

Meeting December 4, 2017

The meeting of Mount Pleasant Borough Council was called to order by President Caruso at 7:01pm 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 November 20, 2017 since Council has been provided with a copy. Motion seconded by Councilman Cholock. Motion carried 9-0.

Public Comment: None

Speakers: None

Mayor's Report:

Mayor Lucia thanked everyone for their participation in the Christmas programs. I was a great kickoff for the Christmas Season.

Mayor Lucia asked if any progress was made on the Church Street parking issue. Councilwoman Stevenson said that she will meet with Councilwoman Bailey before the end of the month to discuss the request for permit parking. Councilwoman Stevenson said she feels that if parking spaces in the Library parking lot were made available for library employees it would go a long way toward solving the problem.

Solicitor's Report:

Solicitor Liptak said that the hearing for the Zelenka ordinance violation has been postponed until January 2018. There are also two Tax Assessment Hearings in January 2018. Solicitor Liptak said that she will be attending those hearings and giving a report to Council.

Tax Collector's Report:

Tax Collector Carol Yancosky gave the following report for the month of November 2017:

Property Taxes Collected = \$1,652.82

Per Capita Taxes Collected = \$695.00

Total Collected = \$2,347.82

Borough Manager's Report:

Borough Manager Landy said that he attended a Storm Water Management seminar hosted by the Westmoreland Co. Conservation District. They are working with county officials on a new ordinance for storm water. The County Storm Water Plan is currently being used by the Borough. Storm water management is becoming a priority.

A meeting was held with the DEP. They are going to be helpful in solving the issue with Shupes Run where all of the Borough's storm water deposits.

Borough Manager Landy said that loan for the 2016 Ford Explorer police vehicle was paid off today. The insurance claim money from the totaled 2010 Ford Explorer was put toward the pay off and money was transferred from Budgetary Reserve for the balance. Mr. Landy said that a new 2017 Ford Explorer will be purchased from C. Harper.

Borough Manager Landy talked about what has taken place in the Borough in 2017:

- The Main Street Project has affected everyone who lives or has a business in the Borough as well as visitors to Mount Pleasant. Construction is still underway and will continue in 2018.
- Major flooding occurred this summer in town. Many residents were affected and came to the Borough for solutions.
- Mount Pleasant EMS Medic 10 seems to have turned around and headed in the right direction.
- Lowes and Peter Mullin donated their services to renovate Frick and Jack Bobb's Parks which was a major savings for the Borough.

- Having a Code Enforcement Officer made a big difference in town this summer and Council should make sure there is a replacement for 2018.
- Council will be replacing the Ford Taurus which will end the problems with Ford Motor Company.
- The Trick or Treat bag instituted in the Borough this year caused a stir and was all over the news and social media.

Borough Manager Landy looked forward to 2018:

- Storm water is still a pressing issue. Council needs to form a committee to oversee:
 - MS4 Requirements
 - A plan for areas of town that flood.
 - The new county wide storm water ordinance that is approximately 45 pages long.

Borough Manager Landy made the following suggestions:

- It may be a good idea for council members to evaluate their performance after this year. Council is fiscally responsible for tax payer's money.
- Council should consider needs first and wants second.
- Offer several ideas when making decisions.
- Research and gather information.
- Remember we are all on the same team.
- A big part of the borough team is the Administration Office. Almost everything goes through the office. It is the heart beat of the Borough.

In summary, Mount Pleasant is a great place to live and to raise a family. It has a good business district that will be even better when Main Street is completed. The Borough has an active Volunteer Fire Department, and 24/7 Police Department, and ambulance service, a hospital, an elementary school, a personal care facility, a sewage plant, five recreational parks and two unique parks, Veterans Park and Penn Park. With all of this going for us we must have done many things right. Let's keep doing things right.

It is time now for Jerry's annual nickname. Last year it was Mr. Big. This year as you know Jerry won another election for Mayor. This new four-year term will bring his total years of service as Mayor of Mount Pleasant to 36 years. He has won nine elections making him a winner. So this year his nickname is "The Winner".

President's Report:

A motion was made by Councilwoman Stevenson to approve the 2018 Council Meeting Schedule. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Bailey. Motion carried 9-0.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Stevenson to approve the 2018 Holiday Schedule. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Bailey. Motion carried 9-0.

