

Meeting February 15, 2010

The meeting of Mount Pleasant Borough Council was called to order by President Bauer at 7:02pm 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 and Senator John Murtha who passed away. President Bauer directed Borough Manager Landy to take roll. Councilmen Beranek, Crivella, McCloy, Tate, and Councilwomen Stevenson and Ruszkowski were present. Mayor Lucia and Solicitor Wolfe, Tucker/Arensberg were present. President Bauer stated we have a quorum.

Councilman Tabita arrived at 7:08pm.

Reading of Previous Minutes:

A motion was made by Councilwoman Stevenson to dispense with the reading of the minutes of February 1, 2010. Motion seconded by Councilman Tate. Motion carried 8-0.

Public Comment: None

Speakers: None

Mayor's Report:

Mayor Lucia said that he and all of the Borough officials apologize to any residents who got plowed in during the recent snowstorms. But there was really no other option. When you plow the streets there is nowhere for the snow to go but to the side. Mayor Lucia said he would hope that residents would have some understanding of the situation. Borough Manager Landy will have the actual cost of the snow removal during his report. The major objective during these storms was to keep the streets passable. The Street Department employees alone logged 163 hours of overtime.

Solicitors Report:

Attorney Fred Wolfe said that his firm continues to work with Borough Manager Landy on the Police Procedures Manual and the Employee Handbook and some day-to-day items. Attorney Wolfe said he will have a written report for the first meeting in March.

Treasurer's Report:

Borough Manager Landy read the following Treasurer's Report for the month of January 2010:

		Mt. Pleasant Borough Treasurer's Report:	Jan-10		
		Previous Balance	Deposits	Disbursements	Balance Jan 10
General Fund Checking	PNC 00-0122-3513	50,000.00	156,959.46	155,041.46	51,918.00
General Fund Sweep	PNC 10-1149-3394	603,815.43	54,854.32	84,628.10	574,041.65
General Fund Budgetary Reserve	PNC 102-457-4388	103,062.84	49.15	0.00	103,111.99
**Fire		30,000.00			
**Police		10,000.00			
**Streets		10,000.00			
**Contingency Fund		53,111.99			
General Fund Budgetary Reserve	Standard Bank 321615	101,233.05	102.36	0.00	101,335.41
**Police		20,000.00			
**Streets		20,000.00			
**Contingency Fund		21,335.41			
**Infrastructure		30,000.00			
**Recreation Grant Fund		10,000.00			
Liquid Fuels PLGIT	PLGIT 56980126	51,057.54	4.03	6,280.35	44,781.22
Monument CD	Standard Bank 242781	5,729.90	9.33	0.00	5,739.23
Holiday Lighting Fund	Standard Bank 050004849	1,797.91	0.23	0.00	1,798.14
Payroll Fund	PNC 00-0122-6415	1,269.27	49,930.66	49,661.72	1,538.21
Veterans Park Fund	First Niagara 981293700	1,279.13	0.00		1,279.13
Veterans Park PLGIT	PLGIT 5698025	11,248.81	0.99	0.00	11,249.80
Police Drug Enforcement	PNC 10-1291-2642	850.50	0.00	0.00	850.50

Town Clock Fund	Standard Bank 0010038847	611.95	0.08	0.00	612.03
Storm Water Retrofit Phase 1	PNC Bank 10-2825-9692	14,500.00	0.00	0.00	14,500.00
Total General Fund Balance					912,755.31
WWT Operational Acct	Standard Bank 0320012280	240,717.89	97,524.03	62,778.17	278,463.75
WWT Savings	Standard Bank 0050021008	18,175.18	18.38	0.00	18,193.56
WWT Budgetary Reserve	Standard Bank 0000287245	102,472.73	103.62	0.00	102,576.35
**Contingency		62,576.35			
**Infrastructure		40,000.00			
Total WWT Balance					399,233.66

Total Borough funds	1,311,988.97
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Respectfully Submitted:
 Councilwoman Susan Ruszkowski
 Borough Manager Jeff Landy

Borough Manager Landy said the 2010 balance is more than last year's but that could possible change after we cover the cost of this storm.

A motion was made by Councilman Crivella to approve the Treasurer's Report as read. Motion seconded by Councilman McCloy. Motion carried 8-0.

President's Report:

President Bauer thanked Mayor Lucia, Borough Manager Landy and the Street Committee for meeting with him to devise a plan of attack during the snowstorms. He said that it cost the Borough a great deal of money to hire contractors to remove the snow. President Bauer said he was dissatisfied with a couple of things that the workers in the Street Department were doing and that there did not seem to be any sort of plan. This was a record snowfall and it had to be put somewhere. If we dug up yards we'll make it right. President Bauer will work with the Street Committee to set up a plan for future snowfalls and they will look at making adjustments to the Street Department equipment. President Bauer said that the Borough does have designated snow routes. During this storm the Borough had to have cars moved from these routes so they could be plowed. These routes are used for emergencies and during this storm it would have been difficult to get emergency vehicles through.

