

1 **Borough of Akron Council Meeting-November 11, 2024**

2

3 **Council Members Present:** Nathan Imhoff, President; Justin Gehman, Vice President; Paul  
4 Swangren, Jr.; Ryan Cochran; Kleon Zimmerman; Bonnie Young; Tonya Haynes; Max Herman,  
5 Junior Council Member; Alyssa Vasyanovich, Junior Council Member; (Martin Sweigart, Junior  
6 Council Member not present)

7

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

10

11 **Visitors:**

12 Tom Murray, Jr., Akron Volunteer Fire Co  
13 Aaron Murray, Akron Volunteer Fire Co  
14 Dale Miller, Akron Volunteer Fire Co  
15 John Taylor, 216 S 8th St Akron  
16 Sue Glick, 119 S 10<sup>th</sup> St Akron  
17 Officer Mitch Rogers, West Earl Police  
18 Zoom User – Ephrata Scouts Troop 38

19

20 **Roll Call**

21 Kleon Zimmerman – present  
22 Paul Swangren, Jr. – present  
23 Ryan Cochran – present  
24 Bonnie Young – present  
25 Tonya Haynes – present  
26 Justin Gehman, Vice President – present  
27 Nathan Imhoff, President – present  
28 Mayor John McBeth – present  
29 Max Herman, Junior Council Member – present  
30 Alyssa Vasyanovich, Junior Council Member – present  
31 Martin Sweigart, Junior Council Member – absent

32

33 Meeting opened at 6:30pm with the Pledge of Allegiance. President Nathan Imhoff  
34 acknowledged Veterans Day and thanked service members both past and present.

35

36 **Approval of Minutes**

37 Bonnie Young made a motion to approve the Akron Borough Council meeting minutes from  
38 October 28, 2024; second by Justin Gehman. Mayor McBeth clarified on page 6, lines 40-41,  
39 that he said a railing on the steps leading to the gazebo off of Lions Lane would be helpful, not  
40 steps. Motion amended to include edits and carried.

41

42 **Visitors/Comments from the Public**

43 Zoom Users from Scouts Troop 38 were in attendance to fulfill a merit badge requirement.

44

1 *Akron Volunteer Fire Company*

2 Assistant Chief Tom Murray, Jr. shared a slide show with Council as a request from Akron  
3 Borough Council to endorse an application for a Statewide Local Share Agreement grant on  
4 behalf of Akron Volunteer Fire Company (AVFC) to purchase a new engine. He provided an  
5 overview of the AVFC's current fleet of vehicles:

- 6 • 2009 Pierce Velocity Rescue Engine 12-1
- 7 • 1998 Pierce Lance Engine 12-2
- 8 • 2002 Ford F550 Squad 12-1
- 9 • 1951 Mack (antique not in service) Engine 12-3

10

11 The New Engine Committee was formed to find a new piece of apparatus that would be suitable  
12 to replace the 1998 Pierce Lance. The committee consisted of Fire Chief Tim Hoffman, Deputy  
13 Chief Justin Gehman, Assistant Chief Thomas Murray, Jr., Chief Engineer Leon Martin, Captain  
14 Harold Zimmerman, Firefighters Andrew Smith and Dale Shirk as well as Chauffer Joe  
15 Zimmerman. They worked with Glick Fire Equipment Company and Pierce Manufacturing to  
16 design a 2027-2028 Pierce Enforcer at a cost of \$1,123,000.00. The new Pierce Enforcer will  
17 have many of the same features and equipment as the 1998 Pierce Lance, and it adds additional  
18 16' and 35' ladders as well as an additional 2 ½" attack line.

19

20 Susan Davidson inquired about the water tank capacity for the 2027-2028 Pierce Enforcer and if  
21 it has a generator. Tom Murray, Jr. replied that contains a 1000-gallon tank and does not have a  
22 generator due to the LED scene lights it is equipped with. Light discussion ensued regarding  
23 lights and generators. Bonnie Young asked what the most exciting features are for the new  
24 apparatus. All LED scene lights and additional ladders are the two key items Tom Murray, Jr.  
25 mentioned in addition to enhanced safety features.

