

## Meeting December 5, 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. Councilmen Beranek, Crivella, McCloy, Pritts, Tate and Councilwomen Ruszkowski and Stevenson were present. Mayor Lucia was absent and Solicitor Coda 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 November 21, 2011 since Council has been provided with a copy. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Ruszkowski. Motion carried 8-0.

### Public Comment:

Teresa Benedict, 113 S Diamond St Mount Pleasant PA represented the Cat Committee, a catch, neuter and release program in the Borough. Ms. Benedict said that since the beginning of the program they have spayed and neutered 517 cats. One colony of feral cats in the Borough had a total of 27 cats and they have all been spayed and neutered. Ms. Benedict explained how the program works and some of the costs. The veterinary cost for 2011 is already \$11,319.53 and the cost for supplies is \$1,150.80. Ms. Benedict said the committee is in need of more volunteers and donations. Ms. Benedict thanked Council and the citizens of Mount Pleasant for their support. Councilwoman Stevenson, a member of the committee introduced Diane Frey and Dawn Hall who are also members. Councilwoman Stevenson said any donation could be sent to her home address and she would make sure they get to the right person.

Mr. Bill Lozier, Mount Pleasant American Legion announced that the American Legion Post 446 will hold a service to "Remember Pearl Harbor" on Wednesday December 7, 2011 at 7:00pm at the Church of God Social Hall. Everyone is welcome to attend.

Mr. John Denlinger, Mount Pleasant Rotary presented a check in the amount of \$500 to Officer George Grippo for the K-9 fund.

Officer Grippo said that he and K-9 Officer Gerro will start further training on January 9, 2011. The course is 5 – 6 days per week for a total of 8 weeks.

**Mayor's Report:** None

**Solicitor's Report:** None

### Tax Collector's Report:

Tax Collector Carol Yancosky read the following report for the month of November 2011:

Property Tax	\$3,634.76
Per Capita Tax	\$ 780.00
Total Collected	\$4,414.76

Councilwoman Stevenson presented Ms. Yancosky a gift to thank her for all of her hard work bringing refreshments to each council meeting.

### President's Report:

President Bauer said he has contacted the Community Magazine and was told that they will be expanding into Westmoreland County in 2012. President Bauer told them that Mount Pleasant would be interested in being included in the magazine. The magazine

would be sent to every resident in the Borough. The magazine would include a newsletter from the Borough Manager and Council as well as any upcoming events and council decisions.

President Bauer said that the Candlelight Procession was very well attended and turned out beautifully.

President Bauer wished Council and all of the residents of Mount Pleasant a Merry Christmas and a Very Happy Year.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Ruszkowski for an Executive Session. Motion seconded by Councilman Beranek. Motion carried 8-0.

### **Executive Session 7:20pm – 7:46pm**

President Bauer said that the Executive Session was held to discuss litigation and employee contracts.

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

Borough Manager Landy reported that he met with Borough Engineers to discuss projects in process in the Borough and proposed 2012 projects.

Mr. Landy said that the Premoshis Christmas Displays are in store windows and the Reindeers at the Gazebo should be up soon. There will also be a new light display at the Gazebo this holiday season using lights donated to the Borough.

Borough Manager Landy gave the following year-end report:

January – The month started with President Bauer giving some objectives for the year. A community yard sale, boards and authorities under the arm of the Borough should use the borough auditor. He commended Mayor Lucia and Jeff Landy for their new radio show “Mount Pleasant Up Close”. Councilman Beranek motioned to install surveillance cameras on Main Street. B.I.U. spoke to Council regarding enforcement of the Property Maintenance Code and ways to handle rental property and inspection. The National Day of Prayer issue was discussed again with Council and our solicitor.

February – The Borough sponsored a Steel Super Bowl Pep Rally. The idea of a community garden was presented to Council. One of the large traffic signal poles at Memorial Square was hit & knocked down. There was a shake up in the operations of Medic 10.

March – Mayor Lucia reminded citizens to beware of scams & to notify the police when approached. Two citizens passed away. Henry Sargent, a life long member of the VFD and a Little League coach for 18 years and Richard Johnson who was a borough custodian for many years. Also, President Bauer's Father passed away. He was a good citizen and a council member for Scottdale Borough. As an outcome of the G-5 Conference, Mount Pleasant loaned Scottdale Borough its bucket truck. Councilman Tabita encouraged the BDA to organize Mount Pleasant stores to stay open longer. The Veterans Park Committee started to pursue information for Veterans Park Video Wall. The Borough was awarded 4 DCED Grants. The Borough accepted a settlement with Command Fire Apparatus for a claim over the new aerial fire truck. Mayor Lucia announced his candidacy for Westmoreland County Commissioner.

