

1 **Borough of Akron Council Meeting – January 26, 2026**
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3 **Council Members Present:** Nathan Imhoff, President; Justin Gehman, Vice President; Paul Swangren, Jr.;
4 Ryan Cochran; Kleon Zimmerman; (Tonya Haynes, Tracy Fisher absent)
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6 **Others Present:** Mayor Susan Davidson; Sean Molchany, Borough Manager; Valerie Wagner, Director of
7 Finance
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9 **Visitors:**

10 Thomas Murray, Jr., Public Works Supervisor
11 John Taylor, 218 S 8th St Akron
12 Darryl Witmer, Broad St Akron
13 Sue Glick, 119 S 10th St Akron
14 Officer John Mertz, West Earl Police
15 Officer Michael Specht, West Earl Police
16 Sergeant Jordan Byrnes, West Earl Police
17 Chief Eric Higgins, West Earl Police
18 John McBeth, 410 Edgehill Rd Akron
19 Scott Jackson 100 S 8th St Akron
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21 **Roll Call**

22 Tracy Fisher – absent
23 Tonya Haynes – absent
24 Ryan Cochran – present
25 Paul Swangren, Jr. – present
26 Kleon Zimmerman – present
27 Justin Gehman, Vice President – present
28 Nathan Imhoff, President – present
29 Mayor Susan Davidson – present
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31 President Nathan Imhoff opened the meeting at 6:33pm with the Pledge of Allegiance.
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33 **Approval of Minutes**

34 Ryan Cochran moved to approve the minutes of the January 12, 2026 Borough of Akron Council meeting;
35 second by Kleon Zimmerman. Paul Swangren, Jr. commented his appreciation for the thoroughness of
36 the minutes. No further discussion, motion carried.
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38 **Visitors/Comments from the Public**

39 Scott Jackson expressed concern regarding the relocation of the standpipe. Nathan Imhoff responded
40 that there have been no decisions made regarding the standpipe; the location in question is being
41 explored as a possibility, but nothing has been decided yet. Mr. Jackson stated that the park deed states
42 that it was gifted to the Borough for the purpose of staying as a park, and that is a concern to him. He
43 also stated it would be an eyesore to look at from his house. President Imhoff replied that Council is
44 doing its due diligence to work with engineers that will keep the footprint of the standpipe as reasonably
45 small as it can. Paul Swangren, Jr. added that there will be a public meeting held that will be properly
46 advertised before any and all construction would be approved.
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1 John McBeth echoed many of Mr. Jackson’s concerns and believes there are better locations than Broad
2 Street Park to be considered. Darryl Witmer also expressed concern about the possible location in Broad
3 Street Park obstructing his view from home, and restated that the deed outlined that the property is to
4 remain a park. Sean Molchany stated that the deed to the property has been reviewed by the Solicitor,
5 and the Solicitor has determined that the use and purpose of the property would remain unchanged
6 even if a water utility structure was to be constructed there. Discussion followed regarding the purpose
7 of the standpipe and other suggested locations within the Borough. President Imhoff thanked all visitors
8 for the comments, concerns, and discussion.

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10 ***Bills - None***

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12 ***Reports/Announcements***

13 ***Police Report***

14 Chief Higgins has emailed out the speed sentry report for S 9th St to Council. Nathan Imhoff asked if
15 there will be more speed enforcement there based on the findings in the report; Chief Higgins replied
16 that he has a meeting with the Supervisors of West Earl Township and it will be discussed then. Chief
17 Higgins thanked Council for the sympathy card that was recently sent to him for the passing of his father.
18 Suggested dates have been sent out for the next inter-municipal police meeting. There is a blood drive
19 scheduled for February 5, 2026 at the Akron Volunteer Fire Company. Officer Blessing participated in the
20 Snuggle up and Read event at Akron Elementary School. Chief Higgins introduced Officers Specht and
21 Mertz.

22
23 ***Mayor’s Report***

24 Mayor Davidson shared that there was a snow emergency declared this past Saturday, January 24, 2026.
25 After discussing with the Emergency Management Coordinator, Mayor Davidson would like to lift the
26 snow emergency.

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28 ***Manager’s Report – No Report***

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30 ***Finance – No Report***

31 Valerie Wagner had shared year-end reports with Council through email and encouraged anyone with
32 questions to reach out to her. Paul Swangren, Jr. inquired about two projects that were approved near
33 the end of the year, if they had been paid in 2025. Wagner will follow up with him directly.

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35 ***Community Relations – No Report***

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37 ***Parks & Property – No Report***

38 Nathan Imhoff asked if there was an update regarding the Park House Lease Draft. Sean Molchany
39 replied that he reached out to the AVFC President regarding the lease draft and the siren and a response
40 was not received.

41
42 ***Personnel***

43 Paul Swangren, Jr. shared that there was a brief Personnel Committee meeting this evening. Resumes are
44 coming in for the open position in Public Works. Swangren commended the Public Works Department
45 for the job well done over the weekend storm; Mayor Davidson echoed the praise for Public Works.
46 Discussion followed regarding resident notifications, social media and website notifications, etc. Nathan
47 Imhoff asked staff to explore modules that interface with the Caselle software that would allow for
48 resident communications, e-billing, and more.

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Streets

Street sweeping is scheduled for Monday, April 6th and Tuesday, April 7th. Ryan Cochran asked Chief Higgins if parking within 12 inches to the curb could be enforced after major snowstorms. Chief Higgins also recommended that Council consider enacting an ordinance stating that there is to be no on-street parking during snow removal.

Public Utilities

Kleon Zimmerman shared that the Public Utilities Committee met to discuss the proposal from RK&K dated December 17, 2025. There are several questions that Sean Molchany will take back to RK&K and C.S. Davidson to get answers.

Public Hearings/Presentations/Appointments

Old Business

- A. **Park House Lease Agreement** – discussed under Parks and Property

New Business

- A. **Resolutions**
- B. **Ordinances**
- C. **Motions and Decisions**
- D. **Acknowledgements**
- E. **Other Business/Deliberations**

- 1. **Ephrata Library – Book Drops**

Nathan Imhoff shared that communication from the Executive Director Abigail Balmer regarding the replacement book drop carts is in the Council packet. Ephrata Public Library is requesting that a portion of the 2026 budgeted donation amount would be used as a matching donation for what the Junior Friends Group raises through their escape room fundraiser. Ryan Cochran moved to approve a match donation for the Junior Friends Group not to exceed half of the annual budgeted donation to be put towards the book drop carts, and authorizes Ephrata Public Library to include Akron Borough in their advertising of the escape room fundraiser; second by Paul Swangren. Jr. Motion carried.

- 2. **Street Sweeping Monday April 6th and Tuesday April 7th** – discussed in Streets Report

- 3. **Standpipe Proposal RK&K dated December 17, 2025** – discussed in Public Utilities Report. Sean Molchany will take the Committee’s questions back to RK&K.

- F. **Correspondence & Petitions**

- 1. **C.S. Davidson Letter – Thank You**

- G. **Executive Session**

Adjournment

Paul Swangren, Jr. moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:25pm; second by Kleon Zimmerman, motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Sean Molchany
Borough Manager/Secretary

SM/vw