

1 **Borough of Akron Council Meeting-December 09, 2024**

2

3 **Council Members Present:** Nathan Imhoff, President; Justin Gehman, Vice President; Paul  
4 Swangren, Jr.; Ryan Cochran; Kleon Zimmerman; Tonya Haynes; Max Herman, Junior Council  
5 Member; Alyssa Vasyanovich, Junior Council Member; (Bonnie Young and Martin Sweigart,  
6 Junior 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 Borough Public Works Supervisor
- 13 Aaron Murray, Akron Volunteer Fire Co
- 14 John Taylor, 216 S 8th St Akron
- 15 Sue Glick, 119 S 10<sup>th</sup> St Akron
- 16 Chief Eric Higgins, West Earl Police
- 17 Anthony Sheaffer, 110 Main St Akron
- 18 Barry Heuyard, 31 Wolf Rd Akron

19

20 **Roll Call**

- 21 Kleon Zimmerman – present
- 22 Paul Swangren, Jr. – present
- 23 Ryan Cochran – present
- 24 Bonnie Young – absent
- 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 6:34pm with the Pledge of Allegiance.

34 **Approval of Minutes**

35 Tonya Haynes made a motion to approve the Akron Borough Council meeting minutes of the  
36 November 25, 2024 meeting; second by Paul Swangren, Jr. No discussion, motion carried.

37

38 **Visitors/Comments from the Public**

39 Sue Glick reminded everyone that the Luminary Walk is this Saturday, December 14, 2024 from  
40 5:30-8:00pm. Everyone is invited to enjoy hot cocoa, cider, cookies, caroling and the option to  
41 walk through two different luminary lit paths through Roland Park.

42

43 **Bills**

1 Ryan Cochran moved to approve the December 2024 Borough of Akron disbursements and fund  
2 the appropriate account for the disbursements as reviewed by the Finance Committee. Second  
3 by Tonya Haynes, motion carried.  
4

5 **Reports/Announcements**

6 **Police Report**

7 Chief Higgins has submitted his report to Council. Nathan Imhoff asked how things are going for  
8 the department as they are nearing year-end. Chief Higgins responded positively, stating that  
9 the newest hire, Officer Torres, is graduating from the police academy this month and will be  
10 meeting Council soon. Tonya Haynes asked if there were any updates on the Good's Disposal  
11 worker who was injured that morning; Chief Higgins stated that the last updates that were given  
12 were that the injured employee was in stable condition at a local hospital. Nathan Imhoff  
13 commented that it was nice to see the speed sentry posted at the elementary school. Kleon  
14 Zimmerman presented Chief Higgins with a thank you card from his wife, Katrina Zimmerman,  
15 in appreciation of the West Earl Police presence at the recent Akron Tree Lighting event.  
16

17 **Mayor's Report**

18 None  
19

20 **Managers' Report**

21 *Administration & Finance*

22 November 2024 month-end financials have been reconciled. December 2024 payables have  
23 been reviewed by the Finance Committee. The proposed 2025 advertised budget and the 2025  
24 advertised tax millage increase are on the agenda for Council approval at tonight's meeting.

25 *Parks & Property*

26 Stream Embankment/Rain Garden update: Construction is complete except for additional  
27 plantings that will take place in the first quarter of 2025. Payment #3 in the amount of  
28 \$352,899.36 is on the agenda tonight for Council approval. Remaining amount is \$36,680.46  
29 which is the 5% retainage of \$733,609.15. Sean Molchany, Tonya Haynes, Justin Gehman,  
30 Nathan Imhoff, Ryan Cochran and Mayor McBeth met at Roland Park to discuss park projects i.e.  
31 replacing Akron Pines Playground and other projects. Roland Park Access Road project grant  
32 application was submitted on November 26, 2024.  
33

34 *Streets*

35 None

36 *Public Utilities*

37 Sewer flow numbers are looking good. More I&I televising is planned this year at Tobacco Road  
38 and Oak Street. Sean Molchany along with Kleon Zimmerman and Justin Gehman met on Friday,  
39 December 6, 2024 in regards to the water tower project. The Borough will engage with  
40 Susquehanna River Basin Commission (SRBC) to enter into the Public Water Supply Assistance  
41 Program to begin the permit renewal process, which will help with the cost of the permit  
42 renewal. This permit is set to expire on September 18, 2028.

