

**Borough Of Munhall  
Regular Council Meeting  
Minutes of Council  
August 21, 2013**

**A Caucus Meeting was held on August 21<sup>st</sup>, 2013, prior to the Regular Council Meeting in Council Chambers, Munhall Borough Building, 1900 West Street, Munhall, PA 15120. This meeting was convened at 6:30 PM, with Council President Joe Ballas presiding.**

Joe Ballas called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM, those who were in attendance were:

Mr. Lloyd, - Councilmen  
Mr. Inglis, - Councilmen  
Ms. Ditillo, - Councilwomen via telephone  
Mr. Shields - Councilmen  
Mr. Votedian - Councilmen- President Pro-tem  
Mr. Falce - Vice President  
Mr. Ballas - President  
Mr. Little – Interim Borough Manager  
Mr. Cibula – Acting Police Chief  
Mr. Pisarcik – Fire Chief  
Ms. Jewart – Borough Engineer  
Mr. Biscey – Acting Public Works Director  
Mr. Bodnar – Mayor  
Mr. Leiendecker – Borough Assistant

**X. Items For Consideration:**

#1. Move to ratify the payment of:

- Pre-paid Bills: July 18<sup>th</sup> 2013 – August 11<sup>th</sup>, 2013 in the amount of \$324,828.53.
- Bills: August 11<sup>th</sup>-21<sup>st</sup> in the amount of 54,632.12
- Payroll:
  - July 19<sup>th</sup>, 2013 in the amount of \$107,252.65
  - August 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2013 in the amount of \$109,811.96
  - August 16<sup>th</sup>, 2013 in the amount of \$123,252.79

Interim Borough Manager, Mr. Little explained the breakdown of the bills in item #1. He said they are different from previous months. Stating that he had labeled some as Pre-paid bills, bills which occur monthly or annually, such as insurance and utilities. However, because of the back up in bills for the past month, the amount is larger than normal. The regular bills, for 54,632.12 are the bills that have yet to be paid, but are ready to be sent out tomorrow. Payroll also is different from previous months. This month there are three

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payrolls to approve because the last Council Meeting fell in the middle of a new pay cycle.

Mr. Little asked is anyone had any questions concerning the bills?

-There were none.

**Legislative Issues:**

#1. A motion to ratify the opening of the Munhall Borough Lifesaver Account with Citizens National Bank.

-Mr. Little explained that the account was opened the week of August 12<sup>th</sup>, along with Officer James Williams who is heading up the project; this action, he stated should be approved by Council.

#2. Motion, to authorize a maximum of 60 hours a week, between the Office Temporary Employee, and our Intern. Harry Faulk being the Office Intern and Dorothy Dudas as the Office Temp.

-Mr. Ballas asked if there were any questions or concerns, since this is almost double the hours that we had originally intended upon. Mr. Shields asked if we could afford it, he stated, "None of this has been budgeted". Mr. Little stated that this money could come from what has already been budgeted for the previous Borough Secretary, Ms. Maier, who is no longer with us. Council agreed.

#3. Workers Compensation.

This is to inform Council, that our Agent at Allegheny Professional Insurance, Chris Terrick, will send out our Workmen's Compensation Policy for bid. This is because H.A.R.I.E, our W/C insurance provider is dropping us.

Mr. Ballas asked if there were any questions.

Mr. Shields asked who dropped us?

Mr. Little responded H.A.R.I.E (Housing and Redevelopment Insurance Exchange)

Mr. Shields stated that workers compensation has been a mess for quite sometime now.

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Mr. Ballas stated that this was the year things have gotten out of control. To which Mr. Lloyd replied "it didn't just happen this year Joe, last year I pointed out that our premium had gone up in excess of \$80,000.00", but as I recall that conversation didn't last too long.

Mr. Ballas then stated that we should definitely bring this to the table, especially now, to which Mr. Lloyd stated, "I should think so."

