

Meeting April 6, 2009

The meeting of Mount Pleasant Borough Council was called to order by President Tabita at 7:05pm 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 as well as the Pittsburgh Police Officers who lost their lives over the weekend. President Tabita directed Borough Manager Jeff Landy to take roll. Councilmen Beranek, Crivella, McCloy, Tate and Councilwomen Ruszkowski and Stevenson were present. Mayor Lucia was present and Solicitor Toohey was absent. President Tabita stated we have a quorum.

Councilman Bauer arrived at 7:43pm.

Reading of Previous Minutes:

A motion was made by Councilman Beranek to dispense with the reading of the minutes of March 23, 2009. Motion seconded by Councilman McCloy. Motion carried 8-0.

President Tabita recognized the Mount Pleasant Girl’s Softball League as being a very worthy group and for being caretakers of Frick Park. This past weekend members of the league cleaned up Frick Park and actually filled a dump truck with garbage. President Tabita shook the hands of Thomas Feltes and Terry Klosky who attended the council meeting to represent the league.

Public Comment: None

Speakers: None

Mayor’s Report:

Mayor Lucia read the following Police Report for the month of March 2009:

Report of the Mount Pleasant Police Department for the month of March 2009

The Department answered 433 calls during the month as follows:

Complaints	86
Requests for assistance	5
Assist Other Departments	5
Accidents investigated	9
Calls Returned	30
Assist Medic 10	11

The Department made 97 arrests during the month as follows:

Vehicle Code	85
Crimes Code	12
Vehicle Code Warnings	5

Parking Tickets issued are as follows:

\$1.00 Meter Tickets	44
\$10.00 No Parking Tickets	25
Void / Excused	5

\$1.00 Parking Tickets Paid	29	\$	29.00
\$5.00 Parking Tickets Paid	3	\$	15.00
\$10.00 Parking Tickets Paid	10	\$	150.00

Return from Magistrate Eckels	\$2,492.54
Return from Clerk of Courts	\$1,004.65
Return from Report Fees	\$ 105.00
Return from Parking Permits	\$ 55.00

Return from Soliciting Permits	\$ -
Return from Restitution	\$ 250.00
Total	\$4,101.19
Meter Receipts 1 Collections	\$1,241.89
Total Receipts for the month	\$5,343.08

Mayor Lucia said that the loss of the three policemen in Pittsburgh made all of us more aware of the safety of our own police officers. Police Chief Ober said that domestic disturbance calls are the highest percentage of calls received in the Borough. Mayor Lucia said that the world and its people are changing and hopes and prays that our policemen stay safe.

Mayor Lucia said he attended a Sky Watch Weather Alert for Emergency Management in Greensburg this month. Westmoreland County is one of the leading counties in Pennsylvania for extreme weather. The seminar was very informative and the information will be passed on so that people know what to watch for.

Mayor Lucia said that he attended a farewell get together for Excela Health CEO Dave Galalooop who retired. Dave was a pleasure to work with in his capacity at Frick Hospital.

Mayor Lucia said that the softball teams are having to clean up dog droppings before they can play on the field at Frick Park. It is a shame that pet owners are not cleaning up after their animals. Mayor Lucia asked Police Chief Ober to notify all of the Mount Pleasant Police Officers to stop people in the park who have animals to explain the ordinance and ask if they have something with them to clean up after their pet.

Mayor Lucia said he would like Council to work with the BDA to come up with some ways to advertise our business district. When a storefront becomes vacant we need to come up with a way to draw a new business to that location.

Mayor Lucia said that Police Chief Ober is doing a study to determine how many new meters will be required on Washington Street from Diamond Street to Hitchman Street and how many meters need repaired on Main Street.

Mayor Lucia said that trees need to be trimmed along the railroad tracks at the property owned by the Borough on Bridgeport Street. He would like the Street Department to take care of that when they have a chance.

Mayor Lucia wished everyone a Happy Easter.

