

1 **Borough of Akron Council Meeting – April 27, 2026**

2

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

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 Aaron Murray, 1229 Main St Akron

12 Joshua Eberly, 349 Edgehill Dr Akron

13 John Taylor, 218 S 8th St Akron

14 John McBeth, 410 Edgehill Dr Akron

15 Chief Eric Higgins, WEPD

16 Officer Austin Hittle, WEPD

17 Sue Glick, 119 S 10th St Akron

18 Anthony Sheaffer, 110 Main St Akron

19 Baybars Charkas, Zoom

20 Kent Martin, Zoom

21 Senator James Malone

22

23 **Roll Call**

24 Tracy Fisher – absent

25 Tonya Haynes – absent

26 Ryan Cochran – present

27 Paul Swangren, Jr. – present

28 Kleon Zimmerman – present

29 Justin Gehman, Vice President – present

30 Nathan Imhoff, President – present

31 Mayor Susan Davidson – present

32

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

34

35 Tonya Haynes entered the meeting at 6:31pm.

36

37 **Approval of Minutes**

38 Ryan Cochran made a motion to approve the minutes of the April 13, 2026 Akron Borough Council
39 meeting; second by Kleon Zimmerman. No discussion, motion carried.

40

41 **Visitors/Comments from the Public**

42 **Senator James Malone**

43 Senator Malone stopped by the Council meeting to ask if there are any issues or concerns that he can

44 assist with at the state level. Tonya Haynes mentioned a lack of park funding and Senator Malone

45 encouraged Council to let him know when grants are applied for because he will write a letter of

46 support. Nathan Imhoff mentioned the recent storm water culvert failure and sewer pump failures.

47 Senator Malone asked about any infrastructure and maintenance concerns. Sean Molchany and Nathan

48 Imhoff spoke about the Borough's process of allocating budgets for capital projects as it allows, and

1 addressing fixes as they come. Molchany spoke about using half of the balance of Borough's Liquid Fuels
2 funds for Diamond Street which is approx. ¼ mile of resurfacing and base repair. Senator Malone then
3 asked about water lines; Tom Murray, Jr. replied that some portions of the water main lines are over 100
4 years old, the majority of it is probably around 80 years old. Nathan Imhoff mentioned the aging
5 standpipe that is rusting through at the top and the cost-effective options that have been considered.
6 Paul Swangren, Jr. shared about the recent sewer pump station failures; the failures are not due to
7 overdue maintenance or repairs. These pumps will total approx. \$100,000 to replace. President Imhoff
8 added that Akron Borough does not have much room for further development and growth to add tax
9 base revenue.

10
11 Senator Malone asked about e-bikes and if Akron has any concerns about kids on e-bikes. Chief Higgins
12 confirmed that there have been a recent number of complaints that have come in, especially on the Rail
13 Trail. Nathan Imhoff would like to see more legislation around e-bikes. Senator Malone will put together
14 a list of possible grants and funding sources and will follow up with Council. Paul Swangren, Jr. thanked
15 Senator Malone.

16
17 ***Bills - None***

18
19 ***Reports/Announcements***

20 ***Police Report***

21 Chief Higgins reported that Mayor Davidson had met with him last week. Planning has begun for
22 National Night Out which will be held on Tuesday, August 4 at Broad Street Park. Tonya Haynes
23 confirmed that Officer Blessing is the event coordinator again this year and commended him on the
24 success of last year's National Night Out. Chief Higgins introduced Officer Austin Hittle who recently
25 graduated from the academy. Hittle is a recent graduate of Moravian University and went right to police
26 academy upon graduation; he is a second-generation police officer and is thoroughly enjoying his
27 position within the community. Chief Higgins added that WEPD is working with the Lancaster County
28 District Attorney's office to form a youth aid panel which would provide an alternative to the criminal
29 justice system for first-time offenders of small offenses. Vice President Gehman spoke about his
30 experience on a such a panel. Chief Higgins has a goal for this to be established by the fall. Mayor
31 Davidson asked about the success of the youth aid panel program; Gehman answered that it has been
32 very successful. Chief Higgins explained that the panels would be determined by municipality, not by
33 school or by school district.

