

Borough of Munhall
Virtual - Council Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, May 20, 2020
7:00 P.M.

I. Call to Order – Based on Governor Wolfe’s Disaster Proclamation, this meeting was conducted via Zoom Cloud Meeting ID: 852 6875 5174 Password: 507843 - President Inglis opened the meeting.

President Inglis called for a moment of silence for Mayor Ray Bodnar.

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

President Inglis asked that all questions or comments regarding items for consideration be addressed before the vote and not after. He then advised Becki Wirth that he wanted a roll call vote on the first five items with the possibility of an additional item.

Mayor Brennan asked what Motion 1 was and Manager Joe Varhola and Solicitor Evashavik explained that it is an update for the non-uniform (including administration) pension plan. Mayor Brennan asked if Council is up to date on the explanation of the ordinance and ready to vote on it. Manager Varhola advised all of Council and the Mayor were given this information prior to the meeting. Mayor Brennan asked when it was sent out and that he did not see an email about it. Joe advised he will find the information as to when it went out. Mayor Brennan advised he feels there should be a workshop to discuss items like this. He advised he believes the ordinances should be read aloud when being voted on. There was a discussion about when it was sent out to Council and the Mayor. Councilman Falce advised he trust the information that has been recommended by Mockenhaupt. Solicitor Evashavik advised the entire ordinance but only a summary would need to be read. Councilman Ondo asked what the changes would be, and Mr. Evashavik explained nothing is changing but they are updating the plan to read the changes that have already taken place over the last seven years. He did explain the money purchase plan changes previously approved by plan. Mayor Brennan then questioned the public's opportunity to question the motion and Mr. Evashavik advised they were privy to the agenda prior to the meeting and given an opportunity to submit questions to the administration office prior to the meeting. Mayor Brennan asked when the agenda was posted, and Becki Wirth advised Monday. Vice President Votedian asked if the ordinance should have been posted. Councilman Ondo questioned if the public should have known about the ordinance. President Inglis advised the information has been known for seven years.

Mayor Brennan then asked what the agreement, for Motion 2 entails. Manager Varhola explained the agreement negotiation process and Solicitor Evashavik' satisfaction with the agreement. Mayor Brennan asked what the amount is that the Borough will receive. Solicitor Evashavik advised 5% fee. He advised this is the maximum we can receive.

Mayor Brennan asked about Motion 3. He asked what is included in the \$3900.00. Becki Wirth explained the service that will be available. She explained the process and that they will probably start with invoicing and move on to employee files. She clarified the unlimited storage and service.

Mayor Brennan asked about Motion 4. Manager Varhola explained the expenses used prior to the bond issue and now we can transfer those amounts. He advised \$30,000 is for TKA Architects, \$43,072.50 for Engineering, \$302.30 for legal expenses for the stenographer that came for the ordinance in November and the construction cost (Global Inspections) of \$12,750.00. All totaling \$47,424.80.

Mayor Brennan said he is glad they are voting to support MAPS.

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.

III. Items for consideration:

1. Motion to approve Ordinance 1601 an ordinance of the Borough of Munhall relative to the establishment and maintenance of Borough employee pensions, annuity, insurance and benefit fund or funds, to amend certain provisions of the pension plan or programs applicable to the employees of said Borough and to restate in its entirety such pension plan or program.

Motion: Councilman Petruzzi; Second: Vice President Votedian.

Vote: Roll Call

Councilman Falce - Yes

Councilman Fallon - Yes

Councilman Ondo - Yes

Councilman Petruzzi - Yes

Councilman Stein - Yes

Vice President Votedian - Yes

President Inglis - Yes

2. Motion to approve Resolution 2020-2 of the Borough of Munhall authorizing execution of a cable franchise agreement the Borough and Comcast of Colorado/Pennsylvania/West Virginia, LLC.

Motion: Councilman Stein; Second: Councilman Falce.

