

1 **Borough of Akron Council Meeting – March 9, 2026**

2

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

5

6 **Others Present:** Mayor Susan Davidson; Valerie Wagner, Director of Finance

7

8 **Visitors:**

9 Thomas Murray, Jr., Public Works Supervisor

10 Officer John Hirneisen, School Resource Officer, Ephrata Area School District

11 Dale Miller, Akron Volunteer Fire Company

12 Dale Shirk, Akron Volunteer Fire Company

13 John Taylor, 218 S 8th St Akron

14 Anthony Sheaffer, 110 Main St Akron

15 Sue Glick, 119 S 10th St Akron

16 Dawn Stauffer, 209 S 10th St Akron

17 John McBeth, 410 Edgehill Rd Akron

18 Kenton Martin, 1234 Main St Akron

19 Detective Mertz, WEPD

20 Pam Musser, 17 Main St Akron

21 Baybars Charkas, Zoom

22 Michael, Zoom

23

24 **Roll Call**

25 Tracy Fisher – present

26 Tonya Haynes – present

27 Ryan Cochran – absent

28 Paul Swangren, Jr. – present

29 Kleon Zimmerman – present

30 Justin Gehman, Vice President – absent

31 Nathan Imhoff, President – present

32 Mayor Susan Davidson – present

33

34 President Nathan Imhoff opened the meeting at 6:34pm with the Pledge of Allegiance.

35

36 **Approval of Minutes**

37 Tonya Haynes made a motion to approve the minutes of the February 23, 2026 Akron Borough Council
38 meeting; second by Kleon Zimmerman. Paul Swangren, Jr. noted that on page 4, line 30 reads that
39 “discussion ensued”, and that there was more to the conversation including comments from visitors that
40 should be included in the minutes. He would like to see that part of the discussion included in the
41 minutes prior to approval. Tonya Haynes rescinded her motion to approve the minutes; second to
42 rescind by Kleon Zimmerman. The minutes from February 23, 2026 will be on the agenda at the next
43 meeting for approval.

44

45 **Visitors/Comments from the Public**

46 John McBeth mentioned that a soccer goal post is missing at Colonial Park. Tom Murray, Jr. explained
47 that it was broken and bent and is currently in the basement of the Borough building. John McBeth
48 would like to see them back on the field as soon as possible. Nathan Imhoff asked Tom Murray, Jr. to

1 determine if it is able to be repaired and if it cannot be repaired, to notify Tonya Haynes so that she can
2 reach out to Rosenberger who had originally donated the soccer goals to see if they would like to replace
3 it.

4
5 Ryan Cochran entered the meeting at 6:39pm.

