

Meeting December 18, 2008

The meeting of Mount Pleasant Borough Council was called to order by President Tabita at 5:04pm 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, Crivella, Tate, Slater and Councilwomen Stevenson and Ruszkowski were present. Mayor Lucia and Solicitor Toohey were present. 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 December 1, 2008. Motion seconded by Councilman Crivella. Motion carried 7-0.

Public Comment: None

Speakers:

Terri Yurcisin, Local Government Coordinator, Westmoreland County Planning and Development, spoke to Council regarding the Borough purchasing the Elks building. There are a couple of stumbling blocks regarding the purchase. First, the Borough cannot make an agreement and commit the funding until before the County has it programmed which takes two to three months. It requires public comment and an environmental review. Second, there is a tenant in the building which would involve relocation costs. The County could not put any money into a building used to conduct government business and if the Borough bought the building to resell it the money would have to be used to reimburse the County. The CDBG money available to the Borough would be \$87,370.00. The funds would be federal monies that come through the county. All CDBG money would have to be used to benefit moderate and low-income citizens or it would have to be prorated accordingly. The Borough would have to use Borough funds to purchase the building if they plan to use it for anything else. President Tabita asked if there were any other programs that could provide the Borough funds. Ms. Yurcisin said she is not familiar enough with all of the programs to advise Council. Ms. Yurcisin said that Westmoreland County does not have a firm number on how much CDBG money they will be receiving in 2009. CDBG funds can be used to make the building handicap accessible if the Borough buys it. If a project such as that goes over budget for any legitimate reason there is a contingency fund that can be used. President Tabita summed up the discussion by saying that the County would not be able to help with any immediate options.

Ms. Yurcisin said that the County could not allocate money to be used to upgrade the lights in Phase I of the Main Street Street-Scape Project. Any money would have to go through the clearance process. President Tabita asked if the County would fund an extension of Phase II. Ms. Yurcisin said she would have to see the total cost because they are not allowed to go over by a certain percentage of the total budget of the original contractor without it being put out for bid. Solicitor Toohey said that the upgrade could be challenged by one of the original bidders as an unfair competitive advantage. If the Borough wants to extend Phase II it would have to be put out to bid and then the County could fund the extension. Ms. Yurcisin said that the money allocated for the Phase II Project is capped at \$500,000 and the money used so far is approximately \$295,000 so there would be money available.

Mayor's Report:

Mayor Lucia said that the "Welcome To Mount Pleasant" sign at the west end of town was damaged in a vehicle accident. There was no police report of the accident because both vehicles were drivable. The sign at the east end of town was damaged last summer and the one at the Shaffer parking lot was stolen. Mayor Lucia and Borough Manager Landy will meet with the insurance adjuster tomorrow at 12:30pm.

Mayor Lucia said that the Mount Pleasant Police Department is working on leads on the thefts from unlocked cars in the Borough.

Councilman Crivella said that there is a 25mph speed limit sign near Eagle Street coming from Dale Walker's but none when you are coming in from the other end of town. Mayor Lucia asked Borough Manager Landy to contact Penn Dot to do a study of Main Street. A Penn Dot study is required for any speed limit changes.

Solicitor’s Report:

A motion was made by Councilman Crivella for an Executive Session to discuss Real Estate. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Stevenson. Motion carried 7-0.

Executive Session 5:30pm to 5:55pm.

President’s Report:

President Tabita asked Council what its wishes were regarding purchasing the Elks Building that is for sale in the Borough.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Ruszkowski not to purchase the Elks Building. Motion seconded by Councilman Slater. Motion carried 7-0.

Council directed Solicitor Toohey to phone the appropriate persons to inform them of the decision not to make an offer on the Elks Building and to thank them for giving Council time to make the decision.

President Tabita discussed the prospect of increasing the wattage on Phase I of the Main Street Street-Scape Project and to extend Phase II one more light to the West across the alley to Saloom’s Funeral Home and CoGo’s. But according to Ms. Yurcisin from Westmoreland Planning and Development that puts us in danger of going over the original bid plans. Palumbo Contracting who is doing Phase II will be finishing up soon and coming back in the spring. If Council wishes we could instruct Widmer Engineering to spec a bid to include those two options and the Borough could use the remaining money available from the CDBG.

