

Meeting August 24, 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. Councilwoman Ruszkowski led Council in the Lord's Prayer. President Bauer directed Borough Manager Landy to take roll. Councilmen Caruso, Wagner, Wojnar and Councilwomen Bailey, Ruszkowski and Stevenson were present. Mayor Lucia was present and Solicitor Wolfe was absent. President Bauer said that a quorum is present.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Stevenson to approve the minutes of August 3, 2015 since Council has been provided with a copy. Councilman Wagner spoke up to say that council meetings are to conduct political debates and his statements at the last meeting referred to the way Council was led into debates of opinions and going off from what Borough Council can actually act upon. Councilman Wagner said that he disagrees with where the debates are leading. Councilman Wagner also wanted Council to clarify whether they are in agreement with the Police Department consistently ticketing vehicles parked against traffic on borough streets. Councilwoman Stevenson said that it is at the discretion of the Officer based on circumstances. Councilman Wagner said that he does not want to see any inconsistencies. A discussion ensued regarding areas in the Borough where it may not be possible to enforce the regulation. Councilman Wagner questioned whether a council person can make a motion and then vote against the motion. President Bauer said that a council person can make a motion on behalf of his committee and then vote against the motion. Motion to approve the minutes seconded by Councilwoman Ruszkowski. Motion carried 7-0.

Public Comment:

Mr. Joe Lape 15 Willow Street Mount Pleasant addressed Council to publicly acknowledge the fine job Mayor Lucia and the Mount Pleasant VFD as well as the other participating Fire Departments did saving his home from damage during a recent fire.

Mr. Michael Barrick, 409 Warden Street Mount Pleasant spoke to Council on behalf of the Mount Pleasant Recreational Soccer League regarding an agreement with the Westmoreland County IDC for a pedestrian crossing. The League feels that the Borough should sign the agreement since they are the owners of the Levin property and Willow Park. The responsibility for the crossing and maintenance should not be taken on by a volunteer organization. Councilman Wagner asked what the cost for maintenance would be. Borough Manager Landy said that the cost of maintenance is a gray area on the agreement. Borough Manager Landy said that he has forwarded the agreement with comments from Solicitor Wolfe and the email comments from Mr. Barrick to the IDC but has not received a response.

Mayor's Report:

Mayor Lucia talked an abandoned property on Washington Street where garbage was left at the property and the grass was high. Mayor Lucia said that he has been told that we will be facing more foreclosures stemming from reverse mortgages. Mayor Lucia and Borough Manager Landy suggested that the Ordinance Committee look at Mr. Ralph Hribal for the position as Zoning Officer. Mr. Landy said that there is still money in the budget for a Zoning Officer.

Mayor Lucia said that the Welcome To Mount Pleasant Sign still needs work. The flowers have been planted but it still needs regular mowing and some trees removed. President Bauer said that the Borough will have to talk to the property owner before removing any trees. Borough Manager Landy said that the BDA has hired Silvis to maintain the ground around the sign but not the entire area. Councilwoman Bailey said that she will send a member of the Street Department to weed-eat the area. Mayor Lucia asked Mr. Landy to contact Penn Dot to see if there is anything they are willing to do.

Mayor Lucia said that there is a rodent problem in Ramsey Terrace. He found a person who came in and trapped 11 skunks, 6 possums and 1 groundhog from on property. Mayor Lucia said that he would like to see Council approve a payment of \$200 to this person for the work he has done.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Ruszkowski to suspend the rules for a donation to Mr. Misicar for trapping skunks in Ramsey Terrace. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Stevenson. Motion carried 7-0.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Ruszkowski to donate \$200 to Mr. Misicar for trapping skunks and other rodents at Ramsey Terrace. Motion seconded by Councilman Wojnar. Motion carried 7-0.

Mayor Lucia said that one solution to the problem would be for homeowners to put skirting around the bottom of their sheds so that animals cannot get underneath and suggested that the Borough pass an ordinance for that purpose. If it is a safety issue, the sheds already there will not be grandfathered. President Bauer asked the Ordinance Committee to look into an ordinance.

