

January 7, 2019

The meeting of Mount Pleasant Borough Council was called to order by President Caruso 7:00pm 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, Phillabaum, Rogacki, Ruszkowski, Stevenson and Yatsko. Mayor Lucia and Solicitor Istik was present. President Caruso stated that a quorum is present. Mayor Lucia left at 8:37pm.

A Motion was made by Councilwoman Ruszkowski to approve the minutes of December 3, 2018 since Council has been provided with a copy. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Stevenson. Motion carried 8-0.

Public Comment: None

Speakers: None

Mayor's Report:

Mayor Lucia recognized Bob "Catman" Ceroni who passed away this month. Mr. Ceroni was a former Police Chief, a member and Chief of Mount Pleasant Volunteer Rescue Squad, a founding member of Medic 10, the Assistant Director of 911; and, the Assistant Emergency Management Coordinator for the Borough of Mount Pleasant. Mayor Lucia stated that enough cannot be said about Mr. Ceroni and asked that everyone please keep his family in their prayers.

Mayor Lucia reported that the Christmas lights are coming down starting tomorrow.

Mayor Lucia also recognized Sam Conyette who passed away recently. Mr. Conyette celebrated 50 years of service as an active member with the Mount Pleasant Volunteer Fire Department. There will be a memorial service for Mr. Conyette on the 23rd of February, 2019 from 1:00pm to 3:00pm at the Mount Pleasant Firemen's Club.

Mayor Lucia wanted Council to keep after the flooding problems to try and solve some of the issues. Councilman Rogacki stated that Council had the Solicitor send a letter to DEP; and, that there has been no response from them. Councilman Rogacki suggested another letter be sent. Council President stated that the letter that was sent to DEP was regarding Shupe's Run. Mayor Lucia stated that at Greenwood Apartments there is a spring that is continuously running that may need to be diverted. Mayor Lucia also reported that he looked again at the pond at Greenwood Apartments; and, the pipe is running straight through the pond and collecting no water at all.

Councilman Rogacki also stated that this is a situation also at Ramsay Terrace with flooding; and, that there are several photos of the flooding. Councilman Rogacki believes that DEP should take a look at it to possibly eliminate the issue. Councilwoman Bailey stated that there should be a DVD of when they did the camera work at Joseph Street & South Geary Street; and, that there were no issues with the pipes at all.

Councilwoman Bailey reiterated that that property at Greenwood Apartments is private property, so the municipality is limited as to what they can do with private property. Mayor Lucia stated that when Greenwood Apartments was being developed in 1992 they were required by the Borough to install a detention pond.

Council President Caruso stated that when they met with management at Greenwood Apartments, they stated that they would look into it. Mayor Lucia asked Solicitor Istik if there was anything the Borough could do if the detention pond that they were required to install and maintain was failing. Solicitor Istik stated that she would have to look into it since she does not know what the original agreement was with them at that time. Borough Manager Landy stated that when the Borough met at the property with Jim Pillsbury of Westmoreland Conservation District, Mr. Pillsbury stated that the plans that was designed was built to specification. Solicitor Istik asked if the developer installed the pond or the Borough. Borough Manager Landy stated

that it was not the Borough and believes it was the Westmoreland Conservation District. Borough Manager Landy stated that all he ever heard differently was that they rerouted some of the water off of the building to the back of the building which does not hit the pond at all.

Councilman Rogacki stated that there is another pond up behind Jeff McGuinness' home that they should look at. Borough Manager Landy stated that the pond that Councilman Rogacki is speaking of was built with a grant that Mount Pleasant Township received. Council President Caruso stated that the pond is in the Township and they cannot do anything with that. Councilman Rogacki stated that the runoff from there is coming down into Ramsay Terrace into the Borough causing a problem.

