

1 **Borough of Akron Council Meeting – March 23, 2026**

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3 **Council Members Present:** Justin Gehman, Vice President; Paul Swangren, Jr.; Ryan Cochran; Kleon
4 Zimmerman; Tonya Haynes; Tracy Fisher (Nathan Imhoff, President 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 Sergeant Jordan Byrnes, West Earl Police

12 Glen Beiler, 117 Broad St Akron

13 John McBeth, 410 Edgehill Rd Akron

14 Anthony Sheaffer, 110 Main St Akron

15 John Taylor, 218 S 8th St Akron

16 Dawn Stauffer, 209 S 10th St Akron

17 Sue Glick, 119 S 10th St Akron

18 Dwayne Zimmerman, 620 N Farmersville Rd Ephrata

19 Baybars Charkas, LNP, Zoom

20 Kent Martin, Zoom

21

22 **Roll Call**

23 Tracy Fisher – present

24 Tonya Haynes – present

25 Ryan Cochran – present

26 Paul Swangren, Jr. – present

27 Kleon Zimmerman – present

28 Justin Gehman, Vice President – present

29 Nathan Imhoff, President – absent

30 Mayor Susan Davidson – present

31

32 Vice President Justin Gehman opened the meeting at 6:30pm with the Pledge of Allegiance.

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34 **Approval of Minutes**

35 Ryan Cochran moved to approve the minutes of the February 23, 2026 Borough of Akron Council
36 meeting; second by Tonya Haynes. Paul Swagren, Jr. thanked Valerie Wagner for adding additional
37 details; no further discussion and motion carried.

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39 Paul Swangren, Jr. moved to approve the minutes of the March 9, 2026 Borough of Akron Council
40 meeting; second by Ryan Cochran. No discussion, motion carried.

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42 **Visitors/Comments from the Public**

43 John Taylor made a mention of comments that he has heard regarding an increase in thefts on High
44 Street and Walnut Street and asked Sergeant Byrnes if there was any truth to that statement. Sgt. Byrnes
45 shared that a suspect has been identified in the ongoing investigation and there has been enough
46 information gathered to issue a warrant. Dawn Stauffer asked Sgt. Byrnes if he would recommend
47 investing in a video doorbell; Sgt. Byrnes responded that it would be a good idea if one can afford it and
48 advised never to leave valuables in a car. Sgt. Byrnes also emphasized “If you see something, say

1 something". John Taylor mentioned the frequency of solicitors walking through neighborhoods looking
2 suspicious and encourage everyone to not hesitate to ask for their solicitor's permit. Kleon Zimmerman
3 asked where the stolen vehicles that had been recovered were found or if they had been disassembled
4 and sold. Sgt. Byrnes said both vehicles had been recovered.

5
6 Glen Beiler spoke about the fire siren concern and shared his belief that it is necessary to keep the siren
7 active overnight as it is an alert to everyone, not just firefighters, that there is a fire. Mr. Beiler added
8 that even if the rooftop alarm was silenced, the fire trucks are legally required to turn their truck sirens
9 on, which still could and probably would wake someone up. He does not believe it is worth the risk to
10 silence the alarm overnight. Tonya Haynes responded to Mr. Beiler and thanked him for his comments,
11 stating that she, Mayor Davidson and Ryan Cochran attended a recent fire company meeting because
12 Council had received some complaints from Akron constituents regarding the alarm in the middle of the
13 night. The goal was to understand the need for the alarm, how often it goes off in the middle of the
14 night, etc. to understand and address the concerns. As elected officials, Haynes believes it is their
15 responsibility to represent the constituents. Tonya Haynes said that there were quite a few firefighters
16 who said they would agree to silence the alarm overnight if that's what the community wanted. The end
17 result of the discussion was that it would be best to poll the community to hear from them, and if the
18 vote results in the community saying they don't want the alarm silenced overnight, then that's the
19 answer. Glen Beiler said he thinks the poll being sent out to residents in the next water bill is a good
20 idea. Anthony Sheaffer asked if the Borough's stance on the fire alarm is that it violates the noise
21 ordinance. Sean Molchany stated that no one ever made that statement. John McBeth asked about the
22 number of complaints that were received and if they are in writing; Sean Molchany replied that this year
23 alone he has personally received about six, not all were written. John McBeth asked if the complaints
24 had been shared with the Fire Company. Molchany responded that the phone call complaints were not
25 shared, but that an anonymous letter that had been received was forwarded to Council. Tonya Haynes
26 confirmed that the Fire Chief had received a copy of that complaint.

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28 ***Bills – None***

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30 ***Reports/Announcements***

31 ***Police Report***

32 Tonya Haynes asked if the suspect that was identified in the first round of vehicle break-ins is the same
33 suspect identified in the most recent break-ins. Sgt. Byrnes confirmed that it is the same individual.

34
35 ***Mayor's Report***

36 Mayor Davidson shared about Officer Hirneisen's visit to Council as the School Resource Officer. The
37 "Every 15 Minutes" demonstration will be held at Ephrata High School on April 23-24, 2026. If any
38 Council Member is interested in observing the demonstration, please let Mayor Davidson know. The
39 monthly meetings with the Police Chief are going well. Mayor Davidson shared about the Lions Club
40 Easter Egg Hunt on April 4, 2026 at 1pm and asked if it could be put on the Borough sign out front. Also
41 shared that there will be a free document shredding event held by Representative Keith Greiner's office
42 at the Brownstown CTC on May 30th at 9am-noon.

