

## Meeting April 5, 2010

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, Crivella, McCloy, Tabita, Tucholski and Councilwomen Stevenson and Ruzkowski were present. Mayor Lucia and Solicitor Wolfe were present. President Bauer stated we have a quorum.

### Reading of Previous Minutes:

A motion was made by Councilwoman Stevenson to dispense with the reading of the minutes of March 22, 2010. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Ruzkowski. Motion carried 8-0.

### Speakers:

Mr. Mark Rafail, Kingfish Productions, spoke to Council about the Mount Pleasant video. Council watched the 10-13 minute video. The video will be on Kingfish Production's u-tube site beginning tomorrow. Mr. Rafail also showed Council a 30-second segment that can be used to advertise on local and regional television. That same 30-second segment can be used to advertise local businesses by removing the center of the video and inserting an ad of the business.

### Public Comment:

Ms. Jane Altman, Youngwood PA spoke to Council regarding the renovation of the old Elks building on Main Street, specifically the proposed front patio. Ms. Altman said she was told that she must leave 4 ft for a handicap access. She said that then she was told she would need 5 ft. If she goes 5 ft the ramp would have to be a switchback ramp and Ms. Altman feels that would be unattractive. Ms. Altman spoke about applying for a variance and then being told that the variance board could not hear her request. She was then told that a borough ordinance requires minimum widths for sidewalks. President Bauer said that the ordinance states that a sidewalk on a street that is 60 ft wide must be 6 ft. On streets 50 feet or less the sidewalk must be 5 ft wide and so on. President Bauer said that according to the ordinance, Ms. Altman must provide 6 ft for a sidewalk in front of her property. President Bauer said if the Borough would have seen architectural drawings originally, they could have informed Ms. Altman of the problem from the beginning. Councilman Tabita said he feels the borough went out of their way to work with Ms. Altman.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Stevenson to extend the 3-minute rule for Ms. Altman. Motion seconded by Councilman Crivella. Councilman Tabita opposed the extension. Motion carried 7-0.

Mr. Mark Krystyniak said that one possibility would be for Ms. Altman to extend the curb out by 1 ft to have an extra foot for the sidewalk. President Bauer said that would limit the space for parking. Councilwoman Stevenson said she would like to see some kind of agreement reached. President Bauer said that Council must abide by the ordinance or amend the ordinance. President Bauer asked Solicitor Wolfe if he had any input. Mr. Wolfe said that the issue is that the patio would come onto the right-of-way and the ordinance will not allow that. Council agreed to have Solicitor Wolfe look at the drawings and offer an opinion at the next council work session.

Pastor Ben Tobias of the Mount Pleasant Church of God, 530 W Main Street, said that at the end of July the church will be hosting about 100 teenagers who will be coming to the Borough to help with a variety of projects. The group is called Mission Encounter and their goal is to help the teenagers develop a spirit of volunteerism and an ethic of helping their neighbor. Next month representatives will be coming to the Borough to review the proposed projects. Borough Manager Landy said he has a list of projects for them to review.

Marie Murphy, Mount Pleasant introduced Council to her new Gluten Free Bakery at 125 W Main Street in Mount Pleasant. The bakery will be open from 9am to 6pm Tuesday thru Friday and 10am to 2pm on Saturday. The grand opening will be May 1<sup>st</sup> from 10am to 2pm.

**Mayor's Report:**

Mayor Lucia read the following Police Report for the month of March 2010:

Report of the Mount Pleasant Police Dept for the month of February 2010

The Department answered \_\_\_\_ calls during the month as follows

Complaints	100
Requests for assistance	0
Assist Other Departments	3
Accidents investigated	12
Calls Returned	20
Assist Medic 10	10

The Department made 51 arrests during the month as follows

Vehicle Code	39
Crimes Code	12
Borough Ordinance	0
Warnings Issued	0

Parking Tickets issued are as follows:

\$4.00 Meter Tickets	19
\$1.00 Meter Tickets	29
\$10.00 No Parking Tickets	1
Void / Excused	3

