

February 4, 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, and Stevenson. Mayor Lucia and Solicitor Istik was present. President Caruso stated that a quorum is present. Councilman Cholock arrived at 7:19PM.

A Motion was made by Councilwoman Ruszkowski to approve the minutes of January 22, 2019 since Council has been provided with a copy. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Stevenson. Motion carried 7-0.

Public Comment:

Cynthia Zelmor representing the Mount Pleasant Library spoke to Council about services that they have provided for the community along with upcoming events at the Library.

Speakers: None

Mayor’s Report:

Mayor Lucia spoke about his concern with the heavy rains that are to be coming in the next few days. Mayor Lucia stated the Borough needs to keep moving forward with trying to resolve the stormwater issues within the Borough.

Mayor Lucia reported that the Code Enforcement Officers have been out posting letters to residents and businesses regarding snow removal from their sidewalks.

Councilman Rogacki asked if letters were sent to DEP regarding the stormwater issues; and, if so, have we heard back from them. Councilman Rogacki requested a second letter be sent to DEP. Borough Manager Landy said that he spoke with Jim Pillsbury of the Westmoreland Conservation District and permits were granted and completed in 1992 at Greenwood Apartments. Mr. Pillsbury stated that he does realize that things have changed; however, they cannot do anything now. Mr. Pillsbury recommended the Borough speak with their solicitor regarding a nuisance. Mr. Pillsbury believes that because of the water coming from there would be considered a nuisance. Borough Manager Landy reported that if runoff is a natural runoff then you cannot do anything about it. Councilwoman Bailey stated that the property they are discussing is private property. Council President Caruso stated that a follow-up letter should be sent to the Greenwood Apartments for an update.

Solicitor’s Report:

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

Tax Collector’s Report:

Borough Manager Landy read the following report for the month of January 2019:

Property Taxes	\$	
Supplemental Taxes	\$	21.61
Per Capita Taxes	\$	
Total Collected	\$	21.61

Borough Manager Landy reported that the Tax Collector, Carol Yancosky, has received the 2019 County and Borough taxes. They will be mailed for March 1, 2019.

Borough Manager’s Report:

Borough Manager gave the following report for January 2019:

- Borough Manager Landy reported that the renovations are ready to begin at the Ramsay Elementary School cafeteria. The construction value for the renovations is \$976,000.00. The Zoning Permit Application fee would be \$9,710.00. Borough Manager Landy asked if Council has given thought as to the reduction in the zoning fees for the school district that was discussed at the last meeting. Mr. Landy believes that the relationship with the school district is good; and, he believes that the fee should be reduced as a good will gesture. Borough Manager Landy recommended the fee be cut in half. Councilwoman Stevenson stated that they should pay what is required and not alter the fees for the school so it does not set a precedent future. Councilwoman Bailey stated that she agrees the fee be cut in half since they are non-profit. Council agreed that the fee should be half of the \$9,710.00.
- Borough Manager Landy reported that we have been getting calls about residents with sump pumps and discharging water into the streets and causing hazardous conditions with the water freezing on the streets during the winter. Borough Manager Landy said that they had spoken with DEP years ago and if there is no way for the resident to discharge it onto their property, surrounded by roads with no yard, they are permitted to discharge it into the sewage as the Borough did with the decision was that was made at the Zimmerman home. There can be no other alternative for the discharge before they are permitted to discharge it into the sewage. The water being discharged from the sump pumps are called artificial stormwater. Borough Manager Landy stated the one way to resolve it is stormwater lines and catch basins be installed. Water being discharged from sump pumps are to be discharged in to the grass area so the water can go into the ground.
- Borough Manager Landy stated that he sat in on the interviews for the part-time police. They have two (2) candidates; and, will be performing the background checks on them.
- Attended the Municipal Roundtable regarding stormwater.
- Met with Standard Bank. They changed their policy to one (1) signature on a check. Borough Manager Landy stated that they would not go along with one (1) signature. Standard Bank changed it back to the two (2) signatures.
- Met with Councilman Cholock regarding the GPS system on the Borough vehicles.
- The auditors, McClure & Wolf, were here for two (2) days. Answered many questions; and, they have questions for the solicitor. The audit went fairly well except for a few issues that they will discuss with Council.
- The Borough Building will need a new generator. Councilman Rogacki will discuss it in his report.
- Received an Assessment Change Report from Westmoreland County for the R&R Property / Westmoreland County Land Bank and for the VFW lowering the assessment.
- Council has received a new Profit & Loss Budget vs. Actual. Borough Manager asked Council to please review it and if they have any questions to please ask Sharon Lesko, secretary.
- There is continuous mediation and hearings going on regarding the workman's comp claim at the Waste Water Treatment Plant from three (3) years ago.
- There is a new UCC (Uniform Construction Code) update, 2015 International Code Council Codes (I-Codes), that became effective October 1, 2018. Borough Manager Landy stated that Councilman Yatsko will need to review the Ordinance and amend the Ordinance for the updated UCC.
- Borough Manager Landy reminded Council to complete their Statement of Financial Ethics Reports.

