

Meeting October 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, Pritts, Snyder, Tate, Wojnar and Councilwomen Bailey, and Ruszkowski and Stevenson were present. Mayor Lucia and Solicitor Wolfe were present. 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 September 16, 2013 since Council has been provided with a copy. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Ruszkowski. Motion carried 9-0.

Public Comment: None

Mayor Lucia swore in Mr. Patrick Brien to the Mount Pleasant Planning Commission.

Speakers:

Mr. Chuck Karadus, President of the Kosiuszko Club presented the Borough with a check in the amount of \$1,000 to be used for the new Christmas wreaths.

Robert Zelenak Sarp & Company reported to Council on the 2012 Audit. Mr. Zelenak said that the Independent Auditor's Report presents a good opinion on the audit. Mr. Zelenak reported that the audit disclosed no instances of noncompliance. The ratio of assets vs. liabilities is 3 to 1 which is very healthy for the Borough.

Mayor's Report:

Mayor Lucia read the following Police Report for the month of September 2013:

Report of the Mount Pleasant Police Department for the month of September 2013

The Department answered 356 calls during the month as follows

Complaints	53
Requests for assistance	8
Assist Other Departments	8
Accidents investigated	6
Calls Returned	10
Assist Medic 10	3

The Department made 14 arrests during the month as follows

Vehicle Code	9
Crimes Code	5
Borough Ordinance	0
Warning Issued	0

Parking Tickets issued are as follows:

\$4.00 Meter Tickets	2
\$10.00 No Parking Tickets	5
Void / Excused	1

\$1.00 Parking Tickets Paid	\$	-
\$2.00 Parking Tickets Paid		
\$3.00 Parking Tickets Paid		
\$4.00 Parking Tickets Paid	1	\$

		4.00	
\$5.00 Parking Tickets Paid	0	\$	-
		\$	
\$10.00 Parking Tickets Paid	3	30.00	
\$15.00 Parking Tickets Paid	0	\$	-
\$10.00 No Parking Tickets Pd	0	\$	-
		\$	
Return from Magistrate Eckels		1,071.73	
		\$	
Return from Clerk of Courts		111.02	
		\$	
Return from Report Fees		45.00	
Return from Parking Permits		\$	-
Return from Restitution		\$	-
		\$	
Total		1,261.75	
		\$	
1 Meter Collection		1,458.88	
		\$	
Total Receipts for the month		2,720.63	

Mayor Lucia said that The Village Restaurant will be celebrating their 50th anniversary this weekend. The restaurant has a lot of activities planned for everyone's enjoyment.

Mayor Lucia thanked the neighborhoods where the Glass and Ethnic Festival was held. These residents are always inconvenienced during the festival and the Borough is very grateful for their patience.

Mayor Lucia said he has been getting inquiries about open fire pits. Mayor Lucia pointed out that these pits must be manufactured, not homemade, and the owner of any pit should notify him at the Fire Department when they purchase a pit to use. Also, they cannot be used to burn garbage.

Solicitor's Report:

Solicitor Wolfe said that he has gone over the two proposals for guaranteed energy savings program that the Borough advertised for. The responses were from Siemens and Honeywell who are both fairly well-known and respected companies. Solicitor Wolfe said that the next step is to choose one of these vendors as the selected vendor and have them put together a proposal with respect to what they can do, what they're recommending the Borough does, what the cost will be and what the anticipated savings will be. Then negotiate a contract from there. Borough Manager Landy said that Honeywell came in and met with council members after doing a study of the borough buildings and he feels they are the most familiar with our needs. Council agreed that Mr. Landy should call Honeywell.

Tax Collector's Report:

Tax Collector Carol Yancosky gave the following report for the month of September 2013:

Property Taxes = \$2,495.69

Per Capita = \$2,107.00

Total = \$4,602.69

President's Report:

President Bauer said he received a lot of good feedback regarding the Glass Festival this year. Everything went very well this year and there were no complaints. WWT and Street Departments did a great job setting up and cleaning up. The Police Department also did a great job of maintaining order.

President Bauer said that he and Council are doing the best they can to use borough funds wisely and not waste money. President Bauer said that he is going to expect more out of the department managers in the Borough. He feels that the present Council is doing the best it can to keep taxes down and still offer the services residents have come to expect. Keeping taxes down benefits all property owners in the Borough, including the landlords and Council is not planning to raise taxes this year.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Ruszkowski for an Executive Session. Motion seconded by Councilman Pritts. Motion carried 9-0.

Executive Session 7:30pm to 8:00pm

President Bauer introduced Mr. Angelo Locketto spoke to Council about the pipe lining project on North Geary Street. Mr. Locketto's company does internal pipe lining with an epoxy material to rebuild the structure of the storm water pipe. There would be no digging required for the process. Mr. Locketto asked Council if they would like him to do a formal proposal. Councilman Tate said that Street Supervisor Fontanazza will take Mr. Locketto to review the site. Mr. Locketto said that it can be an expensive process, but it will last a lifetime and the convenience of not having to dig and having it functional in a day is well worth it.

