

Borough of Munhall - Council Meeting – March 19, 2014

Council President Dan Lloyd called the meeting to order.

Pledge of Allegiance.

Council President Lloyd called for a moment of silence for the passing of Mayor Bodnar's stepbrother.

Roll call taken with all of council in attendance.

Public Speakers:

- **Mayor Bodnar wanted to introduce Ann Lewis of Steel Valley COG.**
 - Mayor President of SV COG
 - Borough paid 59K and receives CDBG 235K Grants
 - Scales are also used for truck traffic on 837
- **Ann Lewis –**
 - Non profit organization – Council of Governments
 - Beginning its 42nd year
 - CDBG funding from Allegheny county only gotten through COG
 - Scales for police to use and share
 - Street sweeper that is shared and is 50-75% below market cost
 - Working on vacant tax delinquent property (turnaround)
 - Brought a packet to explain the study they are doing on how much money Munhall is losing with each house that is vacant in the borough.
 - Not only the borough but the depreciation of properties that are located next door to vacant properties (15-17%)
 - Land banking
 - Acquiring properties
 - Clearing Liens and Taxes
 - Getting them back on the market for Sale
 - Working to have training for code enforcement officers
 - Joint uniform appeals board
 - Invited residents to contact her via the representative or directly if there is a need within the borough for a program that the COG can see if they can get the program started. They are there for us (the Borough).
 - Mayor advised that on April 27th there is a COG dinner and that there is a CDBG speaker
 - Ann then explained they had mapped out Munhall into areas with vacant properties for Land Banking. She urged council to look at the maps for future discussions about this subject.

- **Ann Lewis (cont.)**
 - Ann explained that CDBG is HUD money that is split up amongst all of the participating boroughs in the COG.
 - Because West Mifflin left the COG, Munhall's % is higher
 - Council President Dan Lloyd brought up the PA Commission Law as well as Conservatorship Law in addition to Land Banking as an idea for vacant properties and growing the tax base.
- **Gene Kubancsek** – Not in attendance
- **Marvin Brown** – 415 East 11th Ave
 - Garbage bill-
 - Asking to waive interest and penalties for 3 yr. tax bill and wants to pay just what he would owe for the regular bill for those years.
 - Solicitor Greg Evashavik explained that if we waived the interest and penalties for Mr. Brown we would have to do for others. If we do for one we would have to do for others.
 - Council President Lloyd spoke and said that he talked with Legal Tax and the Code Enforcement officer and the issue seems to be with properties with landlords and they are working on the issue (sending one to the residence and one to the landlords address as well).
- **Brian Hinkle** – Not in attendance

Comments on Agenda Items Only:

- **Ray Kondas** –
 - 50 Cent raise for Rick Votedian -
 - Solicitor Evashavik stated this is private and is part of the collective bargaining agreement. It was settlement of a grievance filed by union. Dispute of contract and pay.
 - Mr. Kondas asked if the contract applied to other employees and Mr. Evashavik said the contract does but he does not agree that this particular grievance does.
- **Agnes Hogg** –
 - Qualifications for new borough manager –
 - Council President Lloyd answered that we asked the state to assist us with search for the new borough manager. We need a hand on manager not an administrator.
 - A matrix was built with no names of the candidates
 - A committee was built along with Tim Little.
 - By qualification candidates were kept or disqualified and the top 5 were interviewed in person. As a result 2 were chosen and Mr. Robert Callen (30 yrs. experience) was final choice.

- **Agnes Hogg (cont.) -**
 - Council President (cont.)
 - Information regarding Robert Callen (cont.)
 - Experience (cont.)
 - Distressed Communities
 - SVOG
 - Duquesne Light
 - Crafton Borough Manager
 - RDM Manager
- **Brian Davis – Union St**
 - Did Sgt. Cibula address handicapped parking issues within the borough?
 - Per Chief Campbell each issue has been addressed.
 - Letters were sent and if no response to the letter the signs were taken down.
 - Was the parking issues addressed in lower Munhall?
 - Council President Lloyd states proposal was drafted but never enacted. Can be re-visited because of changes.
 - Over 300 abandoned homes within the Borough
 - Borough is going to take aggressive actions to bring vacant properties back to the tax rolls.
 - Will be forming a committee
 - Will be working with Legal Tax service on these properties
 - Councilman Brennan has been involved
 - Mayor Bodnar
 - Asking again (noted that he has addressed this before with council) to have a dedication for Mayor Bodnar.
 - Honoring him for his service to the Borough with a street or park named after him.
 - Council President Lloyd states that he agrees and we should find a new park to rename not an old one.

Reports from Borough Officials:

- **Mayor –**
 - Thanked the borough and officials for the flowers sent to the funeral home for his stepbrother.
 - Government Days –
 - May 21st with parade for the elected officials on the May 22nd

Reports from Borough Officials (cont.)

