

Meeting March 23, 2009

The meeting of Mount Pleasant Borough Council was called to order by President Tabita at 7:01pm 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, McCloy, Slater, Tate and Councilwomen Ruszkowski and Stevenson were present. Mayor Lucia and Solicitor Toohey were present. President Tabita stated we have a quorum.

President Tabita announced that an Executive Session was held from 6:10pm to 7:59pm this evening to discuss real estate and contracts.

Reading of Previous Minutes:

A motion was made by Councilman Bauer to dispense with the reading of the minutes of March 2, 2009. Motion seconded by Councilman Slater. Motion carried 8-0.

Public Comment: None

Speakers:

Stuart Demanski from the D.E.P. spoke to Council regarding the proposed Rain Gardens in the Borough and the grants that have been awarded to fund the project. Hopefully the project can begin sometime in July 2009. Phase 1 will include 6 rain gardens. Four of the gardens will be located in the parking lot behind Levins Furniture and two will be constructed in the parking lot of the municipal building off Church Street.

The Borough was awarded a federal grant of more than \$72,000 last year. Design of the project has been completed but construction has been delayed for several reasons. Construction cannot be started on the rain gardens until Jacobs Creek Watershed Association has its watershed implementation plan approved. Approval of that plan is expected in May 2009. Construction would then begin following the annual Mount Pleasant Firemen's Fair that takes place in the parking lots behind Levins.

The Borough has been approved for another federal grant for nearly \$500,000 for the second phase of the project. This second phase will involve 30 to 50 rain gardens on residential properties, mainly around the Geary Street area. The rain gardens will look like a regular landscaped flower garden area and will not cost the resident any money for the construction or for the initial mulch, plants or shrubs. There are, however, no provisions in the grant for replacement of any of the shrubs or flowers if they were to die at some point. Mr. Demanski said that this is the biggest residential participation rain garden project that has been done across the state that he is aware of.

President Tabita said he is excited about the project because it is another step in the borough's going-green goal.

Mayor's Report:

Mayor Lucia spoke about the concerns regarding juveniles loitering in the parks and drug trafficking in the parks. There have numerous complaints from citizens. Mayor Lucia suggested a Park Patrol. The patrol would be individuals who are paid to walk the parks, especially Frick and Willows Parks, and will wear uniforms identifying them at Park Patrol.

Scott Piper, Deputy Sheriff, Westmoreland County suggested that county drug dogs make random sweeps of the parks to deter drug use.

Mayor Lucia said he received a request for a crosswalk in front of the Senior Center.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Stevenson to designate an area for a crosswalk from Chestnut Alley to Washington Street. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Ruszkowski. Motion carried 9-0.

Mayor Lucia said he has received a request that the alley by Beranek's Garage on Morewood Street be named Beranek Way. Councilman Bauer said that there have been a number of alley name requests and the committee will look at all of the requests at the same time.

Solicitor's Report:

Solicitor Toohey reported that the attorney for East Huntingdon Township is working on the InterMunicipal agreement between Mount Pleasant Borough, Scottdale and East Huntingdon Township and when it is completed Solicitor Toohey will review it.

Solicitor Toohey said that the Borough must request bids for any renovations over \$10,000 for the recreation leagues. The renovations will be done on property owned by the Borough and Borough Code must be followed.

Treasurer's Report:

Borough Manager Landy read the following Treasurer's Report for the month of February 2009:

