

Meeting June 7, 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 and in remembrance of D-Day. President Bauer directed Borough Manager Landy to take roll. Councilmen Beranek, Crivella, McCloy, Tabita, Tate, Tucholski and Councilwomen Stevenson and Ruszkowski were present. Mayor Lucia and Solicitor Wolfe, Tucker Arensberg 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 May 24, 2010. Motion seconded by Councilman Crivella. Motion carried 9-0.

Public Comment: None

Speakers:

Mr. Ed Howley, B.I.U. said that requests for Occupancy Permits are coming in slowly and they are continuing to issue building permits. Mr. Howley said he asked Mr. Landy to get him a list of 10 or 12 of the worst violators of the Property Maintenance Code.

Mayor's Report:

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

Report of the Mount Pleasant Police Dept for the month of May 2010:

The Dept answered 245 calls during the month as follows:

Complaints	72
Requests for assistance	3
Assist Other Departments	3
Accidents investigated	4
Calls Returned	10
Assist Medic	6

The Dept. made 45 arrests during the month as follows:

Vehicle Code	41
Crimes Code	5
Borough Ordinance	0
Warnings Issued	3

Parking Tickets issued are as follows:

\$4.00 Meter Tickets	70
\