

Meeting August 7, 2017

The meeting of Mount Pleasant Borough Council was called to order by President Caruso at 7:06pm in Council Chambers at 1 Etze Avenue, Mount Pleasant, PA 15666. The Pledge of Allegiance was said and President Caruso asked for a moment of silence for our deployed troops. President Caruso asked Borough Manager Landy to take roll call. Councilpersons present included Bailey, Barnes, Cholock, McCloy, Pritts, Rogacki Ruskowski and Stevenson. Mayor Lucia and Solicitor Liptak were present. President Caruso stated that a quorum is present.

A motion was made by Councilman Pritts to approve the minutes of July 24, 2017 since Council has been provided with a copy. Motion seconded by Councilman McCloy. Motion carried 9-0.

Public Comment:

Ms. Hannah Hutter, 292 E Main Street, Mount Pleasant requested permission from Council to “Paint The Town Gold” in September up until the Mount Pleasant Glass & Ethnic Festival for childhood cancer awareness. Council gave Ms. Hutter permission.

Mr. Joe Bauer, N Geary Street, Mount Pleasant PA 15666 asked Council for the third time to have someone paint the crosswalk on Church Street at Harmon House. Mr. Bauer said the absence of a crosswalk at that location is a safety issue.

Mr. Bauer said that he has two quotes for approximately \$30,000 to replace the apron at Central Fire Station. He is waiting for two more quotes. Mr. Bauer said that the apron is causing a dangerous situation. Mr. Bauer said he will look into trying to find some volunteers which will lower the cost.

Mr. Paul Somers, 203 S. Diamond Street, Mount Pleasant PA 15666 said that he is having a problem with neighbors and loud music and high grass. President Caruso said that he will report it to Mount Pleasant Code Enforcement Officer Ira Bennett. Borough Manager Landy said that there is an ordinance regarding noise being worked on right now by Council.

Mr. Gerard Rendine, owner of Diamond Storage, said that all of his tenants have complained about the noise coming from the property neighboring 203 S Diamond Street. A band is playing in a carport that is only 15 feet from 203 S. Diamond Street. Mr. Rendine said that he has reported the issue to the Mount Pleasant Police Department 10 times and was told their “hands are ties”. Mr. Rendine said that the grass and weeds at the property are in excess of six feet tall.

Mr. Rendine said that the storm drain is too high in front of 203 S Diamond Street which causes water to collect and be pushed onto the sidewalk which is a safety hazard and damage is being done to the vehicle that park there. Councilwoman Bailey said that she will call the State Representative again to see if the issue is on their list to be corrected and inform them that is a safety issue.

Mr. Bob Storey, 691 Orchard Avenue, Mount Pleasant PA 15666 asked Council for the status of the repair of storm drains and road conditions on Orchard Avenue. Mr. Storey said that the storm drains were installed to high and when it rains his property gets rain and sewage water. President Caruso said that the issue will be discussed at this council meeting.

Mr. Rendine said that he feels drivers are not paying attention to the crosswalks on borough streets especially Main Street.

Dave Pritts, Washington Street, Mount Pleasant PA 15666 announced that there will be a blood drive on August 25, 2017 at St. Pius Church between 12:30pm and 5:30pm. Anyone interested in donating blood can register at redcrossblood.org by entering zip code 15666.

Mayor’s Report:

Mayor Lucia read the following Code Enforcement monthly report for the month of July 2017:

43 Code Violations Citations issued
High Grass & Weeds – 16 issued 12 resolved
Dangerous Conditions – 8 issued 1 resolved 7 pending court
Encroachment – 9 issued 7 resolved 2 pending
Charges refiled – 3 refiled, failure to complete agreed scot of work
Vector Control -/Harborage – 4 issued 1 resolved 3 pending court
Rubbish – 3 issued 3 resolved

Red Door Tags – 6 issued
Discharge unto public roadways – 5 issued 5 resolved.
Vehicle Blocking Public Sidewalk – 1 issued 1 resolved
Orange Tow Stickers Abandoned/Inoperable Vehicles – 4 issued 2 resolved 2 pending court

Mayor Lucia said that Council is working on a new Nuisance Ordinance. The present ordinance states that noise is not a nuisance until 10pm. The new ordinance will not designate a time.

Mayor Lucia said that there needs to be more police presence on borough streets in regards to crosswalks. Mayor Lucia said that he would like Council to request permission from Penn Dot to put a stop sign at Hemlock Street. Mayor Lucia said that Westmoreland County Transit will not take their buses into Ridgeview Apartments and if there was a stop sign they would be safe to turn in and out.

Solicitor's Report:

Solicitor Liptak said that she will present a motion before the court to terminate the case with the Landlord Association this Friday August 11, 2017. The case will then be concluded and the Borough's insurance carrier can close their file.

Tax Collector's Report:

Tax Collector read the following report for the month of July 2017:

Property Taxes: \$3,529.74
Per Capita Taxes: None

Total Collected: \$3,529.74

Tax Collector Yancosky said the school property and borough and school per capita statements were mailed on August 1, 2017.

