

BOROUGH OF AKRON COUNCIL MEETING – August 10, 2020

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

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

Meeting opened at 6:32 p.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of Minutes

Nathan Imhoff made a motion to approve the July 30, 2020 Borough of Akron Council Meeting minutes. Thomas J. Murray, Sr. seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Thomas J. Murray, Sr. stated the meeting was terminated because of a termination of the Zoom.

Visitors

Richard Rupp – observing the meeting.

David Deemer – observing via Zoom.

Reports

Mayor

Mayor John McBeth stated that this coming Wednesday, August 12, 2020, they will be getting updates on the Drug Task Force. He reported that him and Susan Davidson were at the Colonial Park with the Rosenberger to do a formal Thank You for the soccer goals.

Police

Chief Thomas Zell presented two resignations for the Council's acceptance for Officer Jonathan Welch and Officer Craig T. Johnson. He also asked what the Council's plans are regarding Akron Police Department. The Chief stated this is an urgent situation with public safety here in the Borough and it seems like it has been dragging on too long. He hopes that the Borough Council will find a conclusion in the next week, or two, so that they can move forward and hopefully, have adequate police service for the citizens in this Borough, which he is concerned about for the next three or four months.

Nathan Imhoff thanked Chief Zell for keeping his department operating with everything that is going on.

Borough Manager Report

July 2020 financials have been reconciled and August 2020 payables have been reviewed. 2021 Budget work will begin in the next few weeks.

Schuylkill Paving completed the Walnut Street project and the payment application is on tonight's agenda.

The Front Street paving bids were opened on July 8, 2020. Construction Masters LLC was awarded the bid and they would like to begin work on September 8, 2020. There is a pre-construction meeting planned for this Thursday, August 13, 2020 at 3:00 PM along with Triple K. Letters will be sent out to notify the residents on the Front Street about the proposed dates.

The Borough Manager stated she met with the Public Utilities Committee to discuss the high sewer rates. Last Thursday night, August 6, 2020, she along with Public Works went out and pulled manhole covers for about two and a half hours, which she has a report for on the table.

The property owner at 708 New Street is still having issues with dirty water. Melron Industries was called to flush the lines but Melron will only do the main line and the water heater, not the furnace. The property owner is looking to have just one company take care of flushing all the lines in the house at one time.

The Borough Manager and Paul Swangren, Jr. plan on meeting with the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW) this Wednesday, August 12, 2020 to discuss the proposed IBEW non-uniform contract.

A Zoning Hearing Application was submitted for 411 Edgehill Drive, requesting to increase impervious surface from 60% to 67.1%. The hearing was scheduled for July 16, 2020 at 7:00 p.m. and it was approved by the zoning hearing board.

The grant application for AARP requesting \$5,000.00 for park benches, directional signs and planters was submitted to AARP on May 14, 2020 but was denied. There were over 2,800 applications received from communities through the United States.

The Borough Manager would like to discuss with Council the projects that they have budgeted for 2020.

Lydia Kovalchuk was interviewed to take minutes for Council meetings starting today, August 10, 2020.

Tax Collector

July 2020 Real Estate Tax collected for County of Lancaster

\$9,110.21

July 2020 Real Estate Taxes collected for the Borough of Akron

\$9,197.58

Ephrata Community Ambulance Association Report

Distributed July 2020 Operations Report

Zoning Officer

Distributed July 2020 Zoning Officer Report

Fire Report

Distributed July 2020 Fire Report

Thomas J. Murray, Sr. asked whether the individuals on Front Street have made arrangements with Construction Masters LLC to finish their sidewalks.

The Borough Manager stated she is not aware if they have made arrangements, or not. They will need to work with Construction Masters LLC.

Administration/Finance

Darryl Witmer made a motion to pay the bills as reviewed by the Finance Committee. Thomas J. Murray, Sr. seconded the motion. Motion carried.

The July 31, 2020 month-end cash balances were read into the minutes.

General Fund \$288,210.86
Water Fund \$476.82
Sewer Fund \$42,867.10
Hwy Aid Fund \$254,941.11
General Reserves \$425,648.81
Water Reserves \$265,828.32
Sewer Reserves \$170,025.72
Cap. Projects \$373.82
Comm. Fund \$3,420.08

Total \$1,451,792.64

Escrow Fund \$5,960.19

The Borough Manager reviewed the July 31, 2020 Revenues & Expenditures Report.

Community Relations

Darryl Witmer stated he had a meeting with the steering committee where they talked about park projects – dog park and redoing the playgrounds. They also discussed the Akron Borough 125th Anniversary Book.

Parks/Property Committee

Nathan Imhoff stated he also attended the steering committee where they discussed the dog park. Possibly next year they will try to do a pop-up dog park, as well as to update the playgrounds. The Borough Manager added that Mrs. Stoner, who passed away recently, used to live on Main Street in Akron. Her family asked that in lieu of flowers, donations in Marty’s memory to be sent to Akron Borough marked as “Roland Park donation.” That will be added to the budget.

Personnel Committee

The Borough Manager stated again that they plan on meeting with the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers this Wednesday, August 12, 2020 to discuss the proposed IBEW non-uniform contract; they have an Ordinance and Resolution for the Borough Manager job description; they have two resignations for the Police, and they also need to discuss when they are having a meeting to discuss Police services.

