

**Borough of Munhall
Workshop Council Meeting Minutes
Wednesday,
January 11, 2017 6:30PM**

- **Call to Order – President Falce**
- **Pledge of Allegiance – Becki Wirth**
- **Roll Call: Councilman Brennan; Councilman Inglis; Councilman Votedian; Councilman Stein; Councilwoman Fleming-Salopek; Councilman Tichon; President Falce. All present.**

Council Items:

- **ALOM – Seven Springs April 6-9 and Dinner February 4** – Discussions about who may or may not attend these events. Rob advised of Legislative meeting on Thursday at 5:30 pm. Advised to let Becki know any that will be attended. Mayor asked if Council would split the conferences. Rob advised the spring conference is the most beneficial and that both were covered in the budget.
- **Committee Terms** – Discussed open committee terms. Councilman Tichon advised the Valley Mirror will post ad for us (at no expense) listing what we need. Will also be added to Crimewatch and Borough websites. Councilman Stein advised he contacted Joe Satera and he is okay with being reappointed to the Steel Valley Enterprise Zone. He and Councilman Brennan will be the representatives.
- **Charlie Batch School** – Joe Varhola advised Council of phone call from Carnegie Library regarding a \$165K grant denied to the library on a “hypothetical” future project for the Charlie Batch school. If he doesn’t meet the deadlines for the project, the money will be lost. Council talked about code enforcement guidelines, zoning and planning and parking issues. It was stated that grants are more likely be approved for new projects than refurbished.
- **Rite Aid/Big Lots assessments** – Joe Varhola advised both Rite Aid and Big Lots are asking for reassessments of their property and asked if we want to attend the hearings to fight the reassessment. Councilman Tichon advised we have to take a stand on this. Joe stated Rite Aid’s reassessment is already done and we owe them around \$7000. We are going to fight these.
- **Public Works CBA** – The committee is Councilman Tichon, Councilman Stein and Councilman Inglis. Councilman Tichon advised we need to ask Eugene Doyle to attend a meeting to start the process. Joe Varhola advised he will contact Mr. Doyle. Rob Falce advised he will serve when someone cannot attend a meeting.

- **MMSSMA & MAPS – bill payments** – Borough Manager Joe Varhola advised Council of utility bills the Borough pays for MMSSMA and MAPS. Discussion regarding how long this has been going on, who is being served by them and that it is time for them to take over their bills as of the February 2017 billing. It was mentioned that the building is owned by the Borough. Joe states he has been in contact with Richard McClean at MAPS.
- **Rock Electric Estimate** – Borough Manager Joe Varhola advised Council this is the new company who will put cameras in the Council chambers. Estimate being around \$2000 and it will go to a hard drive. Council questioned if there would be a service contract after installation. Joe advised this company, if Council wishes, would take over where things were left by the previous company. President Falce said we should just call and begin the process. Joe advised he called and can only get this company to make an offer because of the difficulties with the building. Council advised to proceed with Rock Electric.
- **Woodhill Park** – Joe Varhola advised Council of his meeting with Jesse Smith. Jesse stated that they have gotten approval from the Campbell Foundation for a \$400K improvement project for Woodhill Park. Joe said he is working on a contract with Solicitor Greg Evashavik so that the Borough will have more control over the project. Councilman Brennan said we should slow down with this so we don't end up with a situation like Westfield. He stated that Council should be involved every step of the way and should be aware of what is happening and when. They should be able to answer any question when asked by a resident. He is all for the project but should be aware of the plan and steps along the way. Councilman Tichon agreed that our engineer should be involved.
- **Property and Casualty Insurance Agent** – Councilman Tichon stated the previous company did a trustworthy job when we had them during his previous service on Council. Per Borough Manager Joe Varhola, this would only be to change the Agent of Record. Joe states that a motion can be made and vote on to change it. There was a discussion about why we want to change it and what the differences are between the current agent HDH International Hub. Joe stated it is "apples to apples" and there is no difference. Councilman Brennan asked why we are wanting to change if everything is the same and there are no problems with the current agent. Joe advised Allegheny Professional had it first and this would give it back to them. Councilman Tichon advised he would like to see this as a motion next week.

Additional Items:

- **Councilman Votedian** asked about the lights on Main Street. He stated that half of them are out. Joe Varhola advised there is a project to change them all over to LED. Public Works Supervisor Bob Biscey advised Kostovny Electric is going to do the conversion and they had to order special bulbs. He advised there are several outlets broken too and they will address those as well. He will find out what the time frame is and get back to Joe.
- **Councilman Brennan** stated he drove around Mr. Aldrich's 9th Ave garage and said he has never seen a residential garage such as this. He said there is an excavator, a dump truck, an uninspected vehicle, various garbage and a bobcat. He asked Code Enforcement Officer Dave Cannon if everything is in order. Dave said the only thing Mr. Aldrich has advised is that he would be building a retaining wall. Councilman Brennan said his property should be changed to commercial. Dave Cannon advised Mr. Aldrich is concerned about why his property was not changed back when that area was changed B1. Councilman Brennan asked Dave Cannon to send letter advising he needs to clean the property up or advise him to put the equipment inside the building.

- **Chief Campbell** told Council there is a medical marijuana company asking about the old mill payroll building. He advised of the taxes the Borough would receive if they do come in to the Borough.
- **Councilwoman Fleming-Salopek** received a call from Terri Sabo concerned about the Boroughs response to her accident. She said she will need to have additional treatment and is concerned who is responsible. Pat Campbell advised she needs to submit with the neighbor's home owner insurance. Jill said that she states he refuses to do so. Jill questioned if Terri should turn this in to her own home owners and have her insurance go after his home owners? There was a discussion about how the agreement for responsibility went back when the bricks were put in. Fire Chief Pletsch stated it's been 20 years since they were put in and nothing has been done to maintain them. Dave will check Borough ordinances regarding business district sidewalk. Ed Pletsch advised Dr. Spellman will probably have the records as he was part of the original project. Council also discussed different ways to refinish the bricks in the future and how we will maintain them in the future.

Councilwoman Fleming-Salopek asked about cameras Council chambers. Advised of Scott Electric offer to do at \$2000.

- **Joe Varhola** advised Council that ECode 360 is complete and ready to go online. It will also be on our website. We will have a motion to advertise the codification of Borough ordinances by ECode 360.
- **Council President Falce, Chief Campbell and Chief Pletsch** discussed the Methouse updates and when residents will be moving back in to their apartments.

Adjournment: Motion Councilman Votedian, 2nd Councilman Stein, Vote - Unanimous

