

**Borough of Munhall
Council Meeting
April 16, 2014**

- **Council President Dan Lloyd called the meeting to order**
- **Councilman Shields led the Pledge of Allegiance**
- Moment to recognize Vice Principle Sam King from Franklin Regional who is a graduate of Munhall High (class of 71). Mr. King was person who stopped student who injured several students with a knife at FR this past week. Over 25 students injured (6 needing hospitalization and 4 of those 6 in ICU).
 - Rob Falce suggested to send a letter of support and to let him know of recognition.
- **Preliminary Announcements**
 - Recognized choice of Robert Callen as Borough Manager.
- **Roll Call** – All present
- **Public Speakers: Limited to (3) minutes and must avoid references to personalities and personnel related issues.**
 - **Durinda Keany** – Taxes - Not Present
 - **Bridget Wissinger** – 2442 Dewey St - Garbage, Codes, Rats
 - March 14th and 25th she called to report rat problem on Dewey St
 - Received violation of code for cans with lids on 26th
 - Purchased 4 new cans with lids and had property treated for rats
 - Spoke with Dave Cannon about can lids being broken and Dave suggested they remove the can lids the night before garbage pick up
 - Date of the letter of violation was the date of the regular garbage pick up
 - Not the only resident in neighborhood without lids but only one to receive the notice.
 - Has several requests:
 - Who is responsible for rats?
 - Wants to see ordinance about cans with lids and when was this ordinance adopted

- **Public Speakers (cont):**
 - **Bridget Wissinger (cont):**
 - Has several questions (cont):
 - She states the ordinance they were sighted for was not borough ordinance but international ordinance
 - Answer: Adopted Aug 2009 - Dave will find the ordinance for her.

Dave explained to Mrs. Wissinger and to council that the ordinance states you can have two cans but you cannot STORE them without lids. You can have them out on your garbage day without lids but you cannot STORE them without lids. You can have up to 10 bags of garbage bags out on the curb on garbage day but you can not STORE 10 bags of garbage on top of the can before garbage day on/in or around your can without a lid.

- There was discussion from Councilman Shields that the didn't understand why we would allow 10 garbage bags to be set out on the ground all night the night before garbage pick up but wont allow bags to be stacked up on top of a can.
 - Dave Cannon explained the length of time the bags will be stored there. One is over night vs. several nights attracting rodents.

Council verified with Public Works Bob Bickey that there are two workers in training now for bait training for rats.

- **Bridget Wissinger (cont):**
 - Has several questions (cont):
 - Wants something in writing, to give to the landlord, stating she is now in compliance.
 - States she has asked a couple of times for this and the answer she keeps getting from Dave is that he will not turn her in to the magistrate.

Bridget Wissinger (cont):

- Has several questions (cont):
 - Wants something in writing (cont):
 - Solicitor advised can go to the zoning board to instruct Dave to write a letter stating that she is now in compliance. She asked Dave for his word that he is not going to take her to the magistrate.
 - Dave answered he is not going to do so.
- **Marie Rustin – 811 East Ave – Swimming Pool**
 - Has an ongoing problem with neighbor and the draining of her swimming pool
 - Drains the pool every two weeks
 - Passed out DEP rules for draining pools
 - What are the borough ordinances that match up with the DEP ruling?
 - Passed out damage on her property from drainage of the pool
 - Water is coming into her garage for 7 yrs.
 - Mr. Cannon told her it is NOT coming into her garage and that the property does not tilt down into the garage
 - Chief Campbell, and several other officers, knows of the calls she has made and the damage that has been done
 - Has had the board of health come investigate the green water in the pool and this is why she is dumping the pool every two weeks.
 - The owner doesn't have a pump
 - The water is going into her garage, the alley and probably into the storm drains.

