

Meeting November 6, 2017

The meeting of Mount Pleasant Borough Council was called to order by President Caruso at 7:23pm in Council Chambers at 1 Etze Avenue, Mount Pleasant, PA 15666. The Pledge of Allegiance was said and President Caruso asked for a moment of silence for our deployed troops. President Caruso asked Borough Manager Landy to take roll call. Councilpersons present included Bailey, Barnes, Cholock, McCloy, Pritts, Rogacki, Ruszkowski and Stevenson. Mayor Lucia and Solicitor Liptak were present. President Caruso stated that a quorum is present.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Ruszkowski to approve the minutes of October 23, 2017 since Council has been provided with a copy. Motion seconded by Councilman Cholock. Motion carried 9-0.

President Caruso reported that there was an Executive Session held from 6:30pm until 7:15pm before the regular council meeting to discuss personnel.

Public Comment:

Mr. James Rega, Mullin Avenue Mount Pleasant PA requested a 3-way stop sign at the intersection of Park and Mullin Avenues in order to cut down on speeding vehicles. Police Chief Sam said that it is Council's decision to put up stop signs but the Police Department can't ticket anyone for not stopping at these signs for the first 60 days. Council agreed to allow Police Chief Sam to do a study and determine if stop signs are needed at the intersection of Park and Mullin Avenues.

Speakers: None

Mayor's Report:

Mayor Lucia said that he received a letter from Cheryl Barr, 107 S. Church Street asking Council to make Church Street from Washington Street to the first alley residential parking only, to prevent library employees and patrons from parking their vehicles there all day. Mayor Lucia said that the only solution is to make the area permit parking only. President Caruso said that the Safety Committee will look at the situation and come up with a solution. Councilwoman Bailey said that she has had requests from library employees for designated parking spaces in the parking lot between Central Fire Station and the Library. Councilman Cholock said permit parking on S. Church Street may not be feasible because then the vehicles would just park further down S. Church Street causing parking problems there. Councilwoman Bailey said she will speak to the library employees and ask them not to park there.

Solicitor's Report:

Solicitor Liptak said that she received a request from Frick Hospital to put in a parking lot, reconstruct the embankment and install an underground pipe system and rain garden on S. Church Street. Solicitor Liptak said that she will have to fill out a land use letter indicating whether there are any storm water problems or zoning issues. Borough Manager Landy said that the Westmoreland Conservation District should look at the property and approve the water plan.

Tax Collector's Report:

Councilwoman Stevenson read the following Tax Report for the month of October 2017:

Property Taxes: \$797.73
Per Capita Taxes: \$395.00

Total: \$1,192.73

A motion was made by Councilman Cholock to amend the agenda. Motion seconded by Councilman Rogacki. Motion carried 9-0.

A motion was made by Councilman Cholock to approve the hiring of Kyle Richter of Uniontown PA and Nicholas Ireland of Greensburg as part time police officers at the scheduled pay scale. Motion seconded by Councilman Rogacki. Motion carried 9-0.

Mayor Lucia swore in Officer Kyle Richter and Officer Nicholas Ireland as part-time Police Officers for the Borough of Mount Pleasant.

Borough Manager's Report:

Borough Manager Landy read the following MS4 Program statement:

As part of the Pennsylvania DEP'S MS4 Program (SMALL MUNICIPAL SEPARATE STORM SEWER SYSTEMS), the Borough of Mount Pleasant would like to remind everyone that our storm sewer inlets and drainage swales discharge directly to Jacobs Creek. We are striving to educate the public about the drainage systems and the problems with allowing various items to enter our streams and waterways. Shupe Run and Jacobs Creek bring many benefits to our community. We ask your assistance in educating our community about inappropriate practices that will damage one of our most precious resources.

Mr. Landy said that the Pennsylvania DEP is asking everyone on Council, as part of the plan, to educate the public.

