

## **BOROUGH OF AKRON COUNCIL MEETING – February 8, 2021**

***Council Members present*** – Nathan Imhoff, President; Justin Gehman, Vice-President; Thomas J. Murray, Sr.; Kleon Zimmerman; Paul Swangren, Jr., and Randall Justice.

***Others present*** – Mayor John McBeth and Susan Davidson, Borough Manager/Secretary, Sean Molchany, Assistant Borough Manager.

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 25, 2021 Borough of Akron Council Meeting minutes and the February 1, 2021 Borough of Akron Council Meeting minutes. Kleon Zimmerman seconded the motion. (Zoom- Adrienne Zell, Andrea Eberhart, Richard Rupp, John Williamson)

***Visitors*** – Eric Higgins, West Earl Township Police Chief; Larry Alexander, Ephrata Review; Kyle Robinson, Handi-Vangelism Ministries International; Ryan Cochran; John Taylor, and George Wolf, Akron residents.

### **Police Report**

Chief Higgins introduced Officer Greg Stone, who was a longtime Akron Borough police officer; Officer Jordan Byrnes, and Officer Jacob Waltz who recently came on board and was sworn in at their last Board meeting.

Chief Higgins stated he emailed the January Police Report to the Borough Manager. The Council appreciated the report.

### **Mayor**

Mayor John McBeth would like to go to the Colonial Park this week, to the area where the pavilions will be. He also suggested they install a bicycle rack in the park. The Council was in favor of a bicycle rack.

### **Borough Manager**

#### ***Planning and Zoning***

The Borough Manager stated that Hanover Engineering met with Handi-Vangelism staff and Vision Engineering to discuss the review letter from Hanover Engineering dated January 20, 2021 at the Borough Office. The Planning Commission was scheduled to meet on February 4, 2021 to review waiver/modifications from Handi-Vangelism. The staff contacted Handi-

Vangelism and told them they need to address the outstanding issues before coming back to the Borough Planning Commission.

The Akron Mennonite Church was contacted by Hanover Engineering indicating that the Council will not discuss or take action on the proposed alternative until complete information showing compliance with the Ordinance has been submitted to the Borough and Borough Engineer for review. The Akron Mennonite Church will need to grant the Borough an extension.

There is a Zoning Hearing Application that has been submitted for 1-7 N. Ninth Street (variance) to convert two commercial unites into one residential unit. The hearing was scheduled for January 28, 2021 and has been continued to February 11, 2021. The Zoning Hearing Board has asked the applicant for additional information before making a decision.

The Akron Borough Council appointed Eckert Seamans as the Borough of Akron Interim Solicitor. A Request for Proposal Draft was submitted. Thomas Murray, Sr. was fine with the proposal, so it will get advertised tomorrow. A file transfer letter was forwarded to Shirk Law Associates from Eckert Seamans telling them to send all Akron Borough correspondence and documents to the Akron Borough Office.

The Borough Manager would like to set up times with the Committee Chairperson to discuss the 2021 goals as soon as possible, so they can start working on their projects.

The Borough Manager and the new Assistant Borough Manager are meeting with Hanover Engineering tomorrow to discuss the upcoming 2021 projects.

The Code Administrators issued a Notice of Violation to Doris Rivera at 703 Broad Street regarding illicit sewage discharge from a recreational vehicle.

The Borough Manager has the Reports/Forms filed in January 2021:

2020 W-2's

2020 1099's

2010 1094B & 1095B-IRS – Report of employees/dependents have qualifying health insurance

PennDOT Form 965 – Liquid Fuels

DCED Annual Flood Plain Report

DCED Survey of Financial Condition

DCED Elected and Appointed Officials

DCED Municipal Tax Information

Commonwealth of PA – Public Utility Realty Tax – PURTA

The Borough Manager has a letter from Senator Ryan Aument's Office inviting the Municipal Leaders to a virtual discussion on Friday, February 19, 2021 at 9:00 AM.

