

Meeting September 8, 2009

The meeting of Mount Pleasant Borough Council was called to order by President Tabita at 7:01 pm 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 Landy to take roll. Councilmen Bauer, Beranek, Crivella, McCloy, Tate and Councilwomen Ruszkowski and Stevenson were present. Mayor Lucia and Attorney Klimchock were present. President Tabita stated we have a quorum.

Reading of Previous Minutes:

A motion was made by Councilman Bauer to dispense with the reading of the minutes of August 24, 2009. Motion seconded by Councilman Crivella. Motion carried 8-0.

Citizens of the Month: Jim Lozier and Kenneth Trice

Public Comment: None

Speakers:

Ellen Keef, Westmoreland Cleanways presented a Proclamation to the Borough of Mount Pleasant for providing all borough residents and businesses with a comprehensive recycling program. The Borough of Mount Pleasant is the first PA Cleanways Adopted Community in Westmoreland County. Ms. Keef also presented the Borough with a Certificate of Recognition for its efforts to clean up the community, promote environmental stewardship and the mission of Westmoreland Cleanways.

Ashley Funk, Mount Pleasant PA addressed Council regarding Pollution Patrol. Ms. Funk said that since her volunteer organization Pollution Patrol has begun picking up trash in the Borough they have collected about 30 bags. President Tabita thanked Ashley and her group for all of the work they are doing to clean up Mount Pleasant.

Mayor's Report:

Report of the Mount Pleasant Police Dept. for the month of August 2009

The Department answered 369 Calls during the month as follows:

Complaints	104
Requests for assistance	3
Assist Other Departments	3
Accidents investigated	7
Calls Returned	15
Assist Medic 10	5

The Department made 57 arrests during the month as follows:

Vehicle Code	45
Crimes Code	12
Borough Ordinance	0
Warnings Issued	0

Parking Tickets issued are as follows:

\$1.00 Meter Tickets	43
\$10.00 No Parking Tickets	0
Void / Excused	2

\$1.00 Parking Tickets Paid	36	\$	36.00
\$5.00 Parking Tickets Paid	1	\$	5.00
\$10.00 Parking Tickets Paid	1	\$	10.00

Return from Magistrate Eckels	\$2,165.07
Return from Clerk of Courts	\$ 383.81
Return from Report Fees	\$ 105.00

Return from Parking Permits	\$ -
Return from Soliciting Permits	\$ -
Return from Restitution	\$ -
Total	\$2,702.88
Meter Receipts 2 Collections	\$1,211.45
Total Receipts for the month	\$3,914.33

Mayor Lucia said he would like to send a message to the parents of the Borough to share their values and ideals with their children. Getting to know your children helps point them in the right direction and makes for a better community. Mayor Lucia said he and Police Chief Ober will offer help and advice to any parent who needs it. Mayor Lucia said he would also like residents to call the Police if they see any vandalism or disturbance so that they can respond quickly.

Mayor Lucia reported that there will be a 9/11 Tribute at Veterans Park on September 11, 2009 beginning at 7:30pm. The Ministerium will hold a prayer service at 6:30pm and the Tribute will begin at 7:30pm.

Solicitor’s Report:

Attorney Randy Klimchock said that Solicitor Toohey would like to meet with Borough Manager Landy, Police Chief Ober and the appropriate committee members to discuss permit parking issues in metered parking areas in the Borough. Given the language of the ordinance it is important to get more information about how it has been applied historically.

A motion was made by Councilman Bauer for an Executive Session. Motion seconded by Councilman McCloy. Motion carried 8-0.

Executive Session 7:26pm to 8:47pm.

President Tabita reported that the Executive Session was to discuss litigation.

Tax Collector’s Report:

In the absence of Tax Collector Yancosky, Councilwoman Stevenson gave the following report for the month of August 2009:

Property Taxes	\$4,599.40
Per Capita Taxes	\$2,097.20
Total Collected	\$6,696.60

Councilwoman Stevenson said that Ms. Yancosky wanted to remind taxpayers that when they are paying Property or Per Capita Tax, to bring in all copies of the statement.