Mr. Shields asked about safety programs. He asked if we would get the same kind of discount for implementing a safety program from our new insurer that we had with H.A.R.I.E. Mr. Lloyd explained that you must have a certified safety committee and file the proper documents with the state and hold the proper meetings.

Mr. Ballas explained that up until this past January he was in charge of holding the meetings, "but those stopped when I had my surgery."

Mr. Lloyd explained that it is only 5% discount on the premium that's going to be around \$200,000.00, so around \$10,000.00 for a discount. It pales in comparison to an attitude that is pervasive that says "well, I won't come back till I am 100%". Mr. Lloyd went on into further detail the fine matters of workers comp.

Mr. Shields asked why they dropped us. Mr. Lloyd responded, "Because they are paying out more than the premium itself is worth." Mr. Shields then went on discussing the possibility of an outside company for the safety program. Mr. Lloyd agreed that it would be a better attention getter than seeing that same old face. He then went on to say how the state (which will probably be the only provider to pick us up) has plans that they themselves implement and even more beyond that, but to change you have to want it to change before it actually does. Mr. Lloyd suggested a third party claims administrator that manages claims.

Mr. Falce asked why we are seeing a wait time of 5-6 weeks for individuals who are on workmen's comp.

Mr. Shields asked why employees on workmen's comp receive their checks from the Borough. Mr. Little responded that it should not happen like that. Mr. Little stated, "I don't know why it's set up like that; it is possible that we handled the money for a specific deductions." Mr. Shields asked if that was a common practice. To which Mr. Little explained that there are cases in which employees receive their W/C checks from the Borough because they receive

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heart and lung that covers the other 1/3 of there pay, giving them a full pay, instead of the common 2/3 of a full pay.

Mr. Evashavik explained that any non- police that are on workers comp should get their checks directly from the insurance company. Mr. Shields exclaimed that he felt the same way.

Mayor Bodnar asked if everyone saw the report from Chris Terrick. Mr. Shields replied, "I have, have you ever seen numbers like these in all your experience." The Mayor exclaimed "never".

Mr. Lloyd claimed that he didn't think there was private insurer on the market that would pick us up and that we would most likely go with S.W.I.F (State Workers Insurance Fund). Mr. Votedian asked who would be searching for a new carrier. Mr. Lloyd replied "Mr.Terrick".

Mr. Evashavik stated to Mr. Lloyd that he was right about Light Duty, when you implement it; it seems to make people want to get back to doing their regular jobs a little faster. They don't seem to like what they do on light duty.

Mr. Evashavik then stated that it was the councils prerogative to implement light duty into the policy, and that they could do it right now if they so wished. Mr. Lloyd suggested that we implement the light duty policy.

Mr. Falce asked about a third party insurer.

#### #4. Police Dispatch

A discussion ensued between the council members and the Mayor. The council was still requesting a cost analysis of dispatch and what it would cost to go to 9-1-1. Because of the lengthy discussion on W/C Mr. Ballas asked that we postpone further discussion and get to the Regular Council meeting because it was 7:30 pm and he did not want to make the public wait.

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**The Regular Meeting of the Munhall Borough Council was held on August 21<sup>st</sup>, 2013 in Council Chambers, Munhall Borough Building, 1900 West Street, Munhall, PA 15120. This meeting was convened at 6:30 PM, with Council President Joe Ballas Presiding.**

The Pledge Of Allegiance was led under the direction of Mayor Raymond Bodnar

**The roll was called and the following members were present:**

Joe Ballas, President  
Robert Falce, Vice President  
Richard Votedian, President Pro-tem  
Dan Lloyd, Councilman  
Harvey Inglis, Councilman  
Bernie Shields, Councilman  
Dana Ditillo, Councilwoman – via Telephone

**Absent:**

None:

**Also in attendance at the meeting were:**

Raymond Bodnar, Mayor  
John Leiendecker, Borough Assistant  
Greg Evashavik, Borough Solicitor  
Lindsey Jewart, Engineer  
Robert Biscey, Public Works  
Joe Cibula, Acting Police Chief  
Matt Pisarcik, Fire Chief  
Timothy Little, Interim Borough Manager

**Preliminary Announcements:**

Mr. Falce congratulated all those involved in community days. He gave his final itinerary and expressed how pleased he was with how everything was working out. Mr. Shields wanted to make it clear to the community that this would be the year that would “make or break” Community Days. He stated that we have lost money in the past and if we continued to do so, without the support of the community, that this would most likely be the last year for Community Days.

