

Meeting November 1, 2010

The meeting of Mount Pleasant Borough Council was called to order by President Bauer at 7:02pm 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 Bauer directed Borough Manager Landy to take roll. Councilmen Beranek, Crivella, McCloy, Pritts, Tabita, Tate and Councilwomen Stevenson and Ruzkowski were present. Mayor Lucia was present. President Bauer stated we have a quorum.

Reading of the Minutes:

A motion was made by Councilwoman Stevenson to dispense with the reading of the minutes of October 18, 2010. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Ruzkowski. Motion carried 9-0.

Public Comment:

Mark Krystyniak, Mount Pleasant PA informed Council that at the request of Mayor Lucia and Borough Manager Landy he surveyed the property owned by the borough that is adjacent to his property. The property is 4 feet deeper into the alley than the other lots on Main Street and the fence that is next door to the property is encroaching on the property by approximately 3 feet. Mr. Krystyniak said he will turn the survey over to Borough Manager Landy so that Council can look at it so that they can make a decision on whether they will sell the property and so that he can make a decision about purchasing it. Mayor Lucia asked Mr. Krystyniak if he feels Council should get an appraisal on the property for tax purposes.

Speakers: None

Mayor's Report:

Mayor Lucia read the following Police Report for the month of October 2010:

Report of the Mt. Pleasant Police Dept for the month of October 2010

The Department answered 257 calls during the month as follows:

Complaints	81
Requests for assistance	2
Assist Other Departments	2
Accidents investigated	6
Calls Returned	15
Assist Medic 10	7

The Department made 107 arrests during the month as follows:

Vehicle Code	97
Crimes Code	10
Borough Ordinance	0
Warnings Issued	3

Parking Tickets issued are as follows:

\$4.00 Meter Tickets	53
\$10.00 No Parking Tickets	21
Void / Excused	10

\$1.00 Parking Tickets Paid	0	\$	-
\$4.00 Parking Tickets Paid	33	\$	132.00
\$5.00 Parking Tickets Paid	1	\$	5.00
\$10.00 Parking Tickets Paid	0	\$	-
\$15.00 Parking Tickets Paid	4	\$	60.00
\$10.00 No Parking Tickets Pd	8	\$	80.00

Return from Magistrate Eckels	\$1,723.37
Return from Clerk of Courts	\$ 886.18
Return from Report Fees	\$ 75.00
Return from Parking Permits	\$ -
Return from Soliciting Permits	\$ -
Return from Restitution	\$ -
Total	\$2,964.55
1 Meter Collection	\$1,193.54
Total Receipts for the month	\$4,158.09

Mayor Lucia said that the Mount Pleasant Borough Police have been cracking down on speeders in the Borough. The Borough put a speed meter on loan from Allied Waste on various streets in town so that drivers could see how fast they were going and it did not slow anyone down. The only recourse was to give speeding tickets. It is important for the safety of our citizens that drivers follow the speed limits in Mount Pleasant.

Mayor Lucia congratulated the Mount Pleasant Viking Football team for their victory over Southmoreland on Friday and wished them luck in the playoffs.

Mayor Lucia said that there were a lot of kids Trick Or Treating in Mount Pleasant from other communities. This issue will have to be addressed before next year. It is putting a burden on residents who buy treats for the children in their neighborhood.

Solicitor's Report: None

Tax Collector Report:

Councilwoman Stevenson gave the following Tax Collector report for the month of October 2010:

Property Taxes	\$1,971.73
Per Capita Taxes	\$ 400.00
Total	\$2,371.73

President's Report:

A motion was made by Councilman Tate for an Executive Session. Motion seconded by Councilman Beranek. Motion carried 9-0.

Executive Session 7:23pm to 7:43pm

President Bauer reported that the Executive Session was held to discuss personnel and property issues.

A motion was made Councilman Tate to appoint Joe Bauer to the Mount Pleasant Library Board. Motion seconded by Councilman Crivella. Motion carried 9-0.

