

**Meeting November 7, 2011**

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. Councilmen Beranek, Crivella, McCloy, Pritts, Tabita, Tate and Councilwomen Ruszkowski and Stevenson were present. Mayor Lucia was absent and Solicitor Wolfe was 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 October 24, 2011 since Council has been provided with a copy. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Ruszkowski. Motion carried 9-0.

**Public Comment:**

Kevin McFeaters, 826 Washington Street Mount Pleasant presented Council with a petition signed by 218 landlords and tenants requesting that the Landlord Ordinance that requires rental inspections and tenant names be repealed. Included with the petition was verbiage from the U.S. Constitution regarding the people’s rights against unreasonable searches and seizures. Mr. McFeaters stated that no one who signed this petition will vote for officials who support this ordinance.

James Meredith, 119 Misty Meadow Road, Mount Pleasant said he also feels the Landlord Ordinance is unfair and arbitrary. He feels there are properties in the Borough that are not rentals that are not being inspected. Mr. Meredith said he has a rental property that shares a common interior wall. His rental property requires inspection, but not the adjoining property. If something should happen to this other property he feels his tenant could be in jeopardy. Mr. Meredith said he will hold Borough Council responsible if something should happen to his property or his tenant.

Dr. Beatrice DeLarouche, Pediatric Tender Care Dentistry, thanked the community of Mount Pleasant for welcoming her and her business. She hopes to employ people from the community as well as offering pediatric dentistry to the young people.

Robert Altman, 2100 Route 819 Mount Pleasant asked Council when the railroad ties are going to be removed from the parking places around the Doughboy. President Bauer said that unfortunately the Borough did not receive grant money yet to replace the barriers, but the Borough Street Department will remove them before winter.

Andrew Rathensberger presented Officer George Grippo with a check in the amount of \$1,200 for the Borough K-9. Mr. Rathensberger raised the money as part of his senior project.

**Mayor’s Report:** None

**Solicitor’s Report:**

Solicitor Wolfe said he will have issues to report on during the Executive Session.

**Tax Collector’s Report:**

Tax Collector Carol Yancosky gave the following tax report for the month of October 2011:

Property Taxes	\$1,129.92
Per Capita Taxes	\$ 430.00
Total Collected	\$1,559.95

Ms. Yancosky reminded taxpayers that if they want a receipt to please include a self-addressed, stamped envelope with their payment.

**President's Report:**

President Bauer wanted to clarify for Borough citizens that Borough Council has not raised taxes in over 10 years. The recent tax increase is for School Taxes voted for by the School Board, not Property Taxes.

President Bauer thanked Council for a job well done and for putting the needs of the citizens before their personal agendas. There have been problems with neighboring towns where council people bring person agendas to council meetings and it can be very disruptive. Mount Pleasant Borough Council is moving forward and doing good things for Mount Pleasant without raising taxes.

A motion was made by Councilman Beranek for an Executive Session. Motion seconded by Councilman Crivella. Motion carried 9-0.

**Executive Session 7:22pm to 7:31pm**

President Bauer said the Executive Session was to discuss personnel.

**Borough Manager's Report:**

Borough Manager Landy reminded Council to look at the Profit and Loss Budget Vs. Actual report on their desks. The 2011 budget year has two months left. Councilwoman Ruskowski will be looking at line item transfers for the next meeting.

Borough Manager Landy and Councilwoman Ruskowski asked Council to look over the preliminary 2012 Budget and let them know if changes need to be made. Borough Manager Landy said that we are looking at approving a preliminary budget at the November 21<sup>st</sup> meeting so that there is enough time to advertise it to be adopted at the December 5th meeting.

Mr. Landy said that he and WWT personnel looked at some water infiltration projects that were targeted a couple of years ago and there is still some water infiltration at some of the locations.

Mr. Landy said he is looking at companies who can sell us an Early Warning Siren for the Borough. We have DCED grant money for this project.

