

Borough of Munhall
Council Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, May 17, 2023

The May 17, 2023 Government Days 3rd grade Council Meeting was called to order at 7:05 pm after the students were sworn into their respective offices.

All recited the Pledge of Allegiance

Department reports were read.

The meeting adjourned at 7:35 pm.

The May 17, 2023 meeting of the Munhall Borough Council was called to order by Mr. Brennan at 7:43 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 Younkens, Council Member

Absent:

Jason Stein, Council Member

Others:

Seth Abrams, Borough Manager
Greg Evashavik, Solicitor
Rob Falce, Mayor
Thomas Fullard, Chief of Police
Glenn Coles, Fire Chief
Ashely Reed, Engineer

Presentation:

Mayor Falce Presented Officers Ruffing and Miller with Letters of Commendation for their professionalism, bravery and commitment during a pursuit, and eventual arrest of a suspect on May 8, 2023.

Mayor Falce presented Sergeant Michael Seiss with a Letter of Commendation for his leadership, professionalism, and commitment during a pursuit, and eventual arrest of a suspect on May 8, 2023.

Reports

President's Report: President Brennan thanked all of the people who ran for office and those who voted.

Mayor's Report: Mayor Falce reported that he has received requests for crosswalks on West Run Road and West St. Mr. Brennan suggested that we could jointly approach the County for assistance, as both roads are County owned.

Memorial Day parade will begin at 9:30 sharp at Steel Valley High School. There are numerous vehicles that will be joining the parade. The parade will end at Homestead Cemetery and the ceremony will begin at 10:00 am. A reception will take place at Anne Ashley Church immediately afterwards.

Mr. Brennan asked when Steel Valley Youth Baseball will have their opening Day. Mayor Falce announced that opening day will be on May 21, 2022.

Brea announced the Middle School is having it's musical this weekend. There will also be a Community Day on the 20th. Mayor Falce will be in a dunk tank for the celebration of learning at Park School.

Mayor Falce announced that he plans to host another liaison from the high school as Brea prepares to leave for college.

Mrs. Fry reminded everyone that this Saturday the fire department will be hanging the veteran's banners. Any volunteers should meet up at Station #4 around 8:30 am.

Mr. Brennan stated that he attended the retirement event for Mr. Altman, who is retiring from the school district. Brea sang during that event, and Mr. Altman will be missed.

Solicitor's Report: The solicitor reported he did additional research and the PA Code §53 prohibits municipal regulation of unmanned aircraft.

Borough Engineer's Report: Ms. Reed's report is on file. The bid package is ready for the Main St. camera work on the storm sewers. Ms. Reed requested a motion to approve the advertising of the bid package. Motion by Mr. Votedian. Second by Younkins. Mr. Brennan asked for clarification on the scope. Ms. Reed and Mr. Abrams explained this is a 2019 PA Small Water & Sewer grant for \$200,000 with a \$38,000 match from the Borough. The scope will only include storm sewers. Vote: Unanimous. Motion carried.

The LSA grant, awarded at \$100,000 is awaiting the contract from the Commonwealth. A map was previously provided to show the proposed reduced scope of the grant. The focus will be on the area with the most foot traffic and to reduce the brickwork. The proposal is to install bioswale where the brick is currently located to reduce the stormwater runoff.

The CDBG grant is for \$20,000 for catch basins. Ms. Reed will work with DPW to determine the appropriate locations. The evaluation of West St. is awaiting more information. Ms. Reed will walk through herself before bringing in specialists. Council has asked to do the walkthrough with the Engineer. Mr. Hanna asked what the end goal of Council is regarding 1900 West. St. Mr. Brennan stated the goal is to repurpose that building.

Ms. Reed presented an initial cost proposal, of \$25,000 for the data collection by a LiDAR van and that a condition assessment be done at a cost of \$2,500. These are initial estimates and will need to be incorporated into a formal proposal. Mr. Abrams will work with Ms. Reed to provide the scope for the proposal to include an option for driving and rating the alley ways. Mrs. Fry asked if the cost for the study was in the budget. Mr. Abrams stated the funds would come out of the paving budget.

On May 4th, the engineer met with the manager, code enforcement and representatives of the school district to review storm shelter requirements. Ms. Reed explained the code requirements for the structure. Ms. Reed and Mr. Cannon are recommending that the shelter requirements remain in place.

The engineer did an initial visual assessment of the 3 vacant homes on the 1700 block of Martha St. The Manager would like to include these properties as a part of the County's Act 152 demolition grant application.

Mr. Abrams reported that he and Hatch are continuing to work with DCNR to complete the paperwork requirements prior to putting out the playground/park rehab for bid.

Sewer Authority Report: The Authority is working on its punch list.

Borough Manager's Report: Report is on file.

Public Works: Report is on file.

Code Enforcement: Report is on file.

Speaker

Kennedy Smith, Best of the Batch Foundation spoke about the volume of children what will be attending the building at 2000 West St. for the camp program. There are approximately 125 children in the camp at any time. Mr. Smith requested that a crosswalk be placed from Ridge Alley to the front door of the Batch Foundation.

Mr. Abrams stated that West St. is a county road, and that the Borough can, and will, request permission from the County to paint the crosswalk. Mr. Brennan asked the Chief of Police if a car could be provided on occasion as well.

Mr. Kennedy invited everyone to attend a end of the school year party at the Batch Foundation on the 31st from 2:30-5pm.

Motion to approve the meeting minutes: Motion to approve the April 18, 2023 minutes by Mr. Younkins. Seconded by Mr. Ondo. Mrs. Fry asked how the minutes can be approved if they are not provided ahead of time. Mrs. Fry requested that the minutes be published in advance of approval. Mr. Abrams explained that minutes cannot be published until approved by Council. Mr. Brennan requested to table the motion, and to vote on the approval at the June meeting.

Public Comment: None

Business Items:

1. Motion to approve the bills from April 1st through April 30th in the amount of \$314,432.51. Mr. Brennan asked about the DPW expenses and police expenses. Mr. Abrams stated the additional expenses were for salt and health insurance. Public Works expense were for additional vehicle repairs and health insurance. Motion made by Mr. Ondo. Seconded by Mr. Younkins. Motion carried.

2. Motion to approve the payrolls for April 2023. Motion made by Mr. Ondo and seconded by Mr. Hanna. Motion carried.
3. Motion to approve the conditional hire of two police officers from the civil service list pending the successful completion of all testing and final Council approval. Motion by Mr. Ondo, second by Mr. Younkins. Mr. Brennan asked if the second officer is being hired to replace an expected resignation. Chief Fullard answered yes. Motion was amended to read: Motion to approve the conditional hire of two police officers from the civil service list pending the successful completion of all testing and final Council approval and the resignation of a current police officer. Motion by Mr. Ondo. Second by Mr. Younkins. Motion carried.
4. Motion to approve the hiring of 3 individuals for summer employment with public works, as temporary full time employees at a rate of \$15 per hour, not to exceed \$28,800 in total wages. Motion by Mr. Ondo. Second by Mr. Votedian. Motion Carried.
5. Motion to approve a request not to exceed \$25,000 from Representative Gergely to purchase up to 5 radar based speed limit signs Association. Motion by Mr. Younkins. Seconded by Mr. Votedian. Mr. Ondo asked if the signs can be moved. Mr. Abrams explained that at least 2 units are being purchased with additional mounts. Mr. Ondo asked if these signs would be placed at the Waterfront. The signs are not for the Waterfront. Mrs. Fry asked which roads would be targeted. Chief Fullard indicated Ravine St, West Run Rd, and other areas. Motion Carried.

Public Comment:

Adjournment: Mr. Ondo made a motion to adjourn at 9:14 pm. Mr. Younkins seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Seth Abrams
Borough Manager