

March 2, 2020

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, Phillabaum, Smetak, Ruszkowski, and Wojnar. Mayor Lucia and Solicitor Istik was present. President Caruso stated that a quorum is present. Councilwoman Barnes and Mayor Lucia arrived at 7:30pm.

A Motion was made by Councilwoman Ruszkowski to approve the minutes of February 17, 2020 since Council has been provided with a copy. Motion seconded by Councilman Smetak. Motion carried 6-0.

Public Comment:

- Bo Chatfield of 114 Bryce Mansion Way, Mount Pleasant, PA 15666, head coach of Mount Pleasant Jr. Midget Football program, spoke to Council requesting the use of the Mount Pleasant Soccer Fields at Willows Park, including storage of their equipment, from approximately July 1, 2020 through December 1, 2020. They have used the fields the last 4 or 5 years and have maintained the fields.
- Theresa Duchess, Mount Pleasant PA, new owner of the Gradler Building spoke to Council regarding having the Gradler Building as part of the art project that April Kopas was going to present. Borough Manager Landy reported that April Kopas was to be a speaker at this evenings meeting; however, she had sent an email stating that she was unable to attend. He also said that they are discussing to partner with April Kopas at the East End of Town with various artists. Ms. Duchess asked if it was possible to have the side of her building could be painted. Borough Manager Landy stated that they would have to discuss that with Ms. Kopas. Borough Manager Landy said that Ms. Duchess would have to submit a design to Council for approval as to what would be painted on the side of the building.

Speakers: None

Mayor's Report:

Mayor Lucia discussed sending an officer for truck inspection training. Police Chief Grippo suggested a full-time officer be trained. Full-time Officer, Olivia Harshell would like to do the training. Mayor Lucia said that Police Chief Grippo has sent information to Harrisburg for approval to send Officer Harshell for the training. Mayor Lucia also reported that the cost to send a full-time officer is different than a part-time officer. The cost is \$4,500.00 for part-time officer; and \$5,500.00 for a full-time officer. Councilwoman Bailey stated that there should be a stipulation that they have to remain employed with the Borough for a certain length of time or if they leave beforehand they would have to reimburse the Borough the costs for the certification / training. Mayor Lucia stated that the full-time officer would not be doing DOT inspections on a daily basis; and, would be able to perform her regular officer duties.

Municipal Authority of Westmoreland County has completed their project. Mayor Lucia apologized for the way that the Municipal Authority of Westmoreland County handled it by not contacting all of the residents that were affected. Mayor Lucia and the Borough Manager had a conversation with MAWC about them not notifying all of the residents. MAWC agreed that they did not do a good job notifying residents.

Solicitor's Report:

Borough Manager Landy read the report that was sent by Solicitor Istik. Solicitor Istik spoke with Steven Pesch at KU Resources today regarding the Bridgeport Property. Solicitor Istik will be sending Interrogatories and a Request for Production of Documents regarding the missing meters and monies as it appears that the issue cannot be resolved with negotiations.

Tax Collector's Report:

Carol Yancosky, Tax Collector, stated that there were no collections for February 2020. Taxes were mailed and residents received them at the end of February. Mrs. Yancosky stated that her office was very busy today.

Borough Manager's Report:

Borough Manager gave the following report for March 2020:

- Everyone should have an order form for the Westmoreland County Boroughs Association Banquet that will be held on Friday, April 24, 2020, Crystal Room, Ferrante's Lakeview, 6153 Route 30, Greensburg, PA 15601; Cash bar 6:00pm – 7:00pm, Dinner 7:00pm. RSVP due April 17, 2020; Cost is \$25.00 per person. If you are attending fill out the form and return it to Sharon in the Borough office.
- Spoke with April Kopas with the Westmoreland Cultural Trust regarding the Arevalo property. She would like to partner with the Borough by bringing various artists that belong to the Westmoreland Cultural Trust which would help expose them to different areas other than Greensburg and Latrobe. It would benefit the artist and the Borough. They discussed calling it East End Market Place. Also, discussed putting in small buildings for shops, and an option of possibly having the Business District Authority holding the farmers market there. Ms. Kopas reported in an that they are looking for pop-up markets / business. Borough Manager Landy stated that a pop-up business is basically the same as an event being held for a day or two with vendors. They now call that a pop-up business. Borough Manager Landy reported that he spoke with Jack Manack who owns Manack Fence at 21 S. Church Street, Mount Pleasant about the East End Market Place. Mr. Manack builds wooden shed structures and will give Mr. Landy a cost. Borough Manager Landy said he is looking into four (4) buildings to start with. The buildings will be 15' long x 10' deep. Mr. Manack is also going to sell the Borough fence for Frick Park at \$1.00/ft, this does not include installation.
- Met with Business District Authority
- Attended the Library Board meeting. They discussed celebrating their 80th year.
- YMCA is celebrating their 20th year.
- Borough Manager Landy and Council President Caruso met with Dr. Wilson, President of the Business District Authority, about partnering with the Borough more and possibly tying in some of their events with the Borough.
- Spoke with Amy Wingrove about a new design for the Borough. She is doing this at no cost to the Borough.
- Deposited the monies from general fund into the reserve account.
- Attended meetings with the County. The Redevelopment Authority held a Board Meeting regarding the Bridgeport Street Property. Their suggestion for the property is flex businesses. Borough Manager Landy reported that he also received a call from Jason Rigone of the County IDC (Industrial Development Corporation) who has control of the money and would like to see the property either sold or leased to one company. This would include the Bridgeport Property and the property next to Potokas, which is approximately 14 acres combined total. Met with County Planning to discuss a few projects that the County can do for the Borough. One suggestion was to install decorative poles at the East End of town from Browns Candy to the Village Restaurant. Another suggestion was to add additional lighting around the doughboy area, where they could possibly change the light poles from one light head to a double light head. All of these ideas were presented to them, in addition to the apron at the fire station, which we have a good chance of getting the grant for the apron at the fire station. Borough Manager Landy said that we should hear something in June or July of this year if we are approved for the grant for the apron at the fire station.

- For sale signs were installed at Medic 10 for the vacant lots.
- Met with the Township regarding the stormwater issue at the Dollar General. Based on the meeting it appears that the water issue will be reduced by fifty (50%) which will help with the flooding and alleviate water buildup back further in the Borough.
- Borough Manager Landy gave the following report on the parks since Councilwoman Lasko was unable to attend the meeting this evening:
 - Began working in the parks. BBQ pits at Willows Park should be completed this week, electric has been fixed at Willows Park, bathrooms at Frick Park should be finished renovating and open by the end of this week. Salting and cleaning of the sidewalks and the walking trail at Frick park have been kept up with and maintained. Began working in Medic 10 park by dismantling the caterpillar and moving it to Willows Park. The merry-go-round will then be removed due to it not having a required governor on it and it is a safety issue.

Councilman Wojnar asked Borough Manager Landy if they discussed tractor trailer traffic on Bridgeport Street if they do put a company in there. Borough Manager Landy said that they did discuss it. He informed them that the traffic from Bridgeport Street turning onto Main Street is very difficult due to the high volume of traffic on Main Street and that he believes that PennDOT would never put a red light there. They were unaware of the traffic issue. Borough Manager Landy suggested that they should do a traffic study. Borough Manager Landy also stated to them that they were not in favor of a lot of truck traffic within the Borough.

Councilwoman Barnes asked if we got any calls regarding removing equipment from Medic 10 Park. Borough Manager Landy said he received no calls. There were comments on Facebook which was started by a previous councilperson; and, Borough Manager Landy called and spoke with him.

President’s Report: None.

Property Report:

Councilman Smetak gave the following report:

- Received an estimate on the synagogue for the entire roof.

A Motion was made by Councilman Smetak to ratify the proposed Scope of Services Agreement with Hunt Valley Environmental, LLC retroactive to February 25, 2020 in the amount of \$6,100.00 for the rehabilitation of the concrete apron at the Fire Department. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Bailey. Motion carried 7-0.

