

# Akron Town Council Meeting

November 18, 2024

Present: Jim Saner, President; Rich Solano, Vice-President; Tony Rameriz, Member; Rebecca Hartzler, Clerk-Treasurer; Justin Gearhart, Marshal; Jake Gearhart, Superintendent; Andy Perkins, Town Attorney.

Guest: Sign in sheet.

The meeting opened at 6:00 p.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Jim opened the public hearing at 6:00 p.m. regarding amendments to the Fulton County Zoning Ordinance. Heather Redinger, Fulton County Planning Commission Executive Director spoke to the board about the proposed changes. No public comment was heard. Rich made a motion to close the public hearing at 6:03 p.m. Tony 2<sup>nd</sup>. 3 ayes.

Rich made a motion to accept the minutes from the October 21, 2024 council meeting as presented. Tony 2<sup>nd</sup>. 3 ayes.

Scott Reese, Akron resident spoke to the council suggesting changes to the ordinance to allow chickens in town limits. He provided a letter and ordinances from North Manchester, Wabash & Indianapolis. Rebecca shared with the board she contacted Mentone, Silver Lake, North Manchester & Kewanna to see if they allowed chickens in town limits and obtained ordinances from North Manchester & Kewanna since they allow them. Mentone & Silver Lake do not allow chickens within town limits. It was recommended to table any decision on this topic. Rebecca will have this item on the agenda for the December meeting. She will also make a social media post to invite the community to attend the meeting and share with the council their opinion on whether or not to allow chickens in town limits.

Mary Kay from Compassionate Health Center spoke to the council about their organization and how they provide care to the uninsured residents in Fulton County. She shared how the organization is funded by donations, fundraisers, and other contributions. Mary also shared roughly 30% of the patients are Akron residents.

Rich made a motion to approve Utility Adjustment Request as presented. Tony 2<sup>nd</sup>. 3 ayes.

Rebecca informed the council she received the 1782 notice from the DLGF that the 2025 budget has been approved.

**Marshal Report:** Incident report for November 2024 was presented. The Halloween activities went well and had no problems reported. Justin shared he would be attending Use of Force training in Hobart. The new body cams have arrived and are in use.

## **Superintendent Report:**

**Water Dept:** We completed 4 data log reports. We have sent out letters to the necessary homes regarding the Lead Service Line Inventory. We have submitted our response letter to IDEM regarding our sanitary survey that was completed on October 8<sup>th</sup>. We have not heard back from

IDEM. Jake passed is WT3 Exam on October 29, 2024 and is now the certified operator for Akron. Rebecca suggested to the council that Jake's hourly wage bump to \$25/hr effective the first payroll of the 2025 salary ordinance. Rich made a motion to approve the wage increase. Tony 2<sup>nd</sup>. 3 ayes.

**Sewer Dept:** We are about to do some root cutting in town. We had a few lines inspected on November 8<sup>th</sup> and found massive balls of roots almost causing blockages. The lagoons are no longer discharging due to low creek levels and turbidity in the water. We are communicating with NIPSCO to complete a buried hazard form. The form needs to be completed to run the gas line to the generator at the South Mishawaka Gas Station. The old Viking Dollar sewer line relining is a work in progress. New lids have been ordered for the manhole covers on Rochester St.

**Street Dept:** We are still working with Phend & Brown on finishing some things up regarding the CCMG project. 2 of the 6 new radar signs have been installed. Leaf pickup is going well. The last day will be Monday, December 2<sup>nd</sup>.

**Miscellaneous:** The park restrooms will be shut down when the weather turns. All of the old "Welcome" signs have been removed. Jake presented quotes for the mower replacement. Rich made a motion to approve the quote from Greenmark John Deere for \$9,996.04. Tony 2<sup>nd</sup>. 3 ayes. Jake presented quotes for the skid loader replacement. Rich made a motion to approve the quote from Bobcat of Warsaw for \$28,667.37. Tony 2<sup>nd</sup>. 3 ayes.

**Attorney Report:**

Ordinance 11-18-2024 – An Ordinance Amending the Cross-Connection Ordinance. Jim made a motion to approve the Ordinance at presented. Rich 2<sup>nd</sup>. 3 ayes.

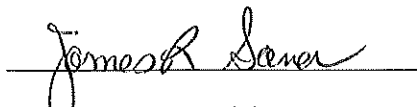
Resolution 11-18-2024 – A Resolution of the Town of Akron to Adopt Amendments to the Fulton County Zone Ordinance. Jim made a motion to approve the Resolution as presented. Rich 2<sup>nd</sup>. 3 ayes.

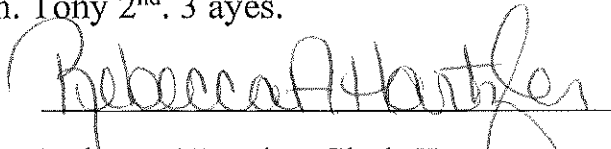
Jim made a motion to approve Dockets for \$216,587.73. Tony 2<sup>nd</sup>. 3 ayes.

Rich made a motion to approve Payroll Allowance Docket for \$20,039.50. Tony 2<sup>nd</sup>. 3 ayes.

The next council meeting is Monday, December 16, 2024 @ 6:00 p.m.

Rich made a motion to adjourn at 8:04 p.m. Tony 2<sup>nd</sup>. 3 ayes.

  
Jim Saner, President

  
Rebecca Hartzler, Clerk-Treasurer