

## **Meeting January 19, 2010**

The meeting of Mount Pleasant Borough Council was called to order by President Bauer at 7:03pm in Council Chambers at 1 Etze Avenue, Mount Pleasant, PA 15666. The Pledge of Allegiance was said and there was a moment of silence for our deployed troops. President Bauer directed Borough Manager Landy to take roll. Councilmen Beranek, Crivella, McCloy, Tabita, Tate, and Councilwomen Stevenson and Ruskowski were present. Mayor Lucia and Solicitor Robb, Tucker/Arensberg were present. President Bauer stated we have a quorum.

### **Reading of Previous Minutes:**

A motion was made by Councilwoman Stevenson to dispense with the reading of the minutes of January 4, 2010. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Ruskowski. Motion carried 7-0.

### **Public Comment:**

Mr. Dan Miele, 329 R South Hitchman, Mount Pleasant PA, representing the Miele family, addressed Council regarding firework displays in the Borough. The Miele family feels that the main concern regarding the location of the fireworks is potential fire. Red cinders fall on the house and barn of the Miele farm during the fireworks display. The Miele family feels that they have lost animals because of the fireworks, although the Borough insurance company has denied the claim. Mr. Miele feels that the current laws governing fireworks displays probably would prohibit setting off the fireworks at the present location. Mr. Miele said that Fire Chief Lucia makes sure that a fire truck is present, but if there is a fire, there would be water damage as well. Mr. Miele said that he has brought this matter to the attention of previous Councils. Mr. Miele said that he feels the proper permits were not applied for.

### **Speaker:**

Mr. Stuart Demanski, Westmoreland Conservation District spoke to Council about Phase II of the Storm Water Retrofit Project. Mount Pleasant Borough has received two grants for Storm Water Retrofit. Bids have been received for Phase I, and construction should begin in June 2010. Phase II is the larger of the grants and has two components. The purpose of the project is to control storm water volume and to control flooding at Ramsey Terrace. The Westmoreland Conservation District has received a grant from the Mellon Foundation for storm water work in the County. A considerable amount of that grant money will be used for the Storm Water Retrofit Project Phase II to provide some oversight and management of the project. Ramsey Terrace between Park Avenue and N. Geary Street will be the first area addressed. Between 30 and 50 rain gardens would be constructed. Homeowners will be contacted to see if they would be willing to have a rain garden on their property. These rain gardens will be landscaped areas that will collect rainwater. They would be installed at no cost to the landowner. The landowner would only have to do a small amount of gardening to maintain the rain garden when it is completed. Homeowners will be invited to attend meetings where the project will be explained in detail and see how many people are interested. Each site will have to be individually assessed for suitability. Mr. Demanski said that construction for Phase II should also begin sometime in June 2010. So public meetings would be held in February and March 2010, followed by design, bidding and construction. Borough Manager Landy asked if there are other areas in the Borough where rain gardens could be installed if there is not enough participation from Ramsey Terrace. Mr. Demanski said that it may be possible to install them at other locations, but the more rain gardens that are installed in a targeted area, the more effective the project will be. Mayor Lucia said he and Council would help bring in participants from Ramsey Terrace. Mr. Demanski said the mailer to residents would be done by the Westmoreland Conservation District using the Mellon Foundation grant monies.

### **Mayor's Report:**

Mayor Lucia said that the Rental Property Ordinance that Council will approve tonight is needed in the Borough. He visited two properties where landlords were probably in violation of the ordinance.

Mayor Lucia commended the Street Department for a job well done during the recent bad weather. There was too much snow for the Street Department to keep all of the streets and alleys clear at the same time, but they did the best job that could have been done.

**Solicitor's Report:**

Attorney Gavin Robb, Tucker/Arensburg said he and Attorney Fred Wolfe met with Borough Manager Landy and discussed current issues in the Borough. They will continue to work on the issues and report back to Mr. Landy.

**Treasurer's Report:**

Mr. Landy read the following Treasurer's Report for the month of December 2009:

<b>Mt. Pleasant Borough Treasurer's Report:</b>		<b>Dec-09</b>			
		<b>Previous Balance</b>	<b>Deposits</b>	<b>Disbursements</b>	<b>Balance Dec09</b>
General Fund Checking	PNC 00-0122-3513	50,000.00	142,320.01	142,320.01	50,000.00
General Fund Sweep	PNC 10-1149-3394	580,226.58	74,038.40	50,449.55	603,815.43
General Fund Budgetary Reserve	PNC 102-457-4388	103,005.98	56.86	0.00	103,062.84
**Fire		30,000.00			
**Police		10,000.00			
**Streets		10,000.00			
**Contingency Fund		53,055.98			
General Fund Budgetary Reserve	Standard Bank 321615	101,130.79	102.26	0.00	101,233.05
**Police		20,000.00			
**Streets		20,000.00			
**Contingency Fund		21,233.05			
**Infrastructure		30,000.00			
**Recreation Grant Fund		10,000.00			
Liquid Fuels PLGIT	PLGIT 56980126	57,426.86	8.67	6,377.99	51,057.54
Monument CD	Standard Bank 242781	5,626.71	103.19	0.00	5,729.90
Holiday Lighting Fund	Standard Bank 050004849	1,797.68	0.23	0.00	1,797.91
Payroll Fund	PNC 00-0122-6415	1,288.86	47,143.37	47,162.96	1,269.27
Veterans Park Fund	First Niagara 981293700	1,279.13	0.00		1,279.13
Veterans Park PLGIT	PLGIT 5698025	11,247.07	1.74	0.00	11,248.81
Police Drug Enforcement	PNC 10-1291-2642	850.50	0.00	0.00	850.50
Town Clock Fund	Standard Bank 0010038847	611.87	0.08	0.00	611.95
Storm Water Retrofit Phase 1	PNC Bank 10-2825-9692	14,500.00	0.00	0.00	14,500.00
<b>Total General Fund Balance</b>					<b>946,456.33</b>
WWT Operational Acct	Standard Bank 0320012280	229,484.44	72,321.65	61,088.20	240,717.89
WWT Savings	Standard Bank 0050021008	13,648.78	4,526.40	0.00	18,175.18
WWT Budgetary Reserve	Standard Bank 0000287245	102,369.22	103.51	0.00	102,472.73
**Contingency		62,472.73			
**Infrastructure		40,000.00			
<b>Total WWT Balance</b>					<b>361,365.80</b>
<b>Total Borough funds</b>					<b>1,307,822.13</b>

Respectfully Submitted:  
 Councilwoman Susan Ruskowski  
 Borough Manager Jeff Landy

Mr. Landy said he and Councilwoman Ruskowski will be monitoring the balances of the bank accounts to determine how much money can be transferred into the Budgetary Reserve accounts.

A motion was made by Councilman Beranek to approve the Treasurers Report as read. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Stevenson. Motion approved 7-0.

**President's Report:**

President Bauer said that he has assigned Council Committees and would like to add Councilman Tabita to the Veterans Park Committee since he has been involved since the beginning. The purpose of reforming the Veterans Park Committee is to make sure that the right plan is followed for any expansion.

President Bauer said that he is very interested in bringing on a junior councilperson. He would like Council's opinion. Some of the requirements for a junior council person are that they must be a borough resident, a junior or senior in high school, must take an oath of office, must serve a one to two year term which coincides with the school year, must attend all council meetings and observe all council meeting rules. They cannot vote and cannot attend executive sessions. It is recommended that Council talk to the high school principal and other teachers to get names of qualified students.

President Bauer said that Borough Manager Landy is proceeding with the G3 conference. It will be meetings between Mount Pleasant, Scottsdale and Connellsville to discuss street departments, police departments etc. and get different ideas. Mr. Landy said that he has spoken with the Mayors of Scottsdale and Connellsville and they agreed it was a good idea. The first meeting will be tomorrow evening at 5:30pm. Anyone from Council who wishes to attend is welcome. It will be held at the Geyer Theater. This first meeting will be to discuss the conference, which will be held sometime in May 2010 over a period of four days. Laurelville Mennonite Camp has offered their facilities to hold the conference. The idea is to get sponsors to pay for the conference and speakers with a small get-together at the end.

### **Borough Manager's Report:**

Mr. Landy said he spoke to officials from M.A.W.C. regarding the Bridgeport St. property. They would like one porta-john on the property. Mr. Landy suggested that it be put up somewhere in the middle of the property away from any homes. He also made them aware that vandalism could be an issue. The M.A.W.C. is looking to put up a 10' X 12' shed on the property with no electricity or water within 20 or 30 feet of the porta-john. It would be used as a staging area. Mr. Landy said that the Borough would like a 14 day notice in the lease should either party want to cancel and the lease should be month to month for a cost of \$1.00.

Mr. Landy said he received a call from a senior citizen who is not happy with the curbside recycling program. Mr. Landy said he forwarded the caller's name to Councilwoman Stevenson.

Mr. Landy said he received calls from two businesses in town that are concerned about door-to-door solicitation. The solicitors did not have permits. Mr. Landy told the business owners that in the future they should to call the police immediately.

