

Meeting November 2, 2009

The meeting of Mount Pleasant Borough Council was called to order by President Tabita at 7:03 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, Beranek, Crivella, Slater, 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 October 19, 2009. Motion seconded by Councilman Crivella. Motion carried 8-0.

Public Comment:

Regis Kraisinger, 139 Quarry Street, Mount Pleasant addressed Council regarding a surface water problem on Quarry Street. Ever since the alley was paved for the CSO Project he has been getting water in his basement. Water is coming from Main Street and dispensing down the alley to the drainage basin at the end of the street. But it never makes it to the drainage basin because it goes into his yard.

Glenn Wolfe, Widmer Engineering said that he and WWT Supervisor Norm Stout went to the property. They viewed photos that were taken before the project and current photos. Based on the photos Mr. Wolfe could see no change in what was there before the construction project and what is there now. Mr. Kraisinger said that the water is not running the correct way to make it to the drainage basin. He said that he did not have water coming into his basement before they paved the alley. Mr. Kraisinger he thinks that when they paved the alley they changed the pitch of the alley and now the water is flowing to the left instead of to the right. Mr. Kraisinger said he may have to hire his own engineer to take some video of the problem. President Tabita said the Street Committee will review the situation and the materials they received from Widmer Engineering. But right now the recommendation from Widmer Engineering is that the Borough does nothing.

Speakers:

Carol Ober, President of the Mount Pleasant Library Board along with Secretary Jim Cook, Treasurer Jill Cook and Librarian Jamie Falo asked Council to continue to support the Mount Pleasant Public Library. Without the support of the Borough the Library would not receive the amount that they do from the State.

Mount Pleasant Borough Library Secretary Jim Cook told Council that Councilwoman Cindy Stevenson has done an excellent job representing the Borough on the Library Board with her regular attendance and contributions. Mr. Cook spoke to Council about different projects that the Library sponsors each year.

Ms. Jill Cook, Mount Pleasant Library Treasurer presented Council with a Financial Review of the Library for 2008 and asked if there were any questions. President Tabita said that the Council appreciates the Library as one of the keystones of the Borough. Ms. Jill Cook said that 2010 may be a difficult year for the Library because of state budget cuts and they may need more community support.

Marie Murphy of the Mount Pleasant Business District Authority request that Council reappoint Nino Barsotti, Bill George and Dale Walker to the Business District Authority Board.

Ms. Murphy presented Council with the BDA budget that includes the Incubator Project. The BDA has met with three local realtors regarding listing the In Town Shops for sale. The BDA is waiting for written recommendations from each realtor. In the meantime they are still trying to rent spaces in the In Town Shops. Parking has been an issue with some prospective tenants. There are currently four spaces vacant. The BDA is also working with the Laurel Highlands Chamber of Commerce and would like to work with other Borough Authorities on projects. There is work being done to combine the Chamber and the BDA to form a Welcome Center. President Tabita asked if the BDA is planning on hiring a manager any time in the near future. Ms. Murphy said that the BDA is considering hiring a person to do secretarial work two or three days a week. Mr. Landy asked if the BDA has budgeted any funds for the 2009 Christmas festivities and Ms. Murphy said that she believed \$600 has been budgeted.

Mayor's Report:

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

Report of the Mount Pleasant Police Dept for the month of Oct09

The Department answered 350 calls during the month as follows:

Complaints	93
Requests for assistance	7
Assist Other Departments	7
Accidents investigated	4
Calls Returned	15
Assist Medic 10	10

The Department made 44 arrests during the month as follows:

Vehicle Code	30
Crimes Code	14
Borough Ordinance	0
Warnings Issued	0

Parking Tickets issued are as follows:

\$1.00 Meter Tickets	65
\$10.00 No Parking Tickets	1
Void / Excused	2

\$1.00 Parking Tickets Paid	55	\$	55.00
\$5.00 Parking Tickets Paid	4	\$	20.00
\$10.00 Parking Tickets Paid	2	\$	20.00

Return from Magistrate Eckels	\$1,608.18
Return from Clerk of Courts	\$ 304.66
Return from Report Fees	\$ 15.00
Return from Parking Permits	\$ 5.00
Return from Soliciting Permits	\$ -
Return from Restitution	\$ -

Total \$2,027.84

Meter Receipts 2 Collections \$1,039.59

Total Receipts for the month \$3,067.43

Mayor Lucia asked Police Chief Ober to instruct his officers to be more diligent writing No Parking Tickets. Only one for the whole month does not seem right. He would also like the Street Department to repaint some of the yellow curbs.