President’s Report:

President Tabita said that Council has to fill two vacancies on the BDA Board.

A motion was made by Councilman Bauer to suspend the rules for an appointment to the BDA Board. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Stevenson. Motion carried 8-0.

A motion was made by Councilman Bauer to appoint Frank Crivella to the BDA Board for the appropriate term. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Stevenson. Motion carried 8-0.

A motion was made by Councilman Bauer to suspend the rules for an appointment to the BDA Board. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Stevenson. Motion carried 8-0.

A motion was made by Councilman Bauer to appoint Diane Paul of Standard Bank to the BDA Board. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Stevenson. Motion carried 8-0.

President Tabita said that the BDA faces some challenges and hopefully these new appointments will make an impact.

President Tabita said that it is his recommendation to hire someone for the borough office a couple of days a week to work on projects and in turn work for the BDA a couple days to help with administrative work. We may not have a Main Street Manager for some time because of the problems with the state budget.

President Tabita said he spoke with the party who has made a potential offer on the Gormley Building. President Tabita said he would like to see anyone who purchases the building to put up a performance bond that insures the outside of the building is completed in a reasonable amount of time. Until someone makes an offer that includes that, then there is no reason to organize a meeting with all of Council.

President Tabita said that hopefully by the next council meeting we should have a final copy of the Mount Pleasant video. There will be a ten-minute version and a thirty second version. President Tabita said some inquiries were made on television advertising costs. There are different packages you can purchase that are based on economic profiles. For 3,000 thirty-second ads the cost would be \$1.00 per ad. ½ of the ads would run from midnight to 8:00am and ½ would run from 4:00 to 9:00. It would be \$1,000 per month. President Tabita said he would like to see the Mount Pleasant Area School District get involved as well as the local businesses. The quoted rates are good until the end of 2009.

President Tabita said that hopefully the Borough can get some county funds to develop the Levin property. There is a meeting with representatives from the County next week to discuss options.

Borough Managers Report:

Borough Manager Landy made the following report:

- Mr. Landy requested that council committees look at the Profit & Loss Budget vs. Actual report and start making plans for the 2010 budget. Mr. Landy and Councilwoman Ruszkowski will be meeting to work on a preliminary budget in the next couple of weeks.
- The 9/11 Tribute program will be printed tomorrow so if anyone has any changes please let the office know.
- Mr. Landy met with Stuart Demanski of the DEP regarding the Storm Water Retrofit Project Phase I. The construction bid specs will be completed this week and we will advertise for bids next week. Phase I should be completed by November and we will start immediately on Phase II.
- A pallet of sealing material for the tar buggy was purchased and Street Supervisor Fontanazza will set up a schedule of streets to be sealed.
- The 2010 Minimum Municipal Obligation for the Police Pension is zero.
- The 2010 Minimum Municipal Obligation for the Non-Uniform Pension is \$46,284.00.
- Scottdale Borough is requesting that our WWT personnel take one or two days to camera some of their lines.
- The CDBG money available to us is \$86,000 to be used in 2009, 2010 and 2011. The county sent a breakdown of what the money can be used for. It can be used for street reconstruction, curbs and sidewalks, waterlines, storm water lines, bridges and recreation facilities. They sent a map of the areas in the Borough where the money can be used. On September 21, 2009 Terri Yurcisin Westmoreland County Planning and Development will come out explain further. The deadline for applications is October 30, 2009.
- We received this year's salt contract from Co-Stars. We are committed to 600 Ton at \$49.82 per ton. We are required to use up to 60% of the 600 ton.
- The Idea Forum discussed encouraging more stores in town, group healthcare for businesses and another option for parking meters. We are going to start advertising that there is 15-minute free parking at the meters in the Borough in BDA brochures and on the web site.
- Each year we are required to do a program with Westmoreland Cleanways since they have adopted us. Ms. Keef suggested a more community wide project for next year. An "Adopt a Street" program was also suggested.
- The Property Committee needs to make a decision on fixing the music in the Town Clock.

