

**Meeting November 5, 2007**

The meeting of Mount Pleasant Borough Council was called to order by President Tabita at 7:03pm 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 Jeff Landy to take roll. Councilmen Bauer, Beranek, Crivella, Wiltrout and Councilwomen Stevenson and Ruskowski were present. Mayor Lucia was present and Solicitor Toohey was absent. 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 22, 2007. Motion seconded by Councilman Crivella. Motion carried.

**Public Comment:**

Ms. Lona Spaugy 206 S Diamond St voiced a complaint regarding large trucks speeding down Diamond from Washington St. She feels they are going too fast and is concerned that one of them will hit the rear of a school bus. She would also like to see a crosswalk at the intersection of Diamond and Spruce for people crossing the street. President Tabita said that he would look into having the Mount Pleasant Police monitor the traffic in that area. Mayor Lucia said that the Borough put stop signs at Diamond and Washington to slow down traffic but after they go through the stop sign there is nothing to slow them down. President Tabita said that Council will put it into Committee for a proposed crosswalk.

Mr. Don Good of Medic 10 announced that the annual Christmas Parade will be on December 1, 2007. It will be the tenth anniversary of Medic 10 sponsoring the parade. They are looking for people to enter floats in the parade. He would like to see a large turn out this year. There will be hot chocolate and music at the Gazebo following the parade.

Mr. Good also told Council that he would like Council to make a motion to allow Medic 10 to advertise for bids for 2 power-assisted ambulance stretchers with a weight capacity of 700 pounds. He feels these stretchers will prevent a lot of injuries.

Melanie Hegyes, Program Director of Jacobs Creek Area Faith In Action invited everyone to their Open House at their Mulberry St. office in Scottdale on December 8, 2007 at 6:00pm. That is the same night as Scottdale's Light Up Night. Anyone needing more information can call 724-887-4641.

**Mayor's Report:**

Mayor Lucia read the following Police Report for the month of October 2007:

Report of the Mount Pleasant Police Department for the month of October 2007

The Department answered 400 calls during the month as follows

Complaints	113
Requests for assistance	2
Assist Other Departments	2
Accidents investigated	0
Calls Returned	20
Assist Medic 10	0
Assist Mutual Aid	0

The Department made 75 Arrests during the month as follows

Vehicle Code	46
Crimes Code	29

The Department issued 1 warning during the month

Vehicle Code	1
Borough Ordinance	0

Parking Tickets issued are as follows:

\$1.00 Meter Tickets	119
\$10.00 No Parking Tickets	11
Void/Excused Tickets	0
Complaints for unpaid Tickets	0

\$1.00 Parking Tickets Paid	66	\$	66.00
\$5.00 Parking Tickets Paid	4	\$	20.00
\$10.00 Parking Tickets Paid	4	\$	40.00

Return from Magistrate Eckels	\$2,264.46
Return from Clerk of Courts	\$ 235.05
Return from Report Fees	\$ 60.00
Return from Parking Permits	\$ 5.00
Return from Soliciting Permits	\$ -
Return from Restitution	\$ -

Total	\$2,690.51
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Meter Receipts 1 Collection	\$1,448.51
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Total receipts from Mayors Report	\$4,139.45
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Total Receipts for the month	\$4,139.45
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Mayor Lucia reported that the Mount Pleasant Police arrested the individuals who were involved in one of the burglaries last month.

Mayor Lucia said that there will be seat belt checks this month and there will be citations issued. This is a national program and our police department received a grant for manpower to participate in this program.

Mayor Lucia asked the citizens of Mount Pleasant to come out in strong support of Veterans Day this year.

**Solicitor's Report:** None

**Tax Collector's Report:**

Tax Collector Carol Yancosky made the following report for the month of October 2007:

Property Tax	\$3,355.95
Per Capita Tax	\$ 379.80
Total	\$ 3,735.75

**President's Report:**

President Tabita said that the Main Street Street Scape Project is moving ahead. The committee is identifying the properties that need to make the biggest changes to accommodate the new electrical entrances. A list of those properties will be available at the next work session.

