

Present: Greg Evashavik, Borough Solicitor
Patrick Campbell, Police Chief
Bob Biscey, Public Works
David Cannon, Code Enforcement
Lindsey Jewart, Chester Engineers
Harry Faulk, Secretary
Tim Little, Interim Manager

6:32 Caucus started by Council President Joe Ballas. Mr. Little added a motion to enter into a five-year leasing agreement for the garbage truck that was just delivered and a motion to hire Becky Wirth from Carol Harris Staffing. Mr. Ballas mentioned that someone would have to be appointed to the Civil Service Commission. Mr. Ballas would like the position advertised. Mr. Falce and Mr. Shields recommended Dr. Spellman.

6:38 Council went into executive session to discuss personnel and ligation.

7:16 Council President Ballas called the Regular Council Meeting to order.

Mayor Ray Bodnar led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Moment of silence was held to honor the late Richard Brennan, former Police Chief and father of Councilmember Elect Rick Brennan.

Roll Call:	Councilman Lloyd	Present
	Councilman Inglis	Present
	Councilwomen Ditillo	Present
	Councilman Shields	Present
	Councilman Votedian	Present
	Councilman Falce	Present
	Councilman Ballas	Present

Public Speakers:

1. Walt Viola – A committee was formed as a tri-borough group of Homestead, West Homestead, and Munhall and is looking for private money not government money. Mr. Viola would like to have one councilmember from each community to be on the committee as well. Library Way should have parking meters. There are about 15 spots that can be utilized. Currently there are cars with flat tires parking cars there. There are meters in front of the donut store that are covered. Mr. Viola would like a program put together to identify the parking needs of Munhall.
2. Judith Wilkinson – not present
3. Linda and John Walters –205 Emerson Ave., Munhall. Mr. Walters asked if occupancy permit was issued on 201 Emerson Ave? As of

11/11/13 was not issued. Occupancy was started on 11/8/2013. Mr. Walters recited Chapter 299 of the Municipal Code. Also has a lien letter been filed and the taxes have been paid? As of 11/14 the taxes were not paid. Has this property had the proper inspections? Mr. Walters gave legal notice to council unsafe conditions exists at 201 Emerson Ave. We have a list of health and safety issues that must be addressed. The property omits a foul odor of raw sewage during the summer months. Numerous generations of squirrels and raccoons have filled the attic with nesting material. Many years of dog feces and urine have contaminated the first floor and needs replaced. The dye test was failed and the previous owner installed rain barrels to pass the test however the rain barrels do not drain properly to the street therefore overflow and breed mosquitoes. The foundation is cracked and is failing. The entire addition is separating from the foundation. The fuse box is not up to code. The basement is constantly flooded. There is asbestos on the ductwork and there is a dying sycamore tree in the back yard. Explain to us how a sale can legally take place in this borough with this house in this condition. We expect action taken by the borough to subject the property to proper inspections, seize the occupancy permit and require the delinquent taxes are paid. The citizens are not protected by the code.

Mr. Cannon replied that it was inspected on 10/11/2013 due to the house was being sold. There were two individuals there stating that they were watching the house and are moving out that weekend. There were nine dogs in the house. The house was in deplorable condition. A temporary occupancy permit was issued on 10/25/2013 to the new buyer. The closing date was on 10/31/2013. The week of 11/18/2013 I received a call stating the people moved into the house. I went to the house and there were two elderly men painting the first floor. There was no furniture in the house. I told the owner of the property that he could not move in until he receives an occupancy permit. On 11/25/2013 I received another call stating that furniture was moved in and people are living there. I advised the owners and his son that they cannot move in until they receive an occupancy permit. The owner replied that when work late at night they have crashed there. There were two beds upstairs however no furniture was noted on the first floor. They were advised to place smoke detectors in each bedroom. On 12/16/2013 the house was inspected. My report showed that the following are against code is that the address numbers must be four inches in height; lids have to be on garbage cans, the basement windows need fixed to prevent water from entering the basement. The electrical should be updated, however as long as the right fuses are in place and circuits aren't

overloaded it will be fine. Window frames should be scraped and painted. A guardrail needs placed on the steps going downstairs. Ebony Warren, 201 Emerson St. replied that he went to school for carpentry, there have a few days that we stayed there and didn't move into this home until Dec 8th, 2013. The floors were stripped, facets were fixed, all rooms have smoke alarms, and will replace the windows in the basement. We do not live in deplorable conditions. We didn't cause these conditions and we have been fixing the issues that Dave Cannon has stated that needs fixed. We are in the process of fixing everything and want to be outstanding citizens.