Treasurer's Report:

Borough Manager Landy read the following Treasurer's Report for the month of July 2015:

Mt. Pleasant Borough Treasurer's Report		Jul-15			Balance
		Previous	Deposits	Disbursements	2015
		Balance			
General Fund Checking	PNC 00-0122-3513	50,000.00	179,467.39	179,467.39	50,000.00
General Fund Sweep	PNC 10-1149-3394	946,245.34	44,965.51	118,172.61	873,038.24
General Fund Budgetary Reserve	Standard Bank 321615	566,570.85	48.12	0.00	566,618.97
**Police		30,683.60			
**Streets		110,000.00			
**Contingency Fund		204,881.05			
**Infrastructure		96,588.62			
**BOMP1 Gas Well		11,498.30			
**BOMP2 Gas Well		4,668.35			
**Frick Park Gas Well		28,783.09			
**Levins		970.06			
**Surveillance Cameras		160.00			
**Early Warning Siren Grant		1,300.00			
**Fire		50,000.00			
**K-9		12,772.76			
**Marcellus Impact Fee Act					
13		14,265.02			
Police Parking Tickets & Meters	Scottdale Bank 7000126	4,675.98	1,426.45	0.00	6,102.43
Escrow Account	PNC Bank 10-2912-6867	2,203.70	0.00	0.00	2,203.70
Liquid Fuels PLGIT	PLGIT 56980126	138,513.70	4.99	49,600.81	88,917.88
Monument CD	Standard Bank 328188	6,747.79	0.00	0.00	6,747.79
Holiday Lighting Fund	Standard Bank 050004849	1,804.09	0.08	0.00	1,804.17
Payroll Fund	PNC 00-0122-6415	28,141.38	52,460.31	79,940.47	661.22
	Somerset Trust Co				
Veterans Park Fund	2003058309	6,981.94	0.00	0.00	6,981.94
Town Clock Fund	Standard Bank 0010038847	614.06	0.02	0.00	614.08
Storm Water Retrofit Phase II	PNC Bank 10-3888-4556	1,247.21	0.00	0.00	1,247.21
Total General Fund Balance					1,604,937.63
Medic 10 Checking	Standard Bank 0010107643	120,075.29	69,543.27	41,196.61	148,421.95
Medic 10 Savings	Standard Bank 0310000238	158,158.27	1,013.51	0.00	159,171.78
Medic 10 Money Market	PNC Bank 10-1516-8804	5,885.23	0.25	0.00	5,885.48
Medic 10 Community Trust	Standard Bank 0000358253	4,001.33	0.00	0.00	4,001.33
Total Medic 10 Fund Balance					317,480.54
WWT Operational Acct	Standard Bank 0320012280	342,135.43	121,525.63	74,656.53	389,004.53
WWT Savings	Standard Bank 0050021008	118,265.24	1,514.29	0.00	119,779.53
WWT Budgetary Reserve	Standard Bank 0000287245	40,855.40	3.47	0.00	40,858.87
**Contingency		33,389.05			
**Infrastructure		7,469.82			
WWT Bio-Tower	Standard Bank 10127923	40,056.80	17,981.98	6,915.25	51,123.53
Total WWT Balance					600,766.46
Total Borough funds					2,523,184.63
Councilwoman Susan Ruskowski Secretary Beverly Fedorchak					

A motion was made by Councilwoman Stevenson to approve the Treasurer's Report as read. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Ruskowski. Motion carried 7-0.

President's Report:

A motion was made by Councilwoman Stevenson to purchase video equipment for Chambers at a cost not to exceed \$2,500. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Bailey. Motion carried 7-0.

President Bauer reported that Councilman Caruso has passed the NIMS tests and is certified. President Bauer reminded council members who are not certified that that it is important for them to do so because the Borough could lose federal funds.

Borough Manager's Report:

Borough Manager Landy asked Council for their help with the 9/11 Ceremony this year to suggest speakers. This year 9/11 falls on a Friday and the committee will have to decide whether to hold it on that night.

Mr. Landy said that he met with representatives from East Huntingdon Township. The Township has agreed to tar and chip the Borough's portion of Braddock Road Avenue.

Borough Manager Landy said that he, Mayor Lucia and council members attended the dedication of Frick Hospital's new Emergency Room. The construction at Frick Hospital is a big investment in Mount Pleasant by Excelsa Health.

Borough Manager Landy said that he spoke to Mr. Mark Krystyniak regarding sidewalks at his property and he has agreed to replace them. He will begin with one this year and do another next year.

Mr. Landy said that he recommends WWT personnel and one or two from the Mount Pleasant Street Department attend a free event sponsored by Pennsylvania 811 Safety Day on Thursday September 24th at the Monroeville Convention Center from 7am to 2pm.

Borough Manager Landy announced that the 2016 Minimum Municipal Obligation for the Mount Pleasant Borough Non-Uniform Pension Plan is \$53,668.

Mr. Landy reported that the Borough's total cost for police overtime through August 9, 2015 is \$6,588.65. The total cost for Drug Task Overtime through August 9, 2015 is \$9,527.16. Reimbursement from the Drug Task Force so far in 2015 is \$2,971.80. Borough Manager Landy said that hopefully the Borough will receive more reimbursement from the Drug Task Force before the end of 2015.

Borough Manager Landy said that he has received the application for the 2016/2017/2018 CDBG grant. The deadline for submission of the application is October 30, 2015.