President Tabita apologized to the people in town for any inconveniences caused by all of the construction in town. There are a lot of infrastructure improvements being done in Mount Pleasant. The Borough is directly involved in the Main Street Storm Water Project with Penn Dot. Street Supervisor Mario Fontanazza said that this project should

be completed by next week. The Municipal Authority is in charge of the CSO Project but the Borough has been assisting by doing extra street cleaning in the area.

President Tabita said that the budget will be ready for passage at the December 3, 2007 council meeting. There will also be requests for appointments to the BDA, Zoning Board, Municipal Authority, Parking Authority etc. so if anyone has any suggestions for new appointments please let someone know.

President Tabita said that an opinion is being asked for on the issue of self-serve gas stations in the Borough and Council should take action. If a motion is made to repeal the ordinance Council can vote on the motion or has the option of tabling the motion.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Stevenson to repeal Fuel Dispensing Ordinance # 462. Councilwoman Stevenson said she feels that there is no solid reason to have this ordinance any longer. She understands that there is a large senior citizen population in Mount Pleasant but there cannot be ordinances adopted to assist them in all of their needs. She feels that it is important to be "business friendly" and let business owners make their own decisions. It is not the job of government to throw up unnecessary barriers that make it harder for individuals to run a business. President Tabita opened the floor for any opinions. President Tabita said that the wishes of the community must be taken into consideration. Motion seconded by Councilman Crivella. Councilman Crivella said that there are senior citizens in other towns without a full-service ordinance. What do they do? Councilman Crivella feels that we shouldn't have to pay 25 cents for a gallon. Councilman Crivella suggested put the issue on the ballot in the spring and let the voters decide.

A motion was made by Councilman Bauer to table the motion to repeal Fuel Dispensing Ordinance # 462 indefinitely. Motion seconded by Councilman Beranek. The following roll call vote was taken:

Councilman Bauer	Yes
Councilman Beranek	Yes
Councilman Crivella	No
Councilwoman Ruskowski	Yes
Councilwoman Stevenson	No
Councilman Wiltrout	Yes
President Tabita	Yes

Motion was carried 5-2 in favor of tabling the Fuel Dispensing Ordinance indefinitely.

President Tabita reported that a meeting was held with Medic 10 where the subject of Medic 10 having paid employees was brought up and how that decision is affected by their current by-laws. President Tabita suggested having Solicitor Toohey research this subject.

A motion was made by Councilman Bauer to have Solicitor Toohey research the current Medic 10 by-laws to see if it is permissible for them to have paid employees. Motion seconded by Councilman Wiltrout. Motion carried.

### **Borough Manager's Report:**

Borough Manager Landy request Council to look at the current Budget vs Actual reports on their desks. There will have to be some budget line item adjustments at the first meeting in December. All departments should take a close look at their 2007 budget.

Borough Manager Landy went on to report the following:

- He attended two seminars at the PSAB Fall Conference in State College, PA. Both of these conferences talked about signage and stressed that boroughs should take a close look at their sign ordinances to determine how they want to handle temporary and permanent signs. They also stressed that each borough should

have a Community Development Committee because community development should be an ongoing process.

