

Meeting September 4, 2018

The meeting of Mount Pleasant Borough Council was called to order by President Caruso 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, Cholock, Phillabaum, Rogacki, and Ruszkowski. Mayor Lucia and Solicitor Istik was present. President Caruso stated that a quorum is present. Councilwoman Barnes arrived at the meeting at 7:17pm.

A Motion was made by Councilwoman Ruszkowski to approve the minutes of August 20, 2018 since Council has been provided with a copy. Motion seconded by Councilman Cholock. Motion carried 6-0.

Public Comment:

- Mr. and Mrs. Marshala of 323 W. Main Street, Mount Pleasant, PA 15666 spoke to Council regarding problems with a rental house next to him, landlords and neighbors. Mr. Marshala asked Council to talk to residents in their ward to see if there is anything happening or issues in their neighborhood; Mr. Marshala also stated that residents should also stay aware and make the Borough aware of any happenings or issues that need taken care of.
- Lindley Short of 715 N. Geary Street, Ext. Mount Pleasant, PA 15666 spoke to Council regarding property damage, erosion and flooding issues they are having from stormwater runoff from Greenwood Apartments and Pleasant Manor. Mrs. Short stated that they have been flooded at least 5 times since moving in November 2017.
- Valeri Tressler of 501 Washington Street, Mount Pleasant, PA 15666 spoke to Council requesting permission to decorate the Gazebo pink for Breast Cancer Awareness. Council agreed that Ms. Tressler could decorate the Gazebo and grass area pink for Breast Cancer Awareness.
- Mary Kaufman, Director of the Mount Pleasant Library, updated Council on events that have been held and upcoming events at the Library. The Library will keep their expanded hours of Monday through Friday 10:00am – 8:00pm and Saturday 9:00am – 4:00pm. The Library is collecting donations of books, dvds, videos, games, yearbooks and will be holding a Book, Bake and Craft Super Sale. It will begin September 24, 2018. Ms. Kaufman stated that Board meetings are on the first Wednesday of each month at 6:15PM and are open to the public.

Speakers: None.

Mayor's Report:

Mayor Lucia reported that there is a garbage issue at 306 Washington Street. The tenants are moving out and will not clean it up. Mayor Lucia believes that we need an agreement with Republic Services that when a home does not have garbage collection set up Republic Services needs to report it to the Borough before garbage piles up and becomes an issue. Mayor Lucia contacted the owner of the home to notify them of the garbage issue. The owner of the home does not belong to the Landlord Association.

Solicitor Istik stated that this was discussed at the last meeting; and, that Police Chief Sam was asked if he could do anything regarding the garbage issue; and, Police Chief Sam stated he could site the tenant with public nuisance and disorderly conduct. Solicitor Istik suggested that the matter be given to Police Chief Sam. Mayor Lucia stated that Police Chief Sam went to the home but the tenant did not answer the door; and, that Police Chief Sam mailed a citation to the tenant.

Borough Manager Landy stated that the process does take time; and, that there are requirements as to the steps that must be taken with property maintenance violations.

Solicitor’s Report:

Solicitor Istik reported that she has received the correspondence from Attorney Joseph Dalfonso of Dodaro, Matta & Cambest, P.C. dated August 30, 2018 regarding the dumpster issue at Ramsay Elementary for the Mount Pleasant Area School District Garbage Collection. Ms. Istik has written a response; and, is waiting for the review of and approval from Council to send it. Borough Manager asked Solicitor Istik should the Borough permit the School District to remove the dumpster, would Republic Services have recourse against the Borough. Solicitor Istik stated that they possibly could for violating the Agreement with them. Solicitor Istik also stated that if the Borough would go back on the Ordinance they would be violating the public policy; violating the statute that gives permission to make the Ordinance; and, the contract that is in place with Republic Services would be violated.

Mayor Lucia stated that there is a dumpster from Republic Services and a one from Advance Disposal now at Ramsay Elementary. Solicitor Istik stated that they are now in violation of the Ordinance and could now be cited by the Code Enforcement Officers. Council President Caruso asked Solicitor Istik to put this information in the letter that she is sending in response to Attorney Dalfonso’s letter dated August 30, 2018.

Solicitor Istik provided to Council for their review, a copy of the Chief of Police Job Description / Duties.

Tax Collector Report:

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

Property Taxes =	\$2,926.44
Per Capita Taxes =	\$1,984.40
Total Collected =	\$4,910.84

Tax Collector Carol Yancosky reminded residents that the Per Capita Taxes can only be paid through December 31, 2018. Tax Collector Carol Yancosky also reported that the Borough has received two (2) letters that have been sent regarding Tax Assessment Appeals.

