

Meeting May 24, 2010

The meeting of Mount Pleasant Borough Council was called to order by President Bauer at 7:04pm 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, Tate, and Councilwomen Stevenson and Ruszkowski were present. Mayor Lucia was present and the Solicitor was absent. President Bauer stated we have a quorum.

Councilman Tucholski arrived at 7:14pm.

Reading of Previous Minutes:

A motion was made by Councilwoman Stevenson to dispense with the reading of the minutes of May 3, 2010. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Ruszkowski. Motion carried 7-0.

Public Comment: None

Speakers:

Mike Hamilton, Westmoreland County Conservation District updated Council on the progress of the Storm Water Retrofit Project. The rain garden in the Levin parking lot will be filled in by the end of this week and the rain garden in the parking lot at the municipal building will be filled in at the same time. A letter is being drafted for the first group of homeowners involved in Phase II of the project explaining what the next steps will be. President Bauer asked Mr. Hamilton who determined which homeowners were in the first, second and third group. Mr. Hamilton said that Westmoreland CCD made that determination along with who was chosen to get a rain garden. Mr. Hamilton said that after completing the first group we should have a good idea of how much each rain garden will cost before starting group two and three. Each resident who would like a rain garden on their property must sign a Land Owner Agreement. The agreement was drafted by the borough solicitor, the DEP and Westmoreland CCD. Mr. Hamilton said that on June 7, 2010 at 6:00pm there will be a meeting at the borough office for any landowner who has questions about the Land Owner Agreement. The borough solicitor will be available to answer any questions. President Bauer questioned whether a certain resident on N. Geary Street could be moved from the third group up to the first group. Mr. Hamilton said that a rain garden would not solve this particular resident's flooding problem. The rain gardens are not set up to handle off-site water. Group three will be done only if there is money left after group one and two are complete. It's also possible that there will not be enough grant funds to complete group two.

Michael Signorini, Big G Tire Co. talked to Council about the Federal Tire Program. Good Year and Firestone tire companies have national accounts with set tire prices. The prices are set for one year without any major increases. Mr. Signorini said he looked at the tire needs of the Borough and determined that the police vehicles need tire replacement most often. Mr. Signorini presented Council with a price list. If we purchase from his company they will deliver the tires and we could have them mounted by a local company or Big G Tire Co. could do the mounting. Mr. Signorini explained to Council that filling the tires with nitrogen would improve gas mileage as well as tire wear. Council agreed on 30-day payment terms with Mr. Signorini. Big G Tire Co. would charge \$13 per tire for mounting and balancing for 16" tire and the 20" tire would cost \$30. The 19/5" would also cost 30 dollars to mount and balance. They can also supply tires for the fire trucks. There is not signed contract between the Borough and Big G Tire Co. for this program.

Mayor's Report:

Mayor Lucia said that there are more vacant homes in the Borough this year and that means the grass at these properties is not being cut. It is difficult to find out who owns the property and who to contact. Mayor Lucia said that there is no money in the budget set aside to mow the grass at these properties. Council discussed options. The Borough could lien the properties for any money spent to mow the grass, but if the property goes to Judicial Sale all liens are exonerated. It was decided that the Street Department would handle cutting the grass and keep track of man hours so that we can lien the property. President Bauer asked Councilman Tucholski to look at the cost to rent a brush hog to cut the properties initially.

Mayor Lucia said that the Police Chief Ober will be issuing the newly enacted Fence Permit.

Mayor Lucia requested that he be permitted to attend the Mayor's Conference on July 15, 2010 in State College.

A motion was made by Councilman Beranek to send Mayor Lucia to the Mayor's Conference in State College on July 15, 2010. Motion seconded by Councilman McCloy. Motion carried 8-0.

Treasurer's Report:

Borough Manager Landy read the following Treasurer's Report for the month of April 2010:

