

Meeting March 22, 2010

The meeting of Mount Pleasant Borough Council was called to order by President Bauer at 7:00pm 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, McCloy, Tabita, Tate, and Councilwomen Stevenson and Ruszkowski were present. Mayor Lucia was and the Solicitor was absent. President Bauer stated we have a quorum.

Reading of Previous Minutes:

A motion was made by Councilwoman Stevenson to dispense with the reading of the minutes of March 1, 2010. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Ruszkowski. Motion carried 7-0.

Public Comment: None

Speakers:

Rick Albright from the Mount Pleasant Junior Football League proposed to Council the idea of a 5K Run on the Sunday of the 2010 Glass & Ethnic Festival through the Borough and into the Township. It would start on Eagle Street and go out Braddock Road Avenue. Mr. Albright said the event will attract 500 to 1,000 people. The event would take approximately 1 to 2 hours. It would be a rain or shine event and would begin at 9:00am. Council discussed the route and having to close different streets. The cost would be \$15 for each runner. The person organizing the event would charge \$750 to \$1,000. Funds raised would go to the Junior Football League. President Bauer said he will turn the idea over to the Public Safety and Recreation Committees for their approval.

Sue Ramela from the Laurel Highlands Chamber of Commerce said she would like to apply for a grant from the Laurel Highlands Visitors Center for a sign for the Laurel Highlands Chamber of Commerce. The location of the sign would be on the corner section of the sidewalk by Diamond Pharmacy. The sign would have a map with points of interest in Mount Pleasant and surrounding communities. Ms. Ramela presented Council with different examples of signs. Borough Manager Landy said the idea originated with the Mount Pleasant Rotary. The area at First Niagara Bank was also discussed as a place to put the sign. The approximate size of the map would be 5 feet by 5 feet. President Bauer said he will turn the idea over to the Community & Economic Development Committee for discussion. The grant application is due April 16, 2010. Ms. Ramela can apply for the grant without naming a precise location.

A motion was made by Councilman Tabita to approve the request from Laurel Highlands Chamber of Commerce to donate a sign to the Borough of Mount Pleasant and erect it at a location approved by Council. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Stevenson. Motion carried 7-0.

President Bauer said an Executive Session was held at 6:30pm this evening to interview a councilperson to replace Ron Slater who recently resigned. The person chosen to fill Mr. Slater's seat is James Tucholski, 113 Deer Creek Drive, Mount Pleasant PA 15666.

A motion was made by Councilman Tate to appoint James Tucholski to the vacant 1st Ward council seat. Motion seconded by Councilman Tabita. Motion carried 7-0.

Mayor Lucia swore in Councilman Tucholski to the Mount Pleasant Borough 1st Ward council seat.

Mayor's Report:

Mayor Lucia reported that many landlords in the Borough have registered their properties but there are still quite a few that have not. Mayor Lucia asked the newspapers to keep reporting the new ordinance and the need to register. Mayor Lucia asked Council how they want to go about citing landlords who do not register their properties and tenants. Borough Manager Landy said that approximately 80 landlords have registered. President Bauer said that the Borough said we would cite and fine anyone not registered by March 15, 2010 and should follow through but Council agreed to give landlords a grace period to April 15, 2010. After that date the fine for not registering is \$300. Mayor Lucia said he would like the list of tenant addresses compiled by street name. On April 16, 2010 if anyone who knows of a property that is not registered they should notify the Borough and the landlord will be cited and fined. Mayor Lucia reminded landlords that the ordinance also mandates inspections for rental properties every two years. President Bauer said that the 2000 Census reported 740 rental units in the Borough.

Mayor Lucia reminded residents that the Borough will continue enforcing the Property Maintenance Code.

Mayor Lucia said that there is still a problem with juveniles at Frick Park. There will be an extra police officer on duty from 4pm to 8pm. There are funds in the budget to cover the officer's wages for seven weeks. Councilman Beranek said his committee will look at last years schedule and see what we did then. Councilman Beranek said that cameras may have to be installed at Frick Park.

Mayor Lucia said that the upcoming census will be very important to the Borough in the future and asked residents to fill out the census form and return it.

