

Borough of Munhall
Virtual - Regular Council Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, July 15, 2020 7:00 P.M.
Meeting ID: 889 8351 6731 Password: 210440

I. Call to Order – Based on Governor Wolfe’s Disaster Proclamation, this meeting was 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 the Borough Secretary. President Inglis will address, or appoint someone else to address, any questions submitted.

Submission from Maureen Fry – Becki Wirth read the questions (Q) and Joe Varhola gave answers (A).

Q) Wants to discuss each agenda item before they are voted on. A) No questions on agenda items were asked.

Q) Wants details about two items from Motion 5 on June 17, 2020 agenda. A) \$42,555.28 tax item is \$14,655.28 PSAB UC Payment, \$9.14 RE Tax refund and Legal Tax payment of \$27,900.00. A) \$8,000.00 Willis Center professional Expense. A) TKA Architects

Q) What is N/A in Mr. Varhola’s response regarding department reports. A) Department reports are not required during pandemic and Zoom calls. Therefore, not applicable.

Q) How does Council and Mayor know what is going on without the reports A) In person discussions, phone calls and emails (approximately 500 per month).

Q) What is happening at 1860 West Street. A) Will be answered in Motion 2.

Q) Wants explanation of checks from May 13 agenda. A) \$32624.21 US Bank – Bond payment, \$6900.52 US Bank – Bond payment, \$70544.11 MEIT – Borough health, dental, vision and Police STD Insurances and \$100.00 Munhall Baseball – In leu of flowers for David Fleming who passed.

Q) What is Motion 6 on June 17 agenda - A) April 30th and May 14th payrolls

Q) Why 22 checks to Duquesne Light. – A) Duquesne Light will not bill on one bill.

Councilman Ondo asked if there were 22 buildings that we pay for and Manager Varhola explained the accounts (examples: buildings, traffic lights, decorative lights etc.). Councilman Ondo asked if the Borough pays for streetlights and Manager Varhola confirmed.

Mayors Comments – Mayor Brennan asked if there was an update on his inquiry about lines on Main Street. Engineer Colin Lampark explained he received PennDOT’s local assistance program information and the Borough is within its rights to line Main Street. He said he will follow with the local assistance program and send out a document regarding his findings. Mayor Brennan then advised he has received calls regarding

speeding in areas including Munhall Gardens. He asked about speed bumps on small side streets. Solicitor Evashavik advised speed bumps (sometimes called speed humps) are illegal. He advised he has created a memorandum regarding such. He advised the motor vehicle code allows traffic "calming" devices. Solicitor Evashavik advised he will send out the information regarding what is legal and not. Mayor Brennan asked Council to act on the speed humps and painting lines on Main Street. Council Vice President asked about lining and parking in front of #4 fire station. Solicitor Evashavik advised the Borough Engineer should go to the location and then make recommendations. Engineer Colin Lampark advised there is specific paint that must be used per PennDOT as well as measurements. Mayor Brennan asked to be involved with the plans. Colin advised he will reach out regarding next steps. President Inglis asked if the speed humps are permanent. There was a discussion about current removable ones located in the Co-op. Mayor Brennan discussed why he feels Workshops are necessary. He mentioned the recent bid opening and that Councilman Ondo and Councilman Fallon did not know about the meeting for the bid opening. President Inglis said emails were sent out regarding the opening. Manager Varhola advised it was in a weekly report to Councilman Fallon. Councilman Fallon agreed it was in the weekly report but feels Manager Varhola should have contacted him. There was a discussion between Manager Varhola and Councilman Fallon regarding contact. Mayor Brennan asked about the bid process and how it took place. He feels the opening should have been public. He asked Solicitor Evashavik about the legalities of the bid opening. Solicitor Evashavik advised he attended (he did not participate) along with Engineer Lampark, the architect and Manager Varhola. He advised the meeting was attended virtually as to maintain social distancing. He advised the process is a clerical process without discussions and is usually attended by the contractors. He advised in most communities neither the Mayor nor Council attend the opening. He stated the bids are read and recorded along with the proper bid bond. He advised the meeting was a virtual public meeting and indeed some contractors showed up in person and were admitted to the administration office because social distance could be maintained. Mayor Brennan asked who opened the bids. Solicitor Evashavik asked Colin Lampark to explain. Colin advised why they chose a virtual meeting vs in person and what happened as several showed in person. He advised Felix Cardella opened the bids and he, himself, recorded the amount of the bid. He confirmed Manager Varhola and President Inglis were in, physical, attendance. Mayor Brennan asked if there is a recording of the virtual meeting and Colin confirmed there is. Councilman Ondo asked what the rush was to open the bids. Colin Lampark advised a time must be set and that there are legal requirements for the process. He asked Solicitor Evashavik to confirm the legal requirements. Solicitor Evashavik confirmed the fixed time frame. Mayor Brennan then asked if there are copies of past Zoom meetings. Becki Wirth confirmed. He then stated he has had complaints from residents regarding Legal Tax. He asked that Council look at the billing process used by Legal Tax. Mayor Brennan asked about unemployment for the crossing guards. Becki explained the boroughs responsibility in the filing process.

