

The regular meeting of the Munhall Borough Council was held on June 18, 2014 in Council Chambers, Munhall Borough Building, 1900 West Street, Munhall, PA 15120. The meeting convened at 7:10pm with Council President Dan Lloyd presiding.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led under the direction of the Steel Valley High School Baseball Team.

**Preliminary Announcements**

Councilman Brennan announced that the 2011 and 2012 audits are complete; the finance committee will review the management letter at the next meeting. Also the tax collector has collected \$3,527,410.00 with \$457,965 still remaining to collect.

Council President Lloyd announced that the Steel Valley High School Baseball Team is present and will receive proclamations in honor of winning the 2014 WPIAL AA Championship.

Mayor Bodnar welcomed everyone and is proud of the team. A standing ovation was given to the team.

The following individuals received proclamations from Mayor Bodnar:

Mike Brooks, Jesse Cantley, Andrew Chuba, Brandon Donovan, Cole Eged, Matt Fossick, Matt Hoesch, Mike Hoesch, Sam Ligeros, Jesse Lyons, Sean McShane, Derek Morrison, Conner Stevens, Justin Tester, Bryce Varhola, Patrick Loughran, Assistant Coach, Tim Vickers, Head Coach

**Roll Call: Present**

Dan Lloyd, Council President	Bernie Shields, Councilman
Harvey Inglis, Council Vice-President	Joe Ballas, Councilman
Rob Falce, President Pro-Tem	Rick Brennan, Councilman

**Absent:** Richard Votedian, Councilman

**Also in Attendance**

Robert Callen, Borough Manager  
Harry R. Faulk, Assistant Manager/Treasurer  
Raymond Bodnar, Mayor  
Patrick Campbell, Chief of Police  
Ed Pletsch, Deputy Fire Chief  
David Cannon, Code Enforcement  
Bob Bickey, Acting Director of Public Works  
Greg Evashevick, Borough Solicitor  
Lindsey Jewart, Borough Engineer

**Public Speakers**

1. Phil Thomas, 321 West Marion Street, Munhall

Has a problem with the basketball courts at Woodhill Park. Big kids kick the little one off the court, foul language, dumped garbage, and some will stop, however there are kids there that appear are not from the area. A couple years ago, the hoops were taken down and the problem was solved, and now they are up. A solution needs to be created. The mens room has been broken into, the cutters have been dented and they are brand new.

Councilman Shields stated that this has been a problem since the 90's. Wooden horses with signs were placed on the court and that seemed to help. Councilman Lloyd asked for Mr. Thomas to meet with the recreation committee to work on a solution.

2. Alan Vaslisin, unknown address

Has problems with Woodhill Park and the residents have seen drug deals, drinking, garbage and residents are tired of it and would like the gate be closed at night. These are 18-20 year olds chasing kids off the court.

Councilman Lloyd replied that there will be a public Recreation Committee meeting and these issues will be addressed along with possible solutions.

3. Donna Dreshman, 3629 Forest Ave, Munhall

Addressed council about delinquent garbage fees, asked why we waited since 2008 to collect these fees.

Councilman Lloyd replied that to the best of his knowledge they always have. A resident in the crowd stated that they didn't send out a registered letter until after ten years and only send out one letter a year. Councilman Lloyd doesn't know why Legal Tax Service does that when they send out multiple letters for missed sewage bills. Also, Manager Callen will work with Legal Tax Service. The Borough of Munhall does receive a notice of fees collected from Legal Tax Service. Mr. Callen stated that the collection of delinquent garbage fees has not been aggressively pursued. We are working with Legal Tax Service to get that money within reason.

4. Anthony Cornetto, 178 West Larkspur St., Munhall

Addressed council on abandoned property next to him and the status.

Councilman Lloyd replied that he visited the property and Dave Cannon has spoken with the Power of Attorney of the Owner. Dave Cannon stated the POA is working with a landscaper to clean up the property. Councilman Lloyd advised that we take these conditions seriously and are working on getting these properties back on the tax rolls. The legal process is via mail and it is a timely process. Munhall would like to post signs on these yards to assure residents that the process is ongoing. \$25,000 has been set aside to aid in sheriff sales this year.

