

**Borough of Munhall  
Regular Council Meeting Minutes  
Wednesday, March 20, 2019 7:00 P.M.**

**I. Call to Order – President Falce**

**II. Pledge of Allegiance – Michael Aldrich**

**Presentation to Leonard “Lenny” Coll** - Vice President Rich Votedian and Chief Ed Pletsch presented Leonard “Lenny” Coll with the Lifetime Service Award for his work with the fire department. He has been a firefighter since 1975, held many positions within the department and for many years Lenny has been educating the children the SVSD elementary children on fire prevention. The student education started with the students having lunch with a fireman and now they not only do lunch but recess with a fireman as well. Recently, he has started an education program with our senior communities of St Therese and the Met House. He is an integral part of the annual Government Day with Park School 3<sup>rd</sup> graders as well as being Santa’s assistant during the Christmas parades.

**III. Preliminary Announcements**

Councilman Ballas – Spoke of local honorees, Bobby Rager and Ray Braszo, being April 7<sup>th</sup> recognized at Heinz Museum.

Councilman Tichon wished everyone a “Happy Spring!”

**Roll Call: Councilman Ballas; Councilman Inglis; Councilman Petruzzi (Absent); 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 – 124 West Virginia Ave.** - Summer help, Update on borough building cleaning service, Update on Willis Center from architect and Borough Manager Joe Varhola. – Mrs. Fry voiced her concerns about the process when hiring the public works summer help and the jobs they will be performing. Public Works Director Bob Bickey advised they will be cutting grass. Mrs. Fry then asked about updates for the Borough building. Councilman Inglis advised we are out of contract with the cleaning company and that Councilman Petruzzi will be heading up a cleaning crew made up of the current public works employees. Mrs. Fry asked if there are plans with the architect regarding Willis Center. Borough Manager Varhola advised there was a meeting and they will probably have something to present in a month. She then expressed her concerns about horses in a residential area.

- Joe Laffey – 4123 Main St.** - Wants a camera installed – Mr. Laffey was not present, but Mayor Brennan spoke on his behalf. He states someone is knocking on his door at 3 or 4 am and is asking for a camera outside of his residence. Mayor Brennan asked Chief Campbell about adding one and Chief Campbell said there isn't wiring there. He said he will look in to a "cop in a can". There was a discussion, amongst Council and the Mayor, regarding the issue. A resident asked about the cameras that are active on Main Street and Borough Manager Varhola advised the cameras are a work in progress as only 6 of 12 cameras are working. Mayor Brennan stated he would contact the camera company to look in to the situation.
- Michael Capp – 243 Gates Dr.** – Website and Emergency preparedness – Mr. Capp asked if the Borough has looked in to combining websites with other municipalities so that the cost would be divided between those municipalities. He then asked about the Borough's emergency preparedness. President Falce deferred to Emergency Management Director Daryll Hunt. Daryll explained the Allegheny County approved plan for Munhall and what took place during the recent outages and emergency situations. He urged residents to volunteer for the program. Councilman Stein voiced his concerns about the website and that we are engaged with the West Mifflin website designer.
- Daveen Kurtz – 4605 Woodhill Dr.** – Issue on Woodhill Dr. – Mrs. Kurtz thanked President Falce for visiting her home regarding the smell from the horses and that during his visit he stated he could smell the horses as soon as he stepped outside, and the smell was stronger as he got closer to the fence. She states the neighborhood is struggling with the situation. She asked about an ordinance to stop future horses from coming to a residential area. Manager Varhola deferred the legal options, for the situation, to Solicitor Evashavik. Mr. Evashavik advised if Mr. Cannon determines the smell to be a nuisance, he can give the owners a citation. Mrs. Kurtz voiced her concerns about having to call Mr. Cannon. Nor do they want to have to call on their neighbor. Mr. Evashavik advised no matter the ordinance, the current horses would be grandfathered and would be able to stay. Dave Cannon advised he has already warned the owner. The owner came to the workshop meeting to explain what his process is to clean up after then horses. The next step is to give them a citation and give them 10 days make the corrections. The step after that is to take them to the magistrate who will give them his own order which can be that he is not guilty, guilty or he will impose more time for the cleanup. If they are found guilty, they will have 30 days to appeal in Pittsburgh which can take up to 60 days before that hearing is scheduled. Mrs. Kurtz asked if the process hasn't started because of the length of the process and Mr. Cannon assured her not. Mrs. Kurtz asked about speakers at a workshop meeting and President Falce advised he will allow someone to talk. She then asked once again for Council to consider an ordinance preventing future farm animals from coming in to the Borough. Mayor Brennan asked the horse owner, Mr. King, about his acreage. Dave Cannon advised there is a paper alley involved and asked Solicitor Evashavik to explain. He then asked Mr. King about a barn build on the property. Mrs. Kurtz read a section of the UCC code regarding detached building. Mr. Cannon advised an agricultural building is excluded by UCC codes, are allowed and no permit is needed. Mrs. Kurtz then asked about the ordinance again. President Falce said an ordinance can be considered but reiterated the current horses would be grandfathered. Manager Varhola advised they are in the process. Mr. Cannon will visit again and if nothing has changed, he will give him a citation. Mr. King spoke of the process he is going