April – Council discussed a Welcome to Mount Pleasant Sign coming into town from Route 119. Jack Bobb's Park renovation started. Councilman McCloy made a motion to have the Borough sponsor a community yard sale in June and a motion to adopt a rental inspection program with B.I.U. Councilman Crivella instituted a playground program run by the regional YMCA. Council adopted “Young Lungs At Play” at Jack Bobb's Park. President Bauer and Manager Landy brought “Meals in the Park” program to the Borough for the first time. Windstorms hit the Borough, affecting many properties

including a roof at the WWT Plant. The Veterans Park Video Wall gained momentum spearheaded by Councilman Tabita.

May – Three large paving projects were advertised for bid by Councilman Tate. After several years the property at 430 W Main Street was condemned by the magistrate and was set for demolition. The Church of God Youth Group volunteered to solve the problem of high grass by cutting grass at properties that were abandoned. A recreational advisory board was appointed at the request of Councilman Crivella.

June – A meeting at Kennedy Avenue was held with the PUC and the Railroad concerning the crossing and making Kennedy Avenue 2 lanes at the Route 31 intersection. As part of the gas well grant program Council awarded money to the Soccer Recreational League and to Little League Baseball for equipment.

July – The Borough selected a new location to set off annual fireworks displays. Discussions over the Welcome to Mount Pleasant sign. The Borough and Mount Pleasant Township signed an agreement to share paving costs for East Vine Street. Plans were started to extend the bike trail from Willows Park through neighborhoods to the Gazebo area. Councilman Tate motioned to tar and chip several alleys rather than pave them. This new approach will save the Borough 10's of thousands of dollars.

August – Council meetings became more intense with the gasoline dispensing and rental inspection ordinances discussed during public comment. Borough Auditor Sarp reported that the 2010 audit was a good one and the Borough looks good. Discussions on the Veterans Park Video Wall proved this project to be a complicated one. Probably because it is the first in the country. Armstrong started filming the radio show "Mount Pleasant Up Close" further showing that Mount Pleasant Borough makes sure they get more information to the citizens the best way they can.

September – The rental inspection ordinance dominated the public comment section of council meetings. Another sign located at the entrance of the old PNC drive thru was proposed by Councilman Tabita. Councilman Pritts made a motion to sell property along Bridgeport Street next to Medic 10. Gerro, our K-9 officer, located \$1,000 worth of drugs in a property, further proof of Mount Pleasants' commitment to fight drugs in the Borough. The Glass & Ethnic Festival celebrated its 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary with its best festival ever.

October – President Bauer commended Council for moving forward on projects this year but reminded them to finish projects already committed to before starting new ones. Councilman Beranek and Councilman Tate held preliminary meetings to prepare for emergency snowstorms. Also, new equipment purchased through a grant was purchased to help snow removal. Council approved further training for our K-9 unit. Satcho Park was spruced up and a new piece of playground equipment was added. Council debated the conversion of the volleyball court to a dog park.

November – Councilman Tate initiated a much-needed new storm strain system in North Alley to solve recent ice problems. Projects like surveillance cameras, Veterans Park Video Wall, bike trail extension, Welcome to Mount Pleasant sign and the new sign at the old PNC drive thru were discussed. The Mount Pleasant Slovak Club celebrated their 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Council proposed a balanced budget. Councilwoman Stevenson reminded residents that garbage can be put out along the curb on 24 hours before their pick up and not before. The Glass & Ethnic Festival unveiled its 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary DVD. Councilwoman Stevenson made a motion to sign an extension of our garbage contract with Allied Waste for 2 more years at the same base rate, which is unheard of in today's contracts.

Tonight this Council will vote on another balanced budget that will guide them in the year 2012. This budget provides for new projects while not cutting or sacrificing services in the Borough. Again, for approximately the 10<sup>th</sup> year in a row, property taxes will not be increased.

A weather person would say that the year 2011 had highs, lows, turbulence, sunny days, cloudy days and a mix of rain and snow. And like the weather report, never sure of the prediction!

Many decisions facing Council are not easy. New decisions – To tar & Chip alleys, but it saved a lot of money. The decision to repeal and change the gas dispensing ordinance that was adopted in the 1970's was a hot issue for many years was the right choice now. The decision to change borough employee health plan to save money. The decision to enforcing the rental inspection ordinance has yet to be played out. But decisions have to be made whether they are popular or not in the best interest of the Borough as a whole.