\$1.00 Parking Tickets Paid	\$	29.00
\$5.00 Parking Tickets Paid	\$	25.00
\$10.00 Parking Tickets Paid	\$	10.00

Return from Magistrate Eckels	\$1,711.03
Return from Clerk of Courts	\$ 130.68
Return from Report Fees	\$ 105.00
Return from Parking Permits	\$ 10.00
Return from Soliciting Permits	\$ -
Return from Restitution	\$ -

Total \$2,088.71

1 Meter Collection \$1,344.31

Total Receipts for the month \$3,433.02

Mayor Lucia reminded residents of the importance of the 2010 census and urged them to fill out and return the form.

Mayor Lucia brought Council's attention to the list of landlords who have registered their properties. There are a lot more rentals in the Borough than originally thought.

Mayor Lucia reported that the Mount Pleasant Junior Fireman Program is moving forward at the Mount Pleasant VFD. Council asked Borough Manager Landy to contact our insurance company to make sure the Junior Firemen are covered and what the cost will be.

**Solicitor's Report:**

Solicitor Wolfe, Tucker Arensberg Attorneys, presented council members with a progress report and said that if any council member has questions he will be happy to answer them.

**Tax Collector's Report:**

Tax Collector Carol Yancosky read the following report for the month of March 2010:

Property Taxes	\$121,354.59
Per Capita Taxes	\$ 66.00
Total	\$121,420.59

**President's Report:**

President Bauer reminded everyone about the Night At The Races that will be held on April 17, 2010 at the Mount Pleasant VFW to raise money for the July 3<sup>rd</sup> fireworks.

A motion was made by Councilman Beranek to purchase a table at the Night At The Races fireworks fundraiser on April 17, 2010 for \$100. Motion seconded by Councilman McCloy. Motion carried 8-0.

President Bauer asked Councilman Tabita if he was aware of the Borough passing a comprehensive plan. Councilman Tabita said that the Borough signed off on the County's plan but never adopted a specific borough plan.

President Bauer said that the 2008 audit has been completed by Sarp & Co. and council members each have a copy of the audit report. Mr. Sarp reported at an earlier meeting that the audit went very well and the Borough looks good financially.

President Bauer said that laptops were purchased from the Pennsylvania Federal Surplus Program and there are two on each council desk. President Bauer said he would like the Borough to eventually go paperless. The borough ordinances are already loaded on the laptops and the minutes will be next.

President Bauer reminded Council that there are council committees set up to handle different problems and requests from citizens. If someone comes to you please help them but then call the chairman of that particular committee and let him know about the situation so that he can meet with his committee and work out a solution.

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

**Executive Session 8:00pm to 8:42pm.**

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

Bob Regola, McCormick Taylor Engineers updated Council on Phase I of the Stormwater Retrofit Project. Mr. Regola said that the contract for the rain gardens has been awarded to W.G. Land Co. and has been signed and executed by them. Work on the project is set to begin soon and should be completed by the end of May 2010.

**Borough Manager's Report:**

Borough Manager Landy reported the following

- There will be a meeting at 9am Tuesday April 6<sup>th</sup> to discuss the rain garden project. The meeting will be attended by Mr. Landy, Bob Regola, McCormick Taylor Engineers, WWT Supervisor Norm Stout and Street Supervisor Mario Fontanazza.
- The Borough has received the final \$4,000 from the grant for Phase I of Veterans Park.

- Families whose children use the parking lot at the Bridgeport St property owned by the borough to ride bikes are asking us to sweep it. During the snowstorm this winter we dumped a lot of snow in the parking lot and there is a lot of gravel etc left. Mr. Landy said he will turn the request over to Councilman Tucholski, Chairman of the Street Committee.
- Cable rates have increased and a resident has asked the Borough to look into lowering our franchise fee to help offset the increase. Councilman Bauer said that Council can look into it for next year, but the budget is already in place for 2010. The borough receives 5% of the gross income from cable revenues.
- Planning for the Mount Pleasant Glass & Ethnic Festival is going well and the festival committee will have revised by-laws ready for Council's approval.

