

Meeting January 7, 2008

The meeting of Mount Pleasant Borough Council was called to order by President Tabita at 7:05pm 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 Bauer, Beranek, Crivella, Slater, Wiltout and Councilwoman Stevenson were present. Mayor Lucia and Solicitor Toohey were present. President Tabita stated we have a quorum.

Reading of Previous Minutes:

A motion was made by Councilman Bauer to dispense with the reading of the minutes of December 19, 2007. Motion seconded by Councilman Beranek. Motion carried 8-0.

Public Comment: None

Mayor's Report:

Mayor Lucia read the following Police Report for the month of December 2007:

Report of the Mount Pleasant Police Dept for the month of December 2007

The Department answered 374 calls during the month as follows:

Complaints	124
Requests for assistance	2
Assist Other Departments	2
Accidents investigated	12
Calls Returned	50
Assist Medic 10	21
Assist Mutual Aid	0

The Department made 55 arrests during the month as follows

Vehicle Code	43
Crimes Code	12

Parking Tickets issued are as follows:

\$1.00 Meter Tickets	0
\$10.00 No Parking Tickets	2
Void / Excused	0

\$1.00 Parking Tickets Paid	3	\$	3.00
\$5.00 Parking Tickets Paid	1	\$	5.00
\$10.00 Parking Tickets Paid	2	\$	30.00

Return from Magistrate Eckels	\$1,958.41
Return from Clerk of Courts	\$ 193.50
Return from Report Fees	\$ 105.00
Return from Parking Permits	\$ -
Return from Soliciting Permits	\$ -
Return from Restitution	\$ -
Total	\$2,294.91
Meter Receipts 1 Collection	\$ 938.27
Total Receipts for the month	\$3,233.18

Mayor Lucia said meter receipts were less because there was free parking in the Borough for the Christmas season.

Solicitor's Report: None

Tax Collector’s Report:

Tax Collector Carol Yancosky read the following report for the month of December 2007:

Property Taxes	\$13,649.70
Supplemental	\$ 13.44
Per Capita	\$ 247.50
 Total	 \$13,910.64

Ms. Yancosky said that property taxes will not be collected in January and February 2008. Statements are mailed out March 1, 2008.

President’s Report:

President Tabita said that this will be the last meeting of his two years as President of Council. He commented that it was a very productive two years beginning with the expansion of Veterans Park, improvements to the basketball court and the infrastructure of the Borough along with the refurbishing of the Premoshis Christmas displays. The next two years should bring more improvements to make Mount Pleasant an even nicer Main Street Community.

Borough Manager’s Report:

Borough Manager Landy reported the following:

- Unpaid real estate taxes have gone up. Tax Collector Carol Yancosky turns these unpaid real estates taxes over to the County for collections and hopefully the County can collect most of the monies. Mr. Landy wanted to bring to Council’s attention the trend of rising unpaid taxes. In 2006 the amount was \$23,458.24 and in 2007 the amount was \$26,839.00 for an increase of approximately \$3,400.00.
- He spoke with the Municipal Authority of Westmoreland County and they are going to reseal Silver Street. He also faxed Widmer Engineering the list from the Mount Pleasant Street Department Supervisor and they have responded with answers to his questions.
- There is a possible solution to the cat problem in the Borough. If an agreement can be worked out it will be similar to the agreement with Hoffman Kennels.
- He spoke with Bill Geiselhart of Santamaria Landscaping regarding the flag poles that are leaning at Veterans Park. Mr. Geiselhart said he is willing to come and look at the situation but was unwilling to commit to fixing the problem.
- Kriebel Resources will begin drilling the gas well at Willows Park soon. They will be scheduling meetings between Borough officials and the contractors within the next couple of weeks to discuss preparations for the project.
- Mullin and Lonergan will be presenting their initial report on rezoning recommendations January 22, 2008.
- He received the schedule of COG meetings and will give it to the representative from Council.

Public Safety Zoning and Ordinance Report:

Councilman Bauer thanked everyone for their thoughts and prayers when his mother passed away recently especially Mayor Lucia who was very helpful.