More tough decisions need to be made so that the Borough can move forward. In 2012, for the 4<sup>th</sup> time in 5 years, income from property taxes has dropped. This tax is a large source of income to operate the Borough. When Council doesn't raise property taxes or cut services, money needs to be found from somewhere. Grants will have to be applied for more aggressively. I have suggested for several years that fees and permits for specific purposes need to be raised to offset the declining tax revenue and the increased costs. Running this Borough is a business.

The residents in this Borough should have confidence in this Council and administration. Unlike weather persons, this Council does get it right most of the time and when it doesn't work out they will review it. Let's look at the gas dispensing ordinance. For several years station owners wanted to change it while residents did not. It took a creative solution presented to Council that both sides agreed on for Council to make changes to the ordinance.

As for Jerry our Mayor it is time for his nickname for the year. For 2011 I chose "Lucia the Explorer". Like Columbus the explorer, another Italian, Jerry explored new opportunities in the county only to find Mount Pleasant is the land of friendly people who have crowned him Mayor. Welcome home Jerry.

Finally, as in past years the Borough is in good shape. Not because everyone agrees with Council, but because this Council takes its time and is open to creative and problem solving suggestions. Also, many new projects will happen in the Borough making Mount Pleasant a great place to live, work, own a business and raise a family.

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

Councilman Tate reported that WWT Personnel have completed the bridge at Willows Park. It took some time but we saved a lot of money by doing the job in-house.

### **Streets Report:**

Councilman Tate said that the Street Department has accepted the proposed contract effective October 2011 thru September 2013.

Councilman Tate said that he is working on a list of streets to be paved in 2012. President Bauer asked Council to provide a list of streets they would like paved and get it to Councilman Tate so that we can advertise for bids some time in January.

Councilman Tate asked residents to be helpful this winter when it snows and the plows have to be out. Please park in your driveway when possible and if you see that you're the only car parked on the right side of the street, move your vehicle to the left so that the plows don't have to go around your vehicle.

### **Public Safety Report:**

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

Report of the Mount Pleasant Police Dept for the month of November 2011

The Department answered 264 calls during the month as follows:

Complaints	45
Requests for assistance	2
Assist Other Departments	2
Accidents investigated	6
Calls Returned	10
Assist Medic 10	2
Assist Mutual Aid	0

The Department made 15 arrests during the month as follows:

Vehicle Code	19
Crimes Code	4
Borough Ordinance	0
Warning Issued	1

Parking Tickets issued are as follows:

\$4.00 Meter Tickets	17
\$10.00 No Parking Tickets	3
Void / Excused	1

\$2.00 Parking Tickets Paid	0	\$	-
\$4.00 Parking Tickets Paid	9	\$	36.00
\$5.00 Parking Tickets Paid	1	\$	5.00
\$10.00 Parking Tickets Paid	0	\$	-
\$15.00 Parking Tickets Paid	5	\$	30.00
\$10.00 No Parking Tickets Pd	3	\$	30.00
\$20.00 Parking Tickets Pd	0	\$	-

Return from Magistrate Eckels	\$	556.55
Return from Clerk of Courts	\$	221.53
Return from Report Fees	\$	30.00
Return from Parking Permits	\$	10.00
Return from Soliciting Permits	\$	-
Return from Restitution	\$	-

Total	\$	929.08
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1 Meter Collection	\$	1,256.33
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Total Receipts for the month	\$	2,185.41
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Councilman Beranek read the following Fire Report for the month of November 2011:

Total Calls	39
In Town	4
Out of Town	35
10-45's	16
10-45's w/ Entrapment	1
Fires	14
Public Service	4
AFA's	2
Stand-By's	2
Turnpike Calls	2
Drills	1
Total Men Answering	520
Avg. Member Per Call	13
Total Hours	774

A motion was made by Councilman Beranek to approve Medic 10 2012 Budget with revenues of \$422,000.00 and expenses of \$417,664.41. Motion seconded by Councilman Tate. Motion carried 8-0.

A motion was made by Councilman Beranek to add the following volunteers to the Medic 10 roster:

Tamara Lee Sopko, Greensburg, PA

Jason Wiltrout, Scottdale, PA

Scarlett Jane Ernst, New Stanton, PA

Brittany N Imm, Scottdale, PA

Zachary George Eicher, Mount Pleasant, PA

Motion seconded by Councilman McCloy. Motion carried 8-0.