5. Kevin Ondo, 3837 Shady Ave, Munhall  
Addressed council about Superior Street paper alley and would like to obtain the property.  
Solicitor Evashevick explained that the Borough of Munhall will have to vacate the property if it accepted the paper alley, however if the Borough of Munhall has never accepted the property after 21 years then the property and adjacent property owners must go to Allegheny County to have it added to deeds.
6. Debra Kruszka, 1123 Ravine Street, Munhall  
Addressed council about the condition of Coal Road, the supporting wall on the edge of my property is leaning and will eventually fall onto her property and is damaging her fence and neighboring property.  
Councilman Lloyd stated Coal road is a private road. Mrs. Kruszka stated the Borough built a wall up the road many years ago and would like the same respect. The Solicitor stated that the Borough is not responsible for walls on private property. Councilman Shields stated that if the Borough built the wall then it is responsible, if not, then the Borough is not responsible. Councilman Lloyd stated that if it can be proven that Munhall built the wall to support the road 50 years ago, then Munhall might be responsible.
7. Kevin Coy, 1 Tunis Way, Munhall  
Addressed council about the landlocked lot that he purchased would like to change the address.  
The Solicitor stated that he must go through the post office and the Borough of Munhall will sign off on it.
8. Barbara Pickford, 1119 Ravine Street, Munhall  
Addressed council that for the most of her life, Munhall has maintained Coal Road and that now the wall is leaning severely. She has pictures from 1998 of where the Borough put slag down and is unable to find any records of who owns this road.  
Councilman Lloyd stated that he is unsure if those records even exist. The Borough Solicitor is unsure if Coal Road was even accepted and the Borough may have maintained it just to ensure that emergency vehicles can reach the properties. Engineer Jewart stated that when the water main broke many years ago, it was determined that Coal Road was a private road.

### **Public Comments on Agenda Items**

1. Nick Havrilla, 179 West Larkspur Street, Munhall  
On Item #3, council members assured the police union that this was a mute issue and the pension would stay with PNC. You are voting tonight for an RFP. Councilman Shields replied that it is just a proposal.

Councilman Lloyd stated that the reason it is on the floor is because Munhall has over \$900,000 in MMO's to pay and it receives a reimbursement from the State of approximately \$430,000 and the employees contribute about \$90,000 and the taxpayers have to funds over \$300,000 into the pension funds and are responsible for any short fall. Council is doing due diligence to see how much it costs to handle the fund. PNC charges \$134,000 to administer the pension fund. Bids have not been placed on the maintenance of those funds for over 12 years. The contributions from the employees do not even cover the maintenance fees. Mr. Havrilla stated the maintenance fees are only .08% of the fund. PNC bank has done a great job at maintaining the police pension and everyone agrees that if it is not broken then don't fix it. Mr. Callen stated Munhall is taking a look at every financial facet of municipal life. We will be requesting proposals for liability insurance. We are looking for money from the state the do an Early Intervention Plan for the municipality. We will look at all proposals to weigh and evaluate them and we may not even make changes. If PNC is that good then we will expect a good proposal from them.

2. Ray Kondas questioned the bills and payroll payments. Do the bills also reflect the payroll? Mr. Callen advised that payroll is separate from the bills.
3. Donna Dreshman asked how the 180-day probation period was created. Councilman Lloyd advised it is in the Collective Bargaining Agreement.

Move to approve the March 19, 2014 and May 21, 2014 Regular Council Meeting Minutes of Council.

Motioned by Ballas

Seconded by Inglis

Motion carried unanimously

### **Reports from Borough Officials**

**Mayor:** Since 911 has gone into effect; my opinion of 911 is not what the community wanted. Many negative things such as jobs, borough property, and the response from the taxpayer's phone calls have arose. Our residents deserve a compassionate respond to their help. 911 is fine for communities that want it. Saving money cannot be the only objective. I wanted to thank everyone that helped with Memorial Day.

**Solicitor:** We have been working with meeting with the neighboring communities in regards of the TIFF Fund, specifically the maintenance fund. The money has accumulated over the years and the funds are for the roads. An agreement has been reached to repave and repair the roads. An intergovernmental agreement must be reached in order to do this. There is also no need to advertise this as you have on the agenda tonight.

**Borough Manager:** The storm last week washed out Forest Ave. The culvert that runs under that road is owned by Allegheny County and the culvert is a 4-foot pipe and only has a 4-inch opening. Allegheny County is working to clear the opening. Also the Allegheny County Vacant Property Program is offering side yard blighted structure program for property owners to acquire properties. We have information posted on our website. We have on the agenda to apply for funds to hire a consultant to review operations and financial projections.

**Engineer:** The street-paving project will wait until next year. On the flood plain ordinance adoption a draft ready soon. The MS4 has always been in effect, however has not been issued the permit. The permit will give us tasks to do. The ownership for the sewer authority begins at the main line. The Borough might own laterals. You must check the bill of sale.

**Public Works:** Council has a copy of the report. On the second page, there is a list of lots that are maintained throughout the summer. Cost of each lot are recorded

**Chief of Police:** There were 641 calls for service resulting in 620 incident reports, 59 arrest and 105 citations issued. The bike safety rally headed by Officer Boehme gave out 104 helmets that were donated by Kohl's. Police fully switched over to 911 and the bugs are being worked out. Not all the calls are being caught to go to 911 on the 7300 line.

A resident stated that the Neighbor Watch signs have the old numbers on them. Chief Campbell replied that we would work with public works to take down those signs.