Borough Manager Landy asked Chief Ober if it is department policy to assist other municipalities on domestic calls. Chief Ober said that there is no policy on what type of calls we assist the State Police with. President Tabita said it is time to talk to Mount Pleasant Township about reimbursing the Borough for any assist calls that are not specifically related to the safety of the State Police. Councilman Bauer said that Mount Pleasant Township should reimburse the Borough for tax dollars used when our Police Department answers calls in the Township. Councilman Bauer suggested a meeting with the State Police and the Township together. Councilman Tate said he feels that our Police Department should not answer calls outside of the Borough because they are paid by Borough taxpayers except when an officer needs assistance because of a dangerous situation. Councilman Bauer said that his concern is that our police are answering an out of town call when one of our citizens needs assistance. Mayor Lucia said that Mount Pleasant does have an agreement with Scottsdale for assistance. Mayor Lucia asked Chief Ober to review the assist calls from the last couple of months and Council will discuss it at the next work session.

Mayor Lucia said that Council has been provided with a copy of a print out showing the difference between a cold and the H1N1 Flu symptoms from Representative Kula's office. These print outs will be available to the public at the borough office and at Representative Kula's office.

Mayor Lucia said there will be a rally for all of Mount Pleasant fall sports leagues on Thursday November 5, 2009 evening at 7:00pm at the Gazebo on Washington Street.

Mayor Lucia said that this year there will be an added expense for Christmas decorations because the decorative lights that were installed during Phase II of the Main Street Street-Scape Project need to be wired. Mayor Lucia said he will get an estimate for the wiring and present it to Council at the next work session.

Mayor Lucia said that Mr. Ed Smartnick passed away recently and Mount Pleasant lost a good friend. He worked for the Borough doing repairs for several years and will be missed.

Mayor Lucia said that the area food bank has been using the Central Fire Station for approximately 18 years. It has grown so large that it is causing a situation with congestion. On the Tuesday when it is in progress, for two hours the Municipal Building is essentially shut down and traffic on Church Street is impaired. Mayor Lucia said he asked them to find another location and gave them one month to do so. But they are having a hard time finding another place. Mayor Lucia asked Council if anyone has a suggestion. Councilman Beranek said that the Street Department on Depot Street may be able to be used. After some discussion it was decided that would not be possible.

Solicitor's Report:

A motion was made by Councilman Tate for and Executive Session. Motion seconded by Councilman Bauer. Motion carried 8-0.

Executive Session: 8:00pm to 8:38pm

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

Tax Collector's Report:

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

Property Taxes	\$1,716.88
Per Capita Taxes	\$ 455.00
Total	\$2,171.88

President's Report:

President Tabita reported that an Executive Session was held on October 26th to discuss an offer on the Gormley Building. There are some complications to the transaction but as it progresses the public will be informed. Hopefully it will be resolved before the end of the year.

President Tabita said he attended the Frick Communities meeting and it appears funding will not be available for the Main Street Manager Program. A decision will have to be made whether to fund the project without state funding or to let the BDA hire a Main Street Manager. Council will have to decide whether we will continue to be a part of Frick Communities by funding it ourselves.

Phase II Main Street Street-Scape Project came in at \$400,000, which was less than the commitment from the County. It would be well worth our while to see if there are any monies left from the County that we can carry over into another project. President Tabita said a project we should be looking into is Storm Water Separation.

President Tabita said that the DVD Marketing Project should be complete by the December meeting. Money for advertising has been included in the 2010 Budget.

