

BOROUGH OF AKRON COUNCIL MEETING – July 12, 2021

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

Others present – Mayor John McBeth; Susan Davidson, Borough Manager/Secretary; Sean Molchany, Assistant Borough Manager, and Police Chief Eric Higgins.

Visitors – John Taylor.

No Zoom Visitors

Meeting opened at 6:34 p.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Council Roll Call: Thomas J. Murray, Sr. – Yes
Kleon Zimmerman – Yes
Michael Morris – Yes
Paul Swangren, Jr. – Yes
Randall Justice – Yes
Justin Gehman, Vice-President – No
Nathan Imhoff, President – Yes
Mayor John McBeth – Yes

Approval of Minutes

Paul Swangren, Jr. made a motion to approve the June 28, 2021 Borough of Akron Council Meeting minutes. Randall Justice seconded the motion.
Motion carried.

John Taylor, Akron resident, suggested they put a sign along Warwick-to-Ephrata Rail Trail that talks about the Akron history, like the Akron Shoe Factory.

Bills

Thomas J. Murray, Sr. made a motion to pay the June 2021 bills as reviewed by the Finance Committee. Kleon Zimmerman seconded the motion.

General Fund – \$96,874.60
Water Fund – \$3,997.83
Sewer Fund – \$128,767.00
Centennial Fund – \$2,786.00

Motion carried.

Reports

Police Report

Chief Higgins submitted his June 2021 Akron Borough Monthly Activity Report to Council for review.

Paul Swangren, Jr. mentioned the resignation letter submitted by a former Akron Borough Police Officer. Chief Higgins stated he chose to exercise his option to vest in retirement and pursue other opportunities.

Mayor Report

Mayor McBeth asked about the missing bench in Roland Park that was reported by a citizen. The Borough Manager explained that it was a bench that needed to be repaired. It was taken down and is being repaired right now.

Borough Manager Report

The Borough Manager stated that at the June 14, 2021 meeting, a report was submitted to Council and Mayor showing the Fund Amounts including Reserves over the past five years. At the last meeting it was determined that the Council will discuss the Borough Reserves this evening. It is on the agenda for discussion.

As discussed at the previous meetings, according to the police agreement, there is a pension liability of about \$379,000 that the Borough has to pay within five years. Because the last quarter of 2020 was a very good quarter, there was growth beyond what was anticipated.

The Borough Manager approached West Earl to do an actuarial report, and ask them to offset the money owed against the growth. West Earl was in agreement.

The Borough Manager contacted Ron Bittner with Girard Pension Services, LLC about the actuary. He said that Akron no longer has a police pension, so there is an actuary that is going to be done in the next few months for the police pension. All information will be in that report, which will be done by West Earl.

At the last Borough meeting, the Council was notified about Fulton Bank relocating their Akron Ephrata Financial Center located at 3630 Rothsville Road in Ephrata to a new location at 130 N. Reading Road in Ephrata. The Borough Manager met with Ephrata National Bank last week to talk about their different banking services. The Borough Manager needs to submit some information to them and will get back to Council with a proposal.

The bid proposals for the Street Drainage Improvements Project will be advertised for bid opening on Wednesday, August 4, 2021. A pre-bid meeting will be held on Friday, July 23, 2021 at 10:00 a.m. at the Borough Municipal Office.

The remained of the retainage was forwarded to Construction Masters for the Front Street Project.

The Akron Fire Company Driveway has been completed and a recommendation for Payment #1 and Payment #2 (retainage) has been made by the Borough Engineer. This item is on this evening's meeting agenda.

Phase 2 of the Rail Trail Stream Project has been completed and Payment #1 (less retainage) has been recommended for payment by the Borough Engineer. This item is also on this evening's meeting agenda.

The Borough Manager brought up to Council's attention seeing people looking for frisbee discs in the pond in Roland Park. The only time the Borough allows someone to go in the pond is when Bill Geibel from Frisbee Golf Club asks for permission, and the police is notified about the exact time when they will be retrieving any lost frisbee discs from the pond. The Borough Manager asked Wesley Moyer, head of the Frisbee Golf Club, to put on his webpage to ask people not to go in the pond.

SRBC issued a Notice of Violation for January 1-30, 2021 and a letter and documentation was forwarded to SRBC by the Borough water operator.

There have been a few complaints about Comcast from the Heritage and Edgehill developments. The Borough Manager forwarded the name and telephone number of the Comcast Representative for residents to contact with any questions, or complaints.

A copy of the Non-Uniform Employee Handbook with proposed changes has been reviewed by the Personnel Committee and has been forwarded to the Borough Labor Attorney for review. The Borough Manager will contact the Personnel Committee with the comments.

The Bark in the Park is scheduled for Sunday, July 18, 2021 at Roland Park from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

The Holiday Wreaths have arrived and will be stored in the basement of the Borough Office.

The Akron Night at the Barnstormers is scheduled for Friday, August 27, 2021.

A Zoning Hearing is scheduled for July 15, 2021 commencing at 7:00 p.m. for the property located at 125 N. 11th Street for a lot width variance.

There is no Planning Commission Meeting scheduled at this time.

The Borough submitted an application to the Department of Community and Economic Development for the American Cares Act distribution for Akron Borough in the amount of \$420,246.88. The Borough received the first half of this amount on July 7, 2021. The remainder will be distributed in 2022. It was discussed by Council members to use this money for I&I work.

