

1 **Borough of Akron Council Meeting-December 11, 2023**

2

3 **Council Members Present:** Nathan Imhoff-President: Justin Gehman, Vice-
4 President; Kleon Zimmerman, Paul Swangren, Jr., Ryan Cochran, Bonnie Young,
5 Tonya Haynes (phone), Rebecca Abraham-Junior Council Member, Max Herman-
6 Junior Council Member

7

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

11

12 **Visitors:**

13 Larry Alexander, Ephrata Review
14 John Taylor, 216 S 8th St Akron
15 Thomas Murray Jr. 219 S. 11th St Akron
16 Sue Glick 119 S. 10th St Akron
17 Tom Burnett 724 Fulton St. Akron
18 Warren Bingeman, 412 Edgehill Drive, Akron
19 Chief Eric Higgins, West Earl Police Department

20

21 **Roll Call**

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

33

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

35

36 **Approval of Minutes**

37 Motion to approve minutes for November 27, 2023 Council Meeting

1 Motion to approve minutes by Paul Swangren, Jr, second by Ryan Cochran
2 No discussion
3 Motion approved

4
5 **Visitors/Comments from Public**

6 Tom Burnett thanked Council and Borough staff and the West Earl Police
7 Department for attending the luminary walk at the Roland Park on Saturday,
8 December 9, 2023. Approximately 360-380 participants

9 Sue Glick also helped at the luminary walk and thanked the council.

10 Visitor questioned increase in taxes and was interested in the reasons for the
11 increase

12
13 **Zoom-none**

14 **Bills**

15 Ryan Cochran moved to approve the December 2023, Board of Akron
16 disbursements and fund the appropriate account for the disbursements as
17 reviewed by the Finance committee. Second by Kleon Zimmerman

18 Motion carried

19
20 **Reports/Announcements**

21 **Police**

22 Chief Eric Higgins mentioned that the November 2023 West Earl Police
23 Department report was submitted to Akron Council and Mayor.

24 Nathan Imhoff requested to put the speed sign on S. 10th St as several residents
25 were requesting this due to speeding on this street

26 Paul Swangren, Jr. thanked the West Earl Police Department for attending and
27 assisting in an accident at his place of work and commended them on their
28 professionalism.

29
30 **Mayor Report-**

31 Mayor McBeth commented on the positive luminary comments from the
32 community

33
34 **Manager's Report**

35 *Administration & Finance*

36 November 2023 month-end financials have been reconciled

37 December 2023 payables will be reviewed by the finance committee

1 2024 Proposed Budget includes a proposal for a real estate tax increase from 3
2 mils to 3.3 mils and an increase from \$7.00 per 1000 gallons to \$8.00 per 1000
3 gallons for the Water Fund;
4 Staff advertised the proposed 2024 budget for public inspection and the Borough
5 Solicitor advertised the 2024 proposed tax ordinance for December 11, 2024
6 adoption. These items are on the December 11, 2024 Council meeting agenda
7 along with a Resolution increasing water rates.
8 Staff will have the proposed 2024 meeting advertisement including the
9 Reorganization meeting advertisement on the Council meeting agenda for
10 December 11, 2024. The Reorganizational meeting is scheduled for Tuesday,
11 January 2, 2024.
12 Herbein Co. will be contacting staff before the end of the year to prepare for the
13 2023 audit.

14

15 *Parks & Property*

16 No issues of vandalism have been reported since the installation of the cameras
17 at the Broad St. Park restrooms
18 Pilgrim Mennonite Church sponsored luminary walk is scheduled for Saturday,
19 December 9, 2023
20 The US Road Running organization submitted their Certificate of Insurance for
21 2024.

22

23 *Streets*

24 Borough staff provided roadway widths to the engineer in June 2023 and they are
25 currently entering the data into the CS Datum in preparation for a roadway plan.
26 Staff would like to have a presentation for Council in early 2024.
27 Borough vehicles are ready for winter and plow routes have been designated and
28 driven by PW employees. Road salt was delivered a month ago.

29 *Public Utilities*

30 Hydrant flushing went well. During flushing a hydrant wouldn't shut off so it will
31 need to be replaced.
32 Sewer flows continue to look good
33 Inlet work on S. Ninth St has been completed
34 Inspection of the standpipe and reservoir work was completed on October 31,
35 2023 for both the interior and exterior. Results are pending
36 Water/Sewer bills are due on Friday, December 15, 2023

37

1 *Community Relations*
2 The fourth annual Christmas Tree Lighting took place on November 24, 2023 in
3 the W Donuts Parking Lot and had a huge turnout. Thanks to Katrina and Kleon
4 Zimmerman for their hard work making this event so successful.

