

Meeting April 4, 2016

The meeting of Mount Pleasant Borough Council was called to order by President Wagner 7:03pm in Council Chambers at 1 Etze Avenue, Mount Pleasant, PA 15666. The Pledge of Allegiance was said and President Wagner asked for a moment of silence for our deployed troops and the families affected by the tragedy in the Borough last evening. President Wagner directed Borough Manager Landy to take roll. Councilpersons present included Bailey, Barnes, Caruso, Cholock, Pritts, Ruszkowski, and Stevenson. Mayor Lucia and Solicitor Liptak, Davis & Davis were present. President Wagner stated that a quorum is present.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Ruszkowski to approve the minutes of March 21, 2016 since Council has been provided with a copy. Motion seconded by Councilman Cholock. Motion carried 7-0.

Public Comment:

Ralph Hribal, 804 Spring Street Mount Pleasant spoke to Council about properties on his street and in other parts of Mount Pleasant that are property maintenance violations. Mr. Hribal said that Mount Pleasant is deteriorating and the problem is the rental properties and the tenants that landlords are renting to.

A motion was made by Councilman Cholock to extend Mr. Hribal's public comment another three minutes. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Bailey. Motion carried 7-0.

Mr. Hribal asked Council to put an Ordinance Officer on the streets who is able to enforce the Mount Pleasant Borough Property Maintenance Ordinance.

Mr. Robert Karfelt Jr., 114 S. Depot Street Mount Pleasant, owner of RLN Trucking, 114 S. Depot Street Mount Pleasant told Council that he is interested in purchasing a piece of property at the end of S. Depot Street owned by the Borough and will use the property as a secure lot for parking his trucks. Mr. Karfelt said he is willing to pay fair market value and the cost to subdivide the property. Borough Manager Landy said that the Borough is working with county officials and the DEP to determine if the property is contaminated and clean it up in order to get #2 Clearance. #2 Clearance would mean that the property can be developed and the Borough would be cleared of any future liability. Councilwoman Bailey said that there is no way currently to assess the fair market value of the property. Councilwoman Stevenson asked if selling a piece of the property to Mr. Karfelt would limit access to the property. Councilwoman Bailey said that there would still be access to the property. Mr. Landy said that he is meeting with county officials tomorrow and will have a clearer picture of how they are going to proceed.

Speakers: None

Reading of Communications:

Borough Manager Landy read the following communications:

- A letter from the Mount Pleasant Municipal Authority regarding financing of the sewer lines for the 2017 Main Street Project.
- Westmoreland Conservation District will be holding a meeting on April 19, 2016 from 1pm to 3pm regarding water resource plans and would like the Borough to participate. It will be held at the Jay Roy Houston Conservation Center on Donohoe Road in Greensburg.
- A meeting will be held on April 7th at 1:30pm regarding cost reimbursements for the winter storm in January 2016 that the President has declared a national emergency. Reimbursement from FEMA would mean a 75% reimbursement of Borough expenses.

Mayor's Report:

Mayor Lucia announced that on Thursday April 7, 2016 at 10am there will be a dedication of Chief D.B. Pore Way that runs between Main Street and W. Smithfield Street. A representative from Senator Toomey's office will attend as well as officers from the Mount Pleasant Police Department and members of the Mount Pleasant Area Historical Society. Mayor Lucia asked all council members to attend if they are able.

Mayor Lucia asked Patrolman Zilli how stray dogs are handled in the Borough. Patrolman Zilli said that the police will respond to an emergency situation where a life is in danger, but when a dog is trespassing on someone's property they should call 911 and they will report it to the Ferree Kennels who the Borough uses as a dog catcher. Ferree Kennels has said that they will respond to any call within one hour and will issue citations.

Mayor Lucia said that Westmoreland County Drug & Alcohol Commission will hold a breakfast meeting at the Mount Pleasant VFD Social Hall on May 18, 2016 from 7:30am to 9:30am.

Mayor Lucia asked Council for approval to attend the 2016 meeting of the State Mayors Association on July 23, 24, and 25th in Gettysburg PA.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Bailey to amend the agenda. Motion seconded by Councilman Cholock. Motion carried 7-0.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Bailey to approve the payment of expenses for Mayor Lucia's attendance at the 2016 State Mayor's Association on July 23, 24, and 25th. Motion seconded by Councilman Cholock. Motion carried 7-0.