through to keep the area clean. Solicitor Evashavik asked Mr. King to do whatever he can to stop the complaints to the Borough. Mr. King assured him he is doing just that. Mrs. Brittney Keesecker spoke asking Mr. King to move the horses back. There were discussions back and forth in the gallery regarding the situation. President Falce brought the meeting back to order and asked Dave Cannon to do whatever it is he needs to do to enforce the situation. Dave agreed and said he would have to follow the law. Councilman Ballas asked if the Magistrate would be able to force the horses to be removed and Solicitor Evashavik advised no. That he would only be able to give time to resolve it or fine the owner.

- **Michael Aldrich – 431 E 9<sup>th</sup> Ave – MAPs for 2019 –** Mr. Aldrich asked if Dixon and Boone Alley have been moved up the list for paving. He advised Boone Alley is “horrible”. He said he has asked that Dixon be milled as this would bring the asphalt below the curb. He said that MAPS is having a struggle and he asked for the remaining \$ 5500 budgeted amount from 2018 and the new budgeted \$7500 for 2019. He explained they have roofing issues and other projects to take care of in 2019. Mr. Aldrich also advised he came months ago asking for the Borough to give them the building and the parking lot. Manager Varhola advised a grant was applied for as the scope of the work for this area alone is \$250,0000. Councilman Ballas advised the Sewer Authority, by consent decree, must separate the sewers in that area and there needs to be coordination with the Borough and the Authority so that the residents are not paying to pave a road that will be dug up for a sewer project. He assured Mr. Aldrich that everyone is looking for grant money. Mr. Aldrich then discussed the West Mifflin’s process and that MAPS works on subscriptions only. Mrs. Fry then stated she felt that the Borough should pay what is owed. Mr. Aldrich said he is kept up at night by the thought of what the Borough pays the Library. President Falce advised the payment to the library is by ordinance. A resident asked Mr. Aldrich if the ambulance service bills to insurance companies. Mr. Aldrich advised billing and being paid is two different things. The resident said that it is incorrect that subscriptions are the only way they are paid. Mr. Aldrich advised the subscriptions pay for their vehicles and discussed the history of MAPS and its board. Councilman Votedian asked why the three Boroughs can’t contribute equally and Mr. Aldrich advised of the difference in calls responded to for each of the Boroughs. Manager Varhola asked if any of the other Boroughs offered them a rent-free building to work from. Mr. Aldrich advised they put \$450,000 in to the building. He said Homestead gives every year and he is just asking for Munhall’s budgeted amount. Councilman Stein advised \$2500 was to be the first payment, then an additional \$2500 would be given once the Borough had seen the books to make sure they were financially secure and then the last amount would be given when someone from Munhall held a seat on the board to have input. Mr. Aldrich advised that would never happen as Munhall doesn’t allow politics to play a part in their operation. Jason said it doesn’t have to be someone from Council that it can just be someone from Munhall and Mr. Aldrich said there are Munhall residents on the board. President Falce said Council would support them but they are currently working on grants. Mr. Aldrich again asked for a little more help.

