

Meeting March 1, 2010

The meeting of Mount Pleasant Borough Council was called to order by President Bauer at 7:00pm 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 Beranek, Crivella, McCloy, Tabita, Tate, and Councilwomen Stevenson and Ruskowski were present. Mayor Lucia and Attorney Gavin Robb, Tucker/Arensberg were present. President Bauer stated we have a quorum.

Reading of Previous Minutes:

A motion was made by Councilwoman Stevenson to dispense with the reading of the minutes of February 15, 2010. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Ruskowski. Motion carried 8-0.

Public Comment: None

Speakers:

Basil Hawanchak, Levin Furniture presented the Borough with a check in the amount of \$10,000.00 to promote recreation, in particular, extension of the Bike Trail to Main Street and downtown Mount Pleasant. Some of the funds will be used to refurbish the Levin Family Monument at Willows Park. Mr. Hawanchak asked for a small sign to be erected on the Bike Trail acknowledging that Levin Furniture provided the funds.

Mayor's Report:

Mayor Lucia read the following Police Report for the month of February 2010:

Report of the Mount Pleasant Police Dept for the month of February 2010

The Department answered 292 calls during the month as follows:

| | |
|--------------------------|----|
| Complaints | 93 |
| Requests for assistance | 6 |
| Assist Other Departments | 5 |
| Accidents investigated | 8 |
| Calls Returned | 20 |
| Assist Medic 10 | 9 |

The Department made 22 arrests during the month as follows:

| | |
|-------------------|----|
| Vehicle Code | 15 |
| Crimes Code | 4 |
| Borough Ordinance | 3 |
| Warnings Issued | 0 |

Parking Tickets issued are as follows:

| | |
|----------------------------|----|
| \$1.00 Meter Tickets | 46 |
| \$10.00 No Parking Tickets | 1 |
| Void / Excused | 4 |

| | | | |
|------------------------------|----|----|-------|
| \$1.00 Parking Tickets Paid | 44 | \$ | 44.00 |
| \$5.00 Parking Tickets Paid | 8 | \$ | 40.00 |
| \$10.00 Parking Tickets Paid | 1 | \$ | 10.00 |

| | |
|--------------------------------|------------|
| Return from Magistrate Eckels | \$1,106.58 |
| Return from Clerk of Courts | \$ 306.46 |
| Return from Report Fees | \$ 60.00 |
| Return from Parking Permits | \$ - |
| Return from Soliciting Permits | \$ - |
| Return from Restitution | \$ - |
| Total | \$1,567.04 |

| | |
|------------------------------|------------|
| 1 Meter Collection | \$ 713.51 |
| Total Receipts for the month | \$2,280.55 |

Mayor Lucia said that the cost of a parking ticket in the Borough has been increased from \$1.00 to \$4.00. When parking tickets were \$1.00 you were able to park all day for that price without feeding the meters. If the parking ticket is not paid within 26 hours the cost goes up to \$15.00.

Mayor Lucia reminded the landlords in the Borough that there is an ordinance requiring them to register their residential rental properties. There are approximately 75 landlords in Mount Pleasant and only about 15 have registered. If landlords fail to register their properties they will be fined \$300.

Mayor Lucia also reminded residents to remove the snow from their sidewalks. The fine for not shoveling the snow is \$25.

Mayor Lucia said he will be attending a webinar on flooding. FEMA will be doing a one-hour program on preparing for flooding. He will forward the information on the webinar to Norm Stout, WWT Supervisor and Mario Fontanazza, Street Supervisor so that they can attend also.

Mayor Lucia said that the WWT and Street Department personnel did an excellent job during this last storm. A plan was put into place and a lot of hours were logged.

Solicitor’s Report:

Attorney Gavin Robb, Tucker Arensburg, said that Council has been provided a report on outstanding issues and their progress. Council had no questions for Mr. Robb.

Tax Collector’s Report:

Tax Collector Yancosky read the following report for the month of February 2010:

Per Capita = \$104.50

Total = \$104.50

Ms. Yancosky said that the County mailed the spring taxes on Friday, February 26th. If residents do not received their tax statements within a week they should contact the Tax Office. Also, anyone mailing their payment must include a self-addressed stamped envelope if they want a receipt mailed to them. Ms. Yancosky said that some of the 911 address changes were done incorrectly and they will be corrected before next year.

President’s Report:

President Bauer said that quite a few residents attended the meeting about the rain gardens on Thursday evening at the VFW. There seems to be a lot of interest in the program and hopefully some of the flooding issues can be solved at Ramsey Terrace.

President Bauer said that the Street Department made a plan and did a great job during the recent snowstorm. This storm generated another 8 inches of snow. The plan calls for Church and Diamond Streets to be a priority so that there is access to the hospital and the department will work out from there. Alleys and parking lots will be last priority.

President Bauer said that Council received a resignation letter from Councilman Slater for his 1st Ward council seat effective March 1, 2010.

A motion was made by Councilman Tate to accept the resignation from Ron Slater for his 1st Ward council seat effective March 1, 2010. Motion seconded by Councilman Beranek. Motion carried 8-0.