Borough Manager's Report:

Borough Manager Landy made the following report:

- Mr. Landy said that there may have to be some line item transfers in the budget at the next meeting in order to bring the line items into compliance.
- Penn Dot has informed the Borough that we will be receiving a reimbursement for the 2008-2009 winter season in the amount of \$2,094.67.
- In the past Council has approved the budget at the second meeting in November in order to advertise it and adopt it at the first meeting in December. We have a balanced 2010 Liquid Fuels Budget, which includes money for sealing. We have applied for CDBG money for a paving

project. There will be no problem balancing the WWT Budget. The General Fund Budget is over by \$1,155. There are still some numbers that have not been confirmed. Mr. Landy asked Council for input on what line items to trim in order to balance the budget. Mr. Landy said that we can set up a reserve account for gas well monies to be used for Recreation.

- Mr. Landy said that he has received two quotes to repair the Town Clock carillons. He will meet with the Councilman Beranek to discuss our options.
- The CDBG Grant applications for Jack Bobb's Park and paving of Center Avenue have been submitted.
- Mr. Rich Kujawa is asking for \$600 to assemble the new Christmas wreaths.

A motion was made by Councilman Beranek to provide \$600 to Rich Kujawa to assemble the new Christmas wreaths. Motion seconded by Councilman Bauer. Motion carried 8-0.

- Keystate Publishing sent us copies of replacement pages for the ordinance re-codification that include changes made since the last meeting.
- Mr. Landy said he has received specs for the 2010 lawn maintenance contract. Council will have to decide when to advertise for bids.
- Mr. Landy reminded sewage customers that they can pay their sewage bills on-line at MAWC.org. Every customer has a personal IAC # on their bill to be used for on-line payments.
- Mr. Landy said he is getting quotes to repair the roof at the Municipal Building. The last time the roof was coated was approximately 15 years ago. The money is in the budget for the repairs.

Councilman Bauer said that the Borough should always budget money for paving. CDBG monies can only be used in specified areas of town. Councilman Bauer said that Council made a commitment to pave one or two streets a year. Mr. Landy said that Council would have to find money in the budget for any paving 2010 paving project. Councilman Slater said that when we purchased the crack sealer we made a commitment to seal the streets. Penn Dot has told us in the past that one of the problems with our streets is that they are not sealed. The more you seal the long the streets are preserved.

Mr. Landy said that he will be giving his year-end review at the December 7, 2009 council meeting.

Waste Water Treatment Report:

A motion was made by Councilman Tate to suspend the rules for the purpose of a motion to sell the WWT tanker truck. Motion seconded by Councilman Bauer. Motion carried 8-0.

Councilman Tate said that WWT Supervisor requested quotes from five different companies for the tanker and the only quote he received was from Zelmore Brothers.

A motion was made by Councilman Tate to sell the WWT tanker truck to Zelmore Brothers for salvage for \$710. Motion seconded by Councilman Bauer. Motion carried 8-0.

Councilman Tate welcomed back Armstrong Cable who is filming the meeting this evening. Borough residents missed watching the meetings.

Councilman Tate said that the new windows for the WWT Plant have been ordered and WWT personnel will install them. New windows will lower the cost to heat the plant.

Public Safety, Zoning and Ordinance Report:

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

Total calls	139
Medical	110
MVA	11
Fire	10
Transfer	1
Standby	7
In Town	70
Out of Town	69
Members per call	2.7

A motion was made by Councilman Bauer to authorize Solicitor Toohey to advertise the code of ordinances to be adopted on November 23, 2009 with a public meeting at 6:30pm on November 23, 2009. Motion seconded by Councilman Tate. Motion carried 8-0.

A motion was made by Councilman Bauer to close Main Street from Braddock Road Avenue to Cherry Avenue from 10:30am to 1:00pm on December 5, 2009 for the Christmas Parade and Diamond Street from Main Street to Washington Street from 11:00am to 1:00pm for the Christmas Festivities. Motion seconded by Councilman Beranek. Motion carried by Councilman Beranek. Motion carried 8-0.

Councilman Bauer questioned the elimination of the \$500 for Patrolman Ordinances on the 2010 Budget. Mr. Landy said he spoke with the police officer and he has agreed to do the ordinances without the extra \$500.