43 *Community Relations*

44 Akron's Annual Tree Lighting event took place on Friday, November 29, 2024 at W Donuts.  
Katrina Zimmerman put together another wonderful event again with music, food, Santa and a

1 large crowd of kids. Also, Katrina and Kleon Zimmerman hung wreaths again on Main Street this  
2 year. Thanks to both Katrina and Kleon for their contribution to the Akron Borough community.  
3 The Akron New Year's Eve Shoe-In Committee met on Wednesday, December 4, 2024 to finalize  
4 plans for this year's event. The Luminary Walk hosted by Pilgrim's Mennonite Church will take  
5 place at Roland Park on Saturday, December 14, 2024.

6 *Planning & Zoning*

7 There are no Planning Commission or Zoning Hearing Board meetings scheduled at this time.

8 *Personnel*

9 A list of appointments is on the Council meeting agenda tonight.

10 *Other Business*

11 The Toys for Tots donation took place during the month of November through December 6,  
12 2024. 2025 Borough meeting advertisement will be in the Ephrata Review the week of  
13 December 9, 2024. The ambulance report was sent via email per Council's request.

14 *Board Vacancies*

15 Building Code Appeals Board

16

17 **Finance** – Reviewed by Ryan Cochran

18 Fund balances November 30, 2024

19 **General Fund** - \$90,384.24

20 **Water Fund** - \$16,916.73

21 **Sewer Fund** - \$7,201.19

22 **Highway Aid** - \$183,607.56

23 **General Fund Reserves**

24       Restricted - \$102,363.00

25       Operating - \$395,325.82

26       Capital - \$126,246.68

27       Total - \$623,935.50

**General Fund Reserves**

Restricted (Goal) \$100,000.00

Total - \$100,000.00

28 **Water Fund Reserves**

29       Restricted - \$72,992.00

30       Operating - \$187,195.40

31       Capital - \$0.00

32       Total - \$260,187.40

33 **Sewer Fund Reserves**

34       Restricted - \$121,822.00

35       Operating - \$238,893.60

36       Capital - \$0.00

37       Total - \$360,715.60

38 **Capital Projects** - \$2,452.82

39 **Community Fund** - \$2,083.59

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

41 Total - \$1,551,249.27

42 **Escrow** - \$6,891.78

43 **Community Relations**

44 None

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***Parks & Property***

Information was covered in Managers’ Report.

***Personnel***

Paul Swangren, Jr. mentioned there are a number of motions and decisions for appointments on tonight’s agenda.

***Streets***

None

***Public Utilities***

Kleon Zimmerman shared that during the meeting held with Borough Manager Sean Molchany, it was decided to put engineering for the water tower into the 2025 proposed budget. He spoke on the options of spending \$30,000.00 on a study just to determine whether or not a closed loop system would work in Akron Borough, or the option of building a new standpipe out of glass fused steel. The cost of engineering would be built into the total project if the decision was to build a new tower, vs. spending a large sum of money on only a study. He continued by stating that the closed loop system sounds like more day-to-day maintenance responsibilities for Borough staff and that currently, he personally is favoring the option of a new standpipe; however, total project costs on both options may change his outlook. A formal discussion with Council will be on the agenda in future meetings.

***Public Hearings/Presentations/Appointments***

***Old Business***

***New Business***

**A. Resolutions**

**B. Ordinances**

**C. Motions and Decisions**

**1. Motion to approve Herbein + Co as auditors for the 2024 annual audit**

Paul Swangren, Jr. moved to approve Herbein + Co as the auditors for the 2024 annual audit. Ryan Cochran second, motion carried.

**2. Motion to approve the 2025 budget**

President Nathan Imhoff began by asking for a motion to approve the General Fund 2025 budget. Tonya Haynes moved to approve the 2025 Borough of Akron General Fund budget as presented (\$2,135,687.00 as a balanced budget), Ryan Cochran second.