- **Marie Rustin (cont):**
 - What can I do about this?
 - Council President Dan Lloyd states that if she has a neighbor that is draining a pool on to her property and her belongings are being destroyed, she should take the neighbor to the Magistrate.
 - Dave Cannon agreed
 - Mrs. Rustin asking isn't there an ordinance for draining into a storm sewer?
 - Mike Terrick says DEP states that this water can not be put down a sanitary sewer
 - He was told Mrs. Rustin must come to Borough about issue.
 - Dan Lloyd states council will look at what DEP sent and have a discussion about it.
 - In the meantime, Mr. Lloyd says that if the issue is costing her money in damages, she will need to take the neighbor to the Magistrate.
 - Mrs. Rustin says she has to take the landlord, not the neighbor (renter), to the magistrate.
 - Mrs. Rustin asking for the Borough ordinances be in line with what she needs in this issue.

Public Comment on Agenda Items Only:

- **Donna Dreshman – 3629 Forest Ave –**
 - #3 – Hiring of the Borough Secretary
 - Will she have to move into the Borough?
 - Per Council President, no.
 - Will she be paid overtime?
 - Per Council President, she is hired at 32 hrs. per week but if she works over 40 we are legally obligated to pay her overtime.

- **Donna Dreshman (cont):**
 - #4 - Motion to exonerate Donna Mercuri, Tax Collector for the amount of \$3,620,059.05.
 - Is this the money collected already or the money she still has left to collect?
 - Per Council President Lloyd this is the amount that was collected and that he has a report showing all of the breakdowns.
 - This report can be viewed by anyone that would like to see it.
 - Mrs. Dreshman asked if this report or the one by the auditors (being completed now) will show the uncollected tax on vacant properties.
 - Per Mr. Lloyd, it will not.
 - #7 – Motion to advertise for accepting applications for the Public Works department (including part time summer help).
 - How many positions will be open?
 - Per Council it is still up in the air but they know that they are short 5 (not counting summer help).
 - They will be looking at budget numbers to decide on their final decision.
- **Linda Squires -**
 - #13 - Asking about removal of handicap sign at 119 West Virginia Ave and this is her mother's address.
 - Chief Campbell states that this must be a misprint because he is aware of her mother's sign and they are not removing her sign.
- **Scott Stevens – 111 Carolina**
 - #9 – Motion to approve the TIF committee recommendation that A.M. Rodriquez be permitted to use the TIF loan money in the initial construction phase of their One Homestead Project (Main Street Improvement).

- **Scott Stevens (cont):**
 - **#9 (cont) -**
 - Council President Lloyd explained what the TIF fund is and how it is shared by, Homestead, West Homestead and Munhall. This money can be used for the Main St corridor
 - These are not Borough funds they are TIF funds they are asking to use.
 - Non-agenda question about getting ordinances added to the Munhall web page.
 - President Lloyd states that we are working towards this.

Reports from Borough Officials:

- **Mayor: Ray Bodnar**
 - Waterfront Extravaganza – Kiss 96.1
 - This Saturday
 - Drug Drop off – April 26
 - CrimeWatch - Community Day Clean Up – May 3rd
 - Government Days - May 9th Mayor & all other elections May 21st and 22nd
 - Real Estate Ranking – Munhall most affordable place to live
- **Solicitor: Greg Evashavik**
 - Contract Issues
 - Litigations
 - Flood plan maps have now been revised. Council must approve and the borough must enact so that residents can purchase flood insurance from the government.
 - Do we have ordinances?
 - Allot is engineering input and Lindsey and Greg are looking at it and working on it.
 - They will be putting a presentation together to put before Council.
 - Pyrotopia insurance “quote” (not actual coverage) needs work.

- **Pyrotopia (cont)**
 - Should be more coverage and need a binding document and not a “quote”.
 - Commercial liability is low
- **Borough Engineer: Lindsey Jewart**
 - **2014 Paving project –**
 - Got together with Public Works Director Bob Bicsey to work on projected streets
 - Okay to contact either of them to add to the list
 - Next step will be to develop a budget
 - Will look at what’s left of Liquid Fuels
 - Council President Lloyd promised that the Finance Chairman, some of Council and the Public Works committee, will focus in on this project by next council meeting.
 - Lindsey says that she can do a general cost estimate to present to them.
 - Councilman Brennan asked how much is paved in any given project.
 - Lindsey states they have done 4 at times.
 - It depends on how long, wide and deep.
 - Worst streets are the most costly.
 - Councilman Brennan asked how the decisions are made
 - Lindsey said that the Borough makes all of the decisions.
 - Councilman Shields commented about Revine St. and its condition
 - This is county road
 - This has been a long debate and there have been long meetings with the county Solicitor.