Councilman Ondo commented that he was not happy the way the prior months meeting ended. He said he would appreciate if Council would remain on the call after the meeting ends to address public questions and comments. He then stated he feels Council is

pushing Willis Center and feels there are still more discussions to have regarding this project by both Council and the taxpayers. He feels the motion is being pushed through under the veil of Covid19. He stated he did not see the bids and can not confirm that Franjo Construction had the lowest bid for the project. He feels that any Council member that votes yes for the motion should be held personally liable for any money above the \$5,539,000.00 that was bid. He feels the motion should be tabled until the discussion can be held in person. Councilman Falce agreed that the motion should be tabled and there should be future discussions with the public. Councilman Stein explained that the bond retention and that the payments of the bond have already started. He stated he is not a fan of paying back the bond and having nothing to show for it. He reiterated that the funds are secured and can only be spent on the building. Councilman Ondo stated we should not have gotten the bond in the first place and that he does not know anyone who wants the building. Councilman Stein said it is not here nor there. Mayor Brennan then said he understands that the funds could be used for infrastructure throughout the Borough and not just for the building. Councilman Stein advised that is correct if there is money left over after the building is completed. He said we cannot just move on to something else. Mayor Brennan disagreed. He then said that the money could be paid back along with the interest. Councilman Stein said there would be a loss of money for no reason. Mayor Brennan then advised there was an executive session and there were discussions about merging police departments. He said he spoke with Chief Campbell, who has spoken with other departments, and all our first responders have mutual aide agreements and they all work hand and hand with other communities. He said there is no need to merge departments. He wanted Council to know there have been conversations with Chief Campbell.

III. Items for consideration:

1. Motion to approve payment to Brentwood Bank, in the amount of \$1,012,529.00 for the Tax Anticipation note.

Motion: Councilman Stein; Second: Councilman Petruzzi; Vote: Roll Call

**Councilman Falce – Yes
Councilman Fallon – Yes
Councilman Ondo – Yes
Councilman Petruzzi – Yes
Councilman Stein – Yes
Vice President Votedian – Yes
President Inglis – Yes**

Councilman Stein explained the payment.

2. Motion to award Franjo Construction the new municipal building renovations in the amount of \$5,539,000.00.

Motion: Councilman Petruzzi; Second: Councilman Stein; Vote: Roll Call

Councilman Ondo asked about the tabling of the motion. The motion continued.

Councilman Falce – No
Councilman Fallon – No
Councilman Ondo – No
Councilman Petruzzi – Yes
Councilman Stein – Yes
Vice President Votedian – Yes
President Inglis – Yes

President Inglis asked Becki to read the votes allowed.

3. Motion to co-sign a loan, in the amount of approximately \$250,000.00, for Munhall Volunteer Fire Department #5 to procure fire truck purchased with FEMA grant.(amended to include) with Solicitors approval.

Motion: Vice President Votedian; Second: Councilman Petruzzi.

Vote: Roll Call

Councilman Falce – Yes
Councilman Fallon – Yes
Councilman Ondo – Yes
Councilman Petruzzi – Yes
Councilman Stein – Yes
Vice President Votedian – Yes
President Inglis - Yes

4. Motion to approve the minutes for the June 17, 2020 meeting.

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

5. Motion to pay bills for the period June 17th through July 14th, 2020 summarized as follows:

Administration	\$ 56,235.02
Police:	\$ 59,006.53
Fire:	\$ 27,787.94
Health & Sanitation:	\$ 71,113.28
Public Works:	\$ 368,212.20*
Recreation:	\$ 20,183.04
Miscellaneous:	<u>\$ 327,898.11**</u>
TOTAL:	\$ 930,436.12

Motion: Vice President Votedian; Second: Councilman Petruzzi.

Question on motion by Councilman Ondo asking for explanation of recreation amount. Becki explained. Councilman Ondo asked about expenditures when the fields are closed. He will stop in the office for a breakdown. Councilman

Stein said this would include refunds. Manager Varhola will get the information ready for him.

Councilman Stein explained part of the Miscellaneous amount is the yearly Waterfront Maintenance fund payment.

Vote: Unanimous

*\$287,922.58 Paving **261,375.00 Waterfront Maintenance Fund

6. Motion to approve Payroll for the period of June 25th and July 9th, 2020.

2020: June 25 th	\$ 152,400.72
2020: July 9 th	\$ 130,706.72
TOTAL:	\$ 283,107.44

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

Other Matters:

Councilman Falce advised the annual yard sale has been cancelled and that he spoke to Dr. Spellman and the Halloween parade is on hold as well. He stated the fields have been opened to little league baseball, softball, and some teams on West Field.

Councilman Stein gave a finance update listing revenue and expenditures for the month. He also reminded everyone that there was a fifth week in the month that accounts for the increase in monthly expenditures.

Councilman Ondo asked if anyone would be staying on Zoom to talk with residents. Councilman Fallon advised he would like to. President Inglis said whoever wants to stay can stay.

Mayor Brennan stated that the people of Munhall do not want the new borough building. He feels the move is not proper for Munhall. He is upset with the decision. Councilman Ondo agreed.

IV. Adjournment:

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



Harvey Inglis – President of Council