

Meeting October 19, 2009

The meeting of Mount Pleasant Borough Council was called to order by President Tabita at 7:01 pm 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 Landy to take roll. Councilmen Crivella, McCloy, Slater and Councilwomen Ruszkowski and Stevenson were present. Solicitor Toohey was present. President Tabita stated we have a quorum.

Mayor Lucia arrived at 7:12pm.

Reading of Previous Minutes:

A motion was made by Councilman Slater to dispense with the reading of the minutes of October 5, 2009. Motion seconded by Councilman Crivella. Motion carried 6-0.

Public Comment:

Scott Salvatore, 119 N Hazelnut Dr. Mount Pleasant, (724) 547-4725 President of Mount Pleasant Little League, spoke to Council about using additional land at Willows Park for a T-Ball field. Just to the north of the present Little League Field there is a plot of land where there are currently four pieces of playground equipment, a monument and a tree. T-Ball games are currently being played at the YMCA field, which is in East Huntingdon Township. From a safety stand point it is important to hold the games on a field that the Little League controls. Mr. Salvatore provided Council with aerial shots of the plot of land as well as a ground level view. Mr. Salvatore proposed putting the existing playground equipment off to the sides of the proposed field. There is also room by the bridge that goes over to the soccer field. The monument would be moved to a prominent location. Councilman Crivella asked how an additional field will impact parking and traffic. President Tabita said that the Recreation Committee will look into all of this and report back to Council. Mr. Salvatore can be emailed at stacersal@zoominternet.net. Borough Manager Landy said that the lease for the Little League Field expires in 2010 and will have to be renewed.

Anthony Pernelli, 617 Liberty Lane, Ruffs Dale PA addressed Council regarding purchasing the Gormley property at 211 Main Street Mount Pleasant. He provided Council with a proposal. President Tabita said it would be important for Mr. Pernelli to close the outside of the building up first with windows, siding etc. Mr. Pernelli said that it would depend on the weather, but any damaged windows would be boarded up right away for safety. Any demolition would be done in the winter months and exterior work would be done in the spring. The main issue would be the back of the building. Mr. Pernelli said he has been approved for a performance bond and would place money in escrow.

A motion was made by Councilman Slater for an Executive Session. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Stevenson. Motion carried 6-0.

Executive Session 7:20pm to 8:10pm.

President Tabita stated that the Executive Session was held to discuss real estate and personnel.

Mayor's Report:

Mayor Lucia said that this years Halloween Trick or Treat will be held on Sunday October 25th from 2pm to 4pm and the Halloween Parade will be on Wednesday October 28th at 7:00pm.

Council discussed sealing the streets and agreed that it is very cost effective to seal the cracks because it extends the life of the pavement. The cost of a block of sealer is \$1,500 and it seals approximately one mile of road.

Mayor Lucia said that he will have a computer that was to be installed in a fire truck installed in the travel trailer that the Borough purchased and will be used as a Command Trailer. Mayor Lucia will also have an 800 Radio that can be used to contact Fire, EMS and Police installed in the trailer. The computer can transmit through the radio. A program will be installed showing all of the Borough streets, sewer lines, fire hydrants, utility companies etc.

Solicitor's Report: None

Treasurer's Report:

Borough Manager Landy read the following Treasurer's Report for the month of September 2009:

Mt. Pleasant Borough Treasurer's Report: Sep-09

		Previous Balance	Deposits	Disbursements	Balance Sep09
General Fund Checking	PNC 00-0122-3513	50,000.00	180,998.51	177,692.51	53,306.00
General Fund Sweep	PNC 10-1149-3394	631,425.50	83,344.15	70,735.96	644,033.69
General Fund Budgetary Reserve	PNC 102-457-4388	102,894.17	56.81	0.00	102,950.98
**Fire		30,000.00			
**Police		10,000.00			
**Streets		10,000.00			
**Contingency Fund		52,950.98			
General Fund Budgetary Reserve	Standard Bank 321615	100,750.01	140.04	0.00	100,890.05
**Police		20,000.00			
**Streets		20,000.00			
**Contingency Fund		20,890.05			
**Infrastructure		30,000.00			
**Recreation Grant Fund		10,000.00			
Liquid Fuels PLGIT	PLGIT 56980126	170,991.01	24.47	91,868.66	79,146.82
Monument CD	Standard Bank 242781	5,626.71	103.19	0.00	5,729.90
Holiday Lighting Fund	Standard Bank 050004849	1,797.01	0.22	0.00	1,797.23
Payroll Fund	PNC 00-0122-6415	1,492.04	69,946.76	63,837.82	7,600.98
Veterans Park Fund	First Niagara 981293700	4,969.13	0.00	1,860.00	3,109.13
Veterans Park PLGIT	PLGIT 5698025	11,240.28	3.17	0.00	11,243.45
Police Drug Enforcement	PNC 10-1291-2642	850.50	0.00	0.00	850.50
Town Clock Fund	Standard Bank 0010038847	611.65	0.07	0.00	611.72
Storm Water Retrofit Phase 1	PNC Bank 10-2825-9692	14,500.00	0.00	0.00	14,500.00
Total General Fund Balance					1,025,770.45
WWT Operational Acct	Standard Bank 0320012280	257,229.73	34,353.57	65,322.74	226,260.56
WWT Savings	Standard Bank 0050021008	10,594.89	14.73	0.00	10,609.62
WWT Budgetary Reserve	Standard Bank 0000287245	101,983.79	141.75	0.00	102,125.54
**Contingency		62,125.54			
**Infrastructure		40,000.00			
Total WWT Balance					338,995.72
Total Borough funds					1,364,766.17

