

1 **Borough of Akron Council Meeting – January 12, 2026**

2

3 **Council Members Present:** Nathan Imhoff, President; Justin Gehman, Vice President; Paul Swangren, Jr.;
4 Ryan Cochran; Tracy Fisher; Kleon Zimmerman; Tonya Haynes

5

6 **Others Present:** Mayor Susan Davidson; Sean Molchany, Borough Manager; Valerie Wagner, Director of
7 Finance

8

9 **Visitors:**

10 Thomas Murray, Jr., Public Works Supervisor

11 John Taylor, 218 S 8th St Akron

12 Anthony Sheaffer, 110 Main St Akron

13 Sue Glick, 119 S 10th St Akron

14 Officer Jed Custer, West Earl Police

15 Detective Joshua Mertz, West Earl Police

16 John McBeth, 410 Edgehill Rd Akron

17

18 **Roll Call**

19 Tracy Fisher – present

20 Tonya Haynes – present

21 Ryan Cochran – present

22 Paul Swangren, Jr. – present

23 Kleon Zimmerman – present

24 Justin Gehman, Vice President – present

25 Nathan Imhoff, President – present

26 Mayor Susan Davidson – present

27

28 President Nathan Imhoff opened the meeting at 6:30pm with the Pledge of Allegiance.

29

30 **Approval of Minutes**

31 Tonya Haynes made a motion to approve the minutes of the December 8, 2025 Akron Borough Council
32 meeting; second by Kleon Zimmerman. Paul Swangren, Jr. stated that he was not able to review all the
33 minutes line by line due to the size of the file on his phone; Valerie Wagner to follow up with him. No
34 further discussion, motion carried. Tonya Haynes moved to approve the minutes of the December 15,
35 2025 Akron Borough Council meeting; second by Ryan Cochran. No discussion, motion carried. Tonya
36 Haynes made a motion to approve the minutes of the January 5, 2026 Akron Borough Council meeting;
37 second by Justin Gehman. No discussion, motion carried.

38

39 **Visitors/Comments from the Public**

40

41 **Bills**

42 Ryan Cochran moved to approve the January 2026 Borough of Akron disbursements and fund the
43 appropriate account for the disbursements as reviewed by the Finance Committee: General Fund
44 \$150,326.26, Community Fund \$257.58, Water Fund \$42,425.46, Sewer Fund \$17,397.83, and Highway
45 Aid \$360.85, totaling \$210,767.98. Second by Kleon Zimmerman. No discussion, motion carried.

46

47 **Reports/Announcements**

48 **Police Report**

1 Detective Mertz introduced Officer Custer to Council. Kleon Zimmerman thanked WEPD for placing the
2 speed sensor on 9th Street, and asked if there is a log that could be shared with Council. Detective Mertz
3 affirmed that the report can be provided to Council.
4

5 **Mayor's Report**

6 Mayor Davidson would like to set up regular monthly meetings with Police Chief Higgins and Borough
7 Manager Sean Molchany. Tonya Haynes asked when the next intermunicipal police meeting is. Mayor
8 Davidson will find out and will provide an update.
9

10 **Manager's Report**

11 *Administration & Finance*

12 December 2025 month-end financials have been reconciled. January 2026 payables were reviewed by
13 the Finance Committee. Borough Audit will take place the week of January 19th. Non-Uniform Pension
14 Audit will take place the week of January 14th. Workers Comp Audit should be completed by the end of
15 the month.
16

17 *Parks & Property*

18 Park House Draft Agreement has been forwarded to the Fire Company for review and comment. Public
19 Work Staff has winterized the building until the Fire Company makes a decision. Council asked during
20 Budget Meeting to get pricing on solar for Roland Park Lodge and Pavilions, a cost proposal is in your
21 books for review.
22

23 *Streets*

24 Diamond Street project award at the December meeting the contract is being finalized. Notice to
25 Proceed date is April 15, 2026 and end of construction date is June 10, 2026.
26

27 *Public Utilities*

28 Updated Standpipe Proposal is in your packets for review and consideration. Public Utilities Committee
29 should meet and make a recommendation to staff.
30