Councilwoman Stevenson said she heard through the grapevine about the Borough contracting outside companies for snow removal. She thought that was very helpful, but feels it would be beneficial for Council to know what's going on in town so that they can explain when asked. If there is a meeting and a plan or decision is made, if someone would call her, she would be willing to send an email to the other Council members so that everyone has the same information.

A motion was made by Councilman Tate for an Executive Session. Motion seconded by Councilman Crivella. Motion carried 8-0.

Executive Session 7:23pm to 8:11pm.

President Bauer reported that the Executive Session was to discuss personnel.

Borough Manager's Report:

Borough Manager Landy said that it was a great help when Mayor Lucia, President Bauer and the Street Committee attended meetings at the borough office to make decisions during the State of Emergency.

Mr. Landy said that he attended a meeting with Councilman Slater and the President of the Girl's Softball League regarding the concession stand at Frick Park. After the meeting I was unsure of who is going to complete the concession stand project. Councilman Slater is turning the project over to Councilman Tate, but with all of the snow it has been put on hold.

Councilman Tate said he was under the assumption that the Girl's Softball League would finish the concession stand, but he would agree to have the Borough complete the project.

Borough Manager Landy said he went to California University and signed up for an Intern Program and hopefully the Borough will have an intern for the 2010 – 2011 semesters at no cost.

Mr. Landy said he attended a meeting with the Westmoreland County Planning Commission regarding the 211 Main Street. The County has decided to look into the situation. Demolition of the building is on schedule and we presented some ideas to the County about what could be put on the property.

Mr. Landy said that he has begun research into the purchase of a bucket truck for the Borough. More information will be available at the next council meeting.

Mr. Landy said that he and the Street Department met with a company who we purchased the lights for Phase I of the Main Street Street-Scape Project and it was determined that our Street Department can replace the lights. Mr. Landy will get costs for purchasing the replacement bulbs and ballasts. These new bulbs and ballasts will give the same glow that is in Phase II.

Mr. Landy said he had a meeting with Armstrong about the surveillance cameras. This will be the second camera to be installed. The first one is across from Veterans Park. This camera will be installed on the corner of the RGE building and will face the intersection of Routes 819 and 31 and that will fulfill the Borough's commitment to the grant.

Mr. Landy said that any plan for clearing the streets during heavy snowfalls will have to include garbage collection routes. Garbage trucks were unable to pick up in the alleys.

Mr. Landy said he spoke with the Parking Authority and the BDA after one of the Street Committees emergency meetings and told them we were going to have a difficult time cleaning the parking lots because we have to concentrate on cleaning the streets. He asked for assistance from these two authorities. The Parking Authority did hire its own contractor to plow the parking lot across from Veterans Park. The Parking Authority and the BDA have not returned his call.

Mr. Landy said that Kriebel Resources estimated that a gas line from the proposed gas well at the Bridgeport Street property to Medic 10 would cost \$26,000.

Mr. Landy said that Jane Altman would like a decision from Council regarding a patio in front of the building at 462 W. Main Street. Councilman Beranek said that Council will need more detail on what Ms. Altman proposes before they can make a decision. Council will need to see a drawing of what she is planning. Mayor Lucia said that there would have to be 25 feet clearance from the center of the road. Mr. Landy said the ordinance stipulates that she would have to have a sidewalk one foot wide for every ten feet of the roadway in front. A discussion ensued and Council agreed that the Committee would have to look into what the ordinance says.

Mr. Landy reported that the Little League and Soccer League have picked up applications for funding from gas well revenue. Mr. Landy said that the deadline has been extended one month to give them time to submit the application.

Mr. Landy reported that the Borough has been selected to be included in the 2010 CDBG Program. \$43,000 will be allocated to Jack Bobb's Park and \$46,000 will be allocated for Center Avenue Street Reconstruction. The scheduled release of funds by HUD is mid to late May 2010.

Mr. Landy said that as a courtesy the borough office will call all of the landlords who attended the public meeting and left their phone numbers to inform them that the Landlord Ordinance has been passed and they must register their rental properties and tenants.

Mr. Landy said that he will meet with Police Chief Ober to discuss how we can come up with an answer for how to determine if there are new tenants in a rental property. Mr. Landy said that Armstrong Cable could help us by telling us if there is a new cable account.

Waste Water Treatment Report:

Councilman Tate said that by the next meeting WWT Supervisor Norm Stout will have data on replacing the electrical box at the plant.

Public Safety Report:

Councilman Beranek said he spoke to Police Chief Stephen Ober about using the parking ticket envelopes that are in stock. The ones in stock show ticket cost at \$1.00 and the new ordinance raises it to \$3.00. Stickers will have to be printed to cover the old cost.

Zoning & Ordinance Report:

Councilman McCloy said he spoke to Ken at Keystate Publishing and the CD's and books containing the ordinance re-codification should be here by March 1, 2010.

Streets Parks and Recreation Report: None

Councilwoman Stevenson brought up the fact that twice last week crews were working on Eagle Street and had the street blocked off. The crew blocked off the street in such a way that they directed traffic down the wrong way on a one-way street. Borough Manager Landy said that the crew did not do a good job of directing traffic, but when a utility has an emergency the borough office is not notified.