A motion was made by Councilman Tabita to advertise for a 1st Ward Council person and hold interviews at 6:30pm on March 22, 2010. Motion seconded by Councilman Tate. Motion carried 8-0.

Mayor Lucia said that Councilman Slater spent a lot of time on his committee while he was on Council. Especially during the summer months when there was a lot going on in the parks.

President Bauer said he received a resignation letter from Mr. Scott Caruso for his seat on the Mount Pleasant Civil Service Board effective immediately.

A motion was made by Councilman Beranek to accept the resignation of Mr. Scott Caruso for his seat on the Mount Pleasant Civil Service Board effective immediately. Motion seconded by Councilman Tate. Motion carried 8-0.

President Bauer said that members of Council are still needed to handle some of the Concerts In The Park. Borough Manager Landy said he will put together a short list of things that need to be done for each concert.

Borough Manager's Report:

Borough Manager Landy asked Council to look at the Profit and Loss Budget Vs. Actual Report. The line item for the Emergency Fund will be taking a big hit after all of the snow removal costs have been paid.

Mr. Landy said that he and Mayor Lucia took the report of the Borough costs for the snowstorm to the Department of Emergency Management and are waiting to hear if we will be reimbursed for any of the expenses.

Mr. Landy spoke with consultants who are buying electricity. With the price of electricity going up steadily it may be to the Borough's advantage to really look around for the best deal. If the Borough can get together with Connellsville and Scottdale to purchase electricity, we may be able to get a better rate.

Mr. Landy said that the actual address for Veterans Park is 1 S. Diamond Street, Mount Pleasant PA 15666. This address will lead anyone using a GPS right to the park and the Gazebo. It will also assist emergency personnel in reaching the park and Gazebo in case of emergency.

Mr. Landy said he, Bev and Chief Ober have submitted a police grant application to Mountaintop Technologies in the amount of \$2,000.

Mr. Landy said he had a meeting with an engineer regarding fiber optic installation at Frick Hospital. There will be a fiber optic loop connecting all of Excelsa Health hospitals. This seems to be a sign that Frick Hospital is a stable employer in Mount Pleasant Borough which is a great asset to the Borough.

Mr. Landy said he, President Bauer and Mayor Lucia attended a meeting with Jeff Zewe, President, Frick Hospital about partnering on various projects. One project may be a tennis court, others would include recreation projects.

Mr. Landy said he started putting together his wish list for the young people that Pastor Ben from the Church of God will be bringing in this summer. The list must be completed by the end of March and mailed to Tennessee where the project is being organized. Any council member having project suggestions should see Mr. Landy.

Mr. Landy said that the adult P.I.C. program has been discontinued this year because of lack of funding. The youth program will go forward this year and the Borough has applied for three young people to work at the Street Department, Recreation and WWT this summer.

Mr. Landy said he spoke with the Mount Pleasant Area School District Superintendent regarding tax exoneration. The School District and the Borough have traditionally followed the County when it came to tax exonerations. The Superintendent and Mr. Landy agreed that each

individual case should be looked at before being exonerated for taxes. Councilman Tabita said we should continue to encourage people to participate in the LERTA Program.

Councilman Tate asked Mr. Landy if the young people being brought in by The Church of God would be able to help some of our senior citizens with some property maintenance. Mr. Landy said that may be a possibility. Councilman Tate said that people who need work done should call the borough office. Councilwoman Stevenson said that the Borough should coordinate with Jacobs Creek Area Faith In Action because they are very well informed regarding which senior citizens need help. Mr. Landy said one of the projects he is suggesting is Willows Park.

Waste Water Treatment Report:

Councilman Tate said that Vehicle Maintenance Line Item #860.41 in the WWT Budget will be over budget soon because during the recent snow storm the a transmission in one of the trucks was damaged.

Public Safety Report:

Councilman Beranek read the following Medic 10 Report for the month of February 2010:

| | |
|---------------------------|-----|
| Total calls for the month | 156 |
| Medical | 121 |
| MVA | 15 |
| Fire | 7 |
| Transfer | 3 |
| Standby | 10 |
| In Town | 92 |
| Out of Town | 64 |
| Members per call | 3.2 |

Councilman Beranek said that Police Chief Ober is working on getting stickers to put on the parking tickets showing the new cost for a parking violation.

Councilman Beranek said that his committee and Chief Ober are reviewing the new procedures manual for the Police Department and it should be ready soon.

Zoning & Ordinance Report:

Councilman McCloy said that copies of the Ordinance Re-codification should be here in approximately ten days. It will also be on the Mount Pleasant website around that time.

Councilman McCloy said that there is a sidewalk ordinance in effect in the Borough and the width of the sidewalk is determined by the width of the road.

Councilman McCloy said that the deadline for landlords to register their residential rental properties is March 15, 2010. All landlords must register their properties and provide the names of their tenants along with the number of minors in each unit. When a new tenant moves in the landlord has 10 days to notify the Borough. The fine for not registering by the March 15, 2010 deadline is \$300.