Mayor McBeth asked why the electric for street lights is not paid out of Highway Aid funding. Susan Davidson answered that the reason is because there is a need to save that funding for the Diamond Street project that is coming soon. Paul Swangren, Jr. added that Council had previously decided to only use the Highway Aid funding for maintenance and repair of roads. McBeth asked what the cost will be for Diamond Street – Sean Molchany answered that it is estimated at \$250,000.00 and the actual construction will not be until 2026. Mayor McBeth stated he feels that the Borough has enough funding for that project and will have more than

1 enough by the time the construction phase is here. Justin Gehman countered by stating that the  
2 Borough needs to save Highway Aid funding over the years to have enough to tackle the larger  
3 projects that are on the horizon. Sean Molchany agreed. Nathan Imhoff added that the Tenth  
4 Street project last year came in at close to \$1,000,000.00.

5  
6 Mayor McBeth moved on to inquire about the line item for carpet and lighting at the Borough  
7 municipal office. Sean Molchany addressed the mayor by reminding him that this has been  
8 brought up at several Council meetings and it has been explained that the carpet to be replaced  
9 is in the front admin office and the middle office and the lighting will be updated in the back  
10 half of the building where the former police station was. Imhoff emphasized that these are  
11 serious safety concerns with carpet that is stretched and rippling and dim lighting.

12  
13 Next McBeth asked for an explanation on the Roland Park entrance beautification line item and  
14 why it is necessary. Sean Molchany said that it has been previously discussed in Council  
15 meetings and that there are no formal plans set. McBeth asked once there is a plan set, if it will  
16 come back to Council for discussion and approval. Molchany confirmed that it will.

17  
18 Mayor McBeth brought up the lighting on Lions Lane. Sean Molchany stated that this was also  
19 discussed in previous Council meetings and that the plan is to meet with PP&L to discuss the  
20 conversion to PP&L maintained lights. This is included in the proposed project for the grant  
21 application. No costs have been determined yet as there has not been a meeting with PP&L.  
22 McBeth asked why solar has not been considered as an option. Sean Molchany stated that Lions  
23 Lane is not a good location for solar and that it is a safety issue if something should happen that  
24 the lights do not function as expected. He personally does not recommend solar lighting there.  
25 Kleon Zimmerman added that solar is not efficient or reliable and pointed to the wreaths that  
26 he and his wife hang on Main Street each year. Many times, several wreaths did not receive  
27 enough solar energy to power the lights that day. Mayor McBeth asked Sean Molchany if he will  
28 explore solar as an option – Molchany answered that he will if Council asks him to look into it.

29  
30 John McBeth brought up the Borough office garage door project and asked how much it would  
31 be to enlarge the basement garage doors to accommodate the public works trucks. Nathan  
32 Imhoff stated definitively that there is not room in the basement; the basement is currently  
33 being used to the full extent for storage of tools, supplies and equipment. He continued by  
34 stating that the size of the garage door is not the only limiting factor in parking the Borough  
35 trucks there – the room itself is not tall enough. Mayor McBeth suggested raising the ceiling, to  
36 which Imhoff stopped him by saying it is impossible to lower the floor or raise the ceiling which  
37 is the floor of the main level. This has been discussed and decided upon in previous meetings.

38  
39 Paul Swangren, Jr. asked which version of the General Fund budget is the most current and how  
40 much revenue is expected by the proposed tax increase. Susan Davidson answered that the  
41 version in front of Council is the most current dated October 28, 2024. The increase in revenue  
42 for real estate taxes would be \$76,988.00. Swangren, Jr. stated he is not in favor of raising taxes,  
43 to which Davidson responded that she is not sure how else to balance the General Fund budget

1 considering there is already a transfer from reserves budgeted in the amount of \$40,160.00.  
2 Discussion ensued.

3  
4 Nathan Imhoff empathized with Paul Swangren, Jr. stating that he doesn't prefer to raise taxes  
5 either, but with the West Earl Township Police contract up for renewal at the end of 2025 and  
6 the increasing costs associated with police coverage, he doesn't see another way. Swangren, Jr.  
7 restated that he is not in favor of raising property taxes three years in a row.