Mt. Pleasant Borough Treasurer's Report:		Apr-10			
		Previous Balance	Deposits	Disbursements	Balance Apr10
General Fund Checking	PNC 00-0122-3513	50,000.00	352,639.52	351,242.52	51,397.00
General Fund Sweep	PNC 10-1149-3394	467,881.08	249,680.84	52,698.46	664,863.46
General Fund Budgetary Reserve	PNC 102-457-4388	69,839.24	22.86	0.00	69,862.10
**Fire		30,000.00			
**Police		10,000.00			
**Streets		10,000.00			
**Contingency Fund		19,862.10			
General Fund Budgetary Reserve	Standard Bank 321615	201,530.68	6,000.00	160.77	195,691.45
**Police		40,000.00			
**Streets		40,000.00			
**Contingency Fund		56,191.45			
**Infrastructure		50,000.00			
**BOMP1 Recreation Fund		7,000.00			
**Frick Park Recreation Fund		2,500.00			
Liquid Fuels PLGIT	PLGIT 56980126	105,444.24	8.15	0.00	105,452.39
Monument CD	Standard Bank 242781	5,729.90	9.33	0.00	5,739.23
Holiday Lighting Fund	Standard Bank 050004849	1,798.57	0.23	0.00	1,798.80
Payroll Fund	PNC 00-0122-6415	8,044.74	54,528.22	61,084.30	1,488.66
Veterans Park Fund	First Niagara 981293700	1,279.13	4,550.00	330.00	5,499.13
Veterans Park PLGIT	PLGIT 5698025	11,251.42	0.87	0.00	11,252.29
Police Drug Enforcement	PNC 10-1291-2642	850.50	0.00	0.00	850.50
Town Clock Fund	Standard Bank 0010038847	612.18	0.07	0.00	612.25
Storm Water Retrofit Phase 1	PNC Bank 10-2825-9692	14,482.01	0.00	0.00	14,482.01
Total General Fund Balance					1,128,989.27
WWT Operational Acct	Standard Bank 0320012280	214,105.98	24,603.41	60,661.35	178,048.04
WWT Savings	Standard Bank 0050021008	22,739.73	18.69	0.00	22,758.42
WWT Budgetary Reserve	Standard Bank 0000287245	127,759.39	105.05	0.00	127,864.44
**Contingency		87,759.39			
**Infrastructure		40,000.00			
Total WWT Balance					328,670.90
Total Borough funds					1,457,660.17

Respectfully Submitted:
 Councilwoman Susan Ruskowski
 Borough Manager Jeff Landy

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

President's Report:

A motion was made by Councilman Tate to ratify the purchase of buffet tickets for the Mayor and Council at the G3 Conference at a cost of \$15.00 each. Motion seconded by Councilman McCloy. Motion carried 8-0.

A motion was made by Councilman McCloy to approve the Mount Pleasant Glass & Ethnic Festival Rules and Regulations. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Ruskowski. Motion carried 8-0.

President Bauer said he attended conferences at the G3 Conference last week and got some information on Trail Towns and better signage to bring people into town. President Bauer said he will contact Connellsville and Scottdale to discuss getting funding to purchase signs as a group. President Bauer said that the meetings he attended were very informative and the first conference provided a foundation for future conferences.

Councilman Tate said he attended the WWT meeting at the conference and was very impressed with the presentation by our engineers about using a robot to camera our storm water lines. Councilman Tate discussed the presentation and said he would have our engineering firm come to a future meeting and do the presentation for Council.

Mayor Lucia said that he attended the meeting for the Mayors, Police and Fire Departments at the G3 Conference and was very impressed with the effort put into the presentations. Mayor Lucia said that Borough Manager Landy should be commended for doing an excellent job of putting the conference together along with Brad Geyer of Connellsville.

President Bauer said he received information on an audit program by First Energy about energy savings. Councilwoman Ruszkowski said she also received the email and will fill out the application to be considered for the program that begins May 31, 2010. There is no deadline for the application.

Borough Managers Report:

Borough Manager Landy thanked Council for their support during the G3 Conference. Mr. Landy said that next year the conference may be held Wednesday thru Saturday instead of an entire week.

Mr. Landy said he contacted PNC, First Niagara and Standard Banks in Mount Pleasant asking each of them to provide a grant for up to \$3,000 to the Borough to install surveillance cameras on Main Street. Standard Bank and PNC Bank have both approved the request for \$2,500 to \$3,000, First Niagara approved \$1,000 and Mr. Landy is waiting to hear from another business on Main Street. The total cost of the surveillance camera project will be approximately \$9,000. The cameras should cover the majority of Main Street from the Doughboy up to Cogo's.

Westmoreland County officials received the letter from the Mount Pleasant Historical Society about the Gormley building and they will be advertising for demolition contractor bids on June 15, 2010 to be submitted by July 23, 2010.

Borough Manager Landy said that the Borough adopted the 2006 Property Maintenance Code and should now adopt the 2009 Property Maintenance Code so that we are current. President Bauer asked Councilman McCloy to contact Keystate Publishers to find out about changing the code and the Borough should order one new set of manuals.

Mr. Landy said he received a notice from Westmoreland County Planning and Development requesting that we complete an income survey. Mr. Landy placed a call to the Planning Commission for more information.

