

**Borough of Munhall
Virtual - Regular Council Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, March 17, 2021 7:00 P.M.
Meeting ID: 89159281779 Passcode: 087565**

I. **Call to Order – Based on Governor Wolfe’s Disaster Proclamation, this meeting will be conducted via Zoom Cloud Meeting. – Vice President Votedian as President Inglis attended via phone because of illness.**

Pledge of Allegiance

Vice President Votedian called for a moment of silence for Girard Evashavik

Vice President Votedian discussed the recent Executive Session.

**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. Vice President Votedian advised the questions submitted were not legible nor were they on in the proper format. Secretary Becki Wirth advised the questions were submitted by Mrs. Maureen Fry and she will be unmuted and allowed to read her questions at the end of the meeting prior to adjournment.**

Reports:

Mayor – Mayor Brennan presented a proclamation from Munhall Borough for Eugene Khorey and recognized March 20, 2021 Eugene Khorey day in Munhall. Mayor Brennan voiced his concerns about public speaking during Council meetings. He asked Council to listen to the Lauderhill hearing from the prior week. Vice President Votedian advised they can not discuss personnel issues and that they were voting on the parking lot for Propel. Mayor Brennan advised of sewer elevation issues at the new building and feels that it is a major defect that will need to be addressed every 6 months. He said it is definitely a major defect and is not proper and called for the Engineer, Colin Lampark to explain so that there is a better understanding of the situation.

Solicitor – Greg Evashavik discussed the zoning application Dave Cannon received for Checkers/Rally’s restaurant on Grant Street. He and Dave discussed the current usage in the area and possible future use by Checkers/Rally’s.

Manager – Report submitted – Mr Varhola discussed the American Rescue Plan act of 2021 and the Borough is to receive \$1,088,141.00 (which will be split up over two years) pending the passing of a resolution.

Added Motion to approve Resolution 2021-2 implementing the National Incident Management system.
Question on motion: Mayor Brennan asked what the money can be used for.
Motion: Councilman Falce; Second: Councilman Fallon; Vote: Unanimous

Manager Varhola advised and asked Council about Officer Tim Stolar's service weapon and retirement badge (approximately \$125). Mayor Brennan said the Borough should cover the cost. There was a discussion about past practices.

Added Motion to gift Tim Stolar his service weapon.
Motion: Councilman Stein; Second: Councilman Falce; Vote: Unanimous

Added Motion to purchase Tim Stolar's retirement badge at the cost of \$125.
Motion: Councilman Falce; Second: Councilman Stein; Vote: Unanimous

Manager Varhola also advised Council that Tim Stolar reimbursed the Borough \$30,000 that he received for workers compensation he received through the borough. He then discussed the catch basin replacement grant of \$75,750.00 and stated it is time to approve a motion to award the bid through the Council of Government (COG).

Added Motion to award Creative Enterprises the catch basin replacement project in the amount of \$75,750.00, which will be paid in full through the Community Development Block grant.
Motion: Councilman Stein
Question: Mayor Brennan asked about the bid information. Manager Varhola explained the bids as follows:
Creative Enterprise's bid \$75,750.00
Sitara Construction Inc bid \$77,400.00
Jet Jack bid \$81,200.00
John D. Caruso bid \$81,450.00
A. Folino bid \$81,810.00
UNS Construction bid \$102,000
Roto-Rooter bid \$108,000
El Grande bid \$126,525.00
Plavchak Construction bid \$152,200.00
Second: Councilman Petruzzi
Vote: Unanimous

Councilman Ondo asked Mr. Varhola about the registration for Tim Stolar's service weapon. Chief Campbell advised all weapons are registered to the Borough and explained the registration would be transferred to Tim Stolar.

Councilman Falce asked Mr. Varhola about the assessment for the repair of lights at Trautman Field. Mr. Varhola explained the damage to a pole and that is what's causing the lights to trip. He stated he has a company that can troubleshoot and then submit a proposal to fix what they find. Joe spoke to the company that damaged the pole during installation of the fence and they asked him to get a quote and they will look into it. The company was hired by the Campbell Foundation to install the fence.