**Fire Chief:** There were 39 calls; one was a house fire at an abandoned structure that is now a hazard. No injuries reported. 2600 total volunteers hours are reported. A blood drive was held and put up the flags on Main Street. We are up and running with 911.

**Code Enforcement:** Council has a copy of the report. Code Officer went to a seminar that was on blight and abandoned properties. The best way to go about this is to get an interested buyer on the property, they provide \$5,000 and we ask for a clean and clear title and go through Sheriff Sales. If they don't have the highest bid, that buyer will get his money back. I know of people that are interested in this process.

### **Items for Consideration**

Move to authorize the Borough Manager to prepare a Request for Proposals for the redesign and maintenance of the Munhall Borough Website.

Motioned by Mr. Falce

Seconded by Mr. Ballas

Motion carried unanimously

Move to adopt Resolution 2014-2, authorizing the Borough Manager to prepare a funding application to the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development for the Early Intervention Program and to allocate local funds in an amount not to exceed \$10,000 to be applied to the State funds received.

Motioned by Mr. Shields                      Seconded by Mr. Inglis  
Motion carried unanimously

Move to authorize the Borough Manager to prepare a Request for Proposals for Uniform and Non-Uniform Pension Investment Advisory Services.

Motioned by Mr. Shields                      Seconded by Mr. Brennan  
Mr. Falce and Mr. Ballas are opposed  
Motion carried

Move to authorize the Borough Manager to prepare a Request for Proposals among Landscape businesses for property maintenance among the most severe and problem abandoned/blighted properties throughout the Borough.

Motioned by Mr. Ballas                      Seconded by Mr. Inglis  
Motion carried unanimously

Move to accept the 2011 and 2012 annual General Fund Audit Reports as prepared by Mark C. Turnley, CPA.

Motioned by Mr. Inglis                      Seconded by Mr. Falce  
Motion carried unanimously

Councilman Lloyd pointed out that the management letter that was received was very extensive. We knew it wasn't going to be a good letter, however we have already fixed the majority of the issues and are currently working on the rest as we speak.

Move to hire Norman Miller as full time Public Works Laborer at a starting rate of \$14.53 per hour, without benefits until satisfactorily completion of 180-day probationary period.

Motioned by Mr. Shields                      Seconded by Mr. Inglis

Roll Call Vote:

Mr. Ballas: yes                      Mr. Brennan: yes  
Mr. Falce: yes                      Mr. Inglis: yes  
Mr. Shields: yes                      Mr. Lloyd: yes

Motion carried unanimously

Move to deny application for Handicapped Parking places to Walter Harris Sr, at 2519 Franklin Street and Loretta Jones at 235 Vine Street.

Motioned by Mr. Falce                      Seconded by Mr. Inglis  
Motion carried unanimously

Move to adopt an Intergovernmental Cooperation Agreement for the Tax Increment Finance Fund (TIFF) Maintenance Inter-Community initiative for adoption at the July 18, 2014 Council Meeting.

Motioned by Mr. Ballas                      Seconded by Mr. Brennan  
Motion carried unanimously

Motion to pay bills for the period May 22, 2014 through June 17, 2014 as in the Profit and Loss Detail Report, summarized as follows:

Admin:	\$21,328.34
Police:	\$34,504.11
Fire:	\$19,250.88
Sanitation	\$41,641.61
Public Works	\$39,309.88
Recreation	\$3,325.02
Misc.:	\$1,895.82
Total:	\$161,285.66

Motioned by Mr. Inglis                      Seconded by Mr. Falce  
Motion carried unanimously

Motion to approve Payroll for the period May 23, 2014 through June 19, 2014 as follows:

June 3, 2014	\$121,915.59
June 17, 2014	\$116,451.29
Total:	\$238,366.88

Motioned by Mr. Brennan                      Seconded by Mr. Ballas  
Motion carried unanimously

Motion to rescind conditional offer of employment to Dean Cheslock.

Motioned by Mr. Shields.                      Seconded by none  
Motion died.

**Other Items:**

Councilman Lloyd received a resignation letter from Fran Leonello resigning from the Sewer Authority Board. We will be interviewing for replacements. Also the garage on 8<sup>th</sup> Ave is on the demo list and I am not in favor of tearing it down and we maintain a wall. It will be a very large lot for the Borough to Maintain. There is a for sale sign on it now. We have until the end of the month to submit more properties for demo instead of this one in particular. Mr. Ballas questioned if we can put the Hays Mansion back on the list, there hasn't been anything done to it last year. Mr. Falce states that there is legal action on the property right now with the owners.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:40pm.

Motioned by Mr. Shields                      Seconded by Mr. Inglis  
Motion carried unanimously

Approved by: \_\_\_\_\_  
   Dan Lloyd, Council President    Date