

Public Meeting November 23, 2009

The public meeting to discuss the ordinance re-codification of Mount Pleasant Borough Council was called to order by Vice President Bauer at 6:36 pm 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. Vice President Bauer directed Borough Manager Landy to take roll. Councilmen Crivella and Tate and Councilwomen Ruszkowski and Stevenson were present. Mayor Lucia was present and Solicitor Toohey was absent. Vice President Bauer stated we have a quorum.

Public Comment:

Ms. Jane Altman 462 W Main Street Mount Pleasant was present to discuss the Sign Ordinance. She feels that other towns that have adopted a strict sign ordinance have become vanilla. It is difficult to find the shops and what they offer. The signs are up and above the awnings. You can see the signs from the street, but once you are on the sidewalks you can't find them. Ms. Altman's proposed business on Main Street will cater to special events and this new ordinance proposes almost a complete ban on special event signage. Ms. Altman offered alternatives. It will be important to her business to have welcome and directional signs. She also feels that with the ban on rummage sale signs etc there should be public place for people to put their signs. Vice President Bauer said that the current proposed Sign Ordinance has been scaled down. Ms. Altman said that the ordinance states that a business can hang a banner for 14 days only twice a year. She also is against the section that prohibits projecting signs. When you are under an awning you can't see the sign up against the building. Councilman Tate said that input from business owners is very important. Ms. Altman said that her business will need temporary signs. A limit on the size of temporary signs should be sufficient. Councilwoman Ruszkowski asked Ms. Altman what type of permanent sign she will be using and Ms. Altman said she will probably up-light some letter flat on the building. Flagpoles were discussed. Councilwoman Stevenson said that she is sure that Ms. Altman will not do anything that is not tasteful but others may.

Mark Krystyniak Mount Pleasant asked Council if the sign ordinance will go forward and grandfather the current signs. Vice President Bauer said that anything new would not be permitted if the ordinance prohibits it. Mr. Krystyniak also questioned the section that states only 25% of a window can have signs. Mr. Krystyniak also said he does not understand the section that states that all luminary signs must be turned off one hour after a business closes. Council agreed that section should be looked at more closely. Vice President Bauer said that there are many things that will have to be changed.

Patricia Cheek, the owner of the Rumbaugh Pharmacy building at 509 Main Street said that she is trying to duplicate the original sign from the building and it would be a small projection sign. She suggested adding a clause in the Sign Ordinance that states you can petition to have a sign outside of the ordinance if approved by Council. Councilwoman Stevenson said she feels that would defeat the purpose of the ordinance because there would be too many variances to be considered. Vice President Bauer said that the BDA is working on a plan for the downtown area regarding facades and signs. When the plan is complete Council will make appropriate amendments to the ordinance.

A motion was made by Councilman Crivella to adjourn the meeting. Motion seconded by Councilman Tate. Motion carried 5-0.

Meeting adjourned 7:03pm.