

**BOROUGH OF AKRON COUNCIL MEETING- NOVEMBER 11, 2019**

***Council Members present-*** John Williamson, President; Thomas J. Murray, Sr., Vice-President; Justin Gehman, Nathan Imhoff, Monica Hersh, Darryl Witmer, Kleon Zimmerman.

***Others present-*** Mayor John McBeth, Susan Davidson, Borough Manager; Police Chief Thomas Zell, Dick Wanner, Ephrata Review; John Taylor, Dawn Stauffer, Brenda Royer, Dale Putt, Ken Asper, Tom Matteson, Diehm & Sons; Doug Evans, Jeff Shirk, Julie Hocking, Luke Stauffer, Darrell Martin, Paul Good, K. McElhenny, Bob Hoffman, Paul K. Swangren, Katrina Zimmerman, Thomas Murray, Jr., Joe & Tracey Latrell, Dave and Cindy York, Michael Hoshour.

Meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance at 7:00 p.m.

***Approval of Minutes***

Justin Gehman made a motion to approve the October 7, October 14, and October 28, 2019 Borough of Akron Council meeting minutes. Darryl Witmer seconded the motion. Motion carried.

***Visitors***

Katie Breneman was observing the meeting,

Bob Hoffman mentioned to Council he is opposed to addition to the police department. Hoffman mentioned that he owns two rental properties and pays a lot in taxes and does not see an additional need and his suggestions is to merge the police department with Ephrata Borough and that would be more than adequate coverage.

Kay McElhenny agrees with Bob Hoffman in regards to the police department.

Dale Putt was present to show support for Randall Justice who has interviewed for the Council vacancy opening.

Jeff Shirk was present to observe the meeting.

Doug Evans was present in regards to Edgehill Drive and when it will be paved.

Luke Stauffer was present to discuss Front Street sidewalk issues.

Darrell Martin, 103 Main Street was present to discuss Front Street sidewalk issues.

Paul Good, 717 New Street wants to know why his neighbor never got a permit for a fence. The Borough Manager will check with the zoning officer as to whether a permit is needed for a temporary fence.

Paul Good also mentioned he wants to repave his driveway and wants to know when the Borough is paving his street and when he will need to put in sidewalk. Paul Good also mentioned that his driveway is steep and wants to know what is required to redo his driveway. The Borough Manager will contact

Hanover Engineer and look at this driveway. Mr. Good can pick up a copy of the street program at the front desk at the Borough Office.

Joe Latrell and Tracy Krafft are present at the meeting as concerned citizens.

Ken Asper- Walnut Street, Brenda Royer, Walnut Street, Dawn Stauffer, observing and John Taylor was present to answer any questions about the truck bid spec's.

**Mayor Report-** Mayor John McBeth

Mayor John McBeth gave an update on the Lancaster County Drug Task Force. The Mayor mentioned that there is no information that the Drug Task Force is not going to continue and going on the assumption that it will continue. The Lancaster County Drug Task Force is funded by the County Commissioners office, voluntary contributions from municipalities and drug forfeiture money.

**Police Report-** Chief Zell

Distributed October 2019 report

Chief Zell mentioned they collected 83 pounds of prescription drugs at the Drug Take Back at Royer's Pharmacy on October 26.

The Akron Borough Police Department participated in Career Day at the Akron Elementary School on November 1.

The Akron Police Department handed out Trick or Treat candy on November 1.

**Borough Manager**

Distributed October 2019 report

Concrete Authority finished sidewalk installation and repair work the week of October 14 and the Borough Public Works Department did the demo work. Chris Martin from C.D. Martin told the Borough Manager the sidewalk work he was contracted to do will be finished by November 14.

An estimated design and administrative costs for the Front Street, curb, sidewalk and paving improvements are in the Council books for the November 11, 2019 meeting.

