

Borough of Akron
Council Meeting Agenda
July 9, 2018

Council Members present

John Williamson, President; Thomas Murray, Sr., Vice-President; Justin Gehman, Nathan Imhoff, Monica Hersh Keith Landis, Darryl Witmer.

Others present

Mayor John McBeth, Susan Davidson, Borough Manager; Lauren Fisher, Thomas Murray Jr., Penny Talbert, Jason Smith, Jan Landis, Esther Chase, Kirby Smith, Dave Correll, Tom Sheaffer, Evan Shupp, Lynn Williamson, Sue Miller, Lynne Brubaker, Dick Wanner, Ephrata Review.

Meeting opened at 7PM with Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of Minutes

Darryl Witmer made a motion to approve Borough of Akron Council Meeting minutes of June 11 and June 25, 2018. Keith Landis seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Visitors

5-mile race

Kirby Smith wants to have Borough Council approve a project in partnership with friends Dave Correll and Tom Sheaffer.

The group is proposing a 5-mile run along Warwick-Ephrata Trail to benefit non-profit organization Christian Endeavor, as well as a veteran family who has yet to be determined. Christian Endeavor works with local churches and mission projects to help those in need. Money would be raised via sponsorships and fees charged for those participating in the race. Christian Endeavor has insurance to cover the race. The proposed date is November 10th, 2018.

Akron Borough is the first of three municipalities the group has reached out to. The other municipalities include Ephrata Township and Ephrata Borough. The race would span all three municipalities. The race would begin at the corner of Maple and Fulton with parking being available at the Brossman Building, the downtown parking garage, and possibly Fulton Elementary School.

The group mentioned that they are interested in expanding the race in the second year. In order to do this, two more municipalities would need to be added. Akron Borough Council suggested the group reach out to Lititz as this will be a part of the Rail Trail next year.

Darryl Witmer, head of Community Events for Akron Borough, will work with this group prior to any approval being made. He will call them to discuss further details.

Ephrata Public Library

Jan Landis, a resident of Akron for about 35 years, was present on behalf of the Ephrata Public Library. She is a Board Member of the Library and was a school librarian for 25 years. She thanked the Akron Borough for their committed support of the Library. She also mentioned that last fall, she was speaking with a family that moved here simply because of the Ephrata Public Library.

Penny Talbert, Executive Director of Ephrata Public Library, presented some statistics to Akron Borough Council. Penny mentioned that the Library has had to cut the book budget by about 30% this year. She noted that the new service of background check fingerprinting is doing very well with over 5,000 fingerprints done thus far. Over 747 people have signed up for Go Ephrata, and about 3,800 have signed up for the Summer Reading Program so far this year. More families participate in the Summer Reading Program at the Ephrata Public Library than any other Library in the county.

Penny also spoke about the Northern Lancaster Hub as the Library is the lead partner in this project. The Hub was recently awarded a three year grant cycle, with \$250,000 being received the first year to get the project rolling. The Hub will be located in the building between the Library and Wawa (The Exploratorium). CAP is the first partner moving into the building. This will take place in October. There are currently seventeen partners involved in the Hub project. These partners include the Homeless Coalition and the Literacy Council. All money received for the Hub will solely go to the Hub and not the Library.

Lynn Brubaker presented testimonials from Akron residents that spoke about how the Ephrata Public Library benefits them. Some things the residents spoke on included technology tutoring, exhibits, enhancing their children's reading skills, family movie nights, the programs offered for all ages, the Summer Reading Program, the Ephrata School District Art Show, and that the staff members are always willing to help. Lynn thanked the Council for their generous support.

Akron Borough Council noted that municipal leaders will be meeting later this month to discuss funding.

Colonial Park Natural Habitat Area

Susan Miller came to speak about the Colonial Park Natural Habitat Area. She would really like to see this continue. Susan noted that pollinators must be provided with the things they need. She would also encourage more trees and natural grasses along the trail as this would provide more shade.

Lynn Williamson was present in support of the Habitat Area as well. She helped water all plants after they were originally planted and would like to see them stay.

Jan Landis also helped to water these plants. She would like the Council to consider a compromise. Jan suggested that some bark mulch be put in between sections and all weeds be removed, but that all important plants be kept. Jan presented some example photos. She also noted that the signs need to once again be put in place.

Nathan Imhoff, Chairman of Parks Committee, spoke on the fact that he made a quick decision last year to go ahead with this project. He agreed that there needs to be a compromise and that some elements of the garden need to be removed including weeds, but that all original planting be kept.

Keith Landis presented pictures of what the garden currently looks like. He thinks that it is overgrown, causes asthma, and will eventually cause a mass of ticks. He noted that the current condition of the garden goes against Akron Borough's own ordinance of controlling weeds.

John Williamson would like to have the trees brought back. He also agrees that weeds must be removed.