Vote: Roll Call

**Councilman Falce - Yes
Councilman Fallon - Yes
Councilman Ondo - Yes
Councilman Petruzzi - Yes
Councilman Stein - Yes
Vice President Votedian - Yes
President Inglis - Yes**

3. Motion to approve the agreement between the Borough and Ford Business Machines, Inc., in the amount of \$3900 per year to digitize Borough documents.
Motion: Councilman Falce; Second: Vice President Votedian

Vote: Roll Call

**Councilman Falce - Yes
Councilman Fallon - Yes
Councilman Ondo - Yes
Councilman Petruzzi - Yes
Councilman Stein - Yes
Vice President Votedian - Yes
President Inglis - Yes**

4. Motion to authorize the transfer of funds, in the amount of \$47,424.80, from the Municipal Building Capital Fund to the General Fund.
Motion: Councilman Stein; Second: Vice President Votedian.

Vote: Roll Call

**Councilman Falce - Yes
Councilman Fallon - Yes
Councilman Ondo - Yes
Councilman Petruzzi - Yes
Councilman Stein - Yes
Vice President Votedian - Yes
President Inglis - Yes**

5. Motion to approve payment to MAPS in the amount of \$7500.
Motion: Councilman Petruzzi; Second: Councilman Ondo.

Vote: Roll Call

**Councilman Falce - Yes
Councilman Fallon - Yes**

Councilman Ondo - Yes
Councilman Petruzzi - Yes
Councilman Stein - Yes
Vice President Votedian - Yes
President Inglis - Yes

6. Motion to pay bills for the period April 15th through May 18th, 2020 summarized as follows:

Administration	\$ 26,115.36
Police:	\$ 74,567.36
Fire:	\$ 28,362.58
Health & Sanitation:	\$ 43,297.83
Public Works:	\$ 59,735.25
Recreation:	\$ 2,042.10
Miscellaneous:	<u>\$ 73,284.45</u>
TOTAL:	\$ 307,404.93

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

7. Motion to approve Payroll for the period of April 30th and May 14th, 2020.

2020: April 30 th	\$ 126,283.15
2020: May 14 th	<u>\$ 138,543.84</u>
TOTAL:	\$ 264,826.99

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

Added – Motion, by President Inglis, to rename the access road beside Westfield to Ray Bodnar Way.

Motion: Councilman Petruzzi; Second: Councilman Falce;

Question on Motion: Councilman Ondo clarified the road location. Councilman Fallon advised they should put more thought into it and maybe rename one of the parks. Mayor Brennan suggested renaming Westfield to Raymond Bodnar field and President Inglis advised it is already named after someone. Mayor Brennan then suggested Trautman field be renamed Ray Bodnar field. Councilman Fallon suggested they think about it before making any decisions. President Inglis called for a roll call vote.

Vote: Roll Call

Councilman Falce - Yes
Councilman Fallon - Yes
Councilman Ondo - Yes
Councilman Petruzzi - Yes

Councilman Stein - Yes
Vice President Votedian - Yes
President Inglis – Yes

Councilman Ondo clarified the process and Manager Varhola advised it must be process through the county.

Councilman Stein advised Manager Varhola, Chief Campbell and Supervisor Bicsey are doing a great job controlling expenses during the pandemic. He reviewed year over year expenses and expense cuts. He thanked them for the work they are been doing.

Mayor Brennan suggested a moment to remember Memorial Day. He then asked Council to extend the penalty deadline for taxes. Councilman Ondo agreed. He asked about the bid spec sheet for TKA and the explanation of the bid process. Mayor Brennan expressed the concerns about voting. He also asked Council to have workshops in the summer. He asked about Code Red and where we are with the program. He stated the public attending the virtual meeting should have an opportunity to speak at the end of the meeting. He thanked Council for the paving job on Main Street.

Councilman Falce asked Solicitor Evashavik about extending the penalty deadline. He clarified the current discount deadline is May 31st. Beginning June 1st the taxes are at face amounts. Mr. Evashavik advised of the current legislature is allowing Council to extend the discount period to July 31st and from August 1st through December 31st can be at face. This is for this year only. Councilman Falce advised there are residents hurting. Manager Varhola advised the Borough is \$150,000.00 ahead of schedule from last year.

