

**Borough of Munhall
Regular Council Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, August 18, 2021 - 7:00 P.M.**

- I. **Call to Order – President Inglis**
- II. **Pledge of Allegiance – President Inglis**
- III. **Roll Call: Councilman Falce; Councilman Fallon; Councilman Ondo; Councilman Petruzzi (absent); Councilman Stein; Vice President Votedian; President Inglis**

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 W Virginia Ave – Several items –** Mrs. Fry asked about motion #2 asking what the item is. Solicitor Evashavik explained. She asked about motion #3 and asked what the agreement is. Solicitor Evashavik explained the agreement. There was a discussion about possible others who may have interest in the field. Mrs. Fry asked about the Debit Services and what it is. Manager Varhola explained the tax anticipation loan. She asked for an update on 1860 West Street and asked for an update on the parks and recreation grant and the \$221 thousand dollars. Engineer Lampark gave the update on 1860 West Street and Manager Varhola gave her the update and plan for the Parks Grant. There was a discussion about the scope and how the plan must stay within the original scope. Mr. Varhola explained the original plan and the idea behind the plan. She wanted to know the General Fund balance and voiced her concerns about not having Finance and Workshop meetings. President Inglis advised there will be a Workshop meeting in September and Manager Varhola discussed Borough accounts with Brentwood Bank. Mrs. Fry thanked Mr. Varhola for his explanations.

V. Reports

Mayor – Mayor Brennan thanked the residents for coming. He updated the residents on Munn Street and a situation from the weekend. He advised MPD can not close the establishment. He explained Chief Campbell is working with the County (DA's office). Solicitor Evashavik confirmed. Mayor Brennan talked about a Public Works issue regarding a pole on Main Street. He then asked about paving on Ravine Street. Engineer Lampark advised there can be a follow up with the contractor. Mayor Brennan discussed end of year funds and said at the last meeting it was stated the Borough would be \$800,000 short at year end and he voiced concerns about spending money on parks. He asked Council if there is a plan for year end. Manager Varhola said he didn't know where the \$800,00 deficit

came from. And Mayor Brennan said it was brought up at the last meeting. Manager Varhola stated he felt it was from a resident who was throwing numbers out and speculating. He advised the Borough is ahead of where it was a year ago. He did advise the next budget is going to be very thin and there needs to be a decision made about raising taxes, cutting expenditures, or selling off assets. Mayor Brennan said that is why he has brought it up at every meeting and asks, "Are we gonna make it?". He mentioned Councilman Ondo's request for additional Public Works employees and the need for another person in the administration office. He is concerned if there will be funds, in the budget, for these items. Mayor Brennan then discussed possibility speed humps on Ravine Street and said they are needed on "several" streets within the Borough. He asked Council to think about a "more transparent" website in the future. Mayor Brennan asked about what the ARPA money can be spent on, and Manager Varhola advised at this time, we only know it can be used for sewers. He clarified to say there are no clear instructions on what the money can be used on. Solicitor Evashavik said it is an ongoing conversation with all municipalities. He advised the communications are very vague, but it is clear the expenditures must be Covid related. Losses or increased cost because of Covid. There must be a nexus to Covid pandemic. Councilman Falce advised he would ask if there can a Zoom in to the meeting at ALOM to discuss this subject.

Solicitor – Solicitor Evashavik discussed motion #5 and advised he has heard from the county, and they have approved the ordinance as he submitted it and there will be a hearing.

Manager – Mr. Varhola discussed possible options to pay for the new building furniture and stated he will be working on the Public Works collective bargaining agreement. He asked that anyone with an idea or comment, please send them over to him. He stated the bank balance is \$2,350,018.74. Mr. Varhola then explained the post on Facebook regarding the property located at 3622 Timberwood Drive and the container that the Steel Valley Trail Council would like to borrow. Solicitor Evashavik would draw up an agreement and SVTC would provide a certificate of insurance.

Engineer - Engineer Lampark recommends Council approve the final payment to SR COG for the catch basin project CD 46.6.7 in the amount of \$4387.50. He talked about the MPDS permit, that the borough holds, and it is the result of the clean water act by the DEP from the 1970s. He explained that the Borough is legally obligated to do work on the permit yearly. He said that there are technical portions and a very large public outreach portion of it as well. Mr. Lampark advised this is prime opportunity for volunteer work for high school students, boy scouts and local clubs (i.e., Elks etc.). He advised he is willing to volunteer his time to explain what he knows about it and direct anyone to local resources like 3Rivers Wet Weather and others. He is looking for someone in the public to champion the project as the annual report for 2021 is due September 30, 2021. He said they

have been able to get grant funds to do sewer work such as cameras and repairs. He volunteered to be used as a resource for all information regarding this permit that needs to be maintained and advised there are opportunities for grants as well. Mayor Brennan asked about the catch basins on Main Street. Colin advised he would check in to it.

Public Works Supervisor - Not present.

Police Chief – Not present.

Code Enforcement – Report submitted. Councilman Stein asked about Ordinance 1506 and Dave explained it deals with landlord tenant issues. Mrs. Fry asked what accessory structures are and Dave explained it could be fences, pools or sheds. She then asked about properties with high grass. Dave explained the cases he is taking to the magistrate. He explained they are 4 months behind, and the judges are giving additional time.

