

Meeting December 3, 2012

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, McFeaters, Pritts, Tate and Councilwomen Bailey, Ruszkowski and Stevenson were present. Mayor Lucia and Solicitor Conlin 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 November 19, 2012 since Council has been provided with a copy. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Ruszkowski. Motion carried 8-0.

Public Comment: None

Speakers:

James Meredith, 119 Meadow Road, Mount Pleasant PA 15666 spoke to Council about the requirement of landlords to register the names, phone numbers and ages of their tenants.

Special Guest:

President Bauer thanked borough resident Cindy Wojnar for all of her help with the Christmas Festivities held on December 1st. Borough Manager Landy also thanked Cindy and said that she is always willing to help any time he calls.

President Bauer thanked the Youth Group of the Mount Pleasant Church of God for their help cutting grass at abandoned properties in the Borough over the summer. They have been volunteering their services for a couple of years and they are greatly appreciated.

Speaker:

Theresa Benedict, Cat Committee said that the Cat Committee was formed in January of 2009 and seeks to control the feral cat population utilizing a catch, neuter and release program. The committee volunteers have spayed and neutered 681 feral cats since it was founded which helps decrease the population. Ms. Benedict reported that veterinary bills for 2012 total \$8,359, supplies were \$964 and operating expenses totaled \$1,045.00. Ms. Benedict said that the committee is in need of volunteers and donations to continue the program. Anyone wishing to help can contact the borough office or call 724-547-0820.

Mayor's Report:

Mayor Lucia read the following Police Report for the month of November 2012:

Report of the Mount Pleasant Police Dept for the month of November 2012

the Department answered 304 calls during the month as follows

Complaints	58
Requests for assistance	3
Assist Other Departments	3
Accidents investigated	7
Calls Returned	8
Assist Medic 10	6
Assist Mutual Aid	0

The Department made 27 arrests during the month as follows

Vehicle Code	24
Crimes Code	3
Borough Ordinance	0
Warning Issued	0

Parking Tickets issued are as follows:

\$4.00 Meter Tickets

\$10.00 No Parking Tickets

Void / Excused

\$2.00 Parking Tickets Paid	0	\$	-
\$4.00 Parking Tickets Paid	9	\$	-
\$5.00 Parking Tickets Paid	1	\$	-
\$10.00 Parking Tickets Paid	0	\$	-
\$15.00 Parking Tickets Paid	5	\$	-
\$10.00 No Parking Tickets Pd	3	\$	-
\$20.00 Parking Tickets Pd	0	\$	-

Return from Magistrate Eckels	\$ 864.42
Return from Clerk of Courts	\$ 420.31
Return from Report Fees	\$ 45.00
Return from Parking Permits	\$ 5.00
Return from Soliciting Permits	\$ -
Return from Restitution	\$ 12.50
Total	\$ 1,347.23
1 Meter Collection	\$ 99.79
Total Receipts for the month	\$ 2,347.02

Mayor Lucia said he was approached by a resident with complaints of drivers running the stop sign and speeding on Braddock Road Avenue in the Borough. Mayor Lucia said he spoke to Police Chief Ober about more patrols on the street.

Mayor Lucia said he also spoke to Councilman Tate about paving Braddock Road Avenue. The street is shared by Mount Pleasant Borough, Mount Pleasant Township and East Huntingdon Township. Councilman Tate said he will talk to the townships about future paving projects.

Mayor Lucia asked citizens of the Borough to keep an eye out for unlicensed solicitors in the Borough during the holiday season and when they see someone please call the Mount Pleasant Police Department.

Mayor Lucia said that as Mount Pleasant Fire Chief he wanted to remind residents that it has been dry this month and to be careful of any Christmas lights that are on live trees and shrubs, to check the batteries in their smoke detectors and to have a safe holiday.

Tax Collector's Report:

Tax Collector Carol Yancosky read the following Tax Collector's Report for the month of November 2012:

Property Tax	\$2,809.49
Supplemental Tax	\$ 10.11
Per Capita Tax	\$ 805.00

Council presented Ms. Yancosky with a gift to show their appreciation for supplying refreshments at council meetings.

Presidents Report:

A motion was made by Councilman Pritts to advertise for bids for construction of the next phase of Rain Gardens adjacent to the Borough Building and the Frick Hospital parking lot. The current schedule is to advertise the combined project on January 7, 2013 with a bid opening on January 21, 2013, pending review and approval by McCormick Taylor, Inc., the Borough's Engineer, of the bid documents being prepared by the Westmoreland Conservation District. Motion seconded by Councilman McFeaters. Motion carried 8-0.