Councilwoman Stevenson said that there are some boulders at the intersection of Reservoir Street and Eagle Street, probably to keep motorists from making the turn to sharply. Councilwoman Stevenson feels that the boulder is too close to the street, not giving drivers enough room to make the turn. Mayor Lucia agreed that the boulder does need moved back three or four feet.

Veterans Park Report:

President Bauer said that he feels that there should be some sort of memorial to Senator John Murtha erected at Veterans Park. Councilman Tabita said he feels the Borough should send a contribution to one of the memorials suggested in the newspaper.

A motion was made by Councilman Tabita to make a donation of \$100 to the Joyce Murtha Breast Care Center, Windber PA 15963. Motion seconded by Councilman Crivella. Motion carried 8-0.

Councilman Tabita said that there is still a problem with people who are not cleaning up after their dogs at Frick Park. There are disposal bags available at the park for dog owners to use. Councilman Tabita said that the signs in the park should be moved to be more visible.

Council discussed possible improvements to Frick Park utilizing gas well monies as well as putting a surveillance camera on the concession stand to deter vandalism. Borough Manager Landy said that in July the Church Of God will have 500 kids coming to Mount Pleasant for a week to do community service. The Borough will supply a list of things we need done and the organizers will look at the list to determine what they can do. They're looking for as many projects as we can give them that week. They will provide their own tools etc. and will be covered under their own liability insurance.

Finance Report:

Councilwoman Ruszkowski reported that the accumulated cost so far for Storm #1 is \$16,537.96 and Storm #2 is \$17,815.80. Councilwoman Ruszkowski said that some line item transfers will have to be made to cover the costs.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Ruszkowski to transfer the following amounts to Emergency Fund Line Item # 437.30:

#470.71	\$1,600.00
#450.11	\$7,000.00
#470.70	\$3,000.00
#325.20	\$2,000.00

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

Councilwoman Ruszkowski said that the money would be replaced in the line items if any money is received from the State for this emergency.

Property:

Councilman Crivella said he has gone to towns in the area and looked at welcome signs. He took some pictures and emailed them to Council along with some other styles. Any council member who has an idea should contact someone from the committee. Councilman Crivella said he has contacted the owner of the property where the sign would be erected and is waiting to hear back from them for their permission. A 99 year lease would probably be the best option. He also contacted Mark Depalma who is President of the Mount Pleasant Rotary to ask if the Rotary would be willing to help with the cost of that sign as well as the signs for the Bike Trail. Councilman Crivella said he will attend a meeting of the Rotary to present the idea. Councilman

Beranek said he feels it would be important to have welcome signs at every entrance into town and for them to be uniform.

Borough Manager Landy said that the Parking Authority has given the Borough permission to erect a sign at the old PNC drive-thru in place of the Laurel Highlands Chamber sign that blew down. Mr. Landy has contacted Taylor Signs to design a sign that would be inter-changeable.

Mr. Landy said that all of the suites in the Municipal Building have been rented. Councilman Crivella commented that he read somewhere that the color yellow stimulates creative thinking. He made this comment because Borough Manager Landy chose yellow for Council Chambers.

President Bauer said that the County will begin demolition of the Gormley building some time in March or April 2010. The building is in such bad shape that the County wants to do it as soon as possible

Sanitation & Recycling Report: None

Community and Economic Development/Grants Report:

Councilman Tabita said that he received information regarding a DCED grant. Councilman Tabita asked for suggestions from Council on what to ask for. He feels that we could apply for a grant to extend the Bike Trail.

Councilman Tabita said the video of Mount Pleasant is almost complete and should definitely be done for the next meeting.

New Business:

Councilwoman Stevenson said she wanted to let Council know that the Cat Committee has been out consistently even with the bad weather trapping cats and having them spayed and neutered. Councilman Tate said that since the Cat Committee has been formed there have been no complaints about stray cats.

Councilman Tate said that Basil Howanchak from Levin Furniture is meeting with WWT Supervisor Norm Stout to design something for the Levin Monument at the Little League Field.

Reading of Communications:

Borough Manager Landy read the following communications:

- The Mount Pleasant Public Library is hosting a Wine and Cheese Party at Nino's Restaurant on Sunday March 7, 2010 from 4pm to 7pm to celebrate 70 years.
- The Braddock Trail Chapter of the DAR would like to include their events on the borough web site. Councilman Tabita said maybe we should charge local businesses for advertising on our web site and use that money to maintain it. Council agreed that if we do post events from other organizations, they would have to email exactly what they want on the site to Bev and she would forward it to Westmoreland Communications for inclusion. Council also agreed that the decision to include events for non-profit organizations on the web site would be decided on a case-by-case basis.

Discussion and Payment of Bills:

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

Miscellaneous and Adjournment:

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

Meeting adjourned 9:23pm.

Motions from February 15, 2010 Meeting

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A motion was made by Councilman Crivella to approve the Treasurer's Report as read. Motion seconded by Councilman McCloy. Motion carried 8-0.

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