

Meeting January 5, 2009

The meeting of Mount Pleasant Borough Council was called to order by President Tabita at 7:02pm 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 Tabita directed Borough Manager Jeff Landy to take roll. Councilmen Beranek, Crivella, Slater, Tate, and Councilwomen Stevenson and Ruszkowski were present. Mayor Lucia and Solicitor Toohey were present. President Tabita stated we have a quorum.

Councilman Bauer arrived 7:30pm.

Reading of Previous Minutes:

A motion was made by Councilman Slater to dispense with the reading of the minutes of December 18, 2008. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Ruszkowski. Motion carried 7-0.

Public Comment:

Dan Topley, 145 S Quarry Street, Mount Pleasant (724) 547-9629 said he would like to make Council aware that during a heavy rain recently he and several of his neighbors had sewer backups. President Tabita said that Council and the Mayor are aware of a recent problem on Quarry Street and that WWT Superintendent Norm Stout is also aware of the problem and is very concerned because of the sewer project done in that area in 2008. Mr. Stout will be looking into the problem. President Tabita said Council will do its best to have more information at the next meeting.

Speakers: None

Mayor's Report:

Mayor Lucia read the following Police Report for the month of December 2008:

Report of the Mount Pleasant Police Dept for the Month of December 2008

The Department answered 357 Calls during the month as follows:

Complaints	101
Requests for assistance	5
Assist Other Departments	5
Accidents investigated	13
Calls Returned	15
Assist Medic	12

The Department made 26 Arrests during the month as follows:

18
8

Parking Tickets issued are as follows:

\$1.00 Meter Tickets	0
\$10.00 No Parking Tickets	0
Void / Excused	0

\$1.00 Parking Tickets Paid	1	\$	1.00
\$5.00 Parking Tickets Paid	0	\$	-
\$10.00 Parking Tickets Paid	0	\$	-

Return from Magistrate Eckels	\$	768.60
Return from Clerk of Courts	\$	305.63
Return from Report Fees	\$	30.00
Return from Parking Permits	\$	25.00
Return from Soliciting Permits	\$	-
Return from Restitution	\$	-

Total	\$1,105.23
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Meter Receipts 2 Collections	\$1,602.13
Total Receipts for the month	\$2,707.36

Mayor Lucia said that there was some flooding in town recently during very heavy rainfall. The Street Department and WWT Department personnel were all out trying to minimize property damage. There was also a major water break on Depot St before the heavy rain which caused damage to some properties. The break has since been repaired.

Mayor Lucia said he looks forward to with Council and Borough Manager Landy in 2009. Once again the Borough will not have to request a Tax Anticipation Loan because of the fiscal management of Mr. Landy.

Mayor Lucia said he is hoping Council moves in the right direction regarding a Landlord Ordinance. Mayor Lucia said he has visited other towns in the area and they are also pushing for information that can be collected with a Landlord Ordinance. It is important to know who is living in the neighborhoods.

Solicitor’s Report:

Solicitor Toohey reported that he received a phone call from the Solicitor of the Redevelopment Authority regarding the DiNicola property and everything is in order and the Redevelopment Authority will be requesting bids for demolition of the property.

Solicitor Toohey said that he has gotten word that all of the documentation has been signed regarding the donation to the Borough from the Levin family of the property on Bridgeport St.

Solicitor Toohey explained the motion under Property at this meeting for Resolution 2009-01. Approximately one and one half years ago Mr. Edward Zavatsky requested that the Borough install a drainage pipe on his property. It has taken until now for the DEP to approve the project. This motion will cause the project to go forward.

Tax Collector’s Report:

Tax Collector Carol Yancosky read the following report for the month of December 2008:

Property Taxes	\$13,634.55
Per Capita Taxes	\$ 401.50
Total	\$14,036.05

A motion was made by Councilman Tate for an Executive Session. Motion seconded by Councilman Slater. Motion carried 8-0.

Executive Session 7:23pm to 8:05pm.

President Tabita reported that the Executive Session was for real estate and contracts.

President’s Report:

President Tabita said that we have discussed with county officials extending Phase II of the Main Street Street-Scape Project by one extra light at CoGo’s and Salooms. The Borough would also like to increase the wattage of the decorative lights in the area of Phase I of the Main Street Street-Scape Project to 320 watts.

President Tabita said that the Borough has a commitment from the County to assist in developing the property on Bridgeport Street that was donated by the Levin family.

President Tabita said that he, Borough Manager Landy and Councilman Crivella are working with Scottdale and West Overton on the Main Street Manager Program and we should see some positive results in 2009. The core of Mount Pleasants Main Street is from Eagle St to Hitchman

St. This is the area that the Main Street Manager will be working on developing and the taxable area that can be used for funding.

President Tabita said that he would like to see the property housing the In Town Shops sold and the money that is being spent by the BDA to subsidize the property be put to better use.

