

**Meeting April 1, 2013**

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 asked for another moment of silence for two borough residents who passed away, long time business owner Jack Beranek and Tom Proud who was a past commander of the Mount Pleasant VFW. President Bauer directed Borough Manager Landy to take roll. Councilman McCloy, Pritts, Snyder, Tate and Councilwomen Bailey, Stevenson and Ruszkowski were present. Mayor Lucia and Solicitor Wolfe were present. President Bauer stated we have a quorum.

**Reading of the Minutes:**

A motion was made by Councilman Snyder to dispense with the reading of the minutes of March 18, 2013 since Council has been provided with a copy. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Ruszkowski. Motion carried 8-0.

**Public Comment:** None

A motion was made by Councilwoman Bailey to appoint James Wojnar to the council seat vacated by Kevin McFeaters. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Ruszkowski. Motion carried 8-0.

**Speakers:**

Laura Bruner, Mount Pleasant PA, spoke to Council about her internship at the borough office. Laura worked on updating the borough web-site to make it more informational and appealing and the 2013 Volunteer Coupons.

Mayor Lucia swore in Mr. James Wojnar as 1st Ward Councilman.

Debbie Patsy, "Honor Your Stars", a fundraiser for Relay For Life, explained that the fundraiser would involve painting stars on the sidewalks of Main Street. They will be using a semi-permanent paint. Businesses on Main Street have been very supportive in agreeing to allow the stars in front of their businesses. The cost of having a star will be \$5 to \$7. The stars will be painted on the weekend of June 22nd. Anyone interested in having a star can contact Ms. Patsy or Jane Tate. They can also go to CoGo's, Joe's Pools and Roots Hair Salon in Mount Pleasant. The Relay For Life will be July 20th and 21st at the Mount Pleasant YMCA.

**Mayor's Report:**

Mayor Lucia read the following Police Report for the month of March 2013:

Report of the Mount Pleasant Police Dept for the month of March 2013

The Department answered 399 calls during the month

Complaints	71
Requests for assistance	6
Assist Other Departments	6
Accidents investigated	11
Calls Returned	10
Assist Medic 10	7
Assist Mutual Aid	0

The Department made 61 arrests during the month as follows:

Vehicle Code	57
Crimes Code	4
Borough Ordinance	0
Warning Issued	0

Parking Tickets issued are as follows:

\$4.00 Meter Tickets	0
\$10.00 No Parking Tickets	2
Void / Excused	1

\$2.00 Parking Tickets Paid	0	\$	-
\$4.00 Parking Tickets Paid	0	\$	-
\$5.00 Parking Tickets Paid	0	\$	-

\$10.00 Parking Tickets Paid	0	\$	-
\$15.00 Parking Tickets Paid	0	\$	-
		\$	
\$10.00 No Parking Tickets Pd	4	40.00	
\$20.00 Parking Tickets Pd	0	\$	-
		\$	
Return from Magistrate Eckels		1,525.27	
		\$	
Return from Clerk of Courts		1,358.64	
		\$	
Return from Report Fees		105.00	
		\$	
Return from Parking Permits		5.00	
Return from Soliciting Permits		\$	-
Return from Restitution		\$	-
		\$	
Total		3,033.91	
		\$	
1 Meter Collection		999.54	
		\$	
Total Receipts for the month		4,033.45	

Mayor Lucia said that he has been questioned about the signs around town advertising a meeting of the landlords and tenants on April 11th. Mayor Lucia said that homeowners have told him that they feel they are not being properly represented.

Mayor Lucia said that Mount Pleasant EMS Medic 10 is going to hold an open house on May 11th from 12 noon to 3:00pm. The open house is for the general public and will show how Medic 10 responds to calls 24/7 with paid EMS personnel.

Mayor Lucia said that the Mount Pleasant Area Reality Tour will hold a meeting at Rumbaugh Elementary School on April 11th at 6:30pm.