Waste Water Treatment Report:

A motion was made by Councilman Tate to purchase windows for the WWT Plant at a cost of \$4,000 and have WWT personnel do the installation. Motion seconded by Councilman Bauer. Motion carried 8-0.

Mr. Tate said that Regis Kraisinger is complaining that storm water is entering his property in the vicinity of his driveway. Marie Hartman, Widmer Engineering sent an email stating that the construction of a curb from the alley behind Kraisinger’s Market to the existing curb past Mr. Kraisinger’s driveway should redirect a major portion of this water to the existing inlet at the low point in the alley. No curb existed before the CSO Project. Mario Fontanazza said that approximately 100 feet of asphalt curb would have to be constructed.

Mr. Landy said that the WWT Plant has a tanker that is essentially a piece of junk. Mr. Stout estimates that a junkyard would pay \$500 to \$1,500. Council asked Mr. Landy to check the Borough Code to see if WWT can sell it for junk without advertising it.

Public Safety, Zoning and Ordinance Report:

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

Totals calls for the month	144
Medical	122
MVA	6
Fire	7
Transfer	0
Standby	9
In Town	74
Out of Town	70
Members per call	3.6

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

Total calls	34
In town	10
Out of town	24
10-45’s	13
Fires	5
AFA’s	11
Public Service	3
Drills	1
Stand-by’s	1
Total men answering	468
Average member per call	13
Total hours	555

Councilman Bauer said he received an application from Thomas Allen Grim of South Greensburg for a position as a part-time police officer.

A motion was made by Councilman Bauer to suspend the rules for purpose of hiring a part-time police officer. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Stevenson. Motion carried 8-0.

A motion was made by Councilman Bauer to hire Thomas Grim, South Greensburg to a position of part-time police officer according to the current pay scale. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Ruszkowski. Motion carried 8-0.

Council discussed the Fence Ordinance in the final re-codification. Council agreed that language must be included stating “Decorative side must face outward”. A discussion ensued regarding setbacks from sidewalks and curbs. The fence can be put up on the property line, can be put right up beside a sidewalk and 6 feet from any curb where no sidewalk exists. The permit fees for a fence will be \$20 plus \$1 for every thousand dollars. Mr. Landy was instructed to contact Mark Stanton and ask what he would charge to inspect a fence.

Councilman Bauer said that he has received complaints regarding alcohol being taken from the sidewalk café at Leo's Grille 31.

Councilman Bauer reported that the landscaping around the Doughboy was redone by Skowronek Landscaping and funded by the Mount Pleasant VFW. The VFW is also considering putting potted plants that can be removed out for Veterans Day and other holidays.

Councilman Crivella said that he looked at the 2007 Medic 10 audit and he would like to see them earn more interest on their funds. Councilman Crivella suggested a PLIGIT account.

Street, Parks and Recreation Report:

Councilman Tate said that we received a bid from Skowronek Landscaping for landscaped beds around the gas well at Frick Park. The estimate equaled \$680 per bed.

A motion was made by Councilman Tate to suspend the rules for the purpose of approving three landscaped beds around the gas well at Frick Park. Motion seconded by Councilman Crivella. Motion carried 8-0.

A motion was made by Councilman Tate to approve installation of three landscaped beds at Frick Park by Skowronek at a cost of \$680 per bed. Motion seconded by Councilman Crivella. Motion carried 8-0.

Councilwoman Stevenson said she feels that the beds would look much better if they were mounded. Council agreed that it would look much better and they would inform Skowronek that is what should be done.

Councilman Bauer said that a couple of years ago we called the company who sold us the granite at Veterans Park regarding cracks that were forming. The company did not respond. Councilman Bauer asked Council if it wishes to pursue legal action. Councilman Beranek asked if there was a written warranty. Borough Manager Landy said there was no written warranty. Councilman Beranek said he knows someone who works with granite and he will ask him for an opinion about repairing the granite.

