

# Akron Documenters

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## Akron City Council Meeting

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Agency: Akron City Council

Date: Jan. 8, 2024

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### Summary

- Council passed a resolution recognizing two Akron Police Department (APD) officers involved in keeping a man from taking his own life. The two officers, Kyle Cunningham and Jason Sams, were present, and a number of council members and Mayor Shammus Malik spoke about them. Here's [a story](#) from WKYC about the incident.
- The regular meeting was preceded by an organizational meeting at 6 p.m. during which the council president, vice president, and president pro tem were elected and committee chairs, co-chairs and members were designated and announced.
- Council Member Jeff Fusco announced that there will be a public hearing for the capital budget on Jan. 22, at 1 p.m., followed by a review of the capital budget by council at 3:30 p.m..

### Follow-Up Questions

- What is the Elevate Akron study? How are committee assignments made?
- Why are large parts of the agenda simply skipped over to get to other parts of the agenda, in this case the New Legislation section?

### Notes

- A meeting was held at 6 p.m. during which council officers were elected. [See all members here.](#)
  - Council President - Margo Sommerville
  - Council Vice President - Fusco
  - Council Pro Tem - Brad McKitrick
- During the earlier meeting, committee members were designated and announced.

- Rules Committee
  - Chair - McKitrick
  - Co-chair - Fusco
  - Linda Omobien
  - Sharon Conner
  - Jan Davis
- Budget & Finance Committee
  - Chair - Phil Lombardo
  - Co-chair - Omobien
  - Fusco
  - Tina Boyes
  - James Hardy
- Planning and Economic Development Committee
  - Chair - Fusco
  - Co-chair - Donnie Kammer
  - Connor
  - Boyes
  - Johnnie Hanna
- Public Service Committee
  - Chair - Kammer
  - Co-chair - McKitrick
  - Sommerville (representing Ward 1 until that vacancy is filled after Nancy Holland resigned from that seat last week.)
  - Hardy
  - Lombardo
- Public Utilities and Greens Committee (This committee is being merged with the Public Service Committee. See membership above.)
- Public Safety Committee
  - Chair - McKitrick
  - Co-chair - Kammer
  - Lombardo
  - Hannah
  - Davis
- Parks and Recreation Committee
  - Chair - Connor
  - Co-chair - Lombardo
  - Hardy
  - Hannah
  - Boyes

- Housing and Neighborhood Assistance Committee
  - Chair - Fusco
  - Co-chair - McKittrick
  - Connor
  - Eric Garrett Sr.
  - Sommerville
- Health and Social Services Committee
  - Chair - Omobien
  - Co-chair - Davis
  - Sommerville
  - Boyes
  - Garrett
- The regular City Council meeting started at 6:30 p.m..
- After an opening prayer and the Pledge of Allegiance, roll was taken. All council members were present. Previous council meeting minutes passed unanimously.
- The floor was opened for public comments.
  - Rev. Pamela M. Pinkney announced her candidacy for president as the representative of the People's Party, which she recently created.
  - Harrington Hargrove spoke briefly about the Elevate Akron study and asked why his ward was being ignored by council.
  - Francis Kline asked that breed-specific language be removed from Akron's dog control ordinance.
  - Janos admonished the council for its resolution in support of Israel and the limitation of public comments at council meetings.
- Council moved directly to New Legislation. ([Agenda](#))
  - Item 0, accepting the resignation of Ward 1 Council Member Nancy Holland and thanking her for her service to Akron, passed unanimously.
  - Item 1, a resolution acknowledging Akron Police Officers Kyle Cunningham and Jason Sams and thanking them for the heroism they displayed in saving a life passed unanimously. Several council members thanked the officers, who were present, for their action.
  - Item 2, an ordinance authorizing the mayor or his designee, without the formality of publicly advertising for bids, to enter into a contract or contracts with Guidehouse Inc., for professional consulting services, passed unanimously.
  - Items 2a through 5, and 7 through 9 were unanimously referred for public hearing. A motion for the suspension of the rules for Item 6 passed unanimously.

- Malik made welcoming remarks and expressed eagerness to work productively with the council.
- Council President Sommerville reviewed committee meeting times. (All times are on the same Monday as council meetings.)
  - Rules - 2 p.m.
  - Public Safety - 2:15 p.m.
  - Budget and Finance - 3 p.m.
  - Parks and Recreation - 1:45 p.m.
  - Planning and Economic Development - 1 p.m.
  - Housing and Neighborhood Assistance - “Subject to call”
  - Public Service/Public Utilities and Greens - 2 p.m.
  - Health and Social Services - 2:30 p.m.
- Fusco announced three meetings regarding the capital budget process on Jan.22:
  - Capital Budget Public Hearing - 1 p.m.
  - Capital Budget Review - 3:30 p.m.
  - Capital Budget Council Meeting and Public Hearing - 6:30 p.m.
- City of Akron Chief of Strategy [Nanette Pitt](#) reminded council of the townhall meeting regarding the police chief search Thursday, at 6 p.m. at the Garfield Community Learning Center. She also announced that an organizational chart of the new city administration and contact sheet would be made available to council at its next meeting on Jan. 22.
- The meeting adjourned at 7:07 p.m.

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**Notes to reader:** Unless quotation marks are used, all text is paraphrased. If you believe anything in these notes is inaccurate, please email us at [documenters@signalakron.org](mailto:documenters@signalakron.org) with "Correction Request" in the subject line.