

Borough of Munhall

Council Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, July 18, 2023

The July 18, 2023 meeting of the Munhall Borough Council was called to order by Mr. Brennan at 7:00 pm in Council Chambers.

Present:

Richard Brennan, Council President  
William Hanna, Council Member  
Kevin Ondo, Council Vice President  
Jason Stein, Council Member  
Richard Votedian, Council Member  
David Younkings, Council Member

Absent:

Maureen Fry, Council Member

Others:

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

**Presentation:**

Mayor Falce presided over the swearing in of police officers Tyler Chandler and Mark Terry as new members of the Munhall Police department.

**Reports**

**President's Report:** Mr. Brennan asked the Chief of Police to review a handout from the Pennsylvania Liquor Control Board about how to close a "nuisance" bar. Chief Fullard read the 4 options or steps that can be taken, which includes calling the police, working with the DA's office, non-renewal of the liquor license, and a referendum to eliminate all bars/liquor licenses in the Borough during an election. Mr. Brennan and Mayor Falce confirmed that the Mayor does not possess the power to shut down an establishment.

**Mayor's Report:** Mayor Falce spoke about the events on Ravine Street early on Saturday Morning. He praised the responding officers for their actions and professionalism. The Mayor has placed a call to the DA to ask for additional help.

Munhall CARES is hosting the Munhall Community Yard Sale on this Saturday, July 22, 2023 from 10 AM -2 PM. On the 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday of July, August and September will be Main St. Market Nights on Main St. in the borough. The first one will be Thursday, July 27, 2023 from 5 pm – 9 pm. Mayor Falce thanked the Steel Valley Enterprise Zone for their donation of \$1,000 towards the event.

**Solicitor's Report:** The solicitor reported he provided review of agreements and personnel issues for the Manager and Chief.

**Sewer Authority Report:** No Report

**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 April 18, 2023 minutes and the May 17, 2023 minutes by Mr. Ondo. Seconded by Mr. Younkins. Motion passed 6-0.

**Speakers:**

Dan Kelly, vice president of the Steel Valley Enterprise Zone presented information about the organization and their plans to hire an employee, who would work with the municipalities in the Steel Valley to administer low cost loans for business development and to build relationships with the municipalities and current/potential business owners. One half of the funding would come from the SVEZ account, the other half is to come from the legacy TIF account which is controlled by the 3 municipalities: Homestead, Munhall, and West Homestead. Homestead and West Homestead have already approved the position.

Brea Francis, intern with Rep. Matt Gergely, presented a summary of the State budget with a focus on the pieces that more directly impact Munhall and the residents.

**Public Comment:**

Haylee Cherep, Ravine St. spoke about her fear of the activities at J's Juke Joint. Ms. Cherep handed out a rule from the PLCB regarding bring your own bottle (BYOB) establishments stating that municipalities may regulate BYOB establishments. She described the events of the resulting cleanup, including having to call to have blood cleaned off the road the morning after the shooting. Ms. Cherep asked if there would be police presence in the area of the bar due to a planned memorial for the victim.

Raylene Mathews, read a letter to the editor describing a vehicle/pedestrian accident on Main St. near St. Therese Plaza. Ms. Mathews stated a petition is being circulated to request a traffic light at the intersection.

Drew Borsak, Longfellow Dr. thanked Asst. Chief Caterino for his work in finding the driver of a hit and run incident that damaged his vehicle.

Linda Constantanople, Ravine St., stated that her car was hit by a driver leaving J's Juke Joint and she had to pay the deductible.

Debra Krishka, Ravine St., stated she has lived on Ravine St. for over 40 years, and had not had any problems until January of this year. Both she and her dogs are nervous and afraid for her life. The noise and disturbances have caused her to consider selling her home, but she does not believe she could sell it with the activities that occur at the bar. Mr. Brennan stated the Chief is doing everything in his power to stop the disturbances.

**Business Items:**

1. Motion to ratify the following telephone votes taken in June:
  - a. Pay the bills for the month of May with a total of \$399,109.26. voted as approved 7-0.

- b. Approve the payrolls for May 2023 in the amount of \$290,893.61. voted as approved 7-0
  - c. Approve the placement of ADA parking in front of 21st. Ave. voted as approved 7-0.
  - d. Approve the hiring of Tyler Chandler and Mark Terry as full time police officers in accordance with the Munhall Police Department Collective Bargaining Agreement, effective 6/25/2023. voted as approved 7-0.
  - e. Approve the appropriation of funds for Mayor Falce to attend the PA Mayor's Conference in Lancaster, PA in July, in an amount not to exceed \$1,000. voted as approved 7-0.
  - f. Approve the entering into an intergovernmental cooperative agreement (contract) with Homestead Borough to provide refuse services for 3 years beginning in September 2023. voted as approved 4-3.
  - g. Approve purchase and finance of refuse truck at a price not to exceed \$400,000. voted as approved 4-3.
  - h. Approve El Grande Industries as the low bidder for the DCNR parks projects at Trautman St. and Vine St. in the amount of \$171,458,50. voted as approved 7-0.
- Motion by Mr. Younkins. Second by Mr. Ondo. Motion carries 6-0.

- 2. Motion to pay the bills for June, 2023 in the amount of \$281,576.37. Motion by Mr. Ondo. Second by Mr. Younkins. Motion carries 6-0
- 3. Motion to approve the payrolls for the month of June, totaling \$325,728.60. Motion by Mr. Stein. Seconded by Mr. Votedian. Motion carries 6-0
- 4. Motion to approve Robinson Pipe as the lowest qualified bidder for the Main St. sewer project (PA Small Water & Sewer Grant) as recommended by the Borough Engineer. Motion by Mr. Ondo. Seconded by Mr. Stein. Motion carries 6-0
- 5. Motion to approve the proposal by the Borough Engineer to perform a roads evaluation and develop a paving program at a cost not to exceed \$35,000. Motion by Mr. Votedian. Second by Mr. Ondo. Motion carries 6-0
- 6. Motion to approve the proposal by the Borough Engineer to perform a traffic calming study on Ravine Street at a cost not to exceed \$8,000. Motion by Mr. Younkins. Second by Mr. Ondo. Motion carries 6-0
- 7. Motion to approve the purchase of round tables and lockable storage cabinet for the Community Room to exceed \$ 1,500 dollars. Motion by Mr. Ondo. Second by Mr. Hanna. Motion Carries.
- 8. Motion to add a motion to the agenda. Motion by Mr. Votedian. Second by Mr. Younkins. Motion carries 6-0
- 9. Motion to approve the release of funding from the legacy TIF funding account to the Steel Valley Enterprise Zone for the hiring of an employee, at a maximum of \$250,000 over 5 years. Motion by Mr. Younkins. Second by Mr. Votedian. Motion carries 6-0.

**Public Comment:** none

**Additional discussion items**

- 1. Mr. Brennan announced that Council will further discuss the possibility of creating a no-parking zone on West St. in front of 2000 West St.
- 2. Mr. Abrams explained that the release of funds to the volunteer fire departments is an annual appropriation that has been approved. It is brought up as a discussion due to the size of the funding at \$65,000 and potential impact to the Borough's cash flow. Mr. Abrams confirmed the funds are currently available for release.

3. Mr. Hanna requested the solicitor and manager conduct further research into options for limiting BYOB establishments.
4. Mr. Votedian asked if it would be possible to make the paring lot at 1900 West St. to be permit parking. Mr. Brennan stated the Borough could lease it or place meters, but it is not advisable at this time.

**Adjournment:** Mr. Younkins made a motion to adjourn at 8:12 pm. Mr. Ondo seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Seth Abrams  
Borough Manager