

Meeting April 7, 2008

The meeting of Mount Pleasant Borough Council was called to order by President Tabita at 7:07pm 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 Tabita directed Borough Manager Jeff Landy to take roll. Councilmen Beranek, Crivella, Slater, Tate, Wiltrout and Councilwomen Stevenson and Rega were present. Mayor Lucia is present and Solicitor Toohey is absent. President Tabita stated we have a quorum. Councilman Bauer arrived at 7:29pm.

Reading of Previous Minutes:

A motion was made by Councilwoman Rega to dispense with the reading of the minutes of March 24, 2008. Motion seconded by Councilman Beranek. Motion carried 9-0.

Speakers:

Mr. Jim Brandt of Kriebel Resources presented a donation to the Mount Pleasant VFD. Mayor Lucia thanked Kriebel for the generous donation. President Tabita thanked Kriebel for being involved in the community.

Sherry Wingrove of the BDA said she has gotten one appraisal for the building housing the In-Town-Shops and owned by the BDA. She will have another appraisal by the next work session and will present both to Council at that meeting. She is still trying to rent the available spaces in the incubator but is having no luck. Ms. Wingrove said she has assured the present tenants that the new owner would honor their present leases. Ms. Wingrove said that the BDA meets the third Wednesday of every month at 7:30pm at the In-Town-Shops.

Margie Shimko, Boy Scout Troop 472 said that there are four boy scouts who would like to work on enhancing the Welcome to Mount Pleasant sign. She asked if it would be possible to move it to the other side of Route 31, Main Street and if it could be lit. Mayor Lucia said that property on the right side is not available to the Borough. President Tabita said that he will turn the matter over to Property Chairman Beranek and Ms. Shimko could communicate with him through Borough Manager Landy regarding any plans the Scouts have.

Mayor's Report:

Mayor Lucia read the following Police Report for the month of March 2008:

Report of the Mount Pleasant Police Dept for the month of March 2008

The Dept answered 396 calls during the month as follows:

Complaints	119
Requests for assistance	10
Assist Other Departments	9
Accidents investigated	7
Calls Returned	30
Assist EMS	24

The Dept made 64 arrests during the month as follows:

Vehicle Code	55
Crimes Code	9

Parking Tickets issued are as follows:

\$1.00 Meter Tickets	40
\$10.00 No Parking Tickets	0
Void / Excused	0

\$1.00 Parking Tickets Paid	45 \$	45.00
\$5.00 Parking Tickets Paid	4 \$	20.00

\$10.00 Parking Tickets Paid	0 \$	-
Return from Magistrate Eckels	\$2,961.17	
Return from Clerk of Courts	\$ 195.19	
Return from Report Fees	\$ 135.00	
Return from Parking Permits	\$ 10.00	
Return from Soliciting Permits	\$ -	
Return from Restitution	\$ 37.50	
Total	\$3,403.86	
Meter Receipts 1 Collection	\$1,254.91	
Total Receipts for the month	\$4,658.77	

Mayor Lucia said that there are three addresses on Main Street that have RD addresses that need to have address numbers assigned to them. Coming back from First Street to the borough line the vacant lot on the corner of First Street will be #1101, the next house would be 1103 and the third house would be 1105. The request for this change came from the Post Office.

A motion was made by Councilman Crivella to suspend the rules to make the address changes. Motion seconded by Councilman Beranek. Motion carried 9-0.

A motion was made by Councilman Crivella to change the present RD addresses on Main Street in Mount Pleasant Borough bordering East Huntingdon Township to 1101, 1103, 1105 and the WWT substation would be 1107. Motion seconded by Councilman Beranek. Motion carried 9-0.

Mayor Lucia asked the citizens of Mount Pleasant to clean up their properties for spring.

Mayor Lucia said that the police caught the person who damaged the restrooms at Frick Park and the police schedule will be adjusted so that there will be an officer patrolling the park.

