

## Meeting January 7, 2013

The meeting of Mount Pleasant Borough Council was called to order by President Bauer at 7:01pm 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. Councilman McCloy, McFeaters, Pritts, Snyder, Tate and Councilwomen Bailey, Ruszkowski and Stevenson were present. Mayor Lucia and Solicitor Wolfe were present. President Bauer stated we have a quorum. Councilwoman Ruszkowski left the meeting at 8:07pm.

### Reading of the Minutes:

A motion was made by Councilwoman Stevenson to dispense with the reading of the minutes of December 3, 2012 since Council has been provided with a copy. Motion seconded by Councilman Snyder. Motion carried 9-0.

President Bauer spoke about the tragedy in Newtown Connecticut. President Bauer said that all of Mount Pleasant Borough Council, employees and citizens are heartsick about what happened and the Borough sent a letter to the leadership of Newtown along with a donation to offset the costs that the city has incurred. Council took a moment to say a prayer and reflect.

**Public Comment:** None

### Speakers:

Magistrate Roger Eckels spoke about the Mount Pleasant Drug Awareness Program and specifically the Reality Tour Program that is being instituted in the Borough. The program will educate school children as well as their parents on the dangers associated with substance abuse. Mount Pleasant Drug Awareness will absorb all costs for the program along with the cost of registration for a total of \$3,500 at no cost to tax payers.

Mr. Eckels also congratulated the Borough on the success of its K-9 Unit directed by Patrolman George Grippo. Mr. Eckels stated that he is aware that the K-9 police vehicle needs replaced and donations are being accepted. Mr. Eckels presented Mayor Lucia, President Bauer and Councilman Snyder a check in the amount of \$4,000 to be used for the purchase of the vehicle.

Patrolman George Grippo thanked Mr. Eckels and the Mount Pleasant Drug Awareness Program for their generous donation.

Mr. John Sarp, Sarp & Co., Borough Auditors, presented Council with copies of the 2011 audit of Borough accounts. Mr. Sarp said that the Borough has received an unqualified opinion which is the highest form of assurance that can be given a borough. Mr. Sarp went thru the audit materials briefly with Council. Mr. Sarp said that all of the Borough funds were audited which included Mount Pleasant EMS Medic 10. Mr. Sarp assured Council that the financial figures for Medic 10 are accurate as the accounting is being done in-house. Mr. Sarp went on to discuss borough assets and stated to Council that the building housing the Mount Pleasant Public Library is the property of the Borough and will be included in the list of assets from now on.

Mr. Sarp summed up by his report by stating that the audit found not material weaknesses in the internal control structure or any matters of concern. Mr. Sarp stated that this is very unusual in a borough of any size. Mr. Sarp stated that he has no reason to doubt the integrity or honesty of the personnel in charge of fiscal duties for the Borough. Mr. Sarp said he feels Borough Manager Jeffrey Landy and Secretary Beverly Fedorchak are dedicated to the fair fiscal reporting of the Borough and general good management.

### Mayor's Report:

Mayor Lucia read the following Police Report for the month of December 2012:

Report of the Mount Pleasant Police Dept. for the month of December 2012

The Department answered 391 calls during the month as follows

Complaints

72

Requests for assistance	3
Assist Other Departments	2
Accidents investigated	13
Calls Returned	10
Assist Medic 10	12
Assist Mutual Aid	0

The Department made 27 arrests during the month as follows

Vehicle Code	24
Crimes Code	3
Borough Ordinance	0
Warning Issued	0

Parking Tickets issued are as follows:

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

\$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	5	\$	-
		\$	
\$10.00 No Parking Tickets Pd	1	10.00	
\$20.00 Parking Tickets Pd	0	\$	-

	\$
Return from Magistrate Eckels	691.15
	\$
Return from Clerk of Courts	69.99
	\$
Return from Report Fees	90.00
	\$
Return from Parking Permits	30.00
Return from Soliciting Permits	\$ -
Return from Restitution	
	\$
Total	891.14
	\$
1 Meter Collection	1,055.54
	\$
Total Receipts for the month	1,946.68

Mayor Lucia requested a report from the Mount Pleasant Police Department outlining the cases involving the K-9 Unit so that Council can see how the Police Department has benefited from the K-9 Unit.