## **V. Reports from Borough Officials:**

**Mayor** – Mayor Brennan stated he met with Representative Austin Davis and during that conversation they discussed grants. He commended Council for beginning to search for them. He brought up the bricks on Main Street and the hazard they have become. He said he knows they were put in with grant money and maybe we apply for grant money to remove them. He said Representative Davis advised he would help with this area whenever he can. He states he feels that Main Street should be one of the first focuses. He said he feels they might be able to and should help Mr. Laffey with his camera issue. Mayor Brennan said he is speaking with Port Authority about a possible park n ride at St Therese. He thanked Representative Davis for meeting with him and advised he has been a very good representative for Munhall. Mayor Brennan advised the Steel Valley Enterprise Zone is looking in to more flower baskets and lowering them so that they are in a better line for view. He then said he spoke with a local developer, Jesse Wigg, regarding investments in our community. He also spoke with Dave Cannon about residents calling him regarding garbage in back yards, no cans and cans with no lids. He encouraged the residents in attendance to be mindful of their cans. Mayor Brennan then advised he has a different plan for Government Days this year. He advised he feels its inappropriate for the children to take over a Council meeting where Borough business is taking place. He has spoken with secretary, Becki Wirth about scheduling a special meeting for the children. May the 16<sup>th</sup> may be the date for that meeting and the children would be able to set their own agenda and discuss things they would like to talk about. Mayor Brennan thanked Lenny Coll for his contribution to the Borough and advised that Daryll Hunt is also in a position of great importance to the Borough and thanked him. He confirmed that the new police hire will be replacing someone who retired and asked about the Harvey Street construction. Bob Biscey advised they had to order new piping as there was a problem deeper than the 48-inch pipe. Manager Varhola advised they are voting on the new proposal received to fix the deeper pipe. Mayor Brennan asked if the floors will be done within the Borough building and was told they will be done the following Saturday. He then stated that Council should pay MAPS and then invite Mr. Aldrich to come to a Council meeting, every couple of months, to give us an update. He feels we can work together. Mr. Varhola asked Mayor Brennan to speak with Mr. Aldrich about how the Borough can assist him with subscription increases (currently at 17%). There were discussions about adding the subscription to the website or other places. A resident advised she was not aware if you don't pay a subscription and MAPS is called to your home, you will be billed at full pricing. Mr. Varhola advised it is MAPS responsibility to make residents aware of it. Vice President Votedian advised they should put that in their mailers. Mayor Brennan asked Becki Wirth to send something to the Valley Mirror saying that he is asking for residents to send subscriptions to MAPs as they need the money. He then said that something needs to be done about the horses. He said he doesn't agree with Dave Cannon about the structure and Dave advised he must follow UCC guidelines as this is what he is certified to do, and the guidelines state he is allowed to have it and didn't need a permit to build it. Dave gave Mayor Brennan a copy of the code he was reading from.

**Solicitor** – Solicitor Evashavik advised he completed the ordinance regarding the rezoning of 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup>, working with the Borough Manager regarding contracts

the Borough may entering in to as well as pension plan work. He also asked Mr. Varhola if the paperwork is signed for the demolition of 930 Ravine Street. Mr. Varhola confirmed.

**Manager** – Mr. Varhola advised the payment for Carnegie Library will be paid. He advised the bids for paving have been opened and there will be an additional motion to approve the entire paving project for \$471,556.22. He thanked Becki Wirth for the work being done with the PA state pension auditor and state liquid fuels auditor. The liquid fuels audit went well and there are a few issues with the pension audits from 2012, 2013 and 2014 but current years are on target. There will be a motion for the SVSD refuse removal agreement. He asked if Council would want to vote at this point.

Motion to approve the 5-year Steel Valley School District refuse agreement for \$1670.00 per month.