Respectfully Submitted:
 Councilwoman Susan Ruszkowski
 Borough Manager Jeff Landy

Mr. Landy said that compared to last year we have almost the same amount of funds.

A motion was made by Councilman Slater to approve the Treasurer's Report as read. Motion seconded by Councilman McCloy. Motion carried 6-0.

President's Report:

President Tabita asked Borough Manager Landy to check with Glenn Wolfe at Widmer Engineering to see if the final payment for Phase II of the Main Street Street-Scape Project has been made.

Councilman McCloy said that there are some decorative lights burned out on Main Street. President Tabita asked Borough Manager Landy to have the Street Department change the bulbs.

Councilman Slater reported on the proposed CDBG Funding Applications for Jack Bobb's Park and Paving Center Avenue. The plans include a design of the playground. Borough Manager Landy said that the approximate cost of the paving project is \$57,000 and the approximate cost of the playground is \$41,000. The CDBG funds available to the Borough are \$86,000. Councilwoman Stevenson said she has a person who wants to make a donation of approximately \$3,000 to playground equipment. Mr. Landy said that money could be used in another park that does not qualify for CDBG monies. President Tabita said that it may be reasonable to request some of Mount Pleasant Township's CDBG money be spent on Jack Bobb's Park since it is used a lot by Township residents.

Borough Manager's Report:

Borough Manager Landy made the following report:

- Mr. Landy spoke to Ron Stern of the Governors Center and they are still working on the analysis of the Mount Pleasant Borough Police Department. It should be complete by the end of 2009.
- The Borough has received the check from the insurance company for the granite bench that broke at Veterans Park. The amount of the check is \$1,445.90.
- Mr. Landy said that Mount Pleasant Borough sewage customers can pay their bill on-line at the MAWC. Each account has a personal IAC # that must be used. Customers can log onto the MAWC website and follow the instructions.
- Mr. Landy spoke to the PSAB regarding individuals with a handicapped placard parking in a handicapped space that was requested by a resident in front of their home. The PSAB is working on getting an answer to this question. Mr. Landy said that the PSAB is unsure whether it is legal for the Borough to charge a resident requesting a handicapped space for the sign and the cost of erecting the sign.
- Mr. Landy met with the engineering firm of Remington Vernick and Beach. They provided Mr. Landy with dates that they will be available to be interviewed by Council.
- Mr. Landy said that Council has been provided a report on gas well revenues for 2009. To date Willows Park has generated \$7,370 in revenues and Frick Park has generated \$9,773 for total revenue of \$17,000 thru July 2009. These revenues are considerably lower than what was budgeted for 2009. Councilman Slater said that council has to take into consideration the money we are saving because Kriebel Resources is providing free natural gas to the Municipal Building and the Central Fire Station.

Mr. Landy provided Council with a preliminary 2010 budget. Mr. Landy pointed out that the line items with a check beside them are budget numbers that have not been confirmed. Revenues look better than originally thought but Net Income is still negative \$8,700. Electric is expected to go up by 11% in 2010 and the cost for hospitalization is going up again. WWT budget is stable right now but the Municipal Authority of Westmoreland Co. said that water usage is down. Our sewage rates are based on consumption, so if water usage goes down our revenue goes down. Liquid Fuels Budget includes money for sealing the streets while lowering the budget for paving.

Mr. Landy said that Atty Nat Abromson responded on behalf of the Mount Pleasant Municipal Authority to our letter inquiring about Mrs. Wingrove's problem. Mr. Abromson said that the Municipal Authority is not willing to take responsibility. Mayor Lucia said that the flooding problem at the Wingrove's was caused by a large sewage line into a small line. Mayor Lucia said that WWT Supervisor Norm Stout has film showing the problem.

Mr. Landy said that the Borough will request bids for the lawn and snow care for 2010. Skowronek Lawn Care is providing the bid specs.

Councilman Crivella said that the Borough should think about raising taxes. Taxes have not been raised since he was elected to Council.

Waste Water Treatment Report: None

Public Safety, Zoning and Ordinance Report: None

Streets, Parks & Recreation Report: None

Finance Report:

Council discussed what line item the money for the Cat Program should be taken from. Council agreed that the money that was budgeted for the Cat Program in Line Item # 410.23 should be released to the Cat Program. Councilwoman Stevenson said the money will be used to spay and neuter any cats that are caught.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Ruszkowski to donate \$1,500 from Line Item #410.23 for the Cat Program. Motion seconded by Councilman Slater. Motion carried 6-0.

