

Meeting February 20, 2012

The meeting of Mount Pleasant Borough Council was called to order by President Bauer at 7:00pm 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, McFeaters, Pritts, Tate and Councilwomen Stevenson and Ruszkowski were present. Mayor Lucia was present and Solicitor Wolfe was absent. 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 February 6, 2012 since Council has been provided with a copy. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Ruszkowski. Motion carried 7-0.

Public Comment: None

Speaker:

Tay Waltenbaugh, Shop Demo Depot and CEO of Westmoreland Community Action spoke to Council about their home ownership program in Westmoreland County. Shop Demo Depot is a social enterprise to benefit their agency, their consumers and the community. Shop Demo Depot is a reuse, resale business for housing goods. They currently have a lease-purchase agreement with Cook Lumber and plan to own the property within 1 ½ years. The open house for the business will be held on Friday April 27, 2012. All of their staff is trained in deconstruction and they reclaim as much as possible out of houses and half of their goods are new and donated from companies. Mr. Waltenbaugh told Council a little about the business and what they hope to achieve.

Mayors Report:

Mayor Lucia said that some of the parking meters are still not working because the new insides have new electronics and require new housings.

Solicitor's Report:

Borough Manager Landy said he received a phone call from Solicitor Wolfe. Solicitor Wolfe said that IPS, the company whose truck damaged the traffic light and pole at the Diamond has not responded to his letter requesting payment for the damage. Mr. Wolfe said he will file a default notice that will give them 10 more days to pay the damages. If they do not pay within 10 days Mr. Wolfe will file a default judgment against IPS.

Borough Manager Landy said that Solicitor Wolfe spoke with Mr. Jim Cortazza from the C.O.G. regarding the cost of appealing a B.I.U. decision. Mr. Wolfe requested that the C.O.G. reduce the fee for an appeal which is \$1,000. Mr. Cortazza responded by saying that they would not lower the cost and in fact are raising the cost of a residential appeal to C.O.G. by nonmembers \$1,500.

Treasurer's Report:

Borough Manager Landy read the following Treasurer's Report for the month of January 2012:

Mt. Pleasant Borough Treasurer's Report		Jan-12			
		Previous Balance	Deposits	Disbursements	Balance 2012
General Fund Checking	PNC 00-0122-3513	52,412.00	136,416.83	138,026.83	50,802.00
General Fund Sweep	PNC 10-1149-3394	686,192.45	29,161.95	80,220.16	635,134.24
General Fund Budgetary Reserve	PNC 102-457-4388	63,211.57	8.29	0.00	63,219.86
**Fire		30,000.00			
**Police		0.00			
**Streets		10,000.00			
**Contingency Fund		23,219.86			
General Fund Budgetary Reserve	Standard Bank 321615	310,535.53	52.76	0.00	310,588.29
**Police		50,000.00			
**Streets		70,000.00			
**Contingency Fund		65,872.58			
**Infrastructure		80,000.00			
**BOMP1 Recreation Fund		7,000.00			
**Frick Park Recreation Fund		9,964.00			
**Levins		7,760.06			
**Surveillance Cameras		9,000.00			

**Fire		5,000.00				
**K-9		5,991.65				
Liquid Fuels PLGIT	PLGIT 56980126	30,429.48	0.43	0.00		30,429.91
Monument CD	Standard Bank 328188	5,739.23	284.11	0.00		6,023.34
Holiday Lighting Fund	Standard Bank 050004849	1,800.94	0.08	0.00		1,801.02
Payroll Fund	PNC 00-0122-6415	1,344.09	79,701.83	51,774.15		29,271.77
Veterans Park Fund	First Niagara 981293700	4,269.99	330.00	0.00		4,599.99
Veterans Park Fund	PLGIT 5698025	11,259.81	0.16	0.00		11,259.97
Police Drug Enforcement	PNC 10-1291-2642	850.50	0.00	0.00		850.50
Town Clock Fund	Standard Bank 0010038847	612.98	0.03	0.00		613.01
Medic 10 Checking	Standard Bank 0010107643	67,273.86	11,496.52	36,257.96		42,512.42
Medic 10 Savings	Standard Bank 0310000238	94,504.01	16.05	0.00		94,520.06
Storm Water Retrofit Phase I	PNC Bank 10-2825-9692	0.00	0.00	0.00		0.00
Storm Water Retrofit Phase II	PNC Bank 10-3388-4556	26,349.21	0.00	0.00		26,349.21
Total General Fund Balance						1,307,975.59
WWT Operational Acct	Standard Bank 0320012280	216,557.63	65,029.38	38,290.23		243,296.78
WWT Savings	Standard Bank 0050021008	54,688.99	1,513.61	0.00		56,202.60
WWT Budgetary Reserve	Standard Bank 0000287245	137,737.16	23.40	0.00		137,760.56
**Contingency		129,213.77				
**Infrastructure		50,000.00				
Total WWT Balance						437,259.94
Total Borough funds						1,745,235.53