Mayor Lucia said that Pennsylvania Mayors will hold a session at the Capital Building in Harrisburg for approval of radar enforcement by local police departments.

Borough Manager's Report:

Borough Manager Landy asked Council to review the current Budget vs. Actual Report.

Mr. Landy reminded Council about the plan to tour Vandergift on some Friday at 10:30am. Council must pick a date.

Borough Manager Landy said that he has attended meetings with insurance companies interested in bidding on the Borough's liability insurance as well as with the Street Department about paving etc. There will be a meeting on April 6th at 3pm about Penn Park to bring everyone involved up to speed since construction has resumed.

Borough Manager said that he will attend a meeting with the DCED on April 6th at 4:30pm regarding Borough Police Departments. There may be grant funds available.

Borough Manager Landy said that fencing from the Bridgeport Street property will be used at Penn Park to separate the parking lot from the park area. The Street Department will remove the fence as part of the Borough's in-kind contribution.

Mr. Landy said that the PSAB has grant funds available for streetscape, lighting, sidewalk enhancement and pedestrian safety. There is also a program through the U.S. Dept. of Justice to support the purchase and implementation of body worn cameras by police.

Borough Manager Landy said that the Pennsylvania Lt. Governor will be visiting Mount Pleasant Borough on April 14, 2016 from approximately 1:30pm to 3:00pm. Mike Barrick, Jacobs Creek Watershed will be present to talk about how important the Main Street Storm Water Grant they are applying for would be for the Borough. Mr. Landy said that the Lt. Governor will be given a tour of the Borough and any council person who wants to participate in the tour is welcome.

Tax Collector's Report:

Tax Collector Carol Yancosky read the following report for the month of March 2016:

Property Tax = \$123,076.26

Per Capita = \$66.00

Total Collected = \$123,142.26

Solicitor's Report:

Solicitor Liptak asked President Wagner to read the resolution that would absolve the Borough of any liability for the Mount Pleasant Glass & Ethnic Festival so that she can answer any questions before a motion is made to approve the resolution.

President Wagner read the resolution and asked for questions. Councilwoman Stevenson said that she recalled Council President saying that the Borough and the Glass Festival would continue to operate as a partnership. Councilwoman Stevenson said that she would like to see some mention of appreciation of the Glass Festival as well as participation of borough employees as in the past. Councilwoman Stevenson said that she does not feel the resolution should include language telling the Glass Festival that they must get an EIN Number. Councilwoman Stevenson said that she would like to see language in the resolution giving the Glass Festival multi-year permission to use the streets in the Borough they normally do. Councilwoman Stevenson said that she would also like to allow the Glass Festival to remain on the Borough's insurance since there is no cost involved.

Solicitor Liptak said that she was instructed to draft a resolution absolving the Borough of any liability for the Glass Festival and if Council wishes to add any of these other provisions she would certainly be willing to do so. Solicitor Liptak said that in the past the Festival used the Borough's EIN Number and that is why it is in the resolution for them to get their own number. Solicitor Liptak said that she could include language in the resolution to indicate that the Glass Festival would remain under the Borough's insurance as long as the policy does not change.

Borough Manager Landy said that he will make sure that all of Council is emailed a copy of the resolution with any changes that Solicitor Liptak makes before a motion is made at the next council meeting.

President's Report: None

Waste Water Treatment Report:

Councilman Rogacki was contacted via speaker phone so that he could participate during the Waste Water Treatment Report.

WWT Superintendent Larry Hague said that there was a chlorine leak at the plant. There is a motion on the agenda tonight to replace the chlorinator at the WWT Plant.

WWT Superintendent Hague said that the agreement with East Huntingdon Township regarding the Quarry Street Pump Station has been signed and there is a motion on the agenda tonight to approve the purchase of a flowmeter to record the flow from the Quarry Street Pump Station. Mr. Hague reported that there will be a \$10 charge added to the Armstrong Cable bill for sending the data back and forth.