Mayor Lucia said that on Wednesday May 27, 2009 from 9:00am to 3:00pm at Commissioners Hall at WCCC there will be a seminar entitled Are You Ready? Westmoreland County Emergency Management and the Department of Homeland Security will sponsor the seminar. It is for all elected officials and Mayor Lucia would like to see members of Council attend.

Mayor Lucia said he received a request for a handicapped parking space on Washington Street near Goo's. Councilman Tate said the Public Safety Committee will look into the matter.

Councilwoman Stevenson said that one of the traffic accidents investigated this month was right in front of her home. She was very impressed by the response by our emergency teams. The person who caused the accident was apprehended that same evening.

Solicitor's Report: None

Tax Collector's Report:

Tax Collector Carol Yancosky made the following report for the month of March 2009:
Property Taxes = \$ 87,192.44
Per Capita Taxes = \$ 55.00
Total = \$ 87,247.44

President's Report:

President Tabita said the Main Street Street-Scape Project will be completed soon and Allegheny Power can be contacted to remove the power poles. Mayor Lucia said that the Fire Department will remove the brackets for the Christmas decorations from the poles this week. President Tabita said he would like to have the poles removed by May 2nd for the marketing video that will be shot that day. President Tabita said he would like people to know that we will be shooting the video on that Saturday and he would like to see people come out to Main Street. The BDA is putting together business promotions for that day also.

President Tabita said that the wattage of the decorative lights in Phase II of the Main Street Street-Scape Project will be about 100 watts brighter than Phase I. The Borough could upgrade the lights in Phase I for approximately \$2,500. We applied to the County to include this upgrade in the grant for Phase II but it was not possible.

A motion was made by Councilman Crivella to suspend the rules to approve the wattage upgrade in Phase I of the Main Street Street-Scape Project. Motion seconded by Councilman Beranek. Motion carried 8-0.

A motion was made by Councilman Crivella to authorize up to \$3,000 to upgrade the wattage of the decorative lights for Phase I of the Main Street Street-Scape Project. Motion seconded by Councilman Beranek. Motion carried 8-0.

President Tabita said Council received a bid from Leo Wisniewski for the In-Town Shops on Main Street that is owned by the BDA. The BDA will then have more money and time to seed some new businesses on Main Street. The new members of the BDA have some great ideas. The closing on the property should occur sometime in July 2009. Hopefully the Main Street Manager should be in place by then also.

The bid has been awarded and demolition of the DiNicola building should begin this week.

Borough Managers Report:

Borough Manager Landy made the following report:

- The awarded bidder has until Jun 20, 2009 to demolish the DiNicola building.
- He attended a seminar on Capital Improvement Planning with a lot of other communities. One thing that was made clear at that seminar is that we should have a 5-year plan for capital improvements. Council should decide what projects they would like to accomplish and start saving for those projects.
- Money that was approved has been moved to the Budgetary Reserve accounts and money that was already in those accounts has been moved to better interest earning accounts. Those new accounts should double our interest rates.
- He had meetings with Councilman Slater regarding a sealing program for our streets and has looked into renting or purchasing a Tar Buggy for the Borough. If it is possible to acquire a Tar Buggy, in the future maybe we won't have to do large paving projects but seal the streets instead.
- The gas line in front of the Synagogue was repaired and the Borough has to cement the sidewalk. Mayor Lucia said he would take care of that.
- He and Councilman Slater looked at the Little League and Soccer fields. During the last bank stabilization project another Soccer field area was not done. Council will have to apply for a grant or spend money from the budget to stabilize that area.