Solicitor's Report: None

Treasurer's Report:

Borough Manager Landy read the following Treasurers Report for the month of February 2010:

Mt. Pleasant Borough Treasurer's Report:		Feb-10			
		Previous Balance	Deposits	Disbursements	Balance Feb10
General Fund Checking	PNC 00-0122-3513	51,918.00	113,654.52	115,444.72	50,127.80
General Fund Sweep	PNC 10-1149-3394	574,041.65	29,550.75	67,687.19	535,905.21
General Fund Budgetary Reserve	PNC 102-457-4388	103,164.94	43.81	0.00	103,208.75
**Fire		30,000.00			
**Police		10,000.00			
**Streets		10,000.00			
**Contingency Fund		53,257.90			
General Fund Budgetary Reserve	Standard Bank 321615	101,335.41	89.91	0.00	101,425.32
**Police		20,000.00			
**Streets		20,000.00			
**Contingency Fund		21,335.41			
**Infrastructure		30,000.00			
**BOMP1 Recreation Fund		10,000.00			
**Frick Park Recreation Fund					
Liquid Fuels PLGIT	PLGIT 56980126	44,781.22	2.87	15,785.62	28,998.47
Monument CD	Standard Bank 242781	5,729.90	9.33	0.00	5,739.23
Holiday Lighting Fund	Standard Bank 050004849	1,798.14	0.20	0.00	1,798.34
Payroll Fund	PNC 00-0122-6415	1,538.21	51,736.58	51,884.46	1,390.33
Veterans Park Fund	First Niagara 981293700	1,279.13	0.00		1,279.13
Veterans Park PLGIT	PLGIT 5698025	11,249.80	0.96	0.00	11,250.76
Police Drug Enforcement	PNC 10-1291-2642	850.50	0.00	0.00	850.50
Town Clock Fund	Standard Bank 0010038847	612.03	0.07	0.00	612.10
Storm Water Retrofit Phase 1	PNC Bank 10-2825-9692	14,500.00	0.00	17.99	14,482.01
Total General Fund Balance					857,067.95
WWT Operational Acct	Standard Bank 0320012280	275,463.75	44,747.17	59,332.83	260,878.09
WWT Savings	Standard Bank 0050021008	18,193.56	16.14	0.00	18,209.70
WWT Budgetary Reserve	Standard Bank 0000287245	102,576.35	91.01	0.00	102,667.36
**Contingency		62,667.36			
**Infrastructure		40,000.00			
Total WWT Balance					381,755.15
Total Borough funds					1,238,823.10

Respectfully Submitted:
 Councilwoman Susan Ruszkowski
 Borough Manager Jeff Landy

A motion was made by Councilman Tate to accept the Treasurer's Report as read. Motion seconded by Councilman Beranek. Motion carried 7-0.

Borough Manager Landy said that the funds in the Police Drug Enforcement account could be used to patrol the park. Police Chief Ober would have to write a letter. There is also the option of using a drug dog in the park.

President's Report:

President Bauer said he received a letter of resignation from Diane Paul from the BDA. The BDA is requesting someone be appointed to take her place, but President Bauer said that there may be some changes made in the organization of the BDA and will wait until they are complete before appointing anyone.

A motion was made by Councilman Beranek to hold a Night at the Races for fireworks hosted by Leo & Sons Grille 31 on April 17, 2010 at the VFW Post #3368 at 6pm. Motion seconded by Councilman Tate. Motion carried 7-0.

President Bauer said that when the weather improves Borough Manager Landy and Mayor Lucia will test alternate sites to set off the fireworks in the Borough.

Borough Manager Landy said that the fundraiser for fireworks is necessary this year until the location issue is resolved. It would be unfair to ask local businesses to sponsor the fireworks while the issue is ongoing.

President Bauer said that the new Yard Sale Ordinance states that each household in the Borough is allowed to have two yard sales per year for a duration of 2 days each. A permit is required and the cost of the permit is \$5. The police will be instructed to make sure the person holding the yard sale has a permit.

President Bauer said that we have been working with the Solicitor on the Employee Handbook and it is almost complete.

Borough Manager's Report:

Borough Manager Landy said that calls have been coming into the borough office from residents who have damage to their property caused by snow removal this winter. Mr. Landy asked Council how they would like the borough office to proceed. Should we give the names to the Street Department to try and resolve before reporting the problems to the insurance company or should we report them directly to the insurance company. Council agreed that the names should be given to the Street Department first to assess the complaints and see if any can be resolved by the Street Department.

Mr. Landy said that we have also been getting questions about signs. Questions have been regarding banners, and signs remaining on businesses that are closed. Councilman McCloy said that the ordinance states that when Council wants a sign removed the procedure will be a letter to the owner from the Code Enforcement Officer requiring the removal of the sign within 7 days.

