

## Meeting October 1, 2007

The meeting of Mount Pleasant Borough Council was called to order by President Tabita at 7:01 pm. in Council Chambers at 1 Etze Avenue, Mount Pleasant, PA 15666. The Pledge of Allegiance was said and there was a moment of silence for our deployed troops. President Tabita directed Borough Manager Jeff Landy to take roll. Councilmen Bauer, Beranek, Crivella, Tate, Wiltout and Councilwoman Stevenson were present. Mayor Lucia and Solicitor Toohey were absent. President Tabita stated we have a quorum.

### Reading of Previous Minutes:

A motion was made by Councilman Bauer to dispense with the reading of the minutes of September 17, 2007. Motion seconded by Councilman Slater. Motion carried.

Mayor Lucia arrived at 7:04pm.

### Public Comment:

Daniel Gelzheiser, College Ave addressed Council regarding his neighbor who is growing bamboo on her property. Mr. Landy said that he has turned the matter over to the police officer in charge of ordinances for the Borough. President Tabita said that Council would also ask the Borough's Health Officer to look into the situation. Mr. Gelzheiser said he spoke to the game commission and was told that the birds that live in the bamboo are not on the endangered species list and are not protected by that agency. The amount of waste that is produced by these birds is a health hazard. Mayor Lucia said that is the issue they will pose to the Borough's Health Officer. President Tabita said Council should have some answers by the October 22, 2007 meeting. Councilman Bauer said he will try to get hold of Rita Borenstein the Health Officer this weekend.

Beth McGee, 343 College Avenue said people are going the wrong way on College Ave going into the parking lot of Harmon House. She said maybe someone could address the issue with Harmon House and ask them to speak to their employees. President Tabita said he will turn the matter over to the police department. Councilman Bauer said he will see about having a "No Left Turn" sign erected.

Mr. Wiltout, 37 Bridgeport Street said that construction workers working on the WWT project said the work is complete and he is wondering when the street will be paved and landscaping done. Mr. Wiltout said the alleys should be blacktopped before winter or they will not be able to be plowed. President Tabita said Council is not aware of the exact time frame but the project is scheduled to continue until January 2008. President Tabita said that the Mount Pleasant Municipal Authority is in charge of every aspect of the project and act independently. Glenn Wolfe of Widmer Engineering said that he does not know the exact time frame for the paving and landscaping. President Tabita suggested maybe a schedule could be published in the local newspaper and Mr. Wolfe said that a firm schedule cannot be done because of constant changes. Mayor Lucia asked about Bridgeport Street. The State would not give permission to open up Bridgeport Street and he had heard that construction was going to be moved to the sidewalks. Mr. Wolfe said he is aware of the problem but does not know how the issue is going to be resolved. Mr. Wiltout said that because of construction the water that used to run down the street into a catch basin is in danger of running onto his driveway and damaging the blacktop. President Tabita said that Mr. Wiltout should contact Marie Hartman of Widmer Engineering to discuss the problem and would make sure that he was provided with her phone number before the end of the meeting.

Leo Wisneski, Main St. addressed Council about opening a new restaurant on the corner of Diamond and Main Streets. Mr. Wisneski requested that Council schedule a public meeting for permission to bring another liquor license into the Borough for his facility. President Tabita said that Council would ask for a recommendation from our Solicitor for a public meeting to be held on October 22, 2007.

A motion was made by Councilman Bauer to suspend the rules to make a motion to schedule a public meeting for the purpose of discussing approval of bringing another liquor license into the Borough pending our solicitor's approval. Motion seconded by Councilman Crivella. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Councilman Bauer to schedule a public meeting on October 22, 2007 at 6:30pm for the purpose of discussing approval of bringing another liquor license into the

Borough for Leo & Sons Grill 31 Restaurant pending the approval of Solicitor Toohey. Motion seconded by Council Crivella. Councilwoman Stevenson asked if the purpose of the meeting was to give the public a chance ask Council to turn down the request. President Tabita said that yes that is the purpose of the public meeting. If Council grants an approval then the LCB takes over to run background checks and issue the license. This process will take 3 to 4 months. Mr. Wisneski said he hopes to open for business sometime in January 2008. Councilman Bauer wanted clarification that this will be a restaurant and not a bar. Mr. Wisneski said it would be a restaurant seating approximately 60 people. Motion carried.

Mr. Ned Franks from Graft Oil asked if Council has made any decisions regarding repealing the ordinance requiring gas stations in the Borough to be full-serve. President Tabita said he has not received any committee response on the issue but hopes to have a response by the next work session.