Borough Manager Landy said that the decorative lights in Phase I have 150 watts per light and Phase II will have 320 watts per lights. Councilwoman Stevenson asked what the difference will be in how that will look. Mayor Lucia said that if you stand at the intersection of College Avenue and Main Street and look to your left you will see the 320-watt lights and if you look to your right you will see the 150-watt lights. There are shadows on Main Street in the Phase I area and Phase II will not have those shadows.

A motion was made by Councilman Crivella to suspend the rules for a motion to request bids to extend Phase II and to increase the wattage on Phase I. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Stevenson. Motion carried 7-0.

A motion was made by Councilman Crivella to advertise for bids to extend Phase II of the Main Street Street-Scape Project by one light on each side of Main Street going West and include an alternate bid to upgrade the wattage on each light in the Phase I area to 320 watts. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Stevenson. Motion carried 7-0.

An environmental study would have to be done before the upgrade to the wattage in the Phase I area begins.

Treasurer’s Report:

Borough Manager Landy read the following Treasurer’s Report for the month of November 2008:

Mt. Pleasant Borough Treasurer's Report:

Nov-08

	Previous Balance	Deposits	Disbursements	Balance Nov08	November 2007
PNC 001223513	52,712.00	1,007,305.43	1,008,343.43	51,669.00	50,029.00
PNC 11493394	534,825.31	482,679.30	484,954.18	532,550.43	505,282.47
PNC 10-2457-4388	101,988.20	124.06	0.00	102,112.26	
				686,331.69	555,311.47
Standard Bank 0320012280	180,348.97	210,185.59	216,882.70	173,651.86	280,063.41
Standard Bank	163,470.51		163,470.51	0.00	150,000.00
Standard Bank 287245	50,866.00	82.85	0.00	50,948.85	
				224,600.71	430,063.41

PLGIT 56980126	109,645.96	193.46	0.00	109,839.42	82,248.16
Standard Bank 242781	5,435.94	190.77	0.00	5626.71	5,435.94
Standard Bank 050004849	2,163.33	0.44	126.68	2,037.09	417.93
PNC 01226415	1,151.38	47,134.65	47,134.65	1,151.38	1,625.08
National City 981293700	4,842.09	208.00	393.86	4,656.23	8,783.79
PLGIT 5698025	11,154.59	19.68	0.00	11,174.27	10,870.64
PNC 1012912642	850.50	0.00	0.00	850.50	850.50
Standard Bank 0010038847	610.66	0.13	0.00	610.79	609.26
				1,046,878.79	1,096,216.18

Borough Manager's Report:

Borough Manager Landy said that the Borough has storm water problems that will need to be addressed in 2009. He reminded Council that any paving projects for 2009 should be prepared early in the year. Mr. Landy said he has received interest from two residents who would like to sit on the BDA Board.

Waste Water Treatment Report: None

Public Safety Zoning & Ordinance Report: None

Streets Parks & Recreation Report:

Councilman Slater reported that the fence is up at Frick Park and the water line problem behind the alley by Rosky's has been taken care of.

Finance Report: None

Property Report: None

Community Eco-Green Report: None

Human Resource Employee Contracts Report:

Councilwoman Stevenson said that the Employee Handbook that she and Mr. Landy have worked on is in the hands of Paychex and they will take what we have begun and prepare a completed Handbook.

Councilwoman Stevenson reported that two cats have been trapped, spayed and neutered and returned to their environment. The cost of this was taken care of by Dr. Lynn Springer and a volunteer from the community.

Community and Economic Development/Grants Report: None

New Business: None

Reading of Communications: None

Discussion and Payment of Bills:

A motion was made by Councilman Bauer to pay all approved and authorized bills. Motion seconded by Councilman Slater. Motion carried 7-0.

Miscellaneous and Adjournment:

A motion was made by Councilman Bauer to adjourn the meeting. Motion seconded by Councilman Tate. Motion carried 7-0.

Meeting adjourned 6:15pm.

Motions from December 18, 2008 Special Meeting

A motion was made by Councilman Bauer to dispense with the reading of the minutes of December 1, 2008. Motion seconded by Councilman Crivella. Motion carried 7-0.

A motion was made by Councilman Crivella for an Executive Session to discuss Real Estate. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Stevenson. Motion carried 7-0.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Ruskowski not to purchase the Elks Building. Motion seconded by Councilman Slater. Motion carried 7-0.

A motion was made by Councilman Crivella to suspend the rules for a motion to request bids to extend Phase II and to increase the wattage on Phase I. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Stevenson. Motion carried 7-0.

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