

Borough of Munhall

Council Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, October 18, 2022

The October 18, 2022 meeting of the Munhall Borough Council was called to Session by Mr. Ondo at 6:58 pm in Council Chambers.

All recited the Pledge of Allegiance

Mr. Abrams took the roll:

Present:

Richard Brennan, Council President (telephone)
Maureen Fry, Council Member
William Hanna, Council Member
Kevin Ondo, Council Vice President
Jason Stein, Council Member
Richard Votedian, Council Member

Absent:

David Younkings, Council Member

Others:

Seth Abrams, Borough Manager
Robert Bicey, Public Works Supervisor
David Cannon, BCO/Zoning/Code Enforcement
Rob Falce, Mayor
Mike Seiss, Police Sergeant
Ed Pletsch, Fire Chief
Greg Evashavik, Solicitor
Courtney Dumm, Engineer

Swearing In Ceremony

Mayor Falce conducted the swearing in of the Borough's K-9 officer, Duke. Duke's handler is Officer Shipley.

Reports

President's Report: No report.

Mayor's Report: Mr. Falce introduced Officer Tracy to talk about the upcoming turkey drive in partnership with the Batch Foundation. The Mayor gave a summary of the financial standing from Munhall Community Day. Munhall Cares is raising funds to support recreational projects and activities. Officer Nyapas recommended has suggested a discussion with the Steel Valley HS Art Club to see if they would create a sign for the Borough. Breanne Francis from Munhall, Pennsylvania, was named as one of the nine 2022 National Teen Influencers

Solicitor's Report: Mr. Evashavik summarized Act 57, which is on the agenda.

Borough Manager's Report: On file. Mr. Abrams reported that he has worked with the engineer to finalize the reports necessary for the RAC-P grant submission. The Manager attended a meeting with the Emergency

Management Coordinator, Allegheny County Emergency Services, PEMA, Army Corps of Engineers, and FEMA to discuss flooding in the region and services that can be offered by the agencies. Budget work continues. There is a large unknown factor with the property assessment process and a loss is being calculated for the 2023 budget compared to 2022.

Engineer's Report: The report is on file. Ms. Dumm summarized all recommendations for payment as detailed in the business items. Mr. Hanna asked if the paving was inspected. It was explained that the initial payment is based on expense and certification by the contractor. Final payment is not authorized until a final inspection is completed.

Public Works Report: Mr. Bicsey reported that crack sealing is scheduled to start next week. Mayor Falce asked for clarification on the Borough's paving ordinance. Mr. Bicsey confirmed that the Borough has a "curb to curb" ordinance.

Police Report: The report is on file.

Fire Department Report: Chief Pletsch reported that his term expires at the end of the year. The fire companies have elected Glenn Coles, currently a deputy chief, to be the Chief from January 2023-December 2027. Council will need to approve this appointment at the December meeting. Len Coles presented a brief report on the annual fire prevention education and activities that took place at St. Therese's and Park Elementary.

Mr. Ondo and Mr. Brennan thanked Chief Pletsch for his service and congratulated Chief-elect Coles on his election.

Code Enforcement: Mr. Cannon report is on file. A list of abandoned homes/lots was presented. Mr. Hanna asked about the condition of the homes and whether any would be appealing to the TriCOG Land Bank. Mr. Abrams stated that further study and analysis of the properties needed to occur to create the appropriate overlays of condition, tax status, etc.

Finance Committee: Mr. Hanna reported that there is still concern around the receipt of funds for the RAC-P grant for the current year. There will be a motion this evening to approve the solicitation of a Tax Anticipation Note. Council should be prepared to see decisions due to the loss of ARPA funds.

Sewer Authority: Ms. Coles distributed the most recent Sewer Authority meeting minutes. Mr. Hanna asked about sewer backups from the August 5th storm. Ms. Coles explained that a couple of residents inquired about the sewage backflow program. One resident already had a backflow preventer but did not maintain it. She also noted that the area of Shady Avenue had never been in the eligible section for the valve program until the storm on August 5th. Mr. Ondo asked how much a valve installation costs. Ms. Coles responded that only 2 properties have taken advantage of the program, and that the costs were \$2,800 and \$8,000 respectively. The Authority reimburses 90% of the cost.

Motion to approve Meeting Minutes: Ms. Fry made a motion to accept the September 20, 2022 meeting minutes as presented. Mr. Hanna seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Speakers:

None

Public Comments:

none

Business Items:

1. Motion to approve the bills from September 17th to October 15th in the amount of \$240,623.09 Motion made by Mr. Votedian. Seconded by Mr. Stein. Motion carried.
2. Motion to approve the payrolls for September 10, 24 and October 8, 2022. Motion made by Ms. Fry and seconded by Mr. Votedian. Motion carried.
3. Motion to approve the placement of disabled parking spaces on Main St & on 18th Ave. as recommended by the police department. Motion made by Mr. Stein and seconded by Mr. Votedian.
4. RESOLUTION OF THE BOROUGH OF MUNHALL AUTHORIZING Act 57 of 2022. Motion made by Ms. Fry. Seconded by Mr. Hanna. Motion carried.
5. Motion to approve a concurring resolution authorizing the Steel Rivers COG to apply for \$65,000 for the CDBG 49 grant program for catch basin replacement. Motion made by Mr. Stein. Seconded by Mr. Votedian. Motion carried.
6. Motion to authorize the Borough Manager to solicit for the 2023 Tax Anticipation Note in an amount not to exceed \$1,300,000. Motion by Mr. Hanna. Seconded by Mr. Votedian. Motion carried.
7. Motion to authorize Steel Rivers COG to award the Act 152 demolitions to the low bidder, DJ Demo. Motion made by Mr. Votedian. Seconded by Mr. Stein. Motion carried.
8. Motion to Authorize Periodic Payment #1 to John D Caruso in the amount of \$290,755.80. Motion amended to include the pending satisfaction of Council regarding repair of block wall. Amended Motion made by Mr. Votedian. Seconded by Mr. Stein. Motion carried.
9. Motion to authorize final payment to Jet Jack, Inc. in the amount of \$87,290.50 for 1860 West St. Utility Package #1. Motion by Mr. Hanna. Second by Mr. Votedian. Motion carried.
10. Motion to approve the Resolution for Plan Revision and sewer tap-ins at parcel 130-M-365. Motion by Ms. Fry. Second by Mr. Hanna. Motion carried.
11. Motion to authorize the Borough Manager to enter into a contract for building cleaning services with Mooney Cleaning for a first year cost of \$1,850.00 per month. Motion by Mr. Hanna. Second by Ms. Fry. Motion carried.
12. Motion to ratify the hiring of John Szczypinski as Finance/HR Coordinator at an annualized rate of \$42,000/year plus benefits, effective October 17, 2022. Motion by Mr. Hanna. Second by Mr. Stein. Motion carried.

13. Motion to accept the resignation of Joy Jacobs as Administrative Assistant effective October 21, 2022.
Motion by Mr. Hanna. Second by Mr. Stein. Motion carried.

Comments by Council:

Mayor Falce received a box of COVID-19 tests. These will be available in the administrative office for employees or residents. Mayor Falce also noted the Funder under the Bridge will be on October 23, 2022 to raise funds for the clubs in the Steel Valley School District.

Ms. Fry noted that the next workshop meeting is on election day. We will likely want to change the date.

Mr. Ondo recognized PJ Ostroski, a fire chief and member of the Planning Commission, and the presenters for their attendance.

Adjournment:

Mr. Votedian made a motion to adjourn at 8:42 pm. Mr. Stein seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,


Seth Abrams
Borough Manager