President Bauer said that he is still receiving complaints about the siding that is missing at 161 E Vine Street. President Bauer requested that our Code Enforcement Officer look into the matter. Mayor Lucia said that the property owner has cleaned up the property and stated that he will put siding on the home but we should follow up to see if it is being done.

President Bauer said he received a survey from Penn State about the effects of Marcellus gas well drilling. President Bauer said that the issue does not affect the Borough but the amount of wells being drilled in our area will have a big economic & environmental impact.

President Bauer said he did not receive any more complaints about our Yard Sale Permits so he feels the ordinance can remain as written.

President Bauer said that he has been receiving complaints about people parking on Mullin Avenue between Vine Street and Joseph Street. That area is designated as no parking. President Bauer asked Street Supervisor Mario Fontanazza to put more no parking signs on Mullin Avenue.

President Bauer said that there was an article in the October issue of the Borough News about Brown Fields. President Bauer said there is grant money available and asked Councilman Tabita to look into applying grant that could perhaps be used to clean up the Bridgeport Street property.

Borough Managers Report:

Borough Manager Landy made the following report:

- He and WWT Supervisor Norm Stout took a tour of Bellefonte Borough. Mr. Stout toured their WWT Plant and Mr. Landy spent time with the Bellefonte Borough Manager. Mr. Landy feels that Mount Pleasant's WWT Plant is up to par even though we did not receive a grant like Bellefonte Borough did to upgrade their plant. The Bellefonte Borough Manager had a lot of questions for Mr. Landy and Mr. Landy feels very good about the status of Mount Pleasant Borough.
- The 2010 Christmas Parade will be held on December 4, 2010 at 11:00am. The borough office will be working with Mount Pleasant BDA and Laurel Highlands Chamber of Commerce on the community celebration. Medic 10 will sponsor the parade again this year. The Candlelight Procession will be at 6:30pm beginning at the Central Fire Station on Church Street and ending at the Gazebo.
- A committee meeting was held with Architect Jim Gayton regarding the new plans for the Welcome To Mount Pleasant signs. Mr. Gayton said that he will have drawing available for Council at the November 22nd meeting.
- Repairs to Phase I of the Storm Water Retrofit Project will begin Wednesday November 3, 2010 at the Levin parking lot. Mr. Landy asked Street Supervisor Fontanazza to coordinate the repairs with the new Municipal Building sign.
- Mr. Landy said he is still getting complaints about broken parking meters in town.
- Mr. Landy said that Patrolman George Grippo has been unable to perform code enforcement because of the K-9 training program. President Bauer said that he feels a part-time officer should be given the responsibility of property maintenance enforcement.
- McCormick Taylor Engineers would like to meet with our Economic Development Committee to discuss ideas for a comprehensive plan.
- Some of the line items on the Budget Vs. Actual report are over for 2010. Adjustments will have to be made at the November 22nd meeting.
- All of Council has copies of the proposed 2011 budgets for General Fund, WWT and Liquid Fuels. Mr. Landy made the following points regarding the new General Fund budget:
 1. A firm number for Real Estate Taxes will come from the County some time in the middle of November.
 2. Office Rentals has been increased per Councilman Pritts to bring them in line with each other.
 3. There is no longer anyone self-paying their hospitalization.
 4. Donations from WWT and the Mount Pleasant Glass & Ethnic Festival were added.
 5. There is a new line item for K-9 Donations.
 6. There has been a drop in Interest Income.
 7. Changes were made in the way Municipal State Aide is being recorded.
 8. Charges for Services has increased because we are getting more Building and zoning permits.
 9. Income from the gas wells has been expensed in Recreation
 10. Expenses have stayed relatively the same.
 11. Insurance expenses were broken out between the Borough, Fire Department and WWT.

When firm numbers come from the County regarding Real Estate Tax income numbers may have to be adjusted up or down, but Mr. Landy does not expect a big change in the numbers for 2011.

Councilwoman Ruszkowski said that we are still looking for 2010 income from G.H. Harris for Delinquent Real Estate Taxes.

