#### Meeting May 19, 2008

The meeting of Mount Pleasant Borough Council was called to order by President Tabita at 7:09pm 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 Beranek, Crivella, Tate, Wiltrout and Councilwoman Stevenson were present. Mayor Lucia and Solicitor Toohey were present. President Tabita stated we have a quorum. Councilman Bauer arrived at 7:22pm.

## **Reading of Previous Minutes:**

A motion was made by Councilman Beranek to dispense with the reading of the minutes of May 5, 2008. Motion seconded by Councilman Wiltrout. Motion carried 6-0.

Public Comment: None

### **Speakers:**

Bert Getto, Westmoreland Co. Community Block Grant Program addressed Council requesting that the Borough of Mount Pleasant not withdraw from the program. He indicated that the available funding will be \$87,000 - \$108,000 between 2009 and 2011 some of which was used for Phase I of the Main Street project with the relocation of utility lines. An application for funding will have to be submitted by September 30, 2008. Mr. Getto said some of the projects that are within the funding guidelines include street repair, sewer and waterline extension and replacement, rehabilitation of recreational sites such as parks or community centers and storm water/ sewer separation projects. One project borough officials are considering is the installation of catch basins and a storm water line extension on Oak Street. Mayor Lucia said residents on this street have been complaining about run-off water from sum pumps causing a nuisance including icy streets in the winter.

### Mayor's Report:

Mayor Lucia reported that there has been a lot of positive feedback regarding our police patrolling the parks. The police will continue to patrol the parks to make them safe for all of the citizens of Mount Pleasant.

Mayor Lucia asked everyone to come out to the Memorial Day Parade on May 26, 2008 at 10:00am and stay for the memorial service at Veterans Park. He would also like to see as many people display their flags as possible.

Mayor Lucia said that he got a call saying that the trees at the tennis court need trimmed but the Borough can not trim these trees because the property is owned by the Mount Pleasant Area School district.

### **Solicitor's Report:**

Solicitor Toohey reported on the progress of the Gormley Building and a lengthy discussion ensued regarding the Borough acquiring the property.

A motion was made by Councilman Wiltrout to suspend the rules for a motion to have Solicitor Toohey approach the Tax Claim Bureau regarding the Gormley Building. Motion seconded by Councilman Tate. Motion carried 6-0 with Councilman Crivella voting no.

A motion was made by Councilman Wiltrout to have Solicitor Toohey approach the Westmoreland Co. Tax Claim Bureau regarding a private judicial sale of the Gormley Building. Councilman Bauer questioned whether we could approach the School District, the BDA and any other lien holders and ask them to waive the liens before the sale. Solicitor Toohey said that yes they do have the authority to exonerate the liens for a valid reason such as tearing the building down to protect the public. But there may not be enough time before the judicial sale takes place. After Solicitor Toohey approaches the Tax Bureau regarding a private sale he will come back to Council with a feel of what figure they might consider. The liens would be discharged. Solicitor Toohey said he will be able to tell Council at the next meeting if this is the best option. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Stevenson. Motion carried 6-0 with Councilman Crivella voting no.

Councilman Bauer requested that Solicitor Toohey move forward on the Landlord Ordinance regarding licensing and inspections. A discussion ensued regarding whether another public meeting on this ordinance is necessary. Solicitor Toohey said that another public meeting is not necessary. Council agreed to look at the language of the ordinance and have a special meeting with the landlords.

Borough Manager Landy asked Solicitor Toohey about the fee schedule for the Transient Business Ordinance. Solicitor Toohey said that he has a fee schedule ready for Council to make a resolution. Borough Manager

Landy said he is also interested in a fee schedule for the other Parks Ordinances because summer is fast approaching and the borough office needs to know what to charge for the rental of the pavilions etc. Councilman Bauer said he does not want to charge the schools, fire departments and Boy Scouts to sell hoagies. President Tabita said that the Borough can make a donation back to any organization it sees fit and keep a uniform fee schedule.

A motion was made by Councilman Bauer to suspend the rules for the purpose of approving a resolution regarding the fee schedule for Transient Businesses. Motion seconded by Councilman Wiltrout. Motion carried 7-0.