Mayor Lucia said that one of our citizens, Anna Karaffa, who is currently at Harmon House turned 101 years old on December 31, 2012. Anna starred in one of the Mount Pleasant Up Close episodes when Mayor Lucia and Borough Manager Landy went to the Harmon House and baked cookies with Anna. Mayor Lucia wished Anna a very Happy Birthday from Council, Borough employees and all of the citizens of the Borough.

Mayor Lucia said that during the most recent snow storm there were many sidewalks that were not shoveled and de-iced. The Mayor reminded residents that there is an ordinance requiring owners to keep the sidewalks in front of their properties free of snow and ice. If homeowners do not take care of their sidewalks the Police may have to issue citations.

Councilwoman Stevenson said she received a call regarding a street that wasn't plowed after the last snow and wanted to know who people should call when there is a problem. Councilman Tate said that residents should call the Street Department. Councilman Tate said that Street Department Personnel do the best they can with only two workers, but if someone has a problem they should call.

**Tax Collector's Report:**

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

Property Tax	\$4,709.26
Supplemental Tax	\$16.79
Per Capita Tax	\$357.50
Total	\$5,083.55

Ms. Yancosky reported that she is done collecting Property Taxes for 2012 and no more property taxes will be collected until the 2013 statements are mailed on March 1, 2013.

**President's Report:**

A motion was made by Councilman Tate to revise the schedule for advertising for bids for construction of the next phase of Rain Gardens adjacent to the Borough Building and the Frick Hospital parking lot. The revised schedule will be to advertise for bids on January 22, 2013 with a bid opening on February 4, 2013 pending review and approval by McCormick Taylor, Inc., the Borough's Engineer, of the bid documents being prepared by the Westmoreland Conservation District. Motion seconded by Councilman Pritts. Motion carried 9-0.

President Bauer said residents received a letter from Armstrong Cable offering two new lower priced cable television packages. Mr. Landy said that he received requests from some borough residents for a less expensive package and Armstrong was willing to accommodate this request.

President Bauer said that after the Newtown tragedy he received calls regarding safety at our schools. President Bauer emphasized the need for citizens to call 911 when they see something suspicious. The caller can request to remain anonymous and their name and address will not be published anywhere. President Bauer also reminded residents that if someone is going door to door collecting for something they are required to have a permit and the homeowner can call the borough office to find out if they do or they should simply ask the person to see a copy of the permit.

President Bauer said he received information from Patrolman Zilli regarding a grant opportunity. The deadline for filing the grant application is February 8, 2013. President Bauer said he will pass the information to Borough Manager Landy.

**Solicitor's Report:**

Solicitor Wolfe said that he and Borough Manager Landy are finalizing some agreements and he is working on some ordinance revisions with Councilman McCloy.

**Borough Manager's Report:**

Borough Manager Landy said that he delivered an agreement to the owner of the property adjacent to the Penn Theater that is being demolished and that agreement should be signed soon so that a motion for demolition can be made at the next council meeting.

Mr. Landy reported that budget transfers were made to balance the 2012 line items. Mr. Landy asked committee chairman to keep an eye on the budget in 2013 and be more proactive throughout the year.

Mr. Landy reported that Council was supplied a copy of the Mount Pleasant Business District Authority's 2013 Budget.

Borough Manager Landy reported that the Mount Pleasant Glass & Ethnic Festival donated \$800.00 worth of Christmas toys to elementary school children in need. The list of children was supplied by the school.

