

Borough of Munhall

Council Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, January 16, 2024

The January 16, 2024 meeting of the Munhall Borough Council was called to order by President Brennan at 7:00 pm in Council Chambers.

All recited the Pledge of Allegiance

Present:

Richard Brennan, Council President
Timothy Eads, Council Member
Maureen Fry, Council Member
Kevin Ondo, Council Vice President
Bernard Shields, Council Member
Richard Votedian, Council Member
David Younkens, Council Member

Absent:

Others:

Seth Abrams, Borough Manager
Robert Bicsey, Public Works
David Canon, Code Enforcement/BCO
Glenn Coles, Fire Chief
Greg Evashavik, Solicitor
Rob Falce, Mayor
Thomas Fullard, Police Chief

Reports

President's Report: President Brennan, noted that the council committees are set and that there is an expectation that the committees will meet and report back during the regular meetings. There was work done and an agreement reached on the contract with the Borough Manager. President Brennan noted the Borough received a grant for electric refuse trucks. During a meeting with the Sewer Authority it was found that a deduct meter can be installed for those who would benefit. President Brennan asked the solicitor to find out additional information about stormwater impact fees and how they apply to tax exempt organizations. President Brennan thanked the Public Works Department for their consistently excellent work clearing the roads during ice and snow.

Mayor's Report: The Mayor echoed President Brennan's remarks about the Borough staff. Mayor Falce announced that Munhall CARES will be opening the One Valley Free Store at the Presbyterian church on the corner of 9th and Ann Streets. This coming Saturday, the 20th, they will have the grand opening. Donations will be accepted from 9-10. The ribbon cutting will be at 9:55. It will be open twice per month. Mayor Falce asked that the hiring of 2 crossing guards be added to the agenda.

Solicitor's Report: Mr. Evashavik spoke about the recent decision by the courts that limits the ability to amend agendas with less than 24 hours notice. The crossing guards fall under a safety issue and is allowable. He drafted temporary easement agreements that allows the Borough to repair the walls on Ravine St, with the property owners taking ownership of the walls upon completion. The contract with the borough manager was reviewed after the agreement was reached between Mr. Abrams and the Borough. The consolidated contract between the Borough and the Munhall Police Union was also reviewed and approved for signature.

Manager's Update: Munhall was awarded \$75,000 from the State GEDTF grants to add to the \$100,000 already received for the reconstruction of the sidewalks on Main St. This is a \$1,000,000 project. Munhall also received a \$1,681,000 grant from the Department of Environmental Protection, with a \$186,000 Borough match to purchase 3 battery electric refuse trucks and the necessary infrastructure such as charge stations. Munhall was one of only 3 municipalities to receive an award. There were 16 awards given out in total.

Motion to approve the meeting minutes: Motion to approve the December 19, 2023 minutes by Mr. Ondo. Seconded by Mr. Younkens. Motion passed 7-0.

Public Comment on Items for Consideration:

Donna Ondo, Shady Ave, asked if the cost of the repairs on Ravine St. (Item #8) included both properties. President Brennan affirmed that the cost was the contractor's work for both properties as indicated on the agenda.

Lorna Schutte, Center Ave. asked about the larger than normal expense for the recreation budget (Item #1). President Brennan stated that the costs were final payments to contractors for the playground projects at Trautman and Vine Streets.

Emma Carter, E 13th Ave, asked if the motion for item 7 was to hire one or two officers. President Brennan explained that the motion was to authorize the civil service commission to create a list of candidates. There is no current motion to hire new police officers.

Business Items:

Motion to amend the agenda. Motion by Mr. Ondo. Second by Mr. Votedian. Motion passes 7-0

Additional Business item: Motion to hire Lorna Schutte and Mary Early as crossing guards at a rate of \$15/hour, pending final clearances. Motion by Mr. Ondo. Second by Mr. Shields. Motion passes 7-0.

1. Motion to pay the bills for the month of December in the amount of \$601,750.50. Motion made by Mr. Younkens Seconded by Mr. Eads. Motion passed 7-0.
2. Motion to approve payroll for December in the amount of \$301,330.73. Motion by Mr. Younkens Seconded by Mr. Shields. Motion passed 7-0.
3. Motion to approve the subdivision plan for St. Rita's Church, lot/block: 180-F-262-02 as recommended by the Planning Commission. Motion by Mr. Ondo. Second by Mr. Votedian. Motion passed 7-0.
4. Motion to approve the Collective Bargaining Agreement with the Munhall Police Union for the term of 2024-2027. Motion by Mr. Younkens. Seconded by Mr. Eads. Motion passed 7-0.

5. Motion to approve the employment contract with Seth Abrams, Borough Manager for a term of 2024-2026. Motion by Mr. Younkins. Seconded by Mr. Ondo. Mr. Eads asked a question on the motion, pointing out that the summary memo had an error, and requested that the contract be renegotiated. The Solicitor stated that the vote is on the contract, not the memo. Mr. Eads requested a roll call Vote. President Brennan called for the roll call vote.

Mr. Eads: No

Mrs. Fry: Yes

Mr. Ondo: Yes

Mr. Shields: Yes

Mr. Votedian: Abstain

Mr. Younkins: Yes

Motion passed 5-1. Mr. Votedian abstained due to not being present for the negotiation.

6. Motion to approve Skelley & Loy to perform an environmental evaluation of 1900 West St. at a cost of \$7,500, as recommended by the Borough Engineer. Motion by Mr. Shields. Seconded by Mrs. Fry. Motion passed 7-0.
7. Motion to request a Police Officer Candidate list from the Civil Service Commission. Motion by Mrs. Fry. Seconded by Mr. Votedian.. Motion passed 7-0.
8. Motion to approve the bid by Creative Enterprises to perform emergency repairs on the creek walls at lot/block locations 179-J-132 and 179-J-133 in the amount of \$42,500. Mr. Ondo asked if approving this set of repairs obligated the Borough to repair all walls. The Solicitor explained that there is a possibility, that would be a case by case basis. The contracts with the property owners in this case transfers future responsibility to the property owners. Mr. Younkins asked if the repair was being done as a 10 year fix due to the Army Corps of Engineers conducting a study and making long term recommendations, what happens if the long term repairs don't happen? Mr. Abrams explained the "10 year" fix was not a specific timeframe for the wall, but is meant to be a long term, but not lifetime fix. Motion by Mr. Younkins. Seconded by Mr. Eads. Motion carried 7-0.

Public Comment:

Emma Carter, E 13th St., asked when the agenda was set and who set it because the workshop agenda was different from the business agenda. President Brennan stated that he and the borough manager set the agenda. The agenda is posted publicly on Friday prior to the meeting. Mr. Eads stated that he posts in on a Facebook community page. Mr. Shields clarified that the agenda can be revised up to 24 hours prior to the scheduled meeting.

Mrs. Fry asked who prints the Borough trash schedule and the cost. Mr. Abrams answered that the Borough printed it this year at a cost of under \$1000 for the 4,600 that were needed a bill stuffers.

Mayor Falce asked for an update on the street lights on Main St. Mr. Bickey answered that a contractor is starting on Monday.

Mr. Abrams announced that the Borough will have capacity to film all meetings by the end of this week. He is also researching the costs and benefits of a mass notification system.

Mr. Eads asked if a curb cut could be made to allow a person to cross Main St. at Botsford. The request would be for a cut on the east side of Main at Botsford.

Adjournment: Mr. Younkings made a motion to adjourn at 7:58 pm. Mr. Votedian seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Seth Abrams
Borough Manager