Borough Manager Landy said the Veterans Park Committee is requesting permission to allow banners featuring local Veterans at Veterans Park and on Main Street for 3-month periods in the spring and fall. Mr. Landy said that West Penn Power requires a permit for any pole owned by them. The Committee would also like to put banners on the decorative poles owned by the Borough. Councilman Rogacki asked Borough Manager Landy to do a study to see how much weight the decorative poles can handle in regards to wind resistance etc. Any proceeds would go to the Veterans Park Fund. Council agreed to move forward with the program.

Mr. Landy said that he is going to redo the decorations at the Gazebo for the Christmas holiday this year. The decorations will lean toward kids and he feels everyone will be pleased with them.

Borough Manager Landy said that he attended a seminar put on by the Laurel Highlands Visitors Bureau about social media. Mr. Landy said that he will put together a plan on how to utilize social media in the Borough.

Borough Manager Landy said that the 2017 Christmas Parade will be held on November 29th at 7pm and the Candle Light Procession will be on December 3rd at 6:30pm. The theme for the parade this year is "Toy Land".

Borough Manager Landy said that he is meeting with local banks to discuss options for the money being held in reserve accounts. There are short term CD's that provide a better interest rate.

Mr. Landy asked Council to look at the Budget Vs. Actual Report to determine if their line items are where they should be. If anyone has any questions they can talk to the borough office.

Borough Manager Landy asked Council to also look at the preliminary 2018 budget. The numbers are still coming in. The biggest expense by far is hospitalization. The union contracts with the Street Department and Police Department specify that the healthcare plan cannot change significantly, so the plan will remain the same. The final budget will be presented at the November 20th meeting to be passed at the December 4th meeting.

Mr. Landy said that one of the businesses in town is appealing their recent tax assessment decision and he will call the School District because they usually lead the appeal process.

Borough Manager Landy said that he received a retirement letter from Code Enforcement Officer Ira Bennet effective November 17, 2017.

President's Report:

President Caruso said that the Veterans Day Parade will be held on November 11, 2017 beginning at 10:30am.

President Caruso gave Borough Manager Landy a self-evaluation report to fill out and return to the Finance and Human Resources Committee.

Borough Manager Landy spoke about businesses in the Borough requesting that the Borough include their Christmas events on our banners. Council agreed that it would not be feasible until the Borough decides to approve a digital sign.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Bailey to accept the recommendation of the Mount Pleasant Borough Planning Commission approving the Mount Pleasant Cemetery Association Subdivision Plan dated June 2017 and to authorize the Borough Council President and Secretary to sign the Subdivision Plan. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Stevenson. Motion carried 9-0.

Planning Commission Solicitor Randy Klimchock explained the subdivision to Council. Borough Manager Landy questioned whether the Planning Commission addressed the run-off issue. Solicitor Klimchock said that the Commission did not look at that issue. That issue would be address by the Building Permit etc. Mr. Landy asked Solicitor Klimchock if the Borough would be responsible for running drains etc. for any development on the subdivision. Solicitor Klimchock said that anyone developing the subdivision would have to meet all of the Borough requirements on a case by case basis.

Waste Water Treatment Report:

WWT Superintendent Shane Nickelson gave the following report:

- Winterized fountain at Veterans Park
- Cleaned towers and clarifiers
- Cut grass and routine maintenance of mower
- Attached rubber on scrapers in clarifiers
- Passed out flyers about ordinance #492
- Started maintenance of pump station generators
- Cameraed pipe in elevator shaft
- Plant maintenance
- Replaced pipe on booster pump
- Inspected all heaters at plant and pump stations for winter use.

Home inspections – 7

PA 1 Calls – 76

Emergency 1 calls – 11

Call outs – 1

Streets Report:

A motion was made by Councilwoman Bailey to close Route 31 Main Street on November 28, 2017 from Braddock Road Avenue to Silver Street from 6:30-m to 8:30pm for the 2017 Christmas Parade and Route 981 Diamond Street from Main Street to Washington Street on November 29, 2017 from 6:30pm to 10:00pm. Motion seconded by Councilman Cholock. Motion carried 9-0.

