

**Borough of Munhall**  
**Workshop Council Meeting Minutes**

(typed because of video issues)

**Wednesday,**  
**November 9, 2016 6:30PM**

- **Call to Order - Vice President Richard Votedian**
- **Pledge of Allegiance - Robert Biscey**
- **Roll Call**  
**Councilman Brennan; Councilwoman Fleming-Salopek;**  
**Councilman Inglis; Councilman Stein; Councilman Tichon;**  
**Councilman Votedian; President Falce. All in attendance but**  
**President Falce**

**Council Items:**

1. Munhall VFD #1 Lease Agreement - Joe Varhola explained that the Borough will be leasing the behind #1 Fire Department for 99 yrs. Lease created by Solicitor Evashavik. Lease needed because of applications for grant funding. Chief PJ Ostrowski updated Council with the VFD plans with property. Surveyor coming soon. Dog park to be moved. Possible community center. Plan for Police and VFD tactical training. Working with Urban Design to assist with plans and design. It will happen in phases. Dave Cannon asked about possible Borough assistance with leaning fence. Discussions amongst Council, Borough Manager and Chief Ostrowski regarding the playground equipment.
2. Big Round Mound - Joe Varhola advised of the problem under the mound on the small field on West Field. The drainage issue is being worked on by original company and if their resolution doesn't work the mound may be changed altogether. There were discussions about possible resolutions.
3. Public Works Interviews - Joe Varhola advised he will be calling candidates on November 14<sup>th</sup> to set up interviews. He, Harvey Inglis and Bob Biscey will be conducting the interviews and anyone on Council is invited to attend. Councilman Stein asked if we would possibly have the motion ready for the next Council meeting and Joe advised the motion will probably not be as there may not be time to have everyone interviewed prior. Councilwoman Fleming-Salopek asked if they still need to live within the Borough and that was confirmed.
4. Medical Benefits – Benefits Network - Joe Varhola explained that Borough received \$6000 invoice from Medical Benefits-Benefit Networks for brokerage of Borough employee medical benefits. Advised Becki Wirth and Medical Benefit Services already address all of the items on the email and once verified via email with MBS, they replied they address all issues at no charge to the Borough. Council agreed there will be no payment of the \$6000 invoice and their services are not needed.
5. VPRP, 2718 Homestead Duquesne Road - Joe Varhola discussed that this is regarding an application through the Allegheny County Vacant Property program. Joe explained the program and that an application has been received and approved for the purchase of the of 2718 Homestead Duquesne Road. He also advised if the Borough agrees to this purchase, an ordinance will need to be passed via motion at the next Council meeting. There were several questions about the program itself and all were answer by Joe.

6. General Code - E360 - Joe Varhola educated Council regarding codification vs ordinances. He explained that there is a current book with publication of 2012 that Council never adopted an ordinance approving publication. Joe explained we are working to update all of the ordinances so that the publication is brought current. Our current cost is a little over \$3000 but that future updates will cost the Borough around \$1500 a year. Joe checked with West Mifflin and the other two Boroughs and all use the same company to codify. A motion will be added to the regular Council meeting.
7. Budget Meeting - Joe Varhola advised of the November 15<sup>th</sup> budget meeting for Recreation and Administration.
8. Resident - Community Service - Joe Varhola explained the Mayor referred the resident to him to discuss possible work he might be able to do as he has been sentenced to Community Service. There were several discussions as to possible work within the Borough. Joe advised he has checked with the Borough insurance company and the resident needs to be made aware ahead of time and in writing that he will not fall under the Boroughs Workers Compensation policy if he is injured while working. And that the Borough is covered, under the Borough policy, if he causes any damage to Borough property.
9. Donna M. - Cammo - Joe explained the resident wanted the Borough to be aware that Cammo Kennels did not check the chip for the cat. Joe looked at the police report and spoke with Cammo Kennels. There isn't anything that the Borough needs to be involved in. This is just information for the Borough.
10. Fire Chief Car - Vice President Votedian advised he received a call from Ford advising they have a 2013 SUV for \$15,000 and they will take a trade. Councilman Tichon asked about the current process of passing down vehicles as they come available. Vice President Votedian said that the problem is that they want to get Chief Pletsch an SUV with 4 wheel drive for the snow and ice. Councilman Stein stated that at a "minimum" the car should be front wheel drive and he believes Chief Pletsch's current car is rear wheel drive which is no good on snow and ice. Councilman Tichon said it should be discussed in the budget meeting and that it should be budgeted in 2017.

**Additional Items:**

- Councilman Brennan asked to expand the Enterprise Zone to encompass all businesses districts within Munhall Borough (Waterfront businesses excluded). Currently it only includes businesses on 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue and the Borough has to ask for the extension. He advised there are a lot of benefits the other businesses are not being able to take advantage of such as funding. Mayor Bodnar explained that the EZ bylaws were written in 1972 and only included 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue businesses to Library Street. He agrees with Councilman Brennan that he would like to see all businesses within Munhall Borough included. He advised a letter, from the Borough, would need to be written to the businesses advising of EZ. Councilwoman Flemin-Salopek asked why they were not included so far and the answer from Mayor Bodnar was "limited funding". Asking Council to vote at the next Council meeting to adopt an ordinance so he present it at the next EZ meeting.
- Councilman Brennan explained the LERTA program to Council and asked that the Borough get involved if they are not already. He spoke with representatives with CONNECT and got information regarding the program. People who buy homes through the program will be able to apply via the LERTA program for tax breaks. Becki Wirth advised she has researched and not found anything regarding this program. Rick advised if we find we are not part of the program we need to make sure we adopt an ordinance to bring Munhall Borough into the program so that future residents people that purchase these homes will be able to take advantage of tax breaks. The Borough just needs to register with LERTA (no cost to the Borough) and the home buyer has to apply for the program themselves.

- Councilman Tichon reminded everyone that SVHS will be having the Veterans Day program 11-10-2016. John talked about past programs and that it is very special. Mayor Bodnar also expressed how beautiful the decorations are and invited everyone to attend as well.
- Mayor Bodnar asked Joe Varhola about Christmas decorations. They discussed the new Menora and trees for the front yard at the Borough building. Glenn Coles was delegated, by Joe Varhola, to assist the Mayor with trees and anything else he needs for the holidays.
- Councilwoman Fleming-Salopek mentioned the “Outstanding job” done with the Halloween parade. She acknowledge the work and thanked everyone involved. Mayor Bodnar especially thanked Lori Corsi.

**Adjournment Motion - Councilman Tichon Second - Councilman Brennan  
Vote - Unanimous**

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**Vice President - Richard Votedian**