26

27 Sean Molchany asked for clarification if the intent is to sell the 1998 Pierce Lance and the  
28 affirmation is yes. Molchany followed up by asking how they will pay for the new engine if the  
29 grant application is not approved. Murray, Jr. replied that a contract has been signed but the  
30 payment is not due since it will take several years to be delivered. Nathan Imhoff asked if they  
31 do not get approval this time, will they apply again the following year – yes, this is the reason  
32 the request for an endorsement began now instead of waiting until the year before delivery.  
33 Sean Molchany followed up by stating that there is a commitment and a contract signed  
34 without a plan to pay for it. Paul Swangren, Jr. then asked if there are maintenance issues with  
35 the 1998 Pierce Lance. AVFC President Dale Miller replied that as with any aging vehicle there  
36 are issues that arise and that the valves are rusted. The grant would be a great help towards the  
37 cost of the vehicle; however, they do have fundraising options and would be eligible to borrow  
38 money with a loan, but would obviously prefer not to borrow if a grant would be available and  
39 approved. This is the reason they have come to Council to respectfully request an endorsement  
40 on a grant application. They cannot submit one without an endorsement since they are not an  
41 eligible entity. Justin Gehman mentioned that there are financing options available through the  
42 Pennsylvania Fire and Emergency Medical Services Loan Program at 2.00%.

43

1 Tonya Haynes asked if the purchase price will be the same when the new truck is delivered. Dale  
2 Miller replied that since a contract is signed, the purchase price will stay the same aside from  
3 any changes that the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) would mandate  
4 between now and the delivery. Miller continued by stating that newer equipment is a benefit to  
5 the public as well; 20+ year old equipment increases a fire company's Insurance Services Offices  
6 (ISO) rating, which measures how well equipped a community is to fight fires and in turn affects  
7 property insurance rates. Discussion ensued.

8  
9 Paul Swangren, Jr. asked about the emissions rating on the new contracted fire truck and how  
10 many years does the Local Share Account (LSA) offer grants? Tom Murray, Jr. responded that the  
11 new vehicle will be at 2027 emissions standards. Justin Gehman replied that the LSA opens  
12 annually for applications. Ryan Cochran inquired about used equipment and if AVFC has  
13 considered purchasing used. Tom Murray, Jr. stated that it is a hot market for used fire  
14 equipment and that anything listed for sale is sold extremely quickly. Nathan Imhoff added that  
15 purchasing used equipment means that the search for newer equipment begins again much  
16 sooner than purchasing new. AVFC Captain Aaron Murray shared that purchasing a used fire  
17 truck is similar in many ways to purchasing a used car; the purchaser has no knowledge of how  
18 the equipment was used previously, good or bad. He shared examples such as a truck that is not  
19 parked in a temperature-controlled garage bay will get more wear and tear from being started  
20 cold and driven immediately, than one that isn't started at a cold temperature. Due to these  
21 variables, it is much harder to trust a used market. Discussion ensued regarding warranties.

22  
23 Paul Swangren, Jr. inquired how much is in the Akron Borough fund held specifically for the Fire  
24 Company. Susan Davidson replied that after this year's budgeted donation of \$12,500.00, the  
25 balance will be \$100,000.00. Kleon Zimmerman asked if there would be a greater chance of the  
26 LSA grant approval if the request was a smaller amount vs the whole purchase price. Sean  
27 Molchany stated that it doesn't necessarily affect chances of approval and that his opinion is  
28 that if you are going to ask for the money, ask for all of what you need. Nathan Imhoff  
29 commented that if Council grants the endorsement for the AVFC application as well as the  
30 application submitted on behalf of Akron Borough, the likelihood of both grant applications  
31 being approved is unknown. Sean Molchany agreed it is hard to tell if both will be approved.  
32 Imhoff stated that he agrees the Fire Company needs new equipment – by the time the new  
33 Pierce Enforcer is delivered the truck being replaced will be 30 years old.