- **Mayor (cont.)**
 - Government Day (cont.) –
 - Kids will be elected 13th and 14th. They will elect the Mayor first and the other elections will follow. The Mayor is waiting to hear from the ladies at the school who handle the election process.
 - Memorial Day –
 - Flags to be placed at Homestead Cemetery by the Boy Scouts on Friday, May 23rd at 3:45. Everyone else is invited to participate.
 - Mass/Parade/Program – May 26th
 - Mass at St Therese at 8:15
 - Gather at SV HS parking lot for parade line up at 9am. 9:30 start time. Agnes Hogg will be leading the program as well as Councilman Shields and Councilman Falce.
 - Program at Cemetery at 10am

Ray Kondas – States that he is getting complaints that Mayor Bodnar is not putting all of the flags at the St Mary’s Cemetery. If it continues he is going to see Mike Murphy. Council President Lloyd called the meeting back to order.

- **Borough Solicitor –**
 - Greg Evashavik states all items pertain to ongoing litigations. Nothing new to report.
- **Borough Engineer –**
 - Lindsey Jewert advises if the Borough is planning on having liquid fuel money that’s allocated for a paving project, council needs to look over and approve the streets that need to be paved for the money that has been budgeted (if there has been money budgeted) for this year. Council President Dan Lloyd states (to residents) that if there are bad streets, please let council know.
 - From resident – “Creek Street” - Mr. Lloyd states this is a borough issue.
- **Public Works –**
 - Robert Bicsey advised that two employees been scheduled to go to school for county training and licensing for baiting of rats. We would not even be able to buy bait without licensing. 8 week training to begin on 20th.

- **Chief of Police –**
 - Pat Campbell – Report given to Council
 - Officer Boehme – Crime Watch Update
 - April 26th – Drug Take Back 10a – 2p
 - Drugs getting into kids hands and waterways
 - May 3rd – Clean up 10am
 - Meet at Borough building
 - After meet and great at Borough building with hotdogs and drinks
 - Planning meeting April 8th
 - National Night Out (August or September dates not set)
 - Block parties in your communities
 - Streets can be shut down
 - Press can be involved
- **Fire Chief –**
 - Matt Pisarchik – Report given to Council
 - 10 Firefighters in “essentials” (beginners) class
 - 7 people in hazardous materials class
 - Trains how to operate with hazardous materials
 - 6 EMTs and 4 people waiting for EMT class
 - Asking if council had written letter to Auditor General to move firehouse merger along.
 - Council President Lloyd thanked him for the reminder to do so.
 - Will be working on a set of rules for the bureau Fire Chief, as his term will be done in September.
 - Some of the rules will change because they now have 4 fire stations instead of 5.
 - Councilman Brennan asked about the old school bus in the back Public Works lot
 - This is for training class (Mid April or May)
 - Chester will tow it away later for no charge
- **Code Enforcement –**
 - Dave Cannon – Report given to Council
 - Ordinance 1506 – 2 Tenants removed per this ordinance
 - Advised Council President Lloyd that the info to Legal Tax today.
- **Sewer Authority –**
 - Mike Terrick –
 - Reconstruction of sewers
 - Loan approved 5.2 million 1.6% annually first 6 yrs.
 - Wont need co-signer as before
 - Can the street opening fee be waived?

- **Sewer Authority (cont.) –**
 - Mike Terrick (cont.)-
 - Curb to curb is expensive. Can the work, as they do it, be considered curb to curb?
 - Will provide street opening bonds.
- Comment from Council President Lloyd stating that the ordinance states “Public Utility” and if the Sewer Authority is not considered a public utility then the ordinance would not apply to them and therefore not subject to it.
 - Agrees that the street opening bond is usually for 2 yrs. and that is what the borough requires.
- Mr. Terrick advised that if the borough agrees to this, he would need a signed waiver.
- Council President Lloyd also asked Mr. Terrick to coordinate with the borough on the streets that will be paved.
 - Lindsey Jewert said that the streets in her report have already been crosschecked with Mr. Terricks projected work.
- Extension for Homestead Run (includes Revine St) –
 - Possible postponement to 2026 and from 5 million to 8 million to a max of 10 million
 - Passed out information to council to read
 - Delaying to have pipe in the ground (approx. 4 yrs.)
 - Council President explained in layman’s terms to residents about project
- Dan Lloyd asked if the 5.2 million will be covered by current rates and Mike answered that probably not under the current rate structure but are doing a study to see how the rates will need to be restructured to cover costs of the project. Yes there will be a rate increase.
 - We have received money from the Army Corp of Engineer program.
- Mayor Bodnar commented that he understands that this is a consent order and we will have nothing to say about this but asks if we all think this is ridiculous that we have to get a 40-inch pipe to fit into a 15-inch pipe. He states that we have to contact out Senators and Congressman regarding these issues.

