

Meeting October 24, 2011

The meeting of Mount Pleasant Borough Council was called to order by President Bauer 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 and for Solicitor Wolfe's Father who passed away this afternoon. President Bauer directed Borough Manager Landy to take roll. Councilmen Beranek, Crivella, Pritts, Tabita, Tate and Councilwomen Ruskowski and Stevenson were present. Mayor Lucia was present and Solicitor Wolfe was absent. 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 October 3, 2011 since Council has been provided with a copy. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Ruskowski. Motion carried 8-0.

Public Comment: None

Speakers:

Mr. Tony Vecchio, President, Laurel Highlands Chamber of Commerce spoke to Council regarding the parking lot issue between Mount Pleasant Parking Authority and Mark Krystyniak. The Chamber is trying to get an understanding of what decision the Borough and the Parking Authority has made about letting Mr. Krystyniak use the parking lot for residential parking. The deed for the property states that the property is to be used for public parking and if the Parking Authority sells the property the Chamber must be notified and given the option to purchase the property for the same price as the offer made to the Authority. There are three parcels behind Levin Furniture. The Chamber would like to know what the Parking Authority is planning to do. Whether to sell it or lease it to Mr. Krystyniak. Mr. Vecchio said the duty of the Chamber is to see that there is parking available to customers of the downtown businesses. Council said Mr. Krystyniak stated at a recent council meeting that the deal he was working on fell through and he would not need any parking.

Mr. Vecchio said that the Laurel Highland Chamber is merging with the Westmoreland Chamber and will be the Laurel Highlands Division of the Westmoreland Chamber. This merger will bring value back to the members of the Laurel Highlands Chamber. The Westmoreland Chamber would like a letter stating that the issue with Mr. Krystyniak is resolved. Council said that the letter would have to come from the Mount Pleasant Parking Authority.

Mayor's Report:

Mayor Lucia reported that a Mount Pleasant Police vehicle was involved in an accident while assisting the Scottdale Police. The damage was minimal and the officer was not in the car at the time.

Mayor Lucia said that Trick or Treat in the Borough is Sunday October 30th from 2pm to 4pm and the Halloween Parade will be Wednesday October 26th at 7pm.

Solicitor's Report: None

President Bauer said that the policy regarding the Borough Solicitor is that if anyone wants an opinion from the Solicitor they must go through the Borough in order to keep the Borough's legal costs down.

Treasurer's Report:

Borough Manager Landy read the following Treasurer's Report for the month of September 2011:

Mt. Pleasant Borough Treasurer's Report

Sep-11

		Previous Balance	Deposits	Disbursements	Balance 2011
General Fund Checking	PNC 00-0122-3513	50,000.00	215,039.18	215,039.18	50,000.00
General Fund Sweep	PNC 10-1149-3394	768,336.52	114,162.31	47,957.91	834,540.92
General Fund Budgetary Reserve	PNC 102-457-4388	63,180.14	7.79	0.00	63,187.93
**Fire		30,000.00			
**Police		0.00			
**Streets		10,000.00			
**Contingency Fund		23,187.93			
General Fund Budgetary Reserve	Standard Bank 321615	312,478.99	89.90	0.00	312,568.89
**Police		50,000.00			