David Smith, General Manager Allied Waste addressed Council regarding the Recycling Program beginning in Mount Pleasant Borough. Mr. Smith explained that less waste will benefit the borough residents in the future. Recycling in the Borough will be easy. Paper, corrugated cardboard, plastics # 1 through 5, aluminum and tin can all go into one container. Some unacceptable items would be Styrofoam, food waste, plastics numbered higher than five and cereal boxes. There will be a press release listing the complete list of recyclables coming out soon for residents. There will also be a flyer included in their billing. Four of the sites chosen for recycling bins are N & N Store, the Borough Maintenance Building on Depot Street, Willows Park and at the Municipal Building parking lot. Two more locations will be determined some time in the future. Recycling will reduce the volume of waste and increase the productivity of the Allied Waste drivers which will allow us to get better rates in future garbage contracts.

Tax Collector's Report:

Tax Collector Carol Yancosky read the following report for the month of March 2008:

Property Taxes = \$116,943.79
 Per Capita Taxes = \$55.00
 Total = \$116,998.79

President's Report:

President Tabita said that he walked up and down Main Street from Saloom's Funeral Home to College and Mullin Avenue and surprisingly many of the properties do not need any modifications for the Street-Scape Project. President Tabita said he had a chance to talk to the property owners who do have to make some modifications and everyone

seemed able to comply with the changes that need to be made to accommodate the removal of electrical poles and wires. The Borough should be ready to advertise for bids sometime in May 2008.

President Tabita wants the public to be assured that Council is still working on the Gormley and DiNicola properties. They are very complicated issues and the Borough is finally to the point where some action can be taken. We are looking for help from the Courts for the DiNicola property and if there are no more complications, the Gormley building can be demolished soon. Glenn Wolfe from Widmer Engineering said that they looked at the outside of the property and it looks like there is no structural connection to neighboring properties but a definitive statement cannot be made from the outside. There is one chimney that is connected and will have to be addressed.

President Tabita said that there should be no need for the tenants of the In-Town-Shops to be concerned. What Council is looking for is for the property to make sense and to break even financially with no need to be subsidized by the BDA taxes. The taxes are for improvements to Main Street and marketing. President Tabita said he does not want any current tenant to feel they are part of the problem but there are problems that need to be dealt with. Hopefully any potential buyer would honor the current leases. Mayor Lucia said that the BDA's current investment in the property is close to \$700,000 and a sale would bring \$300,250 at the most. When the BDA purchased the property it brought businesses to Main Street and filled a gap but things have changed in fifteen years and can no longer be subsidized.

Borough Manager's Report:

Borough Manager Landy asked Council to look at the Profit and Loss Budget Vs Actual reports. Mr. Landy and Councilwoman Rega will be doing some straight line projections in the next couple of meetings just to get a feeling of where each department stands and where cuts need to be made.

Mr. Landy said he visited some businesses in another county to ask them if they would be interested in expanding into another area and they both said they are interested. He was impressed by their comments about Mount Pleasant. Both businesses expressed interest in contacting Mr. Landy and possibly expanding into Mount Pleasant. There were positive comments about Mount Pleasant regarding the many activities that bring people into town, the fact that there is a local hospital and police force. These business owners felt these were definite assets. Mr. Landy said that money for marketing is in the 2008 budget and in the next couple of months we should be able to produce some marketing material such as a 15 minute DVD or some flyers. Both businesses were retail and looking at our Main Street as possible locations.

Mr. Landy said he spoke to the Girls Softball League and they are going to have a tournament on August 2, 2008 in Mount Pleasant and will be using our ball fields and other facilities in town that weekend. They plan on bringing a lot of teams from out of town. They have asked for Council's help in arranging some things. They are going to donate some picnic tables to the Borough after they are used for the tournament.

The BDA will be working on some summer promotions and will provide more information as the summer progresses.