- Mr. Landy made the following points regarding the 2011 WWT Budget:
 1. WWT Budget shows excess revenue of \$423.
 2. Money for the new electrical panel has been put aside in the Budgetary Reserve Account.

Mr. Landy said there is large carry over amount in the Liquid Fuels Budget. This carry over will build up and be used for a paving project in the future. Center Avenue will be paved in 2011 using the CDBG Grant money. Bids for any paving project using Liquid Fuels money should be requested in the spring of 2011. President Bauer said that Council should have their paving requests in by December 31, 2010.

Mr. Landy said that there will be a motion on the December 4, 2010 agenda to adopt the 2011 budgets.

Waste Water Treatment Report:

A motion was made by Councilman Tate to suspend the rules for a motion to reconnect two properties on Quarry Street. Motion seconded by Councilman Crivella. Motion carried 9-0.

A motion was made by Councilman Tate to install a new lateral line to the main line in the rear and reconnect 132 and 134 Quarry Street properties to the new lateral. Motion seconded by Councilman Crivella. Motion carried 9-0.

Councilman Tate said he is going to discuss putting an electrician on retainer at the WWT Plant with Solicitor Wolfe.

Streets Report:

Councilman Tate said that there will be a meeting of Mount Pleasant Borough Departments on Wednesday November 3rd at 9:30am at the borough office to discuss plans for snow removal.

Public Safety Report:

Councilman Beranek read the following Medic 10 Report for the month of October 2010:

Total Calls for the Month	146
Medical	116
MVA	13
Fire	6
Transfers	0
Standby	11
In Town	68
Out of Town	78
Members per Call	2.7

Councilman Beranek read the following Fire Report for the month of October 2010:

Total Calls	40
In Town	4
Out of Town	36
In Town 10-45's	2
Out of Town 10-45's	10
10-45's w/entrapment	2

AFA's	8
Turnpike Calls	6
Fires	6
Stand Buy's	3
Public Service	2
Air Truck Calls	1
Total Men Per Call	18
Total Men Hours	288

A motion was made by Councilman Beranek to have free meter parking in the Borough for the Holiday Season From November 26, 2010 to January 2, 2010. Motion seconded by Councilman Tate. Motion carried 9-0.

Councilman Beranek asked residents to please trim their trees and shrubs in alleys because they are damaging vehicles driving past. It's harder to see the overhanging limbs now that the leaves are falling off. Councilman Tate said that is the Street Department can get a list, they can trim the trees and shrubs in the alleys.

Street Supervisor Fontanazza said anyone who wants their leaves picked up can call the Street Department.

Mayor Lucia suggested that we purchase plastic bags to put over the parking meters in during the Holiday Season so that people know that parking is free.

Mayor Lucia said that Terrace Avenue between Center Avenue and Shupe Street is very narrow if cars park on both sides of the street. Mayor Lucia asked Police Chief Ober to look at the situation and a possible solution.

Zoning and Ordinance Report:

A motion was made by Councilman McCloy to adopt Sign Ordinance #627. Motion seconded by Councilman Beranek. Motion carried 9-0.

A motion was made by Councilman McCloy to advertise Flood Plain Ordinance #628. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Stevenson. Motion carried 9-0.

Councilman McCloy explained that the Flood Plain Ordinance is mandated by FEMA. FEMA takes aerial photos and designates flood plain areas. Homeowners in those areas are eligible for flood insurance through FEMA.

Community and Economic Development/Grants Report:

Councilman Tabita said that The Frick Communities Main Street Manager program should be ready to start sometime in the beginning of 2011 if someone can be placed that quickly.

Councilman Tabita reported that he attended a meeting with the Mount Pleasant BDA and they are going to encourage Mount Pleasant businesses to be open some evening hours.

Councilman Tabita said that the 30 second ads incorporated into the Mount Pleasant video are selling and will be seen on TV before the end of the year.