2010 marks Mayor Lucia's 25<sup>th</sup> year as Mayor of Mount Pleasant. President Bauer presented Mayor Lucia with a plaque to commemorate the anniversary. Mayors from surrounding communities came to the meeting to honor Mayor Lucia along with his wife Diane.

The Mayors who attended were:  
 Mayor Charley Matthews, Connellsville  
 Mayor Ruthie Shannon, Everson  
 Mayor Joan Derco, Youngwood  
 Mayor Dennis Smida, New Stanton  
 Mayor Mary Popovich, West Newton  
 Mayor Robert Carter, Jeannette  
 Mayor Butch Bellis, Ligonier

**Waste Water Treatment Report:**

WWT Supervisor Norm Stout told Council about another problem with properties using the same lateral line to connect to the main sewage line. This problem is brought to our attention when a home goes up for sale and a dye test is performed. In this case the dye test failed because of roots in the lateral line. Mr. Stout said he would like WWT to run a main line up the alley, go the edge of the property and let the owners tie in with their own lateral. Councilman Tabita said that Council should have a written policy with guidelines for future situations. Until then we will have to handle them case-by-case.

A motion was made by Councilman Beranek to suspend the rules for the purpose of authorizing WWT to proceed with plans to correct the sewage issue on Bridgeport Street. Motion seconded by Councilman Tabita. Motion carried 8-0.

A motion was made by Councilman Beranek to have WWT proceed with plans to run a main line up the alley between Depot Street and Bridgeport Street to correct the existing sewage issue. Motion seconded by Councilman Tabita. Motion carried 8-0.

**Public Safety Report:**

Councilman Beranek read the following Medic 10 Report for the month of March 2010:

Total Calls for the Month:	136
Medical	119
MVA	5
Fire	6
Transfer	0
Standby	6
In Town	77
Out of Town	59
Members per Call	2.4

Councilman Beranek read the following letter from Robert Stanek, Secretary Mount Pleasant VFD:

Mayor Lucia, President Bauer and Borough Council Members,

On September 18, 2008 the Mount Pleasant Volunteer Fire Department, at its monthly meeting, voted to begin a Junior Firefighter Program. This program is to assist the Department in recruiting, training and retaining young people so they can become qualified firefighters when they reach the age of 18. It has come to our attention that we did not present this to Borough Council for approval and apologize for the oversight. At this time we are presenting this to you for approval.

A motion was made by Councilman Beranek to accept the Junior Volunteer Fire Department Program in accordance with state standards. Motion seconded by Councilman McCloy. Motion carried 8-0.

Councilman Beranek said he and Mr. Landy met with Mr. Wayne Wagner to discuss purchasing fleet management systems for our borough vehicles. This system assists in the vehicle maintenance schedule.

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

Councilman McCloy said he will schedule a meeting with his committee to address necessary amendments for some of the ordinances.

Borough Manager Landy said that the ordinances are posted on the Mount Pleasant website at [www.mtpleasantboro.com](http://www.mtpleasantboro.com) via a link on the right hand side of the home page.

### **Streets/Parks & Recreation Report:**

Councilman Tucholski said that since the snow storm in February the Borough has gotten complaints of damage caused by borough plows. Councilman Tucholski said that he and Councilman Tate viewed the damages that they received complaints about and saw no negligence on the part of the Borough. There was one property where the ground was ripped up and the Street Department will repair that damage.

Councilman Tucholski reported that the Street Department met with someone who showed them how to use the crack sealer more efficiently and make the sealant last longer. The representative from Seal-Tite said that the reason the sealant is coming up might have to do with water under the street. He will look into it further and get back to us.

Councilman Tucholski said street sweeping will begin tomorrow April 6, 2010 on the south side of town.