Mr. Cannon stated that every window is operable and will look at the foundation. Linda has never called about Emerson until the past two months.

Mr. Walters asked how can a property in this condition sell in Munhall. I have studies showing that this house should have been torn down.

Borough Solicitor Evashavik stated that any property could be sold as is, it is the borough's responsibly to enforce our code, and go after taxes. The borough cannot say no when buying and selling property.

Mr. Walters stated that they would be following every step of this process with this property.

4. Patricia Brown – 2718 Homestead Duq. Road has been abandoned, vandalized, and no utilities for ten years. Mr. Evashavik stated that the house was on the demo list and was advised that the demo meeting has been pushed back every month. The Interim Borough Manager at the time stated that the condemnation meeting would be held in January. Is this true?

Manger Little replied yes and it will be on January 16th.

5. Agnes Hogg mentions that when Richard "FOO" Brennan, Officer Seiss can and stood at the head of the casket for six hours, never smiled, and never talked that day. Same with Officer Smoley. Officer Seiss came back and did it again the next day, without pay. They stood and paid respect to a fellow officer. Chief Campbell had a presentation. I am very proud of the Munhall Police Department and we should honor our police more.
6. Marty Lischner talked about having an awareness concert at West Field and will need two police officers and the stage booked by January and is asking for \$500 for the stage that will be paid back. A committee will be formed and will need access to the field. Councilman Votedian wanted to have a motion placed tonight to give Marty \$500.

Councilman Lloyd stated that this is public money and we are not in the position to give you \$500.

Councilman Falce stated that maybe we can give Marty the \$500 from the Community Day Fund. The committee will get together and vote on it.

Councilman Ballas stated that if you go through with this ensure that every vendor has insurance and have it filed in the office.

Walt Viola stated that he would donate the \$500.00.

Public Comments

Karen Pletch from Woodlawn Ave asked if there could be a process for the community to fill out when there are issues with the Code Enforcement Officer. Dave Cannon stated that it can be put on the website.

Donna Dreshmen from Forest Ave asked if item 2 is a tax increase. Councilman Ballas replied one mill. Donna stated that there will be a new council member in January, and asked if the new council member agreed to not being paid and that line item could show \$2,400 for him due to the fact that what has happened in the last year was not his fault and was not sitting on council. Is the Audit done? Mr. Little replied before June. There is a bookkeeping company coming in to assist with helping with the bookkeeping, also the 941 forms were not submitted with payments to social security. Donna thanked Mr. Little for helping getting the borough back together. Item #19, will there be a pay increase. Mr. Little replied there is none scheduled at this time.

Linda Squires mentioned that she emailed Dave Cannon and had proof that there is raw sewage smell coming from the neighbor's house during the summer. Mr. Ballas advised start with Mike Terrick.

Move to approve October 16, 2013 minutes

Motion: Falce Second: Shields Passed

Move to approve November 13, 2013 minutes

Motion: Shields Second: Inglis Passed

Move to approve November 20, 2013 minutes

Motion: Inglis Second: Lloyd Passed

Report from Officials;

Mayor: Peoples Gas is now the borough's gas supplier. Also I received a letter from Citizens Bank stated that the bank on Main Street next to Cogo's is closing, the drive thru bank will remain open. It would be nice to have another bank there. The Steel Valley Authority sent a letter to have a representative for the MVI. Mon Valley Initiative would also like to have a representative from Council. January 6th is the reorganization meeting and we will swear in re-elected council, new council member, and myself. Mr. Faulk is looking for everyone's W2; so please see that he gets them. The flyover will be discussed next month. The audit wasn't done because the previous manager didn't do it and it infuriates me.

Borough Solicitor: Last month we discussed the on going concern with delinquent properties and vacant properties to get those back on the tax roll. Council has a form for a request to receive \$5000.00 to assist to cover with fees and expenses with sheriff sales. Once it is finalized, council can make a motion to accept it.

Borough Engineer: Council has my report. 2013 paving project is wrapping up. Next month I will provide a report to repave streets. The demo project letters were mail for the hearing next month. During the site visit to the flyover, the damage did not weaken the structure. A study was performed and it is unsafe for large trucks to use the flyover and should be rerouted. Trucks over 40 feet need to re-routed. We are still working on the safe route to schools.