Mt. Pleasant Borough Treasurer's Report:		Feb-09			
		Previous Balance	Deposits	Disbursements	Balance Feb09
General Fund Checking	PNC 001223513	66,655.00	118,686.53	133,322.53	52,019.00
General Fund Sweep	PNC 11493394	475,570.78	40,925.13	70,580.00	445,915.91
General Fund Budgetary Reserve	PNC 102-457-4388	102,349.22	85.58	0.00	102,434.80
Fire	\$ 30,000.00				
Police	\$ 10,000.00				
Street	\$ 10,000.00				
Contingency Fund	\$ 52,434.80				
Infrastructure	\$ -				
Recreation Grant Fund	\$ -				
Liquid Fuels PLGIT	PLGIT 56980126	105,408.23	85.76	0.00	105,493.99
Monument CD	Standard Bank 242781	5,626.71			5626.71
Holiday Lighting Fund	Standard Bank 050004849	1,995.17	0.38	0.00	1,995.55
Payroll Fund	PNC 01226415	1,112.35	49,456.68	49,431.09	1,137.94
Veterans Park Fund	National City 981293700	4,614.39	600.00	796.25	4,418.14
Veterans Park PLGIT	PLGIT 5698025	11,200.58	9.11	0.00	11,209.69
Police Drug Enforce.	PNC 1012912642	850.50	0.00	0.00	850.50
Town Clock Fund	Standard Bank 0010038847	611.05	0.12	0.00	611.17
Total General Fund Balance					731,713.40
WWT Operational Acct	Standard Bank 0320012280	316,998.52	55,766.64	53,795.50	318,959.66
WWT Savings	Standard Bank 50021008	1,504.15	1,508.18	0.00	3,012.33
WWT Budgetary Reserve	Standard Bank 287245	51,103.33	58.45	0.00	51,161.78
Contingency	\$ 51,161.78				
Infrastructure	\$ -				
Total WWT Balance					373,133.77
Total Borough funds					1,104,847.17

Respectfully Submitted:
 Councilwoman Susan Ruszkowski
 Borough Manager Jeff Landy

A motion was made by Councilman Slater to approve the Treasurer's Report as read. Motion seconded by Councilman Beranek. Motion carried 9-0.

Borough Manager Landy said that the balance in General Fund at the end of February 2009 is over \$445,000 compared to \$340,000 in 2008 and we will be able to transfer \$100,000 from this account into Budgetary Reserve again this year. \$20,000 of this transfer will be added to the Police allocation, \$20,000 to Streets and \$20,000 to the Contingency Fund. \$30,000 will be allocated to Infrastructure and \$10,000 to the Recreation Grant Fund.

Mr. Landy said that \$50,000 can be transferred from WWT sweep account into the WWT Budgetary Reserve account again this year. \$10,000 from this money will be added to the Contingency allocation and \$40,000 will be allocated to Infrastructure. The cost of the Quarry Street Project that WWT

Superintendent Norm Stout reported on at the last meeting will be taken from the Infrastructure allocation. Councilwoman Ruszkowski will make a motion to transfer this money during her report tonight.

President's Report:

A motion was made by Councilman Bauer to accept the offer of \$175,000 from Leo & Sons Inc. to purchase the property at 537 Main Street housing the In Town Shops and currently owned by the Mount Pleasant Business District Authority. The sale is contingent on closing on or before July 31, 2009 and subject to any other terms to be proposed in an agreement of sale. Leo & Sons Inc. put \$5,000 hand money down on the property. Motion seconded by Councilman Crivella. Motion carried 9-0.

A motion was made by Councilman Crivella to approve the participation of the Borough of Mount Pleasant in an InterMunicipal Agreement with the Borough of Scottsdale and East Huntingdon Township for the purpose of forming a non-profit 501 (C) (3) entity to implement the Frick Communities Regional Main Street Manager Program and to further authorize the preparation and advertisement of an ordinance to enable the entry into the InterMunicipal Agreement. Motion seconded by Councilman Slater. Motion carried 9-0.

President Tabita said the county has received bids for the demolition of the DiNicola property on Main Street. The lowest bid came in at \$11,250. The Westmoreland County Redevelopment Authority is reviewing the bids. The lowest responsible bid will be awarded and the demolition is expected to begin within 80 days from April 1, 2009.

President Tabita said that Phase II of the Main Street Street-Scape Project should be completed by the end of April including the extension up to CoGo's.

Kingfish Productions will be doing a video of Mount Pleasant on May 2, 2009. President Tabita said it would be important to partner with the Business District Authority and businesses on Main Street to have a "Day of Shopping" and other promotions. President Tabita also asked Mr. Landy to contact the Little League, Soccer and Softball leagues to find out their game schedules for that day so that we can film some of the action.

