

**Borough of Munhall**  
**Virtual - Regular Council Meeting Minutes**  
**Wednesday, April 15, 2020**  
**Regular Meeting 7:00 P.M.**

I. **Call to Order** – Based on Governor Wolfe's Disaster Proclamation, this meeting was conducted via Zoom Cloud Meeting ID: 247 082 937 Password: 777443

. – President Inglis called the meeting to order.

President Inglis called for a moment of silence for victims of Covid19 including the two local Police Chiefs.

President Inglis made a statement regarding the Sunshine Act requirements under a State of Emergency.

**Roll Call: Councilman Falce; Councilman Fallon; Councilman Ondo; Councilman Petruzzi; Councilman Stein; Vice President Votedian; President Inglis – All present**

President Inglis advised there would be no managers reports but stated that Mayor Brennan would like to speak.

Mayor Brennan questioned Council's decision to vote on items he feels are not emergency items nor necessary to address during the State of Emergency. Solicitor Evashavik addressed Mayor Brennan's concerns and assured everyone that the items being addressed are appropriate and can be addressed during the meeting format. He also mentioned to Council that they can also consider extending the discount and face period for real estate taxes. He did not suggest that they do it but is merely advising that the option is there.

Solicitor Evashavik discussed the new federal laws regarding family medical leave.

Added - Motion to enact the Family First Coronavirus Response Act policy.

**Motion: Vice President Votedian, Second: Councilman Petruzzi, Vote: Unanimous**

Manager Varhola addressed the Cares Act Funding and advised the Borough does not qualify. He also advised of real estate taxes collected to date. He advised that Paul Fisher and Jim Cerqua have provided masks and disinfectant as donations to the Borough. He then advised of a GEDTF grant application for \$500,000 for site improvement but a resolution needs to be passed. Councilman Falce asked if

there are matching funds and there are not. Councilman Fallon asked if the funds can be used for anything else and both Mr. Varhola and Engineer Lampark advised it cannot.

Added - Motion to approve the \$500,000.00 GEDTF grant application.

**Motion: Councilman Petruzzi, Second: Councilman Stein, Vote: Unanimous**

Councilman Stein gave a finance report stating total March revenue was \$472,673.62 and the total expenditures of \$496,561.48. He advised the revenue should continue to increase as we approach tax season. He discussed the key balances, the amount of expenditures for the Willis Center and that this amount has been repaid to the general fund through the bond issuance for the building. Councilman Stein discussed his personal reasons for support in moving forward with Motion 4. He advised of the health concerns for the employees and residents that enter the current building and the financial reasons for making sure the bond is paid on time. He discussed the current Covid crisis and possible savings to the Borough on construction costs. He also reminded Council that this is a solicitation of bids which they are under no obligation to accept.

**II. Public Comments on Items for Consideration** – Questions were submitted prior to the meeting via email to the Borough Secretary. They will be addressed by Borough Manager Joseph Varhola. – Becki Wirth read the question submitted by resident Maureen Fry. Mrs. Fry asked why Council is anxious to get bids for 1860 West Street during a national disaster. President Inglis advised they are not anxious to get the bids. He advised it is just the next step in the process to move forward with the new building and the funds have already been secured. He feels because many contractors are sitting idle during the pandemic, the Borough will be able to secure competitive bids.

Mayor Brennan advised he agrees that the condition of the current building is inexcusable and that the repair of the roof at the entrance could be repaired in 4 hours. He feels it should be addressed this week. He then asked to be shown the mold in the building as he does not see it. He stated the building is filthy and the Police Station needs cleaned properly but feels this is no reason to move into a new building. He advised, if the building is as is being said, we should have a Labor and Industry report that can be read. He also said because he works in the field, he knows the construction industry has a back up of jobs and does not feel we will necessarily get lower bids because of the pandemic.

President Inglis asked Dave Cannon to reach out to his contacts to come in and check the current building. Solicitor Evashavik advised they may not be able to get anyone out because of the stay at home order.

Solicitor Evashavik wanted to advise Council that the Borough can exclude healthcare workers and emergency responders from the mandatory approval 2 weeks paid leave under the FFCVA or EFCVA law (family leave law). He advised he wrote the policy to include them, but Council does have the right to exclude them if they wish. Joe Varhola

advised he sent this information out to everyone the day before and only received one response and that person wanted to be sure to be all inclusive. Councilman Falce advised he would like to see all the employees included. Solicitor Evashavik stated he has sent out information regarding the Health Department requirements regarding cleaning and preventative equipment that needs to be provided. Joe advised of the changes coming to the administration office.

