

1 **Borough of Akron Council Meeting – February 10, 2025**

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; Martin Sweigart, Junior Council Member (Alyssa Vasyanovich, Junior
6 Council Member 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 John Taylor, 216 S 8th St Akron
14 Sue Glick, 119 S 10th St Akron
15 Anthony Sheaffer, 110 Main St Akron

16

17 **Roll Call**

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

29

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

31

32 **Approval of Minutes**

33 Tonya Haynes made a motion to approve the Akron Borough Council meeting minutes of the
34 January 27, 2025 meeting; second by Paul Swangren, Jr. Mayor McBeth inquired about page 5,
35 line 12 regarding the playground committee and if that is a Council appointed committee. Tonya
36 Haynes replied that it is not; it is an unofficial working group that was put together to fact find
37 and research for future playground projects. She has a binder for the Mayor because he stated
38 interest at the last meeting. McBeth asked who was in attendance – Haynes stated that Nathan
39 Imhoff, Ryan Cochran, Sean Molchany and herself were present. Justin Gehman was absent. No
40 other discussion, motion carried.

41

42 **Visitors/Comments from the Public**

43 No comments.

44

1 **Bills**

2 Ryan Cochran moved to approve the February 2025 Borough of Akron disbursements and fund
3 the appropriate account for the disbursements as reviewed by the Finance Committee. Second
4 by Kleon Zimmerman, motion carried.

5
6 **Reports/Announcements**

7 **Police Report**

8 Nathan Imhoff noted there was not a West Earl Police Officer present at the meeting, but that a
9 report was included in Council books.

10

11 **Mayor's Report** - No report.

12

13 **Manager's Report**

14 *Administration & Finance*

15 January 2025 month-end financials have been reconciled. February 2025 payables have been
16 reviewed by the Finance Committee.

17

18 *Parks & Property*

19 Ryan Cochran, Tonya Haynes and Sean Molchany met to discuss the Park House and future
20 rental. The house will be vacant March 1, 2025. Staff will do a walkthrough of the house and
21 report back to Parks & Property what needs to be done for future rental.

22

23 *Streets*

24 Update on traffic signal through TRG: permit has submitted to PennDOT. The review was
25 completed with one comment and revised plans were resubmitted and are waiting on approval.

26

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

31

32 The remaining street lights have been converted to LED on Heritage Road, Colonial Drive and
33 Meadowview Street as well as the Akron Borough portion of the Warwick-Ephrata Rail Trail.
34 There are a few streets awaiting to be completed.

35

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. The Borough Engineer is seeking proposals for the standpipe project – hopefully
39 staff will have proposals within the next few weeks for discussion.

40

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

44

1 Public Works is still looking for a water line leak that has not surfaced. Molchany shared that
2 staff have been looking for the leak for three to four weeks. There were a few smaller leaks in
3 hydrants that were detected and repaired. Tonya Haynes asked if the leak was in a specific area
4 and Molchany replied that it could be anywhere, and that there were a few suspected areas
5 that will be investigated that evening. Paul Swangren, Jr. noted that the numbers for water flow
6 didn't look too bad and then asked if there was an idea of how much water was being lost per
7 day. Public Works Supervisor Tom Murray, Jr. replied that it was about 100,000 gallons.

8

9 *Community Relations – No Report*

10

11 *Planning & Zoning*

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

13

14 *Personnel – No Report*

15

16 *Other Business*

17 The ambulance report was sent via email per Council's request.

18

19 *Board Vacancies*

20 Building Code Appeals Board

21 Planning Commission

22

23 Paul Swangren, Jr. asked about the Diamond Street project and if the letters sent to property
24 owners regarding sidewalk inspections were for existing sidewalks only. Sean Molchany affirmed
25 yes and continued by stating that during the budget planning process last year, it was decided
26 that the side of Diamond Street that does not have sidewalks will not be required to put them
27 in. It will be very costly and will require reconstruction of most of the front yards of the
28 properties, therefore sidewalks will only be on the one side of the street.