Borough Manager's Report:

Borough Manager Landy reported that he and Solicitor Wolfe attended an Economic Growth Summit at Westmoreland County Community College. Solicitor Wolfe was on the panel of professionals at the summit. Mr. Landy said that one thing that may be helpful to the Borough is Land Banking. Land Banking is when Mount Pleasant Borough coordinates with Westmoreland County and surrounding communities. The County purchases blighted properties and most are on the judicial sale list. It is possible to purchase a piece of property for one dollar. Then money would have to be spent to fix the properties. Westmoreland County has chosen Mount Pleasant Borough to be part of the land banking group.

Mr. Landy said that Mr. Jim Gayton, Architect, will be working on some projects for the Borough including the Penn Park Project. The building has been demolished and the land is ready for the park. The Borough can use CDBG funds for the park, but the state wants engineered plans before releasing the money. Mr. Landy said that he has put together a group to draw up plans at no charge to the Borough. Plans should be completed within the next several months.

Mr. Landy reported that the final rain garden has been completed and the four-year Storm Water Retrofit Grant Project is done. Mr. Landy said that he is working on funding for other projects in the Borough including construction of Penn Park and the storm water project on North Geary Street.

Borough Manager Landy said that as was reported by Mr. Zelenak tonight, the fund audits went well. The Liquid Fuels audit was also completed and there were no findings. Secretary Fedorchak does a great job of gathering the information for the auditors.

Mr. Landy thanked everyone in the Borough for the great cooperation during the Glass and Ethnic Festival. It is truly a borough event and Mr. Landy thanked council members for their help at the festival. Councilwoman Stevenson said that she spent her time at the festival with the Historical Society at the Log House and was impressed by how many people from out of town attend the festival and have it on their calendars as an annual trip. Councilman Tate said that he attends other festivals and they hardly compare to the Glass and Ethnic Festival in Mount Pleasant. Mr. Landy said that the Glass Festival Committee works hard all year and has a passion for creating the best.

Borough Manager Landy said that the Christmas Parade will be held on December 7, 2013 at 11am. This year the Candlelight Procession will be held on December 8, 2013 this year at 5:30pm. Councilwoman Stevenson said that she would like to see a brochure produced and given out before the events this year so that people can plan to attend.

Borough Manager Landy said that the company who is building the tower for the emergency siren has guaranteed that the siren will be up before the end of 2013.

Mr. Landy said that he had a meeting regarding yard sale signage in the Borough. The people who requested the meeting suggested more information on the permit regarding what is and is not allowed as far as signage. Mr. Landy said that the permit will be changed to include this information.

Mr. Landy said that the Mount Pleasant Borough Safety Committee went as a group and inspected the borough buildings and departments. They made a list of things that they felt were safety issues. Council can decide how to move forward regarding any changes that need to be made.

Borough Manager Landy said that he met with county officials regarding CDBG funds. The Borough has \$40,000 left to use in 2013. Mr. Landy said he will have a meeting with the Community and Economic/Grants Committee and find out where the money can be spent.

Mr. Landy said he has a list of Chamber events that Council is invited to attend. The list will be in the borough office and council members can decide which events they want to attend.

Waste Water Treatment Report:

WWT Superintendent Norman Stout said that the Quarry Street Project is 75% complete and WWT personnel are working on it every day the weather permits.

Streets Report:

Councilman Tate said that Street Department personnel put in a lot of time during the Glass & Ethnic Festival and they have looked at changing their work schedule so that they can be available during the festival next year.

Councilman Tate said that he disagreed with what was said about borough employees at the last meeting and defended members of the Street Department. The Street Department has completed numerous projects in the Borough along with their regular duties. Councilman Tate said that he feels that they do a great job with a small crew.

A motion was made by Councilman Tate to close Route 31, Main Street on October 20, 2013 from Braddock Road Avenue to Center Avenue from 6pm to 8pm for the 213 Halloween Parade. Motion seconded by Councilman Pritts. Motion carried 9-0.

Veterans Park Report:

Borough Manager Landy said that there is still a small glitch in the software for the Digital Wall. Mr. Landy said he will call Industry Weapon this week and see how close they are to fixing the problem.

Councilman Tate thanked Skowronek Landscaping for sprucing up Veterans Park for the Glass and Ethnic Festival. It couldn't have looked any nicer and they did it at no charge to the Borough.

Public Safety Report:

A motion was made by Councilman Snyder to sign an agreement with Hoffman Kennels for 2014 in the amount of \$130.00 per month which is a \$5.00 increase from 2013. Motion seconded by Councilman Pritts. Motion carried 9-0.

