

Meeting January 5, 2015

The meeting of Mount Pleasant Borough Council was called to order by President Bauer at 7:03pm in Council Chambers at 1 Etze Avenue, Mount Pleasant, PA 15666. The Pledge of Allegiance was said and there was a moment of silence for our deployed troops. President Bauer directed Borough Manager Landy to take roll. Councilmen Caruso, Pritts, Wagner, Wojnar and Councilwomen Bailey, Stevenson and were present. Mayor Lucia and Solicitor Wolfe were present. President Bauer stated we have a quorum.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Stevenson to dispense with the reading of the minutes of December 1, 2014 since Council has been provided with a copy. Motion seconded by Councilman Pritts. Motion carried 7-0.

Public Comment:

Charles Kantorik, Mount Pleasant PA 15666 said that he has a business on the section of Washington Street that is designated as permit parking only. Because it is a business and not a residence they are not allowed to purchase parking permits for themselves or their customers. Mr. Kantorik said that he spoke to his neighbors to try and get the ordinance repealed and half were in favor, half against the idea. Mr. Kantorik said that the some of the people he spoke to had complaints. Some said that the ordinance is not strictly enforced, some said that it is difficult to find a policeman at the station to obtain a permit, some need more than 2 permits and some feel there should not be a charge for the permit. President Bauer said that Council is working on parking for Mr. Kantorik's business and Val's and will survey the residents regarding amending the ordinance.

Cheryl Kantorik, Mount Pleasant PA 15666 said that she was with Mr. Kantorik when he was speaking to the residents on Washington Street and she said that the problem is with Washington Street residents who live up near Diamond Street. These people can't find a parking place even though they have a permit because customers of Grille 31 and Goo's park on the street without permits. President Bauer said that vehicles without a visible permit will be ticketed.

Crystal Helman, 521 Washington Street, Mount Pleasant PA 15666, Pat Lopes, 507 Washington Street and Lacey Stairs, Washington Street all spoke to Council regarding the parking problem on Washington Street.

Speakers: None

Mayor's Report:

Mayor Lucia said that there will be a fundraiser for Trooper George E Hare Jr. who was injured while on duty. The fundraiser will be a spaghetti dinner at Norvelt Roosevelt Hall on January 18, 2015 from noon to 4pm. The cost will be \$10 for adults and \$5 for children 3-14.

Solicitor's Report:

Solicitor Wolfe said he is working on the ordinance for the Borough that will officially adopt the portion of Deer Creek Drive that is paved by the Borough and Township. After the street is adopted by the Borough Solicitor Wolfe will work on an agreement that will give the Borough's Liquid Fuels revenue for that street to the Township and they will have the responsibility to pave and maintain it.

Tax Collector Report:

Tax Collector Carol Yancosky gave the following report for the month of December 2014:

Property Taxes Collected = \$6,550.51
Per Capita Taxes Collected = \$357.50

Total Taxes Collected = \$6,908.01

Ms. Yancosky said that the collection period for 2014 Property Taxes has ended. She will be collecting only per capita taxes until spring taxes are mailed.

President's Report:

President Bauer reported that three Executive Sessions were held since the last regular council meeting. The Sessions were held to discuss personnel.

President Bauer said that the profits from the sale of Christmas ornaments were used to balance the Holiday Property line item in the 2014 budget.

President Bauer said that the BDA Budget with the changes Council requested has been presented.

A motion was made by Councilman Wagner to approve Draft #2 of the 2015 BDA Budget. Motion seconded by Councilman Wojnar. Motion carried 7-0.

President Bauer said that the BDA has given Council the formula used to calculate the business tax.

President Bauer said that there are vacancies on some of the Borough's boards and authorities and the current members of the Borough's boards and authorities will remain until new appointments are made.

Borough Manager's Report:

Borough Manager Landy said that the 2014 year end Budget vs. Actual Report will be on Council's desks for the January 20th meeting and will be discussed.

Borough Manager Landy gave the following report:

- A meeting was held with representatives from Westmoreland County to discuss replacing the bathrooms at Willows Park. CDBG Grant funds will be used to pay for the construction and when County funds are used they require that an architect draw up the plans. Mr. Landy said he and Councilman Tate met with an architect and the plans are being drawn up to be used for bid specs.
- A meeting was held with Architect Jim Gayton regarding Penn Park. Mr. Gayton is working on the specs and the project should be ready to go out for bid at the end of February or the beginning of March 2015 with construction of the park to be completed by June 30, 2015.

Councilman Wagner asked Borough Manager Landy where funds to pay the architect will be coming from. Mr. Landy said that because of his relationship with Mr. Gayton the plans for Penn Park will be done free of charge and plans for the bathroom at Willows Park will be at a minimal fee.

Councilman Wagner asked whether engineering fees are ever included in the grant funds. Borough Manager Landy said that sometimes when the Borough applies for grants the initial grant will be for engineering. These engineering plans will be required to apply for other grant funds for the project.