A motion was made by Councilman Bauer to adopt Resolution 2008-02 outlining the fee schedule for the Transient Retail Business Ordinance # 613. Motion seconded by Councilman Wiltrout. Motion carried 7-0.

President Tabita said that Penn Dot has said that they are requiring us to have a handicap ramp at the corner of Church and Main Streets by Gradler's Studio. The Borough moved the ramp further down Church Street on the side of Standard Bank and Penn Dot wants us to put it back at the corner. If a ramp is put on the corner it may cause liability issues because of the steepness of the ramp. President Tabita requested Solicitor Toohey to write a letter to Penn Dot requesting them to reconsider their decision.

## **Treasurers Report:**

Borough Manager Landy read the following Treasurer's Report for the month of April 2008:

Mt. Pleasant Borough Treasurer's Report:	Apr-08
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		Previous Balance	Deposits	Disbursements	Balance
General Fund Checking	PNC 001223513	53,151.00	255,095.01	256,365.01	51,881.00
General Fund Sweep	PNC 11493394	311,830.65	146,660.97	88,052.10	370,439.52
General Fund Budgetary Reserve	PNC 10-2457-4388	100,763.74	384.06	0.00	101,147.80
Total General Fund Balance					523,468.32
WWT Operational Acct	Standard Bank 0320012280	302,338.69	57,021.29	96,782.13	262,577.85
WWT Certificate of Deposit		150,000.00	0.00	0.00	150,000.00
WWT Budgetary Reserve	Standard Bank 287245	50,242.80	81.83	0.00	50,324.63
Total WWT Balance					462,902.48
Liquid Fuels PLGIT	PLGIT 56980126	61,505.33	98,657.12	11,177.48	148,984.97
Monument CD	Standard Bank 242781	5,435.94	0.00	0.00	5435.94
Holiday Lighting Fund	Standard Bank 050004849	257.08	0.06	0.00	257.14
Payroll Fund	PNC 01226415	1,276.32	75,389.52	68,501.07	8,164.77
Recreation Account	Standard Bank 5003289	1,903.34	0.39	0.00	1,903.73
Veterans Park Fund	National City 981293700	6,928.69	75.00	433.97	6,554.72
Veterans Park PLGIT	PLGIT 5698025	11,005.85	22.65	0.00	11,028.50
Police Drug Enforce.	PNC 1012912642	850.50	0.00	0.00	850.50
Town Clock Fund	Standard Bank 0010038847	609.77	0.13	0.00	609.90
					34805.20
Respectively Submitted: Councilwoman Chris Rega					1,170,160.97
Borough Manager Jeffrey Landy					

A motion was made by Councilman Tate to accept the April 2008 Treasurers Report as read. Councilman Tate said he will review the report with Secretary Fedorchak this week and Council will have a signed copy in their folders at the next meeting. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Stevenson. Motion carried 7-0.

# **President's Report:**

President Tabita said that there are only a few sidewalk issues to resolve and the Main Street Street-Scape Project will go forward. Businesses and residents have been more than willing to make necessary changes. The committee is working with Allegheny Power and has come up with some changes to make the project more attractive and cost less. The only issue is with Penn Dot and the handicapped ramp at the Gradler property discussed earlier. The poles holding traffic signals will have to remain as well as the direction signs. A lot of overhead lines will be removed.

President Tabita reported that the rezoning project is moving forward as well and the next step is for it to go to the Planning Commission.

A motion was made by Councilman Crivella to accept the resignation of James Michael as Solicitor to the Planning Commission. Motion seconded by Councilman Beranek. Motion carried 7-0.

A motion was made by Councilman Bauer to appoint Atty Randy Klimchock Solicitor to the Mount Pleasant Planning Commission. Motion seconded by Councilman Crivella. Motion carried 7-0.