31 *Community Relations – No Report*

32 *Planning & Zoning – No Report*
33

34 *Personnel*

35 We have started the process of replacing the vacancy position in Public Works.
36

37 *Other Business*

38 A monthly Public Works Activity Report will be added to your packets with the Borough Engineers
39 report. The report will highlight what the Public Works employees are working on a monthly basis.
40

41 *Board Vacancies*

42 Building Code Appeals Board
43

44 **Finance** – Reviewed by Ryan Cochran

45 Fund balances December 31, 2025
46

47 **General Fund** - \$85,749.14

48 **Water Fund** - \$152,013.72

1	Sewer Fund - \$268,655.58	
2	Highway Aid - \$303,936.81	
3		
4	General Fund Reserves	General Fund Reserves
5	Operating* - \$16,660.35	Operating* (Goal) \$202,363.00
6	Savings** - \$0.00	
7	Capital - \$121,819.71	
8	Total - \$138,480.06	Left to Meet Goal - \$185,702.65
9	Water Fund Reserves	
10	Operating* - \$72,992.00	
11	Savings** - \$141,423.43	
12	Capital - \$0.00	
13	Total - \$214,415.43	
14	Sewer Fund Reserves	
15	Operating* - \$121,822.00	
16	Savings** - \$44,671.61	
17	Capital - \$0.00	
18	Total - \$166,493.61	
19		
20	Capital Projects – \$924.41	
21		
22	Community Fund - \$2,038.04	
23	Non-Uniform Pension - \$3,764.64	
24	Total - \$1,339,957.86	
25	Escrow - \$938.65	

27 *Formerly called "Restricted"
28 **Formerly called "Operating"

30 Nathan Imhoff asked if funds needed to be borrowed from General Fund Reserves to start the year off;
31 Valerie Wagner replied that at the end of the year several capital invoices came due from projects that
32 had been completed but not invoiced yet. As grant reimbursements and tax income begin coming in, the
33 General Fund Reserves balance will go back up. Nathan Imhoff also asked about the plan for fund
34 balances at the end of the 2025 year, if they will get moved over into reserves. Wagner explained how
35 the auditors would like to see fund balances reported within the operating fund itself, explained how to
36 find revenue over expenditures on the balance sheet, and will share that report with Council.

37
38 **Community Relations – No Report**

39 Nathan Imhoff asked for an update on how the New Year’s Eve Shoe-In event went. Valerie Wagner
40 reported that there was a good turnout, with a slight dip in attendance between 10:30-11:30pm (which
41 is consistent with attendance in years past). It was not wet this year which was a huge win. Everyone
42 enjoyed the food, DJ and balloon artist. New this year was a best dressed/costume contest which was
43 well appreciated; one winner was dressed in a banana suit and the other was wearing her “New Year’s
44 Eve Finest” clothes.

45
46 **Parks & Property**

47 Tonya Haynes provided an overview of her initiatives to update the playgrounds at the parks. Leathers,
48 Inc. was able to visit the Akron Pines Playground at Roland Park recently and is currently preparing the

1 assessment report. Tonya Haynes made a motion to put together a committee for a 250th birthday
2 celebration for the United States to be held in Roland Park in late July; second by Paul Swangren, Jr.
3 Discussion: Paul Swangren, Jr. suggested picking a rain date and noted that Akron Day in the Park is held
4 in June and National Night Out is held in August. Motion carried.

5
6 In regard to the potential lease with Akron Volunteer Fire Company on the Park House, Council would
7 like a deadline of February 23, 2026 for AVFC to agree or decline to the lease. Sean Molchany will
8 communicate with the President of the Fire Company.

9
10 Mayor Davidson would like to hold a remembrance service for the 25th anniversary of September 11,
11 2001 in Roland Park, likely in the morning. More details to come.

12
13 Resident Anthony Sheaffer asked if a plan for playground maintenance/upkeep had been decided upon,
14 whether that was a monthly budget or an annual contribution towards a playground fund. Valerie
15 Wagner replied that in the 2026 approved budget there is a line item for \$3,000 annual to be allocated
16 towards a playground fund.

