

**Borough of Munhall  
Regular Council Meeting Minutes  
Wednesday, August 21th, 2019 7:00 P.M.**

- I. Call to Order – President Falce**
- II. Pledge of Allegiance – Mark Fallon**
- III. Preliminary Announcements -**

**Mayor Brennan will present recognition to Eagle Scout Ryan Rossner Gedman – Ryan was not in attendance. Mayor Brennan will reschedule or mail the recognition to him. He also advised Council he would like to recognize the people who have worked in the Cemetery over the summer.**

**Roll Call: Councilman Ballas; Councilman Inglis; Councilman Petruzzi;  
Councilman Stein; Councilman Tichon; Councilman Votedian; President Falce**

**NOTICE TO ALL PUBLIC SPEAKERS ADDRESSING COUNCIL**

- COMMENTS WILL BE LIMITED TO THREE MINUTES**
- MUST AVOID REFERENCES TO PERSONALITIES AND PERSONNEL RELATED ISSUES.**

**IV. Speaker(s):**

**Maureen Fry – Borough Building, Main Street Cameras, Council chambers sound system – Mrs. Fry asked if there was information regarding the asbestos inspection. Manager Varhola advised there is not. She asked about the cameras on Main Street. She was advised they are being worked on. Her next question was if the sound system in the council chambers will be fixed and was advised it will be looked in to. She thanked Council for the lines painted on West Street and having the fence pushed back at the Batch Foundation property. Mrs. Fry asked Council if they had heard about Wellington Strategies. Solicitor Evashavik advised they have indeed and there will be a new motion to termination the agreement and ask for a refund of the remaining contract.**

**V. Reports from Borough Officials:**

**Mayor – Mayor Brennan advised Council that his trip to the Mayors Conference was very beneficial to him. He then discussed the current state of the Homestead cemetery tax exempt status. He thanked Mark Fallon for his work with the cemetery.**

**Solicitor – Solicitor Evashavik advised Council that they can move forward with the new motion to terminate the agreement with Wellington Strategies.**

Motion to terminate the contract with Wellington Strategies, effective immediately, and demand a prorated refund for the remaining portion of the contract.

**Motion: Councilman Tichon; Second: Councilman Votedian; Vote: Unanimous**

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Solicitor Evashavik then advised he received information, from Cohen Law Group, regarding franchise renewal and conducted a hearing

**Hearing -**

This is a public hearing of the Borough Council regarding cable franchise renewal for the Borough of Munhall. This public hearing is held pursuant to Section 626 of the federal Cable Act, which sets forth the process for franchise renewal.

The Borough's current franchise with Comcast will expire soon, and the Borough is beginning the process of renewing the franchise. This public hearing is part of the preliminary portion of franchise renewal with which the Borough reviews the cable operator's past performance and identifies the Borough's future cable-related community needs. As such, as part of this public hearing, we invite comments from any citizens who wish to speak regarding either or both of the aforementioned subjects.

Franchise renewal is the best opportunity for municipalities to assert their rights with respect to their cable operator and to obtain important benefits in return for granting the cable operator the right to use their public rights-of-way. These benefits include:

1. A State-of-the-Art Cable System now and in the future;
2. Strong Customer Service Standards;
3. Free Services to Community Facilities;
4. Better Reporting Requirements from the Cable Operators;
5. Maximized Franchise Fees;
6. Public, Educational and Governmental (PEG) Channel(s);
7. PEG Capital Support Funding;
8. Legal Protections of the Rights-of-Way; and
9. Better Mechanisms to Enforce the Franchise Agreement.

These are just some of the potential benefits available through franchise renewal.

Citizens may address these items or any other cable-related items that are important to them. We will now open the hearing up to citizen comments.

Comment(s): Mayor Brennan confirmed it was Comcast and Greg advised yes. Solicitor Evashavik verified

Solicitor Greg Evashavik asked three separate times for comments from citizens and there were no comments.

He thanked everyone and closed the hearing.