Borough Manager’s Report:

Borough Manager Landy gave the following report:

- Borough Manager Landy stated that a commitment has been made to try to solve the flooding issues along with some other water issues in the Borough; and, it is being worked on. Mr. Landy said that when relying on Engineers and property owners, it is a timely process; but, he does feel the flooding issues have been found where the problems are starting and can move forward to resolving the issues. The water issue on Eagle Street is being addressed. There will be new lines installed along with catch basins. Mayor Lucia stated that you will need an engineer to do a study of the lines. Borough Manager Landy stated that you do need an engineer to do it correctly, especially since the water has been an ongoing problem for many years. They need to take in to consideration of the slope of the road, the size of the lines, the location to install catch basins. Hopefully, this way it can be resolved correctly and quickly. The water issue on S. Church Street in front of the Library can then be taken care of and rectified quickly because the Engineer has worked on this issue previously.
- There were no bids for street paving. Mr. Landy stated this is due to getting it out late and construction companies in full swing with with other jobs. The paving project will be redirected to Eagle Street and in front of the Mount Pleasant Library for this year.
- Borough Manager Landy and Jeff McGuinness purchased a new snow plow and spreader in preparation of this year’s winter season. There are bids coming in for a new truck. Once the bids are in, Mr. Landy stated we need to order as soon as possible for the truck

to be ready for November. Borough Manager Landy also reported that he has a bid for a used truck. The plan is to purchase a new truck and a used truck for the street department.

- Borough Manager Landy stated that there is a movie company that is filming a movie regarding the Kecksburg UFO. They have asked to be able to film in the Borough on October 6, 2018 between 2:00pm and 4:00pm between the Doughboy and Goo's Restaurant (South Diamond Street).
- A stormwater plan has been submitted by Robert & Nicole Karfelt of S. Depot Street for the new garage they are building. It will go across the alley and into the storm drain. Councilman Rogacki stated that the information on the drawing is vague; and, the decision to permit it should be waited until all of the information is on the drawing. Council President Caruso agreed that with Councilman Rogacki that more information is needed.
- Borough Manager Landy received a request from Gene Rega, Donald Rega and Gina Rega-James, Owners of the Village Restaurant and Lounge, to remove the sidewalk and curb on Silver Street from property they purchased at 300 W. Main Street (old Prager Building). The building has been demolished and they would like to install a parking lot from Silver Street.
- Borough Manager Landy reported that he spoke with the Engineer, Mike Barrick of Hunt Valley Environmental, LLC, regarding the St. Clair Street Stormwater Project. Mr. Barrick's plan is to open the pipe in front of the houses on St. Clair Street and fix any broken line. Borough Manager Landy suggested that a meeting be held with the Engineer.
- Borough Manager Landy stated that we will begin working on the budget a little earlier this year. The numbers will be down approximately \$40,000.00 from the real estate tax exemptions that have happened this year. Council President Caruso asked Borough Manager Landy if they should be prepared for the possibility of taxes having to be raised this year. Council President Caruso stated that taxes would probably have to be raised approximately 2 mils. Borough Manager Landy stated that 1mil generates approximately \$32,000.00. Mr. Landy stated he will not know for sure until they receive the final numbers from the County in November of what the millage will generate.

- **President's Report:**

A Motion was made by Councilwoman Bailey to advertise for bids for the sale of the Gormley Property. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Ruzkowski. Motion carried 7-0.

A Motion to Amend the Agenda was made by Councilwoman Bailey to approve a formal request to remove Silver Street facing sidewalk and curb. Motion seconded by Councilman Cholock. Motion carried 7-0.

A Motion was made by Councilwoman Bailey to approve the formal request to remove the Silver Street facing sidewalk and curb located at 300 W. Main Street at the sole expense of the owner. Motion seconded by Councilman Cholock. Motion carried 7-0.

Property Report: None.

Waste Water Treatment Report:

Councilman Rogacki gave the following WWT Report for the month of August 2018:

- They have begun changing chains and shoes on the primary clarifiers. The work, weather permitting, should be completed by the end of the week.
- Installed new rubber scrapers on the final clarifier arms.
- Applied for Permit Form 43 for sludge disposal of sludge at landfill.

- Had calibration for the flow meter and moisture oven for pressing sludge.
- Started fall maintenance at plant and pump stations.

Home Inspections – 11
 PA One Calls – 61
 Emergency One Calls – 14

Streets Report:

A Motion was made by Councilwoman Bailey to approve the purchase of new snowplow and spreader from Smouse Trucks & Vans for a total cost of \$9,017.00. Motion seconded by Councilman Rogacki. Motion carried 7-0.

A Motion was made by Councilwoman Bailey to close Main Street Route 31 from Braddock Road Avenue to Silver Street on September 29, 2018 from 12:30pm to 4:00pm for the Glass & Ethnic Festival Parade. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Ruszkowski. Motion carried 7-0.