The Meet and Greet hosted by the West Earl Police Department on June 21 and June 24, 2021 was held at the Akron Borough Office. Over 20 people attended the June 24th Meet and Greet.

The Borough Manager reached out to Denise Auker from the Akron Borough Implementation Committee to set up a time to meet.

The Borough Manager asked Michael Morris for updates on the Borough webpage. Michael Morris stated he sent out the final web template to WebTek this afternoon, and should hear back from them tomorrow. After that, the building should begin.

Assistant Borough Manager/Zoning Officer Report

Nothing to report.

Finance Report

The June 30, 2021 month-end cash balances were read into the minutes.

General Fund \$435,456.01

Water Fund \$14,198.28

Sewer Fund \$182,862.27

Highway Aid \$141,172.82

General Reserves \$472,309.28

Water Reserves \$321,370.14

Sewer Reserves \$335,607.52

Capital Projects \$374.17

Community Fund \$4,975.22

Total \$1,908,325.71

Escrow Fund \$5,962.00

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

Thomas J. Murray, Sr. stated they also have a deposit from Community and Economic Development for \$210,123.44 into the General Reserves, which will be a separate line item.

Community Relations Report

Michael Morris reported that he looked at a couple of the other websites for the Boroughs around here, and he selected two templates based on what other municipalities have. He then had a few Akron residents give input on which website they would be more inclined to be using. Their choice was Framework 1. Mr. Morris sent that over to WebTek.

Parks and Property Report

Randall Justice reported that Mark Branle with Lititz BikeWorks got back to him, and the Borough of Akron is now listed as an Additional Insured on their policy. The Borough was provided with the documentation of that.

As a next step, the Coach of the Cyclocross team, George Fox, was going to go out and examine the park for ideal locations for both the training they want to do, and the parking. Mr. Justice did not hear anything further back. He will follow up with Mark Branle before the next Council meeting.

Kleon Zimmerman brought up the discussion they had at the last meeting about putting up a bus stop, and asked if anyone is following up on that. The Council recommended that Michael Morris would contact Red Rose regarding the bus stop, and then discuss it at a future meeting.

Personnel Report

Paul Swangren, Jr. said that once they get the employee handbook back from the Solicitor, it will be distributed to Council, except for Councilman Thomas J. Murray, Sr.

Public Utilities Report

Nothing to report.

Old Business

Discussion on Borough Reserves in case of emergencies.

The Borough Manager presented a sheet of the operating funds, including reserves for five years, which were totaled and averaged out.

Paul Swangren, Jr. stated that Justin Gehman, Vice-President, was very interested in this discussion, and in fairness to him, the Council should make decisions when he is present.

The Council discussed the Borough reserves. They will discuss it in depth and make a decision when Justin Gehman is present.

The Mayor asked if anything was done to deal with the emergency situation on Fulton Street.

The Assistant Borough Manager stated it has been bid, the Council awarded it, and now they are waiting for materials 4 to 6 weeks.

New Business

Supply of Akron 125 Anniversary Books to the Historical Society of the Cocalico Valley to sell.

Dick Wanner would like to offer a supply of books to the Historical Society, and ask them to pay the Borough \$8 for every book they sell for \$10. Mr. Wanner wants to make sure the Council is in favor of that.

The Council is in favor of releasing a batch of 50 books for \$8.

Paul Swangren, Jr. complimented the book saying that it is a fabulous book for Council members and for all Akron residents. Mr. Swangren enjoyed the pictures and enjoyed reading the history of Akron. He encouraged everyone to sit down and read the book. He also suggested they promote it more at the events, as well as on the website.

Paul Swangren, Jr. made a motion to consign 50 of the 125th Anniversary books to the Cocalico Historical Society. They will sell the books for \$10 per book and will pay Akron Borough \$8 per book. Michael Morris seconded the motion.

Motion carried.

The Borough Manager will prepare a letter to thank Dick Wanner for the books, and will then present it to him at one of the Council meetings to make it more public, as well as have Larry Alexander write a story for the newspaper.

Motions and Decisions

Motion to release Payment #1 and #2 for Fire Company Driveway Project

Randall Justice made a motion to authorize the release for Payment #1 and #2 for the Fire Company Driveway Project. Paul Swangren, Jr. seconded the motion.
Motion carried.

Motion to release Payment #1 for the Rail Trail Stream Embarkment Project

Michael Morris made a motion to authorize the release for Payment #1 for the Rail Trail Stream Embarkment Project. Kleon Zimmerman seconded the motion.

Randall Justice recommended they put on the record the amount of the payment.

Michael Morris amended his motion to include that the total to be paid for the Rail Trail Stream Embarkment Project is \$46,452.62 Kleon Zimmerman seconded the motion.
Motion carried.

Randall Justice noted for the record that Payments #1 and #2 for the Fire Company Driveway Project, Payment #1 was for \$42,512.56, and Payment #2 was the retainage in the amount of \$4,723.62.

Correspondence and Petitions

Thank You Letter from Ephrata Ambulance Association

The Ephrata Community Ambulance Association is thanking the Council for the \$5,000 donation from the Borough.

Paul Swangren, Jr. made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Kleon Zimmerman seconded the motion.
Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 7:42 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lydia Kovalchuk
Minute Taker

LK