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Mr. Evashavik advised he is working on an ordinance regarding tickets for violations of Borough ordinances. He gave examples of not clearing snow and ice, dumping, cutting grass and that the ordinance would deal with code enforcement issues. He advised there is a preprinted ticket that can be used in these cases instead of going to the magistrate from the beginning. Councilman Votedian asked if Police can issue these tickets and Greg advised it would be enforced by them but not issued by them. Councilman Petruzzi asked Mr. Cannon what his current process is, and he did explain. There was a discussion regarding the pros and cons of the new ordinance. Mayor Brennan agreed it is a good idea and he would sign off on the ordinance. The conversation continued regarding how the residents would pay the fines by paying them to the administration office or possibly a drop box in the hallway outside of the administration office.

**Manager** – Mr. Varhola discussed possible options of beautification of the Waterfront. He advised Council of he will be receiving a permit from PennDOT to put a left turn signal at 837 and Whitaker Way. Joe then explained there is a problem when people are trying to turn left up Whitaker Way. He continued his report by advising Council of the cost, for Telephonix, to purchase cameras in the Borough building for \$16,800.00. He motioned as follows:

Motion to ratify the purchase of emergency cameras in the Borough building for \$16,800.00 to be paid through Asset Forfeiture.

**Motion: Councilman Inglis; Second: Councilman Petruzzi; Vote: Unanimous**

**Engineer** – No report/ Not present at meeting

**Public Works Supervisor** – Report submitted

**Police Chief** - Report submitted. Chief Campbell discussed the importance of the building cameras and the status of the project. Mayor Brennan asked him to elaborate on the coverage and he advised there will be better coverage on West Field, the Fire side of the building, the front of the building and the Public Works area. Councilman Votedian asked if it is possible to get camera coverage in the northern part of town as there is resident

concern about recent shootings. Chief Campbell explained how the remote feedback happens and what it would take to add cameras in that area.

**Fire Chief** – Report submitted. Chief Pletsch thanked Public Works supervisor Bob Biscey for his recent help with a tree struck by lightning. He also advised Council of a major project he is working on with Carnegie Library to install a sprinkler system. Chief Campbell asked everyone to be mindful of parking at events in local parks as there may be issues getting fire trucks through the area. Manager Varhola advised everyone to call 911 if there is a problem.

**Code Enforcement Officer** – Report submitted. Discussed issue at Woodlawn and fire truck access.

**Mayor Brennan** added comment that school will be starting and asked everyone to please be careful when driving.

## **VI. Public Comments on Items for Consideration:**

**Donna Dreshman** – Motion 2 – Has the agreement changed? Solicitor Evashavik advised of the collection fees and Manager Varhola advised approximately \$50,000 per year. Greg advised the change is from 10% on all real estate tax to 10% on Act 20 and 5.5% Act 511. Motion 3 – Asking for explanation. Solicitor Evashavik advised the attorneys fees will be added to the delinquent taxpayer. Donna confirmed it will be for delinquent taxes and garbage. Motion 4 – She asked if the change is for new hires or new hires and promotions. Chief Campbell advised new hires only. She asked about how many hires we are looking for. Chief Campbell advised 1 or 2. Donna then asked for the balance after motion 8 & 9. Manager Varhola advised \$2,873,044.20. She asked about the bill for the tree cut on Trautman. Manager Varhola advised approximately \$10,000.

**Mark Fallon** – Mr. Fallon asked for a list of the grants that Wellington Strategies applied for on behalf of the Borough. Manager Varhola advised he would give him the list. Mark then asked about the refund that is expected and confirmed it would be approximately 7/12 of the payment. Manager Varhola confirmed.

**Clifford Timko** – Mr. Timko inquired about the rate in Motion 1. He advised it is a very low rate and his concern of the delivery of that rate. Manager Varhola advised there is a contract for the fixed rate and if they can not deliver at that rate, the contract will be void. Solicitor Evashavik advised it is set to start in September. Manager Varhola asked the resident if we should not act on the motion and Mr. Timko stated he was not suggesting that but that the rate seemed very low. Mr. Varhola again said that the contract went to the solicitor and if they can not provide the service at the rate, they have stated the contract will be void.

