

**Borough of Munhall
Regular Council Meeting
Minutes of Council
January 16, 2013**

The Regular Meeting of the Munhall Borough Council was held on January 16, 2013 in Council Chambers, Munhall Borough Building, 1900 West Street, Munhall, PA 15120. The meeting was convened at 7:00 PM, with Council Vice President Rob Falce presiding.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led under the direction of Mayor Raymond Bodnar.

The roll was called and the following members were present:

Robert Falce, Vice President [Acting President for this meeting.]

Richard Votedian, President Pro-tem

Harvey Inglis, Councilman

Dan Lloyd, Councilman

Bernie Shields, Councilman

Absent:

Joe Ballas, President

Dana Ditillo, Councilwoman

Also in attendance at the meeting were:

Raymond Bodnar, Mayor

Matt Galla, Borough Manager

Virginia Maier, Borough Secretary

Matt Pisarcik, Fire Chief

Greg Evashavik, Solicitor

Lindsey Jewart, Engineer

Preliminary Announcements:

Acting President Falce stated that Mr. Ballas was doing well following his knee replacement surgery. "As his son put it," Mr. Falce said, "He got some new wheels. He'll be out of action for about a month or so, maybe more. Keep him in your thoughts and prayers."

Mr. Votedian noted that Munhall Volunteer Fire Company #1 was holding an Oldies Dance on Saturday, February 2, 2013. Tickets are \$20.00 each. Tickets can be obtained from Mr. Votedian, at the door, or by calling the number on the signs posted around town.

**Borough of Munhall
Regular Council Meeting
Minutes of Council
January 16, 2013**

Speakers:

[Ms. Fleming-Salopek was on the agenda to speak at 7:00 PM. However, Council had finished its caucus early, so Ms. Fleming-Salopek spoke early in the interest of time.] Jill Fleming-Salopek spoke on behalf of Mr. Edward Wehrer, Superintendent of Steel Valley School District. She said she just wanted to be sure that we kept open communication between the Borough and School District regarding safety issues in light of what has happened across the country. Cooperation at the Borough has been outstanding she said. "Whether for the crisis team, evacuations, public works, anything really, the Borough has been very accommodating so first and foremost, thank you," said Ms. Fleming-Salopek. She also noted that Officer Boehme is fantastic for us in the schools. She asked Council to think about some future budget items. She said the goal is to have a police officer in each school. She said she realized that would take more than just collaboration, as we would also need to talk to Homestead and West Homestead. She stated that the school district would be asking for one more officer from Munhall. "We're hoping to see some money come in from other sources to help fund this extra officer," she said. Ms. Fleming-Salopek noted that the district felt it was important to have a trained officer in each of the school buildings. She stated again how much they enjoy having Officer Boehme as their School Resource Officer because in addition to his regular duties at the school, he also does the D.A.R.E. program along with many other talks and events throughout the year. "He has an excellent rapport with the students," she said.

Petitions / Public Comments on Agenda Items:

None.

Approval of Minutes:

Mr. Shields moved, seconded by Mr. Votedian to approve the December 19, 2012 Regular Meeting Minutes of Council. Dan Lloyd voted no, noting that in the December minutes, it stated, that President Ballas had wished everyone a "Happy Thanksgiving" when in fact, it should have read "Merry Christmas." It was noted that the minutes would be corrected. Motion carried. [Subsequently, the minutes have been corrected to accurately reflect President Ballas wishing everyone a "Merry Christmas."]