8  
9 Resident Barry Heuyard spoke up, asking where the public can see the proposed budget. Susan  
10 Davidson replied that the advertised budget stated that it is available for inspection at the  
11 Borough office upon request. Heuyard pointed out the large decrease in administrative salaries  
12 cost and asked why increasing taxes was still proposed when costs have gone down. Paul  
13 Swangren, Jr. explained that while there is a decrease in the administrative salaries budget due  
14 to Davidson's retirement, there are other offsets and it is not a net savings.

15  
16 Mayor McBeth stated that a number of people have shared with him that they are upset. He  
17 then shared that Adamstown Borough has gone over ten years without raising property taxes  
18 and are only raising them 1% next year. He also pointed out that Ephrata Borough approved a  
19 budget without a property tax increase. McBeth continued by saying that he didn't want to  
20 compare municipalities, but people aren't happy about the proposed increase. Nathan Imhoff  
21 replied that the current elected Council members were put into a difficult situation because for  
22 years previous Council members avoided raising property taxes.

23  
24 Mayor McBeth asked about the discrepancy between the year-to-date cost of street lighting and  
25 the 2025 proposed budget amount. Susan Davidson pointed out that the "to date" was accurate  
26 as of September 30, 2024 and that the proposed budget amount for street lighting included a  
27 projected increase in electric charges. He then asked how much the increase was and Davidson  
28 responded that she did not have those figures in front of her. The next question Mayor McBeth  
29 had was if costs had been figured for the sidewalk in front of the water treatment plant and the  
30 fire station. Sean Molchany replied that those sidewalks are included in the project that will be  
31 paid for with the recent Local Share Account grant award. McBeth asked if public works will be  
32 the ones replacing the sidewalks – Molchany answered no, that it will be contracted work.  
33 Mayor McBeth stated that previously projects such as sidewalks would be done by the public  
34 works department. Kleon Zimmerman responded that may be the reason why the sidewalk is in  
35 need of repair today. Molchany affirmed that the Borough will do as much with the grant money  
36 as possible.

37  
38 Resident Barry Heuyard asked where the proposed budget could be found – Susan Davidson  
39 replied that it is available upon request at the Borough office. Discussion ensued. Mayor  
40 McBeth asked why the agendas are not posted to the Borough website, only to Facebook.  
41 Davidson responded that they are absolutely posted to the Borough's website, discussion  
42 ensued until President Nathan Imhoff steered the conversation back to the topic at hand: the  
43 proposed General Fund budget.

44

1 Resident John Taylor spoke up to remind the room that Akron Borough does not have the  
2 commercial tax base that Ephrata Borough has and that it's not a fair comparison. Susan  
3 Davidson thanked Mr. Taylor for his comment. Resident Anthony Sheaffer circled back to electric  
4 rates and asked if the Borough is billed on a different structure than residential customers.  
5 Davidson answered that the Borough shops for competitive supplier rates and locked in at a rate  
6 a few years ago, but that doesn't change the charges on the PPL distribution side or change the  
7 amount of electricity used.

8  
9 Nathan Imhoff, wrapping up discussions on the proposed 2025 General Fund budget, called a  
10 roll call vote. Paul Swangren, Jr. asked for clarification if this vote on the General Fund budget is  
11 to include the proposed tax millage increase. Imhoff answered that yes, that is the way the  
12 proposed budget is written and will be voted on that way unless the motion is rescinded and  
13 amended.

14 Tonya Haynes – yes

15 Ryan Cochran – yes

16 Kleon Zimmerman – no

17 Paul Swangren, Jr. – no

18 Justin Gehman, Vice President – yes

19 Nathan Imhoff, President – yes

20 Motion carried 4-2.

21 **3. Ordinance to approve 2024-001 Real Estate Tax Millage Increase**

22 Tonya Haynes moved to adopt Ordinance 2024-001 Real Estate Tax Millage Increase, Ryan  
23 Cochran second. No discussion. Roll call vote:

24 Tonya Haynes – yes

25 Ryan Cochran – yes

26 Kleon Zimmerman – no

27 Paul Swangren, Jr. – no

28 Justin Gehman, Vice President – yes

29 Nathan Imhoff, President – yes

30 Motion carried 4-2.

31 Tonya Haynes shared her reasoning for voting yes on an increase in property taxes. Because  
32 previous Council administration wanted to save taxpayers money while they were in office, they  
33 ignored the rising costs and issues that would need to be addressed in the future, which has left  
34 the current Council board in a predicament. Haynes shared that she is in favor of smaller  
35 incremental increases over time to soften the blow rather than put off an increase until a large  
36 one is necessary. Her goal is to see taxes reach a plateau.

