

## Meeting June 1, 2009

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 Landy to take roll. Councilmen Bauer, Beranek, Crivella, McCloy and Councilwomen Ruszkowski and Stevenson were present. Mayor Lucia and Solicitor Toohey were present. President Tabita stated we have a quorum.

### Reading of Previous Minutes:

A motion was made by Councilman Bauer to dispense with the reading of the minutes of May 19, 2009. Motion seconded by Councilman Crivella. Motion carried 7-0.

**Citizen of the Month:** Dr. William Levinson

### Public Comment:

Ryan Tressler, 411 Spruce Street, Mount Pleasant addressed Council on behalf of the Second Baptist Church. The church is having a "Friends, Family and Youth Day" on June 14, 2009. The church would like to have the alley from the Social Walkway to Washington Street blocked off from 9:00am to 5:00pm because they will be having activities in the back yard of the church for the youths. President Tabita asked if they would need the alley in the rear blocked also. Mr. Tressler said that would be even better from a safety standpoint.

A motion was made by Councilman Bauer to close the alley from the Social Walkway to Washington Street From 9am to 5pm on June 14, 2009 for the Second Baptist Church "Friends, Family and Youth Day" activities. Motion seconded by Councilman Crivella. Motion carried 7-0.

Borough Manager Landy said that the Street Department could use the horses from the Concert In The Park on June 7, 2009 to block the alley on June 14<sup>th</sup>.

Bob Covert, Orchard Hill Drive, Mount Pleasant addressed Council regarding a flooding problem. The Borough removed a curb from Orchard Hill Drive and now people's homes are flooding.

Mr. Bill Felker, 213 Orchard Hill Drive, Mount Pleasant also spoke about the flooding issue. Since the curb was removed he has been flooded three times. He does not have flood insurance and the Borough insurance company has denied his claim because there is lack of evidence that the Borough is responsible.

President Tabita said that Council will review the situation and try to have an answer in a couple of days. Mr. Felker said he has called a few times and no one has responded to him. Mr. Felker said he spoke to the Borough Secretary, the Borough Manager and Police Chief Ober. Mr. Landy said that when Mr. Felker called the Borough Office Street Supervisor Fontanazza and Councilman Slater went and assessed the situation. But as soon as the Borough received a letter from Mr. Felker's attorney we immediately turned the matter over to the Borough Solicitor. Mr. Landy said that he does not have the authority to address a legal issue. The Borough took pictures of the area and did an assessment but as soon as attorneys are involved it becomes a matter for our Solicitor. Mr. Felker said he did not contact an attorney for four months. Councilman Crivella asked Mr. Felker how long he has lived at that address and how long the higher curb was in place. Mr. Felker said that when they resurfaced the road about four years ago the curb was lowered. President Tabita said that it is not possible to give anyone a definite answer tonight and Council or the Borough Solicitor will get back to Mr. Felker hopefully by the end of the week with a response.

### Mayor's Report:

Mayor Lucia read the following Police Report for the month of May 2009:

Report of the Mount Pleasant Police Department for the month of May 2009

The Department answered 425 calls during the month as follows

Complaints	1148
Requests for assistance	11
Assist Other Departments	11
Accidents investigated	5

Calls Returned	20
Assist Medic 10	13

The Department made 144 arrests during the month as follows

Vehicle Code	139
Crimes Code	5
Vehicle Code Warnings	0

Parking Tickets issued are as follows:

\$1.00 Meter Tickets	27
\$10.00 No Parking Tickets	5
Void / Excused	1

\$1.00 Parking Tickets Paid	22	\$	22.00
\$5.00 Parking Tickets Paid	0	\$	-
\$10.00 Parking Tickets Paid	2	\$	20.00

Return from Magistrate Eckels	\$2,012.46
Return from Clerk of Courts	\$ 90.46
Return from Report Fees	\$ 30.00
Return from Parking Permits	\$ 15.00
Return from Soliciting Permits	\$ -
Return from Restitution	\$ -

Total	\$2,194.92
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Meter Receipts 2 Collections	\$ 917.75
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Total Receipts for the month	\$3,112.67
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Mayor Lucia said that the reports for assisting other departments are attached to the Police Report.

