

## **BOROUGH OF AKRON COUNCIL MEETING – January 25, 2021**

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

***Others present*** – Mayor John McBeth and Susan Davidson, Borough Manager/Secretary (Kenelm L. Shirk III, Solicitor not present).

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

### **Approval of Minutes**

Thomas J. Murray, Sr. made a motion to approve the January 11, 2021 Borough of Akron Council Meeting minutes. Randall Justice seconded the motion.

***Visitors*** – Eric Higgins, West Earl Township Police Chief; Larry Alexander, Ephrata Review; Jennifer Prunoske, Hanover Engineering; Glenn Weaver, Akron Mennonite Church; Len Bradley, RGS Associates; Sean Molchany, Akron resident and John Weber, Lititz resident.

### **Police Report**

Chief Higgins introduced Officer Mitch Rogers and Detective Dawn Ray. Chief Higgins stated he will provide the January Police Report at the first Council meeting in February.

The Chief also shared some highlights stating they hired two new officers which are being sworn in tonight; they have a formal 12-week Field Training Program that both of these newly sworn in officers will have to go through; they conducted a lockdown drill at the school this morning, and next month, the officers are going to get key fobs to have access to the school in case of an emergency.

The Borough Manager presented dates and times for the police liaison meetings between Akron Borough and West Earl Township.

The Borough Manager stated that the titles for the two police vehicles have been turned over to West Earl and they are waiting for the last title.

### **Akron Mennonite Church Stormwater**

Randall Justice recused himself from the discussion.

Mr. Bradley from RGS Associates presented the Akron Mennonite Church project that has been in the making for about 19 months. He stated that the reason he and his team are present at the meeting tonight is to requested a Letter of Concurrence for their DEP NPDS/Stormwater permit

with the State. Based off the computational methods of the NPDS permit, there is a volumetric increase to the discharging property across the street. Through the process, they identified the need for a PennDOT HOP permit for the connection to the PennDOT pipe, which they acquired. He stated that because the Borough raised concerns about the MS-4 obligations as it relates to the volume increase, Jennifer Prunoske from Hanover Engineering contacted DEP regarding those concerns. DEP said it is not an issue as far as how the MS-4 permit goes. To move this NPDS permit forward for the DEP to issue it, they will need that Letter of Concurrence from the Borough for the volumetric increase for the NPDS permit.

Ms. Prunoske from Hanover Engineering added that a new piece of NPDS got passed in December of 2019 that if there is an increase, the Municipality that has the MS-4, has to sign off on it. It is the Borough's decision whether they want to allow increases, or do not want to allow increases.

The Council is not in favor of the increase in the MS-4. Thomas J. Murray, Sr. reminded everyone, that at their last meeting, he made a motion that there would be no increase in the MS-4 stormwater runoff on the Akron Mennonite Church property. The Council does not agree that the Borough should be responsible for the water that is coming off the church's property. The Council asked that, if possible, they do some research and come back before the Council with a better option that could make this work for both the church and the Borough.

### **Handi-Vangelism**

The Borough Manager stated they met with Handi-Vangelism and their engineers last week. Handi-Vangelism requested a conditional approval of their plan from the Council. Nathan Imhoff stated he would like to have Solicitor Shirk be a part of this conversation. The Council will discuss this matter at their next meeting.

### **Back to Police Report**

Thomas J. Murray, Sr. made a motion to pay the February 2021 Police Contract Services to West Earl Township in the amount of \$58,728.63. Paul Swangren, Jr. seconded the motion. Motion carried.

### **Borough Manager**

#### ***2021 Committee Chairpersons – 2021 Projects***

The Borough Manager would like to meet with Committee Chairs to discuss their 2021 projects.

Nathan Imhoff stated that starting in February, the Borough Manager will not be reading over each item on the report. She will be sharing the report with each Chairperson, and each Chairperson will report on it.

### **Parks/Property**

Randall Justice stated he has been contacted by Abigail Balmer, Ephrata Public Library Assistant Director. Ms. Balmer would like to meet with Mr. Justice on Tuesday, February 2<sup>nd</sup>, to discuss the Storybook Trail that she wants to do in Roland Park.

## **Personnel**

### ***Assistant Borough Manager Advertisement***

Thomas Murray, Jr. made a motion to move to Executive Session. Mr. Murray has some questions in relation to the Assistant Borough Manager. Nathan Imhoff seconded the motion. Motion carried.

The regular Council meeting was recessed at 7:45 p.m.

The regular Council meeting was reconvened at 8:16 p.m.

Paul Swangren, Jr. made a motion to return to regular Council meeting and exit the Executive Session. Kleon Zimmerman seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Paul Swangren, Jr. turned over his Personnel Committee recommendation to Randall Justice.

Randall Justice made a motion regarding the employment offer previously made relevant to an Assistant Borough Manager position contingent upon a vote being taken this evening with an associated start date after that vote. Randall Justice moved that the Council would take on that vote until their next meeting on February 8, 2021 with a concurrent change in the start date. Paul Swangren, Jr. seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Thomas Murray, Jr. abstained from voting.

## **Public Utilities**

### ***Comcast***

The Borough Manager stated she is still waiting for permits and the security that need to be submitted.

### ***T-Mobile***

The Borough Manager will get in touch with T-Mobile regarding an agreement. There was a permit that was applied for; however, the reviewer has some issues with the permit. The Borough Manager will have this on the agenda for the next meeting.

## **New Business/Old Business**

### ***Zoning Hearing – January 28, 2021 for 1-7 N. Ninth Street***

The Borough Manager stated the Zoning Hearing is going forward on Thursday, January 28<sup>th</sup>.

### **Akron Borough Council Member Resignation**

The Council discussed a resignation letter that will have to be discussed and accepted until February.

Thomas Murray, Jr. turned in his letter of resignation from Council.

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

Meeting adjourned at 8:21 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lydia Kovalchuk  
Minute Taker

LK