Mayor Lucia said that another important aspect of the landlord registration is a safety issue. Each fire truck, police vehicle and Medic 10 ambulance in the Borough is equipped with a computer. When the landlords register their properties and tenants, the information will be loaded into these computers and when an emergency vehicle responds to a call, emergency personnel will know who lives there, and how many occupants and minor children are living there.

Streets/Parks & Recreation Report:

Councilman Tate asked Borough Manager Landy to get competitive prices on bucket trucks for the next meeting.

Councilman Tate said that the Borough will try to have the new concession stand at Frick Park ready for the start of Girl's Softball.

A discussion ensued regarding the tennis courts being leased from the School District and possible tennis courts being built on land owned by Frick Hospital.

Veterans Park Report:

Councilman Tate said that when the weather breaks the Veterans Park Committee will start meeting again to discuss future plans for the park.

Finance Report:

A motion was made by Councilwoman Ruszkowski to accept Higbee Ins. proposal for Worker's compensation in the amount of \$34,188 for March 1, 2010 to February 28, 2011. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Stevenson. Motion carried 8-0.

Councilwoman Ruszkowski said the Borough will have to take monies from the Budgetary Reserve Account to pay for the costs of the recent snowstorms.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Ruszkowski to suspend the rules for the purpose of transferring funds from the Budgetary Reserve Account to the General Fund to cover the cost of snow removal. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Stevenson. Motion carried 8-0.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Ruszkowski to transfer \$33,400 from the PNC Budgetary Reserve account to General Fund Emergency Fund Line Item # 437.30 to cover the cost of snow removal. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Stevenson. Motion carried 8-0.

Borough Manager Landy said that the money being transferred will come from the Contingency Fund line item of the Budgetary Reserve and will not affect money set aside for other projects. If the Borough does receive emergency funds from the State they will be deposited back into the Budgetary Reserve bank account.

Property Report:

Councilman Crivella said he is still working with the owner of the property where the Mount Pleasant sign on Route 31 will be erected. President Bauer said that there are decorative blocks being stored at the Street Department that can be used as the base for the sign.

Councilman Crivella said he will meet with Borough Manager Landy to discuss expenditures for the Municipal Building.

Councilman Crivella attended the BDA meeting. Diane Paul resigned from the BDA.

President Tabita said that the chimes in the Town Clock are still not working. Mr. Landy said we have prices for the repair costs.

Sanitation and Recycling Report:

Councilwoman Stevenson reminded borough residents that recycling is not picked up every week. The pickup schedule is every other week on the same day as regular garbage pickup.

Councilwoman Stevenson also reminded residents who recycle that pizza boxes are not recyclable. Also, any cardboard needs to be cut up.

Community and Economic Development/Grants Report:

Councilman Tabita said that he attended a meeting with Arthur Zigler and his staff from Pittsburgh Historical Landmarks to talk about increasing business in the business districts of Mount Pleasant, Scottdale and West Overton. One thing that was discussed was the hours businesses are open. Being open on Sundays would be something to look at and coordinated

with the Historical Society, DAR and West Overton Museum. Pittsburgh Historical Landmarks should have a proposal to us within a couple of weeks.

Westmoreland County has been working with GIS (Global Inventory Systems). They take inventory of businesses and map them with GPS. Then anyone can go onto the Internet and get a satellite view of a property.

Councilman Tabita said that with this new technology the Borough should look at improving our website so that people can see what's going on with some of our tourist attractions, businesses and what they have to offer.

Councilman Tabita said that the final longer version of the Mount Pleasant video will be complete by the next council meeting. Business like Frick Hospital can use this video for recruitment and businesses and real estate agents can utilize it in different ways. It will also be available on the website. Councilwoman Stevenson said one of the big draws to Mount Pleasant is Lenox Crystal which is often overlooked. Councilman Tabita said Lenox Crystal is part of the video as well as Browns Candy, Salooms and Levin Furniture.

Councilman Tabita asked Mr. Landy to send a letter to the BDA for a list of commercial properties that are for sale in the Borough.

New Business:

President Bauer said John Sarp, Sarp & Co. will be at the next meeting to present the 2008 Audit.

Reading of Communications:

Borough Manager Landy read the following communications:

- PennDot will hold its annual community outreach meeting on March 31, 2010. Registration will begin at 12:30pm at WCCC. Mr. Landy and Mayor Lucia will attend and all other council members are welcome. They require an RSVP by March 25th.
- There will be a professional police operations seminar and Mr. Landy will discuss who will attend with Councilman Beranek, Mayor Lucia and Police Chief Ober.

Discussion and Payment of Bills:

A motion was made by Councilman Beranek to pay all authorized and approved bills. Motion seconded by Councilman McCloy. Motion carried 8-0.

Miscellaneous and Adjournment:

A motion was made by Councilman Beranek to adjourn the meeting. Motion seconded by Councilman Tabita. Motion carried 8-0.

Meeting Adjourned 8:09pm.

Motions from March 1, 2010 Meeting

A motion was made by Councilwoman Stevenson to dispense with the reading of the minutes of February 1, 2010. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Ruszkowski. Motion carried 8-0.

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