

Muncy Borough
Council Meeting Minutes
February 6, 2024

The meeting of the Muncy Borough Council was called to order in the Library/Media Center of Muncy High School at 6:40pm by President Scott Delany. The Pledge of Allegiance followed.

Roll Call: *Council Members Present* – Steve Shank, Ryan Scruggs, Thad Martin, Scott Delany, Richard Sutton (phone), Absent: Bill Scott, Brooke Bishop

Borough Employees present: Boro secretary K. Hakes, Police Chief James Dorman, and Officer Dave Williams Mayor Jon Ort & Solicitor Chris Kenyon also present.

Public Present: Betty Baker, Craig & Chris Scruggs, Linda Stein, Tara Ashby, Maggie Baker, Lisa Lyons, Charley Hall, Dereke M Stump, Carrie Pauling, Cathy Henry, George Henry, Pharron Banghart

Public Participation: Betty Baker shared her opinion on Charley Hall as borough manager and believes the borough should advertise for the job. There are no requirements for a borough to advertise for their positions, said Charley Hall. Solicitor Kenyon confirmed that statement. According to Charley, the borough has a lot of grants that need to be administered. He was in the process of taking care of a grant that would have solved Muncy's biggest issue at the moment but was relieved of his duties and the grant was then denied.

January 18, 2024 minutes – Motioned by Ryan Scruggs to accept. Dick Sutton 2nd the motion. All were in favor 5-0

January 24, 2024 minutes – Thad motioned to accept. Dick Sutton 2nd the motion. All were in favor 5-0

Scott Delany made a motion to accept the check disbursements & bank balances. Ryan 2nd the motion. 5-0

Old Business:

Dick Sutton made a motion to approve the 2024 Budget as presented with a no tax increase. 2nd by Thad Martin. All were in favor 5-0

Dick Sutton made a motion to reinstate Charles Hall with the pay rate he was making in October 2023 as Borough Manager. Ryan Scruggs 2nd the motion. Steve Shank and Jon Ort would like to know why the job descriptions were different from what they discussed in executive and personnel meetings. President Scott Delany said the reason he was in favor was because he is trying to fix a wrong so the borough can "move on". There is a motion on the floor and a 2nd. Roll Call - Ryan, yes. Thad, yes. Dick, yes. Steve, no. Scott, yes. Motioned carried 4-1

New Business:

Scott Delany gave an update on the meeting with the library regarding a land and building swap. There is also a 2million dollar grant for a multi-purpose community facility for a library and borough building combined. If the borough applies for the grant and they do not get it, Pres Scott Delany wanted to make sure council was still in agreement to move forward with the land/building swap. Mayor Ort wants to make sure we have a back-up plan. Charley Hall is pretty confident the borough will qualify for this grant because the borough is under a mandate by the justice department to address a building that the borough can not receive any other funds for. Dick Sutton made a motion to proceed looking into the option of a combined building with the library. Ryan Scruggs 2nd the motion. Motion carried 5-0

Dick Sutton wanted to make council aware of some grants the borough should pursue for the police department. One of the grants includes a \$7,000 sign on bonus for a new full time police officer. Scott Delany made a motion to get that grant process started. Dick Sutton 2nd the motion. All were in favor.

Chief Dorman created a "wish list" for Penn Strategies for upgrades within the police department. Penn Strategies will be keeping an eye out for any grants that would include any of those upgrades.

Correspondence/Announcements:

Newly reinstated Borough Manager, Charley Hall, thanked council for his reinstatement.

Chief Dorman contacted Journey Bank last fall and another local business. Between the two of them, they donated enough money to the police department so they could replace all their internal computers. Journey bank did a check presentation and the local business wanted to remain anonymous.

The President/ Assistant Chief of the fire department gave an update on grants they had submitted with the assistance of Penn Strategies. The next Fire Agreement for 2025-2029 was given to Katie to distribute to council and solicitor for review. Nighttime coverage for paid EMS is included. The portable radios have been ordered costing roughly \$42,000. The average portable is about \$7500.

Mayor Ort – Joe Hamm sent an email inviting council/mayor to a meeting on the 4th at 3pm in regards to Glade Run. The focus of this meeting is the end of Glade Run is now blocked by a sandbar. Ort's intentions are to have multiple stops that day along Glade Run to show everyone where places are blocked and to show Glade Run is not able to currently dump into the river. Ort also talked about a back up plan on a loan with USDA if there is no grant. The loan cannot be applied for if a grant is pending.

Public Participation:

George Henry asked what will take place in regards to the job descriptions for secretary/treasurer and if the personnel committee will make a decision on how to move forward now that a borough manager has been reinstated. The job descriptions need to fit the roles in the borough office.

Tara Ashby asked if Bill Scott is planning on resigning from his position or if he can be removed since he has not been to any 2024 meetings. Chris Kenyon explained a procedure the borough would have to follow with the courts. It is a series of facts and events relative to the actual abandonment of the position.

Betty Baker asked if Borough Manager was in the budget that was approved prior to reinstating him. The answer to that is yes.

Pharron Banghart asked if the \$7,000 "sign on bonus" for the police gets returned if they were to get fired before their time was up. That answer is unknown at this time.

Scott Delany commended resident Nate on his hard work for raising \$4,000 that went to two different food banks in the area.

Chris is in the process of putting up the handicap signs required by the DOJ.

Scott Delany made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Ryan Scruggs 2nd the motion.

Meeting ended at 7:46pm

Council went into an executive session and did not reconvene.

Respectfully Submitted,



Katie Hakes
Borough Secretary