Council discussed raising taxes. Taxes have not been raised in at least four years. Council then discussed projected income from the gas wells. President Tabita said that the money from Frick Park Gas Well will go right back into Frick Park. He said that if the money is not used it should go into a reserve fund to be used at Frick Park exclusively.

Property Report:

A motion was made by Councilman Slater to advertise for bids to replace the boiler at the Central Fire Station. Motion seconded by Councilman Crivella. Motion carried 6-0.

Community Eco-Green Report:

Councilman McCloy said that articles about curbside recycling will be published in the local newspapers beginning next month.

Human Resources and Employee Contracts Report:

A motion was made by Councilwoman Stevenson to hire Patty Ward as part-time on-call secretary at \$7.75 per hour and no benefits. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Ruszkowski. Motion carried 6-0.

Community and Economic Development and Grants Report:

A motion was made by Councilman Crivella that the BDA Budget is not approved by Council until the In-Town Shops are listed with a realtor. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Ruszkowski. A discussion ensued and the motion was tabled.

A motion was made by Councilman Crivella to send the BDA a letter telling them that it is Council’s wish for them to list the In-Town Shops with a realtor prior to their budget being submitted. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Ruszkowski. Motion carried 6-0.

Councilman Crivella said that he will have a report from the Forester who did a study of the trees on Main Street for the next council meeting.

Councilman Crivella said he attended the PSAB Fall Conference at Seven Springs. He spoke to a law firm who advised the Borough to appoint a Solicitor who specializes in Municipal Law.

Borough Manager Landy said that Councilman Crivella spent many hours working on the CDBG Application and it should be ready to be submitted this week.

President Tabita said that the Frick Communities have about a 10% chance of being funded for a Main Street Manager. Connellsville applied for money ahead of us and only one municipality per district will be funded. If the Frick Communities do not receive funding to cover 50% of the cost of a Main Street Manager the Borough does not have money in the budget for that 50%. President Tabita recommended that the BDA hire a person approximately 20 hours per week to do marketing and administrative work. The Borough could pay half the cost of this person and be able to use them also.

New Business:

Councilwoman Stevenson said she attended the meeting of the Library Board. Two members of the Board will be attending the council meeting on November 2, 2009 to talk about 2010 library funding. Councilwoman Stevenson said that the Library Board will also be approaching Mount Pleasant Township for funding. President Tabita said that Borough funding will be conditional on receiving the most recent Library Audit.

Reading of Communications:

Borough Manager Landy read the following communications:

- Jacobs Creek Area Faith in Action Volunteer Recognition Luncheon will be held on Monday November 9, 2009 from 1pm to 2:30pm at the Mount Pleasant Senior Center. Council needs to RSVP by October 26, 2009.
- Westmoreland County Borough’s Association monthly meeting will be held on October 22, 2009 at the West Leechburg Firemen’s Recreation Building at 7:00pm.

Discussion and Payment of Bills:

A motion was made by Councilman Slater to pay all authorized and approved bills. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Stevenson. Motion carried 6-0.

Miscellaneous and Adjournment:

A motion was made by Councilman Slater to adjourn the meeting. Motion seconded by Councilman Crivella. Motion carried 6-0.

Meeting Adjourned 9:32pm

Motions from October 19, 2009 Meeting

A motion was made by Councilman Slater to dispense with the reading of the minutes of October 5, 2009. Motion seconded by Councilman Crivella. Motion carried 6-0.

A motion was made by Councilman Slater for an Executive Session. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Stevenson. Motion carried 6-0.

A motion was made by Councilman Slater to approve the Treasurer's Report as read. Motion seconded by Councilman McCloy. Motion carried 6-0.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Ruszkowski to donate \$1,500 from Line Item #410.23 for the Cat Program. Motion seconded by Councilman Slater. Motion carried 6-0.

A motion was made by Councilman Slater to advertise for bids to replace the boiler at the Central Fire Station. Motion seconded by Councilman Crivella. Motion carried 6-0.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Stevenson to hire Patty Ward as part-time on-call secretary t \$7.75 per hour and no benefits. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Ruszkowski. Motion carried 6-0.

A motion was made by Councilman Crivella that the BDA Budget is not approved by Council until the In-Town Shops are listed with a realtor. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Ruszkowski. A discussion ensued and the motion was tabled.

A motion was made by Councilman Crivella to send the BDA a letter telling them that it is Council's wish for them to list the In-Town Shops with a realtor prior to their budget being submitted. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Ruszkowski. Motion carried 6-0.

A motion was made by Councilman Slater to pay all authorized and approved bills. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Stevenson. Motion carried 6-0.

A motion was made by Councilman Slater to adjourn the meeting. Motion seconded by Councilman Crivella. Motion carried 6-0.