**Patty Abraham** – Mrs. Abraham asked for clarification about the 5-day door knockers that Dave Cannon will be placing for violations. President Falce advised they are still discussing the options. Manager Varhola explained the concerns and current costs to the Borough. President Falce again advise they are in preliminary stages of the ordinance.

**VII. Items for consideration:**

1. Motion to change electric suppliers to Dynegy Energy Services East, LLC, through broker Progressive Energy Consultants LLC, at the cost of .0348 per kWh with the contract ending September 2023.  
**Motion: Councilman Petruzzi; Second: Councilman Ballas; Vote: Unanimous**
2. Motion to approve contract extension agreement with Legal Tax service.  
**Motion: Councilman Inglis; Second: Councilman Ballas; Vote: Unanimous**
3. Motion to advertise ordinance 1596 setting attorney's fees on all debt collections.
  - a. Solicitor Evashavik started a hearing but realized it was not necessary as this was a motion to advertise not approve.  
**Motion: Councilman Votedian; Second: Councilman Inglis; Vote: Unanimous**
4. Motion to change the Rules and Regulations for the Munhall Civil Service changing section 4.1 to reflect change from 70% for the written portion & oral examination 30% to 60% for the written & 40% for the oral examination. 4.2 will remain unchanged. This section deals with promotion within the department.  
**Motion: Councilman Votedian; Second: Councilman Petruzzi; Vote: Unanimous**
5. Motion to approve the Cargill contract for salt submitted to SHACOG at the cost of \$82.24 per ton.  
**Motion: Councilman Inglis; Second: Councilman Ballas; Vote: Unanimous**
6. Motion to approve a handicapped sign to be placed at 255 E Larkspur per approval by Sergeant Williams and Chief Campbell.  
**Motion: Councilman Tichon; Second: Councilman Votedian; Vote: Unanimous**
7. Motion to approve the July 17, 2019 minutes.  
**Motion: Councilman Votedian; Second: Councilman Tichon; Vote: Unanimous**
8. Motion to pay bills for the period July 17, 2019 through August 12, 2019, summarized as follows:

Administration	\$	34,109.84
Police:	\$	61,163.92
Fire:	\$	18,819.04
Health & Sanitation:	\$	48,846.81
Public Works:	\$	145,138.54
Recreation:	\$	3,339.02
Miscellaneous:	\$	2,124.96
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>313,542.13</b>

**Motion: Councilman Inglis; Second: Councilman Petruzzi; Vote: Unanimous**

9. Motion to approve Payroll for the period of July 11<sup>th</sup> and July 25<sup>th</sup>, 2019.

2019: July 11	\$ 146,044.29
2019: July 25	<u>\$ 136,912.90</u>
TOTAL:	<u>\$ 282,957.19</u>

**Motion: Councilman Ballas; Second: Councilman Tichon; Vote: Unanimous**

**Other/Additional Matter(s):**

President Falce reminded everyone of Community Day on September 21<sup>st</sup> and asked for volunteers.

Mark Fallon spoke about the upcoming Homestead Cemetery meeting on August 29<sup>th</sup>. He advised they will probably be talking about a policy for signs along the fence. President Falce suggested Mark place a collection bucket out during Community Day. Mark also reminded everyone of Thunder under the Bridge on September 29<sup>th</sup>. He said Pittsburgh Today Live will be promoting the event. Mark brought to everyone's attention that the movie filmed at the Hays mansion, Where'd You Go Bernadette? will begin to show this weekend.

Mayor Brennan introduced Troop 15, Angelino Kacmar who is in attendance for his Citizenship in the Community badge.

**VIII. Adjournment:**

**Motion: Councilman Tichon; Second: Councilman Votedian;  
Vote: Unanimous**

Resident at 136 Summerfield stayed to talk with Council about the condition of the road.

  
Robert Falce – President of Council