37  
38 Resident Anthony Sheaffer stated that a plateau is impossible, and taxes never go down. Nathan  
39 Imhoff shared that during his ten-year tenure on Borough Council, he has only seen property  
40 taxes increased three or four times. Sheaffer countered that Imhoff's example is almost a 50%  
41 ratio of tax increases and not something to boast about – Imhoff rebutted that the cost of living  
42 never goes down, only up. Tonya Haynes added that death and taxes are certain and cannot be  
43 avoided. Akron Borough is so small compared to municipalities like Ephrata Borough and does  
44 not have the same revenue sources.

1  
2 Resident Barry Heuyard challenged the \$250,000.00 line item in the Capital Projects budget for  
3 the Diamond Street paving project, stating he does not see any way that it would cost that  
4 much. Sean Molchany spoke on the scope of the project, citing road repair, milling, Americans  
5 with Disabilities Act (ADA) accommodations and overlay. Heuyard asked which section of  
6 Diamond Street is the project addressing – Molchany answered that it will start at the “Y” split  
7 off of Main Street and go until Tobacco Road. Paul Swangren, Jr. added that Diamond Street is  
8 one of the highest travelled roads in Akron Borough according to the roadway survey that was  
9 done. Mr. Heuyard contested that he never noticed it was bad enough to justify this project.  
10 Swangren, Jr. replied that the project only becomes more expensive the longer it is put off.  
11 Public Works Supervisor Tom Murray, Jr. added that the project requires prevailing wage rates  
12 which add to the overall cost.

13  
14 Mayor McBeth addressed the Earned Income Tax (EIT) and mentioned that tax is based off of  
15 residents’ income, and as residents are earning higher incomes, the Borough will receive  
16 increased EIT revenue and that should negate the need for a tax millage increase. Justin  
17 Gehman stated there is a significant difference in the operating budgets between Ephrata  
18 Borough and Akron Borough due to the size of taxpayer bases. Discussion ensued regarding EIT  
19 and local taxes.

20 **4. Resolution 2024-07 to adopt Water Rate Increase**

21 Ryan Cochran moved to adopt Resolution 2024-07 Water Rate Increase, Tonya Haynes second.  
22 No discussion. Roll call vote:  
23 Tonya Haynes – yes  
24 Ryan Cochran – yes  
25 Kleon Zimmerman – no  
26 Paul Swangren, Jr. – no  
27 Justin Gehman, Vice President – yes  
28 Nathan Imhoff, President – yes  
29 Motion carried 4-2.

30  
31 A motion was made by Justin Gehman to approve the 2025 Borough of Akron Water Fund  
32 budget as presented (\$572,913.00 as a balanced budget), Ryan Cochran second. No discussion.  
33 Roll call vote:  
34 Tonya Haynes – yes  
35 Ryan Cochran – yes  
36 Kleon Zimmerman – yes  
37 Paul Swangren, Jr. – no  
38 Justin Gehman, Vice President – yes  
39 Nathan Imhoff, President – yes  
40 Motion carried 5-1.

41  
42 Ryan Cochran moved to approve the 2025 Borough of Akron Sewer Fund budget as presented  
43 (\$1,023,120.00 as a balanced budget), Tonya Haynes second. No discussion. Roll call vote:  
44 Tonya Haynes – yes



1 Ryan Cochran – yes  
2 Kleon Zimmerman – yes  
3 Paul Swangren, Jr. – yes  
4 Justin Gehman, Vice President – yes  
5 Nathan Imhoff, President – yes  
6 Motion carried 6-0.

7  
8 Justin Gehman moved to approve the 2025 Borough of Akron Highway Aid Budget as presented  
9 (\$308,710.00 as a balanced budget), Ryan Cochran second. No discussion. Roll call vote:  
10 Tonya Haynes – yes  
11 Ryan Cochran – yes  
12 Kleon Zimmerman – yes  
13 Paul Swangren, Jr. – yes  
14 Justin Gehman, Vice President – yes  
15 Nathan Imhoff, President – yes  
16 Motion carried 6-0.

