John Taylor, 216 S 8<sup>th</sup> St Akron  
13 Tom Murray Jr. 219 S. 11<sup>th</sup> St Akron  
14 Tom Burnett 724 Fulton St. Akron  
15 Officer Byrnes, West Earl Police Department

16

17 **Roll Call**

18 Kleon Zimmerman-present  
19 Paul Swangren, Jr-present  
20 Ryan Cochran-present  
21 Bonnie Young-present  
22 Tonya Haynes-present  
23 Nathan Imhoff President-present  
24 Justin Gehman Vice President-present  
25 Mayor John McBeth-present  
26 Earianne Evangelista-Junior Council Member-present  
27 Rebecca Abraham-Junior Council Member-absent  
28 Max Herman-Junior Council Member-present

29

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

31

32 **Approval of Minutes**

33 Motion to approve minutes for December 11, 2023, December 26, 2024 and January 2, 2024  
34 Council Meeting

35 Motion to approve December 11 minutes by Paul Swangren, Jr; second by Kleon Zimmerman  
36 No discussion

37 Motion approved

38 Motion to approve December 26, 2024 by Ryan Cochran; second by Bonnie Young

39 No discussion

40 Motion approved

41 Paul Swangren, Jr made a motion to approve January 2, 2024; second by Tonya Haynes; with  
42 provisions accepted

43 Discussion: Page 4-line 5 Floating holiday "could be discussed in personnel committee meeting"

44 NOT council meeting

45 Paul Swangren, Jr commented on Page 2 line 24 that Akron depositories should reflect Fulton  
46 Bank phase out and also vacancy board should reflect comments: The current member's term  
47 expired (Mike Morris) and although Nathan Imhoff reached out to him, he has not replied  
48 Also, Bonnie Young asked about the Emergency Management Person and whether there is an  
49 appointment made

50 Motion approved

51 ***Visitors/Comments from Public***

52 Tom Burnett passed out a document regarding the 2024 Luminary Walk. Shared appreciation  
53 for no fees. Sue Davidson commented that Community events do not get charged rental fees  
54 for pavilions.

55 Comments: crowd was bigger than expected; committee will work on the crowding situation;  
56 considering plans for handicapped. Sean explained that there

57 Bonnie Young made a motion to continue with the Luminary Walk on December 14, 2024;  
58 second by Tonya Haynes

59 Motion carried

60 Paul Swangren, Jr asked about insurance certification; Sue Davidson stated that it was available  
61 Tonya Haynes recommended a one way walk for the event to avoid accidents

62 **Zoom-none**

63 **Bills**

64 Ryan Cochran moved to approve the January 2024 Board of Akron disbursements and fund the  
65 appropriate account for the disbursements as reviewed by the Finance committee. Second by  
66 Kleon Zimmerman

67 Mayor McBeth asked if there were enough funds for the New Year's Eve party. Good's Disposal  
68 donated \$500.00. Sean Molchany stated that at the budget meetings Council had decided not  
69 to solicit further monies for the New Years Eve fund. Sue Davidson stated the New Year's Eve  
70 Committee also agreed not to solicit funds this year, however a solicitation by the Mayor was  
71 still made to Good's Disposal. Ephrata National Bank did not contribute funds. The fund now  
72 has over \$600.00. Sue Davidson stated we did not need the \$500 from Good's Disposal.

73 Motion carried

74 **Reports/Announcements**

75 **Police**

76 Sergeant Byrnes said Chief Higgins will get reports to Council. Alex Reed -start date January 22,  
77 2024. He will need Field Officer Training prior to being released to work independently.  
78 Although he has prior experience, he will still need a minimum of 160 hours of training.

79 **Mayor Report-**

80 New Year's Eve celebration was successful. Steady group right from beginning with people  
81 coming and going. Cindy Hoffert was chair of the event and did a great job.

82

83 **Manager's Report**

84 ***Administration & Finance***

85 December 2023 month-end financials have been reconciled

86 January 2024 payables will be reviewed by the finance committee

87 The information/Ordinance for the 2024 Real Estate Tax increase has been forwarded to the  
88 County Treasurer's Office so they can begin to print the bills. The tax bills are usually mailed by  
89 February 1 of each year.

90 Staff is working on year end (along with training the Finance Director) as well as DCED and  
91 Liquid Fuel, Pension, W-2's, and 1099's need to be completed by the end of January.  
92 Herbein Co. will be here at the office on January 22, 2024 to work on the audit. Staff has been  
93 working on gathering the audit information and has begun forwarding information to Herbein.

94 ***Parks & Property***

95 Park pavilion/lodge rental reservation scheduling has been busy the past few weeks as people  
96 plan for the spring.

97 No recent reports of vandalism at the Broad St. Park. Roland Park has had some minor  
98 instances of damage to the light at the gazebo and two covers to the lights on Lions Lane being  
99 found in the pines.

100 Stream Embankment/Rain Garden update at Roland Park-plans have been submitted to the  
101 state for permitting. Memorial plaques have been removed and are being stored at the  
102 maintenance shop.

103 ***Streets***

104 Borough staff provided roadway widths to the engineer back in June 2023 and they are  
105 currently in the process of entering data into the CS Datum and preparing a roadway plan. Staff  
106 is working on preparing a presentation for Council and should have a presentation next month.  
107 Borough vehicles are ready for winter and plow routes have been designated and driven by  
108 public works employees. Snow expected for the weekend; trucks and public works are ready to  
109 go.

110 ***Public Utilities***

111 Sewer flow numbers are high due to the large amount of rain in the past few weeks.  
112 The standpipe and reservoir work were scheduled for October 31, 2023 for both exterior and  
113 interior. Inspection completed and waiting for results.

