

**Borough of Munhall
Virtual - Regular Council Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, December 16, 2020 7:00 P.M.
Meeting ID: 89254393886 Password: 180167**

I. Call to Order – Based on Governor Wolfe’s Disaster Proclamation, this meeting will be conducted via Zoom Cloud Meeting. – President Inglis brought the meeting to order.

**Roll Call: Councilman Falce; Councilman Fallon; Councilman Ondo;
Councilman Petruzzi; Councilman Stein; Vice President Votedian;
President Inglis**

II. Public Comments on Items for Consideration – Questions were submitted prior to the meeting via email to info@munhallpa.us, regular mail or fax 412-464-0462. President Inglis will address, or appoint someone else to address, any questions submitted.

Walter Viola – 629 and 633 East 9th Ave. Mr. Viola wrote a letter to Council regarding 631 East 9th Avenue. He has concerns regarding the property being abandoned and infested. He is asking for the Borough to demolish the home and he would be interested in buying the vacant land. President Inglis asked David Cannon, Code Enforcement, to address the concerns. Dave advised it is in the sheriff sale process.

Reports:

Mayor – Mayor Brennan said he spoke with the neighbors to 631 East 9th Ave. He said them having to live next to the property and wait for a sheriff sale is not right. President Inglis asked what he suggests. Mayor Brennan advised looking at the property, possibly board it up and possibly bomb for insects. He feels the Borough should go and speak to the resident. Dave Cannon and Solicitor Greg Evashavik addressed his concerns and advised it is the responsibility of the property owner and not the Boroughs obligation. Mr. Evashavik advised he would be able to assist Mr. Viola if he wishes to purchase the property. Mayor Brennan advised he would like to see someone come together to address dilapidated buildings within the Borough. Dave Cannon discussed the problems tearing homes down vs the sheriff sale process. It brings taxes back on to the tax roll and avoids the Borough being responsible for cutting the grass on the vacant lots.

Mayor Brennan wished everyone a Merry Christmas and thanked everyone for their hard work in 2020. He then thanked, Richard Bazy and Shultz Ford for their bicycle program and the bikes they are donating.

He discussed the Met House \$800 check he received as a donation. Vice President Votedian advised the check should be divided between the Police and Fire Departments. There was a discussion with Ed Pletsch regarding his thoughts on the check. He advised he spoke to Kostovny and they are still working on the Main Street lighting.

Solicitor - Solicitor Evashavik stated he has been working with Manager Joe Varhola regarding grants available for COVID-19 expenses.

Manager – Manager Varhola advised he received approval from Brentwood Bank regarding the TAN. He then advised Chatham University paid their yearly \$15,000 even though they have not used the field and said to use it for field maintenance.

He also stated everything has been finalized for Raymond Bodnar Way and that there is going to be an item on the agenda to set the tax rate for 2021.

Engineer – Engineer Colin Lampark stated things are progressing smoothly at 1860 West Street. He addressed changes, mentioned in the previous meeting, that needed to be made regarding the plumbing and the contractor brought options to the table where small changes and revisions were made and there will be no additional cost for to the Borough. In fact, \$9000 will be given back. He thanked the people he is working with from the Borough, the architect, and the contractor.

Colin then thanked Joe Varhola for searching out grant opportunities and stated there will be three projects going in 2021. A catch basin replacement project and that \$95,000 was received from the County. He advised there will be a storm sewer project on Main Street that the Borough received monies from the Tourism Gaming funds for utility work at 1860 West Street. He said he has also been working with the engineer for Best of the Batch Foundation on storm sewer work for their project.

Vice President Votedian asked if the grants received are matching grants. Colin advised the neither the County nor Tourism Gaming grants require match. He advised the PA Small Water and Sewer grant may but was not sure how much. Manager Varhola stated 25% match. Manager Varhola advised most of them will go be in Munhall Gardens and the northern end of Munhall.

Public Works Supervisor - Mr. Biscey is not in attendance because of the weather.