**Waste Water Treatment Report:** None

**Streets Report:**

Councilman Tate talked about cars parked on the streets during snow removal efforts. Mayor Lucia said that it would be good if Councilman Tate was a guest on the Mount Pleasant Up Close this week to talk about residents trying to move their cars off of the street during a heavy snow.

**Public Safety Report:**

Councilman Snyder read the following Fire Report for the month of December 2012:

Total Calls 46  
In Town 12  
Out of Town 34  
10-45's 17  
Fires 15  
Public Service 5  
AFA'S 8  
Stand-Bys 1  
Turnpike Calls 5  
Total Men Answering 860  
Avg. Member Per Call 18  
Total Man Hours 638

Councilman Snyder read the following Fire Report for the year of 2012:

Total Calls 526  
In Town 135  
Out of Town 391  
10-45's 179  
10-45's W/Entrapment 18  
Fires 139  
AFA'S 99  
Public Service Calls 86  
Stand-By's 17  
Drills 2  
Turnpike Calls 44  
Total Men Answering 7,623  
Avg. Member Per Call 14  
Total Man Hours 5,539

Councilman Snyder pointed out the fact that there were a lot of man hours for the volunteers of the Fire Department. Council agreed that the volunteers are essential to the operation of the Fire Department because the budget would never be able to accommodate paid firemen. Councilman Snyder thanked Borough Manager Landy for all of his work on the coupon books that were given to the volunteer firemen. It was a way to say thank you for their service.

A motion was made by Councilman Snyder to suspend the rules for the purpose of hiring a part-time crossing guard. Motion seconded by Councilman Tate. Motion carried 9-0.

A motion was made by Councilman Snyder to hire Ronald Ruzina from Mount Pleasant as a part-time crossing guard. Motion seconded by Councilman Tate. Motion carried 9-0.

A motion was made by Councilman Snyder to appoint the following to the Mount Pleasant EMS Medic 10 roster as paid employees:

- Rob Rathi - Paramedic
- James Hammaker - Paramedic
- Corey Ansel - Paramedic
- Dan Kessler - Paramedic
- Craig Neeley - EMT
- Timothy Hoffman - EMT

Motion seconded by Councilman Tate. Motion carried 9-0.

President Bauer said that Council is going to have to look at how we pay Patrolman Zilli and other Patrolman who are members of the Drug Task Force. The Borough pays the Patrolmen overtime for the hours spent on the Task Force and then has to wait 6-8 weeks to be reimbursed. That means that money

for the overtime hours has to come out of the budget for the last few months of the year which puts the line item over budget. President Bauer said that next year arrangements may have to be made to wait for the reimbursement before paying the patrolmen.

President Bauer said that fuel for police vehicles was also over budget and he wants the vehicles fueled up during the daylight shift and the mileage written on each gas receipt. President Bauer said he wants the Police Department to go back to keeping vehicle maintenance reports.

President Bauer said he would like to look into a company called Wright Express. They have a card that can be used at any gas station and keeps detailed records by vehicle of gas purchases.

Borough Manager Landy said that no accidents were reported at the December 2012 Safety Committee Meeting attended by a member of each department of the Borough.

### **Zoning & Ordinance Report:**

Councilman McCloy said that the building on Main Street owned by Dr. Arevalo is scheduled for private demolition in February 2013.

### **Community & Economic Development/Grants Report: None**

### **Veterans Park Report:**

Councilman Tate said that he was able to see the new Video Wall that will be installed at Veterans Park and he was very impressed. The Video Wall will be installed soon and someone is needed to put the applications we receive into a digital format. Councilman Tate said that he has spoken to Marie Albertini who was a member of the original Veterans Park Committee to see if she is able to do it.

### **Parks & Recreation Report:**

Councilman McFeaters said he has been looking at companies who can remove the five trees along the wall at Frick Park. The bids range anywhere from \$3,900 to \$9,000. These bids are only to bring the trees down. They do not include clearing the trees or removing the roots. President Bauer said that the Street Department may be able to help and the project would probably have to be done in phases because it is so expensive. President Bauer said that the tree roots are damaging the Frick Park Walkway and need to be removed.

