

Borough of Munhall

Council Agenda Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, July 19, 2022

The July 19, 2022 meeting of the Munhall Borough Council was called to Order by Mr. Brennan at 7:00 pm in Council Chambers.

Mr. Abrams took the roll:

Present:

Richard Brennan, Council President  
Maureen Fry, Council Member  
William Hanna, Council Member  
Kevin Ondo, Council Vice President  
Jason Stein, Council Member  
Richard Votedian, Council Member  
David Younkings, Council Member

Absent:

None

Others:

Seth Abrams, Borough Manager  
Robert Bicey, Public Works Supervisor  
David Cannon, BCO/Zoning/Code Enforcement  
Rob Falce, Mayor  
Tom Fullard, Police Chief  
Ed Pletsch, Fire Chief  
Joy Jacobs, Office Administrator  
Greg Evashavik, Solicitor  
Courtney Dumm, Engineer

All recited the Pledge of Allegiance

**Reports**

**President's Report:** Mr. Brennan reported that a meeting was held with representatives of the Carnegie Library of Homestead to discuss parking concerns and to reiterate that the Borough is not intending to implement a parking permit area. Both parties agreed to further study the parking issues and to explore potential options to increase parking availability before considering any restrictions.

**Mayor's Report:** Mr. Falce echoed the President's comments about the meeting with the library. He also reminded everyone that the Borough Yard Sale is scheduled to take place on July 23, 2022. The Mayor has been working with a committee with residents that is an outgrowth of the recreation committee. It is the Community Action Recreation Environmental Service (CARES). The group would like to raise funds for recreation among other ideas that are forming. The next meeting of the group will be on 8/4/2022, 6:00 pm at the Borough Building. There are also plans for the Munhall Community Band to play a free concert for the residents on August 20<sup>th</sup> at West Field.

**Solicitor's Report:** Property tax appeals continue.

**Borough Manager's Report:** On file. The Manager conducted numerous meetings with vendors to get up to speed on all of the contracts and obligations that the Borough has. Regular meetings with the grant consultant and engineer to review grant requirements and progress on grants. The Manager also met with Sports & Recreation Associates to review potential plans for the Trautman and Vine St. parks, and coordinated with the County and our traffic signal contractor to repair the lights and pedestrian signals at Main and 22<sup>nd</sup> Streets. There have also been numerous meetings and efforts to move the Borough Offices, which occurred earlier in the day.

**Engineer's Report:** Ms. Dumm recommends that Council approve the paving bid for Raymond Bodnar Way and the parking area to J Caruso for \$327,104.

**Public Works Report:** Mr. Bicsey reported that most effort over the past couple of days has been focused on moving between the two buildings. It was requested that public works repair the stone on the side of the ADA ramp to the building at 1900 West St. There was also a request to replace the bench and trash can on Main St. that was removed in the spring and to repair the benches at Kennedy Park.

**Police Report:** Chief Fullard reported on arrests. He stated that the move happened smoothly, with a few issues to be worked out.

**Fire Department Report:** Chief Pletsch reported that the department responded to 44 call last month and that the police recently rescued an individual from a burning structure as the first responders. Engine 201 was sold. The funds will go back into the truck fund.

**Code Enforcement:** Mr. Cannon reported on his activities for the month. His report is on file. The Zoning Hearing Board will hold a hearing for a variance to construct a structure above a garage.

**Finance Committee:** Mr. Abrams reported that month close has not occurred, but the month did close with approximately \$2,000,000 in the bank with no immediate large debts or income expected.

**Sewer Authority:** No report

**Public Comments:**

Emma Carter, 13<sup>th</sup> Ave. Ms. Carter asked about the number of police officers on staff and voiced concerns with the number of officers on duty on the 4<sup>th</sup> of July.

Jenni Easton, Pashek+MTR made a brief presentation to Council informing them of the outreach and engagement process for the multi-municipal comprehensive plan.

Brad Pietryga, Martha St. Mr. Pietryga spoke about the importance of the municipal parks and playgrounds. He offered to become involved in and parks and recreation facilities.

**Business Items:**

Motion to approve the bills from June 14<sup>th</sup> to July 11<sup>th</sup>. Motion made by Mr. Ondo. Seconded by Mr. Younkins. Motion carried.

