

Meeting May 18 2009

The meeting of Mount Pleasant Borough Council was called to order by President Tabita at 7:03pm 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 Landy to take roll. Councilmen Beranek, Slater, Tate and Councilwomen Ruszkowski and Stevenson were present. Mayor Lucia and Solicitor Toohey were present. President Tabita stated we have a quorum. Councilman Bauer and Councilman Crivella arrived at 7:06pm.

Reading of Previous Minutes:

A motion was made by Councilman Slater to dispense with the reading of the minutes of May 4, 2009. Motion seconded by Councilman Beranek. Motion carried 8-0.

Public Comment: None

Speakers: None

Mayor's Report:

Mayor Lucia asked everyone to come out for the Memorial Day ceremonies. It would be good for the community to see all of Council together.

Mayor Lucia said he has talked to the Police Department about writing citations for speeding violations. Mayor Lucia said he is on a crusade to slow down drivers in the Borough.

Mayor Lucia said that he, President Tabita and Borough Manager Landy had a meeting to discuss Reverse Mortgages for senior citizens. They will study the literature given to them. It is a program that is being backed strongly.

Solicitor's Report: None

Treasurer's Report:

Borough Manager Landy read the following Treasurers Report for the month of April 2009:

Mt. Pleasant Borough Treasurer's Report: Apr-09

		Previous Balance	Deposits	Disbursements	Balance Apr09
General Fund Checking	PNC 00-0122-3513	51,048.00	516,418.48	413,476.48	153,990.00
General Fund Sweep	PNC 10-1149-3394	444,738.95	218,732.26	163,577.94	499,893.27
General Fund Budgetary Reserve	PNC 102-457-4388	102,524.41	80.06	0.00	102,604.47
**Fire		30,000.00			
**Police		10,000.00			
**Streets		10,000.00			
**Contingency Fund		52,604.47			
General Fund Budgetary Reserve	Standard Bank 321615	0.00	100,161.74	0.00	100,161.74
**Police		20,000.00			
**Streets		20,000.00			
**Contingency Fund		20,000.00			
**Infrastructure		30,000.00			
**Recreation Grant Fund		10,000.00			
Liquid Fuels PLGIT	PLGIT 5698012	105,573.95	94,826.10	5,066.44	195,333.61
Monument CD	Standard Bank 242781	5,626.71	0.00	0.00	5,626.71
Holiday Lighting Fund	Standard Bank 050004849	1,995.86	0.24	200.00	1,796.10
Payroll Fund	PNC 00-0122-6415	22,999.36	52,447.00	74,252.61	1,193.75
Veterans Park Fund	National City 981293700	3,275.64	0.00	17.50	3,258.14
Veterans Park PLGIT	PLGIT 5698025	11,218.19	6.28	0.00	11,224.47
Police Drug Enforcement	PNC 10-1291-2642	850.50	0.00	0.00	850.50
Police Grant 2008 DD BX 0449	PNC 10-1291-3303	13,639.96	0.00	13,639.96	0.00

Town Clock Fund	Standard Bank 0010038847	611.26	0.08	0.00	611.34
Total General Fund Balance					1,076,544.10
WWT Operational Acct	Standard Bank 0320012280	298,067.34	136,645.40	121,576.95	313,135.79
WWT Savings	Standard Bank 0050021008	4,522.64	7.87	0.00	4,530.51
WWT Budgetary Reserve	Standard Bank 0000287245	51,226.56	50,161.75	0.00	101,388.31
**Contingency		61,388.31			
**Infrastructure		40,000.00			
Total WWT Balance					419,054.61
Total Borough funds					1,495,598.71

Respectfully Submitted:
Councilwoman Susan Ruszkowski
Borough Manager Jeff Landy

Borough Manager Landy said that when compared to last year the Borough is doing better financially.

Borough Manager Landy said that the \$40,000 in the WWT Budgetary reserve under Infrastructure has been earmarked for the Quarry Street Project.

A motion was made by Councilman Slater to approve the Treasurers Report as read. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Stevenson. Motion carried 8-0.

A motion was made by Councilman Slater for an Executive Session. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Stevenson. Motion carried 8-0.

Executive Session 7:12pm to 7:54pm.

President’s Report:

President Tabita said the Executive Session was held to discuss Real Estate.