Councilman Tucholski said he spent some time over the weekend looking at the parks in the Borough. There are some repairs that need to be made at Frick Park. He will meet with Street Supervisor Mario Fontanazza to go over a schedule to do the repairs. The teenagers that are coming to volunteer in July could do some of the repairs.

**Veterans Park Report:** None

### **Finance Report:**

Councilwoman Ruszkowski reported that the borough should see tax revenues of \$518,163.68. That number is down \$3,309.60 from last year.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Ruszkowski to sign a 13-month contract with Allegheny Energy Supply for the cost of non-metered street lighting to begin on May 1, 2010. Motion seconded by Councilman Tabita. Motion carried 8-0.

Borough Manager Landy said that our electric costs have gone up approximately 22% in the last two years. Mr. Landy met with the Mount Pleasant Area School District about partnering to purchase the generation of the electricity. The school district signed a contract with Allegheny Energy Supply. A broker by the name of Keytex Energy did a quick analysis of our non-metered streetlights and we would have saved approximately \$7,328 based on us paying 6.8 cents per kilowatt versus the 9.5 cents per kilowatt we are currently paying. Keytex Energy is the broker and Allegheny Energy Supply, a sister

company of Allegheny Power, is the supplier chosen for us by Keytex Energy. Allegheny Power would continue to service our streetlights.

**Property Report:**

Councilman Crivella said he is working on the Welcome to Mount Pleasant signs and will meet with Borough Manager Landy.

**Sanitation & Recycling Report:** None

**Community and Economic Development/Grants Report:**

Councilman Tabita said the Borough will proceed with the 30-second commercials using the new Mount Pleasant video when the 30-second version is complete. Businesses in the Borough could use the middle 7 or 8 seconds of the video for advertising.

Councilman Tabita said he would like to see the local businesses pull together with the BDA. Councilman Tabita said he feels the Borough has done a lot to promote local business including the LERTA program that keeps taxes for businesses at the original assessed value for 5 years. The Borough also has a dedicated inspector, which eliminates the wait for a state inspector. This council has gotten grants totaling 1.5 million dollars to invest in the core business area of the Borough in the last 10 years.

Councilman Tabita said that The Frick Communities is trying to move forward even though they will not receive funding from the State. Mount Pleasant Borough Council has agreed to fund half of the \$7,000 Borough commitment with the BDA funding the other half of the Main Street Manager Program. The original commitment was contingent on receiving funds from the DCNR. Since those funds will not be available, our Solicitor will have to look into changing the wording of the Frick Communities By-Laws.

Councilman Tabita said that the 5'X6' sign that the Laurel Highland Chamber of Commerce is proposing at our Memorial Square would advertise businesses, but would also highlight historical sites. Councilman Tabita asked Councilwoman Stevenson to get a list of significant historical sites from the Historical Society that would be appropriate to put on the sign. Councilman Tabita said that Mount Pleasant had the first airmail pickup in the country and that is something that can be featured.

**New Business:** None

**Reading of Communications:**

Borough Manager Landy read the following communications:

- Jacobs Creed Faith In Action is now located at Frick Hospital.
- The 99<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference of the PSAB will be held April 25<sup>th</sup> to April 28<sup>th</sup> at the Omni William Penn Hotel in Pittsburgh.

President Bauer asked for an update on the demolition of the Gormley property. Mr. Landy said that the Gormley property is a registered historical landmark. Mr. Landy had to provide the County with information on the condemnation of the property. Mr. Landy said he will follow up with the County on the progress of the demolition.

**Discussion and Payment of Bills:**

A motion was made by Councilman Tabita to pay all authorized an approved bills. Motion seconded by Councilman Crivella. Motion carried 8-0.

**Miscellaneous and Adjournment:**

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

**Meeting adjourned 9:38pm.**

## **Motions from April 5, 2010 Meeting**

A motion was made by Councilwoman Stevenson to dispense with the reading of the minutes of March 22, 2010. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Ruszkowski. Motion carried 8-0.

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