

BOROUGH OF AKRON COUNCIL MEETING – JULY 13, 2020

Council Members present- Thomas J. Murray, Sr., President; Nathan Imhoff, Darryl Witmer, Kleon Zimmerman, Paul Swangren, Jr., Randall Justice.
(Justin Gehman not present)

Others present- Mayor John McBeth, Susan Davidson, Borough Manager; Police Chief Thomas Zell, Kenelm L. Shirk III, Solicitor; Jennie Witwer, Bob Witwer, Chris McKim, Fred Whitley, Jennifer Prunoske, Hanover Engineering; Ambrose and Ruth Bard, Robyn Hodgson, Kylie Good, Sabrina Turner, Megan Thompson, Herbein & Co.; Elliot Neese, Emmett & Kathy Hanna, David R. Tuy, Monica Hersh (Zoom).

Meeting opened at 6:30 p.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of Minutes

Randall Justice made a motion to approve the June 22, 2020 Borough of Akron Council meeting minutes. Kleon Zimmerman seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Visitors

Kylie Good, 217 Colonial Drive, Akron stated that no information about sewer rate increases were passed along to her from the Hauenstein Agency. Good also mentioned that this is unrealistic and unreasonable and there was supposed to be a follow up at this meeting in regard to the sewer rate issue.

Tom Murray, Sr, stated there are significant issues that need to be repaired to our aging sewer system and sewer rates were raised to take care of costs. Tom Murray, Sr. also mentioned there is a number of deficiencies and no one planned on the COVID-19 when this budget was passed and if we delay repairs then it makes it worse. Kylie Good asked how long do these increases last and can we do fundraisers or come up with other ideas to raise money.

Robyn Hodgson, 1245 Main Street, mentioned that the Borough has known about this for decades and what is the Borough doing. Robyn mentioned she would help with grants and also mentioned that neighbors are living on fixed incomes and could Council lower sewer rates and then stagger the increases.

Ruth and Ambrose Bard, 125 S. Tenth Street were at the meeting to talk about their lateral sewer repair and their insurance company will choose the company that does the repair or they will not pay. Sue Davidson will contact the Bard's tomorrow to discuss this issue.

Fred Whitley, 1241 Main Street, mentioned if the Borough would consider alternative options such as a loan. Tom Murray, Sr. mentioned Council will look at other options such as loans and grants.

Robyn Hodgson stated that smaller municipalities don't have employees to do all this work like larger municipalities.

Tom Murray, Sr, also mentioned that Ephrata Borough is doing improvements to Plant 1 next year which will add more expense to the Borough.

Darryl Witmer mentioned that the penalties to Ephrata Borough last year were so high because we have had above average rain in 2018 and 2019.

Paul Swangren, Jr. mentioned that the Public Utilities Committee did not meet so Council can't vote on anything. Tom Murray, Sr. mentioned we will try to have something by the next meeting.

Richard Buch, Oak Street mentioned we are just rehashing everything. What are we going to get for our buck?

Robyn Hodgson mentioned consider a capital improvements loan and spread out over a 10 years. Robyn also mentioned to please keep the Akron Borough Police Department.

The current newsletter will be mailed to Kylie Good tomorrow from the Borough Office.

Elliott Neese, 1003 Orchard Street, asked is leadership is an issue. Tom Murray, Sr. mentioned the Borough did fail at some instances, but the Borough will

continue to do ongoing repairs and Council is trying to do our best and don't wants rates to be this high.

Council will meet on July 27, 2020 to discuss viable option to lower rates.

Kathy Hanna, 913 Main Street, mentioned the webpage should be updated with information including the newsletter. Tom Murray, Sr. mentioned that he updates the webpage.

Fred Whitley mentioned that people are driving fast past his house on Main Street and wants our police department to do something about this. Mayor McBeth mentioned the police can put up the speed sentry near his house.

2019 Audit

Megan Thompson from Herbein & Company gave a recap of the 2019 audit. Thompson mentioned it was a clean audit and a pdf of the audit will be posted on the webpage.

Mayor Report

Mayor McBeth mentioned that the soccer goals for Colonial Park donated by Rosenberger have been put together and will send a thank you card to Rosenberger for their generous donation.

Police

Distributed June 2020 report

Chief Zell mentioned that he signed a new contract with PennTeledata. Chief Zell also mentioned that Officer Craig Johnson did not take the full-time police position.

Borough Manager

June 2020 month-end financials have been reconciled and July 2020 payables have been reviewed.

Schuylkill Paving has completed the Walnut Street Paving.

The Front Street paving bids were opened on July 8, 2020 and this item is on the tonight's meeting agenda under Streets Committee.

The Lodge door at Roland Park has been replaced and new keys issued. The Borough Manager would like to discuss with the Parks Chairperson a policy for our park and park buildings and liability issues.

The sewer pump was replaced at 1418 Diamond Street and has been inspected and is working properly and residents were allowed to move back into dwelling.

The 2019 Annual Drinking Water Quality Report is on the Borough webpage.

There is nothing scheduled for the Akron Borough Planning Commission at this time.

A Zoning Hearing is scheduled for July 16, 2020 for 411 Edgehill Drive requesting an increase of impervious surface from 60% to 67.1%.