President Tabita reported that Glenn Wolfe, Widmer Engineering is researching the glare standard regarding lights on a state highway. It will not be possible to use 320-watt bulbs in the decorative lights on Main Street. The Borough will use 250-watt bulbs if they meet the glare standard. We will wait to hear from Mr. Wolfe. The decorative lights will have to be reballasted. Allegheny Power still has to remove the poles from Main Street.

Borough Managers Report:

Borough Manager Landy reported the following:

- The benches for Main Street that were donated by the Rotary have been delivered and the Street Committee will determine where to install them.
- A resident has requested that “Children At Play” signs be put on Joseph Street. The Street Committee will look into this.
- The Pet Waste System that was ordered has been delivered and the Recreation Committee will determine where to install them.
- He has received requests and inquiries regarding signs in the Borough.

Councilman Bauer said that the sample sign ordinance he received from Keystate Publishing seems like a good one. The only thing Council will have to decide is if they want to allow roof signs in industrial areas.

Mr. Landy said that the emergency trailer that was purchased is almost ready to be used. There are still some small things that need done and some equipment to be purchased. President Tabita said there should be a meeting with Police, Fire and Medic 10 to determine what needs to be done and what needs to be purchased. Mayor Lucia said it could be used as a command center immediately by using portable radios. A discussion ensued regarding what else is needed for a command center.

- The Street Department will be looking at the sidewalk in front of the Mount Pleasant Journal. President Tabita and Councilman Bauer said that the sidewalks are the responsibility of the property owner. Councilman Crivella suggested asking the Solicitor what needs to be done to eliminate Borough liability. Are we required to send a letter to the property owner, etc. Mayor Lucia said there is already an ordinance that absolves us of responsibility for the sidewalks. Mr. Landy said that our Solicitor informed him that when the Borough receives a letter regarding a safety issue that is when the burden of

safety falls on the Borough. Council instructed Mr. Landy to turn the issue over to Mark Stanton for review and enforcement of the Property Maintenance Code.

- Phase I of the Rain Gardens should be bid out by the end of June 2009 for construction to begin by the end of July 2009.
- The Borough received a bid for the Gormley building of \$2,500 contingent upon the building not requiring an elevator. They would like to restore the building for apartment rental.
- Mr. Landy received a demolition application for 305 and 307 Smithfield Street that needs to be signed by a public official.

A motion was made by Councilman Bauer to approve Council President Michael Tabita to sign the application for demolition. Motion seconded by Councilman Beranek. Motion carried 8-0.

WWT Report:

Councilman Tate said that WWT Supervisor Norm Stout has a meeting with the cemetery board regarding the retention system we are installing. The board would like to meet with our Solicitor to draw up an agreement. Mr. Stout said that one of the major issues is liability and who will be responsible for it after it is built. Mr. Stout said that the retention system is being built to solve some of the flooding issues. At it's fullest the system would be 5 feet deep during a very fast and heavy downpour. It would be empty again within an hour. The water would slowly drain into the sewer system. The cemetery would like to see a fence around it for safety reasons. The system would be approximately 40 feet wide and 80 to 100 feet long. The cost has not been calculated yet. The system would also stop debris from washing further down the storm system and causing more problems. Mr. Stout said that a six-foot fence should be sufficient.

A motion was made by Councilman Tate to have Solicitor Toohey draw up an agreement between the Borough and the Mount Pleasant Cemetery for the installation of a retention pond. Motion seconded by Councilman Bauer. Motion carried 8-0.

WWT Supervisor Norm Stout addressed Council regarding the progress of the Quarry Street Project. It is probable that there will be a cost to homeowners whose property is involved in the project. Council will have to decide whether to go forward. There are sure to be some property owners who will have complaints about the cost. President Tabita said each homeowner should be sent a certified letter. Mr. Stout said that a Public Meeting was held and every homeowner was notified of the meeting. There will be another Public Meeting. Mr. Stout said that the cost to the Borough would be approximately \$30,000 to \$40,000. This estimate does not include blacktop. If the Borough used an outside contractor it would cost approximately \$82,000. So there is a significant savings to the Borough by using WWT personnel. Council discussed various aspects of the project.

Public Safety Zoning and Ordinance Report:

Councilman Bauer said he will hold a committee meeting to go over the proposed ordinances and they will be ready for Council at the next meeting. Councilman Bauer said that our Landlord Ordinance will probably be brief. Requiring landlords to abide by the Property Maintenance Code, register their tenants and have yearly inspections if there are new tenants and every three years if the tenant remains the same.

