

Meeting October 5, 2015

The meeting of Mount Pleasant Borough Council was called to order by President Bauer at 7:01pm in Council Chambers at 1 Etze Avenue, Mount Pleasant, PA 15666. The Pledge of Allegiance was said and President Bauer asked for a moment of silence for our deployed troops. President Bauer led Council in the Lord's Prayer. President Bauer directed Borough Manager Landy to take roll. Councilmen Caruso, Pritts, Wagner, and Councilwomen Bailey, Ruskowski and Stevenson were present. Mayor Lucia and Solicitor Wolfe were present. President Bauer said that a quorum is present.

Councilwoman Stevenson said that there is a correction on the minutes of September 21, 2015. Mr. Ralph Hribal is being hired as Mount Pleasant Borough Ordinance Officer instead of Zoning Officer as previously stated.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Stevenson to approve the minutes of September 21, 2015 after correction, since Council has been provided with a copy. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Ruskowski. Motion carried 7-0.

Public Comment:

Mr. Cliff Daniels, Mount Pleasant Soccer Recreational League, 114 Brown's Candy Way, Mount Pleasant PA 15666 requested the status of the agreement regarding a railroad crossing at the soccer field. Solicitor Wolfe stated that the proposed agreement with the Railroad states that the Borough must sign the agreement and cannot assign the lease to the Soccer League. The Soccer League must be the party to sign the agreement with the Railroad. Solicitor Wolfe stated that the agreement specifically states that the agreement is unassignable. President Bauer said that he will get together with the Recreation Committee to schedule a meeting to discuss the issue. Borough Manager Landy said that Westmoreland Commissioner Kopas would like to send another excavating company to re-evaluate the possibility of a parking lot on the hill off Center Avenue. Councilman Wagner suggested looking at the piece of property by the baseball field that is for sale as a possible parking area. President Bauer said that the Borough will set up a meeting with Commissioner Kopas sometime after the November election to look at that possibility also.

Ms. Cynthia Stevenson, 315 Eagle Street, Mount Pleasant PA 15666 reminded voters that in less than a month elections will decide who sits on Council and makes decisions regarding Mount Pleasant Borough. Ms. Stevenson believes the Mount Pleasant Landlord Association as a special interest group is trying to elect their candidates to Council.

Mr. John Rogacki, Spruce Street, Mount Pleasant PA 15666 disagreed with Ms. Stevenson's comments and said it is up to the voters to decide who will be elected.

Mr. Paul Wagner, 323 S. Diamond Street, Mount Pleasant PA 15666 stated that Council has shown no clear direction regarding the enforcement of the Landlord Ordinance. Mr. Wagner said he feels Ms. Stevenson, as a council member should not give her personal opinion during public comment. Mr. Wagner said he feels that there are more important issues for Council to discuss.

Mr. Anthony Fazio announced that he has recently opened a full-service hair salon in the Borough and welcomed everyone to visit his new business.

Mayor's Report:

Mayor Lucia announced that this week is "Fire Prevention Week" and he asked residents to check their chimneys, smoke and carbon monoxide detectors. The Mount Pleasant VFD will be holding drills at Harmon House, Ridgeview Apts., Independent Apts. and Greenwood Apts.

Mayor Lucia said that the Mount Pleasant Area Reality Tour will be held the first Thursday of every month at Rumbaugh School. Mayor Lucia said that he would like to see a large turnout this year and asked parents and grandparents to bring their children to attend the sessions. The session is two hours and begins at 6:30pm. Pre-registration is encouraged. The tour will be held

in November and December 2015 and February 2016 through April 2015. To pre-register call 724-423-5653.

Mayor Lucia said that he and Borough Manager Landy attended a meeting at the Arnold Palmer Airport with Penn Dot and an engineering company. Mayor Lucia and Mr. Landy have been asked to sit on a committee for the Laurel Valley Extension which will run from Carpentertown to Latrobe. There will be a new interchange at Carpentertown and the committee will address what happens from there to Latrobe. Mayor Lucia said that he and Borough Manager Landy will address traffic from the interchange to Route 119 and Mount Pleasant. They want to bring traffic from the interchange through Mount Pleasant and added to that would be the truck traffic from the deep mine in Donegal.

Mayor Lucia announced that Trick or Treat in the Borough will be Sunday October 25th from 2pm to 4pm and the Halloween Parade will be held on Wednesday October 28th. To pre-register for the parade please call 724-547-8501.

Mayor Lucia said that the Mount Pleasant Borough Police will be monitoring bus stops on Diamond, Church, Main and Eagle Streets during the morning and afternoon because there has been a problem with drivers speeding in those areas.