34  
35 Paul Swangren, Jr. asked if Representative Keith Greiner would be writing a letter of  
36 recommendation; Justin Gehman and Sean Molchany affirmed that he will be involved.  
37 Molchany added that Greiner has advocated for Lancaster County a number of times.  
38 Discussion ensued regarding other grant applications that may be available. Bonnie Young  
39 asked if there will be reasons for the request added to the grant application – Dale Miller  
40 confirmed he will include age, lack of relevant technology, safety and the ISO rating in the  
41 statement of request. Council President Nathan Imhoff thanked Dale Miller and the Akron  
42 Volunteer Fire Company for their presentation and stated that Council would discuss the  
43 request in the New Business section of the agenda.

44

1 **Bills**

2 Ryan Cochran moved to approve the November 2024 Borough of Akron disbursements and fund  
3 the appropriate account for the disbursements as reviewed by the Finance committee. Cochran  
4 noted that \$158,195.60 disbursed from Sewer Fund is a budgeted payment to Ephrata Borough  
5 Authority. Second by Kleon Zimmerman, motion carried.

6  
7 **Reports/Announcements**

8  
9 **Police Report**

10 Officer Rogers from West Earl Police Department shared there are no updates at this time, and  
11 that he has just returned to duty after welcoming a new baby at home.

12  
13 **Mayor's Report**

14 Mayor McBeth made contact with Scouts Troop 38 regarding any Scouts that were formerly part  
15 of the Akron Troop; one is coming up through the Eagle Scout program. Mayor McBeth always  
16 writes a letter of congratulations and attends the Eagle Scout Ceremony.

17  
18 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter School Resource Officer (SRO) report is in Council books. Mayor McBeth asked  
19 Officer Rogers if the SRO is involved with Akron Elementary School in any way. Officer Rogers  
20 replied that he is not the best person to answer that question as it is Officer Blessing that is the  
21 liaison between Akron Elementary and West Earl Police Department. The School Resource  
22 Officer is employed by Ephrata Police Department. It was also mentioned that the Ephrata  
23 Police Department does not do annual training for the Akron crossing guards, it is the West Earl  
24 Police Department.

25  
26 **Managers' Report**

27 *Administration & Finance*

28 October 2024 month-end financials have been reconciled. November 2024 payables have been  
29 reviewed by the Finance Committee. Council and staff reviewed the 2025 proposed budget and  
30 the meetings on October 7 and October 28, 2024. Council made a motion to have staff advertise  
31 the proposed 2025 budget for public inspection and to have the Borough Solicitor advertise the  
32 proposed real estate tax millage change. Both will be advertised in the Ephrata Review with the  
33 tax ordinance running for three consecutive weeks.

34 *Parks & Property*

35 Stream Embankment/Rain Garden update: the Community Planting Day was Saturday, October  
36 26, 2024 at 10:00AM. Approx. ten people from the public showed up and about 24 shrubs were  
37 planted. The remaining plants were being planted today. The contractor has been granted a 30-  
38 day extension on the project – the project is about a week behind schedule due to no fault of  
39 the contractor.

40 *Streets*

41 The traffic signal through TRG permit has been submitted to PennDOT. The speed bump and  
42 crosswalk signage located in front of Akron Elementary School was removed and repaved.

43 *Public Utilities*

1 The second payment for the Roland Park Stream Restoration Project is on the November 11,  
2 2024 agenda for approval in the amount of \$184,745.28 payable to Aquatic Resource  
3 Restoration Company. Sewer flow numbers are looking good. Staff plan to complete more I&I  
4 televising this year at Tobacco Road and Oak Street. Council has asked staff to talk to the  
5 Borough Engineer about the closed loop system. Staff forwarded the DEP's response to the  
6 Borough Engineer for a cost to evaluate – it will be \$30,000.00 just to evaluate and the engineer  
7 is not in favor of a closed loop system.