Waste Water Treatment Report:

Councilman Caruso read the following Waste Water Treatment report prepared by WWT Superintendent Larry Hague:

- The replacement bio-tower went into service on December 23, 2015 and it will be a while until the micro life is re-established.
- Work on the wall at Frick Park has stopped because of the weather. It has been replaced up to the second set of steps. When the weather permits WWT personnel will dig out the rest of the wall that is leaning into the alley.
- WWT personnel have been doing some remodeling and cleanup at the plant. The office has been painted and work was done on the bathroom.

Borough Manager Landy said that the loan to replace the bio-tower has been secured and the first payment will be due on January 17, 2015.

Veterans Park Report: None

Streets Report: None

Public Safety Zoning & Ordinance Report:

A motion was made by Councilwoman Stevenson to hire Anthony Vittone Jr., Greensburg PA 15601 as a part-time police officer pending completion of background check. Motion seconded by Councilman Pritts. Motion carried 7-0.

Councilwoman Stevenson read the following Fire Report for the month of December 2014:

Total Calls – 33
In Town – 7
Out Of Town – 26
10-45's – 8
Fires – 11
Public Service Calls – 1
AFA's – 11
Drills – 1
Turnpike Calls – 3
Total Members Answering – 357
Average Member Per Call – 10
Total Staff Hours – 272

Councilwoman Stevenson read the following Fire Report for 2014:

Total Calls – 500
In Town – 108
Out of Town – 392
10-45's – 169
10-45's w/Entrapment – 11
Fires – 137
Public Service Calls – 67
Standby's – 9
Drills – 3
Turnpike Calls – 42
Total Men Answering – 5,913
Avg. Member Per Call – 11
Total Staff Hours – 4,442

Councilwoman Stevenson reported that the background check on the candidate for Police Chief is in process and we should have the results soon.

Community & Economic Development/Grants Report:

Councilman Wagner said that he received information from Borough Manager Landy regarding a Penn Dot grant for traffic signals. The deadline for grant application is February 27, 2015 and is a matching funds grant. After July 1, 2015 there will be more grant funds available.

Councilman Wagner said that Councilman Wojnar gave him a “2015 Pennsylvania Grant Resource Directory” provided by Representative Ted Harhai. Representative Harhai also provided the name and contact information for a Mr. Ryan Emerson who can assist with grant application.

Parks & Recreation Report:

Councilman Wojnar wanted assurance that there are funds allocated for a bike rack at Penn Park and Borough Manager Landy said that there are plans for a bike rack at the park.

President Bauer said that he would like to see a Recreation Committee formed before spring and Councilman Wojnar said he is working on putting a committee together. Councilman Wojnar said that he has instructed the Police Department to lock the basketball court for the winter.

Finance & Human Resources Report:

A motion was made by Councilwoman Bailey to ratify transfer of \$43,411.38 from PNC General Fund Budgetary Reserve to Standard Bank General Fund Budgetary Reserve which will close the PNC account. Motion seconded by Councilman Pritts. Motion carried 7-0.

Borough Manager Landy explained that the transfer was made to consolidate the budgetary reserve and because Standard Bank has a better interest rate.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Bailey to approve Resolution 2015-01 to waive the required member contributions to the Police Pension plan for calendar year 2015 only. Motion seconded by Councilman Pritts. Motion carried 7-0.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Bailey to approve Resolution 2015-02 to increase the quarterly pension contribution to \$3.20 per hour worked by a non-uniformed employee for calendar 2015 only. Motion carried 7-0.

Property Report:

Councilman Pritts reported that electrical repairs were made at Third Ward Fire Station in the amount of \$275.00.

Councilman Pritts said that the repairs to the first floor in the Municipal Building are almost complete. Borough Manager Landy said that Handyman Joe did the repairs on the outside of the building and agreed to do the work on the inside at no additional cost to the Borough.

Sanitation & Recycling Report:

Councilman Caruso said that borough residents can dispose of their Christmas trees at the borough shed from 8am to 1pm Monday through Friday or at Wilkinson's Nursery during business hours. Residents can also call the Street Department to have their Christmas trees picked up.

Councilman Wojnar said that a student at Ramsay Elementary School came up with the idea to recycle at the school and Republic Services was contacted and agreed to come and look at a possible program.

New Business:

President Bauer said that he would like Council to keep the baskets on their desks cleaned out so that new information for the next meeting can be put in them. Any important information will be put on council chairs.

President Bauer said that there are houses on S. Geary Street that are getting termite damage due to water and the storm water issue must be addressed by Council. Borough Manager Landy is working with Mike Barrick to put a plan together. The location of the storm water line may have to be relocated. Mr. Landy said that this may be the biggest storm water project the Borough has ever done and may be up to two years in planning.

Reading of Communications:

Borough Manager Landy read the following communication:

- First Niagara Bank will hold an official Grand Opening at their Mount Pleasant location on January 22, 2015 from noon to 5pm.

Discussion and Payment of Bills:

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

Miscellaneous and Adjournment:

A motion was made by Councilman Pritts to adjourn the meeting. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Bailey. Motion carried 7-0.

Meeting Adjourned 8:21pm

Motions from January 5, 2015 Meeting

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