Mr. Hague said that Gibson Thomas will be advertising for bids for the WWT Plant Mechanical Bar Screen on April 6 & 11 and the bid opening will be on April 27, 2016 to be awarded at the council meeting on May 2, 2016.

Mr. Hague said that Derek Hoover has resigned his position at the WWT Plant effective April 3, 2016.

WWT Superintendent Hague reported to Council other work that was done by WWT personnel since the last council meeting including repairing the walking bridge at Willow Park.

A motion was made by Councilman Caruso to approve the quote from Biss-Nuss in the amount of \$7,805 to replace the Chlorinator at the WWT Plant. Motion seconded by Councilman Pritts. Motion carried 8-0. Councilman Rogacki voted yes.

A motion was made by Councilman Caruso to advertise for a temporary part-time employee for the Waste Water Treatment Plant. Motion seconded by Councilman Pritts. Motion carried 8-0. Councilman Rogacki voted yes.

A motion was made by Councilman Caruso to purchase a flowmeter set-up per the quote from Advance Instruments Inc. to record and send flow data for the Quarry Street Pumping Station Overflow that will be tied into East Huntingdon Township's collection system in the amount of \$6,488. Motion seconded by Councilman Pritts. Motion carried 8-0. Councilman Rogacki voted yes

A motion was made by Councilman Caruso to approve expenses as presented. Motion seconded by Councilman Pritts. Motion carried 8-0. Councilman Rogacki voted yes

Streets Report:

A motion was made by Councilman Caruso to approve expenses as presented. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Stevenson. Motion carried 7-0.

A motion was made by Councilman Caruso to advertise for bids to pave the following streets:

- Willow Street Extension
- Silver Street from Summit to Spruce
- W. Smithfield Street from Diamond Street to Mullin Avenue
- Ramsey Court

Motion seconded by Councilwoman Bailey. Motion carried 7-0.

Councilman Caruso reported that there are more than a mile of roads in the Borough that will be repaired and tar and chipped.

Public Safety Zoning & Ordinance Report:

Councilman Cholock read the following Fire Report for the month of March 2016:

- Total Calls – 30
- 10-45's – 10
- Fires – 11
- AFA's – 5
- Public Service Calls – 4
- Turnpike Calls – 3
- Total Members Answering – 442
- Average Member Per Call – 14
- Total Staff Hours – 233

Councilman Cholock reported that seven applicants for a full-time position at the Mount Pleasant Police Department were part of the physical training test at the MPAHS at 9am. Four applicants passed the test and will be taking the written exam.

A motion was made by Councilman Cholock to approve expenses as presented. Motion seconded by Councilman Barnes. Motion carried 6-0 with Councilman Caruso abstaining.

Parks & Recreation Report:

Councilwoman Barnes said that she has no report for Veterans Park at this time.

Councilwoman Barnes said that there will be a Mount Pleasant Borough Clean Up Day on April 24, 2016 from 12pm to 3pm with a rain date of May 15, 2016. Volunteers will meet at Frick Park on Etze Avenue.

Councilwoman Barnes reported that the walking bridge at Willow Park is repaired and WWT personnel did a wonderful job.

Councilwoman Barnes said that she visited the WWT Plant and found the operation very interesting. She was also impressed by how dangerous the process can be and the safety measures that WWT Superintendent Hague has in place. Councilwoman Barnes said that WWT Superintendent Hague would like to have an open house sometime this year so that borough residents can see how it works.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Barnes to pay all approved expenses as presented. Motion seconded by Councilman Cholock. Motion carried 7-0.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Barnes to approve Resolution 2016-01 banning steel cleats and bicycles at Frick Park softball infield. Motion seconded by Councilman Cholock. Motion carried 7-0.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Barnes to amend the agenda. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Bailey. Motion carried 7-0.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Pritts to allow the MPIAA Girls Softball League to upgrade the infield at Frick Park with the total cost to be paid by the League. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Barnes. Motion carried 7-0.

Councilwoman Barnes said that there is a retaining wall at Willow Park near the driving bridge that needs to be repaired. Andrew Zelinsky, WWT reported that it will require a triaxle of stone and cement barriers to do the repair.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Barnes to amend the agenda. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Bailey. Motion carried 7-0.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Barnes to approve the repair to the retaining wall at the driving bridge at Willow Park at a cost of \$3,787.40 with work being done by WWT personnel. Motion seconded by Councilman Pritts. Motion carried 7-0.