17
18 ***Personnel – No Report***

19
20 ***Streets***

21 Vice President Gehman mentioned that later in the agenda there will be discussion regarding a street
22 sign request.

23
24 ***Public Utilities***

25 Kleon Zimmerman called attention to the report from RK&K Engineering and stated that the Public
26 Utilities Committee has not had time to meet but will be scheduling something soon.

27
28 President Nathan Imhoff assigned secondary committee assignments for 2026-2027:
29 ***Finance, Planning & Zoning Committee*** – Ryan Cochran, Chair, and Kleon Zimmerman
30 ***Community Relations & Safety*** – Tracy Fisher, Chair, and Tonya Haynes
31 ***Personnel*** – Paul Swangren, Jr., Chair, and Ryan Cochran
32 ***Parks & Property*** – Tonya Haynes, Chair, and Justin Gehman
33 ***Streets & Stormwater*** – Justin Gehman, Chair, and Tracy Fisher
34 ***Public Utilities*** – Kleon Zimmerman, Chair, and Paul Swangren, Jr.

35
36 ***Public Hearings/Presentations/Appointments***

37
38 ***Old Business***

39 **A. Park House Lease Agreement** – discussed in Parks & Property report.

40 ***New Business***

41 **A. Resolutions**

42 **1. Resolution 26-003 Approving the Sewer Connection of 16 Main St**

43 Paul Swangren, Jr. moved to approve Resolution 26-003 Approving the Sewer Connection of 16 Main
44 Street Akron, Pennsylvania to the Akron Borough Sewer System; second by Kleon Zimmerman. Sean
45 Molchany provided the background that the property in question is in Ephrata Township that had an
46 onsite sewer system that failed. Discussions have been had between the property owner, Sean
47 Molchany, and the Ephrata Township Manager, Steve Sawyer, that it makes the most sense for the
48 property to become an Akron Borough sewer customer. Paul Swangren, Jr. asked if there will be a grinder

1 pump or if it can be gravity fed. Tom Murray, Jr. answered that the property owner will be installing a
2 grinder pump, and that it is the only one in the area. John McBeth asked what sewer rate will be. Sean
3 Molchany replied that the agreement will state that the property will be an Akron Borough customer at
4 Akron Borough rates. Discussion followed regarding the other out-of-borough properties that are listed
5 at a different sewer rate than Akron Borough residents. Mayor Davidson believes it is worth discussing
6 with the Solicitor to update the out-of-borough agreements/rates and noted that the Borough has a
7 different Solicitor now than when discussions were had previously. No further discussion, motion
8 carried.

9 **2. Resolution 26-004 Establishing Procedures for the Standard Destruction of both**
10 **Public Meeting Audio Tapes Upon Adoption of the Written Approved Minutes by**
11 **Council**

12 Nathan Imhoff asked for context for this Resolution. Valerie Wagner explained that she recently learned
13 that it is best practice as advised by PSAB (PA State Association of Boroughs) that a resolution be
14 adopted outlining that any and all recordings of meetings that are used to assist the minute taker with
15 recording the meeting minutes be destroyed upon the adoption of the written minutes by Council.
16 Otherwise, all recordings are subject to the record retention schedule as set forth by the State, and
17 would require authorization by resolution each time a video file were to be deleted. If not deleted, video
18 files take up large amounts of storage which requires a paid storage add-on through Zoom, or more
19 server space if moved off the cloud to local storage.

20
21 Tonya Haynes moved to approve Resolution 26-004 Establishing Procedures for the Standard Destruction
22 of both Public Meeting Audio Tapes and Audio Video Tape Recordings or Digital Recordings Upon
23 Adoption of the Written Approved Minutes by Council; second by Paul Swangren, Jr. Motion carried.