Fire Chief – Chief Pletsch discussed his report and advised #4 has secured a loan to purchase a used rescue truck. Mr. Varhola offered his assistance to place the older rescue on Municibid. Chief Pletsch thanked Chief PJ Ostroski for rescuing a puppy from ductwork in a home. He thanked VFD #1 and Munhall Central for taking the call.

Finance Chair - Councilman Stein advised the general fund balance at the end of July was \$908,884.00. He stated the July positive cash flows were \$727,923.00 and negative cash flows were \$1,963,014.00 but in that negative flow was the payback of the TAN, which was approved for payment last month, so the actual net difference is \$230,000.00 for the month. He advised what really matters is year to date and even with the TAN payment we were up \$1,134,000.00 from last year.

Councilman Falce – Mr. Falce gave a 2021 Community Day update. He advised of the next meeting and updated everyone on the music acts and food vendors. Rob advised there will be a cornhole tournament that will include prize money. He advised it will cost \$50.00 to enter a team. He advised the VFD will have a beer booth, their wheel and sell food to benefit the VFD truck fund. He advised there will be a new Yoga studio on Main Street, and he invited her to bring a class. He also advised there may be a Covid vaccine booth.

VI. Public Comments on Items for Consideration

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Councilman Ondo asked about motion #4. What does it mean for Munhall and is there a cost involved? Manager Varhola explained we are just supporting a group who have concerns about climate change and there is no cost to the borough. There was a discussion about the program.

VII. Items for consideration:

1. Motion to approve Resolution 2021-6, the Vacant Property Recovery Program application for 3500 Cambria Street.

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

2. Motion to approve Resolution 2021-7, a Steel Valley Authority by Law change.

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

3. Motion to accept the lease agreement for West Field between the Borough and Chatham conditioned upon Chatham accepting changes by the Borough Solicitor.

Motion: Councilman Stein; Second: Councilman Fallon

Question on Motion: Councilman Ondo asked if they should vote on it or wait to see if others are interested. Councilman Fallon advised the field has been there 6 years and he has spoken with Joe and Steel Valley and is in agreement with the motion. Manager Varhola advised he spoke with Greater Allegheny at one time, and they did not want to pay the rates at the time. There were discussions about the field usage. Mrs. Fry talked about past Parks and Rec meetings and discussions about usage of the field and Councilman Fallon advised that was for soccer and West Field isn't a good soccer field as you can't bring chairs on to the field and there are no bleachers to watch the games. Mrs. Fry stated that the more the field is used the better it is for a turf field. She stated the less the field is used the more money it will cost to maintain. Others disagreed and Dave Cannon explained the turf, with a lot of use, will wear out in approximately 10 years. Solicitor Evashavik advised there is language he would like amended to protect the Borough and wanted the motion to change to include "pending Chatham accepting changes by the Borough Solicitor".

Amended Motion reads: Motion to accept the lease agreement for West Field between the Borough and Chatham conditioned upon Chatham accepting changes by the Borough Solicitor.

Vote: Roll Call

Councilman Falce – Yes

Councilman Fallon – Yes

Councilman Ondo – Yes

Councilman Petruzzi – Absent

Councilman Stein – Yes

Vice President Votedian – Yes

President Inglis – Yes

4. Motion to approve Resolution 2021-8 the Reimagine Appalachia and support a federal Appalachian climate infrastructure plan.

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

5. Motion to advertise ordinance amending permitted uses in General Service area to include eating and drinking establishments.

Motion: Vice President Votedian; Second: Councilman Stein;

Question on Motion: President Inglis asked where the General Service areas are and Dave Cannon said there are a few including Forest Ave by the A Field, 8th Ave from Ravine to Grant St and one on Whitaker Way.

Vote: Unanimous

6. Motion to approve minutes from June 16th and July 15th, 2021.

Motion: Vice President Votedian; Second: Councilman Fallon; Vote: Unanimous

7. Motion to pay bills for the period July 14, 2021, through August 10, 2021, summarized as follows:

Administration	\$	27,750.57
Police:	\$	24,539.74
Fire:	\$	27,007.08
Health & Sanitation:	\$	39,248.77
Public Works:	\$	65,497.95
Recreation:	\$	3,760.93
Debit Services:	\$	1,049,769.21
Miscellaneous:	\$	<u>441,430.62</u>
TOTAL:	\$	1,679,004.87

Motion: Councilman Stein; Second: Vice President Votedian; Vote: Unanimous


8. Motion to approve Payroll for the period of July 22nd and August 5th 2021

2021: Jul 22 nd	\$	124,158.21
2021: Aug 5 th	\$	<u>127,631.86</u>
TOTAL:	\$	251,790.07

Motion: Vice President Votedian; Second: Councilman Falce; Vote: Unanimous

VIII. Additional Items:

- IX. Adjournment: Motion: Vice President Votedian; Second: Councilman Stein; Vote: Unanimous**



Harvey Inglis – President of Council