

## Meeting March 2, 2009

The meeting of Mount Pleasant Borough Council was called to order by President Tabita at 7:01pm 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 Tabita directed Borough Manager Jeff Landy to take roll. Councilmen Bauer, Beranek, Crivella, Slater, Tate and Councilwomen Ruszkowski and Stevenson were present. Mayor Lucia was present and Solicitor Toohey was absent. President Tabita stated we have a quorum.

### Reading of Previous Minutes:

A motion was made by Councilman Bauer to dispense with the reading of the minutes of February 16, 2009. Motion seconded by Councilman Crivella. Motion carried 8-0.

A motion was made by Councilman Bauer to appoint Fred McCloy to the 3<sup>rd</sup> Ward Council seat vacated by Ken Wiltrout. Motion seconded by Councilman Slater. Motion carried 8-0.

Mayor Lucia swore in Mr. Fred McCloy 1 Duncan Street Mount Pleasant PA to the 3<sup>rd</sup> Ward Council Seat.

Mayor Lucia swore in Marie Murphy Mount Pleasant PA to the Mount Pleasant Business District Authority for a 3-year term.

### Public Comment:

Rege Kraisinger, 1994 Kraisinger Way addressed Council regarding an ongoing issue with the recent CSO Project. Mr. Kraisinger said there is a tree on his property whose roots were severed during the project and started dying within a few days. The contractor of the project asked Widmer Engineering for permission to remove the tree and Widmer Engineering refused permission. Widmer Engineering then brought in a tree service to look at the tree. Nothing has been done since that time. President Tabita said that the CSO Project was a Mount Pleasant Municipal Authority project and not a Borough project but Council has been involved with other disputes involving the project and will do what they can to resolve the problem and look at options. Mr. Kraisinger said he spoke to Marie Hartman at Widmer Engineering.

### Tax Collector's Report:

Tax Collector Carol Yancosky read the following report for the month of February 2009:

Per Capita Tax = \$121.00

Total = \$121.00

Ms. Yancosky reported that County and Borough tax statements were mailed on Friday February 27, 2009. Anyone who has not received a statement should contact the Tax Office no later than next week.

Mayor Lucia asked Ms. Yancosky how she is notified who to send Per Capita Tax statements to. Ms. Yancosky said she gets that information from the School District if the school is notified of a new resident. Sometimes new residents will call the Tax Office but that is rare. Ms. Yancosky said she will sometimes pick them up if they are new homeowners.

### Mayor's Report:

Mayor Lucia read the following Police Report for the month of February 2009:

Report of the Mount Pleasant Police Dept for the month of February 2009

The Department answered 336 calls during the month as follows.

Complaints

82

Requests for assistance	3
Assist Other Departments	3
Accidents investigated	5
Calls Returned	15
Assist Medic 10	13

The Department made 26 arrests during the month as follows

Vehicle Code	21
Crimes Code	5

Parking Tickets issued are as follows:

\$1.00 Meter Tickets	26
\$10.00 No Parking Tickets	9
Void / Excused	1

\$1.00 Parking Tickets Paid	18	\$	18.00
\$5.00 Parking Tickets Paid	2	\$	10.00
\$10.00 Parking Tickets Paid	2	\$	20.00

Return from Magistrate Eckels	\$1,628.42
Return from Clerk of Courts	\$ 155.98
Return from Report Fees	\$ 135.00
Return from Parking Permits	\$ 5.00
Return from Soliciting Permits	\$ -
Return from Restitution	\$ -

Total \$1,972.40

Meter Receipts 2 Collections \$ 811.20

Total Receipts for the month \$2,783.60

Mayor Lucia said that last month people rented a house in the Borough that was unfit to live in and with the assistance of Mark Stanton and Police Chief Ober the house was not rented. Neighbors of the property are the ones who notified the Borough. Mayor Lucia made a plea to all Borough residents that if they want to protect their neighborhoods it is important for them to notify the borough office if they are aware of a situation or activity that is unsafe. The Police Department should be notified of people soliciting in neighborhoods. It is not necessary to give your name if you call in. Another issue is the fact that people can be living in the Borough for two or three years and if no one knows they're there they aren't paying wage taxes.

Councilman Bauer questioned our Police assisting other municipalities. If our Police are on top of the mountain assisting the County Park Police who is protecting the citizens of Mount Pleasant. President Tabita said that the policy would be reviewed.

Councilman Bauer asked if it would be possible to contact 911 regarding the address changes on the upper side of N Geary Street. Mayor Lucia said that he would look into it.

Mayor Lucia said it would be the time to take official action regarding Jefferson Drive. Jefferson Drive is not an official road because it was never developed.

A motion was made by Councilman Bauer to suspend the rules for the purpose of renaming Jefferson Drive. Motion seconded by Councilman Beranek. Motion carried 8-0.

A motion was made by Councilman Bauer to change the name of Jefferson Drive to S. Geary Street Extension. Motion seconded by Councilman Beranek. Motion carried 8-0.