Mayor Lucia reported that there was a disturbance at 344 Hitchman Street, which is vacant and owned by a bank from North Carolina. Neighbors called the Mount Pleasant Police to report people going in and out of the property. Police responded and took two individuals into custody who had been living there illegally.

Mayor Lucia said that he received the following report from B.I.U. regarding the rental inspection program in the Borough:

# of known Landlords	388
# of Landlords registered	160
# of rental property inspections paid	450
# of rental properties inspected	391
# of rental property inspections paid & not inspected	60
# of rental property inspections not paid & not inspected	1

Mayor Lucia talked about what is part of the rental property inspections. Such things as properly installed smoke detectors and railings, windows that are able to be opened, electrical hazards, furnace and the release valve on the hot water tank are inspected.

**Solicitor's Report:**

Solicitor Wolfe said that in September of 2012 three of the four counts of the lawsuit brought against the Borough by the landlords were dismissed and the fourth was resolved by an amendment to the ordinance. The Court decreed that the Borough could begin enforcing the ordinance on March 1, 2013.

**Tax Collector's Report:**

Tax Collector Carol Yancosky read the following report for the month of March 2013:

Property Taxes = \$110,463.27

Supplemental = \$274.01  
Per Capita = \$60.50  
Total = \$110,797.78

Ms. Yancosky reminded residents that the tax office is closed every Friday even though the statements incorrectly state that it is open during the discount period. Also, if taxes are mailed they must contain a self-addressed stamped envelope in order to receive a receipt.

### **President's Report:**

President Bauer said that he passed around a copy of the proposed pamphlet explaining the Landlord Ordinance for Council to review. The pamphlet clears up some misconceptions like surprise inspections. President Bauer said that the pamphlet should be printed soon and will be distributed to borough residents.

President Bauer said that people are still asking him about Medic 10. President Bauer said that some of the reasons for the investigation of Medic 10 are as follows:

- Council received complaints from residents about the slow response time.
- Kecksburg and Norvelt EMS were having to come to the Borough too often to cover calls.
- Frick Hospital EMS advised Council to take action before something happens.

President Bauer said that the issue of calls being answered efficiently was resolved immediately, but in the meantime there were questions on the audits we were given. It was recommended that the Borough call the District Attorney's Office. The District Attorney recommended locking certain individuals out and changing the locks. The District Attorney's Office confiscated Medic 10's computer. The District Attorney subsequently decided that there was not enough evidence to formally charge anyone, although there was a large discrepancy in the furniture sales receipts.

President Bauer said that when the Borough took over Medic 10 a Board of Directors was established made up of members of the Public Safety Committee and three Medic 10 Members. Medic 10 crews are now not only answering calls in the Borough on time, but are taking covering calls to other services. Mount Pleasant EMS Medic 10 is now a very important resource in the Borough and has been recognized by WCCC as a preceptor location.

President Bauer invited anyone who is interested to attend the Mount Pleasant Area Reality Tour meeting at Rumbaugh Elementary School on April 11, 2013 at 6:30pm.

### **Executive Session 7:38pm to 7:51pm**

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

President Bauer appointed new Councilman Wojnar as Chairman of the Recreation Committee.

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

Borough Manager Landy asked Council to look at their Profit and Loss Budget Vs. Actual Report to see how their committee stands at  $\frac{1}{4}$  of the way through the year.

Borough Manager Landy said that HDH Group, Inc. the Borough's insurance carrier will make a presentation to Council at the May 6th council meeting. The renewal date is June 1st so it will be a good time for council members to ask any questions they may have.

Higbee Insurance renewed the Borough's Workers Comp Insurance for the year 2012 to 2013. The renewal rates remain close to last year. The Borough's factor went down but did not affect our rates because of the VFD workers comp cancer issue.

Mr. Landy said that the Mount Pleasant Borough Safety Committee held its monthly meeting and is going through every borough building looking for any safety issues.

Mr. Landy reported that the motor from the Town Clock has been removed and the company who has maintained the clock for the Borough is going to review the mechanism of the motor. If the mechanism moves freely then we can buy a new motor.