Public Works: Two new trucks came in and council has my report.

Chief of Police: Council has my report. We have had three trucks from the same company wreck on the corner of the fly-over in the past few weeks. Penn DOT is willing to work with us.

Fire Chief: responded to 29 calls with no injuries. The volunteer hours are 550 man-hours. This time of year there are more electrical fires due to overloading the circuits, make sure your tree is watered.

Code Enforcement: Council has a copy of my report. Is there going to be a meeting next month for abandoned houses and will be willing to advertise the meeting. Councilman Lloyd advised to set up a meeting however the public should not be involved until the parameters are set.

Items for Consideration

1. Move to ratify the payment of:

- a. Pre-paid bills: Nov. 21, 2013 – Dec. 18, 2013: \$42,805.34
- b. Bills: Dec. 19, 2013: \$157,191.42
- c. Payroll: Nov. 22, 2013: \$125,661.28
Dec. 6, 2013: \$130,959.19

Motion: Inglis Second: Lloyd Passed

2. Move to enact Ordinance 1562 fixing the tax rate for the year 2014 at a rate of 11.75 mills.

Public Hearing conducted by Borough Solicitor. The Mayor stated that he can veto an ordinance. Donna Dreshmen asked if this includes a Tax Anticiaption Loan? Mr. Little replied no.

Motion: Ditillo Second: Falce

Roll Call:

Mr. Lloyd: No	Mr. Inglis: No	Mrs. Ditillo: Yes
Mr. Falce: Yes	Mr. Shields: No	Mr. Votedian: Yes
Mr. Ballas: Yes		

Passed

Mr. Falce stated that no one is a fan of a tax increase. In January the budget can be reopened. By state law we have to pass a budget by the end of the year. Mr. Lloyd stated that the millage rate has gone up 51% since 2008 with no end in sight. The only thing that restricted us is that we lost \$350,000 in RAD money and workers comp increased another \$210,000 in the last two years. We need to control spending. We need to grow our tax base and this is a wrong approach. We have increased our revenue almost 70% and it is still not enough. We need to control our cost. Mr. Votedian stated that he doesn't want to raise taxes but we have to in order to pay for the library. Mr. Shields stated the library increase is only \$60,000 and is the only quality of life we have in Munhall. Families do not move here and families don't want to stay. We do not have parks and the grass is not cut unless we call. This is more than passing a budget. We have to fix it. We have kicked the can down the road long enough. I will walk away with my head held high. We will give the Library \$112,000. It was in the referendum. To blame this on the Library is unfair. Mr. Votedian replied that he is not blaming it on the Library but we have to get the money from somewhere. Mr. Lloyd stated that we are in the top 8 of 135 municipalities in the county and what do we have to show for it. Nothing. Things need fixed.

3. Move to adopt the Munhall Borough General Fund operating budget for the year 2014 in the amount of \$6,716,958.

Motion: Falce Second: Shields

Roll Call:

Mr. Lloyd: No	Mr. Inglis: No	Mrs. Ditillo: Yes	
Mr. Falce: Yes	Mr. Shields: No	Mr. Votedian: Yes	
Mr. Ballas: Yes			Passed

4. Move to authorize the Borough Manager to make necessary line item changes, encumbrances and fund transfers adjusting both revenues and expenditures in order to close the 2013 General Fund Operating Budget.

Motion: Falce Second: Shields Passed

5. A motion to ratify the reinstatement of the Police and Public Works pension contributions at 5% and 2% respectively.

Motion: Lloyd Second: Inglis Passed

6. A motion to remove those handicapped parking signs outlined in the December 3rd and 9th memo from Sgt. Cibula to Council.

Motion: Inglis Second: Falce Passed

7. A motion to ratify the increased Friday hours of the Interim Borough Manager from November 15th to December 20th, 2013 (40 hours).

Motion: Lloyd Second: Shields Passed

8. A motion to adopt a policy for all employees that at the discretion of the Borough Manager, in consultation with the Department Head and Borough Council, that one week of vacation time may be carried over to the ensuing year, provided that the employee was prevented from using vacation days through the course of the year through no action or inaction of their own (i.e. extensive workers compensation claim, emergency call-outs, etc.) and the vacation days are used before March 31st of the ensuing year.