Veterans Park Report:

Councilman Tabita said that a new addition is being proposed for Veterans Park. The granite wall and tablets that are part of the Veterans Memorial are filled with names. It seems that they fill up sooner than expected each time another one is erected. The Veterans Park Committee came up with the solution of putting up a touch-screen video wall. It would be 4 ft. wide by 8 ft. tall and would have 4 video screens that would show veterans names as well as a power point presentation with pictures and text if desired. The names will show just as they are engraved in granite, but will be on a touch screen.

The cost per name would be \$120. The Borough will take the information from the application, scan their pictures and will type the narrative. The process of viewing names will be very easy. The video screen could also be used for historical information. The Veterans Park Committee would like to put together a video dedication to Congressman Murtha and other historical information. A PA System for the park would also be housed in this unit. It will also include a directory of names that are on the granite wall. Anyone who has a name on the granite wall can also put the name on this video wall. The application will be on the Mount Pleasant web site soon. An application for a name only, without text or pictures will be \$100. This pricing will be available for the first 400 names. The equipment should be installed and ready sometime in the spring of 2011. Anyone who donates to this Veterans Park Video Wall will be eligible for a tax deduction of 25% of the donation. This is a very new and innovative idea and Mount Pleasant is excited to be the pioneer.

Parks and Recreation Report:

A motion was made by Councilman Crivella to suspend the rules a motion to postpone the bid letting for Jack Bobb's Park. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Stevenson. Motion carried 9-0.

A motion was made by Councilman Crivella to postpone the bid letting for installation of playground equipment at Jack Bobb's Park until November 15, 2010. Bids will be opened on November 15, 2010 at the borough office at 2:00pm and will be awarded at the council meeting on November 22, 2010. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Stevenson. Motion carried 9-0.

Finance Report:

Councilwoman Ruszkowski asked council to keep an eye on their budget line items for the remainder of 2010.

Councilwoman Ruszkowski said that the Mount Pleasant Area School District has offered to act as an alternate for the Borough at the Act 34 meetings. Councilwoman Ruszkowski said she will check the dates in November and December of this year and perhaps take the School District up on its offer at the beginning of 2011.

Property Report:

A motion was made by Councilman Pritts to raise rental rates for suites in the Municipal Building according to the rate schedule. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Ruszkowski. Motion carried 9-0.

Sanitation and Recycling Report: None

New Business:

President Bauer reminded everyone that the Veterans Day Parade will begin at 10:30am and the Veterans Day Ceremony at Veterans Park will begin at 11:00am.

President Bauer said that the Mount Pleasant VFW is celebrating its 75th Anniversary and there be a dinner at the VFW on Saturday November 6, 2010.

Discussion and Payment of Bills:

A motion was made by Councilman Beranek to pay all authorized and approved bills. Motion seconded by Councilman Pritts. Motion carried 9-0.

Reading of Communications:

Borough Manager Landy read the following communications:

- Mount Pleasant Area High School is presenting “The Wizard of Oz” on Friday November 12, 2010 at 7:30pm and on Saturday November 13, 2010 at 2:00pm in the High School auditorium. Tickets are \$2.00 for students and \$5.00 for adults.
- The Laurel Highlands Chamber of Commerce is having a Mixer at Wilson Chiropractic Health Center on November 17th from 5pm to 7pm. Free food will be provided by AJ’s Smokin’ BBQ.
- The quarterly meeting of Westmoreland Parks and Recreation Alliance will be held on Wednesday November 10th at 5:30pm at Sharkey’s restaurant.
- The Braddock Trail Chapter of the National Society of The Daughters of the American Revolution is participating in “Wreaths Across America” to honor our fallen heroes. We can purchase a wreath for \$15.
- Westmoreland Conservation District’s Annual Awards Banquet will be November 11, 2010 at 6:00pm at the Fred M Rogers Center at St. Vincent College. The Borough has been offered a complimentary table for 8.

Miscellaneous and Adjournment:

A motion was made by Councilman Beranek to adjourn the meeting. Motion seconded by Councilman McCloy.

Meeting adjourned 8:45pm

Motion from November 1, 2010 Meeting

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