5
6 *Planning & Zoning*
7 Sean Molchany shared that staff need to have all of the administrative items in
8 order for the Bollinger Subdivision Land Development Plan prior to presenting to
9 the board.

10 Planning Commission meeting was scheduled for Thursday, December 7, 2023 for
11 the Bollinger Subdivision Land Development Plan on N. Eleventh St
12 No Zoning Hearings scheduled at this time

13
14 *Personnel*
15 Staff was contacted by Randy Gockley on October 30, 2023 and shared that the
16 Emergency Management Plan updates should be completed by January 8, 2024 or
17 earlier and will keep staff updated.
18 Valerie Wagner employment position as the new Full-time Finance Director/Office
19 Manager is going extremely well.
20 E-mails for the new Junior Council Members have been set up by staff.

21
22 *Other Business*
23 The Akron Authority met this evening for their annual meeting and included
24 Susan Davidson, Pam Musser and Mayor McBeth
25 The New Year's Eve committee met again on Saturday, December 2, 2023.
26 The Ephrata Scout Troop 38 will be building the bonfire this year. Shoes will be
27 collected again this year and this event has been advertised with hopes for a good
28 turnout.

29
30 *Board Vacancies*
31 Building Code Appeals Board
32 Planning Commission

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34 **Finance**-reviewed by Ryan Cochran
35 Fund balances November 30, 2023
36 **General Fund**-\$185,454.72 **General Fund Reserves**
37 **Water Fund**-\$3,546.29 Restricted (Goal) \$144,363.00

1 **Sewer Fund**-\$82,124.86 Total-\$144,363.00
2 **Highway Aid**-\$53,238.99
3 **General Fund Reserves**
4 Restricted-\$158,000.00
5 Operating-\$80,560.01
6 Capital-\$116,153.54
7 Total-\$354,713.55
8 **Water Fund Reserves**
9 Restricted-\$72,992.00
10 Operating-\$215,239.70
11 Capital-\$0.00
12 Total-\$288,231.70
13 **Sewer Fund Reserves**
14 Restricted-\$121,822.00
15 Operating-\$92,486.46
16 Capital-\$0.00
17 Total-\$214,308.46
18 **Capital Projects**-\$1,633.71
19 **Community Fund**-2,087.95
20 **Non-Uniform Pension**-\$3,764.64
21 **Total**-\$1,189,104.87
22 **Escrow**-\$6,372.96
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24 **Parks & Property**
25 Nothing
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27 **Community Relations**
28 Bonnie requested photographer to take pictures for recent events in Akron
29 including the Tree lighting and luminary walk
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31 **Personnel Report**
32 Nothing
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34 **Streets Report-**
35 Nothing
36 Akron Borough Public Works Director Thomas Murray, Jr. stated that 188 LED
37 streetlights have been installed by PPL

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Public Utilities Report-

Nothing

Public Hearings/Presentations/Appointments

Old Business

Nathan Imhoff requested that Council consider and additional donation to the Ephrata Public Library in the amount of \$4,000.00 for the monitor and computer upgrades. Nathan requested that council consider this additional donation as a good faith effort. Nathan asked council to consider this donation as this was not a request from the Ephrata Public Library. Paul Swangren, Jr. reminded Council that the Digital literacy grant donated approximately \$2,000.00 towards the \$4,000.00. Bonnie Young stated that the budget is allowing \$20,000.00 for the 2024 year. Paul said that the \$4,000.00 could be used for other Borough projects. Justin Gehman questioned the finances and whether there are monies available. Susan Davidson said that the Ninth St inlet project went a few thousand over. Nathan thanked council for discussion. No motion made for the additional \$4,000.00 for the EPL.

New Business

- A. Resolutions**
- B. Ordinances**
- C. Motions and Decisions**

Ryan Cochran made a motion to approve Herbein Co as auditors for the 2023 Annual Audit; second by Paul Swangren, Jr
Discussion on length of time Borough has used Herbein Co and it is approximately seven years.
Motion approved

Kleon Zimmerman made a motion to approve \$2,077,600.00 for the 2024 budget General Fund; second by Ryan Cochran (Increase of 6.97%)
Tonya Haynes-yes
Nathan Imhoff-yes
Bonnie Young-yes
Kleon Zimmerman-yes
Justin Gehman-yes
Ryan Cochran-yes
Paul Swangren, Jr.-no

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Motion carried.

