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Regular meeting

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Agency: Akron City Council

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Summary

- Several members of the public spoke and provided a petition to City Council members, pressuring the city to fire Officer Davon Fields, who shot and killed [Jazmir Tucker](#) last year. A grand jury recently voted not to indict Fields.
- Two residents asked council not to have a single contract with a funeral home to serve indigent funerals in the Akron area. They said this is a community need and requires community collaboration rather than a single business deal.
- City council members recognized Dan Molnar for [saving the life of a runner](#) during the Akron marathon by providing CPR.
- Canal Park, home of the Akron Rubber Ducks downtown, will become [7 17 Credit Union Park](#) in spring 2026 thanks to support from the 7 17 Credit Union.

Follow-Up Questions

- Can city council choose to walk back their decision to have a single contract to a funeral home to serve the indigent needs in the community?

- Will the city feel enough pressure from the community to fire Fields for killing Jazmir Tucker?
- Is Ward 3 the ward with the highest poverty rates and least investment from the city in Akron?

Notes

Council members: (all members were present except Eric Garrett; Sharon Connor was present online)

Jeff Fusco , At-Large (vice president)	Johnnie Hannah , Ward 5
Linda Omobien , At-Large	Brad McKittrick , Ward 6
Eric Garrett , At-Large (not present)	Donnie Kammer , Ward 7
Sam DeShazor , Ward 1	Bruce Bolden , Ward 8
Phil Lombardo , Ward 2	Tina Boyes , Ward 9
Margo Sommerville , Ward 3 (president)	Sharon Connor , Ward 10
Jan Davis , Ward 4	www.akroncitycouncil.org

- The agenda can be found [here](#).
- The livestream of the meeting can be found [here](#).
- Sommerville called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. A few city employees, about 30 members of the public and some media were in attendance. Mayor [Shammas Malik](#) was not in attendance.
- The opening prayer was led by a local pastor, and Omobien led the Pledge of Allegiance.
- Kammer recognized [Dan Molnar](#), who provided CPR to a runner who collapsed at the end of the Akron Marathon, and Molnar was credited with saving the runner's life. Molnar said he was happy to help and he recommended that every person get CPR-certified.
- The previous meeting minutes were approved unanimously.
- **PUBLIC COMMENT** ([13:45 into the video](#))
 - Scott Mason from [Adams Mason Funeral Home](#) on East Market Street requested that the city not have a single contract funeral home for the indigent services provided by the city. He said a model of collaboration is required to serve the most vulnerable in our community. Mason said there is funding on the state level as well. This is a community issue, not a business issue, and there is a need for a better screening process.

- Charles Wilson is the president of the [Ohio Funeral Directors Association](#). Wilson said one funeral supplier for the indigent burials in Akron is a bad idea. Catholics, Italians, Jewish people, African Americans and other groups have different burial needs. Some people have to wait a long time, and bodies have to stay where they are until they get city approval. Community collaboration would work much better, he said.
 - One public commenter said he went to the mayor's office to learn the rules of the budget and said he was surprised to find out there was an extra \$300,000 and there was no vote needed for costs less than \$15,000. He asked what changes the city council is making. He said there seems to be a lot of talk by people in suits, but he doesn't see city council members in the community helping people.
 - Another community member thanked the city council members who demanded the firing of Officer Davon Fields after the killing of [Jazmir Tucker](#). She said not enough of the city council stood with them to pressure the city to act. Fields violated trust with the community. She handed the city council members a copy of a petition with over 1,400 public signatures to fire Fields. She asked them to sign this petition into policy.
 - William Reynolds spoke about justice for Jazmir. He said it has been 327 days since Jazmir Tucker was shot in the back. He also protested during the meeting, standing in silence for how long Jazmir had to wait to receive any care after he was shot.
 - Acacia Reynolds spoke about the need to teach people how to regulate their emotions because it is violence prevention, suicide prevention and eliminates other future problems. She asked for more money toward emotional and mental health, not police. She also urged the mayor to fire police officers who use dehumanizing processes such as those that led to the death of Jazmir Tucker.
 - Another Akron community member said he has been standing here for 30 years asking for more investment from the city in [Ward 3](#). He said Ward 3 has been redlined and discriminated against and is the poorest ward in the city.
- **CONSENT AGENDA** ([42:21 into the video](#)):
 - Passed with no discussion.
 - **OLD BUSINESS**
 - **PLANNING & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT** (Fusco, chair)
 - Fusco asked for time on the agenda.

- Item #6: Requested a suspension of the rules and favorable report from the committee. This [ordinance](#) regulates smoke shops with fees set for certain violations. He said smoke shops have grown so fast. There are 45-50 shops in Akron. They are targeting youth. If a smoke shop is declared a nuisance, the city can revoke the license. Ordinance passed 12-0.
 - Fusco asked for time on #7-12.
 - Fusco said the committee report is favorable on item #13. There is a one-mile radius and zoning ordinance for smoke shops away from residential areas and schools, etc. Bolden and DeShazor asked for their names to be added to this ordinance. Ordinance passed 12-0.
 - Fusco asked to file # 14 because it was withdrawn .
 - Items #15-17 to file.
 - Fusco asked for time on #18-33.
 - **PUBLIC SERVICE** (Kammer, chair) ([49:14 into video](#))
 - Withdraw Item #2.
 - Item number 1 is sewer charges. [Ordinance](#) supplementing sewer charges. The committee supported this. Ordinance passed 11-1. Kammer voted nay.
- **NEW LEGISLATION** ([31:50 into video](#))
 - Public Service items offered by Kammer. He asked for Items #1-4 to be added to the consent agenda:
 - Landscape services at Lock 3
 - Parts and equipment to fix a pipe
 - Upgrade water distribution pumps
 - Purchase parts for the water plant
 - Public Safety item offered by McKitrick, the committee supports this. This is an ordinance for software services to support law enforcement without advertising for bids. Passes 12-0.
- **Council member comments**
 - Lombardo said Jim Pfander, the general manager for the [Akron Rubber Ducks](#), and John Demmler, president for the [7 17 credit Union](#), came to the Budget & Finance Committee. In spring 2026, Canal Park will become the 7 17 Credit Union Park.
- The meeting adjourned at 7:20 p.m.