## **Administration/Finance**

### ***Approve Bills***

Thomas J. Murray, Sr. made a motion to pay the January bills as reviewed by the Finance Committee and the Mayor. Kleon Zimmerman seconded the motion. Motion carried.

The January 2021 month-end financials have been reconciled and the bills have been paid.

The Borough of Akron Annual Audit is being conducted by Herbein CPA's & Consultants. They would like to schedule a closing meeting the first week of March to review the financials before submission to the DCED. They will also attend a Council meeting to review the Annual Audit with the Council.

The Borough received \$52,578 CARES Act money from Lancaster County on February 8, 2021 for expenditures due to COVID-19.

2021 Real Estate Tax bills will be mailed in the next weeks. Lancaster County Treasurer's Office will contact the Borough when those bills have been printed.

Thomas J. Murray, Sr. reviewed the January 2021 Revenues and Expenditures Report.

The January 31, 2021 month-end cash balances were read into the minutes.

General Fund \$88,656.39  
Water Fund \$13,780.92  
Sewer Fund \$18,003.05  
Hwy Aid Fund \$45,771.39  
General Reserves \$261,060.77  
Water Reserves \$286,110.52  
Sewer Reserves \$226,059.97  
Capital Projects \$374.14  
Comm. Fund \$4,319.67  
Total \$944,136.82  
Escrow Fund \$5,961.55

Thomas J. Murray, Sr. would like to purchase two laptops for the Borough Manager and the Assistant Borough Manager to replace the aged equipment that they currently have.

Thomas J. Murray, Sr. made a motion that the Council would authorize the purchase of two laptops, four monitors, two universal docks, two keyboards and two mouse cursors in the amount not to exceed \$3,500. Randall Justice seconded the motion. Motion carried.

### **Parks/Property**

Randall Justice stated he was scheduled to meet with Abigail Balmer, Ephrata Public Library Assistant Director, on Tuesday, February 2<sup>nd</sup>, to discuss the Storybook Trail that she wants to do in Roland Park. The meeting was cancelled due to the snowfall and was rescheduled for tomorrow morning, February 9, 2021 at 9:30 a.m.

Mr. Justice would like to set up a meeting with staff to move ahead with 2021 projects.

### **Public Utilities**

Kleon Zimmerman stated he met with the Borough Manager and the Assistant Borough Manager to discuss and to set up a plan to work on a couple projects.

### **New Business/Old Business**

#### ***Comcast***

The Borough Manager and the Assistant Borough Manager will contact Todd Eachus from Comcast to meet with him to get whatever other paperwork needs to be done.

#### ***Handi-Vangelism***

Kyle Robinson, Executive Director of Handi-Vangelism Ministries International, was present to discuss the time extension of their plan. Handi-Vangelism is planning on submitting their revised plan by February 17, 2021, which is two weeks before the March 3<sup>rd</sup> deadline.

The Assistant Borough Manager sent an extension form to Handi-Vangelism for them to fill-out and grant an extension. Handi-Vangelism will be willing to grant an extension to the Borough until April 12, 2021, if the Borough would like that.

The Council asked that Handi-Vangelism would grant them a time-extension until May 12, 2021 because April 12<sup>th</sup> is not a realistic timeframe extension. Mr. Robinson will present this time-extension request to his attorney.

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

The Borough Manager would like to put T-Mobile on the agenda for the next February 22, 2021 Council Meeting as she is waiting for a callback from T-Mobile regarding an agreement.

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

Nathan Imhoff presented Darryl Witmer's Resignation Letter from Akron Borough Council which was submitted on January 1, 2021.

Thomas J. Murray, Sr. made a motion to accept Darryl Witmer's resignation from Borough Council. Randall Justice seconded the motion. Motion carried.

The Council will move forward on the process of interviewing candidates for Council.

Randall Justice made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Justin Gehman seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 7:16 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lydia Kovalchuk  
Minute Taker

LK