**Streets		70,000.00				
**Contingency Fund		65,613.24				
**Infrastructure		80,000.00				
**BOMP1 Recreation Fund		7,000.00				
**Frick Park Recreation Fund		9,964.00				
**Levins		10,000.00				
**Surveillance Cameras		9,000.00				
**Fire		5,000.00				
**K-9		5,991.65				
Liquid Fuels PLGIT	PLGIT 56980126	95,277.63	3.12	0.00		95,280.75
Monument CD	Standard Bank 242781	5,739.23	0.00	0.00		5,739.23
Holiday Lighting Fund	Standard Bank 050004849	1,800.64	0.07	0.00		1,800.71
Payroll Fund	PNC 00-0122-6415	7,762.89	50,987.77	57,406.27		1,344.39
Veterans Park Fund	First Niagara 981293700	5,363.79	0.00	629.00		4,734.79
Veterans Park Fund	PLGIT 5698025	11,258.77	0.37	0.00		11,259.14
Police Drug Enforcement	PNC 10-1291-2642	850.50	0.00	0.00		850.50
Town Clock Fund	Standard Bank 0010038847	612.88	0.03	0.00		612.91
Medic 10 Checking	Standard Bank 0010107643	19,592.45	84,647.37	34,393.80		69,846.02
Medic 10 Savings	Standard Bank 0310000238	94,414.34	27.16	0.00		94,441.50
Storm Water Retrofit Phase I	PNC Bank 10-2825-9692	948.00	0.00	948.00		0.00
Storm Water Retrofit Phase II	PNC Bank 10-3388-4556	46,959.40	0.00	614.91		46,344.49
K-9 Unit	PNC Bank 10-3388-5954	964.95	0.00	964.95		0.00
Total General Fund Balance						1,592,552.17
WWT Operational Acct	Standard Bank 0320012280	267,726.26	32,814.75	61,287.19		239,253.82
WWT Savings	Standard Bank 0050021008	48,623.72	1,518.39	0.00		50,142.11
WWT Budgetary Reserve	Standard Bank 0000287245	179,074.14	51.52	0.00		179,125.66
**Contingency		128,900.55				
**Infrastructure		50,000.00				
Total WWT Balance						468,521.59
Total Borough funds						2,061,073.76

Respectfully Submitted:

Councilwoman Susan Ruskowski
Secretary Beverly Fedorchak

A motion was made by Councilman Beranek to approve the Treasurers Report as read. Motion seconded by Councilman Crivella. Motion carried 8-0.

President's Report:

President Bauer asked everyone to be mindful of the young people on the streets during Trick or Treat in the Borough.

President Bauer said that he is proud of the projects the Borough has done in 2011, but there are projects that have fallen by the wayside such as paving West Washington Street. The residents were told after the Sewer Project that the street would be repaved and it still has not been done. President Bauer cautioned Council about spending the money in Budgetary Reserve. It is important to have funds in reserve in case of an emergency such as the snowstorm in February 2010. President Bauer said he would also like to see more work done in our parks.

Borough Manager's Report:

Borough Manager Landy said that the recent bus tour of Mount Pleasant Rain Gardens was a success. Engineers and Landscapers from around the region took the tour and were impressed by how we were able to put it together and be the first ones in the state to do a project like this.

Mr. Landy said he and Councilwoman Ruskowski are working on a preliminary budget and a copy will be emailed to Council on Tuesday.

Mr. Landy said that he and Mayor Lucia went to Vo-Tech and they are going to refurbish the Snow Flake Christmas decorations for us at no cost and they will also string the lights. The snowflakes were used in the early 90's on Main Street. Since we have since purchased new decorations for Main Street we will put the snowflakes on North and South Diamond Streets and on North and South Church Streets. Mr. Landy said he will look at getting quotes for the electrical boxes for the decorations and hopefully we can have them up for this Christmas.

Mr. Landy said that the small boat has been delivered and installed in Satcho's Park and the Street Department will finish the area around it.

Mr. Landy said he is in the process of getting quotes for employee health care. The cost of our health care has gone up 7-10% for the past three years even with the Borough being creative with a self-funded deductible. The Steel Workers Union has asked us to include the union members in any quotes we get because their insurance has also go up considerably.

Mr. Landy said that a gentleman by the name of Mr. Moore who is a mason has agreed to donate his time to help with the Welcome To Mount Pleasant signs. Mr. Moore has looked at the used brick that is stored at the Street Department and he does not feel that they can be used for the sign so the Borough will have to buy materials for the signs.

Mr. Landy said that Council has a copy of the Leaf Pick Up Program in the Borough and he will provide the media with a copy so that residents understand the program.

Mr. Landy said that he and Councilwoman Ruszkowski will begin working on line item transfers for November.

Councilman Tabita brought up the subject of the Budgetary Reserve and using it for projects in the Borough instead of letting it sit in the bank. Mr. Landy pointed out that most of the money in Budgetary Reserve is already earmarked. The budgetary Reserve is broken down into line items and each line item is for a certain expense. The Police Department line item is for a new vehicle that will be needed in the near future, the money in the Street Department line item can be used for a much needed vehicle for that department, the Recreation Fund line items are monies promised to funding recreation, the Levin Monument line item is money donated from Levin's and will be used for the Levin Monument and the bike trail. The Surveillance Cameras line item is money that was donated last year specifically for surveillance cameras and the K-9 line item is money that was donated in 2010 specifically for the Police K-9. So there is not a lot of money in Budgetary Reserve that is not earmarked for a specific purpose.