**Solicitor's Report:** None

A motion was made by Councilman Bauer for an Executive Session. Motion seconded by Councilman Crivella. Motion carried 8-0.

**Executive Session 7:28pm to 8:06pm.**

President Tabita said that the Executive Session was to discuss Contracts and Real Estate.

**President's Report:**

President Tabita said that with the new R1-A Zone that has converted a large portion of the R-2 Zone to R1 is a real enhancement to the appeal of Mount Pleasant. There are affordable, well kept homes in the Borough to attract young families. Mount Pleasant also offers many services such as its own police, fire and EMS departments and a local hospital. All of these things bring young two-income families into the Borough which will raise our Earned Income Tax revenue and raise our real estate values. This new zoning is a move in the right direction and will make Mount Pleasant the nicest Main Street Community in Pennsylvania. Phase II of the Main Street Street-Scape Project will be completed in early spring of this year. The project was delayed when the cold weather hit but is still ahead of schedule. This project will raise the appeal of having a business on Main Street. Councilwoman Stevenson said she has heard from more than one person who found Mount Pleasant so attractive that they moved into town and even brought other family members into the Borough.

**Borough Manager's Report:**

Borough Manager Landy asked Council to look closely at the Profit & Loss Budget Vs. Actual report. Now is the time to start looking at the budget and some of the expenditures. Some expenses seem high this early in the year.

Mr. Landy said he and WWT Superintendent Norm Stout will be going around to the food preparation facilities in the Borough to discuss grease traps and how they affect our WWT Plant. They will begin visiting these facilities on Tuesday March 10, 2009 and passing out literature to help them in the process.

Mr. Landy said he will have the exact figures to be transferred to the Budgetary Reserve Accounts at the next work session. It is important to put the Borough in a good financial position, especially for the next few years in order to weather the current economic downturn.

Mr. Landy reported that the Borough was awarded a \$475,250 grant from the D.E.P. for Phase II of the Storm water Retrofit Project. Phase I of the project should begin this year with a D.E.P. grant of approximately \$71,000 and then we will move on to Phase II. This project is the Borough's commitment to solving the water and flooding problems in town without using as much tax payer's money as previously thought.

The Mount Pleasant Business District Authority and Parking Authority have provided Council with their 2008 Audits. They are available in the borough office for anyone who wants to see them.

Mr. Landy said he will have the 2009 Concert In The Park Schedule for the next televised council meeting. There will be some exciting changes to the concerts this year. July 3, 2009 will be the annual Fireworks Celebration.

Mr. Landy said that the Recreation Committee must pick the exact location for the scoreboard at Frick Park. The scoreboard will be up within the month.

Mr. Landy received a request from a citizen to remind residents how dangerous it is to have large trees close to homes. With the recent strong winds it would be wise to trim or remove large trees to ensure safety and prevent damage to property.

Mr. Landy announced that he will begin meetings for "The Idea Forum". There are many people who have ideas for the Borough. The meetings will consist of five people to discuss ideas to make Mount Pleasant better. Each person will bring one idea to the meeting and the people present will narrow 5 ideas down to one idea to discuss. There will be one meeting per month and the individuals attending the meeting will be randomly chosen each month. Anyone interested in attending one of the meetings should contact Mr. Landy at the borough office.

Mr. Landy reported that the Rotary Club has donated two benches to the Borough to be put on Main Street. One bench will be in front of the In Town Shops and the other will be at the Rotary Bulletin Board at National City Bank.

Mr. Landy thanked Council and all of the people who offered support and sympathy these last weeks after his brother Danny Landy passed away.

**Waste Water Treatment Report:**

Councilman Tate reported that a large tree was removed from the Diamond Street Pump Station and some clean up needs to be done on the property next to the pump station.

Councilman Tate said he will meet with Nat Abromson and Widmer Engineering to try and resolve the issue presented tonight by Mr. Rege Kraisinger.

Councilman Tate reported that WWT Personnel are in the process of taking the necessary lessons and tests for the ICS-700 and ICS-100 certification.

**Public Safety Zoning and Ordinance Report:**

Councilman Bauer read the following Medic 10 Report for the month of February 2009:

Total Calls for the Month	161
Medical	125
MVA	12
Fire	7
Transfer	0
Standby	17
In Town	83
Out of Town	78
Members per Call	3.8

Councilman Bauer read the following Fire Report for the month of February 2009:

Total Calls	44
In Town	10
Out of Town	34
10-45's	18
Fires	15
AFA's	5
Public Service	5
Stand-By's	1
Total Men Answering	703
Average Member Per Call	16
Total Hours	381

Councilman Bauer said that Keystate Publishers sent samples of ordinances that they feel we should adopt or update. One of the ordinances is a Shade Tree Ordinance that Councilman Bauer recommends Council look at. The others are Graffiti, Dogs, Garage Sales, Sex Offender Registration, and Sign Regulations. Councilman Bauer said that Council should act on a Sign Ordinance quickly. A discussion ensued on what to include in a Sign Ordinance. Councilman Bauer would like Council to look at the copies of the sample Sign Ordinances so that one can be proposed for adoption at the next work session. After a Sign Ordinance is adopted work can begin on the Landlord Ordinance.