President Bauer said he would like all departments in the Borough to keep mileage logs for their vehicles. President Bauer said he would also like to see one central location for vehicle maintenance. President Bauer said that the new police vehicle has been ordered and will be here delivered after the first of the year.

President Bauer said he will meet with department heads after the first of the year to discuss their goals for 2013. He would like to see each supervisor to present five goals on how they will improve their department and save money.

President Bauer thanked Council for a productive year and for all of their hard work. He also wished everyone a Merry Christmas and a happy and safe New Year.

Borough Manager's Report:

Borough Manager Landy said that the borough office will continue to pay invoices through December 21, 2012 and Council can get a final Budget Vs. Actual Report after all invoices are paid.

Borough Manager Landy said that there will be a reduction in the guaranteed interest rate for employee pensions.

Borough Manager Landy said that the G5 Conference will be held in 2013 on April 18th to 20th. The first meeting was held to begin the planning stage.

Borough Manager Landy said that an agreement was sent to Solicitor Wolfe for approval before presenting it to Mr. and Mrs. Miller in regards to the demolition of the building at 100 Main Street and the construction of Penn Parklet.

Borough Manager gave the following review of the year:

This January there was a re-organizing meeting followed by the first regular council meeting of the new year. Public comment began with council doing a good deed by keeping Christmas lights up until a local veteran returned home from Afghanistan and residents did the same, while on the other hand we were being criticized about the landlord ordinance and by a tenant in the In Town Shoppe's. Former Mayor Bill Potoka passed away and 27 year veteran of council Mike Tabita was replaced by new councilman Kevin McFeaters. The borough and the Street Department settled on a new contract. Kennedy Avenue went from a 3 lane road to a 2 lane road.

February: Council updated the ordinance fee schedule. Jay Waltenbaugh of Shop Demo Depot introduced this new business to council. Attorney Nat Abromson retired from his law practice and as the attorney for the zoning appeals board. The borough discussed the extension for the bike trail through Willows Park wooded area and another extension to Main Street. Jerry Lucia was appointed as chairman of the Board for Mt. Pleasant EMS Medic 10. Meetings were held at the Bridgeport Street property with the Westmoreland County Redevelopment Authority. I reported that earned income tax collected went up \$13,000.00 from 2011 to 2012.

March: A Zombie walk was proposed in the borough, and an early warning siren installation was discussed..., both never happened but for different reasons. Penndot issued new traffic studies reporting 16,000 cars go through Memorial Square daily. The G-5 was held, sharing ideas between our neighboring communities. The issue of speeding on Eagle Street was handled finally by installing two 15 MPH signs and going the wrong way was going to be handled by police monitoring. The Veterans Park Video Wall Committee met and decided to return to the original concept and move forward with that plan. As the weather got nicer vandalism started to appear at the parks and around town.

In April, public comment and speakers addressed council about vandalism at the soccer field, GEO Caching in the borough and the erection of a fence at Satcho Park. Council approved bids to pave Rumbaugh & College Avenues. The landlord Association filed suit against the borough. Council approved a motion 6-1 to fight the law suit. The meeting was dominated by landlord ordinance discussion and a borough employee supervisor who brought several issues to council.

May: Landlord public comment dominated the meeting and the Landlord Ordinance was discussed throughout the meeting mainly about a letter written to the citizens of the borough responding to accusations about the ordinance. The second meeting Mr. & Mrs. Beck donated their property, which was the old theater, to the borough. 3rd Ward Councilman Crivella resigned due to health reasons. Medic 10 purchased an SUV instead of another ambulance saving over \$140,000. Councilman Beranek also resigned from 2nd Ward.

June: On a rare occasion there wasn't a quorum present for the first meeting so council could not have the meeting. In the work session meeting President Bauer addressed the fact that the borough administration office was being bombarded with Right to Know requests and Jerry Lucia and myself were being targeted and personally attacked concerning The Glass & Ethnic Festival. To show appreciation to our Vol. Fire Dept. and Medic 10 EMS volunteers the borough office worked on a free coupon program through our local businesses. Another meeting was held with the DEP about the Bridgeport Street property clean up. Diane Bailey was appointed to council representing the 2nd Ward. Cory Snyder was appointed to council representing the 3rd Ward.