- The new Mount Pleasant map is completed and printed and each council member has a copy. The maps will be mailed to borough residents.
- Mayor Lucia and Mr. Landy met with Dr. Jenkins from Frick Hospital. The hospital is the largest employer in the Borough and open communication between the Hospital and the Borough is very important and long overdue. Quarterly meetings will be scheduled.
- The house at 416 Smithfield Street donated to the Borough has been made secure by our WWT personnel and the Borough can advertise for bids to purchase the property whenever Council wishes since we are in possession of the Deed.
- Mr. Landy redid the Borough Zoning Permit. When the Borough hired an outside building inspector the zoning permit was overlooked, but now the permit is complete and will be issued from the Borough before the building permits.
- A representative from the DEP said that the Borough should be getting a favorable decision on the grant for the rain gardens soon and wants us to start work on the larger grant for 50 to 100 more rain gardens in town. Meetings are being set up with our Pennsylvania Representatives and Senators to discuss matching money for this project's grant.
- Mayor Lucia and Mr. Landy inspected a haunted house in Mount Pleasant.
- Mr. Landy had a meeting with the Laurel Highlands Chamber of Commerce to discuss some of the issues between the Chamber and the Borough.
- Paving of the Silver Street portion of the CSO Project has been done.
- The tablets at Veterans Park were engraved with the new names today and the benches will be engraved this week if the weather permits.
- Mr. Landy will give his annual 2007 review and 2008 preview report at the December 3, 2007 meeting.

#### **Waste Water Treatment Report:**

Councilman Bauer said that all Dye Testing will be done by WWT personnel from now on instead of an outside sanitation company. Also, the contractor for the CSO Project is paving as many areas as possible while the weather permits.

#### **Public Safety, Zoning and Ordinance Report:**

A motion was made by Councilman Bauer to advertise for bids for surveillance cameras. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Stevenson. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Councilman Bauer to hold a Safety Committee meeting on November 14, 2007 at 2:00pm to open and award the surveillance camera bids. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Stevenson. Motion carried.

Councilman Bauer said that the reason for the special meeting of the Safety Committee is because the Borough was awarded grant money for the cameras and there is a deadline for spending the funds.

A motion was made by Councilman Bauer to hire part-time police officer Jonathan Grabiak at a starting wage of \$10.00 per hour. Motion seconded by Councilman Beranek. Councilman Crivella asked where Mr. Grabiak is from and how old he is. Councilman Bauer said that his age is not an appropriate question and he is from Scottdale, PA. Mayor Lucia said that Mr. Grabiak has been working as a full-time police officer in Uniontown for 15 years. He lives in Scottdale, is married to a girl from Mount Pleasant, and comes from a very good family background. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Councilman Bauer to permit Medic 10 to advertise for bids for 2 power-assisted ambulance stretchers with a 700-pound weight capacity. Motion seconded by Councilman Crivella. Motion carried.

Councilman Bauer said that Medic 10 will absorb all of the costs for these stretchers including advertising for bids. Councilwoman Stevenson asked for an estimate of the

cost and Mayor Lucia said that the cost will be six figures. President Tabita said that these stretchers will save injuries in both the patients and the EMS personnel.

Councilman Bauer read the following Fire Chief report for the month of October 2007:

Total Calls	58
In Town Calls	14
Out of Town Calls	44
Total Members attending Calls	976
Average Members Per Call	16

A motion was made by Councilman Bauer to suspend the rules to close streets for the Christmas Parade on December 1, 2007. Motion seconded by Councilman Wiltout. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Councilman Bauer to close Main Street from Eagle Street to Center Avenue from 10:30am to 12:00pm on December 1, 2007 for the Christmas Parade and Diamond Street from Washington Street to Main Street from 11:00am to 2:00pm for Christmas festivities. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Ruszkowski. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Councilman Bauer for and Executive Session to discuss Police Personnel. Motion seconded by Councilman Wiltout. Motion Carried.

#### **Executive Session 7:38pm to 7:58pm**

Councilman Bauer read the following Medic 10 Report for the month of October 2007.

Total calls for the month	154
Medical	125
MVA	14
Fire	10
Transfer	1
Standby	4
In town	81
Out of town	73
Members per call	2.8

Councilman Bauer reminded everyone that the Veterans Day ceremonies begin on Monday November 12, 2007 with the parade at 10:30am with a ceremony at 11:00am at Veterans Park. The principal speaker will be Judge John Driscoll. It is sometimes difficult to get speakers for this ceremony and Judge Driscoll agreed immediately. Also, several of the local churches were contacted to give invocations and Father Mike Matusak was the only one contacted who was willing to participate.

