

Meeting January 4, 2016

The meeting of Mount Pleasant Borough Council was called to order by Vice-President Stevenson at 7:00pm in Council Chambers at 1 Etze Avenue, Mount Pleasant, PA 15666. The Pledge of Allegiance was said and Vice-President Stevenson asked for a moment of silence for our deployed troops. Vice-President Stevenson directed Borough Manager Landy to take roll. Councilmen Caruso, Pritts, Wagner, Wojnar and Councilwomen Bailey and Ruszkowski were present. Mayor Lucia and the Solicitor from Tucker Arensberg were present. Vice-President Stevenson stated that a quorum is present.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Ruszkowski to approve the minutes of December 7, 2015 since Council has been provided with a copy. Motion seconded by Councilman Pritts. Motion carried 6-0.

Public Comment:

Mr. Gerard Rendine, 1361 State Route 31, Mount Pleasant PA welcomed returning council members from 2015 as well as the new council members who will be sworn in tonight. Mr. Rendine expressed his wish that this new council will work together with open minds to make the right decisions. Mr. Rendine said that the Mount Pleasant Landlord Association is willing to work with this new council to move forward.

Speakers: None

Mayor's Report:

Police Chief Doug Sam reported on the Mount Pleasant Police Department for 2015. Chief Sam reported that there were 55 drug arrests in the Borough in 2015 compared to 16 in 2014. Total Department income for 2015 was \$27,095.82.

Mayor Lucia read the Police Report for the month of December 2015:

Parking Authority = \$450.00
Clerk of Courts = \$357.89
District Court = \$934.51
Report Fees = \$80.00

Total = \$1822.40

Mayor Lucia said that he and Borough Manager Landy met with Penn Dot officials and they asked for the Mount Pleasant Waste Water Treatment Plant and MAWC plans for the 2017 Main Street Project. A meeting with MAWC will be scheduled some time this week to discuss the Main Street water line replacement.

Mayor Lucia reported that this year marks the 30th anniversary of the Mount Pleasant Glass & Ethnic Festival and celebrations are planned for this year's festival.

Solicitor's Report: None

Tax Collector's Report:

Tax Collector Carol Yancosky read the following report for the month of December 2015:

Property Taxes = \$5773.15
Per Capita Taxes = \$363.00

Total = \$6136.15

Ms. Yancosky reported that the Tax Office is done collecting the 2015 Property Taxes.

President's Report: None

Borough Manager's Report:

Borough Manager Landy reported that construction at Penn Park has begun and he will give the new Parks & Recreation Chairman an update on the project. Some of the work at the park will be done by the Borough Street Department and Waste Water Treatment to offset some of the in-kind services that are required. Work will continue until the weather is too cold and will resume in the spring.

Borough Manager Landy reported that Standard Bank will no longer collect payments for Water and Sewage. Scottsdale Bank will accept these payments.

Mr. Landy said that he, Councilman Caruso and Councilwoman Stevenson have been working on a solution for disposing of televisions. Shop Demo Depot will no longer accept televisions. A list of small businesses that will pick up and dispose of televisions for a small fee is available.

Waste Water Treatment Report:

Waste Water Treatment Superintendent Larry Hague said that the Borough must move forward with plans for the replacement of sewage lines on Main Street in 2017. The borough engineer will need to draw up the project, put it out for bid and the Borough will have to secure funding. Mr. Hague said that digging one trench for the water and sewage lines would be the most feasible way to proceed. Mr. Hague recommended that the sewer lines be laid before the water lines because the sewage lines are deeper.

Councilman Wagner asked about the storm water lines and Mr. Hague explained that Jacobs Creek Watershed has applied for grant funds to do the storm water lines and they will contract a company to do the work. Borough Manager Landy said that if grant funds are not received the Borough will have to make a decision whether to postpone replacing the storm water lines, apply for our own grant or seek financing to do it ourselves.

Mr. Hague said that WWT part-time employee Larry Golobish's last day of work was December 31, 2015 and the plant is in need of temporary help while one of the part-time employees is off due to workers compensation litigation. Councilwoman Bailey said that no decision can be made until the committee meets to discuss it.

Councilman Wagner asked about the progress for the proposed screening system at the WWT Plant. Mr. Hague said that the borough engineers are writing the specs and they have to be approved by the DEP. The DEP will also have to issue a permit. Borough Manager Landy said that hopefully funding for the project can come from Mount Pleasant Township and borough funds.