**Motion: Councilman Ballas, Second: Councilman Tichon**

Comment on motion: Donna Dreshman asked for clarification of schools. Mr. Varhola said all SVSD. She asked what time of the day the pick ups will take place and Mr. Varhola advised whatever time the RFP and agreement states. She advised of past issues getting Borough vehicles in the parking lot at Park School. She asked who would be responsible if one of our drivers hits a car. Mr. Varhola advised the Borough would be responsible.

**Vote: Unanimous**

Mr. Varhola advised he has applied and will be interviewing at the Local Government Academy for an intern to work with Dave Cannon and help with a code enforcement upgrade.

**Engineer** – Engineer Jess Antell was present for Colin Lamparks absence. 7 bids were received for the paving project. She touched on the 2019 Storm Water improvements and advised Creative Enterprises would be on site the following day. Joe Varhola advised there will be a motion to accept the \$15,000 bid.

**Public Works Supervisor** – Report submitted. Mr. Bickey advised he would like to send two public works employees to CDL school and needs Councils approval. Joe Varhola advised it will need to be voted on by Council.

Motion to send Patrick Grzyb and Timothy Augustine to All State Careers in the amount of \$1200.00.

**Motion: Councilman Inglis; Second: Councilman Votedian;**

Question: Mayor Brennan confirmed the cost of \$1200.00. A resident asked if they will be staying with the Borough for any amount of time after receiving the CDL. There was a discussion about this not having been an issue in the past.

**Vote: Unanimous**

**Police Chief** – Report submitted. Chief Campbell read his report and that the Mayor asked him to speak of the shortage of staff and that they are currently accepting applications via the administration office. There was a discussion about the current hearing happening in Pittsburgh.

**Fire Chief** – Report submitted. Councilman Inglis asked Chief Pletsch about the false alarm section of his report. Chief Pletsch explained what a true false alarm is.

**Code Enforcement Officer** – Report submitted. Mr. Cannon updated the abandoned property report from the previous month and advised that 4 of the properties has been purchased. He stated another advisor is coming to the area per his conversation with Jesse Wigg.

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

**Donna Dreshman – Motion 1-** Will there be a posting regarding the rezoning of 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup>? Per Solicitor Evashavik, only the affected area will be well posted and there will be a hearing. Mrs. Dreshman asked if Council foresees the rezoning further to 11<sup>th</sup> and Solicitor Evashavik advised he hasn't heard anything about this area. **Motion 3** – How many grants will be written? President Falce said as many as possible. Mrs. Dreshman asked for clarification of grants being applied for and how long the contract is. President Falce advised 1 year. Carol Schreive from Carnegie Library discussed the libraries work with Wellington Strategies and her experience working with them. **Motion 10** – What is the remaining balance after the bills are paid? Joe Varhola advised \$1,572,918.54. When will the paving project start? She voiced concerns about "dips" being left in the street.

**Jim Dudash – Motion 1** - Asked Council if they hold the hearing, do they expect to vote the same night? Solicitor Evashavik advised it will be up to Council and if the advertising is properly made and if the area is properly posted, the hearing can happen that night and can be voted on that night.

**Charles Schessler** - Asking about 930 Ravine Street demolition. He asked about a time line for the project as he is concerned about the current state of the property.

**James Kuska** – Asked if someone has contacted Duquesne Light regarding the light in the alley behind 132 Crawford. He is concerned the current lighting isn't enough. Borough Manager Joe Varhola advised he has been in contact with Duquesne Light about putting brighter lighting in the alley.

#### **VII. Items for consideration:**

1. Motion to advertise an ordinance amending the zoning map, providing for the rezoning of parcels of land fronting on 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> Avenues, from Andrew Street to McClure Street, from R-1 to B-2.

