

Meeting January 3, 2012

The meeting of Mount Pleasant Borough Council was called to order by President Bauer at 7:00pm 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, Pritts, Tabita, Tate and Councilwomen Ruszkowski and Stevenson were present. Mayor Lucia and Solicitor Wolfe were present. President Bauer stated we have a quorum.

Reading of the Minutes:

A motion was made by Councilwoman Stevenson to dispense with the reading of the minutes of December 5, 2011 since Council has been provided with a copy. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Ruszkowski. Motion carried 8-0.

Public Comment:

Amy Felentzer, Mount Pleasant asked the community to help her husband celebrate Christmas when he comes home from serving in Afghanistan by leaving their Christmas decorations and lights up until he comes home in mid February 2012.

Gerard Rendine, State Route 31, Mount Pleasant PA spoke to Council regarding an article from a newspaper and the Landlord Ordinance.

Sam Scanlon, part owner of JSFirm.com and Aviation Search Group, introduced himself to Council and Mount Pleasant residents. The business is opening in the George and Cunningham building. President Bauer welcomed the business to the Borough and wished them success.

Joanne Guiffre, owner of Agnies Café presented Council with a letter regarding building maintenance issues at the In-Town Shops.

Mayor's Report:

Mayor Lucia read the following Police Report for the month of December 2011:

Report of the Mount Pleasant Police Department for December 2011

The Department answered 53 calls during the month as follows:

Complaints	53
Requests for assistance	6
Assist Other Departments	6
Accidents investigated	11
Calls Returned	5
Assist Medic 10	10
Assist Mutual Aid	0

The Department made 14 arrests during the month as follows:

Vehicle Code	10
Crimes Code	4
Borough Ordinance	0
Warning Issued	0

Parking Tickets issued are as follows:

\$4.00 Meter Tickets	0
\$10.00 No Parking Tickets	0
Void / Excused	0

\$2.00 Parking Tickets Paid	0	\$	-
\$4.00 Parking Tickets Paid	0	\$	-
\$5.00 Parking Tickets Paid	0	\$	-

\$10.00 Parking Tickets Paid	0 \$	-
\$15.00 Parking Tickets Paid	0 \$	-
\$10.00 No Parking Tickets Pd	0 \$	-
\$20.00 Parking Tickets Pd	0 .	
Return from Magistrate Eckels	\$	698.28
Return from Clerk of Courts	\$	219.18
Return from Report Fees	\$	45.00
Return from Parking Permits	\$	-
Return from Soliciting Permits	\$	-
Return from Restitution	\$	-
Total	\$	962.46
1 Meter Collection	\$	760.51
Total Receipts for the month	\$	1,722.97

Mayor Lucia requested a moment of silence for William Potoka who served for 16 years from 1970 to 1986 as Mayor of Mount Pleasant Borough and recently passed away. Mayor Lucia said that Mayor Potoka was a solid leader while he was Mayor and served as School Board President prior to being elected Mayor.

Mayor Lucia proclaimed January 2012 as “Volunteer Month” in the Borough. This will include a day for volunteerism on Saturday January 21, 2012 at the Mount Pleasant Volunteer Fire Department Central Station on Church Street from 11am to 2pm. Any other volunteer organization that wants to participate will be there to present what they have to offer to the community. Volunteers are needed to continue the services available in the Borough.

Mayor Lucia responded to Nina and her request to keep the Christmas lights on in the Borough until her husband returns from Afghanistan. Mayor Lucia said that the lights on Main Street would not be a problem, but the Nativity Scene will have to be removed because of the amount of space it takes up.

Solicitor’s Report:

Solicitor Wolfe reported that he has been in touch with the insurance company representing the trucking company whose truck damaged the traffic signal and pole at the Diamond in December 2010. The insurance company has not responded to Mr. Wolfe therefore he has prepared a complaint that requires the signature of borough officials and will be filed this week.

Tax Collector Report:

Tax Collector Carol Yancosky read the following report for the month of December 2012:

Property Taxes:	\$4,937.54
Per Capita:	\$ 451.00
Total Collected	\$5,388.54

Ms. Yancosky reported that she is done collecting property taxes for 2011 and will only be collecting per capita taxes until property tax statements are mailed on March 1, 2012.

President’s Report:

Council presented Councilman Tabita with a plaque recognizing his dedication and service for his 24 years on Borough Council as Councilman and Council President. President Bauer presented Councilman Tabita with a pen engraved with his name and years of service. Mayor Lucia recognized Councilman Tabita’s work on the Main Street

Project and the Veterans Park Project and said that his knowledge and expertise will be greatly missed.

A motion was made Councilwoman Ruszkowski for an Executive Session. Motion seconded by Councilman Beranek. Motion carried 9-0.

Executive Session 7:18pm to 7:36pm

President Bauer said that the Executive Session was to discuss legal issues.

Borough Manager's Report:

Borough Manager Landy reported that he attended various board meetings in December, including the Library Board Meeting and the Westmoreland Chamber Meeting. Mr. Landy said that the Laurel Highlands Chamber has merged with the Westmoreland County Chamber. The merger will be for administrative purposes. The Laurel Highlands Chamber will still be its own entity.