Nathan Imhoff questioned if volunteers will be available to remove the weeds with a Public Works worker like Evan available as a reference to prevent tearing out the wrong plants. Nathan also agreed that it is necessary to get rid of the high grass. He noted the precaution of ticks in tall grass.

Nathan Imhoff agreed to maintain the garden for the next year and a half and then reevaluate.

Dick Wanner will note in his Ephrata Review article that the Akron Borough is looking for volunteers to control these weeds. The volunteers will be requested to call the Akron Borough. The call for volunteers will also be added to the Borough website. A meeting will then be organized with the volunteers.

Nathan Imhoff requested that Public Works at least remove the grass prior to volunteers removing the weeds. This request was denied as Council would prefer to have volunteers take care of everything.

John Williamson will summarize what volunteers need to do.

Mayor John McBeth noted that it is encouraging to see natural trees coming up. He also thinks that the same thing should be done at the other side of the trail.

Keith Landis noted that the Arbor Foundation will provide trees free of charge.

Jason Smith, Akron Borough resident, supports having pollinators and agrees that the garden needs to be cleaned up. He questioned how long it will take for the weeds to be removed, with the Council responding that it will simply take a few hours. Jason volunteered to help.

Officers Reports

- **Mayor**
The Mayor has received a letter of appreciation from the Historical Society for the donation they received on behalf of the Akron Borough.
- **Police Report**
The June, 2018 report was distributed.
- **Borough Manager**
MacMor Construction began work on Walnut Street the week of June 18th and will begin Diamond Street the week of July 9th and be completed the same week. Sue Davidson is contacting engineers for the cost of a traffic study.

The Council welcomed Lauren Fisher as the new minute taker for the second Monday Council Meetings.

The air conditioning units for the Municipal Office will be included in the 2019 proposed budget. Vertex has completed the HVAC for the records room.

Public Works has removed the banners and brackets throughout the Borough.

The retaining wall at Colonial Park will begin the week of July 16th, 2018.

Graffiti was discovered at Roland Park on July 5th at Pavilion 1 and the men's bathrooms. This has been removed and Akron Police cited the individual responsible.

The fire ring at Roland Park is completed.

Water meters will be read starting the week of July 9th, 2018.

Met with EAJA on Thursday, June 21st, 2018 to discuss water allocation. EAJA stated they have sufficient quantity to supply Akron Borough and the cost per gallon is \$13.86.

John Williamson and Susan Davidson met with Representative Zimmerman on Friday, July 8, 2018 to discuss Akron Borough's concern with the SRBC requirements. Representative Zimmerman stated that he would join the meeting with SRBC to discuss these issues.

A water main break on the 300 block of Edgehill Drive was fixed Tuesday, June 26, 2018.

The Planning Commission meeting was scheduled for July 5, 2018.

The next Zoning Hearing is scheduled for August 16, 2018. The two applicants are Latitude 17 LLC on Fulton Street Trailside Apartments, and Melissa Callahan Chiropractic Office 16 C S. Seventh Street.

Akron Night at the Barnstormers took place June 22, 2018.

The next Steering Committee is scheduled for Thursday, July 26, 2018.

Attended the PSAB Conference on Tuesday, June 12, 2018 in Hershey, PA.

- **Zoning Officer Report**

The May, 2018 and June, 2018 report was distributed.

- **Tax Collector Report**

The total real estate taxes collected February through June totaled \$27,975.08

The total Borough real estate taxes collected February through June totaled \$22,295.49

- **Fire Chief Report**

The June 2018 report was distributed.

Borough Council Committee Reports

Finance report (Thomas Murray Sr.)

Monica Hersh made a motion to pay all bills as reviewed by the Finance Committee. Keith Landis seconded the motion. Motion carried.

John McBeth would like to reassess the property value of the house at the Akron Roland Park. Susan Davidson will follow up about this.

Akron Borough Month and Cash Balance

June 30, 2018

Thomas Murray Sr. read into minutes the June month - end figures.

General Fund	\$230,283.93
Water Fund	\$39,866.20
Sewer Fund	\$76,288.33
Highway Aid	\$236,916.37
General Reserves	\$133,343.11
Water Reserves	\$261,826.46
Sewer Reserves	\$209,498.17
Capital Projects	\$70.49
Community Fund	\$2,535.06
Total	\$1,190,628.12
Escrow	\$61,180.37

Thomas Murray Sr. reviewed the revenue and expenditures report for June, 2018.

John McBeth noted the very high sewer usage last month, i.e. 600-700 thousand gallons of water per day. He questioned how much is paid for treatment of this water. Tom noted that they are currently scheduling the piping repair, and that the excess water is due to infiltration.

Susan Davidson noted that South 10th St. is one of the most problematic areas for infiltration.