Solicitor Istik asked if the pond has been maintained by Greenwood Apartments. Borough Manager Landy reported that by his visual, they do not maintain the pond; and, that there are trees in it and brush around it. Borough Manager Landy said that when they went there with someone from the Conservation District, they ordered them to maintain; and, they did clean it up. Borough Manager Landy said that he can say that the pond does not fail every day; however, when we get storms that are an inch or so in an hour and a half it fails. Borough Manager Landy stated that it hasn't failed since July 2018; except, Mayor Lucia is indicating that the spring is causing the gentlemen who has Gary's Garage to flood. The spring runs constantly. Borough Manager Landy said that there is a difference when we have the storms that are an inch or so in an hour and a half, there is flooding; but what we don't have is flooding and failures of ponds when we get a normal rain. Borough Manager Landy stated that he has had no one tell him that they can control flooding when there is an inch of rain in an hour; and, that flooding will happen with that much rain in such little time. Councilman Rogacki suggested that we try to get professional help from the Department of Environmental Resources. Council President Caruso stated when they were asked to come in and look at Brush Run, they looked but did nothing about it. Mayor Lucia stated that Mount Pleasant Township has since received a grant to correct Brush Run and when Brush Run is corrected, this will help the Borough with water since water from Orchard Avenue and Hoza Way traverses into Brush Run.

Solicitor's Report:

Solicitor Istik stated that she will need to give her report during Executive Session.

Tax Collector's Report:

Tax Collector Carol Yancosky read the following report for the month of December 2018:

Property Taxes	\$6,925.47
Supplemental Taxes	\$ 37.61
Per Capita Taxes	\$1,106.00
Total Collected	\$8,069.08

Tax Collector Yancosky reminded tax payers that her office is done collecting 2018 property taxes and per capita.

Borough Manager's Report:

Borough Manager gave the following report for December 2018:

- Met with Councilwoman Bailey and we have committed to solving the water problem at Eagle Street by digging up the street and finding the problem. Spoke with Frick Hospital and let them know if it is our problem, we are going to fix it; however, if it is coming from Frick property, the Borough will expect them to fix it. Mayor Lucia stated that the Borough has dug two times on Frick Hospital property looking for the problem. Councilwoman Bailey stated that they will begin to dig on the sidewalk. They will pull two (2) slabs up beginning at the utility pole where the water begins; and then dig by hand due to utility lines underground there. Once it is determined where the water is coming from, they will meet with Frick Hospital to let them see and determine who is at fault. If it is not coming from that area, it will be restored; and, they will move to another area

and continue working until it is found. Councilwoman Bailey stated that the Street Department was going to make a PA One Call so digging could begin tomorrow, Tuesday, January 8, 2019. Council President Caruso reported that Jeff McGuinness informed him that it would not be until Wednesday or Thursday of this week. Councilwoman Bailey said that the schedule when they left the meeting on Friday morning was that Mayor Lucia was speaking with Frick Hospital to inform them that the Borough may have to dig into a part of their property when pulling up the concrete slabs, which they were fine with; and Jeff McGuinness was making the PA One Call so they could be here today and digging could begin tomorrow.

- Met with East Huntingdon Township separately regarding the overflow on Quarry Street when it rains hard. East Huntingdon Township permitted the Borough to put their overflow into their system. Met with East Huntingdon Township for an update. They have indicated that they want the Borough to remove our overflow from their system. They feel with their expansion they have coming up and issues with their plant they need to concentrate on their sewage and not the Boroughs. Mr. Landy stated that this will be an expensive and major project to fix.
- Met with Gibson-Thomas Engineering Co. about some upgrades to the sewage plant. There is some equipment that needs upgraded, such as pumps, diffusers, blowers, things that have been pushed off as long as they could be; and, now need done and will be big projects. Borough Manager Landy stressed to all committees that they need to start planning the work on these projects now so they can be acted upon once the weather breaks.
- Borough Manager asked the Committees to set goals. He also asked that communication be better between each other and among the committees.
- Had a gentleman volunteer to be a Crossing Guard. He did not want to be paid. Mr. Landy contacted the liability insurance company and they are willing to cover the gentleman as a volunteer; however, when contacting the worker's comp insurance, they will not cover him. If a child were to get hurt while the volunteer was working, the Borough would be covered by having him cross. If the volunteer would get hit accidentally while volunteering as a crossing guard, his medical bills would not be covered. Therefore, he decided not to volunteer after receiving the information. The Union approved that the gentleman could work as a temporary volunteer.
- Borough Manager Landy reminded Council to complete their Statement of Financial Interest – State Ethics Reports and get them to Sharon Lesko to have on file in the office.
- Borough Manager Landy reported that all of the bills for 2018 were paid before the end of the year.
- Borough Manager Landy received an email from a resident regarding Satcho Playground.
- Received information from First Energy regarding some Assistance Programs.
- Received fee schedule for 2019 for K2 Engineering.
- The grass cutting contract has been extended since it has not gone out for bids. It will \$24,900.00 / yr. on a month to month contract.
- Received a letter from Penn DOT regarding the letter Solicitor Istik had previously sent to PennDOT on August 6, 2018 regarding the sidewalk removal at the Filling Station Brew House and Grille. Solicitor Istik recommended that a letter be sent to the Filling Station and require proof of the Highway Occupancy Permit; and, if they do not have one that they must obtain one within so many days through PennDOT.