**Streets Parks and Recreation Report:**

Councilman Slater said that Street Supervisor Fontanazza provided a street sweeping schedule as follows:

Mt. Pleasant Borough  
Street Sweeping  
Schedule

The 2009 Street Sweeping Schedule As Follows  
( Please have your vehicles moved on your designated street sweeping days)

March 24th and March 25th	1st Ward	S Side of Main St & First St to S Church St
March 31st and April 1st	1st Ward	N Side of Main St & Braddock Rd to N Church St
April 7th and April 8th	2nd Ward	N Side of Main St & N Church St to N Hitchman St
April 14th and April 15th	2nd Ward	S Side of Main St & S Church St to S Hitchman St
April 21st and April 22nd	3rd Ward	S Side of Main St & S Hitchman St to Borough Line
April 28th and April 29th	3rd Ward	N Side of Main St & N Hitchman St to Borough Line

Councilman Slater said he would like to see a routine schedule for street sweeping. Councilwoman Stevenson asked how the public is notified of the schedule if they don't watch the council meeting or read the Mount Pleasant Journal. Street Superintendent Fontanazza said that they try to put notices on car windshields on the scheduled streets. President Tabita said that it may be a good idea to put horses up with temporary signs. Councilman Slater said there are signs posted and the next schedule will follow those days. The used street sweeper that the Borough recently purchased is ready to be put into use. Street sweeping is normally from 7:00am to 9:00am.

**Finance Report:**

Councilwoman Ruszkowski said that the Borough is looking for proposals for our Liability Insurance which expires May 31, 2009.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Ruszkowski to suspend the rules for the purpose of accepting the lowest bid for Workers Comp Insurance. Motion seconded by Councilman Slater. Motion carried 8-0.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Ruszkowski to accept the proposal from Higbee Insurance for the renewal of the Borough's Workers Comp Insurance in the amount of \$32,728. Motion seconded by Councilman Slater. Motion carried 8-0.

**Property Report:**

Councilman Beranek reported that the new sign for Veterans Park is being stored at the WWT Plant. A frame will be made for it within a couple of weeks. The sign is not heavy and Borough personnel should be able to erect it.

**Community Eco-Green Report:** None

Borough Manager Landy said the borough office will supply Councilman McCloy with information and literature for his new position as councilman.

**Human Resource/Employee Contracts:**

Councilwoman Stevenson said that the outsourcing of the Employee Handbook may have to be canceled and we may have to complete it ourselves. We should have a final answer this week.

Councilwoman Stevenson said that the Cat Program in the Borough is continuing. If there are any residents in the Borough who have a problem with cats they can call the borough office. Also, volunteers are still needed for the program.

Councilwoman Stevenson said that she attended a class for Emergency Response and feels she has a greater appreciation of all emergency responders in these situations.

**Community and Economic Development and Grants Report:**

Councilman Crivella said we have not gotten a response regarding the grant for the Police Department that was recently applied for.

Councilman Crivella said that the Frick Communities is meeting on a regular basis and applying for 501-C3 status. At the meeting on Saturday the East Huntingdon Solicitor advised that we formalize the agreement. The Solicitors of the communities involved in the program are working on a formal agreement.

**New Business:**

Councilman Bauer said that the Borough and the Pittsburgh Steeler organization are moving forward with the recognition of the first Steeler training camp that we believe was held in Mount Pleasant. Councilwoman Stevenson said that the Mount Pleasant Historical Society is willing to become involved in the process.

**Reading of Communications:**

Borough Manager Landy read the following communications:

- The Westmoreland Fayette Council, Inc. Boy Scouts of American are having their annual food drive on Saturday, April 4, 2009. Businesses in town can hand out flyers before the event and collect the food on or before April 3, 2009. Anyone interested can contact the borough office and get more information.
- The PA Local Government Training Partnership is offering training seminars entitled "You and the ethics act" on March 25, 2009 at Four Points by Sheraton in Greensburg and "Capital Improvement Planning and Financing" on April 8, 2009 also at Four Points by Sheraton in Greensburg
- Westmoreland Boroughs Association's monthly meeting will be held on March 26, 2009 at Donohoe Road beginning at 7:00pm. There will be a speaker from Adelphi Village.
- The PA Borough Councils Association is accepting nominations for 2009 Outstanding Councilmember of the Year Award. Nominations must be submitted by March 9, 2009 and the Awards Ceremony will be held on March 24, 2009 at the Hershey Lodge in Hershey, PA.

**Discussion and Payment of Bills:**

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

**Miscellaneous and Adjournment:**

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

Meeting adjourned at 8:50pm

### **Minutes of March 2, 2009 Meeting**

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