Motion to approve the payrolls for June 8<sup>th</sup> and June 22<sup>nd</sup>. Motion made by Mr. Younkins and seconded by Ms. Fry. Motion Carried.

Motion to authorize the Steel Rivers COG to release payment in the amount of \$33,850.00 to J. Caruso for work done according to the CD47 catch basin work, as recommended by the Borough Engineer. Motion by Mr. Hanna. Second by Mr. Ondo. Motion carried.

Motion to accept the bid from J. Caruso for the paving of Raymond Bodnar Way and the associated parking lot for a bid of \$327,104 as recommended by the Borough Engineer. Motion by Mr. Stein. Second by Mr. Votedian. Motion carried.

Motion to accept the contract option with Cargill for road salt through the SHACOG purchasing alliance with a cost of \$88.96 per ton. Motion by Mr. Votedian. Second by Mr. Younkins. Motion carried.

Motion to approve the Fraud, Waste & Abuse Policy for employees and officials of Munhall Borough. Motion by Ms. Fry. Second by Mr. Younkins. Motion carried

Motion to approve the Investment/Fund Balance policy for Munhall Borough. Motion by Mr. Younkins. Second by Ms. Fry. Question on the motion by Mr. Ondo requesting Borough Manager explain the policy. Mr. Abrams explained that the Borough policy instructs the Borough to build a "rainy day" fund that is to grow to 10-15% of the annual General Fund budget to cover potential budgetary shortfalls. The second part of the policy authorizes the Borough Manager to invest excess borough funds in higher yield investments than a straight checking account. One million dollars have been moved in the short term that will be transferred back into the checking account as needed to pay expenses.

Motion to approve the closure of the 10<sup>th</sup> Ave between Margaret St. and Brook Way between the hours of 10 AM and 6 PM for a community event hosted by Fellowship 4:12 on August 21, 2022. Motion by Mr. Younkins. Second by Mr. Hanna. Motion Carried.

Motion to ratify the vote taken on 7/5/22 to terminate administrative employee #60. Motion by Mr. Hanna. Second by Ms. Fry. Mr. Votedian asked to speak on behalf of the employee and stated that he feels that the Borough was treating her unfairly. Mr. Brennan called for a roll call vote.

Roll call vote:

Mr. Brennan: Yes

Ms. Fry: Yes

Mr. Hanna: Yes with comments. Termination of any employee is an unfortunate event and that this decision was not taken upon lightly.

Mr. Ondo: Yes with comments that this is the appropriate action to take.

Mr. Stein: No.

Mr. Votedian: No.

Mr. Younkins: Yes.

Motion carried 5-2.

Motion to appoint the Assistant Chief of the Munhall Police Department. Mr. Brennan called for nominations:  
Mr. Ondo nominated Michael Seiss to be the Assistant Chief  
Mr. Votedian nominated Jamie Caterino to be the Assistant Chief  
Mr. Brennan called for a roll call vote:  
Mr. Brennan: Michael Seiss  
Ms. Fry: Michael Seiss  
Mr. Hanna: Jamie Caterino  
Mr. Ondo: Michael Seiss  
Mr. Stein: Jamie Caterino  
Mr. Votedian: Jamie Caterino  
Mr. Younkins: Jamie Caterino

Jamie Caterino is appointed as Assistant Chief by a vote of 4-3. Offer will be made and salary will be determined. Council will vote on salary at the August meeting.

Comments by Council:

Mr. Hanna noted that the Borough has committees that have primary responsibility over areas. Many of these areas need assistance and resident input.

Mr. Votedian noted that there is a new dog park on 12<sup>th</sup> Ave thanks to the work of an Eagle Scout project. The opening ceremony will be on July 30, 2022. The park will be open to the public by signing for key access at the Munhall #1 VFC.

Mr. Ondo highlighted another Eagle Scout project by refurbishing the monument at the cemetery.

Mr. Stein announced that Officer Poniewaz's father passed away this morning.

**Adjournment:**

Mr. Votedian made a motion to adjourn at 8:20 pm. Ms. Fry seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Seth Abrams  
Borough Manager