- Mr. Landy spoke about the Boards of Authorities and that recently the Borough has taken recommendations of the authority; however, it should be discussed among Council and to talk to some of the people and get an understanding of what their thoughts are and why they want on the board. Also, if there are requests from citizens to be on the Board, Council should consider all requests.

President's Report:

A Motion was made by Councilwoman Ruszkowski to hold an Executive Session. Motion seconded by Councilman Phillabaum. Motion carried 8-0.

A Motion was made by Councilwoman Ruszkowski to reconvene. Motion seconded by Councilman Phillabaum. Motion carried 8-0.

Council President Caruso announced that an **Executive Session was held from 7:47pm – 8:37pm to discuss personnel issues.**

A Motion was made by Councilwoman Ruszkowski to reappoint Mike Tabita to the Planning Commission for a 4-year term expiring on December 31, 2022. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Stevenson. Motion carried 6 – 2. Councilman Rogacki and Councilwoman Barnes voted No.

Council President Caruso reported the following:

- Council President Caruso would like Council to focus on the stormwater infiltration into the sanitary sewer lines; and, he will meet with the committees to discuss coming up with a plan to complete the project.
- President Caruso will be meeting with the department leaders over the next month and discuss goals for the year.
- Council President Caruso discussed how to improve Council meetings and that there should be no other discussions going on and show respect when someone has the floor, don't interrupt others and when you have a question raise your hand instead of just speaking out.
- Council President Caruso stated that there will be no food or eating at the regular meeting. The regular meeting is televised and it does not look good someone eating or getting up during the meeting to get food. Work session meetings you can have food.
- Council President Caruso asked Council that if your committee has a motion, please discuss it among your committee, then prepare the motion and give it to Sharon Lesko, secretary, to put on the agenda so amendments and motions can be avoided being added during the meeting.

Property Report:

Councilman Rogacki reported that the contract has been signed for the waterproofing on the first floor to be done by Baker's Waterproofing; and, we are waiting for a date that they can come in and do it.

Borough Manager Landy stated that the contract has also been signed for the roof work at the Waste Water Treatment Plant. Councilman Rogacki stated that construction on the roof at the Waste Water Treatment Plant should begin within the next two (2) weeks.

Waste Water Treatment Report:

Councilman Rogacki gave the following report for December 2018:

- New flashing and under pan on sludge conveyor belt.
- Cleaned and hosed out wet wells at all pump stations.
- The old was retrofitted for the skid steer.
- New manhole and main line put in the alley behind the Slovak Club.

Home Inspections – 5

PA One Calls – 22

Emergency One Calls – 6

Streets Report:

Councilwoman Bailey gave the following report:

- The estimated delivery for the new dump truck is January 25, 2019.
- St. Clair Street Project is completed other than the sod, seeding and repairs to driveways which will be completed in the Spring. The Street Department will be able to do all repairs to the driveways except for one (1) driveway that is concrete. All piping is new and water is running clear and free as of now.
- Eagle Street Project will begin within the next few days.
- The Street Department has done a drawing for the Sycamore Street Project regarding installing new storm lines and catch basins. Councilwoman Bailey and Councilman Rogacki will meet with the Street Department to finalize details so material can be ordered and work can begin on Sycamore Street.
- Borough Manager Landy asked about the Hoza blockage. Councilwoman Bailey stated they do need to work on that; but they have not done anything with it as of yet. Council President Caruso stated that he spoke to Jeff McGuinness and he believes that they may be able to get inside the catch basin with a light and see what is stuck in there; and that they need to remove the obstruction before they can camera it. Councilwoman Bailey stated that it is on their to-do list; however, she would like to complete Sycamore Street Project first.
- Councilwoman Bailey stated that there is an invoice from Hunt Valley Environmental for the St. Clair Street Project. The invoice was lower than the estimate that they provided in March 2018.
- Councilwoman Bailey asked if anything has been reported on the stolen parking meters. Council President Caruso stated that there is a motion on the todays agenda to purchase posts, housing units, yokes and meters; and, the Borough will then have to notify the construction company of the total cost. Councilwoman Bailey asked if we have heard from the construction company. Borough Manager Landy reported that he has called twice and no one has gotten back with him. Borough Manager Landy suggested that Solicitor Istik send a letter stating that the Borough has tried contacting them with no response.
- Councilwoman Bailey reported that she would like to prepare bids for paving. The streets that are: Parkview Terrace, Mullin Avenue from Main Street to Smithfield Street, College Avenue from Washington Street to Main Street, South Geary Street, Hitchman Street from Main Street to Washington, Silver Street from Smithfield Street to Diamond Street, Church Street, Bridgeport Street, Quarry Street and Jordan Street going North off of Main Street, Eagle Street once the water issue is resolved; and, scratch coating on the

shoulder turning off of Diamond Street passed the railroad tracks onto Kennedy Avenue. Councilman Rogacki questioned whether or not there was damage done to Hitchman Street that a contractor was going to pay for. Councilwoman Bailey stated that the contractor did patch where their equipment was setting; however, they were not willing to pay for repaving because there was no clause in the contract as to damages on side streets.

Borough Manager Landy asked if pipe and catch basins were going to be installed on Warden Avenue. Councilwoman Bailey stated that she was unaware of it but she will see that it is added to the Street Department list.

Borough Manager Landy asked Councilwoman Bailey if she had an idea of what the paving projects will cost. Councilwoman Bailey reported that an estimated cost for the paving is \$128,000.00 for everything, not including Quarry and Jordan. Councilwoman Bailey also stated that this figure does not include the \$25,000.00 for Eagle Street.

Parks & Recreation:

Councilwoman Bailey reported that she would like to give a thank you to King Lumber for donating the large tires that are located at Frick Park. Councilwoman Bailey reported that some of the bollards need repaired and there is some lighting burned out at Frick Park. Councilwoman Bailey stated that someone or some group loosened the shades; and, it looks like the shades are cracked where the anchors go through them and will need repaired. Councilwoman Bailey stated that there are some concrete pads that need to be replaced and will need to get bids for replacing them. Councilwoman Bailey reminded Council that there will be a grand opening of Frick Park in the spring.

Councilwoman Bailey reported that Medic 10 park has an overabundance of playground equipment and that the committee should go and look at it to see what should stay and what should be removed; and, if it is in need of painting to have it refurbished either in house or by an outside company. The equipment that will not be used at Medic 10 park can be moved to either Satcho Park or Willow Park.

Councilwoman Bailey reported that for Willow Park she is looking into building a pipe slide into the hillside which would cost basically manpower and adding some of the removed playground equipment from the Medic 10 Park to Willow Park. Borough Manager Landy stated that he has contacted some companies regarding the pipe slide and they have advised him that sometimes these pipe slides do become a rendezvous place for people because of the covering; and, pipe slides usually do not last long because of that.

Councilwoman Barnes reported that she has received complaints regarding trash underneath the bushes on the hillside at Frick Park. Borough Manager Landy stated that the bushes should be removed or trimmed.