A motion was made by Councilman Pritts to reappoint Al Maida to the Mount Pleasant Parking Authority. Motion seconded by Councilman Rogacki. Motion carried 9-0.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Ruszkowski to reappoint Melissa Bando to the Mount Pleasant Business District Authority. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Stevenson. Motion carried 9-0.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Bailey to appoint Mary Kaufman to the Mount Pleasant Business District Authority. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Stevenson. Motion carried 9-0.

Waste Water Treatment Report:

WWT Superintendent Nickelson gave the following report:

- Erected Christmas tree at Veterans Park and decorated the Municipal Building.
- Routine maintenance at WWT Plant.
- Cleaned bio-towers and clarifiers.
- Repaired large garage door.
- Installed rack and back-up alarm on Dodge pickup.
- Monthly generator inspections.
- Winterized tractors.
- Yearly maintenance on bio-tower pumps.
- PA One Calls.
- Two home inspections.
- Used camera to trouble shoot for Gibson Thomas.

- 5-year DEP Permit was renewed through 2022.

Councilwoman Ruszkowski said that she appreciated the verbal report from Superintendent Nickelson and stated that Borough Manager Landy is probably the only one who needs a written report.

Streets Report:

Councilwoman Bailey gave all council members a report from Street Crew Leader McGuinness. The Department is still picking up leaves, but the cut-off will be 12/6/17.

Councilwoman Bailey said that there will be three available plow trucks on the roads this winter.

Councilwoman Bailey said that the stop signs for S. Church Street are in and will be put up as soon as Police Chief Sam and Street Crew Leader McGuinness can coordinate a meeting.

Public Safety Report:

Councilman Cholock read the following Fire Report:

- Total calls – 34
- 10-45's – 7
- Fires – 10
- AFA's – 10
- Public service calls – 5
- Standby's – 2
- Turnpike calls – 3
- Total members answering – 550
- Average member per call – 16
- Total staff hours – 380

A motion was made by Councilman Cholock to purchase 2017 Ford Explorer from C. Harper at a cost of \$32,638.23 which includes cost of up-fit and trade-in of 2013 Ford Taurus. Motion seconded by Councilman Rogacki. Motion carried 9-0.

A motion was made by Councilman Cholock to sign reciprocal agreement between Everson Borough Police Department and the Mount Pleasant Borough Police Department. Motion seconded by Councilman Rogacki. Motion carried 9-0.

A motion was made by Councilman Cholock to allow free meter parking on Main Street from December 4, 2017 through January 2, 2018. Motion seconded by Councilman Rogacki. Motion carried 9-0.

Council discussed options for getting rid of the totaled 2010 Ford Explorer. The lights etc. have to be removed and then the Borough can sell it as is or for parts. Borough Manager Landy said that fair market value of the vehicle has to be determined.

Zoning & Ordinance Report:

A motion was made by Councilwoman Stevenson to hire Attorney Tim Witt to update the Zoning Ordinance and ordinance program on computer at a cost of up to \$6,000 from line item #400.05. Motion seconded by Councilman Pritts. Motion carried 9-0.

Council discussed the recent issue of individuals sitting on the sidewalks on Main Street. Councilwoman Ruszkowski said that maybe it would be better if there were benches for them to sit on. Borough Manager Landy said that if these individuals were considered to be loitering Police Chief Sam should look into it.

Council discussed the potential of coal trucks coming through town from the deep mine in Donegal PA. Solicitor Liptak said that the Borough can't go to officials until it is proven that the trucks are causing a problem on Main Street.

Community & Economic Development/Grants Report:

Councilwoman Bailey said she will look into a grant opportunity that involves bikes and bike paths and how they impact streets.