Borough Managers Report:

Borough Manager Jeff Landy made the following report:

- Mr. Landy said Council has a copy of the gas well revenue schedule. The \$10,000 earmarked to budgetary reserve was collected from Willows Park gas well in 2008.
- Mr. Landy gave the names of five renters to Tax Collector Carol Yancosky that he received voluntarily from a Mount Pleasant landlord. Carol researched and cross-referenced the names with tax records and none of the names were in the per capita book. So it's true that the we're losing tax revenue because we don't have a list of tenants living in the Borough and we need some kind of tenant registration.
- The scoreboard for the Girl's Softball Field at Frick Park has been delivered and is being stored at the borough shed. The scoreboard will be erected within the next three weeks, definitely before April 18, 2009 which is before the first softball game.
- Council received a request from Kathryn and Mark Krystyniak to have the curb cut at 330-332 College Avenue for off-street parking.

A motion was made by Councilman Slater to allow Kathryn and Mark Krystyniak to have the curb cut at 330-332 College Avenue for off-street parking after approval of Street Supervisor Mario Fontanazza. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Stevenson. Motion carried 9-0.

- The Glass Festival has decided to donate a swing-set to Mount Pleasant Parks and Recreation for Jack Bobb's Park. The money will come from the Mount Pleasant Glass & Ethnic Festival Children's Fund raised each year. The money budgeted is \$1,500 to \$1,800. Mr. Landy will turn the information over to the Recreation Committee so they can select the swing-set.
- Mr. Landy presented Council with a list of Webinars. Anyone wishing to attend can call the borough office.
- Nine bid packages have been sent out for the paving project. Bids are due by 4:00pm April 6, 2009.

- MPIAA Girls Softball has asked for permission to sell advertising banners to be placed on the outside fence at Frick Park Softball Field. Mr. Landy requested that they use only every other 8-foot fence section so that it doesn't look junky. The money from the advertising will go toward purchasing uniforms. Any monies left will be used for field improvements. Mr. Landy showed Council a sample sign and there were no objections.

A motion was made by Councilman Beranek to allow the Girls Softball League to put advertising signs on the fence at Frick Park during softball season with the profits to go to field maintenance. Motion seconded by Councilman Bauer. Motion carried 9-0.

- Mr. Landy said he hired a firm to coordinate the medical care of a workers comp claim for an injured Police Officer. The cost will be \$50.00 for February, \$125.00 for March and \$125.00 for April.

Waste Water Treatment Report:

Councilman Tate reported that in the last two weeks WWT Superintendent Norm Stout and Borough Manager Landy delivered a letter along with grease trap regulations to Mount Pleasant restaurants and food establishments. A letter was received from Harmon House stating that they have a grease trap and the unit grease does not exceed 25% of capacity. It is cleaned twice a week and degreaser is added.

Councilman Tate said that WWT personnel have posted homes on Quarry Street announcing a public meeting on April 1, 2009 at 5:00pm in Council Chambers at the Municipal Building. The public meeting will inform the residents of the proposed 850-foot sewer line installation in their area and answer any questions they may have.

Public Safety, Zoning and Ordinance Report:

Councilman Bauer discussed a Sign Ordinance he feels should be passed. Councilman Tate said that he is not against businesses putting signs on the sidewalk to attract people passing through the Borough but other council members disagreed.

Councilman Bauer also discussed a Garage Sale Ordinance he likes. The only thing he would add to the ordinance would be to approve group yard sales or neighborhood yard sales that occur once a year. He presented a Dog Ordinance he approves of and a Graffiti Ordinance.

Councilman Bauer would like to get these ordinances to Solicitor Toohey for advertisement to be adopted.

Councilman Bauer said that at an earlier meeting he suggested registering all Contractors doing work in the Borough. It is not long necessary for the Borough to do this because the state of Pennsylvania has passed a law stating that as of July 1, 2009 any Contractor making more than \$5,000 must be registered with the state and show proof of insurance etc. When this law takes effect he suggests having a link to that site on the Mount Pleasant Borough website.

