

Meeting December 7, 2009

The meeting of Mount Pleasant Borough Council was called to order by President Tabita at 7:04pm 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, in remembrance of Pearl Harbor and Police Officer Crawshaw who was killed yesterday. President Tabita directed Borough Manager Landy to take roll. Councilmen Bauer, Beranek, Crivella, McCloy, Tate and Councilwomen Ruskowski 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 November 23, 2009. Motion seconded by Councilman Beranek. Motion carried 7-0.

Special Citation: Sub & Pub, Twenty-five Year Anniversary

Public Comment: None

Speakers:

John Sarp, Sarp & Co. Borough Auditor introduced his partner Jared Ewing who oversaw the 2009 Borough of Mount Pleasant audit. Mr. Ewing said that the drafted report will be delivered to the borough office this week. There is not qualified opinion, which is exactly what a borough wants. There were very few journal entries to be made this year. No new accounting policies were adopted therefore everything remains the same. Dealing with Jeff Landy and Beverly Fedorchak was wonderful and there were no disagreements with management during the process. President Tabita asked Mr. Ewing if he had any suggestions or changes he thought should be made. Mr. Ewing said there were concerns or changes he felt needed to be made. Mr. Sarp said that Mr. Landy and Ms. Fedorchak follow his suggestions throughout the year, which makes the audit go very smooth. Mr. Sarp said that compared to surrounding boroughs Mount Pleasant is doing much better fiscally. There is good fiscal management in every area.

Mr. Mark Reis and Mr. Ed Holly from B.I.U. the Borough's building inspectors addressed Council. Mr. said he will be the Borough's main contact and will do property maintenance and rental inspections. Mr. Holly said he hopes to implement some smoother programs to improve the property maintenance in the Borough.

Mayor's Report:

Mayor Lucia introduced Mr. Curtis Peck, a young citizen of Mount Pleasant and a member of Boy Scout Troop #133. Mr. Peck is attending tonight's meeting to see how the Borough operates.

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

Report of the Mt. Pleasant Police Dept. for the month of November 2009:

The Department answered 312 calls during the month as follows:

Complaints	90
Requests for assistance	1
Assist Other Departments	1
Accidents investigated	7
Calls Returned	20
Assist Medic 10	11

The Department made 53 arrests during the month as follows:

Vehicle Code	43
Crimes Code	10
Borough Ordinance	0
Warnings Issued	0

Parking Tickets issued are as follows:

\$1.00 Meter Tickets	77		
\$10.00 No Parking Tickets	7		
Void / Excused	1		
\$1.00 Parking Tickets Paid	65	\$	65.00
\$5.00 Parking Tickets Paid	6	\$	5.00
\$10.00 Parking Tickets Paid	6	\$	60.00
	Return from Magistrate Eckels	\$	1,210.03
	Return from Clerk of Courts	\$	128.30
	Return from Report Fees	\$	90.00
	Return from Parking Permits	\$	-
	Return from Soliciting Permits	\$	-
	Return from Restitution	\$	-
	Total		\$1,183.33
	Meter Receipts 2 Collections	\$	983.05
	Total Receipts for the month		\$2,566.38

Mayor Lucia asked the residents of the Borough to call the borough office when someone new moves into the neighborhood. Under the new Landlord Ordinance the landlords will be required to register their tenants. Until then it would help the Borough if residents would let us know if someone new is moving into their neighborhood.

Mayor Lucia said that there have been break-ins at homes in the Borough. If residents see someone loitering or acting suspiciously please call the Mount Pleasant Borough Police.

Mayor Lucia said it is also important for any resident who is handicapped or has special needs to call the borough office and let us know. The Borough has an Emergency Operations Plan that is registered with the County. In this plan it is important that the Borough know who needs special assistance in a disaster situation. Please notify the borough office with names, addresses and phone numbers of residents with special needs. Borough Manager Landy said he received a Special Needs Questionnaire from the Deputy Coordinator and he will make sure that the Senior Citizen Center, the Good Samaritan Center and the local churches have copies of the questionnaire.

Mayor Lucia said that there have been less problems reported in the parks. There will be a meeting on December 9th at 6:00pm for parents and young adults who use the park. Mayor Lucia will be present to answer any questions or concerns and to get their viewpoints.