Parks & Recreation Report:

A motion was made by Councilwoman Barnes to purchase carousel playground equipment from Jeffrey Association in the amount of \$4,949.00. Motion seconded by Councilman Rogacki. A rollcall vote was requested:

Councilwoman Bailey – No
Councilwoman Barnes – Yes
Councilman Cholock – Yes
Councilman McCloy – No
Councilman Pritts – Yes
Councilman Rogacki – Yes
Councilwoman Ruskowski – No
Councilwoman Stevenson – No
President Caruso – No
Motion failed to pass with 4-5 Vote.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Barnes to purchase playground equipment from Snider Recreation in the amount of \$1,635.00. Motion seconded by Councilman Rogacki. A rollcall vote was taken:

Councilwoman Bailey – No
Councilwoman Barnes – Yes
Councilman Cholock – Yes
Councilman McCloy – No
Councilman Pritts – Yes
Councilman Rogacki – Yes
Councilwoman Ruskowski – No
Councilwoman Stevenson – No
President Caruso – No
Motion failed to pass with 4-5 Vote.

Finance & Human Resources Report:

Councilwoman Barnes questioned the proposed 2018 part-time secretary line item and why it is so high. Councilwoman Ruskowski and Borough Manager Landy said that there will be a new secretary starting in January 2018 and the current secretary has agreed to work part-time until she is properly trained.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Ruskowski to approve the 2018 General Fund Budget. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Bailey. Motion carried 8-0 with Councilwoman Barnes voting no.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Ruskowski to approve the 2018 WWT Budget. Motion seconded by Councilman Pritts. Motion carried 8-0 with Councilman Rogacki voting no.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Ruskowski to approve the 2018 Liquid Fuels Budget. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Bailey. Motion carried 9-0.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Ruskowski to approve the 2018 Medic 10 Budget. Motion seconded by Councilman Rogacki. Motion carried 9-0.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Ruskowski to allow Borough Manager Landy to pay all invoices through January 2, 2018. Motion seconded by Councilman Rogacki. Motion carried 9-0.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Ruskowski to transfer \$24,886.07 from Budgetary Reserve to General Fund to pay off 2016 Ford Explorer. Total transferred from Budgetary Reserve includes \$6,110.66 insurance payment for totaled 2010 Ford Explorer. Motion seconded by Councilman Pritts. Motion carried 9-0.

Property Report:

Councilman Rogacki reported that all of the windows in the Municipal Building have been caulked with the exception of the two that need to be replaced. Those windows have not been delivered yet but should be here within the next two weeks.

Councilman Rogacki said that the Safety Committee has recommended that a liner be put in the chimney of the Municipal Building. Councilman Rogacki said he will be getting quotes for the liner.

Borough Manager Landy said that the company who installed the bullet-proof window in the Tax Office was called because the window is scratched. The company canceled the appointment and have not rescheduled.

Sanitation & Recycling Report:

Councilman Pritts reported that the public can recycle electronics through the Borough's trash collector Republic Services. Residents can go to Republic's web site to get a box to ship their electronics. There is a cost based on weight for shipping the box.

Borough Manager Landy said that he spoke to a representative from Republic Services and recycling of electronics is a separate contract that the Borough can negotiate.

Borough Manager Landy thanked Councilman Pritts for his years of service and said it was a pleasure to work with him because he always had a sensible opinion and sometimes thought outside the box for solutions. Councilman Pritts stated that it was his pleasure to serve the residents of Mount Pleasant.

New Business:

Councilwoman Barnes asked the status of the Karfelt property issue on Bridgeport Street. Borough Manager Landy said that KU Engineering has advertised that they are now in the process of reviewing the studies on the Bridgeport Street Property and hopefully we receive a favorable report sometime in the beginning of 2018.

Councilman Pritts said he would like Council to consider decorating the Welcome Sign for Christmas next year.

Reading of Communications:

Borough Manager Landy read the following communications:

- PSAB sent a list of sites for Newly Elected Officials Boot Camp and none of them are close to the Borough.
- The 107th PSAB Conference will be held at Hershey Lodge June 10-13, 2018.

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:

Councilwoman Stevenson said that this weekend will be the Historical Society's Holiday Home Tour. There are some beautiful homes on the tour this year as always. The tour begins at the Log House at 3pm and tickets are \$15 each. Proceeds go toward supporting the Mount Pleasant Historical Society.

President Caruso said that it has been a pleasure serving as Council President this year and wished everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

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

Meeting adjourned 8:45pm

Motions From Meeting of December 4, 2017

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Councilwoman Ruszkowski – No

Councilwoman Stevenson – No

President Caruso – No

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