Borough Manager's Report:

Borough Manager Landy gave the following report for the month of July 2017:

- Meetings regarding flooding issues. Meeting with EADS Group may provide a plan.
- Laurel Valley Connector Project brings traffic from Latrobe Airport through Mount Pleasant Township and ends at the four-way stop sign at Fox's Pizza on Church Street. Mr. Landy said that he and Mayor Lucia have had many meetings with Penn Dot regarding where the traffic will go from there. Traffic can go back to Greensburg through Armbrust or two ways through Mount Pleasant. Penn Dot feels there will be only a small impact to the Borough. There is also talk of a turnpike interchange at Carpenter Town which will bring more traffic through the Borough and Penn Dot has not done a traffic study yet on what impact this interchange will have on borough streets. Penn Dot said that they are considering putting a roundabout at the Church Street intersection at Fox's Pizza. Truck traffic from the deep mine in Acme will also have an impact on the Borough.
- Meetings with Columbia Gas regarding communication between their different crews which led to more than one crew closing streets in the Borough at the same time. Mr. Landy said he was informed that Columbia Gas should be done with their project on Main Street by the end of this week.
- Penn Dot will start the milling and smooth coating of Main Street on August 14, 2017. After that is complete Penn Dot will start cementing the intersections. The first intersection will be at Eagle and Main Streets. Work on cementing the intersections will be done in 48 hours around the clock for one side of Main Street and then 48 hours straight on the other side. The larger intersections may require 72 hours around the clock. In conjunction with this, Penn Dot will start on the storm water lines on Main Street from the lower end up to CoGo's. Mr. Landy said that he requested a pre-construction meeting with the contractor who was awarded the storm water project. The Mount Pleasant BDA has been given the schedule.
- The last Movie In The Park will be held on August 11, 2017 presented by Mount Pleasant Rotary.
- Meetings with Gibson Thomas Engineers regarding the Borough's MS4 Permit show that there may be a problem. The Borough must prove that there is no storm water going into creeks.

President's Report:

President Caruso said that once all of the water from downspouts etc. is removed from sewage lines the flooding issues in the Borough should improve. Mr. Storey remarked that more storm drains are needed on Park Avenue to replace the ones that were removed. President Caruso said that he was unaware of any storm drains being removed and Council will look into it.

Waste Water Treatment Report:

Councilman Rogacki gave the following WWT Report for the month of July 2017:

PA One Calls – 41
Emergency PA One Calls – 9
Call Outs – 4
Home Inspections – 7

- Cut grass at plant and all pump stations
- Cleaned chlorine contact tank
- Serviced and cleaned fountain at Veterans Park
- Routine maintenance at plant
- Met with EADS Group about S. Geary water issue
- Assisted Street Dept at Hoza Way
- Assisted with paving project
- Met with Jeff Landy to discuss DEP issue on S. Geary
- Part-time employee started 7/31/17

Borough Manager Landy said that the new WWT Superintendent will start 8/21/17.

Streets Report:

Councilwoman Bailey reported that the 2017 Paving Project is complete as well as the streets that were tarred and chipped.

Councilwoman Bailey gave the following report for the Street Department for July 2017:

- General Maintenance including lights and signs and cleanup of lots and parks, patching pot holes, cleaning storm drains, PA One Calls Maintenance of equipment and brush pickup
- Ramsey Terrace drainage project
- Lawn maintenance of Borough and Land Bank properties
- Hoza Way storm drain dug out and replaced
- Prepare streets for tar and chipping
- Part time employee started on playground equipment
- Located of ditch from Greenwood Apartments to N. Geary Street Extension

August 2017 projects:

- Frick Park
- Painting lines and curbs
- Street patching
- Clean catch basins
- Install new street signs
- Crack sealing

Councilwoman Ruszkowski said that there is a concern on Park Avenue that gravel from tar and chipping will wash down to the end of the road because of the water problems on the street. Councilwoman Bailey said that the tar and chip project can be postponed until the water problem is resolved, but that may not be this year. Some solutions discussed were to stop all down spouts draining onto the street and build up the curb. Borough Manager Landy said that catch basins will solve the water problem on Park Avenue and the money is available. Council needs to decide if our Street Department personnel do the work or do we subcontract the job and the Engineers need to work up a plan. Council decided to postpone tar and chipping of Park Avenue.

Public Safety Report:

Councilman Cholock read the following Fire Report for the month of July 2017:

Total Calls – 60
10-45’s – 12
Entrapment Calls – 2
Fires – 10
AFA’s – 20

Public Service Calls – 15
Standby's – 1
Turnpike Calls – 3
Total Members Answering – 993
Average Member Per Call – 16
Total Staff Hours – 1,055

Councilman Cholock said that the Mount Pleasant Volunteer Fire Department will be holding its annual golf outing on August 27, 2017 and they are looking for sponsorships and foursomes. Council decided to sponsor a hole in the amount of \$100.