8 *Community Relations*

9 The Akron New Year's Eve Shoe-In Committee met on Wednesday, November 6, 2024. Cindy  
10 Hoffert is again serving as the committee chairperson. Pictures were taken for the Ephrata  
11 Review, The Shopping News, and LNP.

12 *Planning & Zoning*

13 There are no Planning Commission meetings scheduled at this time. A Zoning Hearing has been  
14 scheduled for November 21, 2024 at 7:00PM to hear the appeals of the Estate of Abbey I. Harris  
15 regarding an appeal of the Zoning Officer decision. The property is located at 638 Fulton Street,  
16 Akron PA.

17 *Personnel*

18 A letter dated October 29, 2024 from PEMA was received serving as an acknowledgement of the  
19 recommendation to appoint William Howard to serve as the Akron Borough Emergency  
20 Management Coordinator. This has been sent to Governor Shapiro's office for action.  
21 Confirmation has been received that the documents were received and are awaiting the  
22 Governor's approval.

23 *Other Business*

24 The Toys for Tots donation will take place during the month of November. A box has been placed  
25 in the lobby of the municipal office. Chief Higgins has requested the use of the Borough Council  
26 room for their annual blood drive sponsored through LGH. No date has been set for this event.  
27 The 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter School Resource Officer report is in the Council Books. A draft of the 2025  
28 meeting advertisement is in the books for Council's review. The ambulance report was sent via  
29 email per Council's request.

30 *Board Vacancies*

31 Building Code Appeals Board  
32 Vacancy Board

33

34 **Finance** – Reviewed by Ryan Cochran

35 Fund balances October 31, 2024

36 **General Fund** - \$106,995.10

37 **Water Fund** - \$9,244.70

38 **Sewer Fund** - \$119,556.13

39 **Highway Aid** - \$182,923.60

40 **General Fund Reserves**

41 Restricted - \$0.00

42 Operating - \$29,929.92

43 Capital - \$113,417.45

44 Total - \$143,347.37

**General Fund Reserves**

Restricted (Goal) \$100,000.00

Total - \$100,000.00

1 **Water Fund Reserves**  
2       Restricted - \$72,992.00  
3       Operating - \$173,343.37  
4       Capital - \$0.00  
5       Total - \$246,335.37

6 **Sewer Fund Reserves**  
7       Restricted - \$121,822.00  
8       Operating - \$237,938.84  
9       Capital - \$0.00  
10      Total - \$359,760.84

11 **Capital Projects** - \$2,299.80

12 **Community Fund** - \$2,373.59

13 **Non-Uniform Pension** - \$3,764.64

14 Total - \$1,176,601.14

15 **Escrow** - \$15,450.75

16 Mayor McBeth questioned why there is a restricted goal for General Fund but none for Water or  
17 Sewer Funds. Susan Davidson replied that it is because the goals have been met for those funds.

18

19 ***Community Relations***

20 Bonnie Young attended a Zoom meeting with the Luminary Walk Committee and interviewed  
21 Tom and Tina Burnett to write an article about the event.

22

23 ***Parks & Property***

24 Information was covered in Managers' Report.

25

26 ***Personnel***

27 Paul Swangren, Jr. noted the PEMA acknowledgement letter regarding William Howard's  
28 appointment as Akron Borough Emergency Management Coordinator.

29

30 ***Streets***

31 No report. Nathan Imhoff inquired if other paving jobs were completed at the same time as the  
32 repave in front of Akron Elementary School. Sean Molchany affirmed that patching was done on  
33 portions of Colonial Drive, Westview Drive, and Broad Street. Discussion ensued regarding  
34 street repairs and crack sealing. Sean Molchany provided an update that PP&L has scheduled a  
35 meeting with staff to discuss the street light request on Broad Street.

