

Borough of Munhall
Virtual - Regular Council Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, February 17, 2021 7:00 P.M.
Meeting ID: 89552925867 Passcode: 944999

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

Roll Call: Councilman Falce; Councilman Fallon; Councilman Ondo; Councilman Petruzzi; Councilman Stein; Vice President Votedian; President Inglis – All present

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.

Maureen Fry – 124 W Virginia Ave – Mrs Fry’s questions were read by Becki Wirth.

1. What is the update on 1860 West St.? Please be specific.

Answer: The Borough Engineer will discuss in his report.

2. What amount has been spent from January 20 to February 17 on the 1860 West St project?

Answer: \$1,007,740.50

3. What is the total amount of money spent from start of 1860 West St project to and including today?

Answer: \$2,124,391.71

4. Besides 1860 West St project what New Business is being considered by council?

Answer: Please see agenda items.

5. What is the status of the Propel School issue?

Answer: Solicitor Evashavik will discuss in his report.

6. What is the status of sewage authority issue?

Answer: We are in the information gathering stage. Manager Varhola explained what information is being gathered.

Reports:

Mayor – Mayor Brennan recognized the Public Works department for their work. He also thanked the Police Department for their work as well. Mayor Brennan thanked Council for being willing to separate the Workshop and Regular meetings as in the past. He stated he would further like to see the residents be able to speak for themselves in stead of having their questions read. He feels the way the meetings are being held should change. He feels, as Mayor, he is the

President Inglis asked Mayor Brennan and Chief Campbell about a police officer positing at the flyover. Chief Campbell discussed the issues and there will be another camera added so it will serve them better. There were discussions about the lines and the need to make them a bolder point of reference. Mayor Brennan then asked that either he or Chief Campbell be contacted if there is an issue that needs to be addressed. President Inglis asked Chief Campbell to address the cars in Homestead Park that are parked against the lane of traffic and asked Mayor Brennan about the person hanging out on Main Street. Chief Campbell advised he is not violating a law and he has not gotten any phone calls regarding the man. Mayor Brennan advised he has received complaints about him but understand there is not anything that can be done as he is not breaking any laws. Chief Campbell said to refer people to 911 if there is an issue.

Code Enforcement – Report submitted. Dave Cannon advised Council of the Zoning Board hearing denial and that he will be working to update the Borough fee schedule. Vice President Votedian asked Mr. Cannon about a boat on Dahlia. Dave stated the ordinance says they can store them in the back yard or driveway. Chief Pletsch asked if Dave had received the occupancy calculation for the old Hungarian club and there was a brief discussion. Chief Campbell stated that the Police should have been notified of the grand opening siting the past shootings that took place. Mr. Cannon said it was a soft opening and that the occupants were friends and family. There was a discussion regarding future openings.

Finance Chair – Councilman Stein advised the General fund has a balance of \$1,350,517.00 and the debits and credit net was a positive of \$187,762.00 for the month of January. The Borough is in the beginning of the revenue season and off to a good start. Mr. Stein also advised that expenditures for 1860 West Street were \$1,007,740.50 and was transferred from the Capital fund to the General fund accounts. He then encouraged everyone to support the local fire departments because they will not be able to do allot of the fundraisers, they have been in the past because of Covid. He then commented about the man on Main Street and said he is a source of positivity and he will support him in any way he can.

III. Items for consideration:

1. Motion to approve Resolution 2021-1 to file RCAP Grant application by Borough of Munhall. This is part of the administration for \$1,000,000.00 grant.
Motion: Councilman Stein; Second: Councilman Falce; Vote: Unanimous

for a motion to be added and that the money would come from the liquid fuels account.

Added - Motion to approve payment to Stephenson Equipment, for the new salt spreader, in the amount of \$6585.00.

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

Councilman Ondo asked if Jessie Wigg knows and approves of the new Propel parking lot. Dave Cannon said he is aware and thinks it is a good idea.

Engineer – Colin Lampark gave the update on construction at 1860 West Street in his weekly meeting. He states the estimate of completion is at 53%. He discussed the new generator and its necessity and touched on each areas project as well as the new elevator. Mr. Lampark then discussed motion 2 regarding the 2021 paving projects. He stated, he, the Borough Manager and Public Works Supervisor worked on the “wish list” of streets selected from the 5-year paving plan. He cannot be sure they will all be done but the plan is to start the bid process in the weeks to come. He then explained motion 3 and said the project is the site utilities at 1860 West Street. Colin reminded everyone that a grant was applied for to complete the sewer, natural gas, and water line connections. The grant is \$125,000 and the estimated construction cost for the project is approximately \$175,000 to \$200,000. Councilman Ondo asked if a dual fuel generator had been considered and Colin advised he believes it is diesel, but he can look further into it and follow up with him. Vice President Votedian asked if Library Place is on the paving “wish list”. Colin gave the list but reminded him that they are not sure all will be able to be completed. He gave E Eugene from Main to Hill Streets. Pansy Way. 9th Avenue by Kennedy Park. 19th Avenue from Maple to McClure. McClure from 8th to 10th Avenues (the Munhall half of the road) and Kennedy Avenue. Several additional street names were brought up by Council members. Mayor Brennan asked Colin when he felt the Borough would occupy the new building. Manager Varhola advised 4th quarter 2021 and Colin agreed. He said that the construction should be complete before the end of the 2nd quarter and the 3rd quarter will consist of utilities, furniture and the occupancy permit.