Mr. Landy asked Council to look at the report on the gas well revenues. The Parks and Recreation Committee will be using this report to determine grant money available to recreation leagues in the Borough.

Mr. Landy said that the Little League would like a tire swing removed from the t-ball field. Mr. Landy said that he will have the Street Department remove the swing by the end of the week.

Mr. Landy reported that he will attend a grant-writing workshop on January 27<sup>th</sup> at the community college to get information on grants available for Concerts In The Park and some of the other recreational activities in the Borough.

Mr. Landy spoke with our solicitor Tucker/Arensberg Attorneys about issues in the Borough. They also provided a ranking of the bids on Phase I of the Storm Water Retrofit Project. There were some questions from the borough engineer that they would like our solicitor to look at.

Mr. Landy reported that the Borough has received tax-exempt status for the Gormley and Bridgeport St. properties as well as the Municipal Building. The savings will be approximately \$10,000 to the Borough annually.

Councilman McCloy reported that the recycling dumpsters have been removed since the Borough now has curbside recycling. Mr. Landy said that there was a problem this week with people piling recycling around the garbage dumpster since the recycling dumpster wasn't there. Council discussed what can and cannot be recycled. Mr. Landy said there is some confusion about what grade of glass is recyclable and people are not aware that you cannot recycle pizza boxes because they contain food product.

Councilwoman Stevenson brought up the subject of the Borough's request for copies of the minutes from the organizations that receive funds from the Borough. Councilwoman Stevenson asked if the minutes could be emailed. Mr. Landy said that the borough office would make copies from emails for

anyone who wants to see them. Mayor Lucia said that the Fire Department does not let their minutes leave the building. So if any resident or anyone from council wants to see them they are welcome to come to the Central Fire Station and they will be accessible.

**Waste Water Treatment Report:**

Councilman Tate said he has a request from Mayor Lucia regarding a problem near S. Shupe Street. Councilman Tate asked WWT Supervisor Norm Stout to look into the problem and report back to Council. Mayor Lucia said that when the home on the corner of Spruce Street and Shupe Street was built years ago sewage lines were not run for the basement and when they did run them, they now cross two other lots. Now the line that was run across the two lots has a problem with tree roots and Mayor Lucia asked Mr. Stout to talk to the homeowner regarding what can be done. Mr. Stout said that there are also roots in the main line that WWT will have to remove.

Councilman Tate said that Mr. Stout gave him a project list with a 1 to 2 year plan and a 3 to 5 year plan. The major expense would be to upgrade the electrical panels at the plant. WWT Supervisor Norm Stout addressed Council regarding these plans. Mr. Stout said that over the years the Budgetary Reserve monies have accumulated and he feels that money should be used for needed plant upgrades, especially the electrical upgrade. Mr. Stout said he feels it would be important to meet with the Mount Pleasant Municipal Authority before beginning any major upgrades and investments. Mr. Stout said he is having the WWT Engineer come to the plant to look at what needs done and give a rough estimate of the cost.

**Public Safety Report:**

Councilman Beranek asked if it would be possible to have a borough email account for each council member that emails from residents etc could be sent to instead of using personal email addresses.

President Bauer said he will turn over any Civil Service material that he has to Councilman Beranek.

President Tabita said that there have been some Medic 10 by-law changes that need to be approved. Council will need to approve Medic 10 having paid employees 24 hours a day.

A motion was made by Councilman Tabita to suspend the rules for a motion to have paid staff at Medic 10 twenty four hours a day seven days a week at their discretion pending approval by the Solicitor. Motion seconded by Councilman Crivella. Motion carried 7-0.

A motion was made by Councilman Tabita to approve paid staff at Medic 10 twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week. Motion seconded by Councilman Crivella. Motion carried 7-0.

**Zoning & Ordinance Report:**

A motion was made by Councilman McCloy to adopt Ordinance #624 for the Ordinance Re-Codification. Motion seconded by Councilman Beranek. Motion carried 7-0.

President Bauer said he received a call from Mr. Patsy Depalma who lives at 220 Warden Avenue. The Borough named one of the alleys Warden Avenue Extension. Both streets have the same addresses and it has become very confusing. President Bauer said that he will meet with the Mayor and Borough Manager before the next meeting to see if anything can be done. Mayor Lucia said he doesn't feel that anything can be done, but he will attend the meeting.

**Streets/Parks & Recreation Report:**

President Bauer said that he received a letter regarding the fireworks and he will turn it over to the Recreation Committee. Mr. Landy said the letter is from Carol Marquis and all of council has a copy of the letter. Councilman Tabita said he spoke with Councilman Slater and they discussed the possibility of moving the fireworks to the Levin property at Willows Park. The Recreation Committee will look at options.