John McBeth would like to know how much is being paid to treat this water at next general meeting in August. The treatment rates will be looked into.

Discussion Items

- **Zoning Fees**

Nothing on zoning fees.

- **Zoning Hearing Alternate**

Susan Davidson will reach out to contact provided by John McBeth.

- **Truck Weight Limits & Restrictions on Borough Streets**

Susan Davidson discussed this at the previous work session and will get quotes from Arro and other engineers. Next month will she will be working on the 2019 budget and will include the cost of traffic study.

- **EAJA AGREEMENT/SRBC**

Susan Davidson met with EAJA last month. EAJA provided the cost of 13.86 per gallon to allocate water.

John Williamson and Susan Davidson met with Representative Zimmerman about SRBC issues. SRBC wants to come up with another 100,000 gallons a day. Akron already has an agreement for 50,000 gallons a day with EAJA. Although, drilling another well is not an option because of the high cost.

The cost for allocating 50,000 gallons from EAJA would be \$693,000.

- **E-mail Server**

Tom Murray, Sr. will begin working on the Akron Borough's own e-mail server. E-mails will be saved on server even when deleted.

Keith Landis disagrees that this is necessary as there is no PSAB policies stating that it is necessary to backup these e-mails.

- **Colonial Park No Mow Area * see above**

Keith Landis requested that a date be set. It was decided that the weeds will be controlled by August 13th.

- **Request for a 5-mile fundraising run on the Rail Trail by Christian Endeavor * see above**

Monica Hersh mentioned that if this is approved, Council will have to approve it for all groups making similar requests.

WERT is working to set up policies for events such as this.

Darryl Witmer will get all details needed from the group proposing the 5-mile run in order to discuss it with Borough Council.

Mayor John McBeth thinks that Council should wait for approval from all 5 municipalities before giving approval from Akron's end.

Nathan Imhoff suggested that Darryl Witmer push them to work closer with other municipalities prior to Akron Borough's decision.

- **Latitude 17 LLC – Trailside Apartments**

Executive Session

- **Solicitor Permit Application**

This includes application, background check, etc. waiting on additional paperwork to be included with the Solicitor's Permit Application.

Action Items

- **Motion for advertise bids for Bomberger Stream Embankment**

The drawings have not been updated, but this will be added to the agenda for the upcoming work session in two weeks, so no actions was taken.

- **Motion to approve infiltration test for Municipal Rain Garden**

John Williamson requested that a cost be acquired by Sue Davidson to be provided at the next work session. Sue will call Farley Fry from Hanover Engineers tomorrow. The anticipated price is less than \$1,000. Thomas Murray Sr. made a motion authorizing that Borough Manager to pay up to \$1,000 for the infiltration test. Nathan Imhoff seconded this motion. Motion carried.

- **Motion to appoint Arro Consultant as one of the Borough's Code Construction Official (Resolution)**

The rate for this is \$83.00 per hour. 00209 is the resolution number. This would allow property owners and contractors to make a choice between two consultants. Tom Murray, Sr. disagrees that it is needed. Mayor John McBeth asked the Borough Manager to speak with municipalities that provide this in order to acquire more information. A motion was made and seconded to appoint Arro Consultant as our building code official.

Nobody is in favor of resolution 00209. All Council members were opposed.
The motion was defeated 7-0.

- **Motion to pay MacMor Construction Invoice for Walnut Street Improvements**

Thomas Murray Sr. made a motion to pay (invoice) 181101. This motion was seconded by Justin Gehman. The total amount is \$45,022.50. Motion carried.

Unfinished Business

- **Akron Comprehensive Plan-Steering Committee**

July 26, 2018 6:30 at Akron Fire Hall - last meeting.

John McBeth noted a problem with a van on the Rail Trail. The Borough Manager is working to find a solution to this.

New Business

Justin Gehman mentioned to Council that he noticed trash and recycling being comingled during a trash pick up and how will this affect our recycling credit.

The Borough Manager will contact Good's Disposal tomorrow about this issue.

Thomas Murray Sr. made a motion and Justin Gehman seconded the motion to go into an Executive Session at 8:50 pm to discuss a legal issue related to Latitude 17 LLC. Motion carried.

9:05 is when the Executive Session completed after discussing a legal matter. Motion was made and seconded and carried to reconvene the meeting. No decisions were made on this matter.

Other Business

John McBeth noted that Council must give enough information to those outside of Council to understand that there is a legitimate reason for the proposed Executive Session. John McBeth informed the group that it was due to legal issues regarding litigation.

Justin Gehman made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Monica Hersh second this motion. Motion carried as all council agreed.

Work Session Meeting

- **Next work Session Meeting is scheduled for Monday, July 23, 2018 at 6:30 p.m.**

Adjournment

Justin Gehman made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Monica Hersh second this motion. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Lauren Fisher