The ADA and paving for pavilion #2 has been completed by Brooklawn Paving the week of November 4, 2019 and Hanover Engineering inspected the work and it is ADA compliant. Handicap parking signs needs to be installed and Pavilions 1 & 2.

The lodge ceiling repair will begin the week of November 11<sup>th</sup>.

**Zoning Officer Report**

No report

**Tax Collector Report**

Lancaster County Real Estate Taxes collected in November 2019	\$1,571.46
Borough of Akron Real Estate Taxes collected in November 2019	\$1,619.48

**Fire Report**

Distributed October 2019 report

**Comprehensive Plan Implementation Task Force**

John Williamson mentioned the Akron Borough Comprehensive Plan Implementation Task Force met on October 2, 2019. A copy of the meeting minutes are in the Council books. The Task Force is encouraging volunteerism and recommended that Akron Borough move forward with setting up a Facebook page.

John also asked that Council members attend these meetings.

**Council Committee Reports**

**Administration and Finance Committee-** Thomas J. Murray, Sr.

Tom Murray. Sr. made a motion to pay the bills as reviewed by the Finance Committee and Mayor McBeth. Monica Hersh seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Tom Murray, Sr. read into the minutes the October 2019 month-end balances.

General Fund	\$349,777.81
Water Fund	\$ 5,558.14
Sewer Fund	\$ 19,646.19
Hwy Aid	\$144,668.22
General Reserves	\$196,167.30
Water Reserves	\$278,528.33
Sewer Reserves	\$173,699.29
Capital Projects	\$ 371.10
Community Fund	\$ 2,935.25
Total	\$1,171,351.63
Escrow	\$ 63,132.77

Tom Murray, Sr. reviewed the October 2019 Revenues and Expenditures report

**Community Relations and Special Projects-** Darryl Witmer

Darryl Witmer mentioned the New Year’s Eve Shoe-In committee met and there will be free food, hot cocoa and bonfire.

**Streets& Public Utilities-** Justin Gehman

Justin Gehman asked about the pole laying near the sidewalk at Main Street and Circle Drive and when is it being installed. The Borough Manager will call PPL about this issue.

**Parks Committee-**Nathan Imhoff

A copy of the 2019 spotted lantern fly report is in the Council books.

Nathan Imhoff mentioned any tree that is sweet such as the tree of Heaven, wrap it with sticky tape.

**Personnel Committee-** Monica Hersh  
Monica requested time at the end of the meeting.

**Discussion Items**

**Comcast**

The Borough Manager has not heard back from Comcast.  
It was mentioned that Comcast does not always have flaggers when doing work and when this happens take pictures and document time and date and report them.

**Front Street Engineering**

The quote from Hanover for the Front Street project will be on the agenda for the next meeting.

**Front Street Sidewalks**

Luke Stauffer asked why Council making the residents put sidewalk on their side of the street and not the other. John Williamson mentioned that on the other side of the street is beside the Rail Trail and there are no houses or residents, but where there are houses it would need sidewalk.

Jeff Shirk mentioned we put sidewalk on Colonial where there are no houses and on N. Eleventh Street by the park where there are no houses.

John Williamson read Section 21-102 from the sidewalk Ordinance that was adopted in 1981.  
Borough Council may, by resolution, require sidewalks to be installed by abutting property owners, at their own expense, along any portion/s of any street/s within the Borough with such period (not less than 30 days) after notice, thereof as Council may prescribe in such resolution, if Council shall consider such sidewalks necessary for the safety or convenience of the public.

John Williamson mentioned it was approved last year and a letter was sent out and more than a year's notice was given to residents.

Luke Stauffer asked if the engineer looked at the water and sewer lines, The sewer line was relined not the connections .Will check the ordinance to see who is responsible to the cartway.

**Leaf Collection**

The Borough Manager will check to see what kind of leaf collection or compost site at West Earl Twp.

It was mentioned to have a leaf drop off behind the Akron Borough Lodge at Roland Park.  
John Taylor mentioned that Manheim Twp has four trucks dedicated to sucking up leaves and do we have the manpower to do this?