- **Borough Engineer (cont):**
 - Revine Street (cont):
 - County wants to see matched money from the Borough to bring them back to the discussion tables per Greg Evashavik.
 - Estimated cost of this project was around \$800K to \$1 million
 - **Public Works: Bob Bicsey**
 - Report given to Council
 - Mandated to do catch basins so we will need them for 6 more days.
 - Have we found place to take recycling
 - No. Still taking to McKees Rocks

Police: Chief Pat Campbell:

- **Report given**
- **Pyrotopia**
 - Last year they hired 3 off duty officers and those officers felt they could use a 4th this year they sent a contract for 1 officer.
 - He will be reaching out to them that they will need more.
- **Officer Boehme –**
 - Clean up day – GET OUT THERE! It’s your community!
 - Crime Watch meetings support your community!
 - 120 Free bike helmets
 - Question from Councilman Brennan. Do we still have a block watch program?
 - Officer Boehme states we do but it is more of a neighborhood watch instead of block watch.
 - That encompasses more of the community
 - Councilman Brennan wants to reach out to the communities to find a way to communicate to Council and Code Enforcement and Police about abandoned houses, crime and rats within their community.
 - Councilman Shields suggested bringing back the “abandoned house review board”

- **Police Report (cont):**
 - Abandoned houses (cont):
 - Councilman Falce suggested that we might use Legal Tax and delinquent tax notifications in the newspaper to encourage payment of back taxes.
 - Councilman Votedian asked about getting tennis shoes off of the electrical wires all over the borough. States 47 pairs are there now.
 - Officer Boehme and Fire Chief Pisarchik – Yes

- **Code Enforcement: Dave Cannon**
 - Copy of Report given to Council
 - 9th Ave was one of the Boroughs “problem” streets. Investor bought a home for 28K and invested 48K
 - Now renting for 2K a month
 - Asking for garbage cans in the park and on 8th Ave
 - Council President Lloyd advised that cans are around \$300 each and come out of the TIF (Main St Enterprise Zone) but that there is no reason we can not contact them and ask for him.

- **Fire Chief: Matt Pisarchik**
 - 33 Calls
 - 349 Fire Fighter Calls
 - 1030 Training Calls
 - 1867 Volunteer Fire Fighter training Hours
 - 30 Fire Fighters took Classes – EMT/Hazardous Materials Company Readiness – Allot of hands on training
 - Question for Council/Code Enforcement –
 - When will the demo list come out?
 - One can be used for Fire Fighter training.

Solicitor advises that the house belongs to the Borough even though the house is awarded to the contracted demolition company. We can use it for whatever we want and turn it over to them when we are finished with it. They are just contracted to tear it down. If, in their contract, they receive all materials within the home (i.e. copper piping, hot water tanks or any other materials), we would just have to leave all of that material inside of the house after we are done with training.

- Councilman Brennan asked how far along the launch of 911 is.
 - Chief Pisarchik states they are in a holding cycle at this point because we have vendors that wont release purchases until they get paid, and leasing companies that wont release the money until they get serial numbers and serial numbers that you cant get until the equipment comes in.
 - Maybe Borough Manager needs to get involved.
 - Once the equipment comes in they can move forward.
- Councilman Brennan asked Chief Campbell if the Police are ready for 911.
 - Chief states that he is waiting for 7 portables
 - Still not confirmation from Department of Justice regarding the laptops
- **Sewer Authority: Mike Terrick**
 - Construction bids for middle of May
 - Ravine St. postponed for a while
 - Borough to do patching for now

Items for Consideration:

1. Move to ratify the payment of the following:
 - a. Bills for April 2014
 - i. Administration \$ 49,650.14
 - ii. Public Safety \$ 77,107.36
 - iii. Fire Protection \$ 25,124.38
 - iv. Sanitation \$ 40, 063.94
 - v. Public Works \$ 76, 557.73
 - vi. Recreation \$ 1,922.06
 - vii. Miscellaneous \$ 636,422.49
 - viii. March 28, 2014 Payroll \$ 123, 123.64
 - ix. April 11, 2014 Payroll \$ 112, 495.34

Question on the motion as by Councilman Shields as to what miscellaneous payments are.

