

1 **Borough of Akron Council Meeting – January 13, 2025**

2

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

7

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

10

11 **Visitors:**

- 12 Thomas Murray, Jr., 219 S 11th St
- 13 Larry Alexander, Ephrata Review
- 14 John Taylor, 216 S 8th St Akron
- 15 Sue Glick, 119 S 10th St Akron
- 16 Chief Eric Higgins, West Earl Police
- 17 Anthony Sheaffer, 110 Main St Akron
- 18 Dale Miller, Akron Volunteer Fire Company
- 19 Nathan Shirk, Akron Volunteer Fire Company
- 20 Dennis Stauffer, 209 S 10th St Akron, Akron Lions Club

21

22 **Roll Call**

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

34

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

36

37 **Approval of Minutes**

38 Ryan Cochran made a motion to approve the Akron Borough Council meeting minutes of the
39 December 09, 2024 meeting; second by Paul Swangren, Jr. No discussion, motion carried.

40

41 **Visitors/Comments from the Public**

42 Dennis Stauffer asked on behalf of the Akron Lions Club how the recent changes in the park
43 landscape would potentially affect the Annual Akron Day in the Park. The car show is a large
44 part of Akron Day in the Park, and he wanted to ensure the area that is typically used for the car

1 show will be dry enough. Sean Molchany responded that it will be dependent on how wet the
2 winter and spring seasons are which affect the water table.

3
4 **Akron Volunteer Fire Company Lease Agreement**

5 President Dale Miller and Trustee Nathan Shirk represented Akron Volunteer Fire Company
6 (AVFC) to formally request a renewal of the lease for the land that the AVFC station is on. The
7 current lease expires in October 2025. Borough Manager Sean Molchany was forwarded a copy
8 of the lease a few months ago but was not able to review it thoroughly. He suggested to Council
9 that the Parks & Property Committee be allowed to review the current lease before Council
10 makes a decision on the renewal.

11
12 He continued by stating that the current lease contains nothing detrimental to either party – it
13 could benefit from updated verbiage and a review by the Borough Solicitor. Nathan Imhoff
14 stated he would like the Parks & Property Committee to review the current lease, suggest any
15 changes, and then forward to the solicitor for review. He desires a fair lease agreement for both
16 parties. Discussion regarding the renewal process ensued. Nathan Shirk asked if a general
17 timeline for the approval process could be given. Sean Molchany replied that his goal is
18 April/May 2025.

19
20 **Bills**

21 Ryan Cochran moved to approve the January 2025 Borough of Akron disbursements and fund
22 the appropriate account for the disbursements as reviewed by the Finance Committee. Second
23 by Kleon Zimmerman, motion carried.

24
25 **Reports/Announcements**

26 **Police Report**

27 Chief Higgins has submitted his report to Council and is working on his 2024 year-end report.
28 Officer Wil Torres was introduced to Council by Chief Higgins. Previously Officer Torres had
29 worked for Ephrata Hospital in their security department. He is currently in field training with
30 Detective Mertz. Officer Torres shared that he lives in Lebanon County and his interest in law
31 enforcement began while he was employed at the hospital. His experience in the security
32 department prompted him to join West Earl Police Department and attend the academy. He is
33 bilingual in English and Spanish and offered his translator services to Akron Borough if ever
34 needed. Paul Swangren, Jr. asked if the next meeting to discuss the upcoming police contract
35 renewal had been scheduled – there is nothing scheduled at this time. Chief Higgins will
36 connect with West Earl Township Manager Jenna Reigle to set a date and time.

37
38 **Mayor's Report**

39 Mayor McBeth shared that a 2025 brochure of programs and officers for the Historical Society
40 of the Cocalico Valley is in Council books. He mentioned that the program offered on May 28,
41 2025 was particularly interesting – “The Vehicle for Growth: The History of the Reading and
42 Columbia Railroad”. The Society would like to host Akron Borough Council for a regularly
43 scheduled meeting. Nathan Imhoff commented that he would enjoy having a Council meeting at
44 the Historical Society and thinks it is a good idea. He asked if the programs listed in the brochure

1 require a membership to attend. Mayor McBeth replied that a membership is not required
2 unless it states “members only”, such as the annual picnic.

3
4 ***Managers’ Report***

5 *Administration & Finance*

6 December 2024 month-end financials have been reconciled. January 2025 payables have been
7 reviewed by the Finance Committee.

8
9 *Parks & Property*

10 Stream Embankment/Rain Garden update: Construction is complete except for additional
11 plantings that will take place in the first quarter of 2025.

12
13 *Streets*

14 Update on traffic signal through TRG: permit has submitted to PennDOT. The review was
15 completed with one comment and revised plans were resubmitted last week.

16
17 Staff discussed the Diamond Street project for 2026 with the Borough Engineer. The Engineer
18 will put together bid specifications for an October/November 2025 bid. Staff will send out
19 sidewalk inspection letters in February 2025 to all property owners and inspections will take
20 place in March 2025.

21
22 *Public Utilities*

23 Sewer flow numbers are looking good. More I&I televising is planned this year at Tobacco Road
24 and Oak Street.

25
26 Sean Molchany along with Kleon Zimmerman and Justin Gehman met on Friday, December 6,
27 2024 in regards to the water tower project. The Borough Engineer is reviewing for a
28 recommendation. This should be on the agenda for the next meeting for discussion. Dennis
29 Stauffer asked for an explanation of the project. Molchany replied with the overview that the
30 standpipe located on S Tenth St is in need of repair and/or replacement based on a recent
31 evaluation that was completed. Several options are being explored but no decision has been
32 made yet.