- Borough Manager Landy had signs made for the dog waste not being removed at the Synagogue.
- Received fees from Gibson Thomas Engineering Co. for their 2019 Fees.
- Gibson Thomas Engineering Co., Inc. gave an estimated cost of \$988,000.00 for the upgrades at the Waste Water Treatment Plant for the replacement of the blowers.
- Met with Scott Electric regarding the lighting at the Municipal Building. Also met with Scott Electric regarding the decorative poles/lighting on Main Street. They have been ordered and should be fixed soon.
- Received a renewal for the short-term disability from Lincoln National Life Insurance. It renews on May 1, 2019. Borough Manager Landy gave the information to Councilwoman Bailey for review.

President's Report:

A Motion was made by Councilman Cholock to Amend the Agenda to approve zoning permit fees for Mount Pleasant School District. Motion seconded by Councilman Rogacki. Motion carried 8-0.

A Motion was made by Councilman Cholock to approve the reduction of zoning permit fees for Mount Pleasant School District by one-half. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Bailey. Motion carried 8-0.

A Motion was made by Councilwoman Bailey to reappoint James Rega to the Mount Pleasant Business District Authority for a 3-year term expiring on December 31, 2021. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Stevenson. Motion carried 8-0.

A Motion was made by Councilwoman Bailey to reappoint Gregory Wilson to the Mount Pleasant Business District Authority for a 3-year term expiring on December 31, 2021. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Stevenson. Motion carried 8-0.

A Motion was made by Councilman Rogacki to reappoint Dale Walker to the Mount Pleasant Business District Authority for a 3-year term expiring on December 31, 2021. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Ruskowski. Motion carried 8-0.

Property Report:

Councilman Rogacki gave the following report:

- The synagogue is a historical building; and, would like to know if there is possibly a grant that can help with the repairs and replacement of the windows. Borough Manager Landy suggested that Councilwoman Bailey contact the Historical Society and possibly the ministerium to get them involved with any grant since it is a historical building. Mayor Lucia stated that it is the oldest church in Mount Pleasant.
- The Borough has received three (3) bids for the installation of a new generator at the Borough Building. 1) TP Electric & Power bid \$15,854.00; 2) Genesis Construction Group bid \$9,825.00; and, 3) Palco Sales Corp bid \$6,290.00. None of the bids include the gas hookup/installation. Councilman Rogacki and Borough Manager Landy questioned each bid to be certain that they were all bidding on the same specs. The bids were all based on a residential generator. Councilman Rogacki stated that there is no such thing as a commercial or industrial generator under 25kw. Councilman Rogacki stated that the generator in Borough Building is a 12kw generator; and, to replace it, it is considered a residential generator. The lowest bid was Palco Sales Corp at \$6,290.00. Council President Caruso suggested that once they have the cost for the gas hookup/installation to present it all at the next meeting. Councilwoman Barnes asked if there was a critical time period that the generator needed to be installed; and, if it is safe as it is now. Borough Manager Landy stated that if the power should go out there is no

back up until the power comes back on. Councilman Rogacki stated that he would prefer to awarded the bid now so they would be able to start and have the generator set. It can be ready to go other than waiting for the installation of the gas hookup. Solicitor Istik suggested that they wait until they have the proposal for the installation of the gas hookup.

Waste Water Treatment Report:

Councilman Phillabaum gave the following report for January 2019:

- Finished the Chapter 94 Report.
- Cameraed main line on Quarry Street to find any infiltration of unnecessary water.
- Met with Mount Pleasant Township Sewage about helping them with jetting potential objects in their lines.
- Starting winter maintenance at the plant.
- Construction has begun on the roof on the garage.