Reports from Borough Officials:

Mayor: The Mayor asked Mr. Billy if Mr. Keesecker from Steel Valley School District had spoken to him. Mr. Billy stated he had not. The Mayor said that he and the Superintendent had a good discussion regarding the salt situation. He said they had come to an understanding. The Mayor asked Mr. Billy to talk to Mr. Keesecker and establish the method for how it will work and how Steel Valley School District will obtain their salt from Munhall Borough. Mr. Billy noted that it would be first come, first served. That Mayor said, "You make the policy." The Mayor also stated that residents in Munhall and business

**Borough of Munhall
Regular Council Meeting
Minutes of Council
January 16, 2013**

owners need to be sure their sidewalks are clear of snow and ice. He said many are negligent in doing this task. He asked the media to let residents and business owners know that we expect them to clean their sidewalks. He spoke briefly about a new distillery that will eventually open at the corner of 8th Avenue and Ravine Street and said that the Enterprise Zone has given the owner a loan to help get the business started. Lastly, he said that people are completely ignoring the traffic control light at approximately 18th Avenue and West Street. He said, "It is partly my fault. I've watched people trying to cross with the lights blinking and cars in both directions just keep going. The light is so obvious. Well, now we are going to start targeting and nailing folks that run the signal. Citations issued will be their problem."

Solicitor: [When Ms. Fleming-Salopek had finished speaking, Mr. Evashavik spoke, noting that there was still some time left during the caucus period.] Mr. Evashavik said he had some concerns about the COG Police Mutual Aid Agreement that was sent to him by the Steel Valley COG. He said he is concerned about the language as it relates to command and control and that officers in a jurisdiction of the receiving department are, as the agreement was written, under that receiving department's control. He said if an officer from another municipality came to assist us and then went beyond what we asked him to do, we don't want his conduct to get us stuck in a lawsuit. He said he'd also want to see a hold harmless agreement in the agreement as well.

Engineer: Submitted a written report.

Director of Public Works: Nothing to report. Mr. Shields inquired about the catch basins near the veterinarian's office. "What is the story," he inquired. Mr. Billy stated it is tied into a County drain line and they do not want to fix it. The line is blocked. "We're still discussing it," said Mr. Billy, "They say it's not theirs." Mr. Billy noted he found the manhole into which the other lines connect. The County states that it does not belong to them. Mr. Billy also noted that the pipe is a tin whistle that is either blocked or collapsed. Dr. Bezak said the catch basin is filled with dirt. Mr. Billy spoke to Mr. Smoley on Forest Avenue and for the past 4 years, no water has been coming out of this pipe. It used to flow freely and that is why he suspects it may have collapsed. He also said the County only has one vac truck for the whole county to clean catch basins. He noted that he asked them to clean the catch basins on West Street some time ago and they still are not done. Mr. Falce commended Public Works on a job well done keeping the streets clear. "Public Works has done a really good job," he said.

Police Chief: The Chief was absent, but had a written report submitted. The Mayor spoke on his behalf and noted that both police cars had been delivered. He said the back seat in the Taurus is really tight and that if two people were in there, it would be really crowded.

Fire Chief: Submitted a written report. He noted that there were 349 calls for the year, 54 more than last year. He noted there were 10,408 volunteer hours and 4 injuries to fire fighters. One of them fell through the floor from the 2nd floor to the 1st floor. He also noted that the Worker's Compensation

**Borough of Munhall
Regular Council Meeting
Minutes of Council
January 16, 2013**

insurance for fire fighters has gone up about \$10,000 largely due in part to the presumption on the insurers part that there will be more claims now that fire fighters have a long period of time to file claims for cancer. "Another dumb thing done by our state," said Mr. Lloyd.

Code Enforcement Officer: Submitted a written report. He also noted that the distillery that the Mayor mentioned was due to open in June. He also said that the former St. Michael's school will go to the zoning board as there is a plan to put commercial businesses on the first floor and homes on the second floor. He also noted there was the possibility of a new restaurant opening in the former garage on 8th Avenue and that the Hays Mansion is under contract. He said that he was told that the new owners want to invest \$1.2 million into the property.

Sewer Authority: Absent.