Mr. Landy said that there are still non-working parking meters on the streets. Mayor Lucia said that he would have a meeting with Street Supervisor Fontanazza and Police Chief Ober on Wednesday morning regarding the parking meters. Mr. Landy said that money in the budget collected from meters is to be used for meter parts.

Mr. Landy said that all of the suites on the second floor of the Municipal Building have been rented.

Mr. Landy said he spoke with Mount Pleasant Area School Superintendent Terry Struble regarding the Ramsay Tennis Courts. Mr. Struble said they have turned the issue over to their Property Committee who will make a recommendation to the School Board sometime between April 2010 and June 2010 regarding what to do with the tennis courts. Mr. Landy said he informed Mr. Struble that in 1965 there was a deed transfer deeding the basketball court property, the parking lot and the Library to the Borough. Mr. Struble said that as long as the basketball court property is used for recreation, the borough parking lot and library stay the same, the property will remain the Borough's.

Mr. Landy said that Keystate Publishing sent 12 Ordinance books, 12 Sub-Division book, 12 Zoning book and 12 CD's containing the ordinances.

Mr. Landy said that Zoning Variance Board Chairman Nat Abromson sent the Borough a letter regarding Jane Altman and her property located at 462 W Main Street Mount Pleasant and her request for a variance to extend a porch out into the sidewalk. In the letter Attorney Abromson said that the Zoning Variance Board cannot hear Ms. Altman's variance request because it does not fall under their jurisdiction. Therefore the Council's decision to refuse Ms. Altman's request to extend the porch onto the sidewalk stays.

Mr. Landy said he has approximately five ideas that were decided on by the Idea Forum that the other organizations are not working on so if any committees would like to go forward with any of the ideas, he will forward them.

Waste Water Treatment Report:

Councilman Tate reported that Gibson Thomas Engineering did a study on the proposed electrical panel at the WWT Plant. Their study shows that the cost of the panel will be \$93,000 for the panel and \$9,500 for engineering fees. Norm Stout, WWT Supervisor said that the last upgrade of the electrical panel was in 1989 or 1990. Mr. Stout said that one option would be to replace one side of the panel this year and the other side next year. Councilman Tate said he feels that the entire panel should be replaced this year to eliminate any danger of a system shutdown. Mr. Stout and Borough Manager Landy feel the money should come from the Budgetary Reserve Account.

A motion was made by Councilman Tate to authorize Gibson Thomas Engineering to prepare specs for the electrical panel upgrade at the WWT Plant and when completed to advertise for bids. Motion seconded by Councilman Tabita. Motion carried 7-0.

Mr. Landy reported that the last payment on the Penn Vest Loan #1 will be made in April 2010. Payments on Penn Vest Loan #2 will begin in May 2010 and will be approximately \$2,000 less per month than Loan #1.

Councilman Tate said that there was a sewer backup on Summit Street. The problem is that three properties are hooked to the same line. WWT personnel cleared the backup but the Borough may have to run another line. If that happens each property owner will have to run their own lateral and it would cost the owner approximately \$3,000. The property owners may choose not to have the Borough run a new line. If that is what they decide, they would sign an agreement that they are responsible for any future backup. Mr. Stout is researching the situation and will report back to Council.

Public Safety:

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

Total Calls	58
In-Town Calls	24
Out of Town Calls	34
10-45's	20
Fires	13
Public Service	13
AFA's	11
Standbys	1
Total Men Answering Calls	853
Average Member Per Call	15
Total Hours	644

Councilman Beranek said he is looking at an on-line GPS Systems for the police vehicles that would track where the vehicles are at all times.

Mayor Lucia said that the Mount Pleasant VFW has started a Junior Fireman Program for 14 to 18 year olds. Mayor Lucia would like Council to adopt a resolution to enact the program. Councilman Tabita said we should check with our insurance carrier to determine if the junior firemen would be covered and what they would be allowed to do. Mayor Lucia said that the State of Pennsylvania has guidelines for what junior firemen are allowed to do and the VFD follows those guidelines. Mr. Landy said he will send a copy of the state regulations to our insurance carrier for their decision on coverage.

Mayor Lucia said that any junior fireman who stays with the department for one year prior to the age of 18 can attend WCCC for two years at no cost.

Zoning & Ordinance Report:

Councilman McCloy said he will drive around town and see if residents are having yard sales without permits. He will make a list and turn it over to the Police Department.

Streets, Parks & Recreation Report:

A motion was made by Councilman Tate to grant \$4,000 to the Mount Pleasant Recreation soccer League to help build an additional building for storage. Motion seconded by Councilman Tabita. Motion carried 7-0.