President Tabita said that Borough officials have been invited by Representative Kula to a meeting with Dwight Evans, Chairman of Appropriations on Wednesday May 21, 2008 at 5:00pm at the Mount Pleasant Central VFD. Her question to Council is what would we do with \$500,000 if we had it to spend. President Tabita suggested a project that is not easily funded. President Tabita said that using the money to develop the Levin property on Bridgeport Street is a possibility. Another possibility would be to purchase a property like the Transfiguration Church property and build townhouses. Councilwoman Stevenson suggested a Main Street revitalization. President Tabita said that it is possible that we may be able to join with Scottdale on a Main Street Manager. Then we would have someone dedicated and focused with one half of their time in Scottdale and one half of their time in Mount Pleasant. That would also give us the ability to apply for funding for Elm Street projects.

Councilman Beranek asked for the status of the Levin property on Bridgeport St and President Tabita said that we just got the environmental study back and the property must be capped with two feet of soil. Councilman Beranek said that \$500,000 would be enough to get this property ready to start building. Ground water monitoring would have to continue on the property and it would be zoned industrial. If the property is used for a non-residential application we could obtain Act 2 liability release through the Pa Dept of Environmental Protection. Councilman Beranek suggested erecting some pole buildings and renting them out to machine shops, granite shops etc.

President Tabita asked Borough Manager Landy to contact Widmer Engineering to see they could review the results of the environmental study on the Levin property and give us an estimate of the cost to develop the property.

President Tabita said that he and Borough Manager Landy met with two people who do video presentations. We have a budget for marketing and one of these companies seemed very promising. A one minute or thirty second video would go on our web site and could be sent to people interested in business opportunities Mount Pleasant. Estimated costs for this video will be available for Council in a couple of weeks.

President Tabita read the following Environmental and Safety Training, Inc. report:

A comparison was made with the analysis of each metal analyzed per sample to the Act 2 Statewide Health Standards as established for Used Aquifers with Total Dissolved Solids. The following conclusions were derived from the comparisons:

Lead levels exceeded the Non-Residential Soil to Groundwater Statewide Standards at a depth of 11" – 16" in zones 1 and 13. Elevated levels of lead were recovered at a depth of 16" to 25" in zone 2. Lead was also detected from zone 1 at a depth of 30"- 36". Zone 14 detected the presence of lead exceeding the Non-Residential Soil to Groundwater Statewide Standards at a depth between 7-13".

If the property is used for non-residential applications, we can probably obtain Act 2 Liability Release through the Pennsylvania DEP for soils without remediation or by adding a two-foot soil cap. This can be done following the PADEP 75%/10x Rule.

If Act 2 Liability Release for groundwater is desired, additional assessment, including groundwater monitoring, will be required. Most likely, a site-specific closure (risk based) would be required because lead concentrations exceed the soil to groundwater pathway (statewide health standards).

With approval from the Borough of Mount Pleasant we can contact and meet with PA DEP to begin negotiations and confirm our proposal for Liability Release.

A discussion ensued regarding what needs to be done to make the Levin property on Bridgeport St. viable and in what order the events should occur. Council agreed that Widmer Engineering will have to be consulted.

President Tabita said there was a meeting with Alex Graziani from Smart Growth. Smart Growth was affiliated with Pitt University but is now affiliated with Penn State. Alex would like to start a Main Street Managed Program with Mount Pleasant and Scottdale. The Main Street Manager would work closely with the BDA with

marketing, recruiting new small business and light manufacturing for the Levin site etc., but would be under Council's control.

# **Borough Manager's Report:**

Borough Manager Landy made the following report:

- 1<sup>st</sup> Concert in the Park is June 1, 2008. Since Leo's Grille 31 is at the Diamond Council needs to discuss whether we will block off the street.
- The monthly Library Meeting was May 19, 2008 and Mr. Landy attended. The Library asked Council if they could be allowed to put up directional signs similar to the hospital signs.
- The yearly audit of the Borough funds has begun as well as an audit by the Pennsylvania Dept of the Auditor General of the Pension funds. The Borough auditor will not be auditing the BDA.
- The Borough Street Department received a compliment on our brush pick-up program and how we dispose of it the brush.
- The Borough office received a call regarding permit parking on College Ave. The caller wanted to know if the Borough has permit limits. Council said that the limit is two per household. Mr. Landy said that limit is not being enforced by the Police Department. The caller also asked how he can get approval to put in a driveway on his property off of College Ave. Mayor Lucia said that the property owner has to come before Council, outline his plan and ask to have the curb cut. Council discussed the parking problem on Washington Street since Leo's Grille 31 has opened. Councilwoman Stevenson mentioned that the row of garbage cans in the parking lot behind Leo's is very unattractive. Mayor Lucia said that Leo is working with the Parking Authority to resolve the issue.
- An invitation from County Commissioner Kim Ward to a Municipal Official's Advisory Meeting at the Westmoreland County Courthouse Tuesday May 20, 2008 at 4pm.
- A Hot Spot picture was taken at the Gazebo. Anyone who visits the park will be able to wirelessly access the Internet using their wireless-enabled laptop at no fee through Armstrong Cable. Mr. Landy has a copy of the press release for anyone interested.
- COG is conducting an appeals hearing regarding the bamboo residence on College Ave. at their Jeannette office on May 21, 2008 at 7:30pm.

# **Waste Water Treatment Report:**

Councilman Tate reported that a portion of the fence at the WWT Plant was damaged by falling trees during a storm and will be turned into our insurance company. Mr. Landy said he is waiting for pictures from WWT Supervisor Norm Stout. WWT personnel will cut up the trees themselves.

A meeting will have to be scheduled with Mount Pleasant Township regarding the sewage rate increase.

## **Public Safety, Zoning Ordinance Report:**

Councilman Bauer read the following Fire Report for the month of April 2008:

## Total Fire Calls:

In Town	4
Out of Town	53
10-45's	17
Structure Fires	10
Brush Fires	7
AFA's	8
Stand-By's	3
Vehicle Fires	5
EMS Assists	3
Landing Zones	1
Gas Leaks	2

Councilman Bauer said that he and Mr. Landy met with Caleb Moore who is licensed through the state to trap cats and remove them to a shelter. It may be a solution to the problem with cats in the Borough. Mr. Landy outlined the program as follows:

- The Borough or property owner calls to report a problem.
- Caleb Moore will come in lay traps for a fee.
- The Borough and property owner monitor the traps and when a cat has been trapped we will call Mr. Moore and he will come and get the animal.
- Grace Veterinary Clinic will hold the cat for two days so that the owner can claim the cat.
- If no one claims the cat Mr. Moore will come and take the cat to a shelter.

• Owners concerned about their cats should place identification on the animal so they can be contacted if the cat is trapped.

Mr. Moore would like the Borough to pass an ordinance to protect him from liability. Approximate fees quoted were \$10 to set the trap and \$25 to remove it. Hoffman Kennels wants \$45 per cat to trap stray cats. A discussion ensued regarding the Trap and Release Program that requires volunteers to trap the cats, a veterinarian to neuter the cat, and people in the community to feed them after they are released.

Councilman Bauer said he met with the president of the Falcons Club regarding trees along Mullin Avenue. The Falcons have agreed to take care of the dead one and the one with poison ivy but the six trees between the street and the guardrail are the Borough's responsibility. Five of those trees have dead branches that need trimmed.

Councilman Bauer reminded the public that before they begin any work on their properties to call the borough office and find out what permits are required.

Councilman Bauer said that over a year ago Council requested that the parking meters on Washington St. from Goo's to the Yancosky residence be removed and repaired and they were removed but never replaced.

Councilman Bauer said that the Police Dept Jeep Cherokee needs some bodywork and will be taken to Cramer's to be repaired.

Councilman Bauer said that it will be important to keep an eye on the gasoline line items in the 2008 budget because of the rising cost of fuel.

## **Street Department Report:**

A motion was made by Councilman Crivella to suspend the rules for the purpose of hiring a part-time summer street department worker. Motion seconded by Councilman Tate. Motion carried 7-0.

A motion was made by Councilman Crivella to hire Justin Depalma to the Street Department position of parttime summer worker. The position pays \$7.50 per hour for 20 hours a week with Street Department Supervisor Mario Fontanazza supervising. Motion seconded by Councilman Tate. Motion carried.

Councilman Crivella reported that the Street Department did a complete inventory and a report was sent to council members. The Scope of Services from the DCED regarding the Street Department Assessment was also emailed to council members.