Councilman Wagner asked if there has been any kind of inspection of the second bio-tower to see if it will need to be replaced. Mr. Hague said that it is not possible to see inside the tower and there have been no problems with lab results. Borough Manager Landy said that if the second bio-tower fails the Borough should have no problem securing money quickly. There will be funds available from the line of credit at Scottsdale Bank. The amount available will depend on how much money the Borough has paid back. The rest of the money needed would have to be borrowed in excess of the current line of credit. Councilman Wagner said that the Borough is looking at some major projects coming up and if the Borough borrows money there will have to be a way to pay it back. Borough Manager Landy said that he will meet with Scottsdale Bank to see if it will be possible to increase the line of credit in the future. Mr. Landy said that when he and Councilwoman Stevenson met with the Pennsylvania Lt. Governor. He seemed to be receptive to our plight and is coming to Mount Pleasant sometime before May. The Borough could ask him to help with funding.

Veterans Park:

Borough Manager Landy reported that former Congressman Murtha put \$30,000 into trust for Mount Pleasant's Veterans Park. The check was written to the Fire Department because they required a 501-C3. Mr. Landy said that he is looking for the best place to invest the funds and he will discuss his findings with the Finance Committee and VFD Officers.

Street Report: None

Public Safety Zoning & Ordinance:

A motion was made by Councilwoman Ruszkowski to ratify hiring of Nathan Ellwood, North Huntingdon PA as part-time Police Officer for the Borough beginning on 12/23/15 at the hourly rate of \$12.00 per hour for the first six month probationary period and \$13.00 per hour after the probationary period is complete. Motion seconded by Councilman Pritts. Motion carried 6-0.

Vice-President Stevenson read the following Fire Report for the month of December 2015:

Total Calls – 59
In Town – 15
Out of Town – 44
10-45's – 23
Fires – 8
Public Service Calls – 10
AFA's – 18
Turnpike Calls – 5
Total Members Answering – 923
Avg. Member Per Call – 16
Total Staff Hours – 552

Vice-President Stevenson read the following Fire Report for 2015:

Total Calls -514
In Town – 135
Out of Town – 379
10-45's – 171
Entrapment Calls – 11
Fires – 122
Public Service Calls – 66
AFA's – 143
Standby's – 12
Drills – 4
Turnpike Calls – 53
Total Members Answering – 7,116
Avg. Member Per Call – 14
Total Staff Hours – 4,729

Parks & Recreation Report: None

Finance & Human Resources Report:

A motion was made by Councilwoman Ruszkowski to approve the 2016 Glass & Ethnic Festival Budget. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Bailey. Motion carried 5-1 with Councilman Wagner voting no.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Ruszkowski for an Executive Session. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Bailey. Motion carried 6-0.

Before the Executive Session began Magistrate Eckels requested that he be allowed to swear in the newly elected council members because he has an 8 o'clock commitment.

Magistrate Eckels swore in the following newly elected Mount Pleasant Borough Officials:

Diane Bailey, Councilwoman
Patience Barnes, Councilwoman
Richard Cholock, Councilwoman

Executive Session 7:37pm to 7:48pm.

Vice-President Stevenson said that the Executive Session was held to discuss personnel.

Property Report:

Councilman Pritts said that Armstrong is working on tying the Emergency Siren into the phone line at the Police Department so that it can be activated remotely.

Councilman Pritts said that it was brought to his attention that the roof of the Synagogue is leaking so it will have to be addressed.

Sanitation & Recycling Report:

Councilman Caruso said that letters were mailed to all trash customers to inform them that pick up in the Borough will be on Tuesday for all customers with recycling picked up every other week.

Councilman Caruso reported that new 35 gallon recycling containers will be delivered to residents within the next 60 days and the current containers will be picked up. There is an option for a 65 gallon container.

New Business:

Councilman Wagner thanked Councilman Wojnar for his service on Council and that he enjoyed working with him.

Mayor Lucia wanted the public to know that the flashing blue light at Frick Hospital is a warning that the sidewalks could be slippery.

Reading of Communications:

Borough Manager Landy read the following communication:

- Council is invited to attend a presentation featuring Robyn Buseman on Friday February 12, 2016 at the Center for Applied Research at the University of Pittsburgh at Greensburg.

Discussion and Payment of Bills:

A motion was made by Councilman Pritts to pay all approved and authorized bills. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Bailey. Motion carried 6-0.

Miscellaneous & Adjournment:

A motion was made by Councilman Pritts to adjourn the meeting. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Bailey. Motion carried 6-0.

Meeting Adjourned 7:49pm