Council President Lloyd states that this includes 575K Pension and another 580K for the MMO that is due by the end of 2014.

Motion: Joe Ballas Second: Rick Brennan Vote: Unanimous

2. Motion to accept the minutes of the following meetings:
 - a. December 18, 2013 Council Meeting
 - b. January 15, 2014 Council Meeting
 - c. January 31, 2014 Council Meeting
 - d. February 19, 2014 Council Meeting

Comment from President Lloyd thanking Harry Faulk and Becki Wirth for the accuracy and bringing the posting of the minutes current.

Also on December 18th minutes there are notes that we appointed someone to MBI. Who was that? Did we appoint someone? Answer is that we did not. Are we putting more code enforcement forms online?
Yes

Motion: Bernie Shields Second: Rob Falce Vote: Unanimous

3. Motion to hire Becki Wirth as the Borough Secretary on a part time basis of 32 hours a week with no medical benefits at a rate of \$12.00 effective April 17, 2014.

Motion: Harvey Inglis Second: Rick Brennan Vote Unanimous

4. Motion to exonerate Donna Mercuri, Tax Collector for the amount of \$3,620,059.05 for the tax year 2013. She is being exonerated from \$ 542,184.02 not collected per Council President Lloyd.

Motion: Second: Vote: Unanimous

5. Motion to end the Munhall Dispatch Center by May 31, 2014 or earlier if all contingency plans for the transition to Allegheny County 911 are covered.

Motion: Bernies Sheilds Second: Rob Falce

Discussion before vote:

Mayor: Feels this is a mistake. Compromise the safety of the residents. Munhall offers superior service. Borough deserves superior service. Money spent on cameras for no reason. Pension payments made for those dispatchers. Dispatch protects prisoners the best. These are very important jobs that need to stay. Other budget jobs can be modified.

Councilman Falce called for Roll Call Vote:

Dan Lloyd: We are charged as elective representatives to spend the boroughs money as efficiently as possible. Since 2008 the tax revenue has gone up 51%. If we would have passed the 1 MIL tax increase, 1 Mil represents represents 10%. With our increase in value in the Waterfront the people in Munhall since 2008 the increase we up 70%. And we still can't keep pace. We have to pay 575K in pension benefits and we have another 580K MMO to pay for 2014 and our Workers Comp for the 2013/2014 periods is close to 600K. Our benefits are 90K a month. While they are still well funded, the lines are intersecting. The police pension that was funded to 174% in 2008 is now funded at 94%. And the values of our assets are now outweighed by the approved liability. The lines are going in the wrong direction. We can sit on our hands and pretend that our future is secure but you cant ignore a couple hundred thousand dollars in savings that we all pay for in our phone bills.

Rich Votedian: 911 are good system but we won't save money. Not a dime. If we are changing as a money saver we are wrong. I know the money has already been spent for equipment and we wont get that back so don't use this as a money saver.

Bernie Shields: Must move on to state of the art service and center. Will take time to get used to it but we will be fine. Alarmists are out there but we will be fine. Most people don't even know we aren't part of 911.

Rob Falce: Agrees with Mayor but the budget money is now gone. 100 K spent on radios.

Joe Ballas: I have thought long and hard about this. I have seen them at the county. It is impressive. One thing that I haven't heard is that this system is going to be better than what we have. Just saying that. Just thinking that we cut off our feet because we can't afford the shoes. This vote is going to be tough.