- A bank account was opened for the money received from the most recent Police Grant from Congressman Murtha. Police Chief Ober has purchased most of what was applied for in the grant.
- The lights at the Doughboy have been upgraded and they do a much better job of lighting the statue.
- He is working on a program with Workforce and we should be able to secure three people to help this summer. Two people for the Street Department and one person for WWT. This program is funded by Fayette and Westmoreland Counties. They will hire individuals from the ages of 18 to 24 and give them to us for 30 hours a week for 10 weeks. This program will save the Borough money that was budgeted for summer help. We can use these workers to clean the parks and do painting etc. The other program with the county to provide more skilled labor to build the concession stand at Frick Park and one other project is still scheduled for this summer as well. Anyone wishing to apply for the summer maintenance program with the counties can send their resumes to the borough office and we will forward them to the counties. The hourly rate for the position will be \$8.00 per hour.
- Penn Dot will be doing another traffic count in the Borough this summer.
- The schedule for the Concert In The Park is complete with lots of new bands. The concerts this summer will have a theme. The first concert will be a USO Show with a military equipment show. Movies In The Park will also be scheduled.
- The first Idea Forum was a success. This meeting generated ideas for the Mount Pleasant BDA. Councilman Crivella will be attending the BDA meetings and will report to them the ideas from the Idea Forum.
- Mr. Landy brought a sample of a Capital Improvement Funds Ordinance that he will turn over to committee.
- Mr. Landy challenged Mayor Lucia to a weight-loss competition. Each televised meeting they will announce how much weight they have lost. The pounds will be accumulated until September. Anyone wanting to pledge money for each pound lost could do so and the money will be donated to a chosen charity.

Waste Water Treatment Report:

Councilman Tate said that he and WWT Superintendent Norm Stout held a public meeting for property owners who will be affected by the proposed Quarry Street Project. There will be seventeen properties affected and five homeowners attended the meeting. No one who attended the meeting seemed to be against the project and WWT personnel will continue to try and reach the other property owners involved. The project should begin sometime this summer.

Mayor Lucia said that the trailer on Quarry Street that was condemned has been removed.

Public Safety, Zoning and Ordinance Report:

Councilman Bauer read the following Fire Report for the month of March 2009:

Total Calls – 69
 In Town – 20
 Out Of Town – 49
 10-45's – 16
 Fires – 40
 AFA's – 4
 Public Service – 6
 Standby's – 3

Total Men Answering – 1-61
 Average Member Per Call – 15
 Total Hours – 591

Councilman Bauer read the following Medic 10 Report for the month of March 2009:

Total Calls For The Month – 139

Medical – 139

MVA – 14

Fire – 9

Transfer – 0

Standby – 13

In Town – 77

Out of Town – 98

Members Per Call – 3.5

Councilman Bauer said he spoke with Keystate Publishing regarding the new ordinances Council has been discussing. These sample ordinances were provided to the Borough by Keystate after studying the ordinances we have now. One of the ordinances that was discussed was the Yard Sale Ordinance. Councilman Bauer said he has mixed feelings regarding this ordinance because he wouldn't want everyone penalized because a small number of people. Group yard sales were discussed. Councilman Bauer said he really needs to get the ordinances finalized by June 2009 and have the book printed by July 2009. It will be more costly to do any ordinances after the re-codification is complete. Mayor Lucia said that Police Chief Ober and Council should review parking restrictions on Borough streets that need to be included in the re-codification.

Councilman Bauer said that Ramsey Elementary School is requesting two additional handicapped parking spaces at the school. Council discussed additional handicapped spaces and a drop-off space.

Councilman Bauer said he received a request from our insurance company for an update of our Civil Service policy. The sample update provided by the insurance company has a lot of points that Council should consider. Councilman Bauer would like to meet with the Public Safety Committee and the Civil Service to review it.

Councilman Bauer said he received a request from one of our Policemen to attend the service for the Police Officers killed in Pittsburgh this weekend. Councilman Bauer said that the budget for Policemen salary is very tight this year and we may not be able to afford to pay anyone to attend the service.

A motion was made by Councilman Bauer to allow members of the Mount Pleasant Police Department to take a vehicle to the service for the slain Pittsburgh Police Officers. The Borough will not reimburse the Mount Pleasant Police Officers for the time spent at the service. Motion seconded by Councilman Crivella. Motion carried 9-0.