President Bauer said that Mr. Landy has given him a preliminary Concert In The Park schedule. This year Councilman Bauer said he would attend a couple of concerts and relieve some of the burden from Mr. Landy in regards to setting up the concerts, announcing the band, paying them and clearing the site. Maybe other council members could help also. Councilwoman Stevenson said she would be glad to

help. She would like a short job list outlining exactly what needs to be done at the concerts so that other people can handle it. President Bauer reminded Council that we are going to use the basement of the Senior Center for storage.

**Veterans Park Report:**

Councilman Tate said that the Veterans Park Committee will begin having meetings and will report back to Council any plans they have.

**Finance Report:**

Councilwoman Ruszkowski said that she and Mr. Landy had a meeting with the department supervisors to go over the new purchase order procedures.

**Property Report:**

Councilman Crivella said he would meet with former committee chairman Councilman Beranek to go over any plans that are in progress.

**Sanitation & Recycling Report: None**

President Bauer said that the Borough should seriously look into commercial recycling. The businesses in town are in need of a way to recycle. Councilman McCloy said that John McGoran from Allied Waste said he would be willing to talk to the Borough about commercial recycling, but would like to wait for the residential curbside recycling program to settle in before going forward.

President Bauer said that the Solicitor informed him that along with the re-codification ordinance Council needs to make a motion for a resolution adopting the fee schedule.

A motion was made by Councilman Tate to suspend the rules for a resolution adopting the fee schedule. Motion seconded by Councilman McCloy. Motion carried 7-0.

A motion was made by Councilman Tate to approve resolution #2010-01 adopting the fee schedule. Motion seconded by Councilman McCloy. Motion carried 7-0.

**Community and Economic Development/Grants Report:**

Councilman Tabita said that he has a DCED Grant Application being accepted from now until April 21, 2010 for recreation and conservation projects. Anyone with suggestions can contact the Recreation Committee. President Bauer suggested applying for a grant to redo the walking track at Frick Park. Extending the bike trail to Main Street was also suggested.

Councilman Tabita said he attended the Frick Communities meeting. There will be no funding available for Frick Communities in 2010 or 2011. Any monies we have put into the program will be listed as contributions from the communities.

Councilman Tabita said that Mount Pleasant needs a Main Street Manager very badly. Scottdale is very involved in their Main Street program and Councilman Tabita would not like to see Mount Pleasant left behind. He does not feel that the BDA will be able to put together a productive Main Street Manager program. There is a group called Pittsburgh History and Landmarks that will come in and work with businesses on marketing plans and help with ideas for funding. The Borough can be designated as a Main Street Community even though we're not funded which would open the door for more funding. There would be various opportunities for savings for any new business that would want to invest in the Borough. This group could also help the Borough with situations like the recent National City buy out. They are required to make community reinvestment and they are seriously behind on these requirements. Councilman Tabita said that it would be worth the Borough's contribution to have Pittsburgh History and Landmarks come in and make a proposal. The Borough would pay half of the cost and the BDA would pay half.

President Bauer said he would like to attend a Frick Communities meeting. Councilman Tabita asked Borough Manager Landy to send an email reminder to Council when a meeting is scheduled.

**New Business:**

President Bauer said that the School Board meeting will be Thursday January 21, 2010 to discuss the proposed school closings. He will be attending and he would like to see more representation from Council at the meeting.

**Reading of Communications:**

Borough Manager Landy read the following communications:

- Central Westmoreland COG has rescheduled their November meeting to February 23, 2010 at 1:00pm. Councilman Tate has the schedule of all future 2010 meetings.
- The Mount Pleasant Historical Society sent a schedule of events for 2010 as well as a membership application.
- Jacob's Creek Area Faith In Action is holding a Valentine's Day Dinner & Show on Saturday February 13, 2010 at the Scottdale Firemen's Club. Doors open at 5:30pm with a cash bar and the buffet dinner will be served at 6:30pm. Bo Wagner will entertain at 7:30pm with a Frank Sinatra tribute. The cost is \$30 per person, \$50 per couple and \$200 per table of 8.

**Discussion and Payment of Bills:**

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

**Miscellaneous and Adjournment:**

A motion was made by Councilman Tabita to adjourn the meeting. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Stevenson. Motion carried 7-0.

Meeting adjourned 8:45pm.

### **Motions from January 19, 2010 Meeting**

A motion was made by Councilwoman Stevenson to dispense with the reading of the minutes of January 4, 2010. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Ruskowski. Motion carried 7-0.

A motion was made by Councilman Beranek to approve the Treasurers Report as read. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Stevenson. Motion approved 7-0.

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