Councilman Pritts said that there is also a problem with drivers parking on the yellow lines near the school making it difficult for buses to make the corner and for other drivers to see the children crossing the street.

Solicitor's Report:

Solicitor Wolfe said he has personnel issues to discuss during Executive Session.

Tax Collector's Report:

Tax Collector Carol Yancosky read the following report for the month of September 2015:

Property Taxes = \$4,000.65
Per Capita Taxes = \$2,038.40

Total Collected = \$ \$6,039.05

President's Report:

President Bauer said that the Borough is entering the end of the third quarter and the Police Overtime Line Item is over budget by \$3,000 due to the time spent on the Drug Task Force. It is important that we receive reimbursement before the end of the year to balance the budget. Borough Manager Landy said that, to his understanding, the reason the reimbursements are late is because the State has not passed a budget.

President Bauer reported that Shop Demo Depot is only taking tv's and computers right now and nothing else. Councilman Caruso said he will talk to Republic Services to see if there is an alternative.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Stevenson for an Executive Session. Motion seconded by Councilman Pritts. Motion carried 7-0.

Executive Session 8:47pm to 8:56pm

Borough Manager's Report:

Borough Manager Landy said that he spoke to the Borough's worker's compensation insurance company regarding liability insurance for Ralph Hribal. Higbee Insurance stated that they cannot cover Mr. Hribal as a volunteer, but only as an employee. Mr. Landy said that there is still money in the budget line item to pay Mr. Hribal under workers comp for the rest of the year for 16 hours per week at minimum wage which will resolve these issues.

Mr. Landy said he met with representatives from DCNR and took them on a tour of the Borough. DCNR will be offering grants for park upgrades. Mr. Landy said that the playground equipment for Frick Park that was purchased with a CDBG grant has been delivered and he would like to meet with the Recreation Committee to discuss a plan to move forward. The Recreation and Street Committees agreed to meet this week.

Mr. Landy said that the next step will be the basketball court. The project will have to go out to bid, but there may be only one company who is qualified.

Borough Manager Landy said that he talked with Decoplan, the company hired to assist with grant writing and they may start work on two grants. One for ambulance services and another for fire departments. These grants may be done by Medic 10 and the Mount Pleasant VFD because they have done them in the past.

Borough Manager Landy said that the new CDBG grant application is due at the end of October. A list is available regarding what the Borough will be applying for and Mr. Landy will work with Councilwoman Bailey on the application. Some of the possible projects include lighting at Frick Park walking track, upgrading the fountain and Gazebo at Veterans Park upgrades to council chambers and Penn Park. President Bauer said that he feels lighting for Frick Park walking track should be the first priority and Council agreed.

Mr. Landy thanked everyone for their support of the 2015 Mount Pleasant Glass & Ethnic Festival including the residents on Washington Street where the festival is set up. The Festival is a benefit to the community and to the non-profit vendors who rely on the money they make there. Councilwoman Stevenson said that she received much praise for the Festival from out of town visitors.

Waste Water Treatment Report:

Mr. Landy said that Council has a copy of the agreement with Mount Pleasant Township. Mr. Landy said that Councilman Tate expressed dissatisfaction with the paragraph that states the Township would be responsible for their share of anything over \$20,000 for capital improvements. Councilman Wagner began a discussion about how the Township bills its customers and how the money they pay the Borough is used. Council agreed to read the agreement and be prepared to make a decision at the next council meeting.

Mr. Larry Hague, WWT Superintendent, said that it is important that Council act on the agreement with East Huntingdon Township regarding the Quarry Street Pump Station overflow. The agreement would allow us to discharge into their system. The Borough will meter the overflow and we will be billed by East Huntingdon Township for that overflow. Without this agreement the Borough would have to spend approximately \$40,000 to build a holding tank for the overflow.

A motion was made by Councilman Wagner to suspend the rules for a motion sign the overflow agreement with East Huntingdon Township. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Bailey. Motion carried 7-0.

A motion was made by Councilman Wagner to sign the overflow agreement with East Huntingdon Township. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Bailey. Motion carried 7-0.

Mr. Larry Hague, WWT Superintendent, updated Council on the replacement of the comminutor. Mr. Hague said that he visited other plants that have upgraded to a newer screen system and has gotten a survey done at the WWT Plant to see if there is a place to install one.

Mr. Hague asked Council if they have made a decision regarding manpower at the WWT Plant. They are one man short and have had to cover hours normally worked by the employee who is out. Council said that they would like to ask Derek Hoover, a WWT part-time employee to cover the weekend shift that is vacant right now.