Councilman Bauer reminded Mr. Wisneski about the ordinance regulating oil and grease disposal at restaurants. Mr. Wisneski said his contractor will be working hand in hand with the Borough officials regarding all ordinances.

**Mayor's Report:**

Mayor Lucia read the following Police Report for the month of August 2007:

Report of the Mount Pleasant Police Department for the month of September 2007

The Department answered 340 calls during the month as follows:

Complaints	98
Requests for assistance	5
Assist Other Departments	5
Accidents investigated	7
Calls Returned	60
Assist Medic 10	5
Assist Mutual Aid	0

The Department made 34 arrests during the month as follows:

Vehicle Code	18
Crimes Code	16

The Department issued 0 warnings during the month

Vehicle Code	0
Borough Ordinance	0

Parking Tickets issued are as follows:

\$1.00 Meter Tickets	0
\$10.00 No Parking Tickets	2
Void/Excused Tickets	0
Complaints for unpaid Tickets	0

\$1.00 Parking Tickets Paid	2	\$	2.00
\$5.00 Parking Tickets Paid	0	\$	-
\$10.00 Parking Tickets Paid	3	\$	30.00

Return from Magistrate Eckels	\$2,394.07
Return from Clerk of Courts	\$ 811.74
Return from Report Fees	\$ 60.00
Return from Parking Permits	\$ 10.00
Return from Soliciting Permits	\$ -
Return from Restitution	\$ -

Total \$3,307.81

Meter Receipts 1 Collection \$ 984.14

Total receipts from Mayors Report \$4,291.95

Mayor Lucia said he will address the fact that there were only 2 no-parking tickets issued in the month of September 2007.

Mayor Lucia thanked everyone for their participation in the Mount Pleasant Glass and Ethnic Festival this past weekend. He also thanked Mr. Landy for co-chairing the event. Many people from other communities attended the festival. President Tabita said he talked with a lot of people who moved away from Mount Pleasant and came back just for the festival. Mayor Lucia said the people who live on Washington, Hitchman and Spruce Streets are great neighbors during the festival.

Mayor Lucia said that its time to bring a Retail Trade Association back to the Borough. He asked if anyone on Council had any objections and received none. An active Retail Trade Association doing promotions with the business owners will really raise the interest in Main Street Mount Pleasant. President Tabita said the association would be separate from the Borough and up to the local retail businesses to organize. Mayor Lucia said Council would like to encourage the businesses to take action.

Mayor Lucia said October is National Family Appreciation Month. Mr. Rega of Saloom Funeral Home, director of The Golden Rule, an organization of funeral directors, explained that The Golden Rule is made up of family owned funeral homes and are sponsoring National Family Appreciation Month to create community awareness. Each week in October the organization will sponsor a community activity for the families in town. The first activity will be this Saturday and will be a child safety program offering a DNA kit to parents as well as a digital photo of each child with a DVD that promotes internet safety. There will be an essay contest with the English Department at the Mount Pleasant Area High School offering a scholarship to the student who writes the best essay on family appreciation. The winner of the essay contest also becomes eligible nationally for a \$5,000 scholarship. There will also be a Funeral School answering any questions regarding the funeral process. On Halloween Parade night October 31<sup>st</sup> The Golden Rule will be giving the children reflective buttons with strobe lights to attach to their clothes.

Mayor Lucia proclaimed October as National Family Appreciation Month sponsored by The Golden Rule and local funeral directors.

Mayor Lucia asked for a motion to close Main Street on October 31, 2007 from 6:30pm to 8:00pm for the annual Halloween Parade.

A motion was made by Councilman Bauer to close Main Street from 6:30pm until 8:00pm on October 31, 2007 for the annual Halloween Parade. Motion seconded by Councilman Slater. Motion carried.

Mayor Lucia said that Trick or Treat this year will be October 28, 2007 from 2:00pm to 4:00pm. Mayor Lucia asked residents with children who are Trick or Treating to try to stay in their own neighborhoods.

**Solicitors Report:** None

**Tax Collectors Report:**

Tax Collector Carol Yancosky read the following report for the month of September 2007:

Ms. Yancosky said the report is incomplete because she is still totaling September receipts.

Property Taxes	\$3,465.79
Per Capita Taxes	\$2,239.90
Total	\$5,705.69

**Presidents Report:**

President Tabita thanked Vice-President Tate for running the meetings during his absence.