Police Chief – Report submitted

Fire Chief - Chief Pletsch advised of former Chief Bodnar's passing and that they are stopping all in person training because of COVID-19.

Code Enforcement – David Cannon read his monthly report. He advised all his court hearings have been pushed to January.

Finance Chair – Councilman Stein advised \$1,685,000 in outgoing expenses and \$1,702,000 in incoming revenue leaving the Borough with \$17,000 to the good. He stated the balances are in line with the previous year which is a testament to good financial prudence. He then commented on the recent talk of looking in to selling the Sewer Authority and if it would be prudent to do so. He feels the pursuit should be done cautiously and judiciously and asked everyone to keep in mind several things that were mentioned earlier such as the lights on Main Street that will require new conduit run underground and the project will be costly. He mentioned paving

and that the budgeted \$150,000 will not get much done. He brought up the dilapidated houses the Mayor spoke of earlier and said that if the Borough would come into a windfall of cash, all these things could be taken care of. He advised we could completely take care of the necessary repairs to our infrastructures. He said he wanted to be careful to oversell it, but it would be a big bonus for the Borough.

III. Items for consideration:

1. Motion to adopt the 2021 Budget with no tax increase.
Motion: Councilman Stein; Second: Councilman Petruzzi;
Roll Call Vote:
Councilman Falce - Yes
Councilman Fallon - No
Councilman Ondo – Yes
Councilman Petruzzi - Yes
Councilman Stein - Yes
Vice President Votedian - Yes
President Inglis - Yes
2. Motion to authorize the Solicitor and Manager to explore the process of finding value of Munhall Sewer assets.
Motion: Vice President Votedian; Second: Councilman Stein;
Roll Call Vote:
Councilman Falce - Yes
Councilman Fallon - Yes
Councilman Ondo – Yes
Councilman Petruzzi - Yes
Councilman Stein - Yes
Vice President Votedian - Yes
President Inglis - Yes
3. Motion to appoint Mark Fallon and Joe Satira to Steel Valley Enterprise Zone.
Motion: Vice President Votedian; Second: Councilman Stein
Question on Motion: Councilman Stein asked how long the terms will be for these positions. Manager Varhola advised 4 years.
Vote: Unanimous
4. Motion to approve Ordinance 1604 setting the 2021 tax rate, with no increase, at 10.75.
Motion: Councilman Falce; Second: Councilman Stein; Vote: Unanimous
5. Motion to approve Resolution 2020-8 enabling the Borough Manager to apply for grant funds for Covid-19 expenses through PEMA/FEMA.
Motion: Councilman Falce; Second: Councilman Stein; Vote: Unanimous

6. Motion to approve the minutes for the November 18, 2020 meeting.
Motion: Vice President Votedian; Second: Councilman Ondo; Vote: Unanimous
7. Motion to pay bills for the period November 11th, 2020 through December 8th, 2020 summarized as follows:

Administration	\$ 26,771.92
Police:	\$ 15,419.16
Fire:	\$ 10,728.59
Health & Sanitation:	\$ 12,752.28
Public Works:	\$ 22,501.05
Recreation:	\$ 3,154.55
Debit Services:	\$ 25,398.76
Miscellaneous:	<u>\$ 598,509.41**</u>
TOTAL:	\$ 715,235.72

**Includes new building expenses (\$574,047.90 construction and \$24,461.51 professional expenses).

Motion: Vice President Votedian; Second: Councilman Stein; Vote: Unanimous

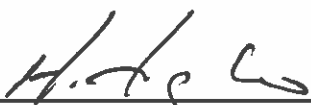
8. Motion to approve Payroll for the period of November 26th and December 10th, 2020.

2020: November 26th	\$ 135,530.27
2020: December 10th	<u>\$ 136,419.29</u>
TOTAL:	\$ 271,949.56

Motion: Councilman Falce; Second: Councilman Stein; Vote: Unanimous

IV. Adjournment:

Motion: Councilman Stein; Second: Councilman Petruzzi



 Harvey Inglis – President of Council