Mr. Landy said he received a quote to repair the roof at the Municipal Building and will turn it over to the Property Committee along with the quote for pest control.

Mr. Landy gave Council information on how to log into the surveillance camera at Veterans Park. Anyone is allowed to look at it. It will give Council a chance to see how the cameras work. Councilman Tate said that there is a tree blocking the view of the camera and it should be cut back. There is also a sign that needs to be removed.

Mr. Landy said that he feels the railroad tresses at Memorial Square that prevent cars from hitting the parking meters should be removed because they look bad and detract from the park. Mayor Lucia said that they have also caused damage to vehicles. Mr. Landy said that we could replace the railroad tresses with a bollard that will resemble the decorative lights but will be 42 inches high with a light at the top. The bollard is filled with concrete for stability. Mayor Lucia said that the bollards will also provide more light.

Mr. Landy said that after testing different locations for the fireworks it was decided that the best location would be 128 Rosemore Lane in the Township. A fireworks permit application will be submitted to Mount Pleasant Township. The rain day location would be St. Pius Cemetery.

Mr. Landy said that he received another request from the homeowner at 632 Broad Street whose driveway was damaged during the snowstorm. At the time it was determined that the Borough was not liable to repair the driveway.

Waste Water Treatment Report:

Councilman Tate said that he needs to talk to our Solicitor regarding sewage lines crossing properties. More and more are being discovered and they are all different. The Borough needs to get an idea of how to handle these situations.

Councilman Tate said that WWT Supervisor would like approval from Council for him and Larry Hague to attend a ProActive Operator Source class at the Hampton Inn on June 17, 2010. The cost of the class is \$120 each.

A motion was made by Councilman Tate to suspend the rules for the purpose of a motion to send Norman Stout and Larry Hague to the ProActive Operator Source Class at the Hampton Inn on June 17, 2010 at a cost of \$120 each. Motion seconded by Councilman Crivella. Motion carried 8-0.

Public Safety Report:

A motion was made by Councilman Beranek to suspend the rules for the purpose of hiring a part-time Crossing Guard. Motion seconded by Councilman Tate. Motion carried 8-0.

A motion was made by Councilman Beranek to hire Tom Hershberger, 47 W Vine Street Mount Pleasant PA 15666 as a part-time crossing guard. Motion seconded by Councilman Tate. Motion carried 8-0.

Councilman Tate said that Police Officers George Grippo and Dan Zilli would like to speak at the next monthly meeting to inform the public that they can remain anonymous if they call to report seeing a crime being committed. Councilman Beranek agreed.

Zoning & Ordinance Report:

Councilman McCloy said that changes need to be made to the Fee Schedule and the Sign and Residential Rental Property Ordinances. He will have a motion prepared for the next meeting regarding what changes need to be made. A discussion ensued regarding the proposed changes.

Streets/Parks & Recreation:

Councilman Tucholski said he is working with Mr. Dematto regarding activities for young people at Frick Park.

Councilman Tucholski said he also spoke to Rick Albright from the Mount Pleasant Junior Football League and explained to him why a 5K run on the Sunday of the Glass and Ethnic Festival would not work. Councilman Tucholski said that he referred Mr. Albright to the Coal & Coke Trail Chapter.

Councilman Tucholski said he received a letter from Kyle Nitterright regarding holding a basketball tournament at the basketball courts at Frick Park. Mr. Nitterright is asking Council to issue him a permit to hold the tournament. Council discussed issuing the permit and agreed that it would not be in the best interest of the Borough for the tournament to be held in Mount Pleasant. Council agreed that the basketball courts are for borough residents to use and enjoy and it would not be right for them to be unable to use the courts during the tournament.

Councilman Tucholski said that there are still council people needed to help with the Concerts In The Park.

A motion was made to have Liberty Flag Pole reset the flagpole at Veterans Park for a cost of \$302. Motion seconded by Councilman Beranek. Motion carried 8-0.

A motion was made to purchase a 30-foot flagpole from Liberty Flag Pole for \$3,000, which includes installation at Frick Park. Motion seconded by Councilman Beranek. Motion carried 8-0.

Borough Manager Landy said that the \$3,000 for the flagpole at Frick Park will come out of the Frick Park gas well revenue.

A motion was made by Councilman Tucholski to suspend the rules for an Executive Session. Motion seconded by Councilman McCloy. Motion carried 8-0.

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

Executive Session 9:35pm to 9:54pm.

