

Borough of Munhall

Council Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, March 21, 2023

The March 21, 2023 meeting of the Munhall Borough Council was called to order by Mr. Brennan at 7:01 pm in Council Chambers.

All recited the Pledge of Allegiance

Mr. Abrams took the roll:

Present:

Richard Brennan, Council President
Maureen Fry, Council Member
William Hanna, Council Member
Kevin Ondo, Council Vice President
Jason Stein, Council Member
Richard Votedian, Council Member
David Younkens, Council Member

Absent:

Others:

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

Presentation:

Acadia Klain, with Passive House Pennsylvania provided information about building and remodeling to create more efficient and sustainable buildings. Mr. Votedian asked if there were any structural concerns with the designs. Ms. Klain explained the designs are a principle, and do not dictate the materials or construction process itself.

Reports

President's Report: President Brennan asked that meetings being for planning Memorial Day events and Community Day. The Memorial Day planning meeting will be on Tuesday, March 28th at 6:30 pm. Mr. Brennan also requested input on the idea of including the Main St. businesses. He voiced concerns that the Enterprise Zone is not paying attention to, or including Main Street in its planning.

Mr. Brennan sought an update on the cleanout of 1900 West. St, with the Police having completed the movement of their items. Mr. Abrams reported that DPW is halfway done with the lower level. He stated that his conversations with the public indicate that the residents would like to see the old Borough building repurposed. It was asked if the public is willing to pay for the rehab of the building. Mr. Younkens asked if a referendum could be done to gauge public interest. Mr. Brennan stated that he believed the first thing that needed to happen was to make the building a historical site. Mr. Brennan stated the first thing that needs to

happen is a clean up of the interior of the building. Discussion ensued regarding the requirements of getting a historic landmark designation.

A resident asked about the Borough's strategic planning, and whether or not the reuse of 1900 West St. is on the plan. A survey was recommended. Mr. Abrams stated that the Borough is holding an initial strategic planning meeting on April 25, 2023.

Mayor's Report: Mayor Falce requested that Council approve the hiring of a candidate for a part time crossing guard position pending passing of background clearances. Munhall Cleanup Day is Saturday, March 25th. Munhall CARES is having an Easter egg hunt in West Homestead at Calhoun Field on April 1, 2023. Finally, the Munhall Community Band is performing at the 1st Presbyterian Church in Edgewood on March 26, 2023. The Mayor asked Brea to talk about the upcoming Steel Valley production of The Little Mermaid. Brea announced that the shows will be March 29-April 2, 2023. Tickets are \$10 for adults and \$5 for children.

Representative Gergely will be visiting the Borough at 9 am on the 30th to meet with the elected officials, and that there may be some discretionary funds available. Mr. Brennan suggested using it to clean up the old borough building. Mayor Falce suggested putting funds towards new police cars.

Mr. Brennan asked if progress has been made on purchasing any new vehicles. Chief Fullard replied that he met with a rep earlier in the day. There were discussions regarding how to purchase the necessary vehicles, whether by cash, municipal lease or traditional financing. Mr. Abrams responded that the Chief and the Manager will develop options and present a recommendation to Council.

Mayor Falce noted concerns that vehicles are being hit by baseballs. Mr. Brennan stated that he does not believe that municipal vehicles should be parked under the building. Asst. Chief Caterino is exploring additional netting that could prevent baseballs and softballs from hitting cars and the Borough Building.

Solicitor's Report: The solicitor reported that he is working on personnel issues with the Police Chief and contracts with the Manager. the Railroad agrees to pay for the removal of the train tracks, repair of the substructure and paving. The second agreement is a crossing agreement to allow the Railroad to place a new set of tracks at their cost if the need arises.

Borough Engineer's Report: No report

Sewer Authority Report: Mr. Younkins announced that the new offices are open. Mr. Votedian asked what the office hours were. Mr. Younkins did not know at this time.

Borough Manager's Report: Report is on file.

Public Works: Report is on file.

Code Enforcement: Report is on file.

Motion to approve the meeting minutes: Motion to approve the February 21, 2023 minutes by Mr. Ondo. Seconded by Mr. Younkins. Motion carried.

Public Comment:

None

Business Items:

1. Motion to approve the bills from February 1st through February 28th in the amount of \$307413.18 Motion made by Mr. Younkins. Seconded by Mr. Ondo. Motion carried.
2. Motion to approve the payrolls for February 2022. Motion made by Mr. Younkins and seconded by Mr. Stein. Motion carried.
3. Motion to approve the hiring of Gabriella Watson as a full time administrative assistant at a rate of \$17/hr effective March 27, 2023.. Motion by Mr. Younkins. Second by Mr. Ondo. Motion Carried.
4. Motion to hire a public works employee. This motion was withdrawn.
5. Motion to exonerate Donna Mercuri, Tax Collector of \$520,142 in uncollected property taxes. Motion by Ms. Fry. Seconded by Mr. Younkins. Motion carried.
6. Motion to approve and authorize the appropriate Borough officers to execute a Joinder and Consent to the Right-of-Entry License and Release between Munhall Sanitary Sewer Municipal Authority and ALCOSAN, relating to three ALCOSAN Points of Connection referenced as M-44, M-45, and M-49, each in the form presented to this Council, in support of the transfer by the Authority to ALCOSAN of certain intermunicipal trunk sewer lines and associated manholes in furtherance of the regional Clean Water Plan and consistent with the existing Z Agreement between the Borough and ALCOSAN.
 - a. Mr. Brennan questioned the authority of the Borough to hand over the sewer trunk lines to ALCOSAN. There is confusion regarding which entity has the authority to hand over the sewer lines- the Sewer Authority or the Borough. Mr. Brennan stated he would not vote in favor of the motion to allow right of entry until this issue is clarified. Mr. Evashavik responded that the authority lies with the Sewer Authority and that the Borough's only responsibility is to allow for ALCOSAN to access the land for maintenance and repair. Mr. Hanna asked if it would be appropriate to have the solicitor do further research on the matter.
 - b. Council chose to request that the solicitor gather additional information and provide an opinion.
7. Motion to approve the destruction of municipal records in accordance with the rules of the Pennsylvania Municipal Records Manual, including expired payroll and purchasing records. Motion by Mr. Votedian. Seconded by Mr. Ondo. Motion carried.
8. Motion to amend the agenda to add a motion to hire a crossing guard. Motion by Mr. Ondo. Second by Ms. Fry. Motion carried.
9. Motion to hire Rhonda Toman as a part time crossing guard, pending clearing the background checks, at a rate of \$15/hr. Motion by Mr. Votedian. Second by Mr. Ondo. Motion carried.

Public Comment:

Ms. Fry asked about the usefulness of an online workforce management tool for the non-police employees. Mr. Abrams explained that there is not a need, as all information is entered into the payroll system, including tracking of time off.

Mr. Ondo announced that the VA has a representative, Michelle Fisher, at the Borough Building on the 2nd Tuesday of each month. Advertising will be provided by the VA for sharing.

Executive Session Motion to adjourn to executive session to discuss contractual issues. Motion by Mr. Ondo. Second by Mr. Younkins. Motion carried.

Adjournment: Mr. Younkins made a motion to adjourn at 9:35 pm. Mr. Ondo seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Seth Abrams', with a long, sweeping horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Seth Abrams
Borough Manager