Added Motion to authorize Manager Varhola to move forward with the troubleshooting process for Trautman Field.
Motion: Councilman Falce; Second: Councilman Ondo; Vote: Unanimous

Engineer - Mr. Colin Lampark advised the construction is approximately 62% complete. He addressed Mayor Brennan's concern about the major defect at the new building. He explained a grinder pump was located near the juvenile cell will be and it was moved. He stated there is a drop in the floor on the east and west half of the building (its about 3.5 ft lower on the back side) so they are going to put a residential size unit outside under a manhole. He advised they are not uncommon in Western PA. It will include a 2-year warranty and all maintenance agreement. He concurred it is a maintenance item but does not feel it is a major flaw. Mayor Brennan asked if the pump would service the entire building or just the back section and Colin advised just the lower section. He explained it would pump to a manhole that would gravity feed to the street. Mayor Brennan thanked him for explaining. Colin advised of the upcoming bid for the utility contract on April 6th, 2021 and they will be advertising the 2021 paving project during the next week.

Public Works Supervisor – Report submitted

Police Chief – Report submitted – Mayor Brennan asked Chief Campbell about the body cameras. Chief Campbell advised the equipment is here and they are working with IT about the server. He also explained the electrical problem with the cameras on Main Street. Mayor Brennan talked about the advancement of the Police Department.

Fire Chief – Chief Ed Pletsch talked about the fire on Harrison Street and thanked everyone who assisted and gave mutual aid. He advised all active fire fighters have received their second Covid shots. He recognized Tim Stolar for his service with the Borough and thanked him for his service.

Code Enforcement – Report submitted.

Finance Chair – Councilman Stein advised the General Fund balance is \$748,932.00. The cash inflows for February of \$804,550.00 and cash outflows of \$560,620.00 for a difference of approximately \$244,000.00 to the good. Year to date key balance, as of the end of February, is up \$532,000.00 with the Liquid Fuels tax refund coming soon. Councilman Stein mentioned the Red Cross funds that Manager Varhola touched on and that tax season is beginning. He feels the Borough is in a good place financially. Manager Varhola advised the Liquid Fuels refund will be in the following Monday and will reimburse the Borough for monies already spent. Mayor Brennan asked how much would be coming and Manager Varhola advised approximately \$303,000.00. He advised he held \$158,000.00 in salt invoices knowing the refund was coming.

III. Items for consideration:

1. Motion to approve the settlement of the Propel School zoning appeal case.
Councilman Stein asked for clarification on the motion. Solicitor Evashavik clarified that the appeal was filed because Zoning denied them the addition as they did not meet the parking requirement. That was satisfied by the submission that they will build a 25-space parking lot near the school, which they will require the staff to use. This amount of parking will satisfy the Borough ordinance. Dave Cannon added that Carnegie Library are discussing an possible agreement with Propel to allow the use of the parking area during public events at the library. This agreement would be between Carnegie Library and Propel.
Motion: Councilman Petruzzi; Second: Councilman Stein;
Vote: 5 Yes, 1 No - Councilman Ondo and 1 abstention - Councilman Fallon
2. Motion to approve Disability Retirement for Officer Timothy Stolar.
Motion: Councilman Petruzzi; Second: Councilman Stein;
Comment on Motion: Chief Campbell thanked Tim Stolar for his service and wished him well with his retirement
Vote: Unanimous
3. Motion to approve the annual agreement with Commonwealth Consulting Partners (Grant Consultant) in the amount of \$2000.00 per month.
Motion: Councilman Falce; Second: Councilman Petruzzi; Vote: Unanimous
4. Motion to appoint PJ Ostroski and Mike Galovich to the Planning Commission, Janet Hvizdos to the Civil Service Commission and Anthony DeMartino to Sewer Authority board.
Motion: Councilman Petruzzi; Second: Councilman Fallon;
Question on Motion: Councilman Ondo asked if the openings have to be advertised and if so, were they? Solicitor Evashavik explained they do not need to be advertised. Councilman Ondo asked how long, before the end of the term, does a sitting person need to advise the Borough that they are not

returning. Solicitor Evashavik advised they sometimes send letters of interest to be reappointed, but they are not required to do notify the Borough if they are no longer interested. Councilman Ondo asked again if a person is interested in a position, would the position need to be advertised and Solicitor Evashavik stated again that Council could advertise but it is not required. Councilman Falce asked about the current vacancies on the Planning Commission. Becki Wirth advised the positions were advertised.

