

Borough of Munhall  
Council Meeting Minutes  
Tuesday, April 18, 2023

The April 18, 2023 meeting of the Munhall Borough Council was called to order by Mr. Ondo at 7:01 pm in Council Chambers.

All recited the Pledge of Allegiance

Mr. Abrams took the roll:

Present:

Absent:

Richard Brennan, Council President (teleconference)  
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

Others:

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

**Presentation:**

**Reports**

**President's Report:** President Brennan asked that the public be updated on the discussions surrounding Legal Tax, a bar on Ravine St, and the refuse contract with Munhall-Homestead Housing Association.

Mr. Ondo announced that Council will be meeting with Legal Tax Service in two weeks to discuss concerns brought forward by residents.

**Mayor's Report:** Mayor Falce reported that the Allegheny League of Municipalities conference was this past weekend. He noted specifically a session about drones and airspace concerns. Mr. Younkens stated the recommendation was to begin to enact ordinances to regulate drones (unmanned aircraft). Mr. Evashavik will put together some potential legislation.

The Mayor also spent time learning about and discussing shared services with neighboring communities. Munhall was also named a 2023 Banner Community. Mayor Falce read the certificate.

The Mayor also noted that May will be Brea's final meeting as a liaison to Council and will be working as an intern for Representative Gergely over the summer. There will be a Memorial Day Committee Meeting on April 19, 2023 at 6:30 pm.

The Community Yard Sale will again be happening in July.

**Solicitor's Report:** The solicitor reported that he has reviewed the new refuse agreement with Munhall-Homestead Housing Authority, and it is on the agenda for tonight. The solicitor also reviewed, at Council's request, the requirements to transfer the multi-municipal trunk lines. Mr. Evashavik spoke with 2 attorneys with the Sewer Authority. He reported that the Authority is not mandated to transfer the trunk lines at this time. There is significant concern that what is highly recommended now will soon become mandated under ALCOSAN's consent decree with the DOJ and EPA. The recommendation is that the Borough approve the motion to allow for right of way access to ALCOSAN for any work that needs to be completed in the future.

Mr. Brennan asked for clarification regarding the actual content of the motion to grant right of way and what the Borough's actual authority is over the trunk lines. Mr. Evashavik reiterated that the motion grants right of way, but that the motion also states support for the transfer of the trunk lines, which is owned by the sewer authority.

**Borough Engineer's Report:** Ms. Reed's report is on file. She discussed a recent concern with Ravine St, where some asphalt has begun to deteriorate along an area with a damaged guide rail. Jersey barriers were placed as an interim fix. Planning work is beginning on the Small Water & Sewer grant (Main St.) and to reduce the scope for the LSA grant that the Borough received for Main St. Ms. Reed will put together a statement of work with cost estimate to evaluate the building at 1900 West St for required repairs. Ms. Reed will also present a statement of work to create a roads program.

Mr. Younkins asked about the possibility of having the Borough owned bridges repaired.

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:** LSSE is the new engineer for the Sewer Authority.

**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 March 21, 2023 minutes by Mr. Younkins. Seconded by Mr. Hanna. Motion carried.

**Public Comment:**

- Bernie Shields, a resident, asked about the conditions of the effective date of the agreement between MHHA and the Borough. Mr. Abrams explained that the new terms result in the same payment by percentage as the prior agreement, but also includes terms to end the agreement.

**Business Items:**

1. Motion to approve the bills from March 1st through March 31st in the amount of \$365,615.73 Motion made by Mr. Younkins. Seconded by Mr. Votedian. Motion carried.
2. Motion to approve the payrolls for March 2023. Motion made by Mr. Brennan and seconded by Ms. Fry. Motion carried.
3. Motion to approve the contract between the Borough of Munhall and Seth Abrams, Borough Manager through January 2, 2024. Motion by Mr. Hanna. Seconded by Mr. Brennan. Motion carried.
4. Motion to approve the hiring of Robert Ackerman as a full time public works employee with terms in accordance with the Public works CBA, effective April 2, 2023.. Motion by Mr. Younkins. Second by Mr. Stein. Motion Carried.
5. Motion to approve the refuse contract between the Borough and the Munhall-Homestead Housing Association. Motion by Mr. Younkins. Seconded by Mr. Votedian. 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. Motion by Mr. Votedian. Seconded by Mr. Younkins. Motion carried 6-1. Mr. Brennan voted “no” on the measure
7. Motion to approve the renewal of the contract between the Borough and Commonwealth Consulting Partners for grant writing and processing services and engagement for the period of April 2023-March 2024 and an annual fee of \$25,350. Motion by Mr. Brennan. Seconded by Ms. Fry. Motion carried.
8. Motion to approve the resolution designating Hatch Engineering as the design professional for DCNR contract BRC-PRD-25-75, also known as the Trautman and Vine Streets. playground rehabilitation project. Motion by Mr. Younkins. Second by Mr. Hanna. Mr. Brennan asked the rate for the engineering services. Mr. Abrams responded that Hatch was being paid in accordance with the usual rate. Motion carried.
9. Motion to approve the appropriation of up to \$140,000 from the Police Forfeiture Fund to purchase 2 additional police vehicles and the upfit costs for an additional vehicle if the USDA grant request is awarded through the COSTARS purchasing agreement. Motion by Mr. Stein. Second by Mr. Younkins. Mr. Abrams was asked what would happen to the old vehicles. He explained that they would be evaluated to be used for non-police uses or sold. Mr. Ondo asked the lifespan of police cars and if they were pursuit vehicles. Chief Fullard answered that the average life is 6 years and that the vehicles are rated as pursuit vehicles. Motion carried.

**Public Comment:**

Mr. Ondo recognized the fire department chiefs in attendance.

It was asked if the new DPW employee had a CDL. Mr. Abrams answered that he did.

A member of the public asked how many officers were employed by the Borough and their status. Chief Fullard answered that there are currently 21 officers.

Mayor Falce stated a need for another school resource officer and a desire to explore speed humps/bumps.

Mr. Younkins requested additional traffic/speed monitoring.

A resident asked if it would be appropriate to have a speed bump placed in Gates due to having a deaf grandchild living with her. Mr. Ondo stated that speed bumps are difficult for snow plows. DPW was complimented for the speed with which they placed the hearing impaired signs when initially requested.

Mayor Falce acknowledged that almost every street has had a request for a speed bump. He also noted that stop signs are often ignored. Streets and humps must be evaluated before placement. Mr. Brennan stated that a stronger police presence would assist. Mr. Ondo requested bolt down speed humps in Woodhill Park to slow traffic.

Mayor Falce announced that an Eagle Scout would like to do some rehab work on the memorial on Main St. The scout will likely come and present to Council in a couple of months.

Ms. Fry thanked residents for coming and expressing an interest in the Borough.

DPW was thanked for cleaning up the debris on Hilltop St.

A resident asked if there was an ordinance about a limit on dogs owned on a property. There is not a dog ordinance, but there is a noise ordinance. The resident was advised to call the Police or the Borough when noise issues occur.

**Adjournment:** Mr. Younkins made a motion to adjourn at 8:25 pm. Mr. Votedian seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Seth Abrams  
Borough Manager