A Motion was made by Councilman Smetak to amend the agenda to accept the bid from R.M.B. Construction for the installation of a 40-year metal roof on the synagogue building. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Bailey. Motion carried. 7-0.

A Motion was made by Councilman Smetak to accept the bid from R. M. B. Construction to put a 40-year metal roof on the synagogue building. Motion seconded by Councilman Wojnar. Motion carried 7-0.

Waste Water Treatment Report:

Councilman Phillabaum gave the following report:

- PA DEP was at the plant last week for its annual inspection.
- There will need to be a toxicity test completed. This test should be completed annually and has not been done since 2018.

- The 1999 Ford truck that is used as the camera truck is at Gary's Garage. It will need a new engine costing approximately is \$4,500.00.
- Borough Manager Landy reported that Glenn Fodor who is now the operator at the waste water treatment plant is doing a great job.

Streets Report:

Councilwoman Bailey gave the following report:

- One of the dump trucks is not in service now. It has a blown head gasket, which will cost approximately \$2,000 – \$3,000. Once that is repaired there is no guarantee that the injectors are not bad. Injectors cost approximately \$800 - \$1,000 per injector. This truck is now out of service. The oldest yellow dump is still in service along with the new dump truck and the utility truck. Councilwoman Bailey stated she is uncertain whether it is even worth trying to repair the truck.
- Crack sealer has been repaired and returned. Weather permitting, they will be able to begin sealing the streets.
- Another 18 stop signs have been installed.
- The garage doors have been repaired at the Street Department.
- PennDOT is giving annual turnback funding in the amount of \$3760 for Bridgeport and Church Street.
- Attempting to receive an easement from Joshua Pritts for the S. Church Street Project for the installation of a waterline.
- There was an issue on Bridgeport Street when the contractors were digging near a catch basin and a gas line was hit. The gas company come out and repaired it. A bill for approximately \$2600 was sent to the Borough by the construction company; however, the Borough is not paying it. This issue is between the gas company and the construction company.
- Had some billing issues with Dawood Engineering Co. for a \$5000 invoice. After discussions with Dawood, they are reviewing the invoice and it will be less.

Stormwater Management Report:

Councilwoman Bailey gave the following report:

- Attended the Westmoreland Conservation District Roundtable. Picked up the new stormwater ordinance and there will be another meeting regarding the new ordinance.
- Met with Township regarding the new Dollar General. There have been very large underground holding tanks installed and there should be no issues with backup or flooding. Mayor Lucia stated that since they have opened the creek up to a free flow, he is very confident that the creek will now handle it. It is no longer going through a pipe.

Parks & Recreation:

Borough Manager Landy read the report from email from Councilwoman Lasko.

- There will be a recreation advisory committee meeting on Saturday, March 7, 2020.

Borough Manager Landy reported that The Mt. Pleasant Little League has asked for gravel for the parking lot. The Street Department usually takes gravel every year for the parking lot.

Public Safety Report:

Mayor Lucia read the following Fire Report for the month of February 2020:

Total Calls - 30
10-45's - 11
Fires - 7
Public Service Calls - 2
AFA's – 10
Total Members Answering - 526
Avg. Member Per Call – 17

Borough Manager Landy reported that PSAB is offering a Police Civil Service Procedures Training Seminar on May 5, 2020 from 9:00am – 4:00pm at the Courtyard by Marriott, 700 Powerline Drive, Greensburg, PA 15601. Borough Manager Landy and Police Chief Grippo would like to attend the seminar.

Veterans Park Report:

Councilwoman Barnes reported that the digital wall has been down. Borough Manager Landy stated that it was working Saturday morning; however, he is going to speak with Industry Weapons regarding it being down.

Human Resources/Ordinances Report:

Councilman Wojnar gave the following report:

- Councilman Wojnar and Councilwoman Bailey met with Mr. Gumbita, principal at Mt. Pleasant Area High School, regarding the Jr. Council program. He will submit letters of interest to students. Once he receives the letters back from students, he will contact Councilman Wojnar and they can review them and choose a candidate. During the meeting, Mr. Gumbita informed Councilman Wojnar and Councilwoman Bailey that they have a student run textile business which does embroidery and silk screening. You pay for the material; they provide the labor and printing.