A Motion was made by Councilwoman Bailey to close Diamond Street Route 819 from Main Street Route 31 to S. Spruce Street from 11:00am on September 27, 2018 to 11:00am on October 1, 2018 for the Mount Pleasant Glass & Ethnic Festival. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Ruszkowski. Motion carried 7-0.

Parks & Recreation:

Councilwoman Bailey reported that Mr. Mullin is continuing to work on the installation of the playground at Frick Park; weather permitting, it should be completed by the end of the week.

Borough Manager Landy stated that he asked Mr. Mullin go and evaluate a tree at JackBob Park that he felt was a safety issue. Mr. Mullin reported that in his opinion the tree is dead. Mr. Mullin believes the tree is not an immediate threat; but, should be removed. Councilman Cholock asked about the trees at Frick Park and having the dead branches removed.

Councilman Bailey reported that there is a problem with the weeds at JackBob Park. She stated that the Street Department does not have a certification and cannot spray them. Ms. Bailey said that a someone certified must spray them. She said the cost would be approximately \$300 - \$400 due to them having to apply several applications to the weeds. Councilman Cholock asked what the cost would be to have one of the Borough employees certified. Councilwoman Bailey stated that she would look into what the cost would be to have an employee certified.

Public Safety Report:

Councilman Cholock read the following Fire Report for the month of August 2018:

Total calls – 61
 10-45's – 17
 Entrapment – 1
 Fires – 8
 Automatic Fire Alarms – 16
 Public service calls – 5
 Standby's – 2
 Turnpike calls – 5
 Landing Zone Calls – 13
 Total members answering – 905
 Average member per call – 15
 Total staff hours – 540

Borough Manager Landy stated that regarding the parking meters, we do not have an inspection company that is certified since the County no longer does it. Mr. Landy asked if there is an update on the missing parking meters. Mayor Lucia stated that the missing parking meters issue is getting passed back and forth between the Borough and the construction company and that the

solicitor should send another letter. Council asked Solicitor Istik to send another letter to the construction company regarding the missing meters and monies.

Veterans Park Report:

Councilwoman Barnes stated that they had a meeting on Thursday, August 30, 2018; and, have decided to extend the deadline for the Veterans Wall Applications from August 31, 2018 to December 31, 2018. Councilwoman Barnes stated that they have received approximately 30 applications.

Councilman Rogacki reported that the sensor for the low water in the fountain is not working properly; and, that the water levels have been going down. Mr. Rogacki would like to see that it is taken care of so that the pump does not burn up.

Councilman Rogacki also stated that the conduit will be buried; and, they will be having an electrician come in so that lighting will be available at Christmas time.

Councilwoman Barnes reported that they had requested four (4) companies to bid on the engraving of the names on the new slab; and, have received two (2) bids. The other two (2) companies have chose not to give a bid.

Councilwoman Barnes also reported that new ropes were installed on the flagpoles. Ms. Barnes stated that she is going to be contacting Industry Weapons once again due to the Digital Wall not working.

Storm Water Management Report: None.

Community & Economic Development/Grants Report:

Borough Manager Landy reported that the R&R Building will begin to be demolished starting October 1, 2018. They are currently doing some salvaging of items from the R&R Building. The Arevalo Building will be demolished after the demolition of the R&R Building. The properties will be reclaimed once the demolition is complete.

Zoning & Ordinance Report: None.

Finance & Human Resources Report: None.

Councilwoman Ruszkowski stated that everyone should be reviewing their budget and thinking about the projects that need to be done next year because the budget for next year will soon begin to be prepared.

New Business:

Councilwoman Barnes asked if the Main Street Project is still on schedule. Borough Manager Landy stated that PennDOT says that they are still on schedule to be completed September 22, 2018.

Borough Manager Landy reported that we will be holding the annual 9-11 Tribute on Tuesday, September 11, 2018 at 6:30PM.

Reading of Communications:

Borough Manager Landy read the following communications:

- Westmoreland County Boroughs Association will hold their monthly meeting on September 27, 2018 at 7:00PM at the Westmoreland Conservation Donohoe Center Education Building.
- Davies Ford will be holding a golf outing on Thursday, September 13, 2018 at The Pleasant Valley Golf Club – Connellsville.

- Westmoreland County Food Bank will be holding their 3rd Annual Legislative Service Project on Thursday, September 27, 2018 from 9:00AM – 11:00AM at the Westmoreland County Food Bank, 100 Devonshire Drive, Delmont, PA 15626.

Discussion and Payment of Bills:

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

Public Comment: None.

Miscellaneous and Adjournment:

A Motion was made by Councilman Rogacki to adjourn the meeting. Motion seconded by Councilman Barnes. Motion carried 7-0.

Meeting Adjourned 9:07pm

Motions from Meeting of September 4, 2018

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