Public Safety Report:

Mayor Lucia read the following Fire Report for the month of December 2018:

Total Calls - 38
10-45's - 14
Entrapment Calls - 0
Fires - 6
Public Service Calls - 6
AFA's - 9
Turnpike Calls - 3
Total Members Answering - 590
Avg. Member Per Call - 14
Total Staff Hours – 502

Mayor Lucia read the following Annual Fire Report for 2018:

Total Calls – 611
10-45's – 173
Entrapment Calls – 13
Fires – 150
Public Service Calls – 102
AFA's – 129
Drills – 2
Turnpike Calls – 62
Landing Zones – 48
Total Members Answering – 9,369
Avg. Member Per Call – 15
Total Staff Hours – 7,284
Total Fire Loss in the Borough - \$240,300.00

A Motion was made by Councilwoman Ruskowski to authorize the purchase of 15 poles, 9 double yokes, 24 housing and 24 mechanisms at a cost not to exceed \$400.00 per unit (post, yokes, housing and mechanism). Motion seconded by Councilwoman Bailey. Motion carried 8-0.

Veterans Park Report:

Councilwoman Barnes thanked all that decorated the Gazebo for Christmas this year and that it was beautiful.

Councilwoman Barnes reported that Shoemaker Monuments was the lowest bid received for the slab at Veteran's Park and in order to have it for the spring it must be ordered now and requires half down. The total cost is \$5,700.00.

A Motion was made by Councilwoman Barnes to authorize a partial payment in the amount of \$2,850.00 to Shoemaker Monument, Inc. for the wall plaque at Veteran's Park. Motion seconded by Councilman Rogacki. Motion carried 8-0.

Councilwoman Barnes reported that they have approximately 70 applications turned in now

Councilwoman Barnes thanked Marie Dawson for all that she does to help with Veteran's Park. Council President Caruso stated that Marie Dawson is the reason that the Mt. Pleasant Glass Festival runs so well. Borough Manager Landy agreed.

Storm Water Management Report:

Councilwoman Bailey reported that there will be a municipal roundtable conference on January 25, 2019 at the Westmoreland Conservation District and that rainfall and stormwater issues will be a topic.

Community & Economic Development/Grants Report: **None.**

Zoning & Ordinance Report:

A Motion was made by Councilwoman Stevenson to adopt Ordinance No. 653 setting the 2019 millage rate at 17.5 mils. Motion seconded by Councilman Phillabaum. Motion carried 8-0.

Finance & Human Resources Report:

A Motion was made by Councilwoman Ruskowski to approve Resolution No. 2019-01 setting the 2019 quarterly contribution for Non-Uniform Pension at \$3.35 per hour. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Bailey. Motion carried 8-0.

A Motion was by Councilwoman Ruskowski to adopt Resolution 2019-02 waiving the required Police Pension member contributions for calendar year 2019 only. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Stevenson. Motion carried 8-0.

New Business:

Councilwoman Bailey reported that the Parks and Recreation Alliance requested the Borough's participation again this year.

Reading of Communications:

Borough Manager Landy read the following communications:

- Mount Pleasant Library received a grant from West Penn Power in the amount of \$58,000.00. The grant may be used to replace its HVAC, hot water heater, and outdoor lighting with more efficient models.
- Westmoreland Conservation District Municipal Roundtable will be held on Friday, January 25, 2019 from 11:30am – 3:30pm at a cost of \$10.00 per person. It will be held at the J. Roy Houston Conservation Center, 218 Donohoe Road, Greensburg, PA 15601.
- Mount Pleasant Library achieved the Bronze Status.
- PATH – PA Training Hub – will be hosting a Basic Training for Municipal Secretaries and Administrators in Somerset, PA.

Discussion and Payment of Bills:

A Motion was made by Councilwoman Stevenson to pay all authorized and approved bills. Motion seconded by Councilman Rogacki. Motion carried 8-0.

Public Comment: None.

Miscellaneous and Adjournment:

Council President Caruso distributed the committees to Council for 2019; and, he asked that the former Chairman please help the new Chairman of the committees.

A Motion was made by Councilman Rogacki to adjourn the meeting. Motion seconded by Councilman Phillabaum. Motion carried 8-0.

Meeting Adjourned 9:24 pm

Motions from Meeting of January 7, 2019

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