Added – Motion to extend the discount period deadline from May 31st to July 31st.

Motion: Councilman Falce; Second: Councilman Ondo

Question on Motion: Councilman Fallon clarifying the motion. Solicitor Evashavik clarified. There were several discussions clarifying and Solicitor clarified again that the motion is being amended. Councilman Falce advised he is motioning to eliminate the penalty period all together. Manager Varhola asked that they be aware of the ramifications of the decision to move deadlines and eliminate periods. He voiced his concerns about residents not paying until December and there being no funds to run the Borough through those months. Councilman Falce advised now that Manager Varhola voiced his concerns, and he believes they should extend the discount period until July 31st, 2020. Councilman Ondo clarified and Mayor Brennan advised they should extend the face period as well. Solicitor Evashavik advised the residents who wanted to take advantage of the discount period have already done so. Councilman Falce advised he thought he was motioning to extend both the discount period and the penalty period. President Inglis explained it would be better if they extend

the face period and leave the discount period alone. He said helping extend the face period would help the residents not have to pay the penalty for two additional months. Councilman Falce amended his motion to the following:

Amended: Motion to extend the face amount period from August 31st to October 31st, 2020.

Motion: Councilman Falce; Second: Councilman

Comment on motion: Mayor Brennan said they should extend the discount and the face time. Councilman Ondo asked Mayor Brennan to clarify his thoughts. President Inglis asked Councilman Falce to clarify what his motion is and Councilman Falce stated he believes what Mayor Brennan and Councilman Ondo are stating are his thoughts and original motion to extend the discount period to July 31st and extend the face period to October 31st. Councilman Fallon asked if it would be reasonable to extend the discount one month and reexamine everything again at the June meeting. President Inglis asked Solicitor Evashavik if that is an option and he agreed it is. He advised again that the maximum they can extend the discount period is July 31st and the maximum they can extend the face amount is December 31st (eliminating the penalty period). Councilman Falce and Councilman Fallon discussed the possibilities of checking the percentages of discounts paid over the next month and deciding if they want to extend it depending on those payments. President Inglis suggested they extend it one month and see where they are at the June meeting. Manager Varhola advised notices would need to be sent out. Councilman Falce asked Solicitor Evashavik what other boroughs or towns are doing. Mr. Evashavik advised it must be done by resolution. He advised although he would need to draw up the resolution, they can act on it tonight. He advised the resolution would need to be signed by the President and the Borough Manager and be delivered to the Tax Collector. The Tax Collector would then need to notify the public of the change. He stated there may be issues with the Tax Collector receiving the wrong amounts and having to issue refunds. He advised they would not need to send out new bills, but it should be posted on the website and notifying the public to the best of the tax collectors' ability. President Inglis asked Councilman Falce to clarify his motion. Councilman Ondo stated there are people out there suffering. Councilman Falce said he likes the two-month extension of the discount and the remaining time at face. Manager Varhola contacted Donna Mercuri who said she hopes they do not make these changes as most of the residents have already paid. There were more discussions about what changes might be made. Mayor Brennan asked if Council cares about their residents. Councilman Fallon explained the problems it would cause and that we should listen to the Tax Collector. Mayor Brennan disagreed and said the residents would appreciate the 2% in their pockets. Councilman Stein asked Manager Varhola what the revenue from real estate taxes are and he advised roughly \$3.5 million dollars. Councilman Stein figured the 2% discount at \$70,000 and divided it up by the 4000 households making the 2% amount, per household, around \$20.00. He advised it would cost the Borough around that to send out the changes.

Manager Varhola said he spoke to other areas and they are extending the face period. Councilman Fallon said they can make the decision to extend the face period at the June meeting. Vice President Votedian stated they should leave it as is for now and address it at the June meeting. President Inglis stated they can address it at the workshop in June. Councilman Ondo asked for clarification from Councilman Falce as it is his motion. Councilman Falce advised he liked his motion to extend both the discount and face periods, but he feels it would not pass. He then advised he would like to extend the discount period for one month and then talk about it again at the June meeting. He changed his motion as follows:

Added – Motion to extend the real estate tax discount period until June 30th, 2020.