Allegheny Power said that they will be finished installing the new bulbs in the streetlights by June 1st or before.

Mr. Landy received phone calls from people interested in a Mount Pleasant Chamber of Commerce which would mean changing the current name of Laurel Highlands Chamber of Commerce. They would like Council's endorsement.

Mr. Landy was approached by an organization wishing to hold some activities in the Borough such as a National Prayer Day and he explained the new ordinance pertaining to the use of the Gazebo and the Freedom of Speech Area. There is no problem as long as they understand the ordinance and follow it.

Widmer Engineering is able to make the changes to the zoning map requested by Mullin and Lonergan. Glenn Wolfe from Widmer said that they can make the changes and supply copies of the map in color if that is Council's wish. Mullin and Lonergan are waiting for these to complete their report to Council on the rezoning.

Mr. Landy received a report from Skowronek Lawn Service regarding the trees being replaced at Veterans Park and he will meet with the committee to discuss the report.

Waste Water Treatment Report:

Glenn Wolfe from Widmer Engineering said that due to the weather very little work was done on the CSO Project in the last couple of weeks but they are expecting the emergency generators for the pump stations to be delivered in the near future and for the restoration work to begin soon.

Councilman Tate reported that WWT personnel have been doing smoke testing and letters have been sent to property owners regarding their downspouts and drains. Property owners who received the letters can contact WWT Supervisor Norm Stout with any questions.

Public Safety, Zoning and Ordinance Report:

Councilman Bauer read the following Medic 10 Report for the month of March 2008:

Total calls for the month:	153
Medical	118
MVA	10
Fire	7
Transfers	1
Standby	17
In town	64
Out of town	89
Members per call	3.0

A motion was made by Councilman Bauer to suspend the rules for the purpose of hiring a part-time police officer. Motion seconded by Councilman Tate. Motion passed 9-0

A motion was made by Councilman Bauer to hire Michael William Whipkey from Acme, PA as a part-time police officer for the Borough of Mount Pleasant. Motion seconded by Councilman Wiltrout. Motion carried 9-0.

Councilman Tate said he has been asked by some residents why the Borough doesn't hire police officers who live in town and Councilman Tate said we would like to but that we have not received applications from anyone living in Mount Pleasant.

Mayor Lucia said that Mount Pleasant VFD, Medic 10 and Police Department will be holding an Occupational Day at the High School next week to generate interest in serving these departments.

Councilman Bauer said he and Mr. Landy completed the nine-hour course on Municipal Zoning. Councilman Bauer feels that some of the Borough's boards and authorities would benefit from the course.

Councilman Bauer reported that he, Mayor Lucia and Mr. Landy met with Mount Pleasant Township Supervisors regarding Medic 10 and as of May 1st there will be no more dual response with Norvelt EMS. Mayor Lucia said that Mount Pleasant Township Supervisors have looked at the cost factor and have determined dual response to be too costly.

Mayor Lucia said that WCCC offers two years of free tuition to students who are active members of a volunteer fire department.

Councilman Crivella thanked Medic 10 Chief Don Good for CPR training and training on the use of a defibrillator.

Street Report:

A motion was made by Councilman Crivella to advertise for a part-time temporary employee as summer help at \$7.50 per hour under the Street Department. The temporary employee would be under the supervision of Street Supervisor Mario Fontanazza and will work primarily in the parks for the summer. Motion seconded by Councilman Tate. Motion carried 9-0.

Councilman Tate reported to Councilman Crivella that there are numerous potholes on Warden from Diamond to Hitchman that need fixed.

Finance Report:

Councilwoman Rega said that she and Mr. Landy will be straight lining budget income and expenses and reporting to Council in May.

Councilwoman Rega attended the Elks Annual Citizen of the Year Banquet and presented Abbey Frey with a citation from the Borough. Councilman Rega also reported that the Elks has a Comedy Club Night that sounds like fun. The next one is scheduled for April 19th. President Tabita said that these are the things that bring people into the borough.