33
34 The Borough will engage with Susquehanna River Basin Commission (SRBC) to enter into the
35 Public Water Supply Assistance Program to begin the permit renewal process, which will help
36 with the cost of the permit renewal. This permit is set to expire on September 18, 2028.

37
38 As discussed with Council during the budget process, Miller & Sons tested the resin in the
39 nitrate removal units. The test results are included in Council books. It is recommended that the
40 resin be replaced within the next year. This is not a budgeted item in the 2025 budget due to
41 the fact it was unknown during the budget process. In the future, the Borough will need to test
42 the resin every 8-10 years. This information was forwarded to the Public Utilities Committee just
43 before the holidays. Sean Molchany has requested a committee meeting to discuss and make a
44 recommendation to Council.

1
2 *Community Relations*
3 Akron’s Annual Shoe-In event took place on December 31, 2024. Sean Molchany thanked the
4 Shoe-In Committee for all the work that was put in to make the event happen. A wrap-up
5 meeting will be scheduled to discuss the event.

6
7 *Planning & Zoning*
8 There are no Planning Commission or Zoning Hearing Board meetings scheduled at this time.

9
10 *Personnel*
11 None

12
13 *Other Business*
14 The ambulance report was sent via email per Council’s request.

15
16 *Board Vacancies*
17 Building Code Appeals Board
18 Planning Commission

19
20 **Finance** – Reviewed by Ryan Cochran
21 Fund balances December 31, 2024

22	General Fund - \$82,494.08	
23	Water Fund - \$58,066.29	
24	Sewer Fund - \$136,087.22	
25	Highway Aid - \$184,291.55	
26	General Fund Reserves	General Fund Reserves
27	Restricted - \$102,363.00	Restricted (Goal) \$100,000.00
28	Operating - \$55,862.66	
29	Capital - \$104,732.14	
30	Total - \$262,957.80	Total - \$100,000.00
31	Water Fund Reserves	
32	Restricted - \$72,992.00	
33	Operating - \$196,319.37	
34	Capital - \$0.00	
35	Total - \$269,311.37	
36	Sewer Fund Reserves	
37	Restricted - \$121,822.00	
38	Operating - \$240,703.02	
39	Capital - \$0.00	
40	Total - \$362,525.02	
41	Capital Projects - \$584.76	
42	Community Fund - \$1,367.27	
43	Non-Uniform Pension - \$3,764.64	
44	Total - \$1,361,450.00	

1 **Escrow** - \$1,919.87

2

3 ***Community Relations***

4 Bonnie Young shared the update that the Luminary Walk held in Roland Park was a success and
5 that many people came out that evening. Sue Glick estimates about 600 people participated in
6 at least one of the walking paths and enjoyed refreshments and live music.

7

8 Bonnie Young and Tonya Haynes will be meeting to plan this year’s summer concerts. Nathan
9 Imhoff asked if sponsorships will be requested this year – Young replied that it would be
10 wonderful to get sponsors. Imhoff asked Larry Alexander of the Ephrata Review if he would
11 include the upcoming planned summer concerts in an article and mention the request for
12 sponsors.

13

14 ***Parks & Property***

15 No report. Nathan Imhoff shared that on the recent snow day he took his daughter to Roland
16 Park to enjoy the sledding hill and had a great time. He mentioned his gratitude to the Borough
17 for allowing people to use the hill.

18

19 ***Personnel***

20 No report. Sean Molchany asked if Personnel Committee had an agenda for the upcoming
21 Personnel meeting – Paul Swangren, Jr. stated he did not have anything on the agenda.
22 Molchany requested to use that time for a second monthly Finance Committee meeting.

23

24 ***Streets***

25 No report. Dennis Stauffer asked if there are plans to resurface Tenth St. Sean Molchany replied
26 that the Borough is waiting a year to see if any of the existing surface settles, and will re-
27 evaluate for 2027 budget if necessary.

28

29 ***Public Utilities***

30 No report.

31

32 ***Junior Council Members Report***

33 Justin Gehman left the meeting at 7:10pm.

34

35 Martin Sweigart shared that like Nathan Imhoff, he also took advantage of the snow fall and
36 went sledding with his friends at Roland Park. He added that he was very grateful for the hay
37 bales that have been placed at the bottom of the hill in front of the tree trunks for safety.

38

39 Alyssa Vasyanovich asked if there are any volunteer opportunities that she can share with her
40 friends who are looking for ways to get service hours for school. Dennis Stauffer mentioned that
41 the Akron Lions Club is holding their annual spaghetti dinner soon and that they could use help
42 with that. Nathan Imhoff asked Bonnie Young to compile a list of local opportunities to
43 volunteer. Discussion ensued regarding how volunteer hours are logged, what qualifies, etc.

44

1 Max Herman has nothing to report and regretfully shared that he will be unable to attend the
2 next meeting.

3

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

5 ***Old Business***

6 ***New Business***

7 **A. Resolutions**

8 **B. Ordinances**

9 **C. Motions and Decisions**

10 **D. Acknowledgements**

11 **E. Other Business/Deliberations**

12 **F. Correspondence & Petitions**

13 **G. Executive Session**

14

15 **Adjournment**

16 Paul Swangren, Jr. moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:17pm; second by Kleon Zimmerman.

17 Motion carried.

18

19 Respectfully submitted,

20

21 Sean Molchany

22 Borough Manager/Secretary

23

24 SM/vw