Mayor Lucia asked residents to be aware of fire safety during the Christmas season. Don't overload your electrical outlets. Make sure to water live Christmas trees.

Mayor Lucia said that there was a problem during the last fireworks display. The Miele family who owns the farm up on the hill are upset about the fireworks. They have said that they will send the Borough a letter requesting that we stop having the fireworks near their farm. The Borough may have to find another location to set off the fireworks or cancel them altogether.

Mayor Lucia said he received a letter from Mr. William Weiss saying that the problem with young people loitering in Frick Park can be resolved by removing the seats where the fountain used to be. Extend the walk and wall and remove the circle of seats. Then remove the ramp and it would eliminate the bike tricks.

Solicitor's Report:

Solicitor Toohey reported that the Tax Ordinance #623 that is on the Agenda this evening has been advertised and is properly before Council for adoption.

President Tabita asked for the status of the Re-Codification Ordinance and when it can be adopted. Solicitor Toohey said that when Council is ready to adopt the re-codification we need to send out a 30-day notice to the County for their comments on the re-codification. President Tabita and Councilman Bauer said they would like to see it go forward at tonight's meeting.

A motion was made by Councilman Bauer to suspend the rules to move forward with the Re-Codification Ordinance. Motion seconded by Councilman Tate. Motion carried 7-0.

A motion was made by Councilman Bauer to advertise the re-codification of the ordinance book. Motion seconded by Councilman Tate. Motion carried 7-0.

Tax Collector Report:

Tax Collector Carol Yancosky read the following Tax Collector Report for the month of November 2009:

Property Taxes:	\$2,690.33
Supplemental:	\$110.06
Per Capita:	\$715.00

President's Report:

President Tabita reported that Phase II of the Main Street Street-Scape Project is complete. President Tabita thanked Engineer Glenn Wolfe for all of the work he did on the project. He also thanked all of the property owners who were affected and who had to incur some cost and everyone involved in completing the project.

President Tabita also thanked the Mount Pleasant VFD and Medic 10 for all of their service throughout the year and the sports leagues like Softball, Baseball, Soccer and Football. Everyone who contributes to making Mount Pleasant a better place to live through their hard work.

Borough Manager's Report:

Borough Manager Landy made the following report:

- Mr. Landy said he has asked all of the borough supervisors to have all December invoices to the borough office by December 21st so that we can get all of 2009 invoices paid before the end of the year.
- A meeting has been scheduled with department supervisors on the new purchase order system that will go into effect in January 2010.
- Armstrong Cable requested that Mr. Landy give them one of the surveillance cameras so that they that can look at what it will take to hook it up. Mr. Landy will provide the camera to Armstrong Cable this week.
- Industrial Appraisals will be appraising all of the Borough buildings this week. Next year we will have them do the equipment. The appraisal will help with our insurance costs.
- The idea discussed by the Idea Forum was to install bike racks in the Borough for the kids at the parks and for people using the bike trail when they come into town.
- The Borough received a letter from Les Santmyer who's daughter lives on Eagle Street and has a problem with water pressure. Mayor Lucia said he has spoken to the residents and also to the Municipal Authority of Westmoreland Co. Mayor Lucia suggested sending a letter to the Municipal Authority.

Borough Manager Landy gave the following review of 2009 noting that as always his report is not necessarily Council's position or opinion:

January

- The year started with some basement flooding problems on Quarry St after the CSL Project was complete.
- A new Landlord Ordinance was discussed.

- Property on Bridgeport St was transferred to the Borough from the Levin Family.
- Phase II of the Main Street Street-Scape Project was discussed with county officials.
- A police grant was prepared and submitted with the help of Councilman Crivella
- The Frick Communities continued meeting.
- We met with Career Link about community projects.
- A Community Steeler Pep Rally was held at the Gazebo, helping the Steelers win the Super Bowl.

February

- Councilman Ken Wilttrout resigned due to changes in his work schedule
- A public meeting was held for the R1-A Rezoning Plan which was adopted at a future meeting.
- Proposals were given to the Recreation Committee from the Little League and Soccer League for ways to utilize the gas well revenues.