Finance / Grants Report:

Councilwoman Ruszkowski reported that the check detail ledgers will be available on her desk and on Borough Manager Landy's desk.

Councilwoman Bailey reported that Mike Barrick of Hunt Valley Environmental applied for a grant through the Westmoreland Conservation District for the Dirt and Gravel and Low Volume Road Grant for Diamond Alley, Warden, and Hitchman Streets and all have been turned down. Councilwoman Bailey suggested putting 3B gravel creating a French drain for the water issues on Warden Street. They cannot install a catch basin due to gas lines that are installed along the road. The gas company does not know how deep the gas lines which creates a problem with digging and the possibility of hitting a gas line. Borough Manager Landy asked if a test hole could be dug to see if we can find the line. Councilwoman Bailey stated that they can. Council President Caruso asked if it should be done before the spring rains come. Borough Manager Landy agreed that it should be done in the very near future. Councilwoman Bailey stated that the street department can dig the holes anytime.

Councilwoman Bailey also reported that she and Borough Manager Landy did some updates on the grant for the S. Church Street Fire Department Apron and feel they are going to be successful with this grant.

New Business:

Council President Caruso reported that there is television in Council Chambers now. He asked Council for thoughts on improving the Council Chambers. They will contact a few companies and ask for plans and proposals to be submitted. Council President Caruso stated that there were plans a few years ago. They are looking at new desks, flooring, paint, trim work, etc. Council

agreed that it needs to be done and they should move forward on it. Councilwoman Barnes suggested microphones on each desk. Borough Manager Landy stated that when Armstrong would film, they would lay microphones on each desk. The microphones picked up every little sound anyone made, tapping, paper rustling, side conversations, etc. which made it difficult to hear the person that was actually speaking. Councilwoman Barnes stated that maybe it would be possible to turn off the microphone when one isn't speaking. Council President Caruso asked Council to write down suggestions.

Reading of Communications:

- PA Municipal 2020 Legal Update will be held on August 5 & 6, 2020 at the Sheraton Harrisburg/Hershey. Cost is \$275.00 for a member.
- Sage's Army will be holding an Open House for their new facility on March 13, 2020 from noon – 8:00pm at 6044 US Route 30, Suite 400, Greensburg, PA 15601 (next door to Don Patron Mexican Grill). RSVP Brian – 724-467-1922; email: brian@sagesarmy.com
- Westmoreland Conservation District will be holding a meeting regarding Adopting the Model Stormwater Ordinance in Your Community on March 12, 2020 from 6:30 – 8:30pm at the J. Roy Houston Conservation Center, 218 Donohoe Road, Greensburg.
- Westmoreland County Boroughs Association will be holding its annual banquet on Friday, April 24, 2020 in the Crystal Room, Ferrantes Lakeview, 6153 Route 30, Greensburg, PA 15601. Cash bar opens at 6:00pm with dinner at 7:00pm. Cost is \$25.00 per person.

Discussion and Payment of Bills:

A Motion was made by Councilwoman Bailey to pay all authorized and approved bills. Motion seconded by Councilman Phillabaum. Motion carried 7-0.

Public Comment:

Jim Meredith, 119 Meadow Road, Mount Pleasant Township, spoke to Council regarding the earlier discussion of installing new decorative light posts at the east end of town. His concern was that they would like to put up banners of veterans and if the new posts will be strong enough to hold future banners. Borough Manager Landy stated that the project of the light posts would not happen overnight and would be probably 2 – 3 years down the road. Mr. Landy said there is no guarantee that we would receive a grant for them; and, if we did, he would look into something other than aluminum. The poles would be from Browns Candy to the Village Restaurant.

Miscellaneous and Adjournment:

A Motion was made by Councilwoman Bailey to adjourn the meeting. Motion seconded by Councilman Wojnar. Motion carried 7-0.

Meeting Adjourned 8:29pm.

Motions from Meeting of March 2, 2020

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