Vote: Unanimous

5. Motion to approve the handicapped space at 604 E 18th Ave as approved by Sergeant Williams and Chief Campbell.

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

6. Motion to approve the handicapped space at 114 E 18th Ave as approved by Sergeant Williams and Chief Campbell.

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

7. Motion to approve the minutes for the February 17, 2021 meeting.

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

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

Administration	\$ 35,974.29
Police:	\$ 29,963.63
Fire:	\$ 23,931.59
Health & Sanitation:	\$ 23,573.58
Public Works:	\$ 44,854.24
Recreation:	\$ 2,721.73
Debit Services:	\$ 821.21
Miscellaneous:	<u>\$838,060.31**</u>
TOTAL:	\$999,900.58

** Includes Municipal Building Capital Fund transfer for Franjo Construction in the amount of \$835,805.52

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

9. Motion to approve Payroll for the period of February 18 th and March 4 th 2021.	
2021: February 18 th	\$ 152,253.92
2021: March 4 th	<u>\$ 142,321.96</u>
TOTAL:	\$ 294,575.88

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

Maureen Fry – 124 West Virginia Ave – Mrs. Fry said she would like to be able to speak before the motions are read so that she can give input on the motions. She then asked for clarification on what Council agreed to with Propel. Solicitor Evashavik again explained the settlement regarding parking for Propel. Mrs. Fry asked about the Sewer Authority issue. Manager Varhola advised they are only inquiring about the value of the Authority at this time. Mrs. Fry asked what people are involved in the inquiry. Manager Varhola advised PA American Water and Aqua America. He explained they ask for information and this information will allow them to provide a somewhat solid number. Mrs. Fry asked if anyone from the Sewer Authority is involved and Mr. Varhola advised they are the ones to provide the information for the companies to decide the value. Mrs. Fry asked Solicitor Evashavik about the process for Propel. Mr. Evashavik again explained the appeal and the process that took place. Mrs. Fry asked about the Right to Know request she submitted. She clarified what she was and was not asking for. Manager Varhola explained why he sent her what he did. Mrs. Fry asked about the salary increases that took place in January and the processes to those increases. Manager Varhola advised he should have asked Council to promote Becki Wirth instead of asking for a larger increase in salary at the same position. He stated he showed Council the reasoning and showed them comparisons with other local municipalities doing the same tasks and advised this is the reason for the increase. Mrs. Fry asked if there were previous years when Council approved bonuses to the Manager, Code Enforcement and Administration and Manager Varhola advised there have not been bonuses since his employment as Manager. He explained that Becki was given the bonus this year as she absorbed all the work when the second person in the office was laid off because of Covid and she never received overtime or compensation for the absorbing those responsibilities. He explained how a raise, if she receives one, for 2022 will be based. Mrs. Fry asked who determines the raises and/or bonus. Manager Varhola explained again. Councilman Stein explained how the 2021 raises were determined and that Council made the decision. Mayor Brennan asked when the vote took place, and that Councilman Ondo nor Councilman Fallon were asked and that he wasn't asked for his input. Mayor Brennan feels it was an improper vote. He advised if he were at the meeting, he would have asked that Roseann Needham as he feels she worked hand in hand with Becki and should have gotten more respect than she did. Councilman Stein said he must have problems with previous years as well because this year was done the same way as previous years. Mayor Brennan said he didn't have issues with

previous years, and he feels it wasn't done this way in those years. Mrs. Fry said she agrees with Mayor Brennan. She thanked Becki for her work but wanted to speak up for Roseann Needham. She feels that for one to get the larger increase and bonus and Roseann to only get a \$749.00 raise for the tremendous raise she did. Councilman Stein explained days that Roseann was compensated for, such as holidays as a part time employee and Council was okay with that as she was appreciated. Mayor Brennan stated that Roseann stayed many hours after others were gone for the day and didn't go home early unless her superiors told her it was okay. He feels she held all the strings together in the office as much as Becki did. He feels Roseann was there working hand in hand with Becki. He feels the \$1.50 an hour raise in five years is wrong. Mrs. Fry asked if the grant writer helped secure the \$75,750.00 catch basin funding and Mr. Varhola advised no. Mrs. Fry asked for some of the projects the grant writer has secured and/or are working on for the \$24,000.00 yearly investment in them. Mr. Varhola advised we have received 1.7 million dollars and their payment is 2% of what they brought in. Mayor Brennan then said Mrs. Fry should be able to speak at the meetings, as she did this evening, and voiced his concerns about the citizens' rights being inflicted upon over the last year. He feels this is a major defect and challenged Council to continue, going forward, to allow the public to address Council themselves. Councilman Ondo agreed and said he has been saying all along that they are not only residents but also taxpayers.

IV. Motion for adjournment.

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



Harvey Inglis – President of Council