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**Speakers:**

Dan Bobbish:

Mr. Bobbish asked council if there were any updates on the tax office "situation." He asked Mr. Lloyd if he had in front of him a copy of the tax collector's monthly report. He then turned his attention towards the Borough Solicitor asking him why he isn't doing his job properly. He pointed out various legal routes that the council should take towards making the tax collector do her job correctly. He stated that he would like to see action by the next council meeting and if not that he was going to take the necessary action.

Mr. Lloyd responded by telling Mr. Bobbish that he spoke with the auditor about two weeks prior, and at the point the auditor was looking for information and records that were necessary for him to complete his audit.

Brian Kamauf (Davis) spoke on behalf of Larry Kamauf of 615 e 18<sup>th</sup> Avenue:

Mr. Kamauf spoke of the over grown weeds that had been recently cut by the borough, The Borough left in a pile in the back of the vacant home next to his parents residence. He also spoke about a hole that was supposedly in the roof of the house next to them. Since the whole block is row housing, the water coming in from the roof next door is doing significant water damage to his parent's home. He stated that he had to replace the dry wall three (3) times since last year. Afterwards they went up onto the vacant roof and tried to patch the hole with a sheet of plywood.

The council as a whole agreed that it was private property, even though we cut the grass, there was no way we would be willing or capable of doing any type of repairs to the structure.

Mr. Cannon spoke about getting the property back onto the tax roll instead of waiting to tear it down. He explained that there are a couple ways to do so in a money efficient way. All that would be required would be the willingness of council, and some time and attention from an employee, to complete the process. It would be around 4,000.00 that the buyer would have to pay and great percentage of that goes towards the legal fees that are involved with relinquishing taxes through the Borough and County.

Mr. Evashavik spoke about the various county programs that allow a person to take ownership of vacant house, but he said it still cost money and time for the process to be completed.

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Ronald Lapko of 430 East 9<sup>th</sup> Avenue:

Mr. Lapko spoke about the parking on the 400 block of East 9<sup>th</sup> Avenue. He stated that he brought this to the attention of Council last year and in February there was a motion and signs were ordered for residential parking only. A month later he found that we had rescinded the motion and cancelled the order of signs. Mr. Lapko stated that he would like to find a way to have strictly residential parking. He also mentioned that someone on his street had illegal, No Parking Signs for his business. He then explained that he was, mistakenly given a ticket by the Munhall Police Department for parking illegally near his home. Mr. Lapko explained that he felt he was ticketed illegally and because someone else complained.

Chief Cibula told Mr. Lapko to stop by the following day, after the meeting to discuss this further.

Mr. Lloyd also spoke on the matter. Stating that Matt Galla was supposed to order the signs but never followed through with the order.

Mr. Alderich who also lives near by gave the meeting the general layout of the street so that they could better understand the situation.

Mayor Bodnar asked council if any of them had finished the codification process, which condenses all of the boroughs overlapping ordinances into one significant ordinance. He explained that it would be the only way to solve this particular parking problem.

Scott Stevens:

Mr. Stevens asked for an immediate executive session so that he may bring his topic up. He stated that he had done the same thing at the previous council meeting in July and was denied the executive session. He wanted to know the reason why they turned it down. His matter included officers rejecting to provide police reports and an information leak he believed that was inside the police department.

Chief Cibula retorted by stating that there are laws pertaining to Police Reports and that not just anyone can get any report. There are laws that the police themselves must follow in order to keep individuals personal identifiable information a secret.