29

30 Paul Swangren, Jr. also mentioned State Representative Keith Greiner's recent newsletter and
31 the mention of new rounds of grants available for parks and properties. Sean Molchany stated
32 that there are grant applications open currently for parks, but the grants are 100% matching
33 and the current budget cannot justify providing matching funds for a grant at this time. Paul
34 Swangren, Jr. shared that he is still thinking of the standpipe project and wanted to ensure that
35 staff is still looking for every opportunity for grant money.

36

37 Mayor McBeth asked if the Borough is still looking into a pump project for the standpipe. Paul
38 Swangren, Jr. replied that the Borough was considering a closed-loop system but that it had
39 been decided not to pursue it due to the cost required to seek an approval for that type of
40 system at approximately \$30,000.00. McBeth inquired where the proposed site for the
41 standpipe will be; Molchany replied that the Broad Street Park is the current site under
42 consideration. The Mayor stated that he has received significant questions from concerned
43 residents about the loss of playground space since the project was reported in the news.
44 Nathan Imhoff replied that the relocation of the standpipe to Broad Street Park has not been

1 approved by Council. Sean Molchany advised that the only possible locations within Broad
2 Street Park would be the center outfield or right outfield areas of the baseball field. Paul
3 Swangren, Jr. stated that the standpipe would not have a large enough footprint to affect the
4 existing baseball field taking it out of play.

5
6 **Finance** – Reviewed by Ryan Cochran
7 Fund balances January 31, 2024

8
9 **General Fund** - \$35,996.47

10 **Water Fund** - \$28,286.16

11 **Sewer Fund** - \$113,807.10

12 **Highway Aid** - \$184,954.36

13 **General Fund Reserves**

14 Restricted - \$2,363.00

15 Operating - \$56,090.15

16 Capital - \$105,154.63

17 Total - \$163,607.78

General Fund Reserves

Restricted (Goal) \$100,000.00

Total - \$100,000.00

18 **Water Fund Reserves**

19 Restricted - \$72,992.00

20 Operating - \$197,424.34

21 Capital - \$0.00

22 Total - \$270,416.34

23 **Sewer Fund Reserves**

24 Restricted - \$121,822.00

25 Operating - \$242,197.97

26 Capital - \$0.00

27 Total - \$364,019.97

28 **Capital Projects** - \$587.11

29 **Community Fund** - \$1,331.57

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

31 Total - \$1,166,771.50

32 **Escrow** - \$1,926.78

33

34 Nathan Imhoff noted the recent decrease in General Fund Reserves. Valerie Wagner shared that
35 a transfer of \$100,000.00 was made from General Fund Reserves to supplement the General
36 Fund until tax revenues are distributed. This is a common practice at the beginning of each year
37 and will be repaid to the General Fund Reserves.

38

39 **Community Relations**

40 Bonnie Young shared that she compiled a list of local volunteer opportunities and shared with
41 Valerie Wagner who posted to the Borough's web page. Young was contacted by West Earl
42 Police Officer Ryan Blessing regarding the upcoming Coffee with a Cop event on February 18,
43 2025 from 8:00-10:00AM. It will be hosted at the Akron Borough office in the Council Room.

44

1 Nathan Imhoff suggested Bonnie Young reach out to the U.S. Road Running group to find out
2 more information about their upcoming race season and how they utilize Roland Park.

3

4 **Parks & Property** - No report.

5

6 **Personnel** - No report.

7

8 **Streets** - No report.

9

10 **Public Utilities**

11 No report. Nathan Imhoff asked Tom Murray, Jr. about the timeline to connect the Borough's
12 water plant back into the Ephrata Area Joint Authority (EAJA) system. Tom Murray, Jr. replied
13 that the plan is to reconnect tomorrow. He further stated that the connection was turned off
14 after EAJA experienced a significant water main break that resulted in a boil advisory, but that
15 even if it had not been turned off, all water coming from EAJA's system is filtered and re-
16 chlorinated through the Akron Borough treatment plant. Paul Swangren, Jr. surmised that the
17 connection was turned off more so for EAJA to recover some water volume during their own
18 water loss.