President Bauer said that there will be a Bike Trail committee meeting tomorrow at 7pm and asked Councilman McFeaters if he could attend.

### **Finance & Human Resources Report:**

Councilwoman Ruszkowski said that she would like committee chairmen to keep a close eye on their budgets in 2013 because the budget is very tight this year.

### **Property Report:**

Councilman Pritts said he met with AP Video regarding the cameras for the parks and it looks like a very good system. Councilman Pritts said he will get comparable quotes from a couple of other companies.

Councilman Pritts said that he, Councilman Tate and Borough Manager Landy met with representatives from Honeywell regarding energy savings in the Borough. Mr. Landy said that they will be back tomorrow to complete their study. Councilman Pritts said that Honeywell is already impressed by savings our departments, especially WWT, have implemented.

Councilman Pritts talked about some changes to the Welcome to Mount Pleasant sign. The cost will remain the same as voted on by Council.

Councilman Pritts said that Council needs to discuss the security doors on the third floor of the Municipal Building. The money was not budgeted for 2013, but we can get quotes and look at the property budget to see if something can be done this year.

Borough Manager Landy said that the Town Clock is not working again. The Borough has had the clock repaired twice and both times it has stopped working again. Mr. Landy said a decision will have to be made on how to proceed. The motor that currently runs the clock is outdated and the mechanism cannot be repaired. The Carol-Ons are also not working and replacing them will cost approximately \$7,000 on top of the cost for a new motor. President Bauer said that fundraisers will have to be held to finance the project.

### **Sanitation & Recycling Report:**

Councilwoman Stevenson thanked Andrea from Allied Waste for the calendar that was included with the recent statement showing when trash and recycling pick-up will be in 2013 and lists the holiday schedule as well. At the top of the calendar is a list of what is recyclable and what is not.

Councilwoman Stevenson reminded residents of the new recycling and trash restrictions. It will no longer be possible to recycle electronics such as TV's, computers, monitors etc. And these items will not be picked up as regular trash. As an alternative, residents can take these items and other small electronic items to Shop Demo Depot where they will be de-manufactured.

### **Communications Report:** None

### **New Business:**

President Bauer said that there are vacancies on some of the Mount Pleasant Boards and Authorities and he will address them at the next council meeting. Anyone who wants to serve on any board can contact the borough office.

President Bauer said that if the Borough is going to have a fund raiser for the July 3rd fireworks it will have to be planned soon. A barbeque was suggested and that may be a good thing for the Borough as well as a good fundraiser. It may be something Council members will have to undertake.

Councilwoman Stevenson talked about the Mount Pleasant Glass Museum. Right now it is housed at the In-Town Shops and the BDA has offered free rent until the end of 2012. They are now looking at charging the museum rent. Councilwoman Stevenson said she would like to send a letter from Council requesting that the Mount Pleasant Business District Authority keep the cost of the rent as low as possible.

### **Reading of Communications:**

Borough Manager Landy read the following communications:

- J.J.'s Pizza will be opening a store on Main Street next to the Town Clock Church. The owner would like Council to approve removal of the handicap parking space in front of his store. Council agreed that the Street Department can remove the handicap parking space.
- The 38th Annual Westmoreland County Community Prayer Breakfast will be held on Friday January 25th at 7am to 9am at the Ramada Inn and Conference Center in Greensburg.

A motion was made by Councilman Snyder to remove the handicap parking space on Main Street in front of J.J.'s Pizza. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Stevenson. Motion carried 9-0.

### **Discussion and Payment of Bills:**

A motion was made by Councilman Snyder to pay all authorized and approve bills. Motion seconded by Councilman Pritts. Motion carried 9-0.

### **Miscellaneous and Adjournment:**

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

**Meeting adjourned 8:29pm**