

Meeting October 5, 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 Bauer, McCloy, Tate and Councilwomen Ruszkowski and 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 September 21, 2009. Motion seconded by Councilman McCloy. Motion carried 6-0.

Speakers:

Mr. David Smith, Allied Waste spoke to Council about the proposed curbside recycling in the Borough. Mr. Smith showed Council the 18 gallon recycling container that will be used. There will be no need to sort recyclables, they will all go into one container. Bottles, plastic, tin cans, aluminum cans, newspapers, magazines, junk mail and cardboard can all be put into the container. In early December 2009 Allied Waste will send out a flyer to all of Mount Pleasant Borough customers explaining the program, the dates the collection will occur and when the containers will be delivered. There will also be notifications in the newspapers. Collection will be the same day as the regular trash collection, but every other week instead of every week. Customers will have the option to buy extra bins at \$10.00 per bin from Allied Waste. Another option is to use another container as long as it is clearly marked RECYCLING. This program will be for residential customers only. Commercial customers can use commercial dumpsters to recycle. These dumpsters are a little less expensive than the regular garbage dumpsters. It would be a paid service just like the trash service. Mr. Smith invited Council to tour the recycling facility at Allied Waste.

Public Comment:

Mr. Mark Krystyniak, Mount Pleasant, PA spoke to Council about his concerns regarding building inspections. Mr. Krystyniak would like to use his own inspector. President Tabita said that when a borough contracts a building code inspector they have no option to use other inspectors. If the Borough appointed one of its employees as code inspector, that person could sub-contract the inspections. Since we do not use a borough employee and we assign it to an outside service, the state is informed of the official and we can't use anyone else. Mr. Krystyniak said in that case, he will not develop properties in the Borough. He will maintain the properties he owns in the Borough but he will not develop them.

Mr. Krystyniak said that he is having a problem with individuals parking in the Diamond Mini-Mall parking lot. These people work at other establishments and illegally use the Mini-Mall parking lot. Mr. Krystyniak said that after these individuals are informed, their vehicles will be towed if they continue to use the lot.

Mayor's Report:

Mayor Lucia read the following Police Report for the month of September 2009:

Report of the Mount Pleasant Police Dept for the month of September 2009

The Department answered 362 calls during the month as follows:

Complaints	93
Requests for assistance	1
Assist Other Departments	1

Accidents investigated	4
Calls Returned	10
Assist Medic 10	8

The Department made 34 arrests during the month as follows:

Vehicle Code	26
Crimes Code	8
Borough Ordinance	0
Warnings Issued	0

Parking Tickets issued are as follows:

\$1.00 Meter Tickets	43
\$10.00 No Parking Tickets	1
Void / Excused	1

\$1.00 Parking Tickets Paid	36	\$	36.00
\$5.00 Parking Tickets Paid	1	\$	5.00
\$10.00 Parking Tickets Paid	0	\$	-

Return from Magistrate Eckels	\$1,736.57
Return from Clerk of Courts	\$ 62.59
Return from Report Fees	\$ 105.00
Return from Parking Permits	\$ -
Return from Soliciting Permits	\$ -
Return from Restitution	\$ -

Total \$1,945.16

Meter Receipts 2 Collections \$1,213.22

Total Receipts for the month \$3,158.38

Mayor Lucia said that there should be no parking signs on the west side of S. Hitchman Street. The ordinance states that there is no parking on S. Hitchman Street from Main Street to the borough line on the east side. Solicitor Toohey said that if Council wants to change the ordinance it can be included with the re-codification and noted in the advertisement. Mayor Lucia asked Police Chief Ober to look at the draft of the re-codification and note any errors in street parking. A discussion ensued regarding some other changes that need to be made.

Mayor Lucia said he would like to see a speed hump added on Warden Alley between Sycamore Street and Cedar Street.

A motion was made by Councilman Bauer to add a speed hump on Ward Alley between Sycamore Street and Cedar Street. Motion seconded by Councilman McCloy. Motion carried 6-0.

Council discussed reducing the speed limit in some of the Borough alleys and Eagle Street.