Mayor Lucia said he received correspondence from the University of Pittsburgh Institute of Politics regarding an “Achieving Through The State Radio System” seminar at the Marriott in Cranberry on July 9, 2009 from 8:30am to 10:30am. The state has invested several million dollars in the development of a high-technology radio system with statewide interoperability. It will enable various parties to access each other quickly and communicate securely through this shared medium. There is no cost but advance registration is required. Mayor Lucia said he feels Police Chief Ober should attend. Anyone else wishing to attend should contact the Borough Office.

Mayor Lucia said that he also received a letter from Christine Barnhart and the Brownies and Girl Scouts from the Mount Pleasant and Scottdale area. They are interested in doing a safety project in the Borough. Enclosed with the letter were some pictures of equipment at Frick Park that show some rust etc. The groups are offering their help in fixing the problem areas.

A motion was made by Councilman Bauer to allow the Brownies and Girl Scouts from the Mount Pleasant and Scottdale area to work on the equipment at Frick Park. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Stevenson. Motion carried 7-0.

Mayor Lucia said he received a letter from John H Denlinger of the Laurelville Mennonite Church Center inviting Council to a luncheon they are hosting on June 19<sup>th</sup>. President Tabita said that he spoke with Mr. Denlinger who offered a tour of the facilities at the Church Center. Mr. Denlinger said that the Center could be made available to the Borough if they need it for any reason.

Mayor Lucia also received a letter from Dr. Paul Kraisinger stating that the Class of 1979 will be getting together on July 3, 2009 and plan to conclude the day at Veterans Park for the music and fireworks display.

Mayor Lucia asked Councilman Bauer about the progress of putting handicapped parking spaces on Washington Street. Councilman Bauer said that parking is pretty tight in that area and there are already a couple of handicapped spaces in that area. Mayor Lucia said that the hair salon is requesting at least one space and he feels one space may be needed near the Senior Center. Councilman Bauer said a handicap space in the front may not be of value to the Senior Center because their handicapped ramp is in the back. Council agreed to look into putting more handicapped spaces on Washington Street and Street Supervisor Mario Fontanazza said he has signs available to put up.

Mayor Lucia said that there have been a number of car break-ins in the Borough. Chief Ober said that it looks like only one person is involved. The ATF is looking for this person because he may be in possession of firearms.

A motion was made by Councilman Bauer for an Executive Session. Motion seconded by Councilman Beranek. Motion carried 7-0.

**Executive Session 7:40pm to 8:31pm.**

President Tabita said that the Executive Session was to discuss litigation.

**Solicitor's Report:** None

**Tax Collector's Report:**

Tax Collector Carol Yancosky read the following Tax Collector Report for the month of May 2009:

Property Taxes	\$7,908.43
Per Capita Taxes	\$ 16.50
Total	\$7,924.93

Ms. Yancosky reminded residents that their 2008 Per Capita taxes are due by June 30<sup>th</sup>.

**President's Report:**

President Tabita said that the Main Street Street-Scape Project is almost complete. Currently we are working on the issue of the wattage per light on the decorative poles and being in compliance with state regulations. The wires are down and the poles will be removed soon. The cost for the wattage upgrade to Phase I is going to be close to \$5,000. This upgrade is on hold until the issue of wattage is determined. President Tabita thanked property owners living in the area of Phase II of the Main Street Street-Scape Project for their patience and cooperation. There was a significant cost to some of the property owners. Property owners absorbing the cost and inconvenience was crucial to the project.

President Tabita thanked the Ministerium for program held on the National Day of Prayer last month and the Memorial Day celebration in the Borough was another success.

The Mount Pleasant promotional video will be ready for the work session. President Tabita said he thinks Council will be pleased with the video.

**Borough Manager's Report:**

Borough Manager Landy reminded Council to look at the current Profit and Loss Budget Vs. Actual reports on their desks. We are almost half way through our budget year.

Mr. Landy reported that the Borough purchased a crack sealer unit for the Street Department. Street Supervisor Fontanazza will set up a day to train on the equipment and a schedule of streets to be sealed.