114 ***Community Relations***

115 The New Year's Eve Shoe In was a success. Although the committee had less volunteers than  
116 usual, they put together a great event. A good crowd showed up with consistent numbers  
117 throughout the night. Thank you to the Boy Scouts who piled wood for the bonfire, to those  
118 who handed out food and hot chocolate and assisted with setup and tear down. Cindy Hoffert  
119 who chaired the event did a great job as a lot of planning goes into this community event.

120 ***Planning & Zoning***

121 No planning commission meetings scheduled at this time.  
122 Tonya is interested in taking over the Planning Commission vacancy left by Randall Justice.  
123 Randall's term would expire the end of 2024.

124 ***Personnel***

125 Management has completed employee evaluations for full-time employees.  
126 Staff was contacted by Randy Gockley at the end of December regarding the Emergency  
127 Management updates. He apologized for not having the work completed (due to illness) but  
128 assured staff he will submit weekly updates after the first week of January 2024.

129 Valerie Wagner as the new FT Finance Director/Office Manager is doing extremely well.  
130 The new Junior council members' emails have been set up and are working.

131 **Other Business**  
132 Borough employees will be having their Holiday luncheon sometime in January and will close  
133 the office for a few hours. Date to be determined near the end of January 2024.  
134 Cocalico Historical society-objects are there for safe keeping  
135 Two new crossing guard substitutes-David and Suzanne Lausch  
136 Ephrata Ambulance Association paperwork will be sent via e-mail to council members as it is  
137 quite lengthy.  
138 Bonnie Young asked about the financial situation of the Association. Sue Davidson was not  
139 aware of the Ephrata Ambulance Association finances at this time.

140 **Board Vacancies**  
141 Building Code Appeals Board  
142 Planning Commission  
143

144 **Finance**-reviewed by Ryan Cochran  
145 Fund balances December 31, 2023

146 <b>General Fund</b> -\$63,811.54	<b>General Fund Reserves</b>
147 <b>Water Fund</b> -\$12,605.12	Restricted (Goal) \$144,363.00
148 <b>Sewer Fund</b> -\$131,851.26	Total-\$144,363.00
149 <b>Highway Aid</b> -\$53,473.42	

150 **General Fund Reserves**  
151       Restricted-\$158,000.00  
152       Operating-\$84,602.56  
153       Capital-\$109,599.68  
154       Total-\$352,202.24

155 **Water Fund Reserves**  
156       Restricted-\$72,992.00  
157       Operating-\$234,971.60  
158       Capital-\$0.00  
159       Total-\$288,231.70

160 **Sewer Fund Reserves**  
161       Restricted-\$121,822.00  
162       Operating-\$143,095.92  
163       Capital-\$0.00  
164       Total-\$264,917.92

165 **Capital Projects**-\$1721.36  
166 **Community Fund**-\$1729.47  
167 **Non-Uniform Pension**-\$3,764.64  
168 **Total**-\$1,194,040.57  
169 **Escrow**-\$6,401.48

170 Justin Gehman asked what is the plan for the monies in the General Fund Reserves; Sue asked  
171 for meeting with Ryan to discuss

172 **Parks & Property**  
173 Roland Park project currently getting permits

174 **Community Relations**

175 Bonnie Young said she was the popcorn lady for the New Year Shoe In. Great time for all  
176 Big hit was the balloons for the children  
177 Bonnie Young asked if Randall Justice’s firm would still donate towards the summer Concerts in  
178 the Park. Nathan Imhoff said he would give her Randall’s information for her to ask him.

179 **Personnel Report**

180 Nothing

181 **Streets Report-**

182 Nothing

183 **Public Utilities Report-**

184 Sewer numbers were higher due to recent rains; Kleon Zimmerman recommended looking at  
185 manholes after rain in the next few days. Sean said management has a plan for reviewing  
186 sewer/rain management

187 Paul Swangren, Jr asked if Akron is in penalty with Ephrata; affirmative reply from Sue Davidson

188 **Public Hearings/Presentations/Appointments**

189 **Old Business**

190 **New Business**

191 **A. Resolutions**

192 **B. Ordinances**

193 **C. Motions and Decisions**

194 Paul Swangren, Jr made motion to appoint Barley Snyder Attorneys at Law as the  
195 Zoning Hearing Board Attorney; second by Ryan Cochran  
196 Motion carried

197 **D. Acknowledgments**

198 **E. Other Business/Deliberations**

199 a. Nathan Imhoff mentioned that Tonya Haynes would like to be on planning  
200 commission

201 i. Ryan Cochran made a motion; second Paul Swangren, Jr

202 1. Motion carried

203 2. Tonya Haynes abstained

204 b. Vacancy board position discussion by Nathan Imhoff; does Michael Morris  
205 want to continue as a vacancy board member; Nathan contacted him but has  
206 not heard back. Nathan will recommend searching for another person if  
207 Michael does not respond. Person will help break a tie in case of a tie vote for  
208 new council member. This is council appointment, there is no obligation to  
209 advertise per Borough codes (Sean Molchany). Paul Swangren, Jr asked Sean  
210 to send the information on the code to council members. Appointment is  
211 usually made by the majority political party.

212 c. Paul Swangren, Jr showed appreciation of the Junior Council members and  
213 recommended having a spot in the agenda for them to share their opinions or  
214 ask questions of council. Sue Davidson said that they could ask her as well.

215 **F. Correspondence and Petitions**

216 a. Drought warning document- received in December as a reminder that the  
217 Commonwealth is experiencing a dryer than normal period and even if the  
218 municipality is not mentioned that people should be aware.

219 **G. Executive Session**

220 **Additional Comment:**

221

222 **Adjournment** -Motion to adjourn at pm by 7:18 Paul Swangren, Jr. second by Justin Gehman;

223 motion carried.