36

37 ***Public Utilities***

38 Kleon Zimmerman shared with Council that he had spoken to Susan Davidson regarding the  
39 sewer treatment costs for 2025 from Ephrata Borough. He stated that she had found an error in  
40 the initial figures and that the updated costs from Ephrata are \$20,000.00 less than initially  
41 quoted. Davidson said staff is working on setting up a meeting with Ephrata Borough to discuss  
42 the agreement and offered to include Zimmerman. She noted there are other topics to discuss  
43 with Ephrata as well. Nathan Imhoff thanked Susan Davidson for her diligence in review.

44

1 **Junior Council Members Report**

2 Alyssa Vasyanovich is planning to send college applications out before Thanksgiving.

3

4 **Public Hearings/Presentations/Appointments**

5 None

6

7 **Old Business**

8 None

9

10 **New Business**

11 **A. Resolutions**

12 **a. Resolution 24-003 Statewide Local Share Agreement Roland Park Access**  
13 **Drive and Parking Improvements**

14 Sean Molchany provided an overview of the scope of the project. The access drives into  
15 Roland Park will be redone, parking areas will be updated and additional parking will be added  
16 by the pond, stormwater management will be addressed, and park lighting will be updated and  
17 maintained by PP&L. Paul Swangren, Jr. asked if any amenities were part of the project –  
18 Molchany replied no, the project is structural in nature. Nathan Imhoff restated that AVFC is  
19 planning to apply for the same grant program. Molchany added that applications are due  
20 November 30, 2024. Paul Swangren, Jr. moved to approve Resolution 24-003 for the Statewide  
21 Local Share Agreement for Roland Park Access Drive and Parking Improvements. Ryan Cochran  
22 second, motion carried.

23 Mr. Molchany clarified that Akron Borough does not apply for AVFC; Council simply  
24 endorses the application. Nathan Imhoff declared he would like to make a decision tonight in  
25 courtesy so as to not leave AVFC in limbo. Tonya Haynes moved to endorse an application  
26 submitted by AVFC for the purchase of a 2027-2028 Pierce Enforcer Engine. Kleon Zimmerman  
27 second, motion carried 6-1 with Swangren, Jr. not in favor.

28 **B. Ordinances**

29 **C. Motions and Decisions**

30 **a. Motion to Approve Payment #2 for the Roland Park Stream Restoration**  
31 **Project**

32 Kleon Zimmerman moved to approve payment #2 for the Roland Park Stream  
33 Restoration Project to Aquatic Resource Restoration Company in an amount not to exceed  
34 \$184,745.28 per the Borough Engineer’s recommendation. Paul Swangren, Jr. second, motion  
35 carried.

36 **b. Motion to Approve the Transfer of \$12,500.00 to the Akron Volunteer Fire**  
37 **Company Truck Fund**

38 Bonnie Young moved to approve the transfer of \$12,500.00 to the Akron Volunteer Fire  
39 Company Truck Fund. Tonya Haynes second. Discussion: Haynes inquired where the money  
40 would come from. Susan Davidson explained it is a budgeted transfer to reserves held in escrow  
41 for the Fire Company. Motion carried.

42 **D. Acknowledgements**

43 **E. Other Business/Deliberations**

44 **a. Proposed 2025 Meeting Dates**

1 Paul Swangren, Jr. moved to approve the 2025 proposed meeting dates and authorize  
2 Borough staff to coordinate the advertisement. Tonya Haynes second. Nathan Imhoff noted that  
3 the second meeting in May will be on Tuesday, May 27, 2025 due to Memorial Day. Swangren,  
4 Jr. asked if there would be a Council meeting during the week of the Ephrata Fair – Sean  
5 Molchany replied that he recommends advertising the 2025 meeting dates and then cancelling  
6 if needed. Motion carried.

7 **F. Correspondence & Petitions**

8 **G. Executive Session**

9

10 **Adjournment**

11 Paul Swangren, Jr. acknowledged and thanked veterans, moved to adjourn the meeting at  
12 7:35pm; second by Tonya Haynes.

13 Motion carried.

14

15 Respectfully submitted,

16

17 Susan Davidson

18 Assistant Borough Manager/Secretary

19

20 SD/vw