Council agreed that the poles on Main Street could be painted in approximately six weeks when the Main Street Street-Scape Project is complete. Mr. Landy said he would notify the company who will do the painting. Mr. Landy will meet with Councilwoman Ruszkowski to determine what budget transfers will be necessary to pay for the painting.

Mr. Landy said the first Concert In The Park will be Sunday June 7, 2009. This year the concerts will have a theme. The first one will be a U.S.O. Show and invitations have been sent out to local veterans. Mr. Landy read the following Concert In The Park Schedule:

- June 7<sup>th</sup> USO Show Including a Military Equipment Show
- June 21<sup>st</sup> Tim Scott Band Including a Car Show
- July 3<sup>rd</sup> Celebration Chuck Corby & Quiet Storm Including a Car Show  
Fireworks follow the July3rd Celebration
- July 12<sup>th</sup> Spirit Filled Band with Free Church Flea Market
- July 26<sup>th</sup> Girls in Black Hats Including a Motorcycle Show
- August 9<sup>th</sup> Kids Koncert Including a Bicycle Show & Pet Parade
- August 23<sup>rd</sup> Mon Valley Push Including a Car Show
- September 6<sup>th</sup> Stereotype Including a Motorcycle Show

## September 13<sup>th</sup> A Tribute to Frank Sinatra

Concerts are from 6:30pm to 9:00pm. The July 3<sup>rd</sup> Celebration has a special time of 7:00pm to 10:00pm with fireworks at 10:00pm. The Borough has sponsors for the fireworks, but is still looking for more.

The Borough is going to continue showing Movies In The Park this year. Movies are scheduled for June 12<sup>th</sup>, July 10<sup>th</sup> and August 14<sup>th</sup>.

Borough Manager Landy made the following report:

- Mr. Landy and Mayor Lucia have been looking into flooding issues at Ramsey Terrace and with the cooperation of Mount Pleasant Township Supervisors we will be doing some corrections in that area.
- Two new benches that were donated by the BDA have been installed on Main Street in front of the In Town Shops and in front of the bulletin board by National City Bank.
- He, Mayor Lucia and Police Chief Ober attended a 911 seminar at WCCC regarding Emergency Management. There a lot of things we can do to educate people. This summer a group of people will be coming in to help us with that.
- The DiNicola building should be completely demolished by June 20, 2009.

Mayor Lucia and Borough Manager Landy had their first weight-in on their weight-loss challenge. Councilwoman Stevenson recorded their individual weight and they will lose as much weight as possible before the final weigh-in at the first meeting in September 2009. Pledges can be made by calling the borough office.

### **Waste Water Treatment Report:**

Mayor Lucia asked WWT Supervisor Norm Stout if he gets reports on soil monitoring for Diamond Street and the Honey Bear. Mr. Stout said that he gets quarterly reports. Mayor Lucia asked if there was contamination at those locations and Mr. Stout said yes, if there was no contamination there would be no need for monitoring. Mayor Lucia said that Borough Council and Administration were accused of running businesses like the Honey Bear out of town when in actuality there were other reasons for them closing.

President Tabita said that the people building the restrooms at the Little League Field need some scaffolding. Mayor Lucia said he could provide scaffolding for them. Mr. Stout said he would deliver the scaffolding to the Little League Field in the morning.

### **Public Safety, Zoning and Ordinance Report:**

Councilman Bauer read the following Medic 10 Report for the month of May 2009:

Total Calls for the month	170
Medical	142
MVA	8
Fire	8
Transfer	3
Standby	9
In Town	88
Out of Town	82
Members per call	3.1

Councilman Bauer read the following Fire Report for the month of May 2009:

Total calls	57
In Town	20
Out of Town	37
10-45's	21
Fires	10
AFA's	12
Public Service Calls	11
Drills	2
Total Men Answering	830
Avg. Member per call	14
Total Hours	442

A motion was made by Councilman Bauer to allot Part Time Police 16 hours per week for 16 weeks staggered schedule for parks totaling \$3,000 in payroll expense and to transfer \$3,000 to line item #410.99 from the following line items: \$1,500 from line item #410.36, \$500.00 from line item #410.28, and \$1,000 from line item #410.70. Motion seconded by Councilman Beranek. Motion carried 7-0.