Streets, Parks and Recreation Report:

Councilman Slater said that the Street Department has begun the annual leaf pick-up. Residents can leave a message at the Street Department (724) 547-1930 for their leaves to be picked up.

Finance Report:

Councilwoman Ruskowski said that Borough Manager Landy sent a letter to all Department Supervisors stating that they needed to purchase something from a line item that is over-budget they first have to get permission from their Committee Chairman. Also, that Mr. Landy will be instituting a purchase order policy on January 1, 2010. He will have a meeting with department heads to go over the new policy.

Councilwoman Ruskowski said that she and Mr. Landy attended a meeting at the Westmoreland County Courthouse regarding Act 132 where officers and a by-laws committee were appointed. The next meeting will be November 10, 2009 at the Westmoreland County Courthouse. We still do not know what our assessment for Act 132 expenses will be.

President Tabita thanked Councilwoman Ruskowski and Borough Manager Landy for all of their work on the 2010 Budget and for balancing the budget without having to raise taxes for the fifth year in a row.

Property Report:

A motion was made by Councilman Beranek to approve the location of a gas well at the Bridgeport Street Property conditional on Solicitor Toohey's approval of the lease amendment. Councilman Bauer asked if the gas well would hinder future development of the property. President Tabita said that we have talked to the County and the Railroad and it would not interfere with the proposed railroad siding. Councilman Crivella asked if the new well could provide free gas for Medic 10. Council agreed to get an estimate from Kriebel Resources for the cost of running the line to Medic 10. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Stevenson. Motion carried 8-0.

Councilman Beranek said that he has been receiving complaints regarding the lines and curbs that need painted in the Borough. The Street Department needs to address this issue.

Councilman Beranek thanked Borough Manager Landy for his help while he was ill. Mr. Landy got the Reindeer Christmas Display and the new Santa display cut out and delivered to the High School where the Art Class is in the process of painting them.

Human Resource, Employee contracts Report:

Councilwoman Stevenson said that there are a couple of people looking at our Employee Handbook. We will go with whichever one gives us the best price.

Community and Economic Development and Grants Report:

Councilman Crivella said that the present BDA Board has regular monthly meetings and is starting to move forward.

New Business:

Councilman Bauer said that November 11, 2009 is Veterans Day. The annual Veterans Day Parade will begin at 10:30am. The Veterans Day program at Veterans Park will begin at 11:00am. The guest speaker for the program will be Mr. Richard Matson, the Director of the 911 Center. The program is being organized by the Mount Pleasant Veterans Club and the Mount Pleasant American Legion.

Mayor Lucia reminded everyone that tomorrow November 3, 2009 is Election Day. Mayor Lucia said that the 2010 Census will be very important to the Borough. The census determines the funding the Borough receives which saves tax dollars.

Councilwoman Stevenson said that the annual Christmas Home Tour will be on Saturday December 12, 2009. They are still looking for a couple of new homes to join the tour. If anyone is interested in having their home on the tour please call the borough office at (724) 547-6745.

Reading of Communications:

Borough Manager Landy read the following communications:

- The Viking Country Football Organization will be selling Viking Stars donated by the Mount Pleasant Teachers Organization. The cost for these stars is as follows: Small \$10, Medium \$25, and Large \$50. These stars will be on display in the Viking Stadium, posted on the scoreboard and also announced during the next game on November 6, 2009. To purchase a star contact Greg Melego at (724) 547-2369.

A motion was made by Councilman Bauer to purchase a star for \$50. Motion seconded by Councilman Tate. Motion carried 8-0.

- Council received a thank you card from the family of Ed Smartnick for flowers sent to his funeral.
- Council received a letter from the Cat committee thanking them for their support and generous contribution.

Discussion and payment of bills:

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

Miscellaneous and Adjournment:

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

Meeting adjourned 9:29pm

Motions from November 2, 2009 Meeting

A motion was made by Councilman Bauer to dispense with the reading of the minutes of October 19, 2009. Motion seconded by Councilman Crivella. Motion carried 8-0.

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