Councilman Bauer asked Mr. Landy to contact Berkheimer regarding Amusement Tax because he understands that on July 1, 2009 the state will take over collection of this tax.

Councilman Bauer asked Councilman Slater, Recreation Chairman if the nets could be put up at the tennis courts.

Councilman Bauer said he received an invoice from Councilwoman Stevenson for the Cat Program. He feels that instead of paying each individual invoice, Council should make a donation to the program from the money budgeted. Councilwoman Stevenson said that the paperwork has been submitted, but the program has not received a 501C3 designation and they cannot open a bank account yet. Councilman Bauer suggested that people from the Cat Committee pay this invoice and then Council will make a donation.

Mayor Lucia asked Councilman Bauer the status of the Landlord Ordinance. Councilman Bauer said that he is going to register for a Webinar on April 30, 2009. The Webinar will explain the process a municipality needs to go through to implement an ordinance to execute a successful inspection program.

A motion was made by Councilman Bauer to make a \$75.00 donation from the General Fund Line Item 410.23 to the Loyalhanna Veterinary Clinic for the Cat Program. Motion seconded by Councilman Slater. Motion carried 9-0.

President Tabita asked Councilman Bauer which sign ordinance he was looking at and Councilman Bauer said the one with the heading Chapter 10 Sign Regulations because he feels it covers everything the Borough needs.

Streets, Parks and Recreation Report:

A motion was made by Councilman Slater to hire Street Department worker Jeff McGuinness as a full-time employee with the appropriate increase in pay since he has completed his probationary period. Motion seconded by Councilman Bauer. Motion carried 9-0.

Councilman Slater reported that a new catch basin was installed behind the backstop at the softball field at Frick Park.

Work is continuing on the Oak Street project. Some unmarked underground lines were discovered which delayed the project.

Councilman Slater said he is meeting with Skowronek Lawn Service tomorrow. Mayor Lucia said that they should be told about trimming better around signs and being more careful that they don't damage the signs with lawn mowers.

Councilman Slater said that the Girl's Softball League will have a clean up day at the park on Saturday. Street Supervisor Fontanazza volunteered to bring a truck up to haul away the debris.

President Tabita said that the Street Department needs to look at the parks ASAP because there are sharp edges on some of the equipment.

A discussion ensued regarding drug activity in the parks and people not cleaning up after their animals. President Tabita suggested purchasing some bags and putting them in a dispenser so that people can use to clean up after their dogs and he would like to see tighter police patrol at the parks.

President Tabita said he would like the Street Department to clean up around the borough building on a regular basis. He also feels it is not necessary to have a television in the Street Department and he would like it removed.

President Tabita suggested a meeting with Supervisor Fontanazza covering what Council would like him to do.

President Tabita said that he has a request for the tennis courts to be spruced up a bit. Maybe the School District would be willing to work with us to do something.

Finance Report:

A motion was made by Councilwoman Ruszkowski to make the following transfers to Budgetary Reserve Accounts:

- WWT = \$50,000
 - \$10,000 – Contingency
 - \$40,000 – Infrastructure
- General Fund = \$100,000
 - \$20,000 – Police
 - \$20,000 – Streets
 - \$30,000 – Infrastructure
 - \$20,000 – Contingency Fund
 - \$10,000 – Recreation Grant Fund

Motion seconded by Councilman Crivella. Motion carried 9-0.

Property Report:

Councilman Beranek discussed the new sign at Veterans Park and the recommendations from Mount Pleasant Mine Service.

Borough Manager Landy said he would like to meet with Councilman Beranek to discuss installing new carpeting in the second floor hallway. He would also like to use the D.O.C. workers to paint the walls on the second and third floor.

President Tabita said that if it is Council's wish we could put Westmoreland County Commissioner Charles Anderson's name on Veterans Wall as a courtesy. All of Council agreed it is a good idea.