Mr. Landy said that some of the older Christmas decorations are being refurbished free of charge by Westmoreland County Vo-Tech and will be used on Diamond and Church Streets. The Borough has DCED grant money to pay for electrical upgrades.

**Waste Water Treatment Report:**

Councilman Tate said WWT Personnel are working on repairs at the WWT Plant and they should be completed before snow season. Also, a snow blower has been purchased using DCED grant money that will be attached to the existing Bob Cat to be used this winter.

**Streets Report:**

Councilman Tate said that this year's emergency snow meeting was held and WWT, Street Department, Medic 10 and administration were present. The Street Department has 250 tons of salt on hand and Borough Manager Landy will be ordering another 200 tons. One of the decisions made at the meeting was to request that residents on North and South Geary Streets park in their driveways during the winter so that snow plows have better access. Councilman Tate said that the main streets will be plowed first and the alleys next, unless there is an ambulance call and then they will assist. The Borough is also getting quotes for contractors if their assistance is needed.

Councilman Tate said that the Street Department is putting a storm drain in between Smithfield and Main Streets to catch the rainwater that runs down the alley. Hopefully it will solve the problem with ice in the winter.

President Bauer said that he would like to see Rumbaugh Avenue paved in 2012. Councilman Tate said that if we get the paving bids out early we could save money. He said he would like to get bids in December 2011.

**Public Safety Report:**

A motion was made by Councilman Beranek to suspend the rules for the purpose of hiring a part-time police officer. Motion seconded by Councilman Tabita. Motion carried 9-0.

A motion was made by Councilman Beranek to hire Elliott Fejes, Jeannette PA, as a part-time police officer for the Borough of Mount Pleasant at the starting rate of \$10.50 per hour. Motion seconded by Councilman Tabita. Motion carried 9-0.

A motion was made by Councilman Beranek to allow free meter parking for the Holiday Season from November 25, 2011 to January 2, 2012. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Stevenson. Motion carried 9-0.

A motion was made by Councilman Beranek to close Main Street from Braddock Rd Ave to Cherry Ave on December 3, 2011 from 10:30am to 1:00pm for the Christmas Parade and Diamond St from Main St to Washington St from 12 noon to 2:00pm on December 3, 2011 for Christmas programs. Motion seconded by Councilman Pritts. Motion carried 9-0.

**Zoning and Ordinance Report:** None

**Community & Economic Development/Grants Report:**

Councilman Tabita said he has met with the sign company about the recommended signage. Share the road signs as well as directional signs. Councilman Tabita said the trail extension will be named Memorial Square Trail and the signs will have the Coal & Coke Trail logo as well as the Mount Pleasant Borough logo. Councilman Tabita said that discussions will continue regarding bikers and motorist safety.

**Veterans Park Report:**

Councilman Tate responded to the article in the newspaper accusing Council of wasting \$50,000 on the Veterans Park Video Wall by saying that the original Wall and Veterans Park area was constructed at a cost of \$750,000 and has been a great addition to the Borough and draws tourists from all over. Councilman Tate said the \$50,000 is an initial investment and will be offset by money received from veterans and their families to have their name on the Video Wall.

Councilman Tabita said that a letter has to be sent to ITS Enclosures requesting 2X2 46" Screens 8 feet high and 8 feet wide so that they can give us an informed estimate.

**Parks and Recreation Report:**

Councilman Crivella commented on the proposed 2012 Recreation Budget he sent out. Most of it is maintaining what we already have, repairing the walkway around Frick Park, upgrading the electrical service at Willows Park and repairing the tennis courts.

President Bauer said that he would like to see the fence around Satcho's Park repaired or replaced with a higher one to prevent vandalism.

**Finance Report:**

Councilwoman Ruszkowski asked Council to please look at the preliminary 2012 budget and call her or Mr. Landy with any changes they would like to see. Councilwoman Ruszkowski said that she and Mr. Landy will be meeting this week to finalize the proposed budget.