Zoning & Ordinance Report:

Councilwoman Stevenson said that she has spoken to the Borough Solicitor and should have something regarding the ordinance for rental safety inspections by the next meeting.

A motion was made by Councilman Rogacki to amend the agenda for a motion to repeal the Landlord Ordinance. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Barnes.

A discussion ensued regarding the Landlord Ordinance and the inspection procedures. Councilwoman Stevenson said that at the last Ordinance Committee meeting with the Mount Pleasant Landlord Association representatives from the Landlord Association stated that if the inspections were not taken out of the ordinance they do not have anything more to discuss. Councilman Rogacki said that there are already insurance inspections and HUD inspections and we shouldn't need another one. Different council members agreed that not all homes have insurance inspections and there are many rentals that do not fall under HUD. Councilman Rogacki said that the Borough is not even enforcing the ordinance.

Councilman Rogacki requested a roll call vote on the motion to amend the agenda as follows:

Councilwoman Bailey	No
Councilwoman Barnes	Yes
Councilman Cholock	Yes
Councilman McCloy	No
Councilman Pritts	No
Councilman Rogacki	Yes
Councilwoman Ruszkowski	No
Councilwoman Stevenson	No
President Caruso	No

The motion to amend the agenda was not carried.

Councilwoman Barnes requested that Solicitor Liptak research other municipalities for any lawsuits resulting from a landlord ordinance that requires inspections. Solicitor Liptak said that she would have something for the next meeting.

Councilman McCloy discussed the proposed nuisance ordinance. Councilman McCloy asked Council to look over the proposed ordinance and contact him with any questions or concerns. Councilman McCloy said that Police Chief Sam stated that the restaurants and bars in town with liquor licenses are governed by the Liquor Control Board and our ordinance would not supersede their control.

Councilman McCloy said that the Mount Pleasant Community Yard Sale will be held on August 12, 2017 from 8am to 3pm. Anyone who wants their address on the map should contact the borough office before Friday and they will be available at the borough office or at Veterans Park from 8am to noon.

Parks & Recreation/Veterans Park Report:

Councilwoman Barnes said that the lightbulbs were replaced at Veterans Park and none of them worked because they weren't getting any electricity. An electrician has been called to look at the problem

Councilwoman Barnes said that Family Fun Day will be held at Frick Park on Sunday August 27, 2017. Councilwoman Barnes said she would like Council to approve and expenditure of \$500 for food and drinks to be given away that day.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Barnes to amend the agenda. Motion seconded by Councilman Rogacki. Motion carried 9-0.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Barnes to approve \$500 expenditure for food and drink and games etc.at Family Fun Day on August 27, 2017. Motion seconded by Councilman Rogacki. Motion carried 9-0.

Councilwoman Barnes said that there will be a Chinese Auction at Family Fun Day and different businesses have agreed to make baskets and there will be gifts for the kids attending.

Councilwoman Barnes said that 7 more students picked up registration forms for Mount Pleasant Teen Council at the recent National Night Out event and Councilwoman Barnes said that she is hoping to get those registrations returned for a total of 10 to 15 students.

Finance & Human Resources Report:

Councilwoman Ruskowski said that she reviewed the most recent contract with the Mount Pleasant Borough Police Department and should be ready to schedule a meeting with the Department to begin negotiations for the upcoming contract. Councilwoman Ruskowski said members of her committee will work on the Crossing Guard contract.

Property Report:

Councilman Rogacki said that he and Borough Manager Landy are meeting with a roofing company to look at the roof at Medic 10 that is leaking. The last project will be the windows at the Municipal Building.

Sanitation & Recycling Report: None

New Business:

Councilwoman Stevenson thanked everyone for their support of the “Ghost Walk” Saturday evening. It was a great success and very well done.

Reading of Communications: None

Discussion & Payment of Bills:

A motion was made by Councilman Rogacki to pay all authorized and approved bills. Motion seconded by Councilman Pritts. Motion carried 9-0.

Public Comment:

Mr. Gerard Rendine, Mount Pleasant PA 15666 read a document that was previously presented at the meeting with the Ordinance Committee offering statistics about fire and property damage between privately owned homes and rentals. Mr. Rendine said that he feels the inspection fee is a “money gathering revenue or a rental tax on the landlords and renters in Mount Pleasant”. Mr. Rendine stated that it is illegal to profit from rental inspection fees and the Borough may be liable in a law suit where there is loss of life after a property is inspected. Council reminded Mr. Rendine that the Borough does not receive any fees from rental inspections. Mr. Rendine feels that the members of the Ordinance Committee did not keep an open mind. Mr. Rendine said that his organization wants to work with the Borough.

Miscellaneous & Adjournment:

A motion was made by Councilman Rogacki to adjourn the meeting. Motion seconded by Councilman Pritts. Motion carried 9-0.

Meeting Adjourned 9:13pm

Motions From Meeting of August 7, 2017

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