Waste Water Treatment Report:

Borough Manager Landy said that Mr. Larry Hague, Superintendent said that he would like to purchase disconnects to replace the current ones that are rusted and corroded for the bio-tower pumps from WWT Budget Line Item #860.39. Mr. Landy said that the Main Control Building Project at the WWT Plant will total \$13,748. Mr. Landy said that he spoke to Mount Pleasant Township Supervisors who are still reviewing the agreement regarding "capital improvements". The Township feels that capital improvements should not be anything under \$50,000 and the Borough feels anything over \$1,000 should be considered capital improvement. The Township made a counter proposal of \$25,000. President Bauer said that if the current comunitor is not replaced there is a danger of losing the second Bio-Tower. Borough Manager Landy said that purchasing the comunitor replacement, which is a screen system, from budgetary reserve funds would deplete the accounts and he suggested that the Borough get a loan to cover the cost with the Township contributing 35%. A discussion ensued regarding replacing the comunitor and how to pay for it.

Veterans Park Report:

Borough Manager Landy reported that Industry Weapon updated the Veterans Park Digital Wall.

Streets Report:

A motion was made by Councilwoman Bailey to suspend the rules for the purpose of a motion to sign an agreement with East Huntingdon Township to tar and chip Braddock Road Avenue. Motion seconded by Councilman Caruso. Motion carried 7-0.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Bailey to suspend the rules for the purpose of a motion to sign an agreement with East Huntingdon Township to tar and chip borough portion of Braddock Road Avenue at a cost not to exceed \$3,500. Motion seconded by Councilman Caruso. Motion carried 7-0.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Bailey to approve Resolution 2015-03 to sign a 5-year Winter Maintenance Agreement with Penn Dot. Motion seconded by Councilman Wagner. Motion carried 7-0.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Bailey to close Main Street Route 31 from Braddock Road Avenue to Silver Street on September 26, 2015 from 12:30pm to 4:00pm for the Glass & Ethnic Festival Parade. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Stevenson. Motion carried 7-0.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Bailey to close Diamond Street Route 819 from Main Street Route 31 to S Spruce Street from 11am on September 24, 2015 to 11am on September 28, 2015 for the Mount Pleasant Glass & Ethnic Festival. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Ruszkowski. Motion carried 7-0.

Councilwoman Bailey reported that the fence has been removed from the old volley ball court and the area has converted to a parking lot. Councilwoman Bailey thanked East Huntingdon Township for bringing their roller up and finishing the area. The parking lot will provide parking for special events at Frick Park. Councilwoman Bailey said that signs will be put up so that the Police can enforce the lot restrictions. The signs will designate the parking lot for special events and will post a time limit of 6 hours. The fencing that was removed was unsalvageable and went to Zelmore's scrap yard. A discussion ensued about removing part of the remaining fence and using it at Jack Bobb's Park.

Public Safety Zoning & Ordinance Report:

Councilwoman Stevenson said that she would like Council to look at upgrading the bathroom in the Police Station because it is in very bad shape.

Parks & Recreation Report:

Councilman Wojnar reminded residents that school will be in session this coming Monday and to watch for children walking to school and waiting for buses.

Councilman Wojnar asked Council if it would be an issue to place the bike rack for the bike trail coming into town near the Diamond Pharmacy sign. Council agreed that it would be a good place for the bike rack.

Councilman Wojnar asked Council if it would be a problem to bring the bike trail up the wrong way on a little-used one-way street. Council agreed that it probably would not be a problem, but Councilman Wojnar should check with Police Chief Sam. Councilman Wojnar reported that the bike trail coming into town should be completed by this weekend.

Finance & Human Resources Report:

Councilwoman Ruskowski asked Council if the Borough will be buying any truck tickets from the Mount Pleasant Volunteer Fire Department fund raiser. Council decided to wait because the tickets don't go off until October.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Ruskowski to sign a contract with G.H. Harris to collect Delinquent Per Capita Tax for 2014. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Stevenson. Motion carried 7-0.

Property Report: None

Sanitation & Recycling Report:

A motion was made by Councilman Caruso to participate in the 2015 Westmoreland Cleanways Household Hazardous Waste on Saturday October 3, 2015 at the WCCC Campus at a cost of \$160.00. Motion seconded by Councilman Wagner. Motion carried 7-0.

New Business:

Councilman Wagner reported to Council regarding the Christmas decorations and what needs to be repaired etc.

Communications:

Borough Manager Landy read the following communications:

- Westmoreland County is looking for Poll Workers.

Mr. Landy asked Council to let the borough office know who will be riding in the Glass & Ethnic Festival Parade.

Discussion & Payment of Bills:

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

Miscellaneous & Adjournment:

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

Meeting adjourned 9:05pm

Motions from August 24, 2015 Meeting

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