Property Report:

A motion was made by Councilman Beranek to suspend the rules to advertise for bids for repair to the VFD roof. Motion seconded by Councilman Bauer. Motion carried 9-0.

A motion was made by Councilman Beranek to advertise for bids to repair the Central VFD roof after specifications are obtained. Motion seconded by Councilman Slater. Motion carried 9-0.

Business/Economic Development & Contracts:

Councilman Wilttrout said that Leo's Rt.31 Grille will open May 1st and Premier Video housed in the same building is already open for business. Both of these businesses will be good for Mount Pleasant.

Mr. Landy said that he has received the paperwork for the DEP Grant. Councilman Wilttrout said that is another way recycling will help the borough because it will translate into approximately \$7,000 worth of grant money. The more we recycle the more grant money will be available.

Human Resource / Employee Contracts:

Councilwoman reported that the next regular meeting of the Historical Society will be Thursday evening at 7:00pm at the In-Town-Shops and anyone interested in learning more about the Historical Society is welcome to attend.

Councilwoman Stevenson said she would like to get together with Mr. Landy again sometime this week to do some more work on the Employee Handbook.

Recreation Report:

Councilman Slater said that his committee will be doing a tour of the parks in Mount Pleasant to check the equipment etc.

Councilman Slater honored the Girls Softball League for the recent parks cleanup. They cleaned up 30 bags of garbage and leaves and they are going to do it again this coming weekend.

Mr. Landy said he received a letter from Junior Scout Troop 3091 in Mount Pleasant and they also want to do a clean up in three of our parks on April 12th.

President Tabita said that the gas well is in at the Little League Field and Councilman Slater said he will be going down tomorrow to inspect the progress.

Councilman Slater said that the playground equipment at Frick Park is deteriorating and Councilman Crivella said that the Street Department will be doing a safety inspection.

Councilman Bauer said that the fountain at Frick Park was vandalized and needs to be torn down.

Councilman Tate said that since Councilman Slater's employment is taking him out of town so often that he and Councilman Bauer would be happy to assume some of the work of the Recreation Committee.

Councilman Bauer said that the Borough has a leash law and owners should know that when they let the animal out in their yard it needs to be leashed. Councilman Tate said that people are being lax about cleaning up after their animals at Frick Park. President Tabita said that perhaps the police could politely ask dog owners using the park if they came with something to clean up after their dog.

Mr. Landy told Council that work is set to begin at Shupes Run and thanked the Street Department for help with the trees.

New Business:

Mayor Lucia said that another Anna Jane Walker passed away this week and we should keep her in our prayers. Mount Pleasant was her town and she will be missed.

Reading of Communications:

Borough Manager Landy read the following communications:

- Senator Regola is holding a Senate Urban Affairs Committee Joint hearing on Thursday April 10, 2008 from 9:30am to 12:30pm at the Greensburg Garden Civic Center. The subject is Multi-Municipal Planning and Shared Services. Please let Jeff know who would like to attend.
- A thank you letter from My Buddy's Place personally signed by the children.
- A letter for the Annual Emergency Management Seminar will be held May 28, 2008 from 8:00am to 4:00pm at Commissioners Hall at WCCC for elected officials and business leaders. Mayor Lucia said it is very important for Council to attend. This year they will be bringing in all of the equipment that was purchased through Region 13. Mayor Lucia said that under federal law elected officials must participate in these seminars. It could affect federal grant money. Deadline for registration is May 19, 2008.
- A letter from the Packers Cheerleading Squad asking to use the area on the hill by the Municipal Building to practice on Tuesday and Thursdays from 6pm to 8pm June 17 to August 14.

Discussion and Payment of Bills:

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

Miscellaneous and Adjournment:

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

Meeting adjourned at 8:36pm.

Motions from April 7, 2008 Meeting

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