President Bauer said that he learned about a magazine published by Brentwood Borough that informs the public about things going on in the borough. The magazine tells about what is going on in the school district as well as the borough. It includes a report from the Mayor, Borough Manager, Code Inspector etc. that is very informative and tells the public what is being done as well as giving information on services available. President Bauer said that if it can be done inexpensively he would like to look into doing it in Mount Pleasant.

Waste Water Treatment Report:

Councilman Tate said that the Borough received a DCED Grant for a snow blower attachment. The snow blower has been purchased and will come in handy this winter, mostly in the alleys. The snow can be blown right into the back of a borough truck and hauled away.

Streets Report:

Councilman Tate said that we are waiting for health care costs before we can move forward on the Street Department Contract.

Councilman Tate reported that the borough departments have had a winter snow meeting to plan for any heavy snowfall this winter. Councilman Tate said that he feels our two-man Street Department does a very good job keeping the Borough street cleared of snow in the winter and this year WWT will help during heavy snows.

Public Safety:

Councilman Beranek said that he, Councilman Tate and Solicitor Wolfe met with Patrolman Grippo to discuss more training for the Mount Pleasant K-9. Solicitor Wolfe reported that a partially trained K-9 presents more of a liability than one who is trained in all aspects of enforcement. There are new techniques that Officer Gerro can be trained in and then he can be used for more police work. The proposed training would cost \$3,500, which is already available in the K-9 fund. The training would take 8-10 weeks to complete. There is a class available in November 2011. Officer Grippo would like K-9 Officer Gerro trained in tracking and criminal apprehension. The only major issue is department scheduling while Officer Grippo is in training. Mayor Lucia said that it puts a burden on Chief Ober to fill the schedule while Officer Grippo is training. It will also affect the Public Safety budget for part-time and over-time payroll.

A motion was made by Councilman Beranek to suspend the rules for a motion to send Officer Grippo and K-9 Officer Gerro to additional training. Motion seconded by Councilman Tate. Motion carried 8-0.

A motion was made by Councilman Beranek to send Officer Grippo and K-9 Officer Gerro to additional training contingent on approval by Police Chief Ober. Motion seconded by Councilman Tate. Motion carried 8-0.

Community and Economic Development/Grants Report:

Councilman Tabita said that the bike trail expansion is progressing. Mr. Landy informed Councilman Tabita that he got the name of a company who will sell us signs for the bike trail at ½ the cost. Councilman Tabita said that our engineers have provided us with the schematics for the signs, how many we will need of each and where they will go. When the trail expansion is complete it will be linked with Veterans Park and Willows Park. Councilman Tabita said he would like a designated area where people, primarily children, can ride their bike to get to the trail. Signage is necessary to alert drivers that bikes are on the streets. Councilman Tabita said that he would like money in the 2012 budget to incorporate a historical trail in with the bike trail where it passes historical sites. There was more discussion about the bike trail extension.

Councilman Tabita reported that the sign at the old PNC drive-thru is up. Right now there is a slogan “A Friendly Town”. Councilman Tabita said he would like to see that changed, directing people to the Municipal Building and parking in the old drive-thru lot. There was more discussion about changing the color of the lettering and lighting.

Ed Howley, B.I.U. said that a second round of letters will be sent this week to landlords regarding inspections. It will be the same as the first letter except at the top it will say “second notice”. Mr. Landy said that Secretary Fedorchak has worked on getting names of possible landlords from the Assessment Record and Mr. Howley can get that list from her. President Bauer said he would like B.I.U. to wait until November 8th to send the letters. Mr. Howley said that B.I.U. has gotten a 65% response from the first letter.

Veterans Park Report:

Councilman Tabita said work is progressing on the Veterans Park Video Wall. The screen will be 8ft x 8ft landscape view. There will be 4ft x 8ft video screens at the top and the 4ft base will house speakers and a PA system. Councilman Tabita said that the start-up cost for the Video Wall will be approximately \$60,000 and will be recouped from application fees for names on the wall.