A motion was made by Councilman Bauer to adopt Police Policy Manual submitted by Police chief Ober pending approval by Solicitor Toohey. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Ruszkowski. Motion carried 7-0.

Councilman Bauer said that Council was given ordinances tonight that will be voted on at the next work session and be part of the ordinance recodification. The ordinances include the Graffiti Ordinance, Yard Sale Ordinance, Dog Ordinance, Solid Waste Ordinance, Sign Ordinance and the Landlord Ordinance. Council discussed different aspects of these ordinances. Councilman Bauer said he would like to have these ordinances to Keystate Publishing by July 1<sup>st</sup>. Mayor Lucia suggested calling a special session of Council to discuss these ordinances because of the impact they will have on the Borough and its residents for many years. President Tabita said the committee should meet to discuss them first.

Councilman Bauer said he has been getting complaints about noise and asked if Council would like him to look into a noise ordinance. Mayor Lucia said he was told by the Magistrate that an ordinance would require an actual decimal meter.

Councilman Crivella asked about limitation on digital signs on state roads since the Borough's Main Street is a state road. Borough Manager Landy said that he got a letter from Penn Dot regarding digital signs. The letter said that Penn Dot is going to survey all of their roads that have digital signs on them.

Councilman Bauer said he will have a committee meeting before the next work session to discuss the proposed ordinances. If anyone on Council has any questions or comments regarding the ordinances they can call him or email him. Councilman Bauer said there will be a meeting on June 15, 2009 at 6:30pm of the Public Safety, Zoning and Ordinance Committee to go over the proposed ordinances.

Councilman Bauer said he met with some residents on East Vine Street and East Smithfield Street regarding some property maintenance code violations they were concerned about. Councilman Bauer said he would like to meet with Mayor Lucia and Borough Manager Landy and show them the properties in question.

Councilman Bauer thanked Brownie Troop 21092, Boy Scout Troop 133, some members of the Historical Society, and several people from the public for help in putting out the flags at the cemetery for Memorial Day. He also thanked the VFD and Mark Kraisinger for their assistance with the flagpoles at Veterans Park. Councilman Bauer said that next year he would like to look into purchasing a bucket truck to be used for maintenance in town.

A motion was made by Councilman Bauer to close Smithfield Street and Mullin Avenue from 6:00pm to 11:00pm from June 22<sup>nd</sup> to June 27<sup>th</sup> for the Firemen's Fair. Motion seconded by Councilman Crivella. Motion carried 7-0.

A motion was made by Councilman Bauer to close Main Street From Braddock Road Avenue to Kennedy Avenue on June 23<sup>rd</sup> from 6:30pm to 8:30pm for the Firemen's Parade. Motion seconded by Councilman Crivella. Motion carried 7-0.

Mayor Lucia said he would like to see the poles around the Diamond that are there for approximately 50 years removed. Trucks can't see them and back over them. President Tabita agreed and said we could put in curb stoppers instead. A discussion ensued regarding what to do to replace the poles if they are removed.

### **Streets, Parks and Recreation Report:**

Borough Manager Landy reported that the street-paving project is being delayed because the paver that the contractor uses for alleys and small roads is broke down. The paver should be repaired this week and work will resume.

### **Finance Report:**

Councilwoman Ruszkowski reported that the Borough's property and loss insurance coverage will be with the HDH Group for a savings of approximately \$8,000 with a lower deductible. Councilwoman Ruszkowski thanked her committee for all of the hard work put into this process.

**Property Report:**

Councilman Beranek said that with the help of WWT personnel and Klocek Burial Vaults the new Veterans Park Sign will be put up tomorrow.