Chief Zell and the Borough Manager were appointed as Pandemic Safety Officers and are following the guidelines that have been posted. The Borough Office opened to the public on June 29, 2020 with certain restrictions such as wearing face masks and maintaining social distancing.

Committee Reports

Administrative/Finance Committee

Randall Justice made a motion to pay the bills as reviewed by Randall Justice and Mayor McBeth. Paul Swangren, Jr. seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Paul Swangren made a motion to pay the 2020 donations as read-

Akron Volunteer Fire Company	\$17,500 (1/2 of 2020 donation)
Ephrata Public Library	\$11,900 (1/2 of 2020 donation)
Historical Society of the Cocalico Valley	\$ 1,000.00
Ephrata Recreation Center	\$6,240.00
Ephrata Area Ambulance	\$5,000.00

Randall Justice seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Sue Davidson read into the minutes the June 2020 month-end balances

General Fund	\$407,738.92
Water Fund	\$ 24,399.04
Sewer Fund	\$ 77,248.91
Highway Aid	\$254,746.51
General Reserves	\$417,372.07
Water Reserves	\$265,779.32
Sewer Reserves	\$144,845.76
Capital Projects	\$ 373.78
Community Fund	\$ 3,420.08
Total	\$1,592,926.39
Escrow Fund	\$ 5,959.07

Community Relations Committee

Darryl Witmer mentioned that he is working with the Ephrata Public Library on events. Mayor McBeth was asked if the Borough is still having its annual New Year’s Eve Shoe In. Mayor McBeth mentioned we are still having the event and the first meeting will probably take place in September.

Darryl Witmer stated there is a Comprehensive Plan Implementation meeting on Wednesday, August 5, 2020 to discuss “Safety on our Roads”. Porter Stevens from the Lancaster County Planning Commission will be present at the meeting to give insight on this issue. Also on the agenda will be a discussion on a dog park.

Parks/Property Committee

Nathan Imhoff will schedule time to meet with the Borough Manager about 2020 projects.

Personnel Committee

At this time Council President Thomas J. Murray handed the meeting over to Nathan Imhoff during Personnel Committee discussion.

Paul Swangren, Jr. mentioned that he and the Borough Manager met with representatives from International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers on July 8th to discuss proposed non-uniform contract.

Additional meetings are scheduled for August 3rd and August 19th with the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers.

The meeting was handed back to the President of Council.

Paul Swangren, Jr. made a motion to advertise the amendment to Section 207, specific duties of the Borough Manager by allowing Council from time to time to change the Manager's job description by resolution. Nathan Imhoff seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Tom Murray, Sr. will e-mail police service questions to the Borough Secretary to be sent to Council members, Mayor and Ephrata Police Chief and West Earl Police Chief.

Paul Swangren, Jr. mentioned that he would like to have an Executive Session at the end of the meeting.

The Short-Term Disability will be on the July 27, 2020 Council meeting agenda.

Streets Committee

Nathan Imhoff made a motion to accept the base bid of \$129,218.50 from Construction Masters Services LLC, Sinking Spring PA 19608 for the paving of Front Street.

Others bids:

Affordable Paving & Excavating, LLC \$135,374.20

H&K Group, Inc. \$145,546.34

Barwis Construction LLC \$142,444.00

New Enterprise Stone & Lime Co \$146,342.45

Martin Paving Inc \$146,377.60

JVI Group Inc. \$165,635.00

Berg Construction Group LLC \$180,602.50

Darryl Witmer seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Nathan Imhoff made a motion to accept the proposal from Triple K Concrete for the ADA ramps at Front Street in the amount of \$15,600.00. Kleon Zimmerman seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Public Utilities Committee

Nathan Imhoff, Kleon Zimmerman and the Borough Manager will meet to discuss current sewer rates.

Owner of 206 S. 10th Street who asked for leniency on the sewer portion of his bill must provide proof that the sewer did not go through the system.

Paul Swangren, Jr. made a motion to approve the 3 easements on Seventh Street, 201 S. Seventh, 211 S. Seventh and 217 S. Seventh Streets as part of the water loop project to eliminate the dead-end water line. Nathan Imhoff seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Randall Justice made a motion to approve the withdrawal of the stormwater plan for Wolf Tract Lot 11 and to grant and 91 day extension until October 12, 2020 for the Wolf Tract Lot 12. Paul Swangren, Jr. seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Jennifer Prunoske from Hanover Engineering made a presentation on the Annual MS4 report that is due September 30, 2020.

Sue Davidson mentioned that Comcast dropped off a set of revised plans.

Paul Swangren, Jr. mentioned that we need to have meeting guidelines.

Paul Swangren, Jr. made a motion to go into Executive Session to discuss a personnel issue. Randall Justice seconded the motion. Motion carried.

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

Paul Swangren, Jr made a motion to suspend Officer Jonathan Welch as recommended by Police Chief Thomas Zell, beginning July 14, 2020 as a result of an internal investigation. Randall Justice seconded the motion.

Roll call- Darryl Witmer, voted yes; Paul Swangren, Jr. voted yes; Nathan Imhoff voted yes; Randall Justice voted yes; Kleon Zimmerman voted yes; Thomas Murray, Sr. voted yes. Motion carried.

Paul Swangren, Jr. made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Nathan Imhoff seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 9:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Davidson
Borough Secretary

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