Respectfully Submitted:
Councilwoman Susan Ruszkowski
Secretary Beverly Fedorchak

A motion was made by Councilman Beranek to accept the Treasurers Report as read. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Stevenson. Motion carried 7-0.

Presidents Report:

President Bauer said he is still working on filling the vacancies on some of the Mount Pleasant Boards and Authorities. President Bauer said he has received letters from people who are interested on serving. He said that council can discuss the possibilities at the next meeting and schedule some interviews.

Borough Manager's Report:

Borough Manager Landy made the following report:

- Attorney Nat Abromson wrote a letter to Council to let them know that he will be retiring on March 15, 2012 and will no longer serve as solicitor for the Zoning Appeals Board. Mr. Abromson provided Council with names of possible replacements.
- Mr. Landy said that he and Mayor Lucia have been working on health and safety issues with some properties in the Borough and also getting responses to complaints that have been filed.
- The Westmoreland County Conservation District has asked the Borough to update the agreement with them. It was originally signed in 2003.
- Mr. Landy said that he is interviewing for the part-time secretarial position and will let Council know when he has narrowed it down to one or two so that they can conduct interviews.

Public Works Report:

Councilman Tate said that a meeting is scheduled with Mount Pleasant Township for next month to discuss their upcoming needs in relation to our WWT Plant.

Councilman Tate reported that the Street Department has had time to work on the bike trail since we haven't had much snow so far this winter. They have also started pulling the posts around the Diamond.

Councilman Tate said that he has requested literature regarding whether discharge from sump pumps can go into the WWT Plant.

President Bauer said that the Coal and Coke Trail Board meets every second Tuesday of the month at the Village Restaurant and he will try to attend the next meeting. President Bauer said that we may be able to bring the bike trail out to Main Street. Members of the Coal & Coke Trail do not recommend that we bring the bike trail up into town because they feel it would be of no benefit to the borough. They also said that there is no need for us to purchase any signs because they have everything we need. Mr. Landy said that we have not purchased any signs yet. Borough Manager Landy said that instead of running the bike trail into Mount

Pleasant we may be able to connect it to the regular bike trail in front of Shop Demo Depot if Shop Demo Depot lets us use the space between their building and the railroad tracks we could bring the bike trail to Main Street which would give Mount Pleasant residents better access. President Bauer said that by attending the Coal and Coke Trail Board meeting we will be more informed on their intentions for the trail and what they need from the Borough.

Public Safety Report:

Councilman Beranek reported that there was a meeting of Mount Pleasant EMS and Jerry Lucia was appointed Chairman of the Board.

A motion was made by Councilman Beranek to adopt Mount Pleasant EMS proposal of criteria for active volunteer personnel. Motion seconded by Councilman Tate. Motion carried 7-0.

Councilman Beranek said that the criteria outlines qualifications for Mount Pleasant EMS volunteers and will help the organization move forward.

Zoning & Ordinance Report:

Borough Manager Landy said that Councilman McCloy has been working on dealing with complaints filed by residents about properties in the Borough. A letter has been sent to the owners of 540 Walnut Street regarding demolition of the property. The Health Inspector looked at a property on Center Avenue that we received a complaint about and found nothing for the owners to be cited for. The Property Maintenance Inspector has submitted a report regarding 12 North Church Street. The owner of that property is disabled and we have been working with the family on correcting the problems.

Community & Economic Development / Grants Report:

Councilman McFeaters said that he spoke to April Kopas, Executive Director of the Westmoreland County Redevelopment Authority about some projects in the Borough. Councilman McFeaters said that he feels cleaning up the Bridgeport Street Property that is owned by the Borough would benefit the Borough and bring in more tax dollars. Ms. Kopas said she would like us to concentrate on a main project and said that she feels that the Bridgeport Street project would have the best chance of receiving grant money from the county. Councilman McFeaters said he is working on a report to be submitted to the Redevelopment Authority. The deadline for the report to be submitted is February 29, 2012.