17 **5. Motion to approve 2025 Health Insurance Renewal Through Benecon**

18 Paul Swangren, Jr. moved to approve the 2025 health insurance renewal through Benecon,  
19 Justin Gehman second. No discussion, motion carried.

20 **6. Resolution 2024-06 to adopt Section 125 Premium Only Plan**

21 Kleon Zimmerman moved to adopt Resolution 2024-06 Section 125 Premium Only Plan, Ryan  
22 Cochran second. Nathan Imhoff asked Susan Davidson for a brief explanation – she replied that  
23 it allows for employees’ health insurance deductions to be on a pre-tax basis. Motion carried.

24 **7. Motion to appoint Borough Secretary**

25 Paul Swangren, Jr. moved to appoint Sean Molchany as Borough Secretary, Ryan Cochran  
26 second. Tonya Haynes asked for clarification if this position is an annually appointed one.  
27 Molchany answered that it is an appointed position until a new appointment is made and would  
28 be effective immediately. Motion carried.

29 **8. Motion to appoint Assistant Borough Secretary through Resolution 2024-05**

30 Paul Swangren, Jr. moved to adopt Resolution 2024-05 appointing Susan Davidson as Assistant  
31 Borough Secretary, Tonya Haynes second. Mayor McBeth asked if this is a volunteer position,  
32 Sean Molchany responded that it is not a compensated position in itself. Motion carried.

33 **9. Motion to appoint Right to Know Officer**

34 Paul Swangren, Jr. moved to appoint Sean Molchany as Right to Know Officer, Kleon Zimmerman  
35 second. No discussion, motion carried.

36 **10. Motion to appoint Assistant Right to Know Officer**

37 Ryan Cochran moved to appoint Valerie Wagner as Assistant Right to Know Officer, Paul  
38 Swangren, Jr. second. No discussion, motion carried.

39 **11. Motion to appoint Pension Administrator**

40 Tonya Haynes moved to appoint Sean Molchany as Pension Administrator, Ryan Cochran  
41 second. No discussion, motion carried.

42 **12. Motion to appoint Zoning Hearing Board Member 3-yr term 2025-2027**

1 Paul Swangren, Jr. moved to appoint Christine Burkholder as a member of the Zoning Hearing  
2 Board for a 3-year term (2025-2027), Justin Gehman second. Swangren, Jr. noted this  
3 appointment is a renewal of a term. Motion carried.

4 **13. Motion to appoint Zoning Hearing Board Member Alternate 2-yr term 2025-**  
5 **2026**

6 Ryan Cochran moved to appoint David Lausch as an alternate member of the Zoning Hearing  
7 Board for a 2-year term, Paul Swangren, Jr. second, noting this appointment is also a renewal of  
8 a term. Motion carried.

9 **14. Motion to appoint Planning Commission Member 2-yr term 2025-2026**

10 Sean Molchany explained that this appointment would be to fulfill the remainder of an  
11 unexpired term of Earl Shirk – all terms for the Planning Commission are 4-year terms. Ryan  
12 Cochran requested not to appoint for this position tonight as he would like to advertise the  
13 position to fulfill the remainder of Shirk’s term. Molchany asked for clarification if Council would  
14 like a paid advertisement. Cochran said the webpage and Facebook would be sufficient. Paul  
15 Swangren, Jr. concurs with Cochran’s request. No motion to appoint made.

16 **15. Motion to appoint Planning Commission Member 4-yr term 2025-2028**

17 Justin Gehman moved to appoint Tonya Haynes as a member of the Planning Commission for a  
18 4-year term, Ryan Cochran second. Haynes fulfilled the remainder of an unexpired term on  
19 Planning Commission and requested reappointment. Motion carried.

20 **16. Motion to appoint Akron Authority Member 5-yr term 2025-2029**

21 Paul Swangren, Jr. moved to appoint John McBeth as a member of the Akron Authority for a 5-  
22 year term (2025-2029), Kleon Zimmerman second. Tonya Haynes asked for clarification of the  
23 position. Susan Davidson explained the Authority is currently inactive but a board must be  
24 maintained in the event that the Authority is reactivated and a decision needs to be made. The  
25 Authority Board meets annually and also must file an annual report with the Pennsylvania  
26 Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED). Motion carried.