March

- More concerns from citizens concerning the CSO Project were brought to Council's attention.
- Topics such as rental inspections and 911 address changes were discussed.
- Mr. Landy assisted WWT in handing out notices concerning grease issues to local food preparation places.
- The Borough was awarded a \$475,000 DEP Grant for Phase II Rain Garden Project.
- The Idea Forum began with monthly meetings of citizens and business owners in the Borough.
- The Rotary Club donated two benches for Main Street.
- The Street Department started a Borough-wide street seeping project with the newly purchased street sweeper.
- Fred McCloy was appointed the new 3rd Ward Councilman, replacing Ken Wilttrout.
- Councilwoman Stevenson reported progress on a citizens cat committee.
- Warm weather brought problems with juveniles in our parks.

April

- Demolition began on the DiNicola building on Main Street.
- 2009 Paving Project bids came in 20% lower than projected confirming that the decision to bid early saves money.
- Councilman McCloy spearheaded a study on saving energy costs at the Central VFD and Municipal Building.
- A DCED study of the Street Department was reported to Council with some recommendations.
- Councilman Bauer had the ordinance codification project in full swing with lots of research on new ordinances being studied.

May

- A public hearing was held regarding transfer of a liquor license to the new owner of the Elks building on Main Street. The transfer was approved by Council.
- Council approved Medic 10 request to purchase a new ambulance after one was destroyed in a fire earlier this year.
- Sadly two citizens involved in the Borough for many years passed away. Former Police Chief Glenn Zaronsky and former Councilwoman and past Council President Peggy Mullen.
- An Inter-municipal Agreement Ordinance was adopted tying together Mount Pleasant, Scottdale and West Overton as part of the Frick Communities.
- A crack sealer was purchased for the Street Department setting into motion a plan to maintain our streets without big paving projects every year.
- A pet waste system was installed at Frick Park.

June

- Another year of Concerts In The Park began with additional activities at each event.
- WWT reported getting contaminated soil monitoring reports from a Diamond Street closed gas station and the closed Honey Bear station.
- Councilwoman Ruszkowski reported a sizable saving on Borough insurance coverage after bidding it this year.

- Resurfacing bids came in for the tennis courts, but that project has been put on hold.

July

- The July 3rd Celebration with good crowds.
- Only 27 spaces for names are left on the tablets at Veterans Memorial Wall.
- The Quarry Street WWT Project is in full swing with options being discussed.
- Curbside recycling was voted on and passed.
- Gas well revenues reported were less than expected.

August

- Citizens came to Council requesting changes in the building inspection procedures.
- A special meeting was held by Council to review the ordinance re-codification.
- A new issue regarding sidewalk cafes caused a debate among Council.
- Park vandalism was still a topic.
- Discussions of Phase II Main Streetlights, Quarry Street flooding, the tennis courts, the Employee Handbook, In-Town Shops and the ordinance re-codification brought a lull to the council meetings.

September

- Mount Pleasant was honored by Westmoreland Cleanways and was adopted as the first municipality in Westmoreland County because of our efforts to maintain a clean community.
- A group of high school students volunteered to pick up garbage in our town.
- Negotiations to sell the Gormley building were on and off, with buyers unable to fully commit.
- Finishing our marketing DVD stalled because we keep trying to improve it.
- Discussions with the County about CDBG funds and the Bridgeport Street property gives Council something to think about.

October

- A review of the events which included the Concerts In The Park, the Glass & Ethnic Festival and Viking Pep Rally showed that although there was inclement weather, Mount Pleasant events are very successful.
- Analysis of the Cat Committee's Spay, Neuter and Release program showed it to be working which showed that community committees can make an impact on solving Borough problems.

November

- Flooding and any other CSO Project issues on Quarry Street have been put to bed for now.
- Balanced budgets for General Fund, WWT Fund and Liquid Fuels were presented to Council without a tax increase.
- Energy saving projects were started at the WWT Plant facility and Central Fire Station to try and curtail the rising electric bills.
- A new gas well location was approved at the Bridgeport Street property.
- Another public meeting was held concerning the proposed ordinance re-codification with some great public input.