Items of Consideration:

- **Move to ratify the payment of the following:**
 - Bills for March 2014
 - Administration: \$42,816.85
 - Public Safety: \$23,116.54
 - Fire Prevention: \$43,011.77

Items for Consideration (cont.):

- **Move to ratify the payment of the following (cont.):**
 - Bills for March 2014 (cont.)
 - Sanitation: \$25,553.11
 - Public Works: \$118,748.40
 - Recreation: \$272.59
 - Miscellaneous: \$28,290.80
 - February 28, 2014 Payroll: \$135,434.60
 - March 14, 2014 Payroll: \$115,809.37

Motion: Joe Ballas - Second: Rich Votedian - Vote is Unanimous

- **Motion to appoint Robert Callen to the position of Munhall Borough Manager at a salary of \$70,000 effective April 14, 2014.**
 - Motion Rob Falce and Second Bernie Shields but before vote could take place Council President Lloyd asked to correct the package by stating that the salary includes benefits so it will be 70K plus benefits.

Donna Dreshman clarified that it is 70K plus benefits.

Roll Call Vote: Motion Carried

Dan Lloyd – Yes

Rob Falce – Yes

Harvey Inglis – Yes

Bernie Shields – Yes

Richard Votedian – Yes

Joe Ballas – Yes

Rick Brennan – Yes

- **Question – What will the position be for Mr. Faulk be now that Mr. Callen is here?**
 - That will be discussed in executive session later this evening.
- **Dan Lloyd introduced Robert Callen –**
 - He will be receiving an award in Harrisburg for excellence in local government.

- **Motion to advertise for the appraisal of the fire station on Charles Street.**

Motion: Rick Brennan - Second: Rich Votedian - Vote: Unanimous

- **Motion to accept the bid of \$5254.00 for the 2000 Ford F550 from Gaudino Brothers LLC**

Motion: Joe Ballas – Second: Bernie Shields

Per comment from President Lloyd there was only one bid

Vote: Unanimous

- **Motion to advertise the bid for the following:**
 - **2009 Ford Crown Victoria for \$500.00**
 - **2001 Ford F650 Dump Truck \$5000.00 (AS IS)**

Motion: Rob Falce – Second: Harvey Inglis – Vote: Unanimous

- **Motion to purchase a 2015 7400 International Truck through Hunters Truck Sales at a price of \$144,641.13.**

Motion: Rich Votedian – Second: Bernie Shields – Vote: Unanimous

Comment from President Lloyd is to confirm with Public Works director Bob Bicsey that this truck will replace the 2001 Ford F650 Dump that is for sale for \$5000.00 (as is). Bob confirmed.

Mr. Lloyd also advised that we already have \$40K budgeted for the lease payment.

- **Motion to enter into a lease agreement with Laurel Mountain Leasing for communication equipment, for Munhall Bureau of Fire in the amount of \$99,585.60 with five annual payments of \$21,859.78 at 4.8% interest.**
 - Resident as what lease is for.
 - This is for 911 radios and pagers
 - What will happen to old equipment?
 - We will try to sell
 - After 5 yrs. will we own them?
 - Yes

Motion: Bernie Shields - Second: Harvey Ingles - Vote: Unanimous

- **Motion to accept the resignation of Michael Yuhas retroactive to March 14, 2014.**

Motion: Bernie Shields – Second: Joe Ballas – Vote: Unanimous

President Lloyd stated that Michael decided to go back into the plumbing business.

- **Motion to provide Ricky Votedian with a \$.50 pay increase per hour effective immediately and retroactive to January 1, 2014.**

- Added by President Lloyd that “to settle a grievance” should be added to the wording.

Motion: Rob Falce – Second: Joe Ballas - Vote: Rich Votedian Abstained the remaining are Unanimous

- **Motion to approve handicapped parking sign for the following:**

- 136 W Eugene Ave
- 1219 Margaret St

Motion: Joe Ballas – Second: Harvey Inglis – Vote: Unanimous

New Items:

- **Rick Brennan –**

- Parking –
 - Poles with no meters on 8th Ave and Dixon street
 - Meters that are there on 8th and 9th but are bagged
 - Danger to residence and potential lawsuit for the borough if someone impales themselves onto one of the poles
 - Why no remove all of the bagged meters and poles with no meters

- Mayor spoke about how people used to put odd things in the meters and broke them. He is asking council to pass an ordinance about the meters in that area. He cannot have his officers enforce issues with the meters if there is no ordinance.

Motion to remove the bags, meters and poles.

President Lloyd asked for a more comprehensive look into the issue.

Motion: Rick Brennan – Second: no second – No Vote: Will Vote Later

- **Council President asking about Pyrotopia**
 - May 10th
 - Encourages everyone to attend
- **Mayor**
 - Asking for requirements for street sweeping
 - Mike Terrick will get information to him
 - 911
 - Wants details about what will be happening with dispatchers.
 - Wants council to sit down and discuss game plan with the workers
 - Voiced his concerns about 911 monitoring our cameras and our prisoners

Motion to Adjourn: Rick Brennan – Second: Joe Ballas