Streets, Parks & Recreation Report:

Councilman Slater reported that the outside shell of the new concession stand at Frick Park is completed and the bathrooms at the Little League Field are being done.

Councilman Slater brought up the subject of removing the fountain area at Frick Park. Council had discussed it at an earlier meeting. Councilman Tate said that if the fountain is removed Council will have to come up with a way to hold back all of the dirt. President Tabita said that he would like to see the fountain remain. The police should do a better job of controlling the kids who hang out there instead of simply tearing it down. Council discussed different ways to solve the problem of kids riding bikes and being disrespectful to the people walking the track.

Councilman Bauer said there are only 55 spaces left on Veterans Wall.

Councilman Bauer asked if the Street Department has a schedule for cleaning out the storm drains. Councilman Slater said that they cleaned one out today. President Tabita asked for an opinion about using pre-cast storm drains. Councilman Slater said that a couple of pre-cast drains have been used and they seem to work well.

Councilman Slater said he would like a meeting of the Street Committee with President Tabita and Borough Manager Landy.

Councilman Tate asked if the softball infield is going to be shortened. Councilman Slater said that Randy Christman would like to see it shortened. Councilman Tate said that if it is shortened no one else would be able to use it except for the Girls Softball League.

Finance Report:

Councilwoman Ruszkowski said the Borough has received two proposals for liability insurance that renews June 1, 2009. Meetings will be scheduled with each company to go over the differences in the proposals. Borough Manager Landy said that the decision has to be made in time for the companies to call in the new policies. Mr. Landy said that for one of the policies the Borough is required to have a procedures manual for the Police Department. Councilman Bauer said that the Civil Service manual will cover hiring practices etc. President Tabita said that Solicitor Toohey has a copy of the Mount Pleasant Police Department Policy Manual. Mr. Landy said he will call Solicitor Toohey tomorrow to have him review the Policy Manual.

A motion was made by Councilman Bauer to suspend the rules to authorize the Finance Committee to approve and award the Borough liability insurance. Motion seconded by Councilman Tate. Motion carried 8-0.

A motion was made Councilman Bauer to authorize the Finance Committee to approve and award the Borough liability insurance. Motion seconded by Councilman Tate. Motion carried 8-0.

Property Report:

Councilman Beranek said that the frame for the sign at Veterans Park is being powder coated and should be done tomorrow morning.

Community Eco-Green Report: None

Human Resource/Employee Contracts Report:

Councilwoman Stevenson said that there is still a problem on Eagle Street with people going the wrong way down the one-way street. People are ignoring the one-way signs.

Councilwoman Stevenson thanked Council on behalf of the Historical Society for the work that is being done on the foundation for the new log cabin.

Councilwoman Stevenson said that the Employee Handbook is complete except for a couple of questions regarding job descriptions. After meeting with Mr. Landy the handbook should be ready for Solicitor Toohey to look at.

Councilwoman Stevenson reported that the Cat Committee will be holding its first fundraiser. It will be a yard sale on June 13, 2009 in the parking lot behind Burns Drug Store.

Community, Economic Development and Grants Report: None

Councilman Bauer said that they will be putting the flags out at the cemetery on Saturday morning for anyone who wants to help.

Councilman Bauer said that the Memorial Day Parade will be Monday May 25, 2009 beginning at 10:30am with services at Veterans Park following the parade.

Councilman Slater asked Borough Manager Landy to call Skowronek Lawn Service to make sure the park is mowed.

New Business: None

Reading of Communications:

Borough Manager Landy read the following communications:

- An announcement from Senator Kim Ward regarding a Town Meeting on Tuesday May 26, 2009 at the Hempfield MiniTheater to discuss the fiscal year budget.
- A meeting notice from the Westmoreland County Borough's Association for 7:00 May 28, 2009.
- An email from an organization called Pollution Patrol who will be picking up litter in the Borough weekly. President Tabita said that the Borough should support them with safety vests and litterbags. Mr. Landy said he would invite her to speak at the next council meeting.
- The Pennsylvania Downtown Center is having a conference in Johnstown. The cost is \$400 for three days.
- An invitation to become a sponsor for the 2009 Poker Run by Five Star Trail Chapter – Regional Trail Corporation being held on July 25, 2009. They are requesting a sponsorship of \$300. Deadline for sponsorships is June 2, 2009.

Discussion and Payment of Bills:

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

Meeting adjourned 9:23pm.

Motions from May 18, 2009 Meeting

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