24 **B. Ordinances**

25 **C. Motions and Decisions**

26 **D. Acknowledgements**

27 **E. Other Business/Deliberations**

28 **1. Statement of Financial Interest Forms**

29 Valerie Wagner asked that everyone complete the form at their earliest convenience, though not due
30 until May 1st, advised to return ASAP so as not to forget. These forms are required yearly for all
31 candidates, elected and appointed officials as well as some public employees. They are filed like tax
32 returns with information reported from the previous year (2025). There are other public officials and
33 employees that will have these forms mailed to them if they are not present tonight. A reminder will go
34 out in April.

35 **2. No Outlet Sign 300 Block of Broad Street**

36 Vice President Justin Gehman provided an overview of the resident complaints regarding multiple
37 vehicles per day entering a dead-end street and turning around in private driveways. Officer Sorensen
38 interviewed residents and recommended a “No Outlet” sign to be placed. Sean Molchany wants to verify
39 if the proposed sign would require an ordinance. Paul Swangren, Jr. believes it is an informational sign
40 only and would not even require Council approval. Justin Gehman made a motion to approve the
41 installation of a “No Outlet” sign at the corner of the 300 block of Broad Street so long as an ordinance is
42 not required; second by Paul Swangren, Jr. No further discussion, motion carried.

43 **F. Correspondence & Petitions**

44 **1. John McBeth 4th Quarter Wedding Report and Letter**

45 John McBeth submitted the report of weddings officiated while he was still Akron Borough Mayor. Tonya
46 Haynes asked if Mr. McBeth’s signature was intended as 1/6/2026 and not 1/6/2025. McBeth clarified
47 that it was meant to be 1/6/2026. Light discussion followed regarding ordination and who may officiate
48 weddings.

1 **2. Fire Company Alarm Letter**

2 Tonya Haynes shared her thoughts on the letter, stating that it is a very well written letter, and that she is
3 disappointed as a resident and Council Member that the Volunteer Fire Department Chief has not taken
4 this seriously. Haynes does not see the need for an alarm between the hours of 9pm-6am, due to the
5 fact that all volunteers are equipped with pagers and other communication devices, negating the need
6 for the alarm.

7
8 John McBeth said that he sees several valid reasons for the alarm, noting that during the day it may alert
9 volunteers who are not near a phone or page. Tonya Haynes clarified that this letter of complaint and
10 Haynes’ concern is referencing the alarm in the middle of the night, no complaints are being made
11 regarding the alarm during the day. McBeth agreed that during the night is a concern and said that there
12 used to be an agreement that the alarm would not sound at night. Anthony Sheaffer voiced his opinion
13 that the complaint was not valid because the resident who made the complaint willingly bought a home
14 in a town with a volunteer fire company that uses an alarm, referencing his own argument concerning
15 zoning ordinances and chickens in Akron Borough.

16
17 Kleon Zimmerman stated that he previously lived next to a different fire station that silenced the alarm
18 overnight, and it was never a problem for that fire company to have volunteers respond. Zimmerman
19 also pointed out that taxpayer money ultimately does go towards the AVFC through contributions made
20 by Akron Borough, contrary to what the Fire Chief is quoted as saying that they “do not receive any tax
21 money from Akron Borough or any municipality”.

22
23 Paul Swangren, Jr. said that John McBeth is correct that at some previous point in time there was an
24 agreement that the alarm would be silenced overnight, adding that he feels the siren goes off at all times
25 of the day and night because AVFC uses it as “advertising”. Swangren further stated that AVFC already
26 likely owns the technology needed for paging and alerting volunteers, and that while the letter is well
27 written, we do not have the other half of the story to validate anything that Fire Chief is quoted as
28 having said. Lastly, Swangren noted that the letter was not signed anything other than “thank you”, not
29 as “Anonymous” or “Borough Resident” and that no more time should be spent discussing said letter.
30 Paul Swangren, Jr. does believe another request should be made from Akron Borough Council to AVFC to
31 silence the alarm overnight. Sean Molchany will address the noise concern with the President of the
32 AFVC Board.

33 **G. Executive Session**

34
35 **Adjournment**

36 Paul Swangren, Jr. moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:57pm; second by Kleon Zimmerman, motion
37 carried.

38
39 Respectfully submitted,

40
41 Sean Molchany
42 Borough Manager/Secretary

43
44 SM/vw