Ryan Cochran moved to approve \$551,550 for the Water Fund for the 2024 budget. Second by Justin Gehman (Increase of 13.49%)

- Tonya Haynes-yes
- Bonnie Young-yes
- Kleon Zimmerman-yes
- Nathan Imhoff-yes
- Justin Gehman-yes
- Paul Swangren, Jr. -yes
- Ryan Cochran-yes
- Motion carried

Paul Swangren, Jr made a motion to approve 1,006,315.00 for the Sewer Fund for the 2024 Budget; second by Justin Gehman (Increase of 0.55%)

- Tonya Haynes-yes
- Bonnie Young-yes
- Nathan Imhoff-yes
- Justin Gehman-yes
- Paul Swangren, Jr.-yes
- Ryan Cochran-yes
- Kleon Zimmerman-yes
- Motion carried.

Justin Gehman made a motion to approve the 2024 budget Highway Aid \$175, 834.00; second by Bonnie. (Decrease 31.93%)

- Tonya Haynes-yes
- Bonnie Young-yes
- Nathan Imhoff-yes
- Justin Gehman-yes
- Paul Swangren, Jr.-yes
- Ryan Cochran-yes
- Kleon Zimmerman-yes
- Motion carried.

1 Kleon Zimmerman made a motion to approve Ordinance #23-003 the
2 2024 Real Estate Tax Millage Increase Ordinance which increases the
3 real estate tax from 3 mils to 3.3 mils for the 2024 tax year; second by
4 Ryan Cochran.

5 Tonya Haynes-yes
6 Bonnie Young-yes
7 Nathan Imhoff-yes
8 Justin Gehman-yes
9 Paul Swangren, Jr. -no
10 Ryan Cochran-yes
11 Kleon Zimmerman- yes
12 Motion carried.

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14 Ryan Cochran made a motion to approve Resolution #23-008 which
15 increases the water rates from \$7.00 per each 1,000 gallons to \$8.00 per
16 each 1,000 gallons. Water Rate Increase Resolution; second by Kleon
17 Zimmerman (begins February 1, 2024) (Increase of 13.49%)

18 Tonya Haynes-yes
19 Bonnie Young-yes
20 Nathan Imhoff-yes
21 Justin Gehman-yes
22 Paul Swangren, Jr.-yes
23 Ryan Cochran-yes
24 Kleon Zimmerman-yes

25
26 Paul Swangren, Jr made a motion to approve the 2024 Health Insurance
27 Renewal through Benecon; second by Bonnie Young
28 Motion carried.

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30 Ryan Cochran made a motion to approve the Section 125 Premium Only
31 Plan Resolution/Agreement; second by Kleon Zimmerman
32 Motion carried.

33
34 Paul Swangren, Jr made a motion to approve the 2024 Re-Organizational
35 Meeting Advertisement and to authorize Borough Staff to advertise the
36 Advertisement; second by Ryan Cochran. Motion carried.

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1 Justin Gehman made a motion to approve the 2024 Council and
2 Committee meeting Schedule and 2024 Meeting Advertisement and to
3 authorize Borough Staff to advertise the advertisement; second by Ryan
4 Cochran
5 Motion carried
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7 **D. Correspondence and Petitions**

- 8 a. Letter received from Keith Greiner for support of the Borough's
9 request for a grant award from the Commonwealth Financing
10 Authority Local Share Account (LSA) for the Maintenance Building
11 Renovation plan.

12 **Additional Comment:**

13 Susan Davidson mentioned that she e-mailed Council members letting them know
14 that she has the certificates of election and will have them for the newly elected
15 Council members to present before they are sworn in. Davidson will also have
16 copies of the residency affidavit that needs to be completed at the Re-
17 Organizational meeting for the newly elected Council members.
18

19 **Adjournment** -Motion to adjourn at 7:27 pm by Paul Swangren, Jr. second by
20 Justin Gehman Zimmerman
21 Motion carried.

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23 Meeting adjourned.

24
25 Respectfully submitted,

26
27 Susan Davidson
28 Akron Borough Manager/Secretary
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30 SD
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