Parks and Recreation Report:

Councilman Crivella thanked President Bauer for initiating the work at Satcho’s Park and President Bauer’s son for his work at the park. He also thanked the Mount Pleasant Glass and Ethnic Festival for their donation of \$1,000 and the Krystyniak family for their donation of \$1,000 also. Another \$500 came out of the Parks and Recreation budget.

Councilman Crivella reported that the Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee met for the first time on October 5, 2011 and the next meeting is scheduled for November 15, 2011. The first meeting was spent discussing a summer recreation program for the Borough and some sort of publication to inform the public about the program. There is tremendous interest in a dog park. And the committee asked where the parking will be at the Bridgeport Street property to access the bike trail.

Councilman Crivella said he emailed Council a copy of his proposed 2012 Parks and Recreation budget. He eliminated the line item for material and supplies because he feels that the signs for the bike trail etc. are more suited to the Community and Economic Development/Grants budget.

Councilman Crivella said he received information from Community Tree Management Institute on a two-day seminar on how municipalities can better manage their tree programs. Councilman Crivella said he would like to see Borough Manager Landy attend this seminar on November 2nd and 3rd at State College.

Councilman Tabita said he also feels that there is a lot of interest in a dog park and feels the volley ball court on the side of the Municipal Building could be used to see if there is enough interest without too much work needing to be done. The only thing it would need is a double door. Council discussed the pros and cons of using the Volley Ball Court as a dog park.

A motion was made by Councilman Tabita to suspend the rules for a motion to put double doors on the volleyball court. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Stevenson. Motion carried 7-0. Councilman Crivella cast the only no vote.

A motion was made by Councilman Tabita to spend no more than \$300 to change the doors at the volley ball court to double doors and have the holes in the fence patched. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Stevenson. Motion carried 7-0. Councilman Crivella cast the only no vote.

Finance Report:

Councilwoman Ruszkowski said that she and Mr. Landy are both on the Westmoreland County Tax Collection Committee. If they are not able to attend a meeting Caprice Mills, Mount Pleasant Township has agreed to act as 2nd alternate and cast a vote for the Borough.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Ruszkowski to appoint Caprice Mills, Mount Pleasant Township as 2nd alternate for the Westmoreland County Tax Collection Committee. Motion seconded by Councilman Pritts. Motion carried 8-0.

Property Report:

Councilman Pritts said he is getting quotes for a new furnace at the 3rd Ward Fire Station and they are approximately \$3,000. He is still waiting for another quote before making a decision.

Councilman Pritts said that two of the surveillance cameras will be installed on Main Street before the end of the year. The third camera will be installed in the early part of 2012.

Council received a report on the inspection of the Municipal Building and most of the work that is required can be done by our Street Department.

Sanitation and Recycling Report:

A motion was made by Councilwoman Stevenson to agree to the mutual two-year extension provision in the current garbage contract with Allied Waste at the same terms conditions, and rates for the next 24 months. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Ruszkowski. Motion carried 8-0.

New Business: None

Reading of Communications:

Borough Manager Landy read the following communications:

- PMAA Region 9/10 Fall Dinner meeting will be held on November 5, 2010 at Twelve Oaks Mansion in Mars, PA beginning at 6pm.
- The Harmon House Care Center is having "Creating Connections Between Residents and the Community" at 11am on October 28, 2011 and they would like a council member to come and speak to the residents on community events, issues currently being addressed in council meetings, services available to residents, voting and other topics regarding the community.
- Westmoreland County Boroughs Association meeting will be held on October 27, 2011 at the Scottdale Elks Club at 7pm.
- The DAR is sponsoring Wreaths Across America and would like the Borough to sponsor a wreath.
- Good Shepherd Lutheran Church will be having a Thanksgiving Day meal with all the trimmings from 11am to 3pm on Thanksgiving Day. The meal is free of charge.

Discussion and Payment of Bills:

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

Miscellaneous and Adjournment:

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

Meeting adjourned 8:56pm.

Motions from October 24, 2011 Meeting

A motion was made by Councilwoman Stevenson to dispense with the reading of the minutes of October 3, 2011 since Council has been provided with a copy. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Ruszkowski. Motion carried 8-0.

A motion was made by Councilman Beranek to approve the Treasurers Report as read. Motion seconded by Councilman Crivella. Motion carried 8-0.

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