Mr. Landy reported that Allen Kukovich will speak at the May 6th council meeting about Smart Growth and how Mount Pleasant will be in the center of some exciting activities.

Borough Manager Landy said that demolition of the old Penn Theater will begin as soon as we receive the final historical clearance from the state. We expect that clearance in April or May.

Borough Manager Landy read the following report from the Borough Engineers, McCormick Taylor:

Frick Hospital Stormwater Detention Basin (DEP Growing Greener Grant)

Construction of the stormwater detention basin has been proceeding despite wet weather over the past month. Major earthmoving operations are complete and it is expected that the contractor will begin seeding and planting later this month.

Frick Hospital Upper Parking Lot Rain Gardens (2) and Frick Park Rain Garden adjacent to Borough Building (DEP Growing Greener Grant)

Jupina Landscaping was issued notice to proceed on March 19<sup>th</sup>. Construction of the rain garden at Frick Park is expected to begin later this month with construction of the rain gardens at Frick Hospital following shortly thereafter. The project is anticipated to be finished by July 25<sup>th</sup> of this year.

Stormwater Improvements and Rain Gardens in the Parking Lot behind Leo's Grille 3 (DEP Growing Greener Grant)

Bid documents will be finalized after updating the available balance in the grant, which Westmoreland Conservation District is currently addressing. Adjustments being made to the preliminary design are proceeding based on available funding, comments received during the past meeting with the Parking Authority, and a recent site visit. Construction is planned for summer of this year.

Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) DEP Compliance

The 2012 reporting period for the Borough's PADEP MS4 permit came to a close on March 10, 2013 and the annual report will be submitted to PADEP by June 9<sup>th</sup>. Coordination continues with PADEP regarding the status of the application submitted September 2012 to renew the Borough's MS4 permit coverage. Upcoming effort includes evaluating new MS4 permit requirements and how they apply to Mount Pleasant Borough's monitoring and public outreach program.

Penn Parklet

This project was selected by Westmoreland County for a CDBG grant in the amount of \$73,000. HUD approval is expected in May or June of this year. Design may proceed in advance of HUD's approval, but a construction contract cannot be executed prior to HUD approval. Theater demolition is to occur within the next 60 days and construction of the parklet is to be complete in September. Preliminary planning continues, including site visits and documenting existing conditions.

Mr. Landy received a report from the Westmoreland County Conservation District that stated they are currently helping Jacobs Creek Watershed Association select an engineer to design storm water improvements for Shop n Save, Kennedy Ave., etc. The most recent work on Shupe Run went exactly as per the plan. Stoy finished installing over 200 tons of rock on the banks and assisting with the transition of the new trail to the walking bridge.

**Waste Water Treatment Report: None**

**Streets Report:**

Councilman Tate said that the Street Department is working on expanding the parking lot at Willows Park. After the parking lot has been rolled the alley will be tarred and chipped and lines for parking can be painted.

Councilman Tate said that the Street Department will be doing a lot of sealing this year because it prolongs the life of the asphalt.

Council discussed removing the volley ball court for additional parking and Councilman Wojnar said that it may be able to be used as a batting cage. Council agreed to put the removal on hold until Councilman Wojnar can look into the possibility of using it for softball batting cages.

### **Veterans Park Report:**

Councilman Tate said that the new Digital Wall will be ready for the dedication on May 26, 2013. The borough office is taking applications for the Digital Wall. The application can be downloaded from the Mount Pleasant web site.

### **Public Safety Report:**

Councilman Snyder read the following Fire Report for the month of March 2013:

Total Calls - 35  
In Town - 6  
Out of Town - 29  
10-45's - 12  
10-45's W/Entrapment - 1  
Fires - 13  
Public Service Calls - 4  
AFA's - 6  
Turnpike Calls - 3  
Total Staff Answering - 524  
Avg. Member Per Call - 15  
Total Staff hours - 259

A motion was made by Councilman Snyder to suspend the rules for the purpose of a WCCC internship. Motion seconded by Councilman Pritts. Motion carried 9-0.