6
7 ***Ephrata Area School District School Resource Officer John Hirneisen***

8 Mayor Susan Davidson introduced Officer John Hirneisen as the Ephrata Area School District’s School
9 Resource Officer (SRO). Officer Hirneisen thanked Mayor Davidson for inviting him to Council. He has
10 been in this role with Ephrata Police Department since 2020. If Council would like, Officer Hirneisen will
11 visit again at the end of every school year the same as he visits the Ephrata Borough Council. Tonya
12 Haynes asked if Officer Hirneisen covers just the Ephrata High School. Officer Hirneisen replied that he
13 covers all six buildings in the district. He is the only SRO assigned to the district, but he does receive
14 assistance from the other local police departments in the school district: West Earl Police Department
15 and the Northern Lancaster Regional Police Department. Tonya Haynes asked for the three main tasks of
16 his day to day – Officer Hirneisen begins and ends his day at the high school in the mornings and
17 afternoon for arrival and dismissal. He is part of crisis teams at each building that meet monthly and/or
18 quarterly. The main issue he handles throughout the day is student vaping at the high school and
19 sometimes the middle school. Officer Hirneisen spoke about the wide range of student backgrounds
20 within the district and how the “Life Ready Graduate” model is implemented. Tonya Haynes asked if he
21 has seen an uptick in drug usage; Officer Hirneisen responded that he would say yes, because of the
22 popularity of THC vapes. He spoke about trainings he provides to 8th grade students about drug and
23 alcohol addictions. Officer Hirneisen shared about lockdown drills only being required by federal law
24 once per school year. Nathan Imhoff asked if the school district would be able to perform more lockdown
25 drills. SRO Hirneisen shared that currently they do at least two: once in the beginning of the year and
26 then again after Christmas break. Mayor Davidson mentioned that it’s common to hear about the
27 negative traits of high school students and asked if there were any positive stories that Officer Hirneisen
28 could share. Officer Hirneisen said that as an SRO, the individual students he has interactions with are
29 the 10%, and that the other 90% are the good kids. He mentioned that he enjoys that many students will
30 say hi to him in the hallways between classes. John McBeth mentioned the “Every 15 Minutes” program
31 that will take place again this year, and the impact it has on the students. Officer Hirneisen said he will
32 share the program details through email with Council. Nathan Imhoff asked if Ephrata is the only school
33 district in the area that provides a program like this; Officer Hirneisen said that Cocalico is working on a
34 similar program, but to his knowledge it is the only program in the area like it. President Imhoff shared
35 his thanks and appreciate for Officer Hirneisen being here tonight.

36
37 ***Bills***

38 Kleon Zimmerman moved to approve the March 2026 Borough of Akron disbursements and fund the
39 appropriate account for the disbursements as reviewed by the Finance Committee: General Fund
40 \$120,275.32, Water Fund \$29,432.81, Sewer Fund \$10,457.51, totaling \$160,165.64. Second by Paul
41 Swangren, Jr. No discussion, motion carried.

42
43 ***Reports/Announcements***

44 ***Police Report***

45 February 2026 Police Report is in the Council books for review. Detective Mertz shared that there has
46 been a suspect identified from the recent vehicle break ins.

47
48 ***Mayor’s Report***

1 Mayor Davidson shared that State Representative Keith Greiner’s office is hosting a free shredding event
2 on Saturday, May 30th from 9am-noon at the Brownstown Career & Technology Center parking lot. She
3 would like to see this event shared on the Borough’s Facebook and webpage.
4

5 ***Manager’s Report***

6 *Administration & Finance*

7 February 2026 month-end financials have been reconciled. March 2026 payables were reviewed by the
8 Finance Committee.
9

10 *Parks & Property*

11 Park House Draft Agreement has been forwarded to the Fire Company for review and comment. Public
12 Works Staff have winterized the building until the Fire Company makes a decision.
13

14 *Streets*

15 Diamond Street project was awarded at the December meeting and the contract has been finalized.
16 Notice to Proceed date is April 15, 2026 and end of construction date is June 10, 2026.
17

18 Staff have met with contractors regarding the Miller Road culvert and sink hole. We are awaiting cost
19 proposals to fix the culvert, end wall, and piping. Miller Road remains closed.
20

21 *Public Utilities*

22 Staff has reached out to C.S. Davidson to coordinate a Zoom meeting with RK&K to finalize a proposal.
23 C.S. Davidson is in the process of setting up a date and time for this meeting.
24

25 Water line break on South 9th Street on March 3rd, staff was onsite until 11:30pm, water needed to be
26 turned off to fix the break. DEP was notified and proper paperwork was submitted to DEP. A boil water
27 advisory notice was distributed to all properties that were affected. The boil water advisory was lifted on
28 Friday, March 6, 2026.
29

