

Meeting July 6, 2015

The meeting of Mount Pleasant Borough Council was called to order by President Bauer at 7:02pm in Council Chambers at 1 Etze Avenue, Mount Pleasant, PA 15666. The Pledge of Allegiance was said and President Bauer asked for a moment of silence for our deployed troops. Councilman Pritts lead Council in the Lord's Prayer. President Bauer directed Borough Manager Landy to take roll. Councilmen Caruso, Pritts, Tate, Wagner and Councilwomen Bailey, Ruzzkowski and Stevenson were present. Mayor Lucia and Solicitor Wolfe were Present. President Bauer said that a quorum is present.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Stevenson to approve the minutes of June 15, 2015 since Council has been provided with a copy. Motion seconded by Councilman Pritts. Motion carried 8-0.

Public Comment:

Councilwoman Stevenson 315 Eagle Street Mount Pleasant left her seat on Council from 7:03pm to 7:05 to address Council. Ms. Stevenson commented that members of the Mount Pleasant Landlord Association who are not citizens of the Borough are promoting for election those candidates who will agree to repeal the Landlord Ordinance that requires only a simple safety inspection of residential rental properties. Ms. Stevenson said that members of the Landlord Association are trying to control the election of people making decisions about the future of Mount Pleasant.

Councilman Pritts, 925 Washington Street Mount Pleasant left his seat on Council from 7:06 to 7:07 to address Council. Mr. Pritts agreed with Ms. Stevenson's position.

Councilman Tate said that he would like the borough office to get the total of the cost to the Borough to defend the suit brought by the Mount Pleasant Landlord Association.

Councilman Wagner said that he feels that council chambers is a place to conduct official borough business and not a place to express views of a personal nature. Councilman Wagner said that along with the cost to the borough to defend the suit brought by the Landlord Association, the reasons for the suit should be released.

Speakers:

Mr. John Sarp, Sarp & Company presented Council with the 2014 borough audit. The auditor's report shows an opinion by the auditor that the financial statements represent fairly the assets, liabilities and fund balances of the Borough. The revenues and expenses exceeded the final budget and ended with excess revenues over expenditures for the year of \$54,200. Mr. Sarp spoke about the other funds in the Borough. In a note to management it was noted that two deposits were listed as deposits in transit. One deposit was credited by the bank to the wrong account and the other deposit had been lost. Borough personnel immediately took action and had the corrections made with addition reconciliation procedures put in place. Mr. Sarp stated that the ratio between assets and liabilities in the Borough is 10 to 1, favoring assets, and the Borough is doing a good job maintaining those ratios. Mr. Sarp assured Council that they can call his office with any questions they may have.

Councilman Wagner asked questions regarding funds deposited into budgetary reserve and a discussion ensued.

Mr. Joe Dietrick, Markosky Engineers spoke to Council about storm water designs in the Shupes Run Watershed specifically the Mount Pleasant Main Street Project and grants to fund the projects. The project will include pervious brick pavers on sidewalks, underground detention and inlets. Grant funds would cover this and it would be the Borough's responsibility to maintain the sidewalks and inlets. It would require that MAWC replace water lines on Main Street and the Borough replace sewer lines. Mr. Dietrick explained the project in more detail.

Mayor's Report:

Mayor Lucia read the following Police Report for the month of June 2015:
Police Department Report for the month of June 2015

The Department answered the following calls:

Complaints	94
Drug Arrests	3
DUI Arrests	2
Parking Tickets Issued	45
Traffic Citations Issued	11

Assist Other Departments	3
Accidents Investigated	4
Assist Medic 10	7
Income	
Parking Tickets	\$ 145.00
Meter Receipts	\$ 1,561.74
Fees for Police Reports	\$ 60.00
Clerk of Court	\$ 118.42
District Court	\$ 656.36
Refund from Drug Task Force	\$ 914.40
Total Income for May 2015	\$ 3,455.92

Mayor Lucia reported that the part-time patrolman line item is at \$50,579.00 due to shift coverage which leaves \$44,421.00 for the remainder of the year.

Councilman Wagner said that Police Chief Sam’s report shows that he spent \$941 of his personal money on a computer, printer and police uniforms and he feels that should be reimbursed by the Borough.

Police Chief Sam said that it is not necessary to reimburse him for these expenses, but the department needs a jail cell and he has been told that there are not funds in the budget for that expense. Replacing the outside door at the police station was also discussed.

Police Chief Sam said that warnings will be put on vehicles parked against traffic and these vehicles will be sited in the future because it is a safety issue. Councilman Tate said that it is sometimes an issue for senior citizens to get in and out of their vehicles and that is why they park against traffic. Councilman Tate said that he feels it is safe to park against traffic on residential streets. Council decided to suspend ticketing drivers who park against traffic.

Mayor Lucia reminded residents that there is an ordinance against throwing grass clippings on the street. These clippings get washed into the catch basins and cause backup. Mayor Lucia also reminded people who walk their dogs to clean up after them.

