

BOROUGH OF AKRON COUNCIL METING- APRIL 3, 2020

Council Members present at meeting located at Akron Volunteer Fire Hall, 1229 Main Street, Akron PA

Thomas J. Murray, Sr., President; Justin Gehman, Vice-President; Paul Swangren, Jr., Randall Justice.

Darryl Witmer and Kleon Zimmerman were on the phone via Zoom.

Others present- Mayor John McBeth, Susan Davidson, Borough Manager/Secretary; Police Chief Thomas Zell, Kenelm L. Shirk III, Solicitor.

Thomas J. Murray, Sr. President of Council called the April 3, 2020 specially advertised meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Kenelm L. Shirk III certified that four members of Akron Borough Council were present at the meeting was duly advertised and posted at the Akron Volunteer Fire Hall and the Akron Borough Municipal Office.

Declaration of Emergency Resolution

The Declaration of Disaster Emergency Resolution was read aloud by Council President Thomas J. Murray, Sr.

Paul Swangren, Jr. made a motion to adopt Resolution #00229 allowing Akron Borough Council to direct Akron Borough Emergency Management Coordinator to coordinate with Borough Officials, LEMA, PEMA, Mayor and all health officials to take appropriate action needed to alleviate the effects of this pandemic and to aid in the restoration of public services and take any other emergency action deemed necessary. Randall Justice seconded the motion.

Roll call-

Paul Swangren, Jr. – yes

Randall Justice- yes

Justin Gehman – yes

Kleon Zimmerman – yes

Thomas J. Murray, Sr. – yes

Motion carried

This Declaration shall take effect immediately and will continue until rescinded by Council.

Resolution Closing Borough Playgrounds

The Closing of the Playground Resolution was read aloud by Council President, Thomas J. Murray, Sr.

Randall Justice made a motion to adopt Resolution #00230 closing all playgrounds in Roland park, Broad Street Park and Colonial Park and the hockey rink at Broad Street Park. Justin Gehman seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Chief Zell asked what type of enforcement should be used. Kenelm L. Shirk III mentioned it would fall under defiant trespassing. It was also mentioned that the playgrounds are taped off with caution tape and it is very clear that no one should be in the playgrounds.

Roll call

Randall Justice – yes

Justin Gehman – yes

Paul Swangren, Jr. – yes

Kleon Zimmerman – yes

Thomas J. Murray, Sr. – yes

Motion carried.

Civil Service

Randall Justice made a motion to send a letter to the Akron Civil Service Commission authorizing the commission to move ahead with the hiring process of a full-time police officer with Act 120 training. Paul Swangren, Jr., seconded the motion.

Roll call-

Randall Justice – yes

Justin Gehman - yes

Paul Swangren, Jr. – yes

Kleon Zimmerman – yes

Thomas J. Murray, Sr. – yes

Darryl Witmer – yes

Motion carried

Crossing Guards

Justin Gehman made a motion to instruct Borough staff to pay Crossing Guards what they are entitled and the length of time as dictated by the school year.

Randall Justice seconded the motion. It was mentioned that there is no guarantee that the Ephrata Area School District will reimburse the Borough for paying the crossing guards during this time.

Roll call

Randall Justice – yes

Justin Gehman – yes

Paul Swangren, Jr. – yes

Kleon Zimmerman – yes

Thomas J. Murray, Sr. – yes

Darryl Witmer – yes

Motion carried.

Akron Mennonite Church

Paul Swangren, Jr. made a motion granting a 6 -month extension for the review of the Akron Mennonite's Stormwater Plans until September 6, 2020. Justin Gehman seconded the motion.

Roll call

Randall Justice- abstained from any voting or discussion due to a conflict of interest – being a member of Akron Mennonite Church

Justin Gehman – yes

Paul Swangren, Jr. – yes

Kleon Zimmerman – yes

Thomas J. Murray, Sr. -yes

Darryl Witmer- yes

Motion carried.

Other Business

Sue Davidson will advertise the April 13, 2020 Finance meeting at 6:00 p.m. and the Council meeting at 6:30 p.m. to be held at the Akron Volunteer Fire Company and with provisions for the public to listen and have input to the meeting.

Randall Justice made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Paul Swangren, Jr. seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 6:26 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Davidson
Borough Secretary