Scott Stevens asked if the council would vote on whether to release the reports or not

Mr. Evashavik intervened and stated that the council would not be voting on anything and that Mr. Stevens needed to take his own course of action, he said the Borough stood behind the police department and their decisions.

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Mike Alderich of the Munhall area Pre-hospital Service:

Mr. Alderich simply asked the Council if M.A.P.S could be in the budget next year for \$30,000.00. He said this past year they had done poorly on their subscriptions and it simply wasn't enough to keep their heads afloat in this changing economy.

Mr. Votedian asked if he had thought of raising the subscription rate in order to offset the deficit

Mr. Alderich explained that they had just raised it by \$5 making the subscription cost \$35. To make any different they would have to raise the subscription rate to \$77 a year.

Mr. Lloyd urged Mr. Alderich and M.A.P.S to seek this money from the other communities since Munhall has the highest amount of subscriptions; He felt that he should be going to the council of the Boroughs that had the least amount of subscriptions. He also volunteered his own \$100 to donate to M.A.P.S

Mr. Votedian suggested putting on a drive at Community Days. Even after Community Days Mr. Votedian thought it would be beneficial for M.A.P.S to put on fundraisers and drives to raise money. "It is just a suggestion," Mr. Votedian said.

Mr. Alderich said that he would listen to any and all suggestions and that he had an open mind towards new ideas.

Patricia Brown:

Spoke on 2718 Homestead Duquesne road stating that it has been abandoned for around 13 years. She stated that it was still open and unsecure and that kids were in and out of there at all hours of the night. She complained of the smell and sight and more so the danger of which it made her think.

Mr. Evashavik told her that it was on the list for the next years demolition list. She could call the office and pursue it from that route, but that the Council had heard her complaint the first couple times she came to the meeting, he was sure that was enough to get her to the top of the list for the following years demo list.



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**Petitions / Public comments on Agenda items:**

Donna Dreshman of Forest Avenue:

Mrs. Dreshman commented on item #3 W/C, she asked if the doctor has to ok someone for light duty or can they be automatically assigned

The Council all explained it was the doctor who made the diagnosis as well as any limitations placed on said person.

She also question Item # 2, the motion to authorize a maximum of 60 hours per week between the Office Temporary Employee and the Intern.

Next, Mrs. Dreshman spoke about sheriff sales being listed in the paper Council told her that Legal Tax handles any sheriff sales for the Borough of Munhall. She then asked how they come up with that cost and, how Legal Tax holds the sale.

**Reports From Borough Officials:**

**Sewer Authority:** Mr. Terrick spoke on behalf of the Sewer Authority. He spoke about the project taking place around 8<sup>th</sup> avenue. The Authority wanted to place a "swirler" below 8<sup>th</sup> avenue, possibly across the train tracks that is designed to take rain water coming down the hill and have a controlled release instead of it going into the combined or combination sewers and creating major backups and overflows. He also noted that they were trying to avoid doing any work around or on Ravine Street. He then proceeded to talk about the collapse that had occurred in the alleyway of Maple and 18<sup>th</sup>. He said that the Borough needed to contact the water company to help with fixing the collapse because he feels like it's a shared fault.

He stated that Boon-Way is going to be a multi-million project, which entails catching the storm water that is draining down the hill so that it prevents the overflow from going into Boon-Way. There was also a discussion on holes being covered up on manholes after the street had been paved. There was a problem with this happening around Munhall and he said that he was looking into it and making the necessary corrections.

Mr. Votedian asked about possible vacancies on the Sewer Board

Mr. Terrick stated that yes there was an opening and that they would be accepting any willing applicants as soon as the Borough can advertise it.

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**Mayor:** Wishes Mr. Alderich would look into getting the donation Mr. Lloyd so generously offered him.

The Mayor stated that he had two (2) things that he wanted to bring to the attention of the borough.

One being telephone fraud that has been recently increasing around the area.