43
44 ***Manager's Report – No Report***

45 Road patches for the recent water main repairs are scheduled for this Thursday, weather pending. Rain
46 garden drainage work is complete and is functioning as expected. Staff is in the process of obtaining two
47 more formal quotes for work done on the Miller Road culvert and will present to Council once they are

1 received. There is an upcoming Planning Commission meeting at May 7th at 6:30pm for a lot add-on plan
2 for 1234 Main Street. The new Rail Trail crossing lights have been updated.

3
4 Anthony Sheaffer said he heard talk of cloudy water on Bomberger Road; Sean Molchany replied that
5 one property owner had reached out to the Borough regarding cloudy water but no other properties
6 seem to be affected. The Borough had no work done in the area. Paul Swangren, Jr. asked when the rain
7 garden work was completed; Molchany said it was last Wednesday or Thursday. No new plantings were
8 installed; it was just the under drain that was installed. Ryan Cochran received a request from a resident
9 on Miller Road if there could be a general post on Facebook made about once a month with updates if
10 any on the progress on the culvert. Cochran also asked if the road patching that is scheduled will include
11 Lions Lane. Tom Murray, Jr. replied that it will be cold patched.

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13 ***Finance – No Report***

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15 ***Community Relations***

16 Tracy Fisher shared that the committee is reconsidering scheduling a summer concert. Paul Swangren, Jr.
17 asked about movie nights in Broad Street Park that were listed in the spring newsletter. Valerie Wagner
18 replied that Cultivate Community Church has been hosting these movie nights for a few years now. Once
19 the movies schedules are announced they will be shared on the Borough’s Facebook page and website.

20
21 ***Parks & Property***

22 Tonya Haynes would like Council to make a decision tonight regarding the playground equipment that is
23 available at Reamstown Park. Haynes believes a donation of \$1,000-\$2000 would be considerate.
24 Everything needs removed by April 14th. Ryan Cochran moved to obtain the equipment at Reamstown
25 Park at the discretion of Borough staff at a donation not to exceed \$2,000. Paul Swangren, Jr. seconded,
26 with the amendment that Tonya Haynes will meet staff on site to identify which items will be obtained
27 and that the donation is taken from the playground maintenance budget. Paul Swangren, Jr. referred to
28 the playground report that Tonya Haynes coordinated from Play By Design and mentioned that many of
29 the items that Reamstown Park has available would integrate easily into the Akron Pines Playground.
30 Kleon Zimmerman questioned why \$2,000 was necessary to obtain the used equipment if it was going to
31 be disposed of anyway; Paul Swangren, Jr. replied that anything could be offered, and anything could be
32 taken for free, however Reamstown Park is doing a fundraiser towards their new playground and a
33 donation would be a good gesture. Ryan Cochran said that he feels it is a good number based on the
34 replacement value for those items. No further discussion, motion carried. Paul Swangren, Jr. highly
35 suggested scheduling a removal date as soon as possible. Tonya Haynes will contact Carol at Reamstown
36 Park to determine a best date. Mayor Davidson commended Tonya Haynes on these efforts.

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38 ***Personnel***

39 Paul Swangren, Jr. shared that a Personnel meeting was held tonight; no new business.

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41 ***Streets – No Report***

42 Mayor Davidson asked about the timeline for the Diamond Street reconstruction. Sean Molchany replied
43 that the notice to proceed date is April 15, 2026 and the end of construction date is June 10, 2026.
44 Mayor Davidson asked what the detour route will be. Sean Molchany said that the detour route will
45 need to be Main Street.

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47 ***Public Utilities – No Report***

48 ***Public Hearings/Presentations/Appointments***

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Old Business

- A. **Akron Fire Department Siren** – Kleon Zimmerman said he thinks this discussion is going on too long and doesn't want to see it still being discussed later this year during budget discussions. Zimmerman said that changing the cycle from 5 down to 3 doesn't make much of a difference for those who live very close to the station, as the first round of siren wakes them up regardless. Kleon Zimmerman also pointed out that trash haulers make just as much noise early in the morning, and if Council is going to address a fire company for making noise, the trash haulers at 4:00am should be addressed first. Akron Borough is required to provide fire protection service; legally police services are not required, but fire protection service is. Zimmerman sees it as a bad idea to create tension with the Fire Company, adding that no one has shown up to a Council meeting in person to complain about the fire siren overnight, while several people have shown up to meetings in support of it. Tonya Haynes agrees, noting that she is tired of the discussion. Kleon Zimmerman suggested Council take a vote at the next meeting; Paul Swangren, Jr. said a vote isn't necessary. Tonya Haynes suggested leaving it as is. John McBeth asked if the fire siren was included in the fire company's lease; Sean Molchany replied that it was discussed but it was not included in the lease agreement. Tonya Haynes will contact the Fire Company President to inform them that Council has decided to take no action and the siren will remain overnight unless the Fire Company decides otherwise.
- B. **Standpipe Proposal RK&K** – Sean Molchany said that C. S. Davidson is looking to schedule a second meeting with RK&K. Borough staff has met with another consultant to explore the possibility of rehabbing the existing standpipe where it stands with alternative methods.

New Business

Tonya Haynes asked about the council contact sheet and if it could be updated. Anthony Sheaffer asked about the speed of certain farmers using tractors on Main Street. Sean Molchany advised Sheaffer to contact the police to enforce the speed and noise. The tractors are not permitted to be doing this and the police will enforce if they are notified.

- A. **Resolutions**
- B. **Ordinances**
- C. **Motions and Decisions**
- D. **Acknowledgements**
- E. **Other Business/Deliberations**
- F. **Correspondence & Petitions**
- G. **Executive Session**

Adjournment

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

Respectfully submitted,

Sean Molchany
Borough Manager/Secretary
SM/vw