Councilman Beranek thanked Barry Premoshis for all of his help putting up the Christmas displays in store fronts this year.

### **Zoning & Ordinance Report:**

A motion was made by Councilman McCloy to adopt Ordinance #632 setting the millage rate for 2012 at 16.00 mills. Motion seconded by Councilman Tate. Motion carried 8-0.

A motion was made by Councilman McCloy to adopt Ordinance #633 setting the LST Tax at \$52.00. Motion seconded by Councilman Pritts. Motion carried 8-0.

A motion was made by Councilman McCloy to pay Officer George Grippo \$500 for ordinances from money budgeted for that purpose in line item #400.05. Motion seconded by Councilman Beranek. Motion carried 8-0.

**Community & Economic Development/Grants Report:** None

### **Veterans Park Report:**

Councilman Tate said work continues on the Video Wall at Veterans Park. Councilman Tate said that it was Councilman Tabita who spearheaded the development of the Video Wall and in fact was part of the committee that developed the original wall and he hopes that Councilman Tabita will consent to remain on the Veterans Park Committee after he steps down as Councilman in January.

### **Parks & Recreation Report:**

Councilman Crivella reported that the Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee is still researching different recreation opportunities that we can offer residents of the Borough.

### **Finance Report:**

A motion was made by Councilwoman Ruszkowski to adopt the 2012 General Fund Budget with total revenues of \$1,254,911 and total expenses of \$1,254,906. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Stevenson. Motion carried 8-0.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Ruszkowski to adopt the 2012 WWT Budget with total revenues of \$631,850 and total expenses of \$631,850. Motion seconded by Councilman Pritts. Motion carried 8-0.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Ruszkowski to adopt the 2012 Liquid Fuels Budget with total revenues of \$126,012.04 and total expenses of \$125,900.00. Motion seconded by Councilman Beranek. Motion carried 8-0.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Ruszkowski to approve resolution 2011-07 appointing Borough Manager Jeff Landy as liason between the Borough and Berkheimer for the express purpose of sharing confidential tax information for official purposes. Motion seconded by Councilman Beranek. Motion carried 8-0.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Ruszkowski to approve resolution 2011-08 authorizing Berkheimer to impose and retain costs of collection on delinquent taxes. Motion seconded by Councilman McCloy. Motion carried 8-0.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Ruskowski to transfer \$2,239.94 from General Fund Standard Bank Budgetary Reserve, Levin Monument/Recreation line item to the General Fund line item #450.16 to reimburse for work done at the Levin Monument at Willows Park. Motion seconded by Councilman Crivella. Motion carried 8-0.

**Property Report:**

Councilman Pritts said that the new furnace for Third Ward Fire Station has been ordered and will be installed.

Councilman Tate suggested that Council looks into installing lights to illuminate the sign at the old PNC drive-thru.

**Sanitation & Recycling Report:**

Councilwoman Stevenson said that since this meeting is being televised, she would like to remind residents that there is an ordinance in the Borough that states they can put their garbage out at the curb 24 hours in advance but not sooner. Our garbage collection is on Monday and Tuesday each week and if property owners put their garbage out too early our streets are cluttered with trash.

**New Business:**

President Bauer asked Police Chief Ober patrol the stop sign at Washington Street and Eagle Street because motorists are not stopping at the stop sign on Eagle and it has become a dangerous situation.

Councilwoman Stevenson said that on Saturday December 10<sup>th</sup> the Historical Society will hold it's 10<sup>th</sup> annual Holiday Homes Tour. Tickets can be purchased in advance at Herbalicious or JoAnne's Halmark or can be purchased at the Log House on Saturday at 2:00pm.

**Reading of Communications:**

Borough Manager Landy read the following communications:

- The Seminar at St. Vincent College about accessing the new 2010 census data was canceled due to lack of interest.
- Wendy Maceyko would like to plan a get-together of friends to sing Christmas Carols at the Gazebo on Sunday December 18<sup>th</sup> at 5:30pm

**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 8-0.

**Miscellaneous and Adjournment:**

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

**Meeting adjourned 8:23pm**

## Motions from December 5, 2011 Meeting

A motion was made by Councilwoman Stevenson to dispense with the reading of the minutes of November 21, 2011 since Council has been provided with a copy. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Ruszkowski. Motion carried 8-0.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Ruszkowski for an Executive Session. Motion seconded by Councilman Beranek. Motion carried 8-0.

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