President Tabita thanked everyone involved in the Glass and Ethnic Festival for a wonderful job this year. He also thanked all of the residents who were inconvenienced.

President Tabita said preparation work has begun on the Main Street Street-Scape Project which will begin sometime in the spring of 2008. Letters will be sent out in November to all property owners who have not moved the electric to the rear of their building.

President Tabita said the Coal and Coke Trail seems to be a success. Mayor Lucia said that the committee is still trying to get straight access to Route 31 from Willows Park.

President Tabita said he would like to make change the Grant/Vendor Contracts/Sanitation Committee name to Business and Economic Development & Contracts with Councilman Wilttrout remaining as Chairperson. President Tabita said he is removing grants from the committee because each committee should be working on securing their own grants for projects they would like to do. This committee would also be charged with attending the BDA meetings and communicating to Council on the BDA agenda.

President Tabita said he is going to make the Property Committee with Councilman Beranek as Chairman to attend the Parking Authority meetings and also communicate their agenda to Council.

President Tabita directed Councilman Tate as Chairman of the Waste Water Treatment Committee to continue to attend the Mount Pleasant Municipal Authority meetings and keep Council informed.

President Tabita said that the Log Cabin was a hit at the Glass Festival. There were probably 50 people per hour touring the cabin. The Historical Society did a wonderful job. President Tabita said he would like to see the Ghost Walk come back for Halloween.

President Tabita said he would like Council to ask the Mount Pleasant Municipal Authority for a half million dollars of their reserve to be used for storm water repairs and maintenance and other improvements in the Borough.

President Tabita reported that Council received a letter of resignation from Councilwoman Rega and asked Council to make a motion to accept her resignation.

A motion was made by Councilman Bauer to accept the resignation of Councilwoman Rega for 2<sup>nd</sup> Ward Council seat. Motion seconded by Councilman Slater. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Councilman Bauer to advertise for candidates for 2<sup>nd</sup> Ward Council seat. Resumes will be accepted at the borough office until 4:00pm on October 18, 2007 and interviews will be held beginning at 6:00pm on October 22, 2007. Motion seconded by Councilman Beranek. Motion carried.

Councilman Crivella pointed out that Ms. Rega is on the November ballot and President Tabita said that if there is enough time she can withdraw her name from the ballot or else she will have to resign the seat in January.

### **Borough Managers Report:**

Borough Manager Landy thanked all of the volunteers and council members who made this years Glass and Ethnic Festival a great success. Without them the festival would not be what it is today. Mr. Landy also thanked the residents who are affected by the festival and feels that a good partnership has been formed. He thanked all of the businesses who sponsor and support the festival, especially entertainment sponsors. There will be some new things at the festival next year. Work has started on "The Old Village Area". Also, a group of people from Ontario Canada came to the festival this year after visiting the web site.

Borough Manager Landy reported the following:

- He attended a Group Marketing Seminar on tourism. The Borough may have to market itself rather than rely on groups.
- He and Mayor Lucia and Mr. Landy put up the speed sign that Allied Waste loaned to the Borough. It will be placed at different times on South Church St., North Church St. and Diamond Street. The sign will make drivers aware of their speed.
- He spent some time these last few weeks with the Borough building inspector and found some residents who did not have the necessary building permits. Mr. Landy stressed that

building permits are required in the Borough. There is a toll-free number available for anyone who has questions.

- He said that the Health Inspector has begun getting involved in the Borough. She inspected the food booths at the Glass and Ethnic Festival and she went to a residence that we've received complaints about. The Borough is on the right track toward health and safety.
- He hopes to have a preliminary budget to Council at the October 22, 2007 meeting. If council has any questions they can call the borough office since he will be working on the budget with President Tabita and the Finance Committee. President Tabita said each committee should look at the budget to project what the outcome of this year will be and to decide what will be needed for next year.
- He met with a representative from Penn Dot and there will be turning restrictions posted at the intersection of Rte 981 and Rte 31 regarding wide loads. This has been a problem for decades. Restrictions should go into effect 14 days from today.
- He received information on crosswalk lights for the crosswalk at Levin's.
- He received information on the amount of weight that the decorative poles on Main Street will support regarding banners and flowerpots.
- The Borough is getting calls from residents regarding perpetual yard sales. Mr. Landy checked with the Department of Revenue and any more than 2 to 4 times a year is considered a business. Councilman Bauer said he would look into the matter.