Mayor Lucia said that the Mount Pleasant Area School District Football Team is having a very good year and will have a bonfire on October 22, 2009 at 7:00pm at the High School. The public is welcome to attend and support the team. Our sports teams are part of what makes our community strong.

Solicitor's Report:

Solicitor Toohey said that he researched the issuing of permit parking on metered streets in the Borough. Traffic section #415 of our ordinance states that parking permits may be issued for one vehicle per residence on metered streets for an annual fee. President Tabita asked Police Chief Ober to identify the metered streets in the Borough other than Main Street. Council discussed changing the ordinance to two vehicles per residence,

what to do on Church Street from Main Street to Washington Street and what the permit fee should be.

Tax Collector's Report:

Tax Collector Carol Yancosky read the following report for the month of September 2009:

Property Taxes Collected	\$3284.69
Per Capita Taxes Collected	\$2474.50
Total Taxes Collected	\$5759.19

Councilman Bauer asked if a property tax appeal can be made by someone who no longer owns the property. Solicitor Toohey said that the appeal may have been filed before the sale of the property. The new owners would get the benefit if the appeal is granted. If the person who filed the appeal does not show up at the appeal it would most likely be dismissed.

President's Report:

President Tabita said that Phase II of the Main Street Street-Scape Project is a success. It has already been shown that property owners are willing to invest more on Main Street.

President Tabita thanked everyone who worked on the Glass and Ethnic Festival and the Concerts In The Park this year. Once again Borough Manager Landy booked some great entertainment. Mayor Lucia said that people have suggested that during Movies In The Park the street should be closed because of all of the young children attending the movie.

President Tabita said that the Mount Pleasant Area School District has a great athletic program including indoor swimming and the tennis courts. President Tabita said that the Borough is still working on the agreement with the school district for the Ramsey Tennis Courts. President Tabita asked Council their opinion of a 25-year lease with the school district for the tennis courts. Council agreed that 25 years was acceptable. Councilman Bauer asked Council what they thought of building tennis courts at Jack Bobb's Park. The Borough could use CDBG funds to do that project.

A motion was made by Councilman Bauer to allow Councilwoman Stevenson to attend two PSAB Webinars at \$30 each. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Ruszkowski. Motion carried 6-0.

Borough Manager's Report:

Borough Manager Landy made the following report:

- The problem with gas from the gas well supplying the Municipal Building has been resolved and they are working on the issues with the Central VFD.
- Mount Pleasant Township will be bringing a check in the amount of \$4,000 to purchase the 1985 Elgin Street Sweeper this week.
- Mr. Landy addressed Glenn Wolfe, Widmer Engineering about bidding out Phase I of the Stormwater Retrofit Project and the final payment to the county for Phase II of the Main Street Street-Scape Project.
- Mullin and Lonergan recommended that Mr. Landy contact Smart Growth regarding LUP-TAP grants.
- Council is required to choose two delegates from the Borough to represent us on the Tax Collection Committee that concerns ACT 32 regarding countywide collection of income tax and possibly other taxes for all school districts and municipalities within each county. The first meeting will be held on October 21, 2009 at 7pm at the Commissioners Room in the courthouse.

Council agreed that Borough Manager Landy and Councilwoman Susan Ruszkowski would represent the Borough on the Tax Collection Committee.

- We ordered and have received our first load of salt off of the state contract.
- Seal-Tite will go over our crack sealer and fix the electrical issue.

- There is no longer a Chamber sign at the old PNC drive-thru and the Parking Authority is going to allow the Borough to put a sign in its place. Mr. Landy contacted Linda Taylor to design the sign and will have something to show Council soon. The cost can be taken from Line Item #433.10 Alley Signs.
- Mr. Landy gave Council a copy of the minutes from the recent Idea Forum. The idea that was discussed was to purchase the old theater on the east end of town.
- Mr. Landy asked Council to look at the Profit and Loss Budget Vs. Actual report. We are getting close on some line items and some are already over budget.
- Councilman Crivella did a street tree survey and Council was emailed a copy of the report.
- The Borough received a bid from Industrial Appraisal. We have not had an updated appraisal since 2005. There is money available in the 2009 budget because of the money saved by switching insurance companies this year. The bid was for \$3,800 for them to certify values of our equipment.