Streets Report:

A motion was made by Councilwoman Bailey to close Route 31 Main Street on October 28, 2015 from Braddock Road Avenue to Center Avenue from 6:00pm to 8:00pm for the 2015 Halloween Parade. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Ruskowski. Motion carried 7-0.

Councilwoman Bailey said that she received a request from Bob and Nicole Karfelt to allow them to cut a curb at 110 S Depot Street to put in a driveway which would eliminate two parking spaces on the street. Councilwoman Bailey said that she will look at it with Street Supervisor Fontanazza to determine if it would be ok to remove those parking spaces. Bob and Nicole Karfelt have also asked to be allowed to purchase a portion of the Levin property that the Borough allows them to use and that they have graveled and cared for. Councilwoman Bailey said that this property is part of the Levin Property that was donated to the Borough. Borough Manager Landy said that he has asked Mr. Karfelt to research the fair market value of the portion they wish to purchase so that Council can make a decision. The sale of the property could also infringe on the possible development proposed by the County.

Public Safety Zoning & Ordinance Report:

Councilwoman Stevenson read the following Fire Report for the month of September 2015:

Total Calls – 46
In Town – 12
Out of Town – 34
10-45's – 14
10-45's W/ Entrapment – 1
Fires – 7
AFA's – 15
Public Service Calls – 9
Drills – 1
Turnpike Calls – 1
Total Members Answering – 622
Average Member per Call – 13
Total Staff Hours – 494

Councilwoman Stevenson said that she has provided council members with a copy of the duties and reporting schedule for the Mount Pleasant Borough Ordinance Officer. Solicitor Wolfe has read the document and may have some changes. Councilwoman Stevenson asked Council if anyone else had any changes they would like to see made. Councilman Wagner said that he would like to see a specified time frame for reports from the Ordinance Officer. Council agreed that the Officer would provide a monthly report at the first council meeting of the month.

Councilman Wagner asked Councilwoman Stevenson about an issue with a property owner on Main Street who put rocks in the grass between the sidewalk and the curb. Councilman Wagner received a complaint that when vehicles park at the curb their doors hit the rocks when opened. Borough Manager Landy said that there is nothing in our Code of Ordinances that prohibits the property owner from putting rocks there. Mayor Lucia agreed, but said that the owner of a vehicle that is damaged by the rocks when opening their car door can sue the property owner for damages.

Parks & Recreation Report: None

Finance & Human Resources Report:

Councilwoman Ruskowski said that there will be a Finance Committee meeting on October 8, 2015 at 3:00pm to discuss health insurance for the 2016 Budget.

Councilwoman Ruskowski said that the Frankenstein figure will be raffled off at Hayden's Pharmacy. Tickets will cost \$1.00 for three tickets. The ticket will go off on October 25, 2015. The proceeds from the raffle will go toward the Gazebo lighting.

Borough Manager Landy said that budget meetings will be planned and now is the time for council members to submit any requests they have for 2016.

Property Report: None

Sanitation & Recycling Report:

Councilman Caruso reported that he and Borough Manager Landy worked on the grant application for the recycling program. Grant funds will be determined by commercial and residential tonnage.

Borough Manager Landy said that the Garbage Contract will be coming up for bid at the end of 2015 and he and Councilman Caruso have a meeting scheduled for next week to go over the current contract to see if some additional services can be included.

New Business:

Borough Manager Landy reported that the 2016 Liquid Fuels allocation is \$120,502.54 which is an increase from 2015.

Reading of Communications:

Borough Manager Landy read the follow communications:

- Shop Demo Depot will be holding an Open House on Thursday October 15th from 11:30am to 6:00pm.
- Westmoreland County Borough's Association monthly meeting will be held on October 22nd at 7:00pm at The Barn on Donahoe Road in Greensburg. The President of the State Borough's Association will be the speaker.
- Ribbon Cutting for New Stanton Borough new municipal building will be Saturday October 10th at 1:00pm with an Open House from 2:00pm to 4:00pm. Council is invited to attend.
- Mount Pleasant Area School District Year Book Staff has requested that the Borough purchase an ad in the yearbook.

A motion was made by Councilman Pritts to suspend the rules for the purpose of purchasing a quarter-page ad in the Mount Pleasant Area School District Year Book at a cost of \$80.00. Motion seconded by Councilman Caruso. Motion carried 7-0.

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Discussion and Payment of Bills:

A motion was made by Councilman Pritts to pay all authorized an 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 9:30pm

Motions from meeting of October 5, 2015

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