President Tabita said that the Borough made progress in 2008 on rezoning and will continue working on expanding an R1A zone in 2009 to revert a large portion of the R2 zone back to single-family dwelling. This rezoning should only make Mount Pleasant a more desirable Main Street Community to live in.

President Tabita said that when the DiNicola property is demolished it will leave a very attractive property on Main Street. The Gormley property will be dealt with this year as well. New businesses moving into town prove that businesses on Main Street can prosper. Revenue from the gas wells will put money into the recreation budget and will improve the parks and other recreation in the Borough. Hopefully there will be storm water infrastructure improvements in 2009 with the help of the Mount Pleasant Municipal Authority. The Ordinance Recodification should be completed in 2009 as well.

President Tabita asked the Council Committees to reach at least one goal in 2009 to move the Borough forward.

Borough Manager's Report:

Borough Manager Landy made the following report:

- Mr. Landy presented Council with the final Budget Vs. Actual report for 2008.
- Council has a copy of a letter from Mullin and Lonergan with questions to be addressed at the next meeting. President Tabita said the public is encouraged to attend this meeting.
- We received correspondence from Westmoreland County regarding a Watershed Advisory Committee to discuss Storm-water management. It is a survey they would like the Borough to fill out.
- There were no bids on the used Street Sweeper that we put on Muncibid. In March we can rebid it.
- Mr. Landy suggests meeting with Higbee Ins to look at revising our deductibles.
- There will be a meeting on Wednesday with the borough employees involved in the new Highmark plan.
- The gasline will be hooked up to the Municipal Building and Central VFD as soon as the weather allows to provide free gas from the Frick Park gas well.
- The Borough is working on a new payment location for sewage bills in town since Burns Drug closed.

Waste Water Treatment Report:

Councilman Tate said that WWT Superintendent Norm Stout is working on the problem home owners on Quarry Street are having.

Public Safety, Zoning and Ordinance Report:

Councilman Bauer read the following Fire Report for the month of December 2008:

In Town	22
Out of Town	57
10-45's	31
Fires	13
Public Service	23
AFA'S	10
Stand-By's	2
Total Men Answering	1218
Avg Member per Call	15
Total Hours	1010

Councilman Bauer read the following Fire Report for the year in 2008:

Total Calls	602
In Town	152
Out of Town	450
10-45'S	233
Fires	148
Public Service	75
AFA'S	102
Stand-By's	37
Turnpike Calls	51
Watercraft	1
Drills	4
Total Men Answering	8321
Avg Member Per Call	19
Total Hours	6264

Councilman Bauer read the following Medic 10 Report for the month of December 2008:

Total Calls for the Month	173
Medical	130
MVA	16
Fire	8
Transfer	1
Standby	18
In Town	86
Out of Town	87
Members per Call	3.7

Councilman Bauer read the following Medic 10 Report for the year 2008;

Total Calls for the Year	1654
Medical	141
Fire	99
Transfer	6
Standby	151

A motion was made by Councilman Bauer to sign the 2009 agreement with Hoffman Kennels with no increase in charges for service. Motion seconded by Councilman Tate. Motion carried 8-0.

A motion was made by Councilman Bauer to name the alley that runs behind Ramsey Elementary School from Eagle to Reservoir, Bobcat Alley. Motion seconded by Councilman Tate. Motion carried 8-0.

A motion was made by Councilman Bauer to suspend the rules for the purpose of hiring a part-time police officer. Motion seconded by Councilman Slater. Motion carried 8-0.

A motion was made by Councilman Bauer to hire part-time Police Officer Justin James, Acme PA after proper background checks and state paperwork. Motion seconded by Councilman Slater. Motion carried 8-0.

Councilman Bauer said he has sample ordinances for Yard Sales, Signs, Mandatory Solid Waste Collection and Graffiti. Councilman Bauer said he will work on these ordinances with his committee as well as finalizing the Landlord Ordinance. Hopefully by March or April these ordinances can be adopted and the Ordinance Codification can be completed.

Streets, Parks and Recreation:

Councilman Slater said that there is money available from a 2009 CARE Grant to help with storm-water retrofits and asked Councilman Crivella to look into applying for this grant.

Councilman Slater said that one of the main problems in the Borough is storm-water. We are removing downspouts etc from the sewer system and storm-water is being dispersed into yards and out onto the streets causing problems with ice and flooding. The Borough is going to be putting a couple of storm drains in but the issue still remains about what to do with the water.

Mayor Lucia suggested sending another letter to Congressman Murtha requesting someone to review the problem. With more water being transferred from the sewer to storm-water there are more homes where sump pumps are discharging water into the street. The water runs down the streets to Shupes Run and even before it gets to Shupes Run it is backed up and that is what is causing the flooding in the northern end of town. The issue with Shupes Run needs to be addressed immediately. Mount Pleasant Township is having the same problem on the northern end of town.