Nathan Imhoff made a motion to accept the resignation letter of Officer Craig T. Johnson effective July 25, 2020. Kleon Zimmerman seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Nathan Imhoff made a motion to accept the settlement agreement and resignation letter of Officer Jonathan Welch effective August 10, 2020. Thomas J. Murray, Sr. seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Nathan Imhoff made a motion to hold a Police Special Meeting next Monday evening, August 17, 2020 at 6:30 P.M. at the bandshell Pavilion 2. Thomas J. Murray, Sr. seconded the motion.

Discussion regarding location followed.

Nathan Imhoff amended his motion to change the location to be in the upstairs truck base of the Akron Volunteer Fire Company Station 12 on August 17, 2020 at 6:30 P.M. Motion carried.

The Borough Manager presented the Ordinance that allows Council, from time to time, to change the Manager's job description by Resolution. It has been properly advertised and posted. The Ordinance number is 00101.

Thomas J. Murray, Sr. made the motion to adopt Ordinance No. 00101. Nathan Imhoff seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Kenelm L. Shirk III, Akron Borough Solicitor, suggested that they adopt a temporary Resolution to change the Manager's job description until the final job description is written. The Resolution has the exact language used in the Ordinance.

Thomas J. Murray, Sr. made the motion to adopt Resolution No. 00233. Kleon Zimmerman seconded the motion. Motion carried.

The Borough Manager stated that a few meeting ago the Council approved the Short Term Disability for the Uniform; however, Nationwide is no longer taking any new employees as it will be stopping all benefits – Life Insurance, Short Term Disability and Long Term Disability by the end of the year.

The Borough Manager consulted with Benecon about this matter and they gave us a very good price for the exact package, including the Short Term Disability with our Uniform employees.

Nathan Imhoff made a motion for the Short Term Disability, Long Term Disability and Life Insurance that went into effect August 1, 2020 through Benecon. Darryl Witmer seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Thomas J. Murray, Sr. noted that he was not sure whether this applied to the non-uniformed or just uniformed, so he did not participate in the discussion before the vote. He asked that there would be appropriate paperwork for them to sign at the next meeting.

Streets Committee

There is a Walnut Street payment letter from Hanover Engineering to approve the contract price as well as some change orders that were put into effect. Hanover Engineering is retaining \$6,449.92. The amount to Schuylkill Paving will be \$58,049.28

Thomas J. Murray, Sr. made the motion to approve the payment. Kleon Zimmerman seconded the motion. Motion carried.

The Council discussed the paving work done by Hanover Engineering and they were made aware that there have formed basins where the rain water sets.

Thomas J. Murray, Sr. and Kleon Zimmerman have withdrawn their motion and the second.

Public Utilities

Sewer Rates

The Borough Manager stated at our last meeting the Council made a motion to move forward with the I & I work. The signed proposals were sent.

The Borough Manager stated there is an extension request for stormwater plan for Akron Mennonite Church which expires on September 6, 2020. They are requesting a six month extension until March 6, 2021.

Nathan Imhoff made a motion to extend the stormwater plan for Akron Mennonite Church until March 6, 2021. Kleon Zimmerman seconded the motion. Motion carried.

The Borough Manager presented a request for sewer relief from a resident on High Street that is requesting relief of sanitary sewer charges for some professional power washing that took place. It was not a leak, but rather something that was planned. Council took no action.

Kenelm L. Shirk III, Akron Borough Solicitor, presented a letter from West Earl Water Authority who expressed an interest in a possible Intermunicipal Agreement with Akron relative to the emergency water interconnection between the two water systems on North Conestoga View Drive. Kenelm L. Shirk III stated there is already an Agreement and a First Amendment to the Agreement, of which he was not aware. He also pointed out that the Agreement and the First Amendment to the Agreement have to be approved in advance. This is to make the Council aware before they take action.

The Borough Manager stated she went out last Thursday pulling manhole covers for about two hours to do inspections and there is some information on that. They are planning to go out again next week.

New Business/Old Business

Mayor John McBeth stated the Pilgrims Church garden are running out of volunteers to maintain the garden, so they would like to turn it over to one of the volunteers, Tim Seifred, who owns a landscaping business. They are very interested in having him to do this because he will continue their commitment to not using any chemicals which has been an educational part of this project.

The Borough Manager stated she met with Comcast a few weeks ago to go over the revised plans for installation of pedestals and they did submit new plans. She would like to invite residents from those streets in Akron Borough to let them know that the pedestals are going to be installed. There are no dates set as of right now.

Richard Rupp, citizen, expressed concerns regarding eliminating Akron Borough Police.

Justin Gehman presented a letter from Thomas J. Murray, Sr. resigning his position from President of the Akron Borough Council.

Kleon Zimmerman made a motion to accept the resignation of Thomas J. Murray, Sr. from President of the Akron Borough Council effective July 27, 2020. Darryl Witmer seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Thomas J. Murray, Sr. thanked the Council for accepting his resignation and stated that he will continue serving on the Council.

Justin Gehman nominated Nathan Imhoff as new President of the Akron Borough Council. Nathan Imhoff accepted the nomination. Darryl Witmer seconded the nomination. Motion carried.

Thomas J. Murray, Sr. made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Kleon Zimmerman seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 8:06 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lydia Kovalchuk
Minute Taker

LK