A motion was made by Councilman Snyder to allow a law enforcement intern from WCCC to do a 10-week unpaid internship with the Mount Pleasant Police Department providing the Borough Solicitor approves proper paperwork. Motion seconded by Councilman Pritts. Motion carried 9-0.

A motion was made by Councilman Snyder to suspend the rules for the purpose of a motion to allow the proper borough officials to dispose of miscellaneous police equipment. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Stevenson. Motion carried 9-0.

A motion was made by Councilman Snyder to allow the proper borough officials to dispose of miscellaneous unused police equipment. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Stevenson. Motion carried 9-0.

Councilman Snyder read the following bid for the sale of the 1996 Police Jeep Cherokee:  
James Sokal, New Kensington PA - \$728.00.

A motion was made by Councilman Snyder to award the bid for the sale of the 1996 Police Jeep Cherokee to James Sokal, New Kensington PA in the amount of \$728.00. Motion seconded by Councilman McCloy. Motion carried 9-0.

Councilman Snyder asked residents to attend the Mount Pleasant EMS Medic 10 open house on May 11th to show their support for our local ambulance company.

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

A motion was made by Councilman McCloy to advertise Ordinance #641 to enter into a Municipal Cooperation Agreement providing for the County to have the inspectors from the Westmoreland County Department of Weights and Measures perform the parking meter inspections for the Borough. Motion seconded by Councilman Snyder. Motion carried 9-0.

Councilman McCloy said that he and Councilwoman Stevenson will be working together on the Community Yard Sale this year. The date for the yard sale will be May 18, 2013 from 8am to 5pm.

### **Community & Economic Development/Grants Report:**

Councilwoman Bailey said she will be working on a grant for Volunteer Fire Assistance, specifically equipment to assist the Mount Pleasant Volunteer Fire Department fight wild fires etc. in rural areas. The grant application is due in May.

**Parks & Recreation Report:**

President Bauer explained that the reason the Borough is removing the trees at Frick Park is because the roots are lifting the walking track and making it unsafe and pushing out the wall in the alley.

A motion was made by Councilman Wojnar to accept the Girls Softball League's 2013 schedule for use of the Frick Park field and concession stand contingent on Borough black-out dates. Motion seconded by Councilman Pritts. Motion carried 9-0.

**Finance & Human Resources Report:**

A motion was made by Councilwoman Ruszkowski to approve Resolution 2013-12 waiving the required member contributions to the police pension plan for the year 2013. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Stevenson. Motion carried 9-0.

**Property Report:**

Councilman Pritts said that electricity has been run to the cameras at Willows Park and the cameras just need to be hooked into it. Councilman Pritts discussed who Council wants to be trained on the use of the cameras and when the training should be scheduled.

Councilman Pritts said that the Welcome to Mount Pleasant sign will be complete as soon as the caps are installed and some landscaping is done. Council discussed the possibility of some lighting for the sign as well.

**Sanitation & Recycling Report:** None**New Business:**

President Bauer talked about residents coming to him wanting to form a Homeowners Association. They are concerned about the possibility of the Landlord Ordinance being overturned and what that would do to property values in the Borough.

**Reading of Communications:**

Borough Manager Landy read the following communications:

- Westmoreland County is holding a meeting to discuss changes to the new "Downtown Destination" web-site on Tuesday April 16th at 10am at the Westmoreland Co Redevelopment offices behind the Westmoreland County Courthouse. All of Council is invited to attend.
- A resident sent an email regarding zoning of a property on S. Shupe Street. Apparently someone is moving a business in without proper zoning approval. Council discussed the possibility of a variance.

**Discussion and Payment of Bills:**

A motion was made by Councilman Snyder to pay all authorized and approved bills. Motion seconded by Councilman Pritts. Motion carried 9-0.

**Miscellaneous and Adjournment:**

A motion was made by Councilman Pritts to adjourn the meeting. Motion seconded by Councilman Snyder. Motion carried 9-0.

### **Motions from April 1, 2013 Meeting**

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