Two being that Televisions are freezing

The Mayor also talked about the no parking issue on Caroline Street by the M.E.T house. The Police Department made it so that there is no longer parking on the side of Center Street that the M.E.T house is on.

The Mayor also mentioned how well the Lifesaver project, headed by Officer Williams, was coming along. He went along to say that we were one of the only municipalities on the western side of Pennsylvania to have this new technology and he thought it was a great idea all the way around.

They Mayor then mentioned the annual Halloween parade. He asked if we would kindly donate to them once more as we have done in the past and the Council agreed.

**Solicitor:** Spoke about receiving a Federal Lawsuit filed on behalf of Jason Carter against officer Trout. He said that the finer details of this matter since he is personnel that it should be discussed in an Executive session.

**Engineer:** Ms. Jewart announced that this years paving project would begin in September. She also explained that she is in the midst of setting up the bonds before they start the job.

The Year 40 Demolition project was underway and the first thing she talked about doing was site visits to all the houses on that list so that she can make her assessment of the property.

**Director of Public Works:** Mr. Biscey spoke about how well community days went. Mr. Lloyd commented on his performance by telling him that he has been doing a "nice job".

**Chief of Police:** Acting Chief Cibula stated that they had received 556 calls resulting in 44 arrests and 57 citations. They were performing and finishing the traffic study done at Dixon St, off of 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue, and that the signs for a one-way street were ready to be installed.

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The fingerprinting fee of \$15.00 was initiated.

Mr. Evashavik warned that there should have been advertisement for this, and a motion needs to be passed A.S.A.P so that it can be "official".

Mr. Cibula also stated that he still has not received an answer pertaining to parking meters on Library road.

Mr. Lloyd commented again saying that parking meters are to control parking not increase revenue.

Mr. Lloyd asked him to develop a cost/revenue module so we can see were the problems lie.

Mr. Cibula also commented that they were short on crossing gaurd's. He asked permission to put an advertisement out.

Also he asked the Public Works if they could paint the crosswalk lines around the community.

**Fire Chief:**

46 Calls, no injuries, there was a structure fire last week in the attack of a building on Longfellow Drive. There was one injury at that fire. Also Mr. Pisarcik wanted to speak with Rob Falce about community days, they had blocked off around 70 streets.

**Code Enforcement:**

Submitted a hand written report.

**Item for Consideration:**

Mr. Lloyd Move to ratify the payment of:

- Pre-paid Bills: July 18<sup>th</sup>, 2013 – August 11<sup>th</sup>, 2013 in the amount of \$324,828.53.
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Motion seconded my Mr. Inglis. Motion Carried Unanimously.

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Mr. Inglis Moved, Seconded by Mr. Votedian to ratify the opening of the Munhall Borough Lifesaver Account with Citizens National Bank. Motion carried unanimously

Mr. Falce Moved, Seconded by Mr. Shields to authorize a maximum of 60 hours per-week between the Office Temporary Employee and The Office Intern. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Shields Moved, Seconded by Mr. Votedian to establish Dixon Street as a One Way from 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue up to 9<sup>th</sup> Avenue travelling Northbound. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Votedian moved, seconded by Mr. Shields to place an advertisement in the paper to hire part-time school crossing guards for the upcoming school year. Motion carried unanimously

Mr. Lloyd motioned, seconded by Mr. Inglis to have a cost analysis done on transferring from our local dispatch to the county operated system, 911 Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Inglis moved, seconded by Mr. Falce to implement a \$15.00 fee for fingerprinting for all non-criminal matters. Motion carried unanimously.

**Other Items:**

Mr. Votedian commented and asked Chief Cibula if he could make this Borough a Gun free zone. With the current tragedies' going on today I think we should take all the precautions necessary to keep us and the people safe Mr. Votedian said.

**There was an Executive Session**

The meeting adjourned at 9:55 pm, Motioned by Mr. Votedian and seconded by Mr. Falce.

Interim Borough Manager/ Secretary X\_\_\_\_\_