Streets/Parks and Recreation Report:

Councilman Tate said that after the last meeting he and Councilman Slater and Bauer met with the Little League and Soccer to discuss what they wanted to do and what they needed. The Soccer League needs the fence replaced at a cost of \$4,000. The Borough may only be responsible for half of that cost. The Little League would like to keep any monies allotted to them in reserve. Councilman Tate said that he would like to see the workers provided by the County this summer build a restroom at the Little League field. Mr. Landy said that the projects were originally going to be the concession stand at Frick Park and moving the restrooms at Willows Park but that could be changed if Council wishes. The workers would be provided by the County and the Borough would provide the materials at a cost of approximately \$8,000. Council agreed to look closer at the cost and discuss it more at the next meeting.

Councilman Tate said Mr. Landy gave him information on pet waste disposal systems. The systems come complete with a can, bags and a sign. The cost would be approximately \$650. A good test would be to put one at Frick Park.

Councilman Tate said he spoke with the School District about lights at the tennis courts and they are getting prices together for the material. The School District will do all of the labor. The tennis court will need to be resealed because there is a crack down the middle.

Borough Manager Landy said he will get costs for repaving the tennis court and fixing the basketball court.

A motion was made by Councilman Bauer to open the paving bids. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Stevenson. Motion carried 9-0.

President Tabita opened the following bids for the 2009 paving project:

El Grande Ind. Inc. - \$95,151.50
Donegal Construction - \$90,609.32
East Coast Paving - \$95,486.40
Victor Paving - \$83,746.20
Derry Construction - \$89,770.40
Morgan Excavating - \$91,357.60
A. Folino - \$83,850.40

President Tabita said that the paving bids came in much lower than anticipated. Mr. Landy indicated that bidding early in the year resulted in lower bids. The bids for the demolition of the DiNicola property also came in lower.

A motion was made by Councilman Bauer to turn the bids over to committee for review and award. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Stevenson. Motion carried 9-0.

Finance Report:

Councilwoman Ruszkowski said she received a request from another insurance company to bid on our liability insurance. Councilwoman Ruszkowski said she will meet with Borough Manager Landy and the Finance Committee for their thoughts.

Property Report:

Councilman Beranek said that Mount Pleasant Mine Service has requested that we take the existing Veterans Park sign now so that they can match the boreholes to the new sign they are erecting. Mayor Lucia said that the Mount Pleasant VFD can take the existing sign down and put up the new one to save the Borough approximately \$250. Councilman Beranek said that he got the name of a powder coater and will be able to save 20% to 40% in powder coating.

Mr. Landy said he is getting designs and quotes for Welcome to Mount Pleasant Borough signs because the ones that we had have been stolen or destroyed. Councilman Bauer said the Borough has enough brick to make sign out of it that is what they want to go with.

A discussion ensued regarding tearing down the existing concession stand at Frick Park when the new one is complete and Council agreed to leave it standing and use it for storage.

Community Eco-Green Report:

Councilman McCloy said that there is a study being done on the Borough buildings to see how they can be made more efficient for heating and cooling. Mr. Landy said they are talking to a gentleman from the state. We will be ahead of other communities with this study. Councilman Crivella said there may be Economic Stimulus money available for a project of this nature and he will look into it.

Councilman McCloy said that we are getting reports that some Mount Pleasant Borough residents are not signing up with Allied Waste for garbage service. He said he received information from neighboring communities on how we can update our information.

Human Resources and Employee Contracts Report:

Councilwoman Stevenson said that on Thursday April 16, 2009 the Historical Society will have speakers talking about the history of Bridgeport and the surrounding area at the Bridgeport United Methodist Church at 7:00pm.

On Saturday May 2, 2009 the Historical Society will host a Cemetery Walk at the Mount Pleasant Cemetery from 1pm to 3pm. There will be announcements of these events in the local papers as well as posters around town.

Councilwoman Stevenson said that the Cat Program has spayed and neutered 27 cats so far and volunteers continue to trap. Councilwoman Stevenson said that they have been receiving considerable cooperation from residents.

Councilwoman Stevenson said that during the erection of the first Log House on Washington Street the Borough provided manpower and equipment to dig the foundation. Former Historical Society President Richard Snyder had requested similar assistance for the second Log House. Councilwoman Stevenson asked if Council is willing to make a motion to approve this assistance.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Stevenson to suspend the rules for the purpose of offering assistance with the second Log House. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Ruszkowski. Motion carried 9-0.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Stevenson to allow the Mount Pleasant Street Department to assist with digging the foundation for the second Log House being erected by the Mount Pleasant Historical Society. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Ruszkowski. Motion carried 9-0.

Councilman Crivella said he has concerns about erecting a second Log House on the same property and the first one. If the second house is put on the same property it will be very difficult for motorists to see around it when they are turning into the alley from Washington Street. Mayor Lucia said that the original house was larger than the log cabins and sat up on the street. Councilman Bauer said there are no zoning conflicts with putting the second cabin there.

Community and Economic Development/Grants Report:

Councilman Crivella said he attended a Multi-municipal Planning training seminar in Mt. Lebanon. The class covered doing a comprehensive plan with a neighboring municipality. Councilman Crivella said he would like to see us in a comprehensive plan with Mount Pleasant Township some day.

Councilman Crivella said that on April 8, 2009 he will be attending a workshop sponsored by the DCED for Economic Stimulus Funding. Councilman Crivella said that if Council wants to put together a list of things they would like to see done in the Borough he will bring back a list of money sources. It has been said that the amount of money that will be given out is unprecedented. But the Borough has to have a plan in effect.

Councilman Crivella said that with the sale of The In-Town Shops he feels the BDA will accomplish a lot this year. The new members of the BDA are going to be good people to work with.

New Business: None

Reading of Communications:

Borough Manager Landy read the following communications:

- A call came into the borough office from a resident at 110 S Quarry St. She has a problem with cars blocking her driveway. She would like a sign put up that

says “No Blocking Driveway”. Council said she should call the Police Department when cars are blocking her driveway.

- A call came from a resident who lives near the old Honey Bear. Insite Group put in a trailer housing a pump, to pump ground water from the old gasoline tanks at the Honey Bear. Apparently there is a lot of noise coming from the trailer. Mr. Landy called the Insite Group and they came the next day to address the problem. He hasn't heard any more complaints.
- A request from the Packer Cheerleaders to practice Tuesdays and Thursdays next to the borough building.
- Westmoreland Co Boroughs Association is having its annual banquet on Friday April 24, 2009 at the Youngwood Firehall. Reservation deadline is April 17, 2009. The Borough will pay for Council and members will pay for their guest. Call Bev to make a reservation.
- Laurel Highlands is having a summit at the Hidden Valley Four Seasons Resort on April 26 and 27 to “learn how the Laurel Highlands CLI can create a new economy”.
- Scottdale Borough is presenting Jack Scott in a workshop entitled Customer Service on Thursday April 30, 2009 from 9:00am to 12:30pm. There is a cost of \$20 per person.
- A news brief from Governor Rendell's office about web-based sessions on April 8 and 28 for local governments that will guide municipal officials through the Recovery Act and the grant application process. There is no cost.
- PMAA Regions 9 & 10 is having a Spring Dinner Meeting on Saturday April 25, 2009 at Seven Springs Mountain Resort beginning at 5:30pm. The guest speaker is Larry Gasparato, PENNVEST. The topic will be Latest Updates on the New State & Federal Infrastructure Funding. The cost is \$40 per person.

Discussion and Payment of Bills:

A motion was made by Councilman Bauer to pay all authorized and approved bills. Motion seconded by Councilman Crivella. 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 8:45pm.

Motions from April 6, 2009 Meeting

A motion was made by Councilman Beranek to dispense with the reading of the minutes of March 23, 2009. Motion seconded by Councilman McCloy. Motion carried 8-0.

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