Motion: Inglis Second: Shields Passed

Council Lloyd believes the wording of this is in conflict with what was discussed in executive session. Mr. Evashaveck replied that you can make another motion to change this at a later date. Passed

9. A motion to adopt Resolution No. ___ approving the transfer of club liquor license C-701 into Munhall Borough at 936 E. 8th Ave from 120-124 Flowers Ave, Pittsburgh, PA 15207.

Motion: Shields Second: Ditillo Passed

10. A motion to appoint Harvey Inglis and Bernie Shields to the Pennsylvania State Association of Boroughs.

Motion: Falce Second: Lloyd Passed

11. A motion to appoint Rob Falce and Rich Votedian to the Allegheny County Boroughs Association.

Motion: Inglis Second: Ditillo Passed

12. A motion to appoint David Cannon to the Steel Valley Historic Architectural Board.

Motion: Ditillo Second: Falce Passed

Comment: Mr. Ballas stated there is room for one more person.

13. A motion to advertise for one open position to the Munhall Borough Board of Appeals.

Motion: Inglis Second: Falce Passed

14. A motion to appoint Richard Wesley and John Ondo to the Planning Commission.

Motion: Falce Second: Lloyd Passed

15. A motion to appoint Donna Dreshman and Thomas Burke to the Zoning Hearing Board.

Motion: Inglis Second: Ditillo Passed

16. A motion to appoint Bernie Shields to the Steel Valley Enterprise Zone Corporation.

Motion: Lloyd Second: Votedian Passed

17. A motion to appoint Joe Ballas and Rich Votedian to the Steel Valley Council of Governments.

Motion: Falce Second: Ditillo Passed

18. A motion to re-appoint Lawrence Schamus to Munhall Municipal Sewage Authority to a five year term ending in 2018.

Motion: Ditillo Second: Inglis Passed

19. A motion to appoint Harry Faulk as Interim Office Manager beginning 12/23/2013.

Motion: Falce Second: Ditillo Passed

20. A motion to enter into a five year leasing agreement for a 2014 international 7600 Garbage Truck for \$176,065.76 payable in quarterly installments of \$9,420.46 @ a 2.9% interest rate.

Motion: Ditillo Second: Falce Passed

Councilman Lloyd asked when did we make a motion. Mr. Little advised after talking to the dealer that it was talked about last February. Mr. Lloyd and Mr. Shields do not recall discussing purchasing the truck. Mr. Ballas signed it on June 7th 2013.

Roll Call:

Mr. Lloyd: No	Mr. Inglis: Yes	Mrs. Ditillo: Yes	
Mr. Falce: Yes	Mr. Shields: Yes	Mr. Votedian: Yes	
Mr. Ballas: Yes			Passed

21. A motion to hire Becky Jo Wirth through Carol Harris Staffing, LLC @ \$10.00/hr.

Motion: Ditillo Second: Falce Passed

Mrs. Ditillo stated for the record that she does not know Mrs. Wirth.

22. Councilman Shield made a motion to appoint Chris Terrick to the Steel Valley Authority. Councilman Falce second. Passed

Mr. Brennan, councilman – elect thanked everyone that came and saw his father and the police force was really there. Everyone was very impressed about the police force being there is it meant the world to my family and me.

Mayor Bodnar stated that now that it is winter and everyone is walking around in black, be careful driving on West Run Rd because you cant see the teens and please advise people to wear something white so they can be seen. Please use caution. I want to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year and am looking forward to the future.

Councilman Lloyd stated that next year is going to be difficult. Mr. Little prepared a cash-flow report and will end the year in a surplus. The Tax Anticipation Loan is a

neutral line item. Without the ability to borrow, we may run out of money in March. You need to know the circumstance. If we don't secure a TAN, we will have to begin planning. Last year we had \$37,000 in March. I want everyone in Munhall know where we are at and if we run out of money, there may be layoffs.

Councilman Shields thanked Mr. Little for his time here in Munhall and wishes him luck and he is now part of the Munhall Family. Mr. Ballas was also thanked and stated he knows it is not easy being the point man. Mrs. Agnes was also thanked for her services to the borough.

Councilman Votedian thanked the Munhall Fire Department who answers calls voluntarily, through the night and in the worst of weather.

Councilman Inglis thanked public works for their wonderful job of keeping the street cleaned in the wintertime.

Councilman Ditillo thanked everyone that sits up here and the audience. I have heard and seen a lot in the past four years and everyone does work together to get the job done.

Councilman Ballas thanked everyone on council and Mr. Little. Have a safe Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Motion to adjourn meeting: Shields Second by Falce.