Councilman Bauer said that he wants to extend his best wishes to a local soldier Eric Brehun who will be shipping out to Iraq tomorrow.

#### **Street Report:**

Councilman Crivella said that the Storm Water Project is almost complete. They curb needs to be done and paved over. The Street Department personnel have been doing leaf pickup in town.

A motion was made by Councilman Crivella to transfer \$1,560.41 from Liquid Fuels Budgetary Reserve account to Liquid Fuels Paving account. Motion seconded by Councilman Bauer. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Councilman Crivella to reimburse Borough employees for the cost of their CDL license renewal. Motion seconded by Councilman Bauer. Motion carried.

Mr. Landy said that the employees will pay for their license renewal and the Borough will reimburse them for the CDL portion of the renewal.

### **Finance Report:**

Councilwoman Ruszkowski said he has no report since her appointment in October, but she did meet with Borough Manager Landy to go over the functions of the Finance Committee and she feels she has a foundation set.

Borough Manager Landy said that all of Council has been supplied with balanced budgets for the General Fund, WWT Fund and Liquid Fuels. There is actually \$428.28 remaining in the General Fund income at the end of the budget. The budget will be adopted at the December 3, 2007 council meeting. All of the numbers are firm numbers so no further adjustments should have to be made. The 2008 budget is a balanced budget that provides for even more services and does not require a tax increase. Mr. Landy thanked all of Council for their help on the budget this year.

Mr. Landy said that he had a discussion with Street Supervisor Mario Fontanazza and there will be enough revenue in the Liquid Fuels Budget to pay for road salt until April when we get our Liquid Fuels allocation.

Mr. Landy provided Council with a calculation of estimated real estate collections. The assessed value of Borough real estate is actually lower in 2008 than in 2007. President Tabita said that real estate taxes are two thirds of the Borough revenue. There was failure in the past to report building permits that could precipitate reassessment and raise revenue. Mr. Landy said that wage taxes are expected to remain the same. President Tabita said that is why it is important to keep the interest alive to buy properties in the Borough and keep them single-family homes to bring in strong wage earners to keep the earned income tax up. If it starts dipping we have nowhere else to go for revenue because we have no industrial tax base at all.

### **Property Report:**

Councilman Beranek said he and Mr. Landy met with Mr. Premoshis this week and he is very excited to come to help rewire the displays. He was also very happy that we were able to find black light paint. Mr. Premoshis will supply the black lights. Councilman Beranek said that they are still at the Synagogue every Wednesday evening at 5:30pm if anyone wants to volunteer to help especially anyone who knows anything about automation.

A motion was made by Councilman Beranek to suspend the rules for a motion to advertise the sale of 416 W Smithfield Street. Motion seconded by Councilman Crivella. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Councilman Beranek to advertise for bids for the sale of 416 Smithfield Street to be opened at the December 3, 2007 council meeting. Motion seconded by Councilman Bauer. Motion carried.

### **Business/Economic Development & Contracts Report:**

Councilman Wiltout attended a BDA meeting and they are in the process of putting together some activities to boost the Christmas retail season. The activities will be during the day on December 7 & 8 and 14 & 15 which are Fridays and Saturdays. The Historical Society is planning their Christmas home tour on Saturday December 15<sup>th</sup> from 2:00pm to 8:00pm. Councilman Wiltout said he will attend the next BDA meeting tomorrow evening at 6:00pm.

President Tabita asked if the Borough has received any bids for garbage recycling. Councilman Wiltrout said he has gotten no response yet.