27 **17. Motion to approve 2025 Employee Holidays**

28 Discussion to combine motion #17 and #18 as Council feels they are similar enough to include in  
29 one motion due to the reason for the proposed handbook amendment being to update 2025  
30 employee holidays.

31 Tonya Haynes moved to approve the 2025 employee holidays as New Year’s Day, Presidents Day,  
32 Good Friday, Memorial Day, Independence Day, Labor Day, Thanksgiving, the Day After  
33 Thanksgiving/Black Friday, and Christmas, and to amend the employee handbook Section 403:  
34 Holidays to add Good Friday and the Day After Thanksgiving while eliminating the reference to  
35 two floating holidays. Paul Swangren, Jr. second. Nathan Imhoff commended Haynes on the  
36 “eloquent” condensation of the two motions.

37 Kleon Zimmerman asked why the two floating holidays are being converted to specific days.  
38 Paul Swangren, Jr. explained that a staff survey was taken and the results showed this was  
39 preferable for staff. He added that the handbook formerly included Good Friday and Black  
40 Friday as holidays but were removed in favor of the two floating holidays at some point.  
41 Zimmerman posed the concern that it would leave the office closed for several days with  
42 resident access to Borough staff. Swangren, Jr. pointed out that there is always an employee on  
43 call even on holidays and that the two Fridays on the table are traditionally very low in terms of  
44 business traffic. Discussion ensued; motion carried.

1 **18. Motion to amend Employee Handbook**

2 Eliminated as referenced in #17.

3 **19. Motion to approve payment #3 Roland Park Stream Restoration Project**

4 Kleon Zimmerman moved to approve payment #3 for the Roland Park Stream  
5 Restoration Project to Aquatic Resource Restoration Company in an amount not to exceed  
6 \$352,899.36 per the Borough Engineer’s recommendation. Tonya Haynes second. Paul  
7 Swangren, Jr. inquired about the costs of the plants that have yet to be planted. Sean Molchany  
8 stated they will cost approx. \$11,000.00 to \$14,000.00 and is included in the 5% retainage.  
9 Motion carried.

10 **D. Acknowledgements**

11 **E. Other Business/Deliberations**

12 At this time Nathan Imhoff noted the omittance of the Junior Council Members Report from the  
13 agenda and invited them to share.

14  
15 ***Junior Council Members Report***

16 Alyssa Vasyanovich shared that the Tri-M Music Honor Society at Ephrata High School will be  
17 sending 2-3 student groups to provide music at the Luminary Walk on Saturday. Mayor McBeth  
18 congratulated Vasyanovich on her recent appointment as the Denver-Ephrata Area Rotary Club  
19 Student of the Month. Tonya Haynes asked if she was successful in sending all her college  
20 applications before Thanksgiving. Alyssa shared that she did send 15 applications and had  
21 already received six acceptances – she is currently considering Bloomsburg University but is still  
22 waiting to hear back from other schools.

23 Max Herman shared that the decision for Cornell University’s student acceptance will be this  
24 Thursday and he is anxiously awaiting their decision. He has five other applications sent out but  
25 is holding out for Cornell as his top choice. Nathan Imhoff commended Max and praised him on  
26 his recent scholarly accomplishments. Herman thanked Imhoff for his confidence in him but  
27 affirmed it is a very competitive application and acceptance process.

28 Nathan Imhoff mentioned that the 2023-2024 Akron Borough Junior Council Members, of which  
29 Max Herman was a member, were recently featured in the December 2024 Pennsylvania  
30 Borough News published by Pennsylvania State Association of Boroughs.

31 **F. Correspondence & Petitions**

32 **1. Historical Society of the Cocalico Valley**

33 **G. Executive Session**

34 **Adjournment**

35 Paul Swangren, Jr. moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:57pm; second by Justin Gehman.  
36 Motion carried.

37  
38 Respectfully submitted,

39  
40 Susan Davidson  
41 Assistant Borough Manager/Assistant Secretary

42  
43 SD/vw