30 *Community Relations – No Report*

31 *Planning & Zoning – No Report*
32

33 *Personnel*

34 New Public Works employee Justin Hainley started today.
35

36 *Other Business*
37

38 *Board Vacancies*

39 Building Code Appeals Board
40

41 Mayor Davidson shared her appreciation for the public works report and said it is very well done. Paul
42 Swagren, Jr. mentioned that the boil water advisory update was still on the website; Valerie Wagner can
43 remove the notice. Nathan Imhoff asked how many properties were affected by the boil water advisory,
44 Tom Murray, Jr. replied that 11 businesses and 22 residences were affected. Tonya Haynes if a road
45 closed sign could be placed at the other end of Miller Road so that traffic turning off of Fulton Street
46 would be aware that Miller Road is closed at the other end. Tom Murray, Jr. replied that detour signs
47 could be put up.
48

1	Finance – Reviewed by Valerie Wagner	
2	ALLOCATION TO GENERAL FUND	40,106.15
3	ALLOCATION TO COMMUNITY FUND	1,786.07
4	ALLOCATION TO WATER FUND	331,711.08
5	ALLOCATION TO SEWER FUND	370,584.25
6	ALLOCATION TO CAPITAL PROJECTS - GENERAL	929.72
7	ALLOCATION TO GENERAL CAPITAL RESERVES FUND	123,694.37
8	ALLOCATION TO PAYROLL FUND	3,245.52
9	CASH - ESCROW FUND	944.05
10	CASH - HIGHWAY AID FUND	305,251.35
11	CASH-NON-UNIFORM PENSION	<u>3,764.64</u>
12		
13	GRAND TOTAL ALL CASH	1,182,017.20

14
15 Tonya Haynes asked if the Community Fund covers any Parks & Property budgets. Valerie Wagner
16 answered that the Community Fund includes donations received for New Years Eve, Christmas
17 Wreaths/Tree Lighting, etc. The fund was established at the advisement of the Borough Auditors for
18 keeping donations separate from operating funds. Parks and Property budget would be included in the
19 General Fund under the Parks department.

20
21 Nathan Imhoff said that he likes the new Finance report format; Ryan Cochran that the previous format
22 was a manual input of balances generated from Caselle reports, and this report is generated straight
23 from Caselle. Cochran then shared a brief overview of the updated fund structure with the reserve funds
24 being reported within the operating fund per the Borough Auditor’s recommendation.

25
26 **Community Relations – No Report**

27
28 **Parks & Property**

29 Tonya Haynes began by speaking about the Park House lease and shared a letter from Akron Volunteer
30 Fire Company (AVFC) President Dale Miller in which the Fire Company respectfully declined the offer to
31 lease the Park House.

32
33 Tonya Haynes shared that herself, Ryan Cochran, and Mayor Davidson attended the recent AVFC
34 meeting. Haynes felt like it was a good meeting and shared some highlights of the discussion that night:
35 in regard to the topic of the fire alarm going off overnight, a shortened cycle was suggested (5 cycles
36 down to 3 cycles), a survey could be sent out asking Akron residents for their vote, and the noise
37 ordinance was discussed. AVFC President Miller said that the overnight siren is important to the Junior
38 Firefighters and the new members for notification. The AVFC does own pagers but not all members
39 would be issued one. AVFC said they could draft a survey question for residents such as, “Do you support
40 silencing the fire siren between 10pm-7am, recognizing that this could delay emergency notification and
41 response including potentially fewer fire fighters responding to your emergency” that could be included
42 in the next water/sewer bill sent by the Borough. AVFC President Miller shared that a total of 10
43 emergency calls were reported in 2025 between 10pm-7am. Dawn Stauffer asked if there were many
44 complainants or just one. Anthony Sheaffer claimed that they were all anonymous; Haynes responded
45 that not there has been more than one complainant and not all complaints were made anonymously.
46 Nathan Imhoff likes the way the question is currently phrased by the Fire Company. Ryan Cochran and
47 Mayor Davidson commented that 10 calls overnight in 2025 seems like a low figure – both Cochran and
48 Davidson live on Main Street by the Fire Station. Valerie Wagner mentioned that not every bill payer