July: This time public speakers addressed council with all positive news, Sarp & Co. reaffirmed that the Glass & Ethnic Festival audit with the highest form of assurance that an entity can get. Smart Growth chairman Alan Kukovich announced Borough Manager Jeff Landy was placed on their Board of Directors because of his management of the borough. Chris Barnhart announced she'll be working with the borough office on a new Christmas promotion, the Ginger Bread House Tour, and Rosemary Skaggs reported that a group of Veterans "Sea to Shining Sea" bicyclists again chose to ride through Mt. Pleasant on their way across country. Vandalism became more of an issue as it usually does in the summer months. Our solicitor reported the borough and the Landlord Association had a hearing and the judge's ruling will be forthcoming. Councilwoman Bailey and Borough Manager Landy were appointed to the Library Board. The school district and the borough partnered in refurbishing the tennis courts and playground at Ramsay. The dog area by the borough building was locked up.

August. Public comment dominated at the televised meeting and that set the tone of the meeting. I was criticized for my answer given to a question about fireworks display, Council was criticized for College Avenue parking and Council was criticized and even warned from the Landlord Association to the point where a heated discussion ensued. Solicitor Wolfe spoke trying to clear up misunderstandings about the Landlord Ordinance that kept circulating in the public. Health and Safety Officer Borenstein reported on many properties in the borough that she is investigating. Newly appointed Attorney Witt replaced retired Attorney Abromson on the Zoning Hearing Appeals Board. A new "Welcome to Mt. Pleasant" sign project on the west end of town was approved. The Recreation Advisory Committee met and formulated several recommendations including replacing some swing seats and chains in our parks.

September: Two big borough events happened this month, the 911 Tribute and the Mt. Pleasant Glass & Ethnic Festival, both successful. The administration office projected a \$4000.00 reduction in property tax income for the 2013 budget. A motion to allow the Landlord Association volunteer in the parks died because the lack of a second motion. More communication from council to the public was discussed through a proposed newsletter and the newly formed council committee called Communications. Tucker Arensberg reported on the law suit, the judge dismissed the first 3 counts which was a victory for the borough. The judge had problems with the appeals process which the borough was asked to change.

October: The Landlord Association requested that one of their members be placed on the BDA Board and some Property Maintenance Code issues were brought up during public comment. Borough representatives supported the township at discussions with Excelsior Health concerning Medic 930. Most council members support the idea of rental inspections and registration and even voted to send a letter supporting House Bill 2555.

November: The new Ginger Bread House promotion gets under way and the VFW gives donations to the Wounded Warrior Project and the VFD. Council awards a contractor bid for the Frick Hospital Storm water Basin Project. Councilwoman Bailey reports that council has finally received the Library's current By-Laws.

Tonight, the December meeting ends Council's regularly scheduled meetings. Council will vote and pass a balanced budget. A budget that did not cut services, did not raise taxes and will still make improvements to our borough for our residents. Remember, council committed not to raise taxes even though the budget wasn't balanced at the time. Speaking of improvements this council addressed code enforcement issues and has tightened the enforcement. This council addressed the need to change fees for permits. Parks have been improved with new equipment. Law enforcement and the fight against drugs improved with Gerro our K-9 officer. Streets and alleys have improved with paving, crack sealing, tar and chipping projects. And after several years, the extension of the Coal & Coke Trail to Main Street became a reality.

Even though 2012 had controversies and distractions, we were still able to accomplish the pre-mentioned, and laid the groundwork for more improvements in 2013. The new Penn Park which is a parklet and parking lot combined will be built on the East End of town. Council and borough administration must be doing something right because Mt. Pleasant has a lot to offer. A viable business district that added Deli 31, Gorky's BBQ, a T-Shirt Shop, Pleasant Visions Lamps, Cindy's Consignment Store and Shop Demo Depot. All new businesses. The In-Town Shops incubated Needful Things to a store front on Main Street. Let's not forget within our borough is Ramsay Elementary School, our own Medic 10 ambulance service, Frick Hospital and our own Police and Volunteer Fire Department.

2012 was also a year full of special events such as Concerts in the Park, Movies in the Park, Candlelight Procession, Parades, Festivals highlighted by the Glass & Ethnic Festival, and that's just to name a few special events for families.

As I look at council sitting here, running a borough is not an easy task. Mt. Pleasant borough is like running a business. You try to increase income and decrease expenses. Borough supervisors and employees strive to save 5%. That's 5% of expenses. Employees accepted different hospitalization and now contribute from their pay a portion of the insurance premium. This decrease in expenses helped in not having a tax increase in 2013. We live in a democratic society. Council has to follow laws of the borough code set by the state lawmakers therefore, keep listening to both sides of the issues, make decisions and move forward. Don't move backwards, don't become stagnant the residents elected you to public service. I know all the meetings and hours some of you put in, this is not an easy job.

