

Muncy Borough Council Minutes
January 2, 2024

The meeting of the Muncy Borough Council was called to order in the Library/Media Center of Muncy High School at 6:00pm by Mayor Jon Ort. The Pledge of Allegiance followed.

Council Members present: Richard Sutton, Scott Delany, Thad Martin, Ryan Scruggs, Steve Shank, Brooke Bishop, Bill Scott and Mayor Jon Ort. Absent: None

Staff Present: Chief Dorman, Secretary Katie Hakes, Officer Delp, Property Maintenance Joe Lyons.

Public Present: Wayne Wolfgang, Mr & Mrs. George Henry, Charles Gottshall, Nate Kitchen, Orlando Rodriguez, Chris Scruggs, Craig Scruggs, Diane Schneck, Karen Starr, Rebecca Bertin, Linda Stein, Michael and Elaine McClear, Logan Laidacker, Molly Laidacker, Tara Ashby, Catherine Garverick, Carrie Pauling, and Pharron Banghart.

New Council members Richard Sutton and Ryan Scruggs were welcomed.

Elections:

Richard Sutton nominated Scott Delany for Council President. The motion was 2nd by Thad Martin. Roll Call Vote Richard Sutton – yes, Scott Delany – yes, Thad Martin – yes, Ryan Scruggs – yes, Steve Shank – no, Brooke Bishop – absolutely not, and Bill Scott – no. 4-3 motion passed. Bill Scott left the meeting.

Scott Delany made a motion for Richard Sutton to be vice president. Thad Martin 2nd the motion. Roll call vote Richard Sutton – yes, Scott Delany – yes, Thad Martin – yes, Ryan Scruggs – yes, Steve Shank – no, Brooke Bishop – absolutely not. 4-2 motion passed.

Richard Sutton nominated Thad Martin for Pro-temp. Motion was 2nd by Scott Delany. All were in favor and motion Carried 6-0

New Council President Scott Delany now presides over meeting.

Appointment of Administrator/Secretary – Richard Sutton made a motion to table, Scott Delany made a 2nd.

Joe Lyons was appointed for Property Maintenance/Code Enforcement Officer. Thad Martin made the motion. 2nd motion by Richard Sutton. Motion Carried 6-0

Richard Sutton made a motion to appoint Chris Kenyon from McCormick Law Firm to the Solicitors position. Scott Delany 2nd the motion. Roll call vote: Richard Sutton – yes, Scott Delany – yes, Thad Martin – yes, Ryan Scruggs – yes, Steve Shank – no, Brooke Bishop – No. 4-2

Richard Sutton made a motion to retain Codes INC as zoning officer. Thad Martin 2nd the motion. Motion carried 6-0

Brooke Bishop nominated Buzz Baker as Vacancy Board Chair. Steve Shank 2nd the motion. Roll Call vote Brooke Bishop – yes, Steve Shank – yes, Ryan Scruggs – yes, Thad Martin – yes, Richard Sutton – No, Scott Delany – No. 4-2

A discussion was held about the resignation of treasurer Jeff Sholtis. Thad Martin mentioned he thought it would be a good idea to table the treasury position and revisit it with personnel. Brooke Bishop made a motion to hire Sue Everett as borough treasurer. Steve Shank 2nd the motion. Roll call vote Richard Sutton – no, Thad Martin – no, Ryan Scruggs – no, Steve Shank – yes, Brooke Bishop – yes, and Scott Delany – no. No's carried 4-2

Richard Sutton made a motion to table the treasury position. Thad Martin 2nd the motion. Roll Call vote: Sutton – yes, Martin – yes, Scruggs – yes, Shank – no, Bishop – no, Delany – yes. Yes carried 4-2
Mayor Jon Ort wanted to make it known that Sue Everett was interested in the position and is extremely qualified.

Guest Participation:

Orlando Rodrigez from Clever Energy Management left flyers for council to compare electricity rates.

Holly Howrilla, a resident on South Washington spoke to council about her water issue in her driveway. Thad Martin told Holly that he would get Joe Lyons and streets worker Chris Stoodley to come out and take a look and find out more information and come back to the board to discuss further.

Public Participation:

Pharron Banghart questioned whether meetings would be continued at the high school and questioned the tax increase. There will be a revised budget. Evelyn Derrick informed council the library board is very interested in the land swap. Jim Bishop made a request to council that the new council would abide by some of the old councils' achievements, such as parades, grant monies, and to look forward and grow as a community. George Henry asked council if the public had access to the budget. Mr. Henry asked if agendas could be posted a few days prior to meetings rather than only 24 hours prior to meetings. Karen Koch from Roads to Freedom, applaud the fact the council relocated their meetings. Elaine McAleer asked council for permission to continue to get the "OK" for the Waldron Park on everything that they are doing. Council President told her they were doing an excellent job and sees no reason to change anything.