President Tabita said that in order for a storm-water project to go forward engineering will be needed. President Tabita suggested talking to the Mount Pleasant Municipal Authority about the money they said could be available to the Borough and start an engineering study. Mayor Lucia said that he feels it should be a joint venture between the Borough and the Township because we are both sharing Shupes Run and it ends up at Jacobs Creek. There is the Jacobs Creek Watershed that can also become involved. Councilman Bauer said he feels that the areas where sewage is running down the streets should be the first priority. Councilman Crivella feels the Borough should have a comprehensive storm-water plan for the entire Borough instead of addressing one street at a time.

Councilman Slater said he will have information for Council at the next meeting regarding an alley paving project for 2009. The Borough only has approximately \$100,000 to work with and right now the project is looking to cost \$160,000 so there will have to be some alleys taken off the list. Council can look at the numbers at the next meeting so that the project can go out for bid sometime in February 2009. Councilman Bauer suggested putting the whole project out for bid and then seeing if some of the alley need to be taken off the list.

Councilman Slater said he rode around with the Street Department one night when they were salting the streets and he feels they are doing a good job. One of the problems is where people are parking their cars. It causes some tight spots for our trucks to go through.

Councilman Slater said that Council also needs a plan for the parks and a total figure of what needs to be done. Councilman Crivella said he would like to help with a plan for the parks. Mayor Lucia said that the first thing to be looked at is the safety of the equipment.

Finance Report: None

Property Report:

Councilman Beranek reported that the Borough received no bids for the property at 537 Main Street that houses the In Town Shops. This is the second time the property has been put out to bid with no bids. In thirty days Council can hear proposals from interested parties without requesting bids.

A motion was made by Councilman Beranek to approve Resolution 2009-01 authorizing the filing of a Declaration of Taking for Condemnation and/or Acquisition By Deed in lieu of Condemnation for properties for purpose of installation and construction of a storm water sewer line. Motion seconded by Councilman Slater. Motion carried 8-0.

A motion was made by Councilman Beranek to suspend the rules for the purpose of preparing documentation to sell the property at 211 W Main Street. Motion seconded by Councilman Crivella. Motion carried 8-0.

A motion was made by Councilman Beranek to have Solicitor Toohey prepare proper documentation to sell the Gormley property at 211 W Main Street. Motion seconded by Councilman Crivella. Motion carried 8-0.

Councilman Beranek said that the Premoshis Christmas displays were a success again this year and he thanked everyone who donated their time to make it happen.

Community Eco-Green Report: None

President Tabita said that there are a lot of people using the recycling dumpsters and the question now needs to be asked whether residents are willing to pay a little more for curbside recycling. The cost would be approximately \$1.25 per month.

Human Resources/Employee Contracts Report:

Councilwoman Stevenson said that Paychex has the information to put together an Employee Handbook and it should be ready in approximately six weeks.

Employment agreements for Borough employees are being reviewed by the Solicitor and should be ready soon.

Community and Economic Development/Grants Report:

Councilman Crivella said that the Borough will apply for a \$25,000 DCED grant for storm-water problems on Oak Street.

Councilman Crivella said that there is \$150,000 to \$300,000 available through the US Environmental Protection Agency CARE Cooperative Agreement Grant to be used for storm-water retrofits. The application for this grant is due March 16, 2009. He will work with the engineer on this.

Councilman Crivella said that he has prepared and submitted a grant from Congressman Murtha for the Mount Pleasant Police Department. Police Chief Ober put together a list of needed equipment. The grant could provide up to \$18,000.

Councilman Crivella said he will be glad when the property at 537 Main Street is back on the tax rolls. The BDA now owns the property and they are exempt from paying property taxes.

President Tabita said that the Borough received communication from Jack Scott from the Scottsdale Town Center Revitalization Committee will be holding a seminar on creative marketing on January 22, 2009 from 9:00am to 12:30pm at the Scottsdale Library Community Room. Mr. Landy said he will see that the Mount Pleasant BDA and Chamber get copies of the seminar registration form.

New Business:

Councilman Crivella said that he has received requests from residents to have Armstrong Cable make CspanII available to its customers.

Reading of Communications:

Borough Manager read the following communications:

- There will be a GIS Workshop on 1/6/09 at Commissioners Hall at WCCC 8:00am to 3:30pm. The cost is \$10 per person.

Discussion and Payment of Bills:

A motion was made by Councilman Bauer to pay all authorized and approved bills. Motion seconded by Councilman Beranek. Motion carried 8-0.

Miscellaneous and Adjournment:

A motion was made by Councilman Bauer to adjourn the meeting. Motion seconded by Councilman Slater. Motion carried 8-0.

Meeting adjourned 9:00pm

Motions from January 5, 2009 Meeting

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A motion was made by Councilman Tate for an Executive Session. Motion seconded by Councilman Slater. Motion carried 8-0.

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