To the Mt. Pleasant residents, property and business owners, unfair criticism and personal attacks have no place and don't do any good. Our Mayor and Council President take blame unfairly many times. Both of them have made things happen, a lot of good things, and don't take it for granted that you have experienced Council people making tough decisions for you. Don't take it for granted how much this council and borough administration have achieved. Don't take it for granted that you live in a great town like Mt. Pleasant.

All of us in the borough will:

Continue to have vision, doing new projects, setting the standard and having other communities look at our leadership and try to emulate us. "Always do the right thing" it may not be the easiest approach, but it is always the best approach. Accept nothing less than 100% commitment from ourselves and will have 100% passion for what we do.

As for Jerry, our Mayor, it is time for his nickname for this year. So for 2012 I chose "Grand Pap". His is the oldest member of Council and has the most experience in this room. We should all listen and learn and respect Grand Pap. Or maybe his nickname should be Great Grand Pap because he always does a great job.

Finally as in the past years, Mt. Pleasant is in good shape. Even our financial auditor has validated that many times. The borough administration and council will go into 2013 with their experience and focus ready to move forward. In an uncertain world, Mt. Pleasant is and will be a great place to own a business, live and raise a family.

God Bless you and God Bless Mount Pleasant

Waste Water Treatment Report:

President Bauer said that in January we will start to work on letters for the Quarry Street Project begin as soon as the weather breaks.

Streets Report:

Councilman Tate said the Street Department has been working on sealing the streets, cutting the trees at Willows Park and repairing the security lights at the park.

A motion was made to suspend the rules for the purpose of a motion to approve the Police Contract. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Bailey. Motion carried 8-0.

A motion was made by Councilman Tate to approve the 2013 - 2017 Police Contract. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Bailey. Motion carried 8-0.

Councilman Tate read the following Fire Report for the month of November 2012:

Total Calls	33
In Town	9
Out of Town	24
10-45's	18
10-45's W/Entrapment	4
Fires	8
Public Service	3
AFA's	1
Standby's	2
Turnpike Calls	2
Total Men Answering	492
Avg. Member Per Call	15
Total Man Hours	304

Zoning & Ordinance Report:

A motion was made by Councilman McCloy to approve payment in the amount of \$500 to Officer George Grippo for ordinance enforcement. Motion seconded by Councilman Pritts. Motion carried 8-0.

Councilman McCloy said that Solicitor Wolfe is still working on changes to four of the Borough ordinances and will have them ready at the next meeting.

Community & Economic Development/Grants Report: None

Veterans Park Report:

Councilman Tate reported that a meeting is scheduled tomorrow morning with ITS Enclosures to look at the finished video wall and the software is almost ready.

Parks & Recreation Report:

A motion was made by Councilman McFeaters to open the 2013-2015 Grass Cutting Contract Bids. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Bailey. Motion carried 8-0.

President Bauer opened bids from Jupina Landscaping and Skowronek Landscaping.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Stevenson to turn the bids over to the Recreation Committee for review and award. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Ruskowski. Motion carried 8-0.

Finance & Human Resources Report:

A motion was made by Councilwoman Ruszkowski to approve 2013 General Fund Budget with income of \$1,233,915 and expenses of \$1,233,915. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Stevenson. Motion carried 8-0.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Ruszkowski to approve 2013 WWT Budget with income of \$622,150 and expenses of \$620,491. Motion seconded by Councilman Pritts. Motion carried 8-0.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Ruszkowski to approve the 2013 Liquid Fuels Budget with income of \$86,668.07 and expenses \$86,668.07. Motion seconded by Councilman Pritts. Motion carried 8-0.

Property Report:

A motion was made by Councilman Pritts to suspend for the purpose of a motion to purchase a computer server. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Stevenson. Motion carried 8-0.

A motion was made by Councilman Pritts to purchase a computer server not to exceed \$5,000. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Stevenson. Motion carried 8-0.

Sanitation & Recycling Report:

Councilwoman Stevenson reminded residents that Allied Waste will no longer pick up televisions, computers or monitors as of January 1, 2013.

Communications Report: None

New Business:

President Bauer said that there will be vacancies on some of the Boards and Authorities in the Borough in 2013 and anyone interested in serving can contact the borough office.

Reading of Communications:

Borough Manager Landy read the following communications:

- A Thank You note from the family of Dolores Lucas for the flowers the Borough sent.

Discussion and Payment of Bills:

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

Miscellaneous and Adjournment:

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

Meeting Adjourned 7:56pm

Motions from December 3, 2012 Meeting

A motion was made by Councilwoman Stevenson to dispense with the reading of the minutes of November 19, 2012 since Council has been provided with a copy. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Ruszkowski. Motion carried 8-0.

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