Mayor Lucia said that he received a letter from a woman who said that she was almost struck by a large truck at the Doughboy and asked if there is a way to stop these big trucks from going through town.

Mayor Lucia said that the Mount Pleasant VFD will hold its Annual Golf Outing and Council usually enters a foursome or sponsors a hole. The motion was made at a previous meeting to sponsor a hole this year.

Solicitor’s Report:

Solicitor Wolfe presented a list of rules and regulations for the Civil Service Commission based on the DCED model. There is room for discretion in what Council wants the qualifications to be and other issues. Solicitor Wolfe said that he has asked Police Chief Sam and the Borough Civil Service to look at the document to make sure it says what they want it to say. The Rules and Regulations can then be adopted by resolution.

Tax Collector’s Report:

Tax Collector Carol Yancosky read the following Tax Report for the month of June 2015:

Property Taxes = \$32,568.48
Per Capita Taxes = \$451.00

Total Taxes Collected = \$33,019.48

President’s Report: None

Borough Manager’s Report:

Borough Manager Landy made the following report:

- Landscaping is complete at the Welcome to Mount Pleasant sign.
- Specs for Penn Park are almost complete. There will be separate bids for electric and paving and are easier to read. The bids should come in at the expected amounts.

- Penn Dot has fixed S. Diamond Street but has not fixed S. Church Street but pending weather they will fix it this week.
- Borough Manager Landy and Mayor Lucia met with the Emergency Management Committee about a flyer to be distributed to residents about the Emergency Siren.
- Borough Manager Landy and Mayor Lucia met with county representatives regarding the railroad crossing to Willow Park. They have agreed to pay for the crossing but will require the Borough to sign a land use agreement and get agreements from the sports leagues that they will use parking for the next ten years. Mr. Landy said that he has contacted the leagues to set up a meeting. Solicitor Wolfe said that he has read the agreement and feels it is pretty one-sided and holds the Borough responsible for everything.
- Borough Manager Landy and Councilman Tate met with Mr. Frank Pushkar, Supervisor, Mount Pleasant Township to discuss the Borough's WWT personnel cameraing in the Township.
- The Safety Committee meets on the 3rd Tuesday of every month and anyone from Council is welcome to attend.
- Mr. Landy said that it may be helpful to meet with the Zoning Officer to give him some direction and some ideas on how to approach the position.
- The new leader of the Ministerium is Reverend Landman. The Ministerium would like to use Frick Park on August 16th for a community picnic from 5pm to 8pm. Mr. Landy told him that anyone is allowed to use Frick Park but we do not reserve the park and to be very careful of the ball field because the Girls Softball League spends a lot of money to maintain the field. Council agreed that there is no problem with the Ministerium using the park.
- Penn Dot sent the new Winter Maintenance Agreement for the next five years. Mr. Landy said that he will let the Street Committee discuss the agreement.
- The Borough received a check from the Township in the amount of \$16,044 for their portion of the cost of the flow meters.
- The Westmoreland Redevelopment Authority has received a \$500,000 grant to clean up sites in the county. The estimated cost to drill and test water at the borough property on Bridgeport Street is \$40,000. April Kopas, Westmoreland County said that if we can get the study done they will reclaim the property for the Borough, although it may take two years.

Councilman Wagner said that there is someone dumping asphalt at the Borough property on Bridgeport Street. Street Supervisor Fontanazza said that it is MAWC and they will level it off.

Waste Water Treatment Report:

Councilman Tate said that he feels the WWT personnel already have their hands full and will not be able to camera for the Township.

Councilman Tate said that J.T. Sowers has a mobile home on Diamond Street. At some point before the mobile home was installed the sewer line to the property was disconnected. Mr. Sowers wants the Borough to pay to have the line re-installed. Mr. Larry Hague, WWT Superintendent, said that the Sanitary Sewer Rules and Regulations state that it is the homeowner's responsibility to tie into the main sewer line within 150 feet at their own expense. Mr. Sowers said that he had no idea the line had been disconnected when he put the mobile home in. Mayor Lucia said that we need to ask Penn Dot for a description of the project that was done when the line was disconnected. A discussion ensued about different solutions. Council asked Superintendent Hague to get the cost of re-installing the line and have it for the next council meeting.

Mr. Larry Hague, WWT Superintendent reported that he changed chemical suppliers and will save \$3,100 per year. Mr. Hague said that at the time of a dye test for a home sale he would like to make it mandatory for homes to have an exterior trap/vent to ensure that gases do not enter the home. Mr. Hague also brought up the sewage credits issued to home owners who fill a swimming pool. If the homeowner calls after the pool is already full there could be a question of whether they used their own hose to fill it. Also, there is no way of knowing where the homeowner drained the pool. If the water went into the sanitary sewer it is being treated. Mr. Hague feels that credits should not be issued for pool fill-ups and top-offs since there will come a time when the water from the pool ends up in the sanitary system.