Dawn Stauffer mentioned we need a place in the Borough to compost.

**Action Items**

**Council Member appointment**

Tom Murray, Sr. made a motion to appoint Randall Justice to the Borough of Akron Council. Darryl Witmer seconded the motion. Monica Hersh mentioned that during Randall's interview he mentioned that his wife is busy some evenings and will be available and Monica does not think this is a good reason to fill this position. A roll call vote was taken. Tom Murray, Sr,- Yes; Daryll Witmer-no; John Williamson- yes; Justin Gehman-no; Nathan Imhoff-no; Monica Hersh- no.  
Motion defeated.

Monica Hersh made a motion to appoint Kleon Zimmerman to the Borough of Akron Council. Justin Gehman seconded the motion. Mayor McBeth mentioned if you are not a registered Republican you might not get elected in two years.  
A roll call vote was taken. Monica Hersh- yes; Nathan Imhoff-yes; Justin Gehman-yes; John Williamson-yes; Darryl Witmer-yes; Thomas Murray-no.  
Motion carried 5 to 1.

Mayor McBeth performed the Oath of Office to Kleon Zimmerman as our newly appoint Council Member.

### ***Hocking Subdivision***

Tom Murray Sr. made a motion to approve the 2 waivers for the Hocking Final Subdivision Plan as recommended by the Borough of Akron Planning Commission. 1) Waiver of the Preliminary Plan 2) Waiver of the existing features within 300 ft of the subject tract. Nathan Imhoff seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Justin Gehman made a motion to approve the Hocking Final Subdivision plan as presented to Borough Council and recommended by the Borough of Akron Planning Commission. Tom Murray, Sr seconded the motion. Motion carried.

### ***Proposed 2020 budget***

Council reviewed the proposed 2020 General Fund budget and mentioned we would have to raise taxes for a new police officer. Jeff Shirk asked about potential growth in the next 5 years and can Akron Borough sustain a police department over the next 10 years.

John Williamson mentioned that in our Comprehensive Plan the majority of those surveyed wants an Akron Borough Police Force.

Kay McElhenny mentioned that Lancaster County is becoming more urban and sharing costs.

Nathan Imhoff mentioned that months ago the Borough auditor commended us on budget less than other police departments.

Kay McElhenny asked can we explore the costs.

Tom Murray, Sr. made a motion to advertise the 2020 General Fund Budget. Darryl Witmer seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Council reviewed the 2020 proposed Water Budget and proposed a water rate increase from \$7.00 per thousand gallons to \$8.15 per thousand gallons.

Tom Murray, Sr. made a motion to advertise the proposed 2020 Water Fund Budget. Monica Hersh seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Council reviewed the 2020 proposed Sewer Budget and proposed a sewer rate increase from \$10.61 to \$15.90.

Tom Murray, Sr. made a motion to advertise the proposed 2020 Sewer Fund Budget. Darryl Witmer seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Tom Murray, Sr. made a motion to advertise the proposed 2020 Hwy Aid Budget. Nathan Imhoff seconded the motion. Motion carried.

***Unfinished/New Business***

Monica Hersh made a motion to go into Executive Session for Personnel issues. Nathan Imhoff seconded the motion. Tom Murray, Sr. voted no. Motion carried. 9:15 p.m.

Justin Gehman made a motion to reconvene the meeting. Monica Hersh seconded the motion. Motion carried. Meeting reconvened at 9:36 p.m.

It was mentioned for purpose of clarification that it was discussed in Executive Session the search for a Police Chief and no decisions were made.

Sue Davidson mentioned that Robert Ober will be resigning as Borough Treasurer at the end of the year.

The next meeting will be November 25, 2019 at 6:30 p.m.

Monica Hersh made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Nathan Imhoff seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 9:41 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Davidson  
Borough Manager

SD