A motion was made by Councilman Bauer to accept the bid from Industrial Appraisal. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Ruszkowski. Motion carried 6-0.

Mr. Landy said that planning has begun for the annual Christmas Parade and another day of activities. Medic 10 said they would like to be involved again this year and we will have the support of the BDA. Any restaurant, business or group is welcome to participate.

Mr. Landy said that the Kid's Fest during the Glass and Ethnic Festival was postponed because of rain and will be held on October 10th.

Waste Water Treatment Report:

Councilman Tate asked if customers are able to pay their sewage bills on-line. Mr. Landy said he would check with M.A.W.C. Mr. Landy reported that the borough office has been getting a number of calls from our sewage customers. M.A.W.C. has hired new customer service representatives and they are giving out wrong information. We have called M.A.W.C. and they are aware of the problem.

Councilman Tate said that WWT personnel have started replacing the windows at the plant. The frames should be built this week and the new windows should be here in approximately two weeks. The new windows should cut down on the heating bills at the plant.

Public Safety, Zoning and Ordinance Report:

Councilman Bauer read the following Fire Report for the month of August 2009:

Total calls	22
In Town	8
Out of town	14
10-45's	9
Fires	2
AFA's	3
Stand-by's	1
Public service calls	7
Total men answering	321
Average member per call	14
Total hours	208

Councilman Bauer read the following Medic 10 Report for the month of August 2009:

Total calls for the month	122
Medical	107
MVA	7
Fire	4
Transfers	0
Standby	4

In Town	54
Out of town	68
Members per call	3.8

Councilman Bauer said he will meet with his committee this week to finalize the ordinance codification book. Council should be able to make a motion to advertise the re-codification at the next meeting.

A motion was made by Councilman Bauer to suspend the rules for a motion to hold Trick or Treating in the Borough on October 25th and the Halloween Parade on October 28th. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Stevenson. Motion carried 6-0.

A motion was made by Councilman Bauer to hold Trick or Treat in the Borough on Sunday October 25, 2009 from 2-4pm and the Halloween Parade on Wednesday October 28, 2009 at 7pm. Main Street will be closed from Braddock Road Avenue to Center Avenue from 6:30pm to 8:00pm for the parade. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Stevenson. Motion carried 6-0.

Councilman Bauer said that old Christmas decorations are still being stored at the Synagogue. The Snow Flakes are still in good condition and all we would have to do is have them powder coated. Council had discussed using them on Diamond Street and Church Street. We tried to sell them but couldn't find anyone who wanted them. Why not use them.

Councilman Bauer said he feels two good projects for CDBG funds would be to pave Center Avenue and to put some money in Jack Bobb's Park. The Glass and Ethnic Festival purchased a swing set for Jack Bobb's Park, but if we could use CDBG money to buy equipment for Jack Bobb's Park we could put the swing set at another park. Councilman Bauer said that any new improvements at Jack Bobb's Park should include the approved mulch so that we can get other grant money for the park. Council discussed other projects for the CDBG funds.

Councilman Bauer said that he and Borough Manager Landy spoke with Ms. Pam Soforic at the Senior Center and there is a storage area in their building that if we fixed up a little, we could store some of the Borough and Glass Festival Equipment there such as a PA System we can use for Gazebo events.

A motion was made by Councilman Bauer to have Borough Manager Landy send a list of proposed CDBG funding projects to the county. Motion seconded by Councilman McCloy. Motion carried 6-0.

Streets, Parks and Recreation Report:

A motion was made by Councilman Bauer to sponsor a Viking Football Rally at 7:00pm at the Gazebo the Thursday before their first playoff game. Motion seconded by Councilman Tate. Motion carried 6-0.

Councilman Bauer said that McColly Memorials has refused to reimburse the Borough or replace the granite bench that broke at Veterans Park. They stated that their stamp was not on the broken bench and they do not believe we purchased it from them even though all of our records show that we did purchase it from them. Councilman Bauer said that he feels they did not repair it properly when the back came loose before.