**Community Eco-Green Report:** None

President Tabita said that the recycling dumpsters fill up fast. For less than \$15 per year each resident can have curbside recycling. The more we recycle and take out of the landfill the less our garbage bills will be. Councilman McCloy said he will get in touch with Allied Waste to get the information. President Tabita said that then we can schedule a public meeting. Councilwoman Stevenson suggested having Allied Waste include an insert with the garbage bill to make people aware that curbside recycling is available to the Borough. Council discussed getting a recycling grant. Mr. Landy said that before any grant can be applied for we must have an ordinance in place.

**Human Resources / Employee Contracts Report:**

Councilwoman Stevenson said that the Employee Handbook is ready to be sent to Solicitor Toohey for his recommendations.

Councilwoman Stevenson reported that the Cat Committee will have its first official fundraiser which will be a large yard sale on Saturday June 13, 2009 beginning at 7:30am. The yard sale will be in the parking lot behind the old Burns Drug Store location. Anyone can have their own table for a fee of \$5.00. There will be food for sale and if the weather permits, the Animal Keepers Rescue Organization will have cats available for adoption.

Councilman Stevenson said she enjoyed the experience of putting flags on graves at the cemetery on Memorial Day with other members of the community. Councilwoman Stevenson said that she would like to see more flag etiquette. Parents give small flags to their children who drop them on the street and it seems disrespectful. Anyone can go on the internet to learn more about flag etiquette.

President Tabita asked Councilwoman Stevenson if she knew the story of the canons at the Mount Pleasant Cemetery. Councilwoman Stevenson said that those canons have been on loan from the Department of the Navy for some years. They have never been fired. They were built for a war that ended before they could be used.

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

Councilman Crivella said he attended the BDA meeting. The BDA hired a person to work part-time for the summer. This person will be doing a survey of Mount Pleasant businesses and putting together a database.

Councilman Crivella said that he also attended the Frick Communities Board of Directors meeting where they elected their officers. Mark Fox, Scottdale Borough is President, Mike Tabita, Mount Pleasant is Treasurer, Paul Hodgekiss, East Huntingdon Township is Secretary. The next meeting will be June 10, 2009 where they will adopt their bylaws, select a logo and review the Regional Main Street application.

**New Business:**

President Tabita said that John Amoroso has resigned from the Mount Pleasant Municipal Authority. President Tabita thanked John for his 22 years of service and recommends that Council appoints Joe Siska to replace him.

A motion was made by Councilman Bauer to appoint Joe Siska to the Mount Pleasant Municipal Authority to fulfill the term of John Amoroso. Motion seconded by Councilman Crivella. Motion carried 7-0.

On behalf of the Veterans Association, Councilman Bauer thanked Leo Wisniewski of Grille 31 for the free buffet offered to local Veterans.

**Reading of Communications:**

Borough Manager Landy read the following communications:

- A letter from the Mount Pleasant Historical Society asking for a donation to the Community/School Picnic at Idle Wild Park on July 13th. In the past the Borough has donated \$50.

A motion was made by Councilman Bauer to donate \$100 to the Historical Society for the 2009 Community/School Picnic. Motion seconded by councilman Crivella. Motion carried 7-0.

- A letter from a local business asking permission to put up a temporary banner with a wooden frame.
- An invitation to a Webinar on June 4, 2009 from 10:00am to 11:00am on Home Improvements and the Consumer Protection Act.

**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 7-0.

**Miscellaneous and Adjournment:**

A motion was made by Councilman Bauer to adjourn the meeting. Motion seconded by Councilman Beranek. Motion carried 7-0.

Meeting Adjourned 9:45pm.

## **Motions from June 1, 2009 Meeting**

A motion was made by Councilman Bauer to dispense with the reading of the minutes of May 19, 2009. Motion seconded by Councilman Crivella. Motion carried 7-0.

A motion was made by Councilman Bauer to close the alley from the Social Walkway to Washington Street From 9am to 5pm on June 14, 2009 for the Second Baptist Church "Friends, Family and Youth Day" activities. Motion seconded by Councilman Crivella. Motion carried 7-0.

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A motion was made by Councilman Bauer to pay all authorized and approved bills. Motion seconded by Councilman Beranek. Motion carried 7-0.

A motion was made by Councilman Bauer to adjourn the meeting. Motion seconded by Councilman Beranek. Motion carried 7-0.