A motion was made by Councilman Tate to allow the Girl's Recreational Softball League to convert the borough volleyball court into a dual usage batting cage and volleyball court at no cost to the Borough. Motion seconded by Councilman Beranek. Motion carried 7-0.

A motion was made by Councilman Tate to transfer \$6,000 to WWT Fund from recreational grant monies to cover the cost of the grant to the Mount Pleasant Little League for a new line to be put underground at the new Little League T-Ball field. Motion seconded by Councilman Beranek. Motion carried 7-0.

Borough Manager Landy said that this money will come from gas well revenue from the well that sits at the Little League Field and will be the 2009 commitment from gas well revenue to recreation. 2010 gas well revenue monies will satisfy Council's 3-year commitment to recreation.

A motion was made by Councilman Tate to purchase electrical equipment not to exceed \$1,000 for new concession stand at Frick Park from Line Item #450.16. Motion seconded by Councilman Tabita. Motion carried 7-0.

Veterans Park Report:

Councilman Tate said that the Veterans Park Committee will meet with Architect Jim Gayton regarding additional tablets at Veterans Park. The committee will begin to meet regularly after Easter.

Finance Report:

A motion was made by Councilwoman Ruszkowski to transfer \$100,000 from PNC General Fund to the General Fund Budgetary Reserve Account with Standard Bank per the following breakdown:

\$20,000 Police

\$20,000 Streets

\$34,500 Contingency Fund

\$20,000 Infrastructure

\$3,000 Recreation Grant Fund

\$2,500 Frick Park Gas Well Grant Fund

Motion seconded by Councilwoman Stevenson. Motion carried 7-0.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Ruszkowski to transfer \$25,000 from WWT Operational Account with Standard Bank to the WWT Budgetary Reserve Contingency Fund. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Stevenson. Motion carried 7-0.

Property Report: None

Sanitation & Recycling Report:

Councilwoman Stevenson said she has been noticing residents putting out additional recycling containers, which seems to mean that the program is becoming very successful.

Community and Economic Development/Grants Report:

Councilman Tabita said Frick Communities received a proposal from Pittsburgh Historical Landmarks and they are asking them to submit a more detailed proposal.

Councilman Tabita reported that the Mount Pleasant video is complete. Council viewed the video and all members approved. A discussion ensued about how to use the video to market Mount Pleasant. Kingfish Productions will prepare a 30 second cut. 7 ½ seconds at the beginning and 7 ½ seconds at the end would be from the video and the middle could be filled with a local business advertisement. If the Borough can get three businesses to buy 300 ads we can get started. Nino Barsotti is the first business to agree to purchase ad space.

Councilman Tabita said everyone on Council will be provided with a copy of the DVD.

New Business: None

Reading of Communications:

Borough Manager Landy read the following communications:

- Borough Manager Landy said that there is still time to sign up for the 99th Annual PSAB Conference, which will be held April 25th to April 28th at the Omni William Penn in Pittsburgh. The deadline for registration is April 1, 2010.
- The Westmoreland County Boroughs Association will hold its monthly meeting in Greensburg at the Westmoreland Transit Authority on March 25, 2010.
- The Westmoreland County Boroughs Association annual banquet will be held on Friday April 30, 2010 at the Youngwood Fire Hall. Tickets are \$20.00 per person. The Borough will pay for council members and they can pay for their spouse.
- The Annual Community Outreach Meeting will be held on March 31, 2010 at Commissioners Hall at WCCC. Registration will begin at 12:30pm. The presentation will begin at 1:00pm.
- There will be a Professional Police Operations Seminar on April 8, 15, and 22 at Cranberry Township. The Cost is \$95.
- The Pa Borough Councils Association is accepting nominations for Outstanding Councilmember of the Year Awards. Nominations must be submitted by March 31, 2010.
- There was an article in the Mayors Association newsletter about Mayor Lucia's 25th anniversary as Mayor of Mount Pleasant.
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Discussion and Payment of Bills:

A motion was made by Councilman Tate to pay all authorized and approved bills. Motion seconded by Councilman Beranek. Motion carried 7-0.

Miscellaneous and Adjournment:

A motion was made by Councilman Tate to adjourn the meeting. Motion seconded by Councilman Beranek. Motion carried 7-0.

Meeting Adjourned 9:07pm.

Motions from March 22, 2010 Meeting

A motion was made by Councilwoman Stevenson to dispense with the reading of the minutes of March 1, 2010. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Ruszkowski. Motion carried 7-0.

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