Mr. Hague said that our Engineer stated that our sewer rates too low compared to surrounding communities and if we apply for a grant we could be rejected if they feel we are not charging enough. Council should look at our rates in the near future. The Borough Engineer will forward a comparison to us of how our sewer rates compare to others.

Streets Report:

Councilwoman Bailey reported that the Ramsey Terrace Paving Project is complete. Additional costs were incurred because when the paving company milled the road the base was so bad that it disintegrated under the

millers. The paving company had to add material. An invoice for the additional cost has not been received but the estimate is between \$12,000 and \$17,000. The additional funds will be taken from Liquid Fuels.

Councilwoman Bailey said that there is an issue with a property that is being flooded on Vine Street and Jeff McGuinness from the Street Department will determine if a curb will keep the water off of the property. The first phase will be a curb, the second phase will be to address the problem at the top of Vine Street where it meets Church Street and the third phase will be a catch basin.

Councilwoman Bailey said that she is going to meet with local paving companies to get a quote for what needs to be done with the pot holes that have been patched and re-patched. It would involve a scratch coating which would smooth out what is already there, put a thin layer on top and then seal it.

Councilwoman Bailey asked residents to stop dumping brush outside the fence at the Street Department. Please wait and bring it in when Street Department personnel are there and the gates are open.

Councilwoman Bailey said that Larry Golobish who was hired as summer help is working out well. Councilwoman Bailey said she would like permission from Council to allow the Street Committee and the borough office to oversee Mr. Golobish and give him his assignments. Council agreed.

Public Safety & Ordinance Report:

Councilwoman Stevenson read the following Fire Report for the month of June 2015:

Total Calls – 52
In Town – 16
Out of Town – 36
10-45's – 19
Fires – 13
AFA's – 14
Public Service Calls – 7
Turnpike Calls – 7
Total Members Answering – 751
Average Member Per Call – 14
Total Staff Hours – 410

Councilwoman Stevenson said that the total staff hours of 410 are in addition to hours spent on the Firemen's Fair. Mayor Lucia said that the fair totals approximately 50 hours per man.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Stevenson to hire Jacob Cavanaugh, Connellsville, PA as a part-time Police Officer for the Borough. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Bailey. Motion carried 8-0.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Stevenson to suspend the rules for a motion to build a holding cell in the Police Station. Motion seconded by Councilman Pritts. Motion carried 8-0.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Stevenson to approve building a holding cell inside the Mount Pleasant Borough Police Station by Mount Pleasant Mine Service Fabrication at a cost of approximately \$2,200. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Ruszkowski. Motion carried 8-0.

Councilwoman Stevenson said that she would like Council to consider a smoking ban at borough events like the Concerts In The Park.

Council agreed to reimburse Police Chief Doug Sam \$941 for office equipment he purchased for the Police Department. Police Chief Sam said that he would rather see the \$941 go toward other things needed by the Police Department.

Parks & Recreation Report:

Borough Manager Landy said that Council received a request from the Coal & Coke Bike Trail for reimbursement for stencils at \$200 and a bike rack for \$300. Mr. Landy said that Councilman Wojnar said that he will go to the BDA and ask for money to cover the expenses.

Borough Manager Landy said that the grant funds for playground equipment at Frick Park have been released and he will order the equipment. Mr. Landy said that the basketball court at Frick Park will be resurfaced.

Borough Manager Landy said that the bathrooms at Willow Park will be rebid to see if bids come in any lower.

Finance & Human Resources Report:

Councilwoman Ruszkowski said that the Borough is six months into the budget year and she would like committee chairman to look at their budget numbers to see if we are in line for the remainder of the year.

Property Report:

Councilman Pritts said that the Welcome Sign landscaping has been completed and he thanked everyone who was involved.

Mayor Lucia said that painting will be done at the Synagogue this month and Council should look at replacing some of the windows and repairing others.

Borough Manager Landy reported that water is going into Dr. Rinchuse's office on the first floor of the Municipal Building in a different location and there is still water coming into the bathroom at the Police Station. Mr. Landy said that he called Handy Man Joe to look at the problems.

Sanitation & Recycling Report: None

New Business:

Councilwoman Bailey said that she attended a Library meeting and they would like to put a sign up at the Library to match the one that the Borough has. Members of the Library would like to know if they need a permit and if the Borough has the name of the person who did the borough sign. Borough Manager Landy said that they will need to apply for a Sign Permit.

Councilwoman Bailey said that she has received complaints about Vandyke Way and the alley between First Street and Morewood Street. The shrubs are not being cut back and it is difficult for vehicles to get through. Mayor Lucia said that there is an ordinance requiring property owners to keep their trees and shrubs out of the roadways.

Reading of Communications: None

Discussion and Payment of Bills:

A motion was made by Councilman Pritts to pay all approved bills. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Bailey. Motion carried 8-0.

Miscellaneous and Adjournment:

A motion was made by Councilman Pritts to adjourn the meeting. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Bailey. Motion carried 8-0.

Meeting adjourned 9:30pm

Motions from July 6, 2015 Meeting

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