Motion: Councilman Falce; Second: No Second

President Inglis asked if Councilman Ondo still seconds and he said no. He explained that he feels the discount should be delayed until July 31st and extend the face period until December 31st, 2020. President Inglis advised he needs to address Councilman Falce's motion first and he asked for a second. There was not a second. President Inglis asked Councilman Ondo if he had a new motion and he said no. He then changed his mind and motioned as follows:

Added – Motion to extend the real estate tax discount period for until July 31st and extend the face period to December 31st, 2020.

Motion: Councilman Ondo; Second: No Second

Comment on the motion: Solicitor Evashavik clarified the motion. Councilman Stein stated there is no incentive to pay before the end of the year and that may cause layoffs. Councilman Ondo stated that would go back to us spending money where we should not have, and we would not have this problem. President Inglis called for a second on the motion and there was not a second.

President Inglis advised the real estate taxes will stay as they are.

Councilman Ondo advised he agrees they should have workshop meetings. He also has a problem that there was a vote to send the architectural rendering out for bid and he did not see it. Manager Varhola explained the process and that the finished project is not done. Engineer Colin Lampark explained his call with Greg and the legal review and that it will need to go to the Borough insurance company and then back to Greg for the final legal review. Councilman Ondo asked who saw the plans being sent out for bid. Manager Varhola advised they are not done yet but asked Colin if he can make sure the final plans are sent out to Council. Colin advised he would and clarified what Councilman Ondo is asking for. Councilman Ondo asked how they could vote last month to advertise the bids when no one has seen the changes since the February meeting. Colin advised that very little has changed since the February meeting, but he will make sure everyone has the changes. Councilman Ondo feels the vote from April was rushed. Mayor Brennan said he does not understand when

engineers are architects are closed and that he feels the vote was rushed. Colin advised he has been working remotely. Councilman Ondo asked to go on record stating he feels the vote in April was rushed through and there was no reason being the building has been sitting there. He has concerns that the vote went through to solicit for bids on the building. He is concerned we have already spent over a million dollars on the building and we are concerned about real estate tax breaks for the people. He feels, in his opinion, it was an opportune time to bring a vote to solicit bids during a virtual meeting when there was not a workshop meeting to discuss it. Mayor Brennan agreed with him. Mayor Brennan stated an RFP is a request for bids. He said the work is not even done and they are asking for bids. Councilman Ondo also commented on the entrance to the current building. He feels a contractor should fix it. He states he was also embarrassed about the state of the monument. Vice President Votedian agreed. He feels all the monuments should be kept up to honor the men and women veterans.

Councilman Falce asked that the fence at Trautman field be raised. Dave Cannon advised a 24 ft foot fence will be added.

Mayor Brennan asked if the Borough will be using Code Red. Manager Varhola advised it is on the website.

Councilman Ondo asked about future workshops in person instead of virtual meetings. There were discussions about it and Solicitor Evashavik advised at present time in the yellow phase, you must have it in a place where people can be 6 ft apart with masks. The public cannot be restricted from attending so the Borough building would not be a place to hold the meeting. Becki asked if there is an issue with the virtual meeting. She tried to explain that they can if they submit questions ahead of time and Mayor Brennan advised they can not speak. Vice President Votedian advised it is not Councils fault that there is a pandemic. Mayor Brennan agreed but advised Council could allow them to speak. President Inglis advised they can submit questions. Mayor Brennan advised that is not allowing someone to speak. He feels they should be able to speak at the beginning and end of the meeting.

Other/Additional Matter(s):

IV. Adjournment:

Motion: Councilman Petruzzi; Second: Councilman Stein; Vote: 6 yes and 1 no from Councilman Ondo.



Harvey Inglis - President