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

2. Motion to engage in contract with HHR Construction and Excavation, for \$7500.00, to demolish 930 Ravine Street.  
**Motion: Councilman Ballas; Second: Councilman Tichon; Vote: Unanimous**
3. Motion to ratify agreement with Wellington Strategies to contract grant business in the amount of \$28,800.00 annually.  
**Motion: Councilman Stein; Second: Councilman Votedian; Vote: Unanimous**
4. Motion to hire Laura Honick, as the new FT Police Clerk, at the rate of \$15.00 per hour pending a pre employment drug screening and background check.  
**Motion: Councilman Votedian; Second: Councilman Tichon; Vote: Unanimous**
5. Motion to purchase a Crafcoc 440001885 tar buggy through states contract from Air Vac Equipment in the amount of \$38,700.00.  
**Motion: Councilman Inglis; Second: Councilman Ballas; Vote: Unanimous**
6. Motion to approve the placement of a handicapped sign at 205 Emmerson Street per approval by Officer Williams and Chief Campbell.  
**Motion: Councilman Ballas; Second: Councilman Tichon; Vote: Unanimous**
7. Motion to approve the placement of a handicapped sign at 3610 Main Street as approved by Officer Williams and Chief Campbell.  
**Motion: Councilman Inglis; Second: Councilman Ballas**  
**Question** – Councilman Stein asked for clarification on the location of the sign and Chief Campbell advised it would be in front of Linda Squire's hair salon.  
**Vote: Unanimous**
8. Motion to approve the denial of the placement of a handicapped sign at 1916 Whitaker Way as denied by Officer Williams and Chief Campbell.  
**Motion: Councilman Stein; Second: Councilman Votedian**  
**Comment** – Chief Campbell advised there is no parking on Whitaker Way.  
**Vote: Unanimous**
9. Motion to approve the February 20th, 2019 minutes.  
**Motion: Councilman Votedian; Second: Councilman Ballas; Vote: Unanimous**
10. Motion to pay bills for the period February 20<sup>th</sup>, 2019 through March 19, 2019, summarized as follows:

Administration	\$ 57,368.17
Police:	\$ 61,362.74
Fire:	\$ 9,473.58
Health & Sanitation:	\$ 43,380.93
Public Works:	\$ 148,139.87
Recreation:	\$ 3,695.60
Miscellaneous:	<u>\$ 108,914.09</u>
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>\$ 432,334.98</b>

President Falce asked for clarification on the Miscellaneous amount and Councilman Stein advised most of it is insurance.

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

11. Motion to approve Payroll for the period of February 7th and 21th, 2019

2019: February 7th \$ 135,478.10

2019: February 21st \$ 152,416.63

TOTAL: \$ 287,894.73

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

12. New Motion: Motion to approve the 2019 Paving Project to A. Liberoni Inc. in the amount of \$471,556.22.

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

**Question:** Mayor Brennan asking if we previously used this contractor. Joe Varhola advised they have done several projects over 2 years.

13. Motion to approve the change order for Creative Enterprises for Harvey Ave and Shady Ave project for \$15,000.00

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

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

**President Falce** – Welcomed Tom Burke back to the meeting as he has not been in attendance for a while. He also reminded everyone that Community Day will be September 21<sup>st</sup> and they are looking for vendors.

**Mayor Brennan** – Asked when West Field will be open for walkers and basketball players. Manager Varhola advised the field will be open soon for walkers but the basketball courts have been suspended for 30 days as he has pictures of garbage all over the court. Mayor Brennan stated he has been approached about the process of changing a street to one way. Mr. Varhola advised he has been approached as well and he asked the person he spoke to by sending a formal letter listing the problems they are experiencing. He said there may be an easy resolution working with the library. They would advise Chief Campbell that there will be heavier traffic and parking because of an activity at the library and maybe an officer would be there to direct traffic. Mayor Brennan stated he has received calls regarding the possibility of one-way streets in Munhall Gardens as well. He asked what the process would be. Possibly by Ordinance? Solicitor Evashavik advised Council would need to approve it. He said that normally there will be a traffic study and recommendation by the Police Department. There is typically an ordinance voted on to implement the changes.

**A resident** – Asked about an update for work at the Batch Foundation. Councilman Ballas advised they go to the building next door and ask for Ryan.

#### **VIII. Adjournment:**

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



**Robert Falce - President**