Street Crew Leader Jeff McGuinness read the following recap for October 2017:

- Continued work regarding Ramsay Terrace drainage project
- Lawn maintenance of Borough/Westmoreland Land Bank properties and Bridgeport Street property
- Swept tar and chipped roads
- Worked to resolve the drainage problem on Saint Clair Street
- Leaf picker is ready to go

- Starting to get trucks ready for winter
- Replaced grate on N. Church Street
- Replaced wood planks on bridge that goes from Willow Park to soccer fields
- Handed out flyers about drainage
- Checked outfalls and had DEP inspection

Mr. McGuinness gave the following report on future projects:

- Frick Park project
- Paint lines on streets and curbs
- Patching streets
- Clean out catch basins (1/4 of the way completed to date)
- Put up new street signs
- Crack seal
- Work with Shane Nickelson and Doug Sam on drainage issue in elevator

Public Safety Report:

Councilman Cholock read the following Fire Report for the month of October 2017:

Total Calls – 43
 10-45's – 11
 Entrapment calls – 1
 Fires – 11
 AFA's – 13
 Public Service Calls – 8
 Turnpike calls – 3
 Total members answering – 725
 Average member per call – 16
 Total staff hours – 855

Council discussed the status of the Ford Taurus and the black Crown Vic upfits as well as the Ford Explorer that was totaled.

Zoning & Ordinance Report:

Councilman McCloy said he has gathered several Digital Sign Ordinances from other municipalities as well as talking to Penn Dot regarding lumens etc.

Community & Economic Development/Grants Report: None

Parks & Recreation/Veterans Park Report:

Councilwoman Barnes said that her committee is looking into a possible dimmer for the bollards at the walking track at Frick Park. There have been complaints that the lights are too bright.

Councilwoman Barnes said that she should have quotes for the new playground equipment by the next meeting.

Councilwoman Barnes said that the first Jr. Council Meeting will be held on Wednesday at Central Fire Station at 5pm.

Council discussed the problem with Veterans Park Digital Wall. Councilwoman Bailey said that she spoke to Industry Weapon customer service and they are researching the problem. Councilwoman Bailey said they have her phone number and will be updating her daily.

Borough Manager Landy said that Suite 209 on the second floor of the municipal building has been rented and can no longer be used for committee meetings.

Finance & Human Resources Report:

A motion was made to approve hiring of Sharon Lesko, Mount Pleasant, as full-time secretary with a starting date of January 2, 2018. Motion seconded by Councilman Rogacki. Motion carried 9-0.

Property Report:

Councilman Rogacki reported that the municipal building chimney was cleaned which may help get hot water to the second and third floor. Councilman Rogacki said the chimney should be cleaned on a regular basis.

Sanitation & Recycling Report: None

Council discussed options for getting rid of televisions and other electronic equipment.

New Business: None**Reading of Communications:**

Borough Manager Landy read the following communications:

- The Mount Pleasant BDA will be holding its fourth annual Cookie Tour on Saturday November 25, 2017 beginning at the Gazebo
- The Mount Pleasant BDA will have three board positions open in 2018.
- Mr. Don Sechrist will be speaking about the history of glass in the Borough at the Mount Pleasant Public Library on November 9, 2017 beginning at 6pm.
- The Laurel Highlands YMCA will hold its 6th annual Gift Basket Bonanza Sunday December 3, 2017 beginning at 1pm and are asking for a donation from the Borough. Admission to the Basket Bonanza is \$10 per person.
- The term for Mr. Al Maida on the Mount Pleasant Parking Authority is up on 12/31/17 and the Parking Authority would like him appointed to another 5-year term.

Discussion & Payment of Bills:

A motion was made by Councilman Pritts to pay all authorized and approved bills. Motion seconded by Councilman Rogacki. Motion carried 9-0.

Public Comment: None**Miscellaneous & Adjournment:**

A motion was made by Councilman Rogacki to adjourn the meeting. Motion seconded by Councilman Pritts. Motion carried 9-0.

Meeting Adjourned 9:05pm

Motions From Meeting of November 6, 2017

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