Mr. Landy spoke of how much he appreciated working with Councilman Tabita during his time as Borough Manager and thanked Councilman Tabita for his progressive ideas that benefited the Borough through the years.

Waste Water Treatment Report:

Councilman Tate said that his committee will be working on some proposed ordinance changes in the future months.

Street Report:

Councilman Tate said that the Borough and the United Steelworkers representing the Borough's Street Department signed a contract agreement for January 1, 2012 through December 21, 2017.

President Bauer told Councilman Tate that he has received complaints from a couple of homeowners complaining that water being discharged from their neighbors sump pumps has damaged their property.

Councilman Tate reported that the Railroad has taken their property back at the intersection of Kennedy Avenue and Main Street, which changed the exit onto Route 31 from three lanes down to two lanes.

Public Safety Report:

Councilman Beranek read the following Fire Report for the month of December 2011:

Total calls	30
In Town	8
Out of town	22
10-45's	9
10-45's w/entrapment	3
Fires	9
Public Service	4
Stand-bys	3
AFA's	4
Drills	1
Turnpike	1
Total men answering	355
Avg. member per call	11
Total hours	721

Councilman Beranek read the following Fire Report for 2011:

Total calls	475
In town	120
Out of town	355
10-45's	152
10-45's w/entrapment	17
Fires	139
AFA's	82
Public Service	78
Turnpike calls	42
Stand-by's	15
Water Rescue	2
Drills	2
Total men answering	7358
Avg. member per call	15
Total hours	6475

Councilman Beranek said that the owners of the George and Cunningham property on Main Street would like the Premoshis Christmas display removed sometime this week.

Councilman Beranek said that the Borough and the Crossing Guards have signed a new contract for January 1, 2012 to December 31, 2017.

Zoning & Ordinance Report:

Councilman McCloy said he would like to schedule a meeting of the Ordinance Committee for Monday January 9, 2012 at the borough building beginning at 6:30pm.

Community & Economic Development/Grants:

Councilman Tabita reviewed projects that are not yet completed.

- The bike trail extension is still in the works.
- Signs for the trail were budgeted for in 2011 and Council should probably carry over those funds to 2012.
- The 30-second spots for the Mount Pleasant video were never completed.
- The dog park looks like not too much more needs to be done because people are using it already.

Councilman Tabita said he would like to remain on the Veterans Park Committee although he will hand off the role of project manager.

Councilman Tabita said he has enjoyed working on Council for the last 27 years and will always be a part of Mount Pleasant because it's a great place to live.

Veterans Park Report: None

Councilman Tate said he would like Councilman Tabita to remain on the Veterans Park Committee. Councilman Tabita was there from the beginning and raised the money for Veterans Wall as well as being the spearhead of the Main Street Project that removed telephone poles and wires from Main Street.

Parks & Recreation Report: None

Finance Report:

A motion was made by Councilwoman Ruszkowski to approve the Mount Pleasant BDA 2012 Budget with Revenues of \$65,500 and Expenses of \$65,500. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Stevenson. Motion carried 9-0.

Councilman Tate said that he would like to see a motion to reopen the 2012 budget because money was not budgeted for a possible lawsuit filed against us and he does not want to see money taken from the Fire, Police or Street Departments.

A motion was made by Councilman Tate to suspend the rules for the purpose of a motion to reopen the 2012 Budget. Motion seconded by Councilman Beranek. Motion carried 9-0.

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Council discussed raising the millage to pay for a possible lawsuit. Council said they would discuss it further at the next work session.

Property Report:

Councilman Pritts reported that the furnace was installed at the Third Ward Fire Station.

Councilman Pritts said that he is getting prices to install lights on the new Mount Pleasant sign at the old PNC drive-thru.

Councilman Pritts reported that there have not been any offers on the property the Borough is selling on Bridgeport Street.

Sanitation & Recycling Report:

Councilwoman Stevenson reported that she applied for a state recycling grant for the Borough. The maximum money available is \$6,000. Hopefully the Borough will be awarded grant money to promote recycling.

Councilwoman Stevenson reminded residents that a borough ordinance states that trash cannot be put at the curb sooner than 24 hours before the scheduled pick up.

New Business: None

Councilman Crivella asked if anyone is scheduled to attend the Newly Elected Officials Course in Greensburg on February 10th and 11th.

President Bauer said that any councilperson who has not taken the required NIMS courses should do so over the winter months so that the Borough is up to date.

Mayor Lucia reminded residents that there is an ordinance requiring them to keep their sidewalks free of snow.

Reading of Communications: None

Discussion and Payment of Bills:

A motion was made by Councilman Beranek to pay all authorized and approved bills. Motion seconded by Councilman McCloy. Motion carried 9-0.

Miscellaneous and Adjournment:

A motion was made by Councilman Beranek to adjourn the meeting. Motion seconded by Councilman Crivella. Motion carried 9-0.

Meeting Adjourned 7:54pm

Motions from January 3, 2012 Meeting

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