Councilman Tate said that the Little League is requesting that Council permit them to build a t-ball field next to the Little League field. Mr. Landy said he spoke to the DEP and they said that this is an overflow area for Shupes Run and as long as the Little League does not erect anything that will block water flow the DEP would permit the construction of the t-ball field. The Little League said they will absorb the full cost of the new field. Councilwoman Stevenson said that the property should be included in the lease that the Borough has with the Little League. Councilman Bauer said they should submit a plan for the new field.

Finance Report:

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

Executive Session 8:49pm to 9:06pm

President Tabita reported that the Executive Session was to discuss legal and leasing issues.

Property Report:

Mr. Landy said that Councilman Beranek had a granite expert look at the pyramids at Veterans Park and he agreed to seal the cracks to keep the water out and possibly prevent the cracks from spreading.

Community Eco-Green Report:

Councilman McCloy said that the curbside recycling program in the Borough is moving forward. Flyers will be included in Allied Waste garbage bills and residents will be receiving their containers in December for recycling to begin in January 2010.

Human Resources and Employee Contracts Report:

Councilwoman Stevenson said that she received an email from a company that specializes in employee issues and handbooks. This company focuses entirely on municipalities. This company stated that if we send them what we have so far they will give us a cost of finishing the Borough handbook. Councilwoman Stevenson said that one of the webinars she will be attending covers some of these issues and she will wait until after the webinar to see if this company can be of value to us. Mr. Landy said that he would like Councilwoman Stevenson to see if this company will also review our Police Manual.

Community and Economic Development and Grants Report:

Mr. Landy said that Councilman Crivella asked him to tell Council that he supports Mr. Krystyniak's position on hiring your own inspector. A discussion ensued about inspectors and borough ordinances. Council agreed that they will not do anything to compromise safety in the Borough.

President Tabita said he wanted to bring it to Council's attention that the Main Street Manager Program with Scottdale and West Overton may not happen. With the state budget not passed yet and cuts being made in the budget, President Tabita said funding for the program will probably not be available. The Frick Communities has gotten a 501C3 status and we can do some small things with the BDA etc. It may be possible for the BDA to hire its own part-time Main Street Manager. Mayor Lucia said that when the Mount Pleasant Chamber of Commerce and the BDA shared a Main Street Manager it worked well. But then the Chamber became Laurel Highlands Chamber of Commerce, which was a regional chamber of commerce. When that happened the manager was just stretched too thin. Mayor Lucia feels that the proposed position of Main Street Manager to be shared by Mount Pleasant, Scottdale and West Overton may not work out either. President Tabita said that if the Main Street Manager Program does not receive state money it may not benefit Mount Pleasant to be part of the program. President Tabita said he is attending a Frick Communities meeting on Wednesday and he will let Council know where he feels it will go.

President Tabita said that the BDA is going to continue to pursue renting the In-Town Shops to raise revenue. With one of the apartments rented upstairs and the restaurant downstairs they may break even and have some tax money to invest in the Borough.

New Business:

Council discussed 2010 appointments of Solicitor and Engineer.

Council asked Borough Manager Landy to research whether interviews for prospective Solicitors, Engineers, Auditors etc. must be done in a public meeting or whether Council can interview them in Executive Session. Council discussed times to interview prospective Solicitors and Engineers.

Councilwoman Stevenson spoke to Council about the funding of the Cat Program. Councilwoman Stevenson said that money for the Cat Program was budgeted for 2009. She would like Council to release the money for the program. So far 89 cats have been neutered in the program and the number will soon be 100. That would mean that approximately 700 kittens were not born because of this program. Councilwoman Stevenson said that she feels the program has made an impact in the amount of stray cats in the Borough. Councilwoman Stevenson said that she feels it is important to fund the Cat Program in the 2010 Budget. Borough Manager Landy suggested that the Cat Committee go to corporations such as Purina for donations.

Reading of Communications: None

Discussion and Payment of Bills:

A motion was made by Councilman Bauer 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 Bauer to adjourn the meeting. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Stevenson. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Stevenson. Motion carried 6-0.

Motion adjourned 9:59pm

Motions from October 5, 2010 Meeting

A motion was made by Councilman Bauer to dispense with the reading of the minutes of September 21, 2009. Motion seconded by Councilman McCloy. Motion carried 6-0.

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