

Borough of Munhall

Council Agenda Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, August 16, 2022

The August 16, 2022 meeting of the Munhall Borough Council was called to Order by Mr. Brennan at 7:00 pm in Council Chambers.

Mr. Abrams took the roll:

Present:

Richard Brennan, Council President  
Maureen Fry, Council Member  
William Hanna, Council Member  
Kevin Ondo, Council Vice President  
Richard Votedian, Council Member  
David Younkings, Council Member

Absent:

Jason Stein, Council Member

Others:

Seth Abrams, Borough Manager  
Robert Bicey, Public Works Supervisor  
David Cannon, BCO/Zoning/Code Enforcement  
Rob Falce, Mayor  
Tom Fullard, Police Chief  
Ed Pletsch, Fire Chief  
Joy Jacobs, Office Administrator  
Greg Evashavik, Solicitor  
Colin Lampark, Engineer

All recited the Pledge of Allegiance

Reports

**President's Report:** Mr. Brennan recognized the extreme damage to the residents flooded or who received damage from the storm on August 5, 2022.

**Mayor's Report:** Mr. Falce issued proclamations to Eagle Scouts David Packer for his project refurbishing the Veteran's Memorial at Longfellow Drive and to Nathan Collins for his work to create a dog park on Martha Street.

President Brennan requested to adjust the order of business to vote on the salary for the Assistant Chief of Police.

Mr. Younkings made a motion to approve the salary of \$105,255.00 per year with an effective date of August, 2, 2022. Mr. Votedian seconded the motion. No public comment was offered on the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Falce proceeded to swear in Jamie Caterino as the Assistant Chief of Police for the Munhall Police Department. Assistant Chief Caterino thanked his family and prior police chiefs for their help and guidance over the years. Caterino also thanked President Brennan for loaning him Assistant Chief Brennan's badge until the new one is delivered.

Mr. Falce then continued his report. Mayor Falce introduced Breanne Francis as a member of the High School Advisory Board to the Borough Council. Ms. Francis is also a member of SADD and has devoted over 250 hours of community service, for which she is being recognized at the statewide SADD conference.

Other items of note are that a Community Day is being planned for October 1, 2022.

**Solicitor's Report:** A Memorandum of Understanding was drafted and approved by the Police Union recognizing the Assistant Chief. Other documents were reviewed for the Borough Manager.

**Borough Manager's Report:** On file.

**Engineer's Report:** Mr. Lampark reported that the paving of Raymond Bodnar Way is scheduled to begin shortly after Labor Day. Mr. Lampark stressed that the conditions of the Borough are being reviewed after the extreme storm that dropped over 50 cubic feet of rain per second that overwhelmed the system.

**Public Works Report:** Mr. Bicsey reported that crews were called out on August 5<sup>th</sup> for the storm response, especially on Shady. The block of Shady that was torn up during the storm has already been replaced/paved. Other cleanup is ongoing.

**Police Report:** Chief Fullard reported on arrests.

**Fire Department Report:** Chief Pletsch reported that the department responded to 46 calls in July. Response remains solid at approximately 5 minutes from dispatch. President Brennan thanked the Department for their response and work on the night of August 5, 2022. Darry Hunt, the Borough's Emergency Management Coordinator was also thanked.

**Code Enforcement:** Mr. Cannon reported on his activities for the month. His report is on file. The Zoning Hearing Board will hold a hearing for a variance to construct a structure above a garage on August 25<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm.

**Finance Committee:** Mr. Hanna reported that there is a current forecast to run a \$100,000 surplus for the remainder of the year. The RAC-P grant for the Borough building is still awaiting final paperwork before the funds are released. Budget meetings will begin in September.

**Sewer Authority:** No report

**Motion to approve Meeting Minutes:** Mr. Ondo made a motion to accept the July 19, 2022 meeting minutes as presented. Mr. Younkins seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

**Public Comments:**

John Thomas, 318 Tioga St. Mr. Thomas has concerns about the maintenance of the private drive between Tioga St. and Mercer Ave. There are concerns that the catch basin at the end of the private drive has not been cleaned by the Borough. Mr. Dibasilio also commented regarding the understanding of easements for storm sewers. Mr. Brennan stated the Borough will check into the catch basin, but that the road is a private road and the responsibility of the property owners.

Debbie Shaffer, Trautman & Emerson, voiced concerns about the flooding and sewage backup that occurred in her home on August 5, 2022. It was stated that she has spoken with the Sewage Authority, and that being approved for a backflow preventer rebate is extremely difficult.

Jordan Crow, 3928 Shady Ave. Mr. Crow thanked the fire department for their assistance. Mr. Crow stated that Shady Ave. floods annually even when there is an inch of rain.

Bob Falcer, 4121 Shady Ave. Mr. Falcer voiced concerns about a broken sanitary sewage line. Mr. Falcer acknowledged that the County Health Department, who has authority over the situation is actively pursuing the property owner. Mr. Falcer stated that he believes there were no flooding issues until the gas company knocked down a concrete berm during a line replacement.

Wanda White, 4009 Shady Ave. asked for assistance due to water that comes down into her home from both Shady Ave and McKinley.

Melany Alliston, 172 Roberta Dr. Ms. Alliston stated she is an engineer with a specialty in drainage. She stated that her observations include seeing some grass growing in a catch basin – which could have been through a lack of cleaning or from residents throwing grass into the streets and basins. She also noted that the storm pipes are old.

**Business Items:**

Motion to approve the bills from July 12<sup>th</sup> to August 10<sup>th</sup>. Motion made by Mr. Ondo. Seconded by Mr. Hanna. Motion carried.

Motion to approve the payrolls for July 16<sup>th</sup> and July 20<sup>th</sup>. Motion made by Mr. Ondo and seconded by Mr. Younkens. Motion carried.

Motion to accept the proposal from Sports & Recreation Associates for the rehabilitation of the Vine Street Park and the Trautman St. playground, with an estimated total cost of \$428,435.00. Motion made by Mr. Hanna. Seconded by Mr. Younkens. Motion carried.

Approve the MOU with Steel Valley School District for the provision of School Resource Officer(s) for the 2022/2023 school year. Motion by Mr. Ondo. Second by Mr. Younkens. Motion Carried.

Approve the Transfer of property known as 285 W Schwab Ave, 180-K-7 to Peter Luck for the purpose of rehabilitation of a blighted structure in accordance with the Vacant Property Recovery Program. Motion by Ms. Fry. Second by Mr. Ondo. Motion carried.

Approve the appropriation of up to \$7,000.00 for the civil service exams and processing needed to hire new police officers for the Borough. Motion by Ondo. Seconded by Younkens. Motion carried.

Approve the appropriation of \$2,500.00 for the Annual Munhall Halloween Parade. Motion by Mr. Ondo. Second by Ms. Fry. Motion carried.

Approve the release of \$67,000.00 from the Fire Department budget to the Munhall Fire Truck fund. Motion by Ms. Fry. Second by Mr. Younkins. Motion carried.

Approve the appropriation of no more than \$7,000.00 to update the elevator to allow for a 3rd floor lockout and provide locking mechanisms on the unfinished areas of the second floor of the borough building. Motion by Mr. Hanna. Second by Ms. Fry. Motion carried.

Accept the winning bid for the property at 1850 West. St. by Dan Spanovich in the amount of \$275,100.00. Motion by Ms. Fry. Second by Mr. Ondo. Motion carried.

Approve the placement of disabled parking in front of 612 E 9th, upon the recommendation of the police department. Motion by Mr. Younkins. Second by Mr. Hanna. Motion carried.

Approve the placement of disabled parking in front of 4103 Harvey Ave., upon the recommendation of the police department. Motion by Mr. Ondo. Second by Mr. Younkins. Motion carried.

Approve the removal of disabled parking in front of 201 East Miller, upon the recommendation of the police department. Motion by Ms. Fry. Second by Mr. Younkins. Mr. Ondo asked why the sign was to be removed. Chief Fullard responded that the resident passed away. Motion carried.

Approve the hiring of Jason McMichael as a public works employee with salary and benefits, pursuant of the collective bargaining agreement, pending pre-employment background check and drug and alcohol testing employee effective 7/29/2022. Motion by Mr. Ondo. Second by Mr. Younkins. Mr. Votedian asked if more than one person was to be hired. Mr. Abrams explained that the actual needs based on staff needed to be evaluated before another hire could be made. Motion carried.

Approve the MOU between the Munhall Police Union and the Borough to recognize the Assistant Chief as a member outside of the bargaining unit. Motion by Mr. Votedian. Second by Mr. Younkins. Motion carried.

Comments by Council:

Ms. Fry requested additional information about the MOU between the Steel Valley School District and the Borough. Mr. Evashavik explained the law requiring the MOU. Chief Fullard explained the staffing.

**Adjournment:**

Mr. Votedian made a motion to adjourn to an executive session at 8:46 pm. Mr. Ondo seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

The executive session was held to discuss potential litigation.

Executive session and the full meeting adjourned at 9:35 PM

Respectfully submitted,

  
Seth Abrams  
Borough Manager