Councilman McFeaters said he is working on replacing the concrete apron to the entrance of Central Fire Station. The project will be a costly one and Councilman McFeaters is working with Representative Deberah Kula on possible grant funds.

Borough Manager Landy said he feels that the Redevelopment Authority will let us submit the project for the February 29th deadline and also the Bridgeport Street project because they are two separate grants and the clean up at the Bridgeport Street project would come from federal grant monies, while the other would be using county grant monies.

Veterans Park Report:

Councilman Tate said that the Veterans Park Committee met last week. Two new members have been added to the committee. Bob Rizzo from the school district and Ed Malacki, a retired schoolteacher. The committee is working on redesigned the video wall project and will be meeting with ITSENCLOSURES this week to discuss the changes.

Councilman Tate said the committee is also working on a memorial to Bill Potoka who passed away recently.

Parks & Recreation Report: None

Borough Manager Landy said that people are bringing their dogs to the unused volleyball court since the weather is getting nicer. He asked the Recreation Committee if there are plans to finish converting the volleyball court to a dog park. Councilwoman Stevenson and Councilman McFeaters said that they did not know of any plans at this time. President Bauer said that Council voted to make it into a dog park and it should be completed. Councilman Tate said that Frick Park should have another dog waste station. Councilman Tate said that the Street Department has an old fire hydrant that can be put in the dog park.

Finance Report:

Councilwoman Ruszkowski said that when the Borough applied for UPMC healthcare the quote we received was from C.O.G. Care. We have recently been informed that Westmoreland County does not belong to C.O.G. Care and that means that our premiums will not include this discount and will be 4% higher. Councilman Tate asked if we should even belong to the C.O.G. since they do not seem to be helping us at all. Mr. Landy said that if we no longer belong to the C.O.G. we would have to have a contract with B.I.U. to continue to do our code enforcement. We would also have to set up our own appeals board. President Bauer said that the C.O.G. fee for appeals was too high anyway and it may be better to have our own board of people who are qualified.

Councilwoman Ruszkowski said that Higbee Insurance sent a quote to renew our Worker's Comp insurance in the amount of \$36,419.00.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Ruszkowski to suspend the rules for the purpose of accepting Higbee's quote for Workers Comp. Motion seconded by Councilman Pritts. Motion carried 7-0.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Ruszkowski to accept the quote from Higbee Insurance for Workers Comp insurance in the amount of \$36,419.00 for 2012 to 2013. Motion seconded by Councilman Pritts. Motion carried 7-0.

Property Report:

A motion was made by Councilman Pritts to purchase a new computer system from Compu-Net Master in the amount of \$1,395.00 from quotes received. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Ruszkowski. Motion carried 7-0.

Councilman Pritts reported that he and Councilman McFeaters attended a Newly Elected Municipal Officials seminar and they both felt it was well worth it because they learned a lot to help them on Council.

Sanitation and Recycling Report:

Councilwoman Stevenson asked Borough Manager Landy to include Allied Waste's Holiday Schedule on the Borough's website so residents can be better informed. President Bauer said he would also like to see it printed in the Mount Pleasant Journal.

New Business:

Borough Manager Landy informed Council that from 2010 to 2011 the Earned Income Tax collected in the Borough went up \$13,000. Mr. Landy said that Real Estate Tax revenues continue to decline. LST Tax revenue has increased because we raised the rate. Mr. Landy said he will provide Council with a report.

President Bauer announced that the annual Night At The Races fireworks fundraiser will be held at the Mount Pleasant VFW on March 31, 2012. Mr. Landy asked for council members to join the committee for the fundraiser.

Reading of Communications:

Mr. Landy read the following communications:

- The Laurel Highlands Chamber of Commerce has merged with the Westmoreland Chamber of Commerce and our membership dues are \$140.00.
- The Mount Pleasant Rotary will hold their Citizen of the Year Banquet on April 15, 2012 at McCali Manor. The cost for a ticket is \$30. President Bauer said that every year the Borough pays for council member and they pay for their guest.
- The next meeting of the C.O.G. will be February 28, 2012.

Discussion and Payment of Bills:

A motion was made by Councilman Beranek to pay all authorized and approved bills. Motion seconded by Councilman Pritts.

Miscellaneous and Adjournment:

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

Meeting Adjourned 8:10pm.

Motions from February 20, 2012 Meeting

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