Councilman Snyder reported that a meeting was held with Mount Pleasant EMS Medic 10 and there is a problem with patients paying for ambulance service. Their insurance sends the check directly to them and they do not forward payment to Medic 10. The past due amount totals almost \$50,000. It was discussed whether Medic 10 should get a collection agency involved.

Zoning & Ordinance Report:

Councilman McCloy reported that a hearing was held at Magistrate Eckels regarding the property on Main Street owned by Dr. Arevalo. Dr. Arevalo has appealed the decision and we are waiting for the appeal hearing.

Councilman McCloy said that B.I.U. and Health Inspector Rita Bornstein are working on the Christie property on Church Street. The owner is in the process of hiring a contractor to fix the things that need addressed immediately.

Community & Economic Development/Grants Report:

Councilwoman Bailey said she is working with Borough Manager Landy on grant monies for Penn Parklet and uses for the CDBG funds. Mayor Lucia asked Councilwoman Bailey to look into the possibility of using the CDBG funds for the cement apron at Central Fire Station.

Parks & Recreation Report:

Councilman Wojnar said he is meeting with Steve Baker from Snyder & Associates regarding replacing the sand at the Frick Park Playground.

Councilman Wojnar said he has met with Mr. Tony Splendore regarding the basketball court and Mr. Splendore agreed with the two contractors who have looked at the court that it needs to be replaced. Any money spent on repairs would be wasted.

Councilman Wojnar said that Council has to address the couple of concrete slabs on the walking track at Frick Park that are damaged.

Councilman Wojnar talked about different events in the spring of 2014 that could bring people into town such as an art show combined with sidewalk sales and a display at the Glass Museum.

Councilman Wojnar said he invited the Ramsay Elementary Student Council to tour Chambers at 3:30pm on October 21, 2013. Borough Manager Landy said he would speak to the students while they are here. Any other council person who wishes to participate is welcome to stop by.

Councilman Tate said he has received requests to have the toy ship removed from John E. Stacho Park playground. President Bauer said that there are children playing on that ship every night. Councilman Tate said that more lighting at the park may be a solution. A discussion ensued about how to add more lighting.

Finance & Human Resources Report:

Councilwoman Ruszkowski said that she and Mr. Landy met with the broker for our health insurance to go over 2014 costs.

Councilwoman Ruszkowski said that work has started on the 2014 budget and anyone who has any changes or additions should contact her as soon as possible.

Property Report:

Councilman Pritts said that he and Mayor Lucia have been discussing the wall at Third Ward Fire Station and what repairs it may need.

Councilman Pritts thanked Street Department personnel for cleaning up all of the weed and debris at the welcome sign.

Borough Manager Landy asked Councilman Pritts if he would contact the software company working on the Digital Wall. Councilman Pritts said that it may be a connection problem and he will call the company to see if he can help.

Borough Manager Landy said that Mike Kropt installed the motor in the Town Clock and in a six hour period the clock was running an hour ahead. Mr. Kropt removed the motor and tested it. The motor was running faster than 2rpm's. The motor was returned to the vendor and they are testing it. We are waiting on their decision about whether they are going to send a new motor or adjust the current motor.

Sanitation & Recycling Report:

Councilwoman Stevenson said that she and Borough Manager Landy met with a representative from Allied Waste regarding extending the current contract.

Councilwoman Stevenson said that Allied Waste is printing stickers that can be put on electronics left at the curb to be picked up with garbage collection. The stickers will inform the owner of the electronic that it cannot be put out with the regular garbage.

New Business:

President Bauer said he spoke with Borough Manager Landy about instituting a rule stating that employees are not allowed to take vacation during certain special events in the Borough.

Reading of Communications:

Borough Manager Landy read the following communications:

- WCCC is hosting an open house on October 8, 2013 from 5pm to 8pm at Founders Hall.
- The Mount Pleasant Church of God will hold Trunk or Treat on October 27, 2013 during the hours the Borough has set aside for the Trick or Treat program.
- Harmon House is hosting a "Night of Fun Overlooking the City" on October 16, 2013 from 5pm to 7pm. Admission is \$10 per person and \$5 if you are a member of the Chamber.
- Standard Bank is sponsoring the 2013 Make-A-Wish Campaign and is requesting a donation to be raffled.
- There will be a Flip Flop Walk for Breast Cancer at Frick Hospital at noon on October 17, 2013. The first 75 people to attend will receive a pair of flip flops.
- There will be a Pipeline Safety Seminar that our Street and Waste Water Treatment personnel may want to attend.

Discussion and Payment of Bills:

A motion was made by Councilman Snyder to pay all authorized and approved 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 Councilwoman Bailey. Motion carried 9-0.

Meeting Adjourned 9:03pm

Motions from October 7, 2013

A motion was made by Councilwoman Stevenson to dispense with the reading of the minutes of September 16, 2013 since Council has been provided with a copy. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Ruszkowski. Motion carried 9-0.

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