### III. Items for consideration:

1. Motion to approve Memorandum of Understanding for Resource Officers as reviewed by Chief Campbell and Mayor Brennan.

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

2. Motion to authorize Borough Manager to pay expenses requested for DEP Recycling Grant monies.

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

**Expenses requested:**

Peterbilt 337 Chassis Packer	\$ 84,550.00
HEIL Rear Loader	\$ 67,250.00
Intimidator Brush Bandit	\$ 53,311.63
Containers	<u>\$ 27,257.37</u>
	\$232,369.00

3. Motion to approve Resolution 2020-1 approving Commercial Hauling Fee Structure.

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

Size	Cost**	Additional Days**
Cans	\$40.00	Not Applicable
400 LBS - 2 Cubic Yard	\$60.00	\$40.00
1200 LBS - 4 Cubic Yard	\$75.00	\$50.00
1800 LBS - 6 Cubic Yard	\$100.00	\$70.00

\*Building Materials will be picked up with a \$150.00 Monthly Surcharge

\*\*Includes 1 (one) pick up per week

\*\*\* Assessed 1 (one) time only

4. Motion to authorize Hatch Engineering to begin construction bid process for 1860 West Street.

**Motion: Councilman Petruzzi; Second: Vice President Votedian;**

**Roll Call Vote:**

**Councilman Falce – No –** He commented that his vote is no because of Covid19 and what the unemployment will be not only in Munhall but over the country.

**Councilman Fallon – No**  
**Councilman Ondo – No**  
**Councilman Petruzzi – Yes**  
**Councilman Stein – Yes**  
**Vice President Votedian – Yes**  
**President Inglis – Yes**

Mayor Brennan commented that he would be challenging the vote as he feels Councilman Petruzzi should not be voting on the issue as he is an employee of the Borough and he feels he doesn't have the right to vote on buildings, property further employee votes. He is formally challenging the vote and wanted to make sure the challenge is stated in the minutes. He is challenging Mr. Petruzzi's vote on the issue.

Councilman Ondo agreed with Mayor Brennan.

President Inglis called for Solicitor Evashavik to comment. Solicitor Evashavik advised that this issue has been raised several times and, in his opinion, legally, he has the right and the authority to vote on this motion and all of the other motions and matters he has voted on. He understands there is a difference of opinion between the Mayor and some of Council, but he has ruled, and it has been and is his opinion that it is appropriate for him to vote.

5. Motion to approve a handicapped space at 626 E 9<sup>th</sup> Ave as approved by Sergeant Williams and Chief Campbell.

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

6. Motion to pay bills for the period March 17<sup>th</sup> through April 14<sup>th</sup>, 2020 summarized as follows:

Administration	\$ 41,445.13
Police:	\$ 59,171.84
Fire:	\$ 24,330.96
Health & Sanitation:	\$ 35,308.17
Public Works:	\$ 74,065.86
Recreation:	\$ 11,117.29
Miscellaneous:	<u>\$ 134,576.77</u>
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>\$ 380,016.02</b>

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

Councilman Ondo questioned the recreation amount. Manager Varhola advised the field conditioning and he will look into what the rest of it is. Councilman Stein advised it was all under field expenses. Becki Wirth advised the majority was \$5600 under field conditioning. President Inglis advised that amount

should be split up between the Borough and Steel Valley. Becki advised of the breakdown of the field expenses.

7. Motion to approve Payroll for the period of March 5th and 19th 2020.

2020: March 5	\$ 138,589.12
2020: March 19	\$ 137,400.16
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>\$ 275,989.28</b>

**Motion: Councilman Falce; Second: Councilman Stein; Vote: Unanimous**

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

Councilman Ondo advised he agreed with Mayor Brennan on his comments for Motion 4. He advised he feels the comments by Councilman Stein and President Inglis are personal opinions. He also commented on the entrance ceiling condition and Councils decision to vote on the motion. President Inglis advised they are only advertising for bids. He advised he has a problem with Council jumping on a \$5 million dollar debit. Councilman Stein advised the debit is already there. Councilman Ondo said he feels they can sell the building and return the money we have and pay back what has been spent. Councilman Stein advised this makes the money spent to date a total waste. Councilman Ondo said if they put it up for sale, they can try to recoup the money that was spent. Councilman Stein reminded Councilman Ondo that there was a discussion with Engineer Colin Lampark, and he stated for them to turn around and resell the building would not be in the Boroughs favor. Councilman Ondo said that is the engineer's opinion. He then asked if anyone thought of putting a sale sign on the building to see if there would be a "bite". He feels that there may not be because of people being out of work but the Borough is willing to invest a fortune into it. Mayor Brennan then advised these are all personal opinions.

**IV. Adjournment:**

Motion to adjourn.

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

  
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Harvey Inglis – President