### **Waste Water Treatment Report:**

Glenn Wolfe from Widmer Engineering gave an update on the CSO Project. 7.5% of the construction has been completed and 7.1% of the project time has expired. Approximately 1300 feet of linear feet of pipe and 10 manholes have been installed. Councilman Crivella asked Mr. Wolfe if any payment is withheld for contingency and Mr. Wolfe said usually it is 10%.

Councilman Tate said that he and President Tabita presented complaints from residents at the meeting. The complaints had already been addressed by Widmer Engineering and the contractor. All of the matters will be corrected before the project is completed. In the mean time residents have to be patient and let the contractor do the job. When the project is complete if there are things that need corrected Council will bring it to the attention of Widmer Engineering and the contractor. Mr. Wolfe assured Council that street would be blacktopped as long as the weather allows otherwise pavement restoration and lawn restoration will be completed in the spring of 2008. Gravel restoration will be done in the meantime. Councilman Tate said that if Council wishes the contractor would be willing to come before Council to answer any questions at the next work session.

Councilman Tate said he is getting prices to have two trees removed that are causing problems at WWT Pump Stations.

### **Public Safety Zoning & Ordinances:**

A motion was made by Councilman Bauer to adopt Ordinance #614 approving the Borough's entry into an intergovernmental cooperation agreement with the Township of Mount Pleasant concerning the financing of a combined sewer system separation project. Motion seconded by Councilman Tate. Motion carried.

Councilman Bauer said that work is still in progress on the police contract and the police budget. One thing that the police department has requested for the 2008 budget is a speed-timing device is different than Vascar and may improve the enforcement of speed limits in the Borough.

Councilman Bauer said that the speed sign loaned to the Borough by Allied Waste seems to be slowing down drivers and he will look into purchasing one for the Borough next year.

Councilman Bauer spoke with Mr. Richard Snyder of the Mount Pleasant Historical Society regarding permission to put another log cabin next to the existing one and to use some of the pavers being removed from Veterans Park to form a sidewalk to the cabin. This will be discussed in more detail at the next work session along with making a wall at the Welcome To Mount Pleasant sign on Rte 31 to make it more decorative

Councilman Bauer said work on the landlord ordinance is continuing and there will be future meetings with the landlords. Also, the committee is looking into better enforcement of the Property Maintenance Ordinance with regard to houses in the Borough that need painted.

Councilman Bauer received a report from Keystate Publishing on the ordinance codification and will review it with the committee and have a report for Council at the next work session.

Councilman Bauer brought up the subject of his report from the last meeting and the comments from citizens regarding the 9/11 ceremony at Veterans Park. Councilman Bauer said he was misquoted in the newspaper. He believes strongly in the freedom of speech but he feels that his religious background was attacked. He believes strongly in religion and the power of prayer and also supports the 9/11 program which he stated many times at that same meeting.

**Streets:**

Councilman Crivella said that the PennDot will begin digging to solve the storm water problem on Main Street in front of Phyllis Maida's property in mid October.

The paving project is complete and A. Folino did an excellent job. The asphalt mix seemed better this year. There are a couple of curbs that need to be put in behind the VFW and the Street Department will take care of that this week. Mr. Landy said he will call the MAWC regarding Silver Street.

Councilman Crivella has been meeting with Street Supervisor Mario Fontanazza to work on next years budget and it should be ready by the next work session.

Councilman Bauer asked if paving projects are going to be included in the budget for next year and pointed out that if we bid the job in January the cost would be lower. Mr. Landy said that the Borough could add 5% to this years project costs and budget that amount. Mr. Landy recommended that a street sealing project be included in the 2008 budget to extend the life of the road and alley pavements. The subject of tarring and chipping the alleys was discussed. Extending the life of the alleys in the Borough would save a lot of money in the future. WWT Supervisor Norman Stout asked that the Borough be notified in advance of any paving project so that manholes can be raised prior to paving. Councilman Crivella suggested a pre-construction meeting two or three weeks prior to any paving project. Mr. Landy said that if we bid the projects in the spring that leaves plenty of time to meet with the contractor.

**Finance Report:** None

**Property Report:**

Councilman Beranek said the Premoshis Christmas display project is continuing and the art department at the Mount Pleasant Area High School will begin painting the displays soon.

Councilman Beranek said that Mr. Johnson installed the new tissue holders in the restrooms at Frick and Willows Parks.

President Tabita said that anyone wishing to volunteer to help with the Premoshis Christmas displays can call the borough office at 724.547.6745.