1 sends the payment stub back in, and that might mean a lower response rate. Nathan Imhoff suggested a
2 QR code could be printed on the survey for those that pay online. Sue Glick asked if each resident be
3 granted a vote, or would the poll be limited to one vote per household. Dawn Stauffer asked if someone
4 would double check the results. Nathan Imhoff added that if the survey isn't sent until May, there is time
5 to test a survey and draft a paper survey to go into the May 2026 bills that are mailed. Paul Swangren, Jr.
6 noted that this is a waste of time, it is a biased question, and a waste of taxpayer funds and staff wages.
7 He believes the vote should have been taken at the fire company meeting and the decision made then;
8 Swangren does not believe this should be a survey issue sent out to Akron residents. Ryan Cochran
9 countered and testified that the fire company was fully prepared to take a vote, but felt that it was
10 brought back to Council out of respect. Mayor Davidson said she did feel it was fair to say the siren was
11 helpful for Junior Firefighters and new members. AVFC President Dale Miller said yes, they were
12 prepared to take a vote, yes, it is taxpayer money to a certain extent but it is also regarding services that
13 the taxpayers benefit from. Paul Swangren, Jr. asked what the point of this discussion is, because the Fire
14 Company will do what they want to do regardless of the survey outcome. AVFC President Dale Miller
15 responded that AVFC would honor the community's vote and not override it. AVFC member Dale Shirk
16 spoke in support of the value of the Junior Firefighters; their assistance frees up more experienced
17 Firefighters for harder tasks. Paul Swangren, Jr. argued that the siren is in violation of the noise
18 ordinance; AVFC President Dale Miller noted that there are laws that allow a fire siren to supersede the
19 noise ordinance. Tonya Haynes spoke in defense of the AVFC and noted the mature conversation that
20 was held at the AVFC meeting. Dale Miller said that the AVFC would respect the wishes of the
21 community regardless of how many or few surveys were returned. AVFC President Miller mentioned that
22 occasionally the pagers do have a lag and sent the alert slower than the siren. In regard to Paul
23 Swangren, Jr.'s claim that the Fire Company's suggested survey question is biased, Tonya Haynes
24 suggested something such as, "Due to complaints from constituents within Akron Borough, do you
25 support silencing the fire siren between the hours of 10pm-7am, recognizing that this could delay
26 emergency notification and response including potentially fewer fire fighters responding to your
27 emergency". John McBeth suggested that the survey also mention that the Firefighters do have
28 alternative notification measures to the siren, such as pagers, cell phones, etc. McBeth asked if the siren
29 programming could be modified to not go off for certain calls; Dale Miller replied that it cannot be
30 modified based on the type of call. Nathan Imhoff asked if reducing the 5 cycles back to 3 cycles is
31 something that could be put into effect quickly, or would that take time. Dale Miller said that he believes
32 it is a programming change that could be made easily.

33
34 Tonya Haynes reported that due to lack of interest, there will not be a 250th birthday of America
35 celebration. She met with Carol Smith from Reamstown Park to discuss their upcoming project to tear
36 down their wooden playground to build a new one. Haynes noted that the Reamstown Park is not
37 owned or managed by the Township, it is all volunteer managed. They have raised \$200,000 to have Play
38 by Design construct a new playground, meaning that they have swings, a tire swing, four slides, and
39 other equipment that will be available in very good condition that could be repurposed in the Akron
40 Pines Playground. The Reamstown Park project can start in June, and Play by Design will allow them to
41 pay in installments. Everything will need to be removed by April 15th. Tonya Haynes believes it would be
42 beneficial if Council could decide to get some of the used equipment to help save on the Akron Pines
43 project; she has already spoken to Borough Manager Sean Molchany and will share pictures of the
44 equipment to Council via email.