December

- The Nativity Scene Light-Up and Christmas Parade with a new candle light procession was a success again this year.
- Council will pass balanced budgets without cuts in services, raising taxes or a tax anticipation loan.

Looking at 2009, the economic times affected a lot of businesses and people but the Borough of Mount Pleasant has without a doubt ended the year in pretty good shape because of a stable Council and administrative staff working together. 2009 has seen landmark decisions and accomplishments including:

- The new R1-A Zoning district.
- The consistent implementation of the Property Maintenance Code.
- The commitment to a road maintenance program that includes crack sealing as a priority.
- Thinking before spending that has secured our Budgetary Reserve accounts so as not to put a financial strain on this borough in the near future.

But this Council's work is not done. It faces every day challenges like any other municipality in the state. In 2010 Mount Pleasant faces decisions on Main Street and improving our business district, finalizing our DVD and marketing Mount Pleasant.

Deciding on the best use of the Bridgeport Street Property and to somehow bring the Bike Trail to Main Street and downtown. A concern that I kept bringing up in 2009 was property values. 2010 projected property values decreased. That's 46% of the Borough income. This needs to be worked on. The 2010 budget is very tight and does not allow for any sloppy spending decisions. More consistent committee meetings by Council members who all have other jobs should be a goal for 2010.

And last but not least, a very important decision about our own Ramsey Elementary School may be the #1 priority going into and through 2010 by Borough Council and the citizens of Mount Pleasant. We should not, and cannot allow this elementary school to be closed. Together with our neighbors in Donegal, we should unite and show a solid unified front against what seems like throwing aside proven benefits of neighborhood schools for financial reasons. To the Mount Pleasant School Board and Administration..."You can either spend time and money responding to this cause or be creative and keep all of the schools open".

On the brighter side, 2010 will be another year of family events held downtown at Veterans Park and the Gazebo Area. Here citizens and people from all over the area enjoy what Mount Pleasant has to offer. Also, I hope to institute a G3 Conference between Scottdale, Connellsville and Mount Pleasant so that we can share ideas, communicate and problem solve issues that we share as boroughs and cities.

Now for our Mayor. For a couple of months Armstrong Cable was unable to film our council meetings so I would like to report that the weight loss competition between the Mayor and me was a tie! And as for his 2009 nickname...he is "The Energizer Bunny". He just keeps going and going because he is involved in everything. He is the Mayor, the Fire Chief, Emergency Management Coordinator and involved in many organizations and clubs. His is usually the first person called on for everything. He keeps our town going.

Finally, the Borough is in good shape. I am looking forward to 2010 and working together with Council and Mayor Lucia to make Mount Pleasant a great place to live and raise a family.

Thank you and may God bless you and Mount Pleasant.

Waste Water Treatment Report:

Councilman Tate reported that WWT Supervisor Norman Stout fell off of a ladder while working. Mr. Stout was seen by a doctor and appears to be doing ok. He hasn't missed any work because of the fall.

Public Safety Zoning and Ordinance Report:

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

Total Calls for the Month	125
Medical	104
MVA	10
Fire	6
Transfer	1
Standby	4
In Town	62
Out of Town	63
Members per Call	2.6

Councilman Bauer addressed some issues concerning the ordinance re-codification.

A motion was made by Councilman Bauer to adopt 2010 Tax Ordinance #624 setting the millage rate at 16.0 mills. Motion seconded by Councilman Tate. Motion carried 7-0.

Mayor Lucia said it has been six years since Mount Pleasant Borough has seen a millage increase and we have not had to cut back on any services we offer our residents.

Streets, Parks and Recreation:

A motion was made by Councilman Bauer to open sealed bids for 2010-2012 Grass Cutting and Snow Removal Contract. Motion seconded by Councilman Beranek. Motion carried 7-0.

President Tabita opened the following bids for the three-year Grass Cutting and Snow Removal Contract:

Skowronek Landscaping	\$45,586.00 for 3 years
Silvis Group	\$39,674.00 for 3 years

A motion was made by Councilman Bauer to turn the bids over to committee for review and award. Motion seconded by Councilman Tate. Motion carried 7-0.