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

Veterans Park Report:

Councilman Tate said that he spoke with two landscaping graduates from Penn State and had them look at the pavers at Veterans Park. Councilman Tate said that they told him not all of the pavers need reseated. Councilman Tate said that he is going to meet with them Wednesday evening to discuss what can be done and we will have the pavers pressure washed before then. Councilman Tucholski said that he will have the Street Department pressure wash the pavers before Wednesday.

Finance Report:

Councilwoman Ruszkowski said that the Borough received a letter from the Mount Pleasant Area School District stating that they will not exonerate the past due taxes from before the property was donated to the Borough. Council agreed to pay the taxes. Councilwoman Ruszkowski said she will look at the budget and report at the next meeting which line item the money will come from.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Ruszkowski to transfer \$7,000 from Recreation Line Item #450.11 to Recreation Item #450.04 for payment of the bucket truck. Motion seconded by Councilman Tate. Motion carried 8-0.

A motion was made to accept the renewal proposal from HDH Group, Inc for the Borough's liability insurance for the year June 1, 2010 to June 1, 2011 at a cost of \$58,271. Motion seconded by Councilman Tate. Motion carried 8-0.

Borough Manager Landy said that this cost for insurance is a savings over last year.

Property Report:

Councilman Crivella said he spoke to the company who manufactured the welcome sign for South Greensburg and they need some additional information. Do we want our logo incorporated into the sign? Council agreed that we do want the borough logo on the sign. They also want to know if we want to use a "tag line". Locations for the signs were discussed.

Councilman Crivella said that the BDA signed a listing contract with a commercial real estate company to sell the In Town Shops.

Sanitation and Recycling Report:

Councilwoman Stevenson said she received an email stating that Governor Rendell has signed a new bill extending the State's support of recycling. Councilwoman Stevenson said she is unsure what the bill will mean to Mount Pleasant. Councilwoman Stevenson said she has received information on a web site that has a complete list of grant programs and she will be looking at any that might benefit the Borough.

Community and Economic Development/Grants Report:

Borough Manager Landy said that Councilman Tabita ordered 50 Mount Pleasant Video DVD's for \$3.00 each.

New Business:

President Bauer said that next year he would like to see a quarterly newsletter to residents of the Borough. He would like each council committee to recap what is happened in the last three months and what they have planned for the next three.

President Bauer said that they will be putting flags on veteran's graves at Mount Pleasant Cemetery this Saturday about 9am for any councilperson who wants to help.

President Bauer said that the Memorial Day Program will be Monday and there will be a meal served at the VFW after the program. The Memorial Day Parade begins at 10:30am and the program at Veterans Park will follow the parade.

Councilwoman Stevenson asked to be allowed to call the borough auditor for some guidance on whether we should see the trust fund balances on the financial statements given to us by the Library. President Bauer said that the rumors regarding large trust fund balances is the reason Council requested the audit. President Bauer said that he has been told by borough residents that they go to the library in Scottdale because there are no available computers at the Mount Pleasant Library. There are also some repairs that are being neglected at the Mount Pleasant Library. President Bauer said if the Library does have available money in trust funds they should use a portion of it to purchase computers and do the necessary repairs. President Bauer said that he is hesitant to allocate funds for the Library out of the General Fund Budget every year without knowing their financial status. Borough Manager Landy said that in order to be eligible for the \$7,500 a year that the Borough gives them they are required to be fiscally responsible. Council agreed that it is important for the Borough to know the true and complete financial status of the Mount Pleasant Library. President Bauer said he will talk with our Solicitor. Borough Manager Landy asked if it would be possible to have the Borough's auditor audit the Library. Councilwoman Stevenson said that the ordinance states that the Borough shall arrange to have the accounts of the Treasurer of the Library Association audited annually.

Councilman Tate asked when the Borough will be required to reapportion the Wards. President Bauer said that when the 2010 Census is completed the Wards may need to be reapportioned.

Borough Manager Landy said that the DiNicola property on Main Street will be going up for Judicial Sale on June 9, 2010 at 10am at the Westmoreland County Courthouse in Greensburg. Any liens on the property will be wiped clean. Council agreed that someone from the Borough should be present at the sale at try to acquire the property for the Borough.

Borough Manager Landy showed Council the logo that will be on all Borough equipment starting with the police cars.

Reading of Communications:

Borough Manager Landy read the following communications:

- There will be a Central Westmoreland Council of Governments will hold a meeting at 1pm on May 25, 2010.
- There will be a Westmoreland County Boroughs Association meeting on May 27, 2010 at the Westmoreland Conservation District office beginning at 7pm. Senator Kim Ward will be a speaker.

Discussion and Payment of Bills:

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

Meeting adjourned 10:30pm.