Councilman Bauer said the Borough should look into erecting another tablet at Veterans Park. President Tabita said he met with Architect Jim Gayton. One option is to pour another pie-shaped piece of concrete and put in two more tablets to accommodate approximately 360 more names. It would still be a sufficient distance from the Gazebo. President Tabita said the cost would be approximately \$15,000 per tablet.

Councilman Bauer said that correspondence from McColly Memorials states that the cost of engraving a name on the granite has gone up to \$80. The original letter from McColly Memorials in 2007 said that the \$75 quote was good only through 2008. A discussion ensued regarding future plans for Veterans Park.

Borough Manager Landy said that Rita Borenstein and Police Officer George Grippo are citing the owner of 106 N Diamond Street for high grass. Mr. Landy said that the property on Bridgeport Street is in judicial sale and if the Borough cuts the grass we will not be reimbursed.

Finance Report:

A motion was made by Councilwoman Ruszkowski to sign an agreement by G.H. Harris to collect 2008-2009 Delinquent Per Capita Tax. Motion seconded by Councilman Bauer. Motion carried 8-0.

Property Report:

Councilman Beranek thanked Mayor Lucia for the use of the Klocek truck to paint the Veterans Park sign. President Tabita said the sign looks great.

Councilman Beranek discussed different options for "Welcome to Mount Pleasant" signs. Council then discussed locations for the signs.

Community and Eco-Green Report:

Councilman McCloy said he spoke with John McGoran from Allied Waste and was told that books can be put in the recycling bins as well as cardboard. President Tabita said that it will be important to inform the public about how the recycling program will work and the Mount Pleasant Journal may be able to help. Councilman McCloy said he will speak to Mr. McGoran about a flyer they will pass out.

Human Resources/Employee Contracts Report:

Councilwoman Stevenson said she has tried to contact Solicitor Toohey regarding the Employee Handbook. Council agreed that the borough office should email Solicitor Toohey and tell him to have answers regarding the Employee Handbook for the September 21, 2009.

Community and Economic Development/ Grants Report:

Councilman Crivella said he set up a meeting with Mr. Erick Fulmer of Mullin and Lonergan on Wednesday September 16, 2009 at 2:00pm to discuss a five-year strategic plan for the Borough. The meeting will discuss the scope of what the plan would entail, the cost and possible funding sources. Councilman Crivella said that after the initial meeting he will have a committee meeting to discuss a possible plan and whether it can be included in next year's budget.

New Business:

Councilman Bauer said that it is time to discuss the Borough plans for its engineer and solicitor for 2010.

Reading of Communications:

Borough Manager Landy read the following communications:

- Mount Pleasant Recreational Soccer League sent Council an invitation to their Opening day ceremonies for their Fall 2009 season at 9:00am on Saturday September 12, 2009 at the Mark Bittel/Willows Park Field.
- Westmoreland Conservation District is having a Conservation Tour on Friday October 2, 2009 beginning at 8:30am. The bus will leave from the Donegal Community Center. The cost is \$20 per person. Deadline for reservations is September 24th.
- Amber House at Harmon House will have an open house on Tuesday September 15, 2009 from 2pm to 5pm and Wednesday September 23rd from 5:30pm to 7:30pm.
- Westmoreland Co Boroughs Association will have a meeting September 24, 2009 at the Westmoreland Conservation District Office on Donohoe Road at 7pm.
- PSAB is planning its 100th Anniversary in 2011.

Discussion and Payment of Bills:

A motion was made by Councilman Bauer to pay all approved and authorized bills. Motion seconded by Councilman Beranek. Motion carried 8-0.

Miscellaneous and Adjournment:

A motion was made by Councilman Bauer to adjourn the meeting. Motion seconded by Councilman Beranek. Motion carried 8-0.

Meeting Adjourned 10:16pm.

Motions from September 8, 2009 Meeting

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