19

20 Resident Anthony Sheaffer asked if the 100,000 gallons per day leak is coming out of the
21 hydrants or the water system underground. Paul Swangren, Jr. replied that it is an underground
22 leak. Sean Molchany clarified that the underground lines feed the hydrants and are all
23 connected in the same system. Sheaffer asked if underground leaks create sinkholes. Tom
24 Murray, Jr. said that if the leak is shallow enough it will not cause a sinkhole. Nathan Imhoff
25 added that many the leak surfaces in a roadway and is spotted bubbling up. Discussion ensued
26 regarding the detection process for leaks.

27

28 **Junior Council Members Report** - No report.

29

30 **Public Hearings/Presentations/Appointments**

31 **Old Business**

32 **New Business**

33 **A. Resolutions**

34 **1. Resolution 2025-001 Authorizing and Implementing Changes to the**
35 **Designated Pension Plan Officials**

36 Sean Molchany provided context for the resolution. Currently the Borough
37 pension plan is through Nationwide and is being switched to Schwab. The
38 current signers were Susan Davidson and Nathan Imhoff and are being
39 updated to Sean Molchany and Nathan Imhoff. Tonya Haynes asked the
40 reasoning behind the switch in pension providers. Molchany shared that
41 Girard Pension Services has been dissatisfied with timeliness in
42 communications with Nationwide. Paul Swangren, Jr. clarified that an
43 additional resolution was not necessary to remove Davidson because the
44 change in pension providers requires all new paperwork regardless.

1
2 Tonya Haynes moved to authorize resolution 2025-001 authorizing and
3 implementing changes to the designated pension plan officials. Kleon
4 Zimmerman second, motion carried.

5 **B. Ordinances**

6 **C. Motions and Decisions**

7 **1. Invoices for Electronic Approval, Payment of Invoices, Authorized Check**
8 **Signers**

9 Kleon Zimmerman moved to authorize the Director of Finance to submit
10 Borough invoices for approval electronically, and authorize the Director of
11 Finance to make payment of invoices via ACH, credit card or check after
12 receiving two individual approvals from authorized check signers. I also move
13 to authorize check payments to be issued using an electronic copy of the
14 Finance Committee's signatures. Bonnie Young second. Paul Swangren, Jr.
15 asked for confirmation that this would be a soft start with proper testing.
16 Valerie Wagner confirmed it will be. Motion carried.

17 **2. Resignation of Assistant Borough Secretary**

18 Paul Swangren, Jr. moved to accept the resignation of Susan Davidson as
19 Assistant Borough Secretary. Bonnie Young second, motion carried.

20 **3. Appointment of Assistant Borough Secretary**

21 Paul Swangren, Jr. stated that he appreciated Kleon Zimmerman for stepping
22 up; however, he sees no urgency in appointing an Assistant Borough
23 Secretary, rather he would like to see the secretary job description reviewed
24 with Council and address the subject at the next meeting. Nathan Imhoff
25 agreed to table the discussion.

26 **D. Acknowledgements**

27 **E. Other Business/Deliberations**

28 **F. Correspondence & Petitions**

29 **G. Executive Session**

30
31 Paul Swangren, Jr. expressed gratitude towards the Public Works department for their work
32 during snow and ice storms, for maintaining the salt storage levels and the diligence in seeking
33 the find the water line leak.

34
35 **Adjournment**

36 Paul Swangren, Jr. moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:05pm; second by Tonya Haynes, motion
37 carried.

38
39 Respectfully submitted,

40
41 Sean Molchany
42 Borough Manager/Secretary

43
44 SM/vw