Roll Call Vote:

Dan Lloyd: Yes

Harvey Inglis: Yes

Rich Votedian: Yes

Bernie Shields: Yes

Rick Brennan: Yes

Rob Falce: Yes

Joe Ballas: No

6. Motion to exempt the Munhall Sewer Authority from having to submit a street opening permit application fee for Phase II Renovation Project.

Motion: Harvey Inglis Second: Bernies Shields Vote:

Councilman Ballas voiced concerns about how the streets will be “patched” or “finished” at the end of each job.

Mike Terrick advised that they are only asking for waiver for permit and that they are going to carry a bid bond that covers them to insure work. He states that they did a job 4 yrs. ago and there isn’t anything wrong with the work they did to date.

Per the Engineer Lindsey Jewart there is a two-year MTC bond. And the projects are all short openings.

Motion: Joe Ballas Second: Harvey Inglis Vote: Unanimous

7. Motion to advertise for accepting applications for the Public Works Department (including part time summer help).

Motion: Joe Ballas Second: Harvey Inglis Vote: Unanimous

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8. Motion to approve the combining of properties of Mike Strang at 4005 Fairfield Ave (133-H-107 & 133-H-109) pursuant to Allegheny County's Parcel Combination procedure and the Subdivision and Land Development Ordinance of the Borough of Munhall.

Discussion: Mr. Barka from Planning Commission states if they own both parcels all they need to do is get council approval.

Motion: Rob Falce Second: Joe Ballas Vote: Unanimous

9. Motion to approve the TIF Committee recommendation that A.M. Rodriquez be permitted to use the TIF loan money in the initial construction phase of their One Homestead project.
- Rick Brennan asked why TIF money is being used.
 - Dan Lloyd states being part of the Main St corridor makes it eligible.

Motion: Bernie Sheilds Second: Rob Falce Vote : 6-1 (Brennan)

10. Motion to approve the TIF Committee recommendation that A.M. Rodriquez loan be structured to allow interested only payments in the first two (2) years and principal plus interest payments in the last three (3) years.

Motion: Joe Ballas Second: Rich Votedian

Discussion: President Lloyd- They have made several loans and over the years and done refinances. Money has never been lost. Per Councilman Shields, this project will turn 8th Ave around all the way to Amity. It can be seen online.

Vote: 6 – 1 (Brennan)

11. Motion to approve the following handicapped parking sign:
a. 243 East Larkspur St

Motion: Bernie Shields Second Joe Ballas Vote: Unanimous

12. Motion to remove the following handicapped parking signs:
a. 19K Longfellow Dr - Passed Away
b. 20H Longfellow Dr - Sign put in under false pretenses

Motion: Bernie Shields Second: Rich Votedian Vote: Unanimous

13. Motion to deny the following handicapped parking signs:
- a. 113 East 21st Ave – One already close by
 - b. 12 D Longfellow Dr - Letter Sent
 - c. 13 D Longfellow Dr – Letter Sent
 - d. 20 A Longfellow Dr – Letter Sent
 - e. 119 West Virginia Ave – One already close by

Motion: Harvey Inglis Second: Bernie Shields

Discussion – Per Chief Campbell they are still investigating why there are so many handicapped spaces in Longfellow. One was put up 25 yrs. ago. Councilman Brennan states that he and other council members discussed making certain buildings handicapped accessible as well as the entire parking lot to make sure that everyone within the building had a space.

Vote: Unanimous

Executive Session:

Councilman Shields – Marion Street

- Will be on next months Agenda

Councilman Inglis – Cambria St. parking on both sides.

- Has the ordinance changed?
- Voiced his concern about driving through/or trying to during baseball season.

Chief Campbell – Lines for parking on Main St

- Residents and business asking for longer and darker lines back
- Also looking into ordinances
 - President Lloyd said that council would be looking into them this summer. Some people will be happy and some will not.
 - This Saturday is opening day of Munhall Baseball so please be there!

President Lloyd - National Library Week

- 27 most interesting Libraries in the World and Carnegie was most magnificent library built by Andrew Carnegie.

Councilman Falce – April 27th is next Memorial Day meeting at 1pm