WWT Superintendent Larry Hague said that the fountain at Veterans Park has not been opened yet because of the cold weather, but hopes to have it open when the Lt. Governor make a tour of the Borough.

A discussion ensued regarding handicapped individuals and emergency vehicles driving across the bridge at the Soccer Field and Mayor Lucia said that those individuals should be allowed to drive across the bridge if they have a handicap placard and the Soccer League will have to police that. Councilwoman Barnes said that she will speak to Soccer League officials about use of the bridge.

Finance & Human Resources Report:

A motion was made by Councilwoman Bailey to approve a budgetary transfer of \$95,000 from PNC General Fund to Standard Bank Budgetary Reserve for the following line items:

\$10,000 Police

\$ 5,000 Fire

\$30,000 Streets

\$25,000 Contingency

\$25,000 Infrastructure

Motion seconded by Councilwoman Ruskowski. Motion carried 7-0.

Borough Manager Landy said that \$5,000 of the money in Budgetary Reserve earmarked for the Police will be used as a balloon payment for a new police vehicle.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Bailey to approve the following budgetary transfer of \$77,710 from WWT Operational Account into Budgetary Reserve Contingency Line Item. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Ruskowski. Motion carried 7-0.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Bailey to amend the agenda. Motion seconded by Councilman Cholock. Motion carried 7-0.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Bailey to accept the resignation of Derek Hoover, WWT effective April 3, 2016. Motion seconded by Councilman Cholock. Motion carried 7-0.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Bailey to amend the agenda. Motion seconded by Councilman Cholock. Motion carried 7-0.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Bailey to increase the hourly rate of Andrew Zelinsky from \$21.42 per hour to \$22.07 per hour retroactive to February 22, 2016. Motion seconded by Councilman Pritts. Motion carried 7-0.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Bailey to approve expenses as presented. Motion seconded by Councilman Cholock. Motion carried 7-0.

Property Report:

Councilwoman Ruszkowski said that the cost of materials to repair pavilions at Willow Park will be \$1,400 to be taken from Repairs and Maintenance line item in Culture and Recreation. The work will be done by WWT and Street Department personnel.

Councilwoman Ruszkowski reported that the additional repairs by Handyman Joe to the bathroom in the Police Department will be \$1,800.

Sanitation & Recycling Report:

A motion was made by Councilman Pritts to amend the agenda. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Stevenson. Motion carried 7-0.

A motion was made by Councilman Pritts to approve the flyers being sent out by Republic Services to upgrade recycling containers in the Borough to 65 gallons beginning May 1, 2016. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Stevenson. Motion carried 7-0.

Community & Economic Development/Grants Report: None

New Business:

Borough Manager Landy said that he received a quote from Andrew Zelinsky in the amount of \$450 to trim the tree between the Municipal Building and Central Fire Station. The payment will be taken from the Tree Trimming Line Item.

Council discussed what measures to take in the summer months for property maintenance and grass cutting at properties in the Borough.

Council discussed who on Council wants to go on the tour of Vandergrift and what date is available.

Public Comment:

Mr. James Meredith said that as a landlord in the Borough he has tenants who have been with him for many years because they are treated right and accept responsibility for property maintenance. It is wrong for all landlords to be held responsible for the few who are negligent. Mayor Lucia said that he agrees that Mr. Meredith and other landlords take care of their properties, but does not understand why those same landlords are so willing to protect the landlords who don't take care of their properties.

A motion was made by Councilman Cholock to extend Mr. Meredith's public comment. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Stevenson. Motion carried 7-0.

Mr. Meredith said that there are a number of privately owned properties in the Borough that have property maintenance issues also. Mayor Lucia said that he agrees and that is why he feels it is important to have an Ordinance Enforcement Officer.

Mr. Davis Hall, 441 Three Mile Hill Mount Pleasant asked Council's permission to put up a tent at Willow Park on the day he has reserved the pavilion. Council gave their permission for Mr. Hall to erect a tent.

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

Meeting Adjourned 10:11pm

Motions from Meeting of April 4, 2016

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