**Human Resources/Employee Contracts Report:** None

**Recreation Report:** None

**New Business:** None

**Reading of Communications:**

Borough Manager Landy read the following communications:

- The Good Shepard Lutheran Church at 822 W Main Street is inviting everyone to a community Thanksgiving meal on November 22, 2007 from 11:00am to 3:00pm. The Thanksgiving meal is free to everyone. The Mount Pleasant businesses, churches and organizations sponsor the dinner. Also, if anyone needs transportation they can call 724-547-5941.
- The Westmoreland Boroughs Association meeting will be November 15, 2007 at Carson's Catering in Scottdale at 7:00pm. All of Council is invited to attend. They are requesting an RSVP by November 13, 2007.
- Mr. Landy received a letter from Ralph Hribal thanking Council for all of the improvements being made in the Borough. The letter also asks Council to address the growing number of homes in town that are deteriorating. Several properties on Spring Street where he lives and on Quarry Street need attention. Mr. Hribal feels that the Landlord Ordinance is necessary to maintain the appearance of these properties because several of them are rentals. Some of the single-family homes need painted. He is asking Council to respond to his letter and will be waiting to see what action we take. Mr. Landy spoke to Mr. Hribal and told him that Borough officials will be going around this winter and list some properties that need work. Councilman Bauer said that the Property Maintenance Code is already in place and the Landlord Ordinance should be adopted by February 2008 so that when we get a list of homes and the weather breaks we can start sending letters. The fine for violations of the Property Maintenance Code is up to \$600 per day. Some of the homes simply need cleaned up and the garbage hauled away. The Property Maintenance Ordinance is responsible for the property across from Veterans Park being completed and now there will be a restaurant and other businesses at that location. Mayor Lucia said he agrees with Mr. Landy that when the town is canvassed it has to be done equally and impartially. Every Ward has to be included. President Tabita said that the longer the Ordinance is in effect the more homes will be cleaned up and Mayor Lucia said that the Borough will work with homeowners to point them in the right direction. Councilman Bauer said that the Landlord Ordinance is going to be his priority in January 2008.

**Discussion and Payment of Bills:**

A motion was made by Councilman Bauer to pay all approved and authorized bills. Motion seconded by Councilman Beranek. Motion carried.

**Miscellaneous and Adjournment:**

Councilman Bauer reminded everyone that tomorrow is Election Day and everyone should go to the polls and vote. Our Service Men and Women are defending our rights and so please go out and vote.

Councilman Bauer made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Motion seconded by Councilman Wiltrout. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 8:27pm.

### Motions from November 5, 2007 Meeting

A motion was made by Councilman Bauer to dispense with the reading of the minutes of October 22, 2007. Motion seconded by Councilman Crivella. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Stevenson to repeal Fuel Dispensing Ordinance # 462. Councilwoman Stevenson said she feels that there is no solid reason to have this ordinance any longer. She understands that there is a large senior citizen population in Mount Pleasant but there cannot be ordinances adopted to assist them in all of their needs. She feels that it is important to be "business friendly" and let business owners make their own decisions. It is not the job of government to throw up unnecessary barriers that make it harder for individuals to run a business. President Tabita opened the floor for any opinions. President Tabita said that the wishes of the community must be taken into consideration. Motion seconded by Councilman Crivella. Councilman Crivella said that there are senior citizens in other towns without a full-service ordinance. What do they do? Councilman Crivella feels that we shouldn't have to pay 25 cents more a gallon. Councilman Crivella suggested put the issue on the ballot in the spring and let the voters decide.

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Councilman Crivella	No
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Councilman Wiltrout	Yes
President Tabita	Yes

Motion was carried 5-2 in favor of tabling the motion to repeal the Fuel Dispensing Ordinance #462 indefinitely.

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A motion was made by Councilman Beranek to advertise for bids for the sale of 416 Smithfield Street to be opened at the December 3, 2007 council meeting. Motion seconded by Councilman Bauer. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Councilman Bauer to pay all approved and authorized bills. Motion seconded by Councilman Beranek. Motion carried.

Councilman Bauer made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Motion seconded by Councilman Wiltout. Motion carried.