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Akron City Council Meeting

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Agency: Akron City Council

Date: Feb. 12, 2024

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Members of the Ellet High School girls basketball team, shown here with Mayor Shammal Malik, were recognized by the Akron City Council for winning the City Series Basketball Tournament. (James Yu / Akron Documenters)

Summary

- Council approved the relocation of Towpath Trail High School to 375 W. North St. in Cascade Valley. The charter school will update an existing building, which is about half a mile from the current location.
- Council approved \$500,000 for speed tablets and other related traffic-calming materials and equipment.
- Council passed the \$366 million 2024 capital investment budget. [Learn more here.](#)

Follow-Up Questions

- Why does Akron need another charter high school? Do they divert resources from public schools? Are they as transparent as public schools? Have they caused a decline in Akron public school enrollment?,
- How should a liquor permit be granted or denied? What are the factors that go into this decision? How can residents be more involved with the process?
- Does the public want to spend \$500,000 for the purchase and installation of speed tables and solar-powered speed warning lights?

Notes

Members of Council:

Jeff Fusco, At-Large	Johnnie Hannah, Ward 5
Linda F. R. Omobien, At-Large	Brad McKittrick, Ward 6
Eric D. Garrett, Sr., At-Large	Donnie Kammer, Ward 7
Samuel D. DeShazor, Ward 1	James Hardy, Ward 8
Phil Lombardo, Ward 2	Tina Boyes, Ward 9
Margo Sommerville, Ward 3	Sharon L. Connor, Ward 10
Jan Davis, Ward 4	www.akroncitycouncil.org

The regular meeting of the Akron City Council for Feb. 12 started at 6:30 p.m. [All council members](#) were present. After the roll call, there was a prayer and the Pledge of Allegiance. Minutes of the previous meeting were unanimously approved.

[Here](#) is a list of frequently used terms for meetings.

John and Linda Beaty protested in support of Palestine outside of City Hall before the meeting started.

As the meeting started, the chamber was not full, but soon filled with family members who came in support of the resolution recognizing and congratulating the Ellet High School girls basketball team for winning the [City Series Basketball](#) Championship.

[Public comment](#)

At 6:35 p.m. the floor was open for public comment. Two members of the public

spoke.

- Pamela Pinkney-Butts asked the council for help because she has experienced homelessness for several years.
- The second speaker spoke against council members for not supporting Palestinians in the 2023 [Israel-Hamas conflict](#). While this person spoke, another person raised a Palestinian flag. A police officer intervened to ask them to remove their flag. Later in the meeting, Sommerville warned the person that they would be removed if they displayed their flag again. Another person be seen holding up their left hand, which was painted red on the palm, throughout the meeting. Council banned the display of flags, banners and signs beginning this year.

The consent agenda items were approved unanimously.

[View consent agenda](#)

NEW LEGISLATION

- [Resolution #5](#) was offered by Garrett, and McKittrick recognizing and congratulating the Ellet High School girls basketball team for winning the City Series.

PLANNING & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (Fusco, chair)

- ORDINANCE NO 9-2023 was unanimously approved to establish a laundromat at 147 N. Arlington St. in the Middlebury neighborhood.
- ORDINANCE NO 11-2024 was unanimously approved to establish a charter high school at 375 W. North St. in Cascade Valley, across the street from the iPromise School.
- ORDINANCE NO 12-2024 was unanimously approved to adopt the 2024 \$366 million Capital Investment and Community Development Program, known as the capital budget.
- The following items were are set for public hearings to be held Feb. 26:
 - D-8 Petition of Jacob Summers for a Conditional Use to establish a retail baseball/softball training facility at 1277 Home Ave. in Chapel Hill.

- D-9 Petition of Robin Blaurock for a Conditional Use to establish a 4-Unit apartment development in a Single Family Residence Use District at 197116th St., SW in Kenmore.
- D-10 Petition of Muhammad Hazim for a Conditional Use to establish an automobile sales lot at 1410 Vernon Odom Blvd. in Kenmore.(PC-20230-67-CU) (1/8/2024)
- D-11 Petition of Ramkumar Venkat for a conditional use to construct an addition to a gas station at 745 E. Archwood Ave. in East Akron.

NEW LEGISLATION

PUBLIC SERVICE

- An ordinance to contract for the painting of fire hydrants in the Akron water service area. Placed on consent agenda for next meeting.
- An ordinance to advertise for bids, obtain quotes or enter into a contract or contracts to buy and install about 30 speed tables and related traffic-calming devices, including 40 solar-powered radar feedback signs. Council voted unanimously in favor of this ordinance.

2 PUBLIC SAFETY

RESOLUTION opposing and objecting to the application of William L Cosgrove Jr., DBA Absolut Lounge, 436 E. South St., for a Class D1, D3 and D3A liquor permit (9624158) now pending before the Division of Liquor Control; and declaring an emergency.

Ward 5 Council Member [Hannah](#) expressed strong opposition to this application. He said the establishment would pose a public nuisance within his ward.

The resolution was passed unanimously, 13-0.

Adjournment 7 p.m.

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 with "Correction Request" in the subject line.