Mayor Lucia addressed the need for new carpeting in the hallways of the Municipal Building to be added to the 2008 budget and that now would be the time to get quotes from vendors.

Mr. Landy asked Councilman Beranek the progress of replacing the floor in the Police Department and Councilman Beranek said he is trying to get someone to return his calls.

**Business and Economic Development and Contracts Report:**

Councilman Wilttrout said he and Mr. Landy met with Allied Waste regarding the upcoming garbage contract and they have agreed to provide the specs for the bid. A voluntary recycling program was also discussed. Councilman Wilttrout will look into grants available to help get the program started. The Borough population of less than 5,000 means that recycling is not mandatory but a voluntary program would benefit the Borough. If there was a large participation the cost of garbage collection could be reduced. Councilman Wilttrout said that the fuel surcharge currently being charged by Allied Waste will discontinue with a new contract and if we reduce the amount of tonnage being taken to the landfill we will be charged less.

**Human Resource/Employee Contracts Report:**

Councilwoman Stevenson said she will be meeting with Mr. Landy to put together an employee handbook and should have something ready for the next work session.

Councilwoman Stevenson thanked the public for their support of the Log Cabin and gave a special thanks to Richard Snyder, Jim Lozier and Ken Trice for all of their hard work in restoring the cabin.

**Recreation Report:**

Councilman Slater said that he received a letter and a sketch from the Soccer League requesting permission to put up a fence around the big and little soccer fields at Willows Park. Councilman Slater said he will have to review the request because it may interfere with the proposed gas well at Willows Park as well as the Coal & Coke Trail.

Councilman Slater said he was pleased with the volleyball tournament sponsored by the Glass and Ethnic Festival. Mr. Landy said that the Connellsville High School team River Rats won the tournament. Mr. Tate said he has received calls about organizing a volley ball league for next year.

Councilman Slater and President Tabita agreed to discuss forming a Veterans Park Committee to handle the continuing paperwork at the next work session. Councilman Slater said that Skowronek Landscaping should be planting the trees in the next month. Councilman Slater said that there are also some limbs that need trimmed at the park.

Councilman Bauer said there are dead limbs on property owned by the Borough on Mullin Avenue. Residents are worried about their cars being damaged in a storm. Mr. Landy said he recommends setting up a line item in next years budget for tree trimming in the Borough. Councilman Bauer said that residents are planting trees in the easements and doesn't want the Borough to have to be responsible for these trees in the future. President Tabita said that Council can ask Solicitor Toohey's opinion but he believes that the trees are the responsibility of the property owner.

Borough Manager thanked the Street and WWT Departments for their help setting up and tearing down at the Glass and Ethnic Festival.

**New Business:** None

**Reading of Communications:**

Borough Manager Landy read the following communications:

- A letter from Phyllis Maida thanking Mr. Landy and Council for their swift attention to her storm water problem.
- A letter from Scottdale Borough requesting permission to use the Borough's compost facility.

A motion was made by Councilman Bauer to allow Scottdale Borough to use the Borough's compost facility at the same cost as last year. Motion seconded by Councilman Slater. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Councilman Bauer to pay all authorized bills. Motion seconded by Councilman Slater. Motion carried.

**Miscellaneous and Adjournment:**

A motion was made by Councilman Bauer to adjourn the meeting. Motion seconded by Councilman Crivella. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned 8:55pm

## **Motions from October 1, 2007 Meeting**

A motion was made by Councilman Bauer to dispense with the reading of the minutes of September 17, 2007. Motion seconded by Councilman Slater. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Councilman Bauer to suspend the rules to make a motion to schedule a public meeting for the purpose of discussing approval of bringing another liquor license into the Borough pending our solicitor's approval. Motion seconded by Councilman Crivella. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Councilman Bauer to schedule a public meeting on October 22, 2007 at 6:30pm for the purpose of discussing approval of bringing another liquor license into the Borough for Leo & Sons Grill 31 Restaurant pending the approval of Solicitor Toohey. Motion seconded by Council Crivella. Councilwoman Stevenson asked if the purpose of the meeting was to give the public a chance ask Council to turn down the request. President Tabita said that yes that is the purpose of the public meeting. If Council grants an approval then the LCB takes over to run background checks and issue the license. This process will take 3 to 4 months. Mr. Wisneski said he hopes to open for business sometime in January 2008. Councilman Bauer wanted clarification that this will be a restaurant and not a bar. Mr. Wisneski said it would be a restaurant seating approximately 60 people. Motion carried.

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