A motion was made by Councilman Bauer to approve the lease with the Little League Recreation Organization for additional land at Willows Park for a T-Ball Field at a cost of \$1 per year. Motion seconded by Councilman Crivella. Motion carried 7-0.

Councilman Bauer said that last summer there was a meeting with the Recreation Committee to discuss a signboard at the bike trail where local businesses could advertise. Councilman Bauer feels Council should go forward with this idea so that the sign can be up for the spring.

Councilman Bauer said a decision would have to be made about whether to go forward with erecting a new table at Veterans Park so that more names can be added. The cost of the names would be determined by the cost of the tablet.

Finance Report:

Councilwoman Ruskowski said that funds for the purchase of the aerial fire truck were reconciled with the Mount Pleasant VFD.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Ruskowski to adopt the 2010 General Fund Budget with total revenues of \$1,243,495 and total expenses of \$1,243,432. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Stevenson. Motion carried 7-0.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Ruskowski to adopt the 2010 WWT Budget with total revenues of \$799,952 and total expenses of \$799,720. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Stevenson. Motion carried 7-0.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Ruskowski to adopt the 2010 Liquid Fuels Budget with total revenues of \$92,128 and total expenses of \$92,128. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Stevenson. Motion carried 7-0.

Property:

Councilman Beranek thanked Street Supervisor Mario Fontanazza and his crew for all of their help in put up the Premoshis Christmas Displays this year along with Diane Pyda and the Mount Pleasant Area High School students who helped. He also thanked George & Cunningham Hardware, Saloom Department Store and Levin Furniture for letting us put the displays in their windows.

A motion was made by Councilman Beranek to advertise for bids for contractors to build Rain Gardens using grant money from Storm Water Retrofit Project Phase I. Motion seconded by Councilman Tate. Motion carried 7-0.

Mr. Glenn Wolfe from Widmer Engineers said he has the specs and his company will advertise for bids.

President Tabita asked Councilman Beranek if he has looked into using the Christmas decorations that are in storage to expand the Borough decorations to include Church Street or Diamond Street. Councilman Beranek said that perhaps we could be ready to do that next year.

Community Eco-Green Report:

Councilman McCloy reported that curbside recycling will begin in January. Allied Waste will include a flyer in their bills, the containers will be delivered to homes within the next couple of weeks and articles will be published in the newspapers to inform residents.

Human Resources and Employee Contracts Report: None

Community Economic Development and Grants Report:

Councilman Crivella thanked Mr. Landy for all of his help in researching grants this year. Councilman Crivella said that we will have a more active BDA in 2010 and that they are meeting on a regular basis, also that with Frick Communities in place, 2010 should be an excellent year.

A motion was made by Councilman Crivella to approve the 2010 BDA Budget. Motion was seconded by Councilman Tate. Motion carried 7-0.

A motion was made by Councilman Crivella to reappoint Dale Walker Sr., Bill George and Nino Barsotti to the BDA Board. Motion seconded by Councilman Beranek. Motion carried 7-0.

New Business:

Councilwoman Stevenson thanked Council on behalf of the Historical Society for all of their help and support with the new log house. The Christmas Festivities on December 12th were a great success and it gave the Historical Society an opportunity to be visible in the community. Councilwoman Stevenson also thanked Council on behalf of the Cat Committee for their support in 2009. Councilman Tate thanked Councilwoman Stevenson and the Cat Committee for all of their hard work. There have been no new cat complaints since they began their program.

Councilwoman Stevenson announced that the Historical Society Annual House Tour will be on Saturday December 12, 2009. This year will feature "Christmas In The Country" and will include homes outside of the Borough along with the Mennonite Church Camp. Anyone interested in the tour can contact the Historical Society at (724) 547-9115.

Reading of Communications: None

Discussion and Payment of Bills:

A motion was made by Councilman Bauer to pay all authorized and approved bills. Motion seconded by councilman Beranek. Motion carried 7-0.

Miscellaneous and Adjournment:

A motion was made by Councilman Bauer to adjourn the meeting. Motion seconded by Councilman Beranek. Motion carried 7-0.

Meeting adjourned 8:30pm.

Motions from December 7, 2009 Meeting

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