

Borough Of Munhall
Regular Council Meeting
Minutes of Council
July 17, 2013

The Regular Meeting of the Munhall Borough Council was held on July 17, 2013 in Council Chambers, Munhall Borough Bulding, 1900 West Street, Munhall, PA 15120. This meeting was convened at 7:20 PM, with Council President Joe Ballas presiding.

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

The roll was taken and the following people were present:

Joe Ballas, President
Robert Falce, Vice President
Richard Votedian, President Pro-tem
Dan Lloyd, Councilman
Harvey Inglis, Councilman
Dana Ditillo, Councilwoman

Absent:

Bernie Shields, Councilman

Also In attendance for the meeting were:

Raymond Bodnar, Mayor
Timoth Little, Interim Borough Manager
John Leiendecker, Borough Clerk
Joe Cibula, Acting Police Chief
Ed Pletch, Fire Chief
Greg Evashavik, Borough Solicitor
Linsey Jewart, Engineer
Larry Billy, Public Works

Preliminary Anouncements:

An Executive session was held on 6/25/13 for an interview with the Interim Borough Manager Timothy J. Little

Rob Falce had a Preliminary announcement about the involvement of Jefferson Regional Medical Center being involved in our Community Days. As a result Rosie Saunders spoke for a short time about being involved and what they would be doing at the fair.

Speakers:

Ray Khondis (Marigold street), was not pleased with the way our code enforcement officer told him that he needed to get a permit for building onto his house. He stated

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that he wasn't doing anything serious enough to warrant a building permit. Even though absent, Dave Cannon, Building Inspector, had pictures for council of the newly enclosed back porch.

Bryan Davis of 116 Union Street, spoke about proposing a motion, to make a committee to rename either a park around the area or a road, if possible, after Mayor Raymond Bodnar.

Petitions/Public Comments on Agenda Items:

Donna Dreshmen commented on Agenda Items 3,4,5,6 & 7. More so on the paving project. She wanted to know who the borough had selected through the bidding process. What type of retainer fee we or the engineer was going to keep to ensure that the job was done properly. She also asked how we came in contact with Interim Borough Manager Timothy J. Little. President Ballas responded that he has known of Tim both personally and in business for quite some time. She also asked about the rate at which Office Assistant John Leindecker was to be paid. The council replied that they would discuss that in an executive session. Ms. Dreshman also commented on the Auditing Firm that the Borough had chosen as a Financial Consultant and asked if it was the same one that charged us a lot of money the last time. Agreeing with her that the cost was high, the Council explained that they were very familiar with how our system was set up and that they were our best option.

Mrs. Peggy Vakerak commented on item 5, the motion to change office hours of the Borough from 8:00am-4:00pm to 8:00am-5:00pm and proposed that we advertise it to get the message out to the community.

Rich Votedian said that it would be a good idea to advertise the change in office hours, and that we could possibly do it on our website.

The council then decided to hold off on any permanent decisions till they could get a good idea/understanding of what and or who it is they need to help the office run better.

Mr. Davis suggested that we use Larry Rettgers Facebook Page (Munhall News Watch) as a possible location to advertise for both the hiring of a new Borough Manager as well as part time/ temporary assistant..

Mr. Bobbish questioned the engineer, Ms. Jewart, about the liability bond held by Chester Engineers for Folino Construction, who is involved with the paving. Ms. Jewart replied stating "that at first the bond is 10% of the final amount until most of the work is done, in which case it is reduced to 5% when the work is completed and the walkthroughs begin.

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Mr. Jim Bartka commented on agenda item 7, Paving of Andrew and East Eugene, asking where along Andrew Street would be paved. To which Ms. Jewart replied, from 12th avenue up to 18th Avenue. Mr. Bartka then spoke about other streets in greater need and questioned an alley that was paved behind Louise Street. Mr. Votedian commented that the streets in lower Munhall are just as important as the streets in upper Munhall, and that now that the alley had been paved he had noticed a lot more traffic on it. Mr. Bartka commented it was about the quality of Munhall and nothing more

Reports from Borough Officials:

Mayor: Spoke about implementing a fingerprinting fee for work or legal reasons for all those (non children) who wish to have their fingerprints taken. The Mayor as well as the Chief both agreed that we are about the only community around who doesn't charge. The Mayor also commented on the article in the Daily News about the Lifesaver Program that Officer Williams and Officer Boehme have both started. It's a program that offers elderly or anyone in need of assistance or supervision, a bracelet with a GPS tracking system embedded inside of the bracelet. The Mayor also commented about the traffic study taking place at the intersection of Caroline and Center Avenue.

Solicitor: Mr. Evashavik commented on the Auditor General Pension Compliance Audit Report and recommended that the findings be sent to both Mockenhaupt and PNC. He also commented about the Auditor General and pension funds stating that we need to have this audit done as soon as possible to see what money went where.

Engineer: Ms. Jewart commented that 2013 Paving Project was to begin in September 2013, she also commented on the Ravine Street rehab project (bridges and roads). She also stated that she was to submit the CDBG year 40 pre-application, which was due the following Friday and had not yet been started. The process was usually handled by the Borough Manager, but due to certain circumstances she took the project on by herself.

Director Of Public Works: Mr. Billy directed a question towards the Borough Engineer, Ms. Jewart, about storm water issues that were submitted in June and he hadn't heard anything back about it. Mr. Billy then began to state that they should start planning for cost effective repairs and look for possible ways to collect the rain water, instead of it being directed out onto the street.

Mr.Lloyd said that they would need to "scope and plan the entire project".

Ms. Jewart was unsure of any type of cost or solutions she would look into it for details and specifics about the project.

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Mr. Bartka directed a question towards the Council Members and Mr. Billy. He passed around pictures of a tree in front of his residence that was hanging over the road way (Brierly Lane Ext). He asked if the borough would cut it down. Mr. Billy said that for liability reasons he didn't want to touch it. "There are power lines just above and around the top of the tree, not to mention the tree that were talking about is intertwined with another tree so both would have to be removed". He then questioned the property that the tree was on, using the Solicitors advice that he didn't want to touch it if it was on private property. Mr. Evashivik nodded in approval. Mr. Billy suggested Mr. Bartka get a survey done whether the tree in question was on public land, then he would handle it. President Ballas intervened and said "Just cut it down, make it easy and just take care of it." Mr. Billy replied "okay".

Mr. Bartka again brought up a matter pertaining to his property area. "There is a pool of water in the front of my neighbors driveway and there is no sewer there. Over the past couple years West Mifflin had been servicing the road and in the process covered the storm drain (that never actually led any where). By having West Mifflin service the road, they made the road higher than the brim of her driveway forcing the water to pond in her yard, and around her garage eventually flooding her basement and garage. Mr. Billy said that he would have to look into the ownership of the road to determine if it was in fact the Boroughs road to upkeep.

Mr. Lloyd asked Mr. Billy if there had been any updates on Beezacks Veterinarian clinic's sewer problem. Mr. Billy said that it was in the hands of the County and the last he heard, and that they were not able to put a camera down there.

Police Chief:

- Totaling 603 Calls, resulting in 40 adult arrests, and 3 juvenile with a total of 50 citations being issued. Mr. Cibula stated "they need to update their satellites to be able to communicate with the surrounding communities." Ed Pletch stated that the radio system is opening up more frequencies that can no longer be reached by the outdated receivers. Chief Cibula said, "if we want to be able to contact the other departments its something we need." It would be around \$12,000," he said, and was discussed with Mr. Galla previously.
- Mr. Cibula stated that the handicapped parking list he was ask to accumulate was done and in the written report he submitted to the council.
- Next he went on explaining that recently he had been dispatching a lot of officers to the local library for their concerts. He felt as though the library or artist should have to pay for an extra detail. Since during those concerts that's where the officers spend a majority of their time anyway, taking their attention from elsewhere.

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Mr. Lloyd mentioned that because one concert was overly packed, and required more than normal police presence doesn't mean that it should be a mandatory payment. He said "half the shows don't get the amount of people as the one that caused the commotion."

- Chief Cibula also asked if there was a way to make Dixon street a one way in the direction of Eight avenue. Mr. Evashavik stated that a simple resolution could solve that problem.
- Chief Cibula also brought up the idea of imposing fee for adult fingerprinting, stating that it takes up a lot of officers time, that could be spent on the job for the community. Mr. Falce commented that he thought they charged a fee at the county and that he would look into what that fee was for possible duplication.
- Chief Cibula also mentioned the hiring of four new part time dispatchers, although, ignorant to the fact that all employees that come into the Borough must be approved by the council. Mr. Evashavik commented that he needed all the information pertaining to the hiring of such dispatchers: date of hire, names and their pay rate, so that they could ratify it at the current meeting.
- He also noted that the Police department needed batteries for their hand-held radios, that are seven or eight years old and have never been replaced. The manufacturer recommends replacing the battery once every year or two depending on the amount of usage. He claimed that the radios usually die within two hours of their shift leaving them unable to communicate with the rest of the department outside of their car.
- Chief Cibula mentioned placing parking meters around the Library and Dixon Street; he said it would be a good way to generate money for the borough. Mr. Lloyd objected to this, stating that most people parking there are residential and shouldn't be asked to pay to park in or near their home. Also that parking meters shouldn't be used to make money, they should be used to control parking not bring in revenue, not to mention he said we barely have enough officers to police the meters we have.
- Chief Cibula then directed his attention towards Project Lifesaver, headed up by officer Williams. Mr. Cibula spoke about the civil service test that they needed to complete. Mr. Ballas said that he had spoke with a gentleman and would be contacting him after the meeting. Chief Cibula also asked when Officer Williams starts bringing in the money for this lifesaver event they will need an account for the money. Mr. Evashavik said that any funds regardless of what they are spent on must come through the council, no matter what.

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Fire Chief: 31 calls and he has handed in the written report however due to a couple of recent calls the hours listed in the report are wrong, He said it is close to triple what is shown in the report.

Sewer Authority: Absent

Code Enforcement: Absent written report was handed in by Chief Cibula

Items For Consideration:

Mr. Lloyd moved, seconded by Mr. Inglis to ratify the payment of bills for the period of June 27th, 2013 through July 17th, 2013 in the amount of \$78,891.12 and the breakdown for payroll in the amount of \$106,421.16 for the same period

Admin/Council/Mayor/Bldgs/Tax	\$ 2,218.87
Police/Code/Dispatch/Sch Grds	\$70,797.42
Public Works	\$26,444.98
Social Security/ Medicare	\$ 6,959.89

Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Inglis moved, seconded by Ms. Ditillo to approve a concurring Resolution confirming the Borough`s application for a requested Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and will perform the requested duties specified by the Department of Economic Development and supply local matching funds. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Ditillo moved, seconded by Mr. Falce to approve a Slum and Blight Resolution for the Community Development Block Grant(CDBG). Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Falce moved, seconded by Mr. Votedian to ratify Timothy J. Little as the Interim Borough Manager/Secretary for the salary of \$60,000 Mon-Thurs from 8:00am – 5:00 pm as of June 21st, 2013. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Votedian moved, seconded by Mr. Lloyd to ratify John Leiendecker to a full time Office Clerk as of June 18th, 2013. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Lloyd moved, seconded by Mr. Inglis to extend the Borough Administrative office hours by one (1) hour from 8:00am-4:00 to 8:00am-5:00pm. Motion carried unanimously.

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Mr. Inglis moved, seconded by Ms. Ditillo to appoint Hosack, Specht, Muetzel and Wood as financial consultant for the Borough of Munhall to guide the Office Staff with compiling 2011 and 2012 financial information in preparation for audits for the respective years @ partner rate of \$125/hour and other rates pursuant to their July 15th, 2013 proposal. Motion carried, Mr. Lloyd voted no

Ms. Ditillo moved, seconded by Mr. Falce to approve the 2013 Paving Contract to Folino Paving for the lump sum price of \$176,690.43 for the paving of East Eugene Street (\$65,367.44) and Andrew Street (\$111,329.99). Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Lloyd moved, seconded by Mr. Inglis for Carol Harris Staffing, LLC to supply a temporary office employee @ \$17.60/hour, and or a Steel Valley COG intern for \$11.60/hour at the discretion of the manager, not to exceed 32 hours per week. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Ditillo moved, seconded by Mr. Falce to ratify the hiring of the following dispatchers on a part time basis to be used as needed @ the rate of \$14.35/hour with no benefits.

Megan Kadish
Michael Kunsu
April Pendzich
Tiffany Dixon

Motion carried, My. Lloyd and Mr. Inglis both voted no.

Mr. Lloyd moved, seconded by Mr. Inglis to forward a copy of the Audit Report for the period of Jan 1st, 2009 up to Dec 31st, 2011 to auditors Mockenhaus & Associates as well as PNC Bank for the purpose in order to get our records in compliance with act 600, and the Auditor Generals Office. Motion carried unanimously.

Other Items: Larry Rettger commented about the part time dispatchers that were ratified at the meeting, He asked if they had passed background checks as well as criminal history reviews. Chief Cibula replied "yes they had".

Bryan Davis questioned the Council on why they didn't hire a Interim Manager from Munhall. "In fact" he stated "you only interviewed one person." Mr. Davis claimed that he had offered his help to answer the phones in the borough, and no one ever took him up on his offer. Mr. Davis was adamant that the Borough or Council hadn't searched thoroughly enough, even going

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as far as saying that a former employee volunteered and was turned down, her name was Kim Kubancek.

Mr. Lloyd interupped Mr. Davis stating that yes we only interviewed one person, but had been in contact with several possible candidates, Council felt Timothy Little would be the best fit for the current circumstances.

My. Lloyd brought up a matter, but He thought might be better to talk about in an executive meeting, he stated that he wanted the public to know about a matter regarding receiving T.I.F funds back. Mr. Evashavik concurred with Mr. Lloyd`s statement, claiming it be an accurate description on the matter.

Mr. Falce mentioned Community Days, He gave information on the entire day including a detailed schedule of events planned for the day as well as the 5-kilometer race being held in Munhall in an effort to raise funds for the Community Days.

Mr. Votedian moved, seconded by Mr. Falce to adjourn the meeting at 9:39 pm. Motion carried unanimously

The Council then convened for an executive session lasting till 10:50 pm

Submitted By

Interim Borough Manager/ Secretary
-Timothy J. Little

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