Home Inspections – 6

PA One Calls – 40

Emergency One Calls – 7

Streets Report:

Councilman Cholock gave the following report:

- Street Department did a good job keeping up with the plowing during the snowstorm over the weekend of January 19 – 21. They were not notified immediately due to the part-time police officer not being aware that they are to contact 911 to dispatch the street department due to the weather.
- Met with Borough Manager Landy to go over the GIS tracking on the trucks to determine a pattern that the street department works during snow and plowing.

Borough Manager Landy suggested to Councilman Cholock of possibly having a sign that says Caution – Icy Intersection near Cogo’s going towards PNC Bank when weather conditions are bad.

Storm Water Management Report:

Councilman Cholock stated that he suggests a follow-up letter be sent to Greenwood Apartments as discussed earlier in the meeting.

Parks & Recreation: None.

Public Safety Report:

Councilwoman Ruszkowski reported that they have received the new Agreement with Sable Kennels for animal control.

Veterans Park Report:

Councilwoman Barnes reminded citizens that if they have a family member that they want to put on the new tablet at Veteran’s Park to contact the VFW or the American Legion and the cost is \$100.00.

Councilwoman Barnes reported that the committee discussed some designs for the tablet.

Councilman Rogacki reported that they are contacting applicants that had taken paperwork and have yet to respond with their application to see if they are still interested.

Councilwoman Barnes stated the slab has been ordered; and, the digital wall has been working.

Human Resources / Ordinances Report: **None.**

Finance & Grants Report: **None.**

New Business: **None.**

Reading of Communications:

Borough Manager Landy read the following communications:

- PSAB 108th Annual Conference & Exhibition will be held on June 9 – 12, 2019 at Hershey Lodge, Hershey, PA.
- 2-day seminar for environmental sensitive training at the Washington County EMS for medics.
- West Overton Village will be holding an Exhibit “The Home Front During WWII” on Saturday, February 9, 2019 from 3:00pm – 6:00pm.
- There will be an open house on Wednesday, February 13, 2019 for the new Excelsa Square Frick Family Medicine and Excelsa Health Orthopedics and Sports Medicine Offices. There will be a ribbon cutting at 5:30p.m. at Excelsa Square at Frick 508 S. Church Street, Mount Pleasant, PA.
- Received flyers on sales for Christmas decorations.

Discussion and Payment of Bills:

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

Public Comment: **None.**

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

A Motion was made by Councilwoman Bailey to reconvene. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Stevenson. Motion carried 8-0.

Council President Caruso announced that an Executive Session was held from 7:57pm – 9:05pm to discuss personnel issues.

A call was placed to Councilman Yatsko and he joined the meeting via speaker phone.

A Motion was made by Councilwoman Bailey to Amend the Agenda to terminate the Chief of Police. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Stevenson. President Caruso called for a roll call vote to Amend the Agenda to terminate the Chief of Police:

Councilwoman Bailey	Yes	
Councilwoman Barnes	No	
Councilman Cholock	No	
Councilman Phillabaum	Yes	
Councilman Rogacki	No	
Councilwoman Ruszkowski	Yes	
Councilwoman Stevenson	Yes	
Councilman Yatsko	Yes	(voted via phone)
President Caruso	Yes	

The Motion to Amend the Agenda to terminate the Chief of Police was passed with a vote of 6-3.

A Motion was made by Councilwoman Bailey to terminate the Chief of Police effective February 5, 2019 at 9:00 A.M. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Stevenson. President Caruso called for a roll call vote to terminate the Chief of Police:

Councilwoman Bailey	Yes	
Councilwoman Barnes	No	
Councilman Cholock	No	
Councilman Phillabaum	Yes	
Councilman Rogacki	No	
Councilwoman Ruzkowski	Yes	
Councilwoman Stevenson	Yes	
Councilman Yatsko	Yes	(voted via phone)
President Caruso	Yes	

The Motion to terminate the Chief of Police was passed with a vote of 6-3.

Miscellaneous and Adjournment:

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

Meeting Adjourned 9:10 pm

Motions from Meeting of February 4, 2019

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Councilman Cholock	No	
Councilman Phillabaum	Yes	
Councilman Rogacki	No	
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Councilman Rogacki	No	
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Councilwoman Stevenson	Yes	
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President Caruso	Yes	

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