Items for Consideration:

Mr. Lloyd moved, seconded by Mr. Inglis to ratify the payment of bills for the period from December 8, 2012 through January 4, 2013 in the amount of \$180,412.68 and approve the payroll in the amount of \$253,983.46 the same period per the following breakdown:

Administration/Council/Mayor/Bldgs	\$ 12,587.63
Police/Code/Dispatch/Sch Grds	\$159,737.30
Sanitation	\$ 8,124.09
Public Works	\$ 55,485.45
Social Security/Medicare	\$ 18,048.99

Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Inglis moved, seconded by Mr. Votedian to enact Ordinance 1559 fixing the tax rate for the year 2013 at a rate of 10.75 mills. The Solicitor then held a public hearing on Ordinance 1559. Hearing no public comments, the public hearing was closed. Mr. Lloyd – YES; Mr. Inglis – YES; Mr. Shields – YES; Mr. Votedian – YES; Mr. Falce – YES. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Shields moved, seconded by Mr. Votedian to adopt the Munhall Borough General Fund operating budget for the year 2013 in the amount of \$7,177,865.00. Mr. Lloyd commented and said, "Our workers comp went up \$100,000 and we just said OK. There are tools we should be using to get workers comp costs under control. We have no back to work, no light duty, nothing. I don't know why we won't do more to get these costs under control." Mr. Votedian agreed we need to do something to get folks back to work more quickly. Mr. Billy said he would like to sit down with Mr. Lloyd and Mr. Votedian and have a discussion on how we can get them back to work. "That officer that was off for a year, he should have come in and done the dispatching duty," said Mr. Lloyd. Mr.

**Borough of Munhall
Regular Council Meeting
Minutes of Council
January 16, 2013**

Shields stated that he felt this is the last year we should finance our own 911 system. The Mayor noted that he was personally opposed to light duty. "What should I have them do? Sit upstairs and count paperclips," he asked. Ms. Maier noted that Excalibur, our current worker's compensation provider said they would be happy to come in and help set up jobs and programs to get light duty instituted. "I am opposed to light duty," said the Mayor. Mr. Lloyd – NO; Mr. Inglis – YES; Mr. Shields – YES; Mr. Votedian – NO; Mr. Falce – YES. Motion carried.

Mr. Votedian moved, seconded by Mr. Lloyd to authorize the Borough Manager to make the necessary line item changes, encumbrances and fund transfers adjusting both revenues and expenditures in order to close the 2012 General Fund operating budget. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Lloyd moved, seconded by Mr. Inglis to adopt Ordinance 1560 amending the Zoning Ordinance by providing for a special exception in the B-1 district for use as a kennel. The Solicitor then held a public hearing on Ordinance 1560. Matt Bovee, a member of the public commented and asked Council to vote no on this issue because he felt we were making a change because of one property owner. He said, "In this instance, we are talking about 1 property that we are willing to change the ordinance for and it seems unreasonable. It is adjacent to an R-1 district and it seems like in this case and this use, it is already non-conforming. It seems like a good opportunity to eliminate this issue and make them fine a property in a general services district." Mr. Votedian asked, "Why would you want to stop a business from coming into the area?" Mr. Evashavik interjected that this is typically how this happens. Someone has to approach us. "We don't just change ordinances for the sake of making changes," he said. Mr. Falce said, "I want to be business friendly." Mr. Lloyd noted that he was not under any pressure to vote a certain way because someone bought a piece of property. Matt Pisarcik noted, "As a resident, I like being business friendly too but we also need to be resident friendly. If this business drives out residents, it is counter-intuitive. If it is at the expense of our residents, it is bad." Mr. Shields stated, "Planning, Zoning and Council has an obligation to protect residents." Another member of the public, Kathy Ligaris noted that she was sure there were other regulations for how the animals were caged, etc. The Solicitor then concluded the public hearing. Mr. Lloyd – NO; Mr. Inglis – YES; Mr. Shields – NO; Mr. Votedian – YES; Mr. Falce – YES. Motion carried.

Other Items:

None.

Mr. Lloyd moved, seconded by Mr. Inglis to adjourn. Motion carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 7:59 PM.