Public Works Supervisor – Report submitted.

Police Chief – Report submitted. Chief Campbell also commended Public Works and the Police Department for their work. Councilman Ondo asked Chief Campbell about safety vest availability for officers. Chief Campbell advised they are in every car.

Fire Chief – Report submitted and read. Chief Pletsch discussed the recent Covid 19 vaccines. Mayor Brennan thanked Chief Pletsch and the Fire Department for their work. Chief Pletsch also commended the Police and Public Works Departments.

meetings are being held should change. He feels, as Mayor, he is the representative of the residents and said they should be able to speak at the meetings. There was a discussion about the way the meetings are currently held. Mayor Brennan feels the residents should be able to speak about anything they want and not just agenda items. He said he gets calls from residents and answers every one of them. President Inglis and Mayor Brennan discussed the possible time allotment for residents to speak. Mayor Brennan recognized the year and its challenges. He also feels there should be an Executive Session regarding Propel for everyone to discuss the project in detail. Mayor Brennan then discussed the possibility of the sale of the Sewer Authority. He states they are an asset and would ask Council to move slowly on the decision to sell it. He discussed possible funds that could be collected for the Municipal General Fund. Mayor Brennan stated he has been in contact with MAPS and feels there is a need for a meeting with them. He agrees they need to bring the information Council is asking for but feels there needs to be open communications. He feels they are an asset, and they need to be protected. Vice President Votedian asked about fund raising that takes place within MAPS. Mayor Brennan feels the public should be invited to all meetings and subcommittee meetings and suggested using Zoom. He stated the meeting should include the public and he should be involved in all the meetings. No "back door meetings". Mayor Brennan brought up how he was informed, in the previous meeting, how him being involved is a courtesy. President Inglis asked who he was talking about when he refers to "back door meetings". Mayor Brennan said he is upset about the lack of respect for him and for his office and voiced his concern about a meeting in the previous month about wages and raises.

Solicitor – Solicitor Evashavik stated the Borough has received three new grievances and any questions should be addressed to administration. He then discussed Propel, the appeal and the litigation he is able to talk about publicly. He advised he is working on a settlement, so that the Judge does not have to decide, regarding parking and a possible parking lot. He talked about the current proposal and negotiations. He advised when he is satisfied with the language of the settlement, he will present everything to the Mayor and Council, which he reminded should not be discussed with the public until they have approved the agreement. He can discuss the general overview but nothing specific, because of litigation but if they can come to an agreement on the language, the general solution would be Propel creating a 25 space, off street parking lot, which their employees would be required to use. Mayor Brennan asked how long it will take to get things finalized and Mr. Evashavik said if they accept his recent changes, it could be within a week that the information would be sent to the Mayor and Council for review. Mayor Brennan asked for the current zoning and if the parking lot would meet those requirements. Solicitor Evashavik and Mayor Brennan discussed current borough zoning ordinance. President Inglis confirmed the location of the proposed lot.

Manager – Manager Joe Varhola advised his report is the agenda but in addition to that, he discussed the salt spreader from Stephenson Equipment. He asked

2. Motion to authorize the Borough Engineer, Colin Lampark, to advertise for the 2021 paving project.
Motion: Councilman Ondo; Second: Councilman Fallon; Vote: Unanimous

3. Motion to authorize the Borough Engineer, Colin Lampark, to design and advertise for 1860 West Street, Site Utility Package Project (GEDTF Grant \$125,000.00 for project).
Motion: Vice President Votedian; Second: Councilman Falce; Vote: Unanimous

4. **TABLED** - Motion extending agreement with Commonwealth Consulting Partners for \$2000.00 per month for grant writing and lobbying services.

5. Motion to exonerate tax collector, Donna Mercuri, in the amount of \$246,963.13.
Motion: Councilman Ondo; Second: Councilman Petruzzi; Vote: Unanimous

6. Motion to approve the minutes for the January 20, 2021 meeting.
Motion: Councilman Stein; Second: Vice President Votedian; Vote: Unanimous

7. Motion to pay bills for the period January 13th, 2021 through February 12th 2021 summarized as follows:

Administration	\$ 40,599.82
Police:	\$ 58,394.07
Fire:	\$ 15,926.58
Health & Sanitation:	\$ 102,502.36
Public Works:	\$ 61,756.62
Recreation:	\$ 9,624.06
Debit Services:	\$ 1,642.42
Miscellaneous:	<u>\$ 564,516.00**</u>
TOTAL:	\$ 854,961.93

** Is Municipal Building Capital Fund transfer for Franjo Construction

Motion: Councilman Petruzzi; Second: Vice President Votedian;
Questions: Councilman Ondo asked for the recreation breakdown.
 Manager Varhola advised he would follow up with the breakdown.
Vote: Unanimous

8. Motion to approve Payroll for the period of January 21st, 2021 and February 4th, 2021.

2021: January 21 st	\$ 152,588.56
2021: February 4 th	<u>\$ 135,470.61</u>
TOTAL:	\$ 288,059.17

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

**IV. Adjournment: Motion: Councilman Stein; Second: Councilman Petruzzi
Vote: Unanimous**



Harvey Inglis
President of Council