Community Eco-Green Report:

Councilman McCloy said he spoke to Brad Cunningham from the D.E.P. last week regarding the recycling grant that we applied for and did not get. The next round of grants will begin in late September 2009. We will have to adopt a Recycling Ordinance before we will be eligible for any grant. Councilman Bauer said that we have a sample of a solid waste ordinance we can work from.

Human Resources and Employee Contracts Report:

A motion was made by Councilwoman Stevenson to adopt Resolution 2009-03 allowing the forfeited pension monies of terminated employees to be re-allocated to the active members of the Borough as of December 31, 2008. Motion seconded by Councilman Slater. Motion carried 9-0.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Stevenson to adopt Resolution 2009-04 allowing the Borough to increase the municipal pension contribution from \$2.15 per hour worked by a member in 2008 to \$2.30 per hour worked by a member in 2009. Motion seconded by Councilman Crivella. Motion carried 9-0.

Councilwoman Stevenson explained that Resolution 2009-04 is simply a formality. The increase in pension each year is part of the Street Department Contract that was approved by Council effective February 2007 and runs until September 2011.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Stevenson to hire Margene Wilczynski as part-time on-call secretary at \$8.00 per hour and no benefits. Motion seconded by Councilman Crivella. Motion carried 9-0.

Councilwoman Stevenson said that her and Borough Manager Landy have canceled the contract with Paychex to provide us with an employee handbook because they are unable to give us what we want. Any monies that have been paid will be refunded to the Borough. The handbook that Councilwoman Stevenson and Mr. Landy were working on prior to contacting Paychex is very near completion and it will cost less to finish that one in-house and have Solicitor Toohey review it for legalities. President Tabita said that St. Vincent College has a small business development service that may be able to help us with a handbook at no cost if we need it.

Councilwoman Stevenson said that the Mount Pleasant Historical Society is sponsoring a Cemetery Walk. The walk will be guided by the Historical Society and historical information presented.

Councilwoman Stevenson reported that the Cat Program is progressing successfully. There are volunteers out trapping cats and getting them spayed and neutered.

Community and Economic Development/Grants Report:

Councilman Crivella announced that the Mount Pleasant Police have received a grant in the amount of \$13,639.96 from Congress Murtha's office and the Department of Justice.

Councilman Crivella said that he, Mayor Lucia and Borough Manager Landy attended a meeting regarding the Economic Stimulus Package. There is money available for any number of projects. The key to applying for stimulus money is to have an engineering firm that is on the ball and able to do it quickly. Councilman Crivella stated that he feels it is a step beyond what our current engineers can do and it would benefit the Borough to quickly start looking for a firm that can help us. President Tabita said that the Borough had a meeting with Mr. Bob Regola from McCormic Taylor Engineering &

Planners and feels they would be an excellent choice. Councilman Crivella said that every council committee should put together a “wish list” for Mr. Regola to start with. Mr. Landy said another engineering firm that we have been talking with is Remington Vernick & Beach of Pittsburgh.

President Tabita said that the decision of who will be the Borough’s engineering firm and who will be the solicitor is something Council should be seriously thinking about.

Councilman Tate said he was disappointed that Widmer Engineering charged \$18,000 to write the specs for a new building at the WWT Plant. Mr. Landy said Council was also upset when Widmer Engineering was so reluctant to help with the extension of Phase II of the Main Street Street-Scape Project.

A discussion ensued regarding what Council expects from its Solicitor and whether a larger firm would be better able to handle our requests.

Reading of Communications: None

Discussion and Payment of Bills:

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

Miscellaneous and Adjournment:

A motion was made by Councilman Bauer to adjourn the meeting. Motion seconded by Councilman Beranek. Motion carried 9-0.

Meeting adjourned 10:20pm

Motions from March 23, 2009 Meeting

A motion was made by Councilman Bauer to dispense with the reading of the minutes of March 2, 2009. Motion seconded by Councilman Slater. Motion carried 8-0.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Stevenson to designate an area for a crosswalk from Chestnut Alley to Washington Street. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Ruszkowski. Motion carried 9-0.

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

A motion was made by Councilman Bauer to adjourn the meeting. Motion seconded by Councilman Beranek. Motion carried 9-0.