December 21, 2023 Minutes – Richard Sutton asked how a line item for the borough manager was removed from the budget. The mayor responded he removed it. Sutton believes that was something that should have come before council. Brooke Bishop made a motion to approve the council minutes. Scruggs 2nd the motion. All were in favor and motion carried 6-0

Treasurers Report – Sutton made motion, Martin 2nd motion. Motion carried 6-0

Old Business:

1. Tax Resolutions – Mayor Ort vetoed the resolution via email on 12/29/2023. Richard Sutton advised the mayor he was vetoing the Ordinance, not the resolution.

2. Linda Stein commented that it is perfectly fine for the new council to “amend” the budget after some disagreement between Sutton and Mayor about revisiting the budget. Richard Sutton made a motion to revisit the budget and advertising it as a public meeting. Thad Martin 2nd the motion. Roll Call Vote: Sutton – yes, Thad – yes, Ryan – yes, Steve – yes, Brooke – No, Scott – yes. Motion carried 5-1. The meeting will be our next scheduled meeting on Thursday, January 18 at 6:30.

New Business:

1. Meeting Schedule will be the first Tuesday and third Thursday of the month at 6:30pm. Richard Sutton made 1st motion, Ryan 2nd the motion. All carried 6-0
2. Check Signatories & payment protocols – William Scott, Jeff Sholtis, and Richard Baker will be removed as check signatories. Richard Sutton & Katie Hakes will be added. Scott Delany will remain a signatory.
3. Committee Appointments – tabled
4. Richard Sutton made a motion to reinstate Mr. Hall immediately as Borough Manager. Brooke Bishop made a motion to table it. Steve Shank 2nd the Motion to table. Roll Call Vote – Sutton – No, Martin – No, Scruggs – No, Shank – yes, Bishop – Yes, Delany – No. Richard Sutton made another motion to reinstate Mr. Hall. Mayor Ort said that involves a resolution which he will veto. Thad would like to wait until they review the budget to make sure the monies are available. Brooke Bishop left the meeting at 7:15pm. Steve Shank grabbed his belongings and stood up to leave, but was convinced by the public to sit back down and finish the meeting. Scott Delany 2nd Richard Suttons motion. Roll Call vote: Martin – No, Scruggs – No, Shank – No. 3-2
5. Evelyn Derrick will contact Scott Delany to set up a meeting in regards to the library property/land swap.
6. ADA Discussion: Mayor Ort explained it’s in the Solicitors hands and they have been in touch with AG and started the entire process.
7. Stimulus Money Review: Sutton made a motion to release the leftover stimulus money to the fire department for portable radios. Shank 2nd the motion. All were in favor 4-0. Delany abstained due to being fire chief.
8. Grants and Penn Strategies Review- Council discussed their views on grants and Penn Strategies. It was a helpful discussion to the new council members on board

Commission/Board Vacancies:

Planning Commission – tabled

Board of Health – tabled

Zoning Hearing Board – tabled

Historic Commission – tabled

Civil Service Commission – Richard Sutton made 1st motion for Logan Laidacker, Thad Martin 2nd Motion. All were in favor and carried 5-0

MBMA Board – tabled

Borough Reports –

Police numbers were down for 2023 due to man power being down.

Fire Report – Report not received yet.

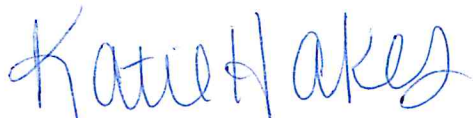
Mayor – Reminded the public they (council and himself) are there for the people.

Richard Sutton stood up to shake Steve Shanks hand for sitting back down. Sutton said they will not always agree but expects to shake hands after meetings and walk out speaking to each other. Joe Lyons – requested an executive session due to a legal matter. Joe would like to look hard at the Borough Ordinance and make some adjustments.

Molly Laidacker and Catherine Garverick were sworn in by Mayor Jon Ort for Fire Police.

Council went into executive session @ 7:43pm. Motion made by Thad. 2nd by Sutton. 5-0
Council did not recon vein.

Respectfully Submitted

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Katie Hakes". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Katie Hakes
Borough Secretary