**Property Report:**

A motion was made by Councilman Pritts to pay Richard Kujawa \$600 to repair and hand the 2011 Christmas decorations. Motion seconded by Councilman Crivella. Motion carried 9-0.

A motion was made by Councilman Pritts to accept the quote from Genesis Construction Group in the amount of \$5,000 for the holiday lighting upgrade to be paid for from the DCED Grant in the amount of \$5,000. Motion seconded by Councilman Beranek. Motion carried 9-0.

Councilman Pritts said that he was able to meet with Rob Govern at Signs and Signals and were able to install another one of the security cameras.

President Bauer said that he would like to see the Christmas tree in the middle of the Gazebo.

Borough Manager Landy said there is one more DCED Grant for surveillance cameras in Willows Park and Frick Park. It will have to be decided where we would like to place these cameras. Councilman Pritts said that he would look at the grant paperwork to determine whether there are any restrictions.

**Sanitation & Recycling Report:**

Councilwoman Stevenson said that the Borough has signed a two-year extension with Allied Waste for Borough garbage collection. There will no cost increase in the extension contract.

Councilman Beranek read the following Police Report for the month of October 2011:

Report of the Mt. Pleasant Police Dept for the month of October 2011:

The Department answered 336 calls during the month as follows:

Complaints	66
Requests for assistance	2
Assist Other Departments	2
Accidents investigated	4
Calls Returned	10
Assist Medic 10	5
Assist Mutual Aid	1

The Department made 15 arrests during the month as follows:

Vehicle Code	5
Crimes Code	10
Borough Ordinance	0
Warning Issued	0

Parking Tickets issued are as follows:

\$4.00 Meter Tickets	35
\$10.00 No Parking Tickets	2
Void / Excused	0

\$2.00 Parking Tickets Paid	0 \$	-
\$4.00 Parking Tickets Paid	35 \$	140.00

\$5.00 Parking Tickets Paid	2	\$	10.00
\$10.00 Parking Tickets Paid	1	\$	10.00
\$15.00 Parking Tickets Paid	5	\$	75.00
\$10.00 No Parking Tickets Pd	7	\$	70.00
\$20.00 Parking Tickets Pd	0	\$	-

Return from Magistrate Eckels	\$	823.65
Return from Clerk of Courts	\$	186.95
Return from Report Fees	\$	60.00
Return from Parking Permits	\$	-
Return from Soliciting Permits	\$	-
Return from Restitution	\$	-

Total \$1,375.60

1 Meter Collection \$1,252.69

Total Receipts for the month \$2,628.29

**New Business:**

Councilwoman Stevenson said that the regular meeting of the Historical Society will be this Thursday and at 7:30pm they will have a speaker on grants. Anyone interested is invited to attend.

President Bauer reminded everyone that Friday November 11, 2011 is Veterans Day. The parade will begin at 10:30am and the service at Veterans Park will be at 11:00am. The speaker this year will be Major Brian Barnhart.

**Reading of Communications:**

Borough Manager Landy read the following communications:

- The monthly meeting of the Central Westmoreland COG will be on November 15, 2011.
- Council received a thank you note from the Wiesnewski family for the wind chimes we sent them when Mazy Wiesnewski passed away.
- Council received a thank you note from the Westmoreland Conservation District for our help with the tour of the Mount Pleasant Rain Gardens. Mr. Landy thanked the Street Department for their help in sprucing up the rain gardens before the tour.

**Discussion and Payment of Bills:**

A motion was made by Councilman Beranek to pay all authorized and approved bills. Motion seconded by Councilman Crivella. Motion carried 9-0.

**Miscellaneous and Adjournment:**

A motion was made by Councilman Beranek to adjourn the meeting. Motion seconded by Councilman Tabita. Motion carried 9-0.

**Meeting adjourned 8:20pm**

### **Motions from November 7, 2011 Meeting**

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