45
46 Akron Lions Club President Michael Morris reached out regarding a grant opportunity that they have
47 access to and would like to apply for on behalf of Akron Borough's Pines Playground at Roland Park. The
48 Akron Lions have formed a committee and would like to meet with Tonya Haynes and her committee to

1 discuss further. Last, Haynes shared about the Greenways, Trails and Recreation Program grant that Sean
2 Molchany has identified as a potential funding source for the lighting and paving along Lions Lane.
3 Nathan Imhoff said that the money does not need to be in hand in order to apply for the grant. Valerie
4 Wagner affirmed Imhoff’s statement and added that the grant application is open through May 31st with
5 a maximum award amount of \$250,000 and a 15% match required. This is why the motion is written as
6 “up to \$37,500”.

7
8 John McBeth asked if anything would be done for the potholes that are in Lions Lane as far as cold
9 patching. Valerie Wagner replied that she believes this was discussed a previous meeting and the plan
10 was to wait until freezing temperatures were done for the season to minimize the cold patch lifting out
11 of the potholes.

12
13 ***Personnel – No Report***

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15 ***Streets – No Report***

16 Kleon Zimmerman asked if there was a date that South 9th Street could be patched. Tom Murray, Jr. said
17 that Martin’s Paving had said that it should be completed by the end of the month, and the goal is to
18 have it patched before street sweeping.

19
20 ***Public Utilities***

21 Kleon Zimmerman commended Public Works on the job well done with the recent water main break on
22 South 9th Street. Public Works Supervisor Tom Murray, Jr. prepared a copy of the full report that was sent
23 to DEP along with pictures for Council to review. Mayor Davidson asked if the repair brought numbers
24 down and it did. Nathan Imhoff asked if the repair on Oak Street brought numbers down at all; Tom
25 Murray, Jr. said it did, but not nearly as much as the repair on South 9th Street. Nathan Imhoff asked if
26 the South 9th Street break was running straight into the storm basin. Tom Murray, Jr. replied that it was
27 going into both the storm basin and the sewer. Paul Swangren, Jr. asked if the Borough is in penalty with
28 Ephrata – Tom Murray, Jr. does not know.

29
30 ***Public Hearings/Presentations/Appointments***

31
32 ***Old Business***

- 33 **A. Park House Lease Agreement** – discussed in Parks & Property report. Council will begin to
34 explore other possible solutions for the Park House.
- 35 **B. Akron Fire Department Siren** – discussed in Parks & Property report.
- 36 **C. Standpipe Proposal RK&K** – discussed in Manager’s report, waiting on a meeting to be
37 scheduled.

38 ***New Business***

- 39 **A. Resolutions**
- 40 **B. Ordinances**
- 41 **C. Motions and Decisions**
 - 42 **1. Greenways, Trails and Recreation Program (GTRP) Funding Request** – Paul
43 Swangren, Jr. moved to commit up to \$37,500, which is 15% of \$250,000, should
44 Akron Borough receive funding through the Greenways, Trails and Recreation
45 Program for an application for Roland Park Lions Lane; second by Ryan Cochran.
46 Valerie Wagner mentioned that this motion is just to agree to begin working on an
47 application. In order to apply a formal resolution will be adopted. No further
48 discussion, motion carried.

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D. Acknowledgements

E. Other Business/Deliberations

F. Correspondence & Petitions

1. **Benecon** – Valerie Wagner shared a letter from Benecon which outlined refunds that Akron Borough has received as part of a loyalty credit distributed by Highmark. Wagner mentioned that as a small business, Akron Borough would not qualify for any discounts or affordable rates, but as part of a larger group of other municipalities, Akron Borough is part of a much larger client of Highmark. Wagner highlighted that during budget season, the cost of health insurance was discussed and it was suggested that the Borough shop for insurance elsewhere. Benecon as the administrator for the Intergovernmental Insurance Cooperative did shop for better rates on behalf of its members, and a contract was renegotiated with Highmark that included loyalty credits which were distributed back to the consortium of municipalities.

G. Executive Session

Adjournment

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

Respectfully submitted,

Sean Molchany
Borough Manager/Secretary

SM/vw