Councilman Bauer read the following Medic 10 report for the month of December 2007:

Total calls	168
Medical	127
MVA	16
Fire	15
Transfers	2
Standby	8
In Town	91

Out of Town	77
Members per call	3.7

Councilman Bauer then read the following Medic 10 report for 2007:

Total calls for 2007	1708
Medical	1319
MVA	128
Fire	124
Transfers	10
Standby	127

Councilman Bauer read the following Fire report for 2007:

Total calls	629
In Town calls	151
Out of town calls	478
In town 10-45's	31
Out of town 10-45's	178
Total members attending calls	10,250
Average members per call	16

Total fire loss in the Borough \$50,000 involving 5 structures which were Pritts Feed Mill, a Diamond Street house, a Church Street house, a kitchen fire on Washington Street and a kitchen fire on Bridgeport Street.

Councilman Bauer read the following Fire report for the month of December 2007:

Total calls	62
In town calls	23
Out of town calls	39
Total members attending calls	889
Average members per call	14

Councilman Bauer said that Council will have to look closely in the next couple of months at cat registration so that when we have someone removing stray cats no one's pet is picked up. Perhaps charging only for the cost of the tag.

Councilman Bauer said that Council needs to get together to go over the codification of the ordinances.

Councilman Bauer thanked Mr. Landy and Solicitor Toohey for working on the Police Contract in his absence. Council previously approved retirement at age 50 and Article 23 will have to be changed.

A motion was made by Councilman Bauer to suspend the rules for the purpose of hiring two new part-time police officers at the current contract rate. Motion seconded by Councilman Crivella. Motion carried 8-0.

A motion was made by Councilman Bauer to hire Brad Buchsbaum, Acme, PA as a part-time police officer at the current contract rate. Motion seconded by Councilman Slater. Motion carried 8-0.

A motion was made by Councilman Bauer to hire Frankie Balistreri, New Stanton, PA as a part-time police officer at the current contract rate. Motion seconded by Councilman Slater. Motion carried 8-0.

Mayor Lucia said that it would probably take more than one meeting for Council to go through all of the ordinances for codification. If more time is taken now there will be fewer headaches in the future. Councilman Bauer said that if every Councilman takes the time to go through the preliminary report it will save a great deal of time. Because of the importance of the ordinances Councilman Bauer feels all of Council should be involved. President Tabita suggested that the Ordinance Committee take the time to isolate the obvious changes before the meeting with Council.

Street Report:

Councilman Crivella started by commending the Street Department for improvements made to the department this year and looks forward to another good year.

Councilman Crivella asked Borough Manager Landy to contact the Municipal Authority of Westmoreland County and Columbia Gas of PA to find out what projects they have planned in 2008 before we plan our paving projects. That way the streets aren't torn up immediately after we pave them. Councilman Crivella would like to get paving bids out early this year and perhaps save the Borough money by doing so. He would like to have the list of streets completed by February.

Councilman Crivella reported that the Borough purchased 160 tons of salt for the winter roads.

Finance Report:

Mr. Landy said that he would like Council to look at the final Profit & Loss Budget Vs. Actual report for the year 2007. There is carry over money from 2007 which can be added to the carry over from 2006. Since there will be not tax revenue in January, February some of those funds will be used. At the January 22nd meeting Council can decide how much money to put into the Budgetary Reserve accounts but Mr. Landy feels that it will be possible to put in the amount projected. Mayor Lucia commented that a lot of the departments stayed tight under their budget line items and Mr. Landy reminded him that transfers were made to balance the line items. Some of the transfers were because of the rise in fuel and utility costs. Costs continue to rise and 2008 projections may have to be adjusted as well.

Property Report:

A motion was made by Councilman Beranek to advertise for sealed bids for the property and house located at 416 W Smithfield Street to be opened at the February 4, 2008 council meeting. Motion seconded by Councilman Slater. Motion carried 8-0.

Councilman Beranek said that work has begun on taking down the Premoshis Christmas displays. Mr. Landy said that WWT Supervisor Norm Stout has volunteered to take them down.

Business/Economic Development & Contracts Report: None

Human Resources/Employee Contracts: None

Recreation Report: None

New Business: None

Reading of Communications:

Borough Manager Landy read the following communications:

- There will be a meeting of the United Democratic Committee will be holding a meeting on Wednesday January 23rd at 7:30pm at James and Harriet's home in Norvelt, PA.

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 Crivella. Motion carried 8-0.

Meeting adjourned 7:31pm

Motions from January 7, 2008 meeting

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