

BOROUGH OF AKRON COUNCIL MEETING- MAY 27, 2015

Council Members present- Thomas J. Murray, President; Perry Lorah, Vice-President; Justin Gehman, John Taylor, Jeff Shirk, Earl Shirk. (Dan McCormac not present)

Others present- Mayor John McBeth, Dan Guers, Borough Manager; Susan Davidson, Borough Secretary; Kenelm L. Shirk III, Solicitor; K. L. McEllhenney, Hope Stayer, Greg Fitzpatrick, Richard Justice, Brian Boyer, Danielle Bentley, Ella Nolt, Pat Renner, Linda Sickmeier, Bob Rollman, Lorna Ravegum, Michael Rodgers, Lester Cammauf, Philip Sollenberger, Phil Benigno.

Meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Visitors

Pat Renner, 115 Bomberger Road asked if benches will be placed on Bomberger Road for the Rail Trail. Dan Guers said no benches on the Main Street South side of the trail.

Ella Nolt, 125 Bomberger Road mentioned there is a puddle on the bank when it rains. Council mentioned the work on the swale is not completed.

Danielle Bentley, Crestview Drive mentioned she is here because of the screening. Bentley also mentioned when it rains dirt is washed out and when is the drainage work going to be finished. Tom Murray mentioned we need to get more quotes because this project is so expensive. Bentley also asked about getting her trees replaced.

Ella Nolt, 117 Bomberger Road mentioned there was tree damage.

Brian Boyer, Westview Drive mentioned he has a hard time on his scooter at the Main & Wolf handicap ramps. Boyer also mentioned a pole on East Main Street is difficult to get around with his scooter. Dan Guers will check this out.

Mike Rodgers, 131 Front Street, mentioned to Council the parking situation on Front Street. There was limited parking before the rail trail and it was poorly thought out for parking.

Greg Fitzpatrick, 1320 Diamond Street, asked Council members if they thought Mayor McBeth's activities were criminal and does the Mayor have the authority to speak on behalf of Council? Council members do not feel the Mayor's actions were criminal.

Kay McEllhenney, 11 Scenic View Drive, mentioned having a parking area at the Colonial Park for the Rail Trail parking.

Rail Trail Screening

Jeff Shirk mentioned he met with Tom Burnett and Tim Siefert in regards to screening with native plants. All residents along the trail who want screening will get a copy of what is available. Residents mentioned that all this screening is summer screening and were looking more for evergreen shrubs for privacy.

Jeff Shirk mentioned he will meet with each resident along the trail who wants screening and discuss with them what they want planted. It was also mentioned to have the residents sign a memorandum so there is no confusion about the screening.

Council decided to use the rented brush hog only for the parks in selected areas and not in the Front Street area.

Front Street Parking (possible solutions)

- 1) Make Front Street one way
- 2) Restrict parking to residential parking
- 3) Hope United Church parking won't be available until the access trail is finished.
- 4) Create a large parking area and direct people there

The first two items will be researched by the Borough Solicitor.

It was also mentioned that the Rail Trail website incorrectly shows Fulton Street parking.

Benches

Dan Guers mentioned we have received pledges of over \$2,000.00 for benches and accessories for the Fulton Street Plaza. All contributions are in memory of Ron Boltz. Family and friends have requested Council to consider placing a plaque (to be approved by Council) in the area rather than individual plates on benches.

Brian Boyer mentioned the benches are causing a bottleneck at Fulton and Front Streets.

Porta-Potties

Dan Guers suggested placing a porta-potty at Colonial Park.

Bike Racks- propose to order three sets with one being placed at the Plaza and the other two at Colonial Park.

Cross Alert System

No quotes for the cross alert system. Tom Murray asked for the Main Street (3) quotes to be e-mailed to Council.

Crestview Drainage

Dan Guers is waiting for quotes for Crestview drainage from Melron Industries and Burkholder.

Tom Murray will investigate the safety issue on Bomberger Road where the culvert ends.

Mayor McBeth mentioned Balmer Bros. was not contacted about the tree planting. Tom Murray mentioned that Horst was supposed to talk to Balmer Bros about the planting that will be replaced.

Tom Murray mentioned the Rail Trail is still within budget.

Perry Lorah asked Dan Guers about the Broad Street park where it was graded and seeded. It looks like it needs redone.

John Taylor needs to discuss the Broad Street Park light issue with Barb McMinn.

Council decided it would be easier for us to buy the concrete and fix the poles on Main Street and Meadowview Street.

Third Street Sidewalks

Dan Guers mentioned two sidewalks on Third Street should be completed by the end of the week and there is one driveway that is not in compliance. Tom Murray mentioned there is another driveway on the same side of the street that does not look ADA compliant.

Other Business

Dan Guers and Earl Shirk will meet to discuss a solution for getting hot water for the Borough Office building.

Jeff Shirk read a letter dated April 27, 2015 that was written by Mayor McBeth and handed out to some Borough residents.

Jeff Shirk made a motion to have all documents in regards to the Mayor be put forward and to include ethic forms since 2010. Earl Shirk seconded the motion. Kenelm L. Shirk III mentioned attorney client privilege can be provided to Council members and have the responsibility to maintain confidentiality. Motion carried.

Perry Lorah mentioned how people are commenting on Akron Council being a joke. Perry mentioned he has ideas in regards to the Mayor. 1) put the Mayor salary ordinance on the fast track 2) if Mayor resigns and is reinstated his salary can be \$750.00.

Perry Lorah made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Jeff Shirk seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Davidson, Borough Secretary