34
35 ***Mayor's Report – No Report***

36
37 ***Manager's Report – No Report***

38
39 ***Finance – No Report***

40
41 ***Community Relations – No Report***

42 Valerie Wagner shared that she and Tracy Fisher have been planning a concert featuring Mitch and the
43 Mood Swings at Roland Park on Sunday, June 28th at 6:00pm.

44
45 ***Parks & Property***

46 Tonya Haynes shared that a meeting will be held with the Historic Preservation Trust of Lancaster to
47 address the Park House. Haynes asked if Public Works staff would be able to take care of the vines that
48 are on the sides of the house. A meeting was held with several members of the Akron Lions Club to

1 discuss working together on some park projects with the assistance of a grant that the Lions Club can
2 apply for. She will have a table at the Akron Day in the Park on Saturday, June 13 to talk about
3 renovations and park needs. Broad Street and Colonial Park have been mulched; Roland Park still needs
4 to be done. The entrance to Roland Park has been planted and mulched and looks great. Unfortunately,
5 Reamstown Park has pushed the timeline back for their playground replacement project due to a lack of
6 enough funding to begin. Upon the funds being raised, Akron Borough may pick up the items requested
7 from Reamstown Park’s old playground. Haynes is working to schedule meetings for sub-committees in
8 early May; the Park House will be one of those sub-committees, barring the outcome of the meeting
9 with the Historic Preservation Trust. Paul Swangren, Jr. thanked Tonya for her work, particularly with the
10 Akron Lions Club and rebuilding a relationship.

11

12 ***Personnel***

13 Paul Swangren, Jr. reported that there was a staffing shortage in the office last week, but everything
14 went well. A part-time park employee has been hired for summer help and will begin employment on
15 May 11.

16

17 ***Streets***

18 Preparation has begun for the installation of the ADA ramps on Diamond Street. Nathan Imhoff
19 apologized to John McBeth that he had not been able to schedule a meeting with him to review the
20 sidewalks on Diamond Street.

21

22 ***Public Utilities – No Report***

23 Nathan Imhoff asked if staff have heard back from Pittsburgh Tank & Tower; not yet.

24

25 ***Public Hearings/Presentations/Appointments***

26

27 ***Old Business***

28 **A. Standpipe Proposal RK&K** – Tonya Haynes is concerned with how long the standpipe project has
29 been taking. Sean Molchany replied it has been ongoing for about 4+ years, and the current
30 initiative is to explore a rehabilitation of the existing standpipe by relining the inside and
31 repainting the exterior. Pittsburgh Tank & Tower has been asked to put together a proposal;
32 Tonya Haynes asked how RK&K is involved, and Molchany replied that RK&K is the engineer and
33 will be re-engaged should Council move forward with a proposal. Justin Gehman asked if staff
34 have reached out to Pittsburgh Tank & Tower since the last meeting. Neither Sean Molchany or
35 Tom Murray, Jr. had followed up– Sean Molchany will call him tomorrow morning. Tonya Haynes
36 expressed her concern that this is taking an extremely long time and does not want something
37 to happen that causes the Borough to be in an emergency situation, forcing a quick decision.
38 Paul Swangren, Jr. shared the history of the standpipe project and spoke about the Public
39 Utilities Committee meeting that was held a few weeks ago: Nathan Imhoff had attended and
40 shared about a conference he attended where he learned about Pittsburgh Tank & Tower and
41 the interior coating service they can provide. Swangren added that even if a new location and
42 engineered plans had been approved for a new standpipe, the Borough still lacks the approx.
43 \$2MM needed to construct it. The decision was made to revisit a plan to rehabilitate the existing
44 standpipe because while the inspection report revealed some structural concerns, it did not say
45 that it was structurally weak or at risk of collapse. Water quality remains high and the standpipe
46 is functioning properly. When Council first began looking at the standpipe as a project, it was to

1 repaint the exterior and then the interior concerns were discovered. By exploring this option to
2 recoat the inside and repaint the outside, the project could potentially be completed at a
3 fraction of the cost of constructing a new standpipe. A representative from Pittsburgh Tank &
4 Tower was onsite about four weeks ago to collect samples to test for lead paint. Last time the
5 tank was painted was 1985 according to Mayor Davidson. Sean Molchany to call Pittsburgh Tank
6 & Tower tomorrow.

7
8 ***New Business***

9 **A. Miller Road Culvert Repair** - Sean Molchany explained that Miller Road has been closed for at
10 least two months now. Quotes were requested from four companies, only two responded:
11 Zimmerman Excavating of Ephrata, and Kinsley Construction of York. Zimmerman Excavating
12 came in less expensive at \$189,320.68 vs Kinsley's \$227,400.00. Staff would recommend utilizing
13 Zimmerman Excavating with the concrete cradle option. Tonya Haynes mentioned that just
14 because it's a lower price does not mean it's the better option and asked staff if either company
15 has been used by Akron Borough before. Sean Molchany and Tom Murray Jr. replied that both
16 companies have been used by the Borough with satisfactory results. Tom Murray, Jr. said he
17 would choose Zimmerman Excavating because they have lower overhead costs, but that Kinsley
18 had been the lowest bidder and worked with the Borough when the PA Small Water and Sewer
19 Grant was obtained to complete the dead-end looping project. Mayor Davidson asked how soon
20 each company can begin work; Molchany replied that nothing can be scheduled until the
21 contractor is selected, but that Zimmerman Excavating would likely have sooner availability than
22 Kinsley.

23 Paul Swangren, Jr. pointed out the differences in the line-item quotes, for example the
24 mobilization cost difference between each contractor. Swangren asked questions such as if
25 Public Works can perform any of the work to save on costs, does it have to be a precast endwall
26 or can it be poured in place, and has HDPE (high-density polyethylene) pipe been considered as
27 an alternative option with lower costs and easier installation. Tom Murray, Jr. answered that the
28 galvanized pipe that is current there is 66" and it cannot be downsized or the headwall will need
29 to be changed. Based on Murray's understanding from the engineer if the headwall is replaced it
30 will require a permit from DEP, also cannot get 66" HDPE and the existing headwall is in perfect
31 condition.

32 Tonya Haynes appreciates the attempts to reduce costs by utilizing Borough staff, and
33 commended Public Works on their work until 3:00am recently when the pump station failed.
34 However, Haynes is frustrated that Public Works staff have not been able to assist with the Parks
35 & Property initiatives because they are pulled aside for infrastructure issues; she would rather
36 see Zimmerman Excavating paid the full amount of the quote to complete the entire project so
37 that Public Works can be utilized in other places. Paul Swangren, Jr. respectfully disagreed,
38 claiming that it is a mismanagement of time, stating that Public Works is mowing grass and
39 wonders what else they are doing. Sean Molchany added that on a daily basis, there is a lot
40 more than just mowing grass on the schedules, with Paul Swangren, Jr. arguing that the monthly
41 Public Works report does not show much and so he is left to assume. Nathan Imhoff said that
42 during the last Council meeting, it was discussed that certain items of the project could be
43 completed by Public Works staff and asked Sean Molchany if any of that had been taken into
44 consideration when these quotes were prepared. Molchany replied that it was not factored in to

1 the quotes, because it cannot be guaranteed that at any given moment, staff would be available
2 to perform the work. If the culvert repair had begun last week for instance, Public Works would
3 have been needed to address the sewer pump failures; therefore, the project was quoted in full.
4 Nathan Imhoff added that with this being an emergency repair and not a planned project, it
5 couldn't be put on Public Works schedule.

6 Ryan Cochran agrees with Paul Swangren, Jr. and would like to comb through the
7 Zimmerman Excavating quote to remove items that could be handled internally, saying that the
8 Borough is paying for experienced staff to plant flowers which could be outsourced to a
9 landscaper, and while Public Works might not be able to complete the entirety of the project,
10 certainly there are many parts of the project that they could complete. Cochran said that this
11 stormwater repair should be the priority for Public Works staff, and that it should be discussed to
12 outsource mowing and other lesser-skilled tasks. Sean Molchany answered that the Borough had
13 paid a contracted landscaper several years ago to mow the sewer lift stations, two of the parks,
14 and the admin building. When additional Public Works personnel were added, the Borough
15 stopped paying the landscaper to mow because it was only getting done when the contractor
16 was available. Nathan Imhoff added that he recalls the parks being mowed on a Saturday when
17 the park was full. Ryan Cochran clarified that he is not criticizing Public Works staff for what they
18 do, rather he is saying that right now Public Works should focus on issues like this stormwater
19 repair. Sean Molchany stated that Public Works could probably remove the asphalt and the pipe,
20 but beyond that, there isn't actually much that staff would be able to handle. The other concern,
21 Molchany said, is that the contractor may come back and say they are not interested in the
22 project if the quote isn't accepted in its entirety. Nathan Imhoff would like an addendum added
23 to the motion if made that states that if time allows, Public Works will remove the debris. Kleon
24 Zimmerman spoke about his experience with contracts like this, saying that if Public Works says
25 that they will remove the debris and then aren't able to, the contractor may decide to charge
26 more or not to take the job at all. Nathan Imhoff questioned how much savings is actually being
27 considered by having Public Works complete the demo and debris removal, and is it even worth
28 it.

29 Tonya Haynes asked how this project will be paid for. Sean Molchany replied that an
30 insurance claim has been submitted but the claim has not been approved yet. Tonya Haynes
31 stated that if the money is there, pay for it and get the project done rather than drag out the
32 process. Paul Swangren, Jr. asked if Liquid Fuels can be used for this and if the local rep has been
33 contacted, Molchany answered that it should qualify but a project number has not been
34 assigned by the Liquid Fuels representative, because he has not been directed to do so by
35 Council. Swangren would like to have the rep review the situation and give a definitive answer
36 whether or not Liquid Fuels can be used, and mentioned that there are several options for
37 payment, whether that be taking out a loan, reactivating the Borough Authority, etc. Currently
38 the Borough does have three loans it is paying off: two from the General Fund and one from the
39 Water Fund.

- 40 **B. Millway Pump Station and Sewer System Pump Replacement** - Tom Murray, Jr. shared that on
41 Tuesday, Josh received an automated call from the Millway lift station while the generator was
42 running that it was going into high level. Upon arrival, nothing was running. Both contactors
43 were in and the pumps were off with levels increasing, so they pulled both pumps and called R.S.
44 Martin to get new contactors. When the backup pump was put in, it did not work, and upon

1 pulling it up all the oil poured out. After some phone calls, one 40HP pump from the Rothsville
2 station was borrowed to get Millway running again. Then on Thursday, Josh received another
3 automated call from Rothsville that it's in high level. The pump said it was on but it was not
4 running; it had blown the contactor out. Calls were made to Upper Leacock Township, Ephrata
5 Borough, and Kline's/Windriver Environmental for assistance. A decision was made to move a
6 25HP pump from Tobacco to Millway, and returned the borrowed 40HP pump back to Rothsville.
7 At that point, Tobacco and Millway were back up and running. When the floats were put back at
8 Rothsville, the relay on the lower level one started chattering and the pump slammed off and on.
9 Tom Murray, Jr. shut the pump off and pulled the float only to find that it had gone bad where it
10 caused the relay to start and stop the pump. After replacing the float and a contactor it is
11 running again. Five new floats have been ordered and a backup is in the basement. A 40HP
12 pump has been ordered with a rush on it, approx. 3-4 weeks for delivery because each pump
13 needs to be built – none are kept on the shelf. Nathan Imhoff asked if any of the existing pumps
14 can be rebuilt; Tom Murray, Jr. said they can but it will take longer than the new one to be built.
15 The 25HP pump needs to be returned to Tobacco and two new pumps are needed at Millway.
16 Murray is certain that DEP will require a backup for every lift station. Keener and Slaymaker have
17 been contacted, neither have pumps and are looking. Sean Molchany made the decision to order
18 one pump to get it here ASAP; Mayor Davidson stood behind Molchany with his decision, saying
19 that she has been in his position before and sometimes you just have to make the judgement
20 call. Murray shared that there was not an overflow on Tuesday, so no notification was needed to
21 DEP. However, Thursday there was an overflow which needed to be reported to DEP, but it did
22 not enter the creek. There will be a notice of violation for the overflow but there will not be a
23 penalty because it stayed out of the creek. Tom Murray, Jr. is very thankful for Ephrata Borough
24 and Upper Leacock Township's assistance. The root cause of the Rothsville pump failure was
25 float and Millway's pump failures are still being determined. An insurance claim has been
26 submitted. The proposed pumps to be purchased are a next-gen semi open impeller design
27 which will allow for one pump motor (23HP) for all pump stations. Tom Murray, Jr. is meeting
28 with R.S. Martin on Tuesday to determine the cause of failure. No other signs of electrical
29 damage within the Borough. Kleon Zimmerman met with Tom this morning and agrees with the
30 pump purchases and all the steps that have been taken.

31 **A. Resolutions**

32 **B. Ordinances**

33 **C. Motions and Decisions**

- 34 **1. Millway Pump and Sanitary System Pump Replacement** – Paul Swangren, Jr. moved
35 to approve the purchase of three Myers 23HP 30 AMPS sanitary sewer pumps at a
36 cost of \$24,192 each plus shipping, to be paid for as an unbudgeted expense out of
37 reserves not to exceed \$80,000; second by Tonya Haynes. If shipping causes it to
38 exceed, the \$10,000 contingency fund can be used. Ryan Cochran and Paul
39 Swangren, Jr. asked if there is a warranty, Tom Murray, Jr. to find out. No further
40 discussion, motion carried.
- 41 **2. Miller Road Culvert Bid Award** – Tonya Haynes moved to approve the bid from
42 Zimmerman Excavating in the amount of \$189,320.68 which includes base bid and
43 concrete cradle option; Justin Gehman second. Paul Swangren, Jr. and Ryan Cochran
44 not in favor. Motion carried 4-2. Justin Gehman noted that if Liquid Fuels funding is
45 used for this, the streets project planned in two years may need to be adjusted back

1 by a year until more funding is available. Paul Swangren, Jr. pointed out that the
2 motion did not specify where the funds for payment would come from. Valerie
3 Wagner discussed current Liquid Fuels and General Fund account balances,
4 explaining that the ideal solution would be for insurance to cover some or all of the
5 costs.

6 Tonya Haynes made a motion to pay for the Miller Road Culvert repairs out of
7 Liquid Fuels, if eligible, with any insurance reimbursement being put aside for future
8 street repair projects; second by Kleon Zimmerman. Justin Gehman asked staff if this
9 is a good decision. Valerie Wagner replied that in her opinion, insurance money is
10 the first thing that should be utilized. If Liquid Fuels funds can be used to pay for the
11 project to get it fixed while waiting on insurance reimbursement, Wagner feels that
12 there are currently no other issues as critical as this culvert repair. If Liquid Fuels
13 cannot be used, the General Fund will be receiving the largest deposit of real estate
14 tax income year-to-date and can be used; however, unless other unexpected income
15 is received this year, General Fund may be in a negative revenue over expenditures
16 at the end of the year. Wagner will follow up with the insurance claim. Ryan Cochran
17 asked if the culvert situation is at risk of further damage or if more time can be had
18 to discuss the cost and how to pay for repairs, noting the line-item cost of certain
19 repairs. Nathan Imhoff clarified that a new motion can be made in the future if
20 better ways to pay for it are found, but that things need to be kept moving along. No
21 further discussion, roll call vote. Motion carried 4-2.

22 Tonya Haynes – yes
23 Ryan Cochran – no
24 Kleon Zimmerman – yes
25 Paul Swangren, Jr. – no
26 Justin Gehman – yes
27 Nathan Imhoff – yes

- 28 **D. Acknowledgements**
- 29 **E. Other Business/Deliberations**
- 30 **F. Correspondence & Petitions**
- 31 **G. Executive Session**

32
33 **Adjournment**

34 As a licensed sewer operator himself, Aaron Murray commended Akron Borough staff and Council on the
35 decisions and the work done since last Tuesday and Thursday. Murray added that he stands behind
36 Akron Borough Public Works on the decisions made by the Operator and behind Council on the decisions
37 made tonight, noting that the decisive actions of the Operator saved the Borough from a potential
38 disaster.

39
40 Paul Swangren, Jr. moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:08 pm; second by Kleon Zimmerman, motion
41 carried.

42
43 Respectfully submitted,

44
45 Sean Molchany
46 Borough Manager/Secretary
47 SM/vw
48