Councilman Bauer requested that the Street Department sweep the streets on a more regular basis. He also would like more productivity from the street department personnel. President Tabita said he would like a report from Street Supervisor Fontanazza each meeting on what the department accomplished since the last meeting. Borough Manager Landy said that he feels the Street Committee should have a meeting with Mr. Fontanazza and Mayor Lucia agreed.

Borough Manager Landy said that a list of remaining problems from the CSO Project was given to Glenn Wolfe at Widmer Engineering but he has not received a report. President Tabita said it is the responsibility of Street Supervisor Mario Fontanazza to see that the repairs to the streets of the Borough meet our specifications. Councilman Tate said that he feels that D&M Contracting has done a good job with the clean up of the project but Councilman Crivella brought up some things that need to be addressed. President Tabita said it is the responsibility of Mr. Fontanazza to inspect the streets and report any problems. The contractor and engineer for the CSO Project report to the Municipal Authority. It is up to our Street Supervisor to point out anything that does not meet Borough specifications. Councilman Tate said that the engineer for the CSO Project reported to him that he has tried to contact Mr. Fontanazza but his calls are not returned.

President Tabita asked Councilman Crivella if the Street Department is using the tax-free fuel available. Councilman Crivella said not to his knowledge. President Tabita said he would like to see documentation as to why. Councilman Crivella said that Mr. Fontanazza feels the fuel would be bad for the engines. President Tabita said he would like scientific documentation to prove that statement. Council agreed that Supervisor Fontanazza needs to be more conscientious and Councilman Crivella said that he feels Mario is doing the best job with what he has to work with. President Tabita said that borough employees should not be any less accountable that those in the private sector. Mayor Lucia said that there is a committee of three councilmen responsible for the Street Department and they need to have a meeting with Mr. Fontanazza and address these issues.

President Tabita said he feels the employees of the borough are not over paid and are not overworked. If any of the employees are not happy they should go somewhere they would rather be. President Tabita said he hopes all of the employees remain at the borough and do a better job this year.

Finance Report: None

## **Property Report:**

Councilman Beranek said that the Boy Scouts are eager to start work on the Welcome to Mount Pleasant sign but we need to know who owns the property where the sign is located. Councilman Beranek said that other communities have someone who oversees the landscaping etc for all of the entrances to their towns. He would like to see something similar in Mount Pleasant.

Councilman Beranek said that Mr. Barry Premoshis would like to start working on the large Christmas Workshop display at the Synagogue as soon as possible. Councilman Beranek asked Council for any suggestions about where to place the displays that will be completed this year.

# **Business/Economic Development & Contracts:**

Councilman Wiltrout said he is working with a representative from the DEP Grant Program regarding a grant for curbside recycling containers in the borough. Councilman Wiltrout said he has been getting positive feedback from residents regarding the recycling program now in place.

Councilman Wiltrout said that on Saturday September 20, 2008 from 9am to 2pm at Westmoreland County Fairgrounds Westmoreland Cleanways will have a hazardous waste cleanup for anyone who wants to dispose of trash that is not acceptable as curb side pick up. On September 13, 2008 tires, vehicle batteries and Freon appliances will be collected from 8:30 to 12:00 noon. There is a fee for these items.

## **Human Resource/Employee Contracts:**

A motion was made by Councilwoman Stevenson to ratify a \$50 donation to the Mount Pleasant Historical Society for the Community Picnic. Motion seconded by Councilman Tate. Motion carried 7-0.

## **Recreation Report:**

A motion was made by Councilman Bauer to ratify the contract with Stoy Excavating Inc in the amount of \$9,200 as per Shupes Run Stabilization Project Grant. Motion seconded by Councilman Wiltrout. Motion carried 7-0.

Councilman Bauer said that Skowronek Landscaping planted the trees at Veterans Park and it will be mulched by the weekend. The bushes were planted behind the monument next to the Senior Center. All of the flags are flying on the poles since they have been repaired.

### **New Business:**

Councilman Crivella said he is not happy with other council members criticism of him in relationship to the performance of the Street Department. Council members all have the email address of the Street Department and anything they want to see done can be emailed to Supervisor Fontanazza. If Mr. Fontanazza has a problem with any request he can contact Councilman Crivella and a meeting can be scheduled to go over the problem. Mayor Lucia again stressed that there needs to be a meeting of the Street Committee and Supervisor Fontanazza to let him know exactly what is expected of him.

A motion was made by Councilman Tate to have a Street Department Committee meeting with Mario Fontanazza and President Tabita present. Motion seconded by Councilman Bauer. Motion carried 7-0. Councilman Crivella asked what Sarp & Co. is auditing and President Tabita said that they audit the Borough funds. All of the Boards and Authorities have their own audit performed. Councilman Bauer said that he feels if Council has any questions on any Board or Authority audit they should be provided with the answers. President Tabita said that any questions regarding the audits of the Boards and Authorities can be presented to Sarp & Co. for clarification. Mr. Landy said that the only audit that the Borough does not receive is the Library audit and Council agreed that since the Borough donates funds to the Library that we should have a copy of their audit. President Tabita said that he feels it should be the policy of the Borough to require an audit from any entity in the Borough who receives a donation of \$1,000 or more.

# **Reading of Communications:**

Borough Manager Landy read the following communications:

• An invitation to a picnic and virtual tour of the Emergency Room at Frick Hospital on May 22, 2008 from 4pm to 7pm.

- A meeting on Wednesday May 21<sup>st</sup> at 5:00pm with Representative Kula and the Chairman of the Appropriations Committee at the Central VFD.
- On May 28<sup>th</sup> from 8am to 4pm the Annual Emergency Management Seminar will be held in the Commissioner's Hall Auditorium at WCCC.
- The 2008 Smart Growth Award dinner will be held on May 28<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm at the University of Pittsburgh at Greensburg and an award will be presented to Mount Pleasant's Veterans Park.
- The United Democratic Committee is having their election of officers.
- A letter from Claudia Stahl thanking President Tabita for the new lighting at the corner of Mullin Avenue and Vine Street.
- The Westmoreland County Boroughs Association will hold its regular business meeting on May 22<sup>nd</sup> in Chambers Hall, Fireside Lounge at the University of Pittsburgh at Greensburg at 7:pm.
- Council members all received an invitation to a dinner hosted by Widmer Engineering on June 8, 2008 at Helen's Restaurant at Seven Springs and should RSVP to Widmer Engineering.

# **Discussion and Payment of Bills:**

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

Councilman Bauer asked when the Pennsylvania State Association of Boroughs 97<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference & Exhibition is being held at Seven Springs Mountain Resort. Mr. Landy said it is being held from June 8<sup>th</sup> to June 11<sup>th</sup> and we will discuss who wishes to attend the conference at the next meeting.

### **Miscellaneous and Adjournment:**

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

Meeting adjourned 10:47pm.

### Motions from May 19, 2008 Meeting

A motion was made by Councilman Beranek to dispense with the reading of the minutes of May 5, 2008. Motion seconded by Councilman Wiltrout. Motion carried 6-0.

A motion was made by Councilman Wiltrout to suspend the rules for a motion to have Solicitor Toohey approach the Tax Claim Bureau regarding the Gormley Building. Motion seconded by Councilman Tate. Motion carried 6-0 with Councilman Crivella voting no.

A motion was made by Councilman Wiltrout to have Solicitor Toohey approach the Westmoreland Co. Tax Claim Bureau regarding a private judicial sale of the Gormley Building. Councilman Bauer questioned whether we could approach the School District, the BDA and any other lien holders and ask them to waive the liens before the sale. Solicitor Toohey said that yes they do have the authority to exonerate the liens for a valid reason such as tearing the building down to protect the public. But there may not be enough time before the judicial sale takes place. After Solicitor Toohey approaches the Tax Bureau regarding a private sale he will come back to Council with a feel of what figure they might consider. The liens would be discharged. Solicitor Toohey said he will be able to tell Council at the next meeting if this is the best option. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Stevenson. Motion carried 6-0 with Councilman Crivella voting no.

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their audit. President Tabita said that he feels it should be the policy of the Borough to require an audit from any entity in the Borough who receives a donation of \$1,000 or more.

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