

Borough of Munhall

Council Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, February 21, 2023

The February 21, 2023 meeting of the Munhall Borough Council was called to order by Mr. Brennan at 7:13 pm in Council Chambers.

Mr. Brennan announced that an executive session took place prior to the public meeting to discuss personnel and legal issues.

All recited the Pledge of Allegiance

All observed a moment of silence in memory of Officer Sluganski of the McKeesport Police Department

Mr. Abrams took the roll:

Present:

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

Reports

President's Report: President Brennan announced that the Borough has come to an agreement with Union Railroad that will allow the Borough to continue the paving project on E Waterfront Dr.

Mayor's Report: Mayor Falce noted that the Borough is in need of another police officer and that Brea, the school district's student liaison will be attending Clemson University in the fall.

Solicitor's Report: The solicitor reported that the agreement with Union Railroad and with oversight from the Public Utilities Commission, and the COG, that agreements be approved. First that 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.

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

Borough Manager's Report: Report is on file.

Borough Engineer's Report: No report

Public Works: Report is on file.

Code Enforcement: Report is on file.

Motion to approve the meeting minutes: Motion to approve the January 17, 2023 minutes by Mr. Votedian. Seconded by Mr. Ondo. Motion carried.

Public Comment:

- Marie Ruston, a Borough resident handed out pictures to Council showing parking being blocked in the alley behind her home, where her garage is located. The vehicles make it so that Ms. Ruston cannot enter her garage. President Brennan encouraged Ms. Ruston to continue contacting the Munhall police department. Chief Fullard noted that his officers do cite those who park in the alley.
- Shannan Katanick, a Borough resident spoke about Munhall CARES and their goal to open a "free store" in Munhall. She requested space in the current borough building to allow residents to pick up supplies in the Borough instead of the children having to get items from the school district. Ms. Katanick also offered a storage container as an option. President Brennan recommended that Ms. Katanick set up another meeting with the Borough Manager.
- Debbie Sikora, a Borough resident, announced that she would be covering Council meetings for the Valley Mirror. Ms. Sikora also asked if Council would be addressing the new curfew rules at the Waterfront. Chief Fullard explained there was no change from the perspective of the Police Department. Officers cannot directly enforce the curfew or Waterfront Code of Conduct. If a youth violates the curfew, they must be asked by both Waterfront staff/security to leave and by the Munhall Police to leave. If the youth refuses to comply they will be taken into custody and released to their parent or guardian.
- Chief Fullard discussed the recent vandalism and crime on Main St. He stated that the person is identified and a warrant was issued. The investigation is ongoing. Bernie Shields asked if there are cameras that work on Main St. President Brennan responded that the cameras do work. Mayor Falce reiterated that the Borough is committed to the safety of the Boroughs.

Business Items:

1. Motion to approve the bills from January 1st through January 31st in the amount of \$586,820.80. Motion made by Mr. Ondo. Seconded by Ms. Fry. Motion carried.
2. Motion to approve the payrolls for December 31, 2022 and January 14, 2023. Motion made by Mr. Ondo and seconded by Mr. Votedian. Motion carried.
3. Motion to approve the agreements with Union Railroad and the Steel Rivers COG to approve a settlement for the removal of the rail line crossing East Waterfront Drive and to approve the agreement with Union Railroad allowing them to install new tracks at their expense should the need arise. Motion by Mr. Younkins. Second by Ms. Fry. Motion Carried.
4. Motion to appoint Greenman-Pederson Inc (GPI) as the Borough Engineer.. Motion by Mr. Votedian. Seconded by Ms. Fry. Motion carried 4-2 with Hanna and Younkins voting "no".
5. Motion to approve the payment of recurring utility bills by the Borough Manager by credit card. Motion by Younkins. Seconded by Fry. Motion carried.

6. Motion to ratify the January 31, 2023 vote to re-approve the Plate Mill subdivision originally passed by Council on April 22, 2022. Motion by Mr. Ondo. Seconded by Mr. Younkins. Motion carried.
7. Motion to approve the Civil Service Commission to advertise for a new civil service list for police officers. Motion by Mr. Younkins. Seconded by Mr. Ondo. Motion carried.
8. Motion to approve a resolution to apply for USDA funding not to exceed \$50,000 for the purchase of a new police vehicle and authorizing the Borough Manager to sign and execute any contracts or agreement arising from said grant application. Motion by Younkins. Seconded by Mr. Votedian.

Public Comment:

Bernie Shields, a Munhall resident, stated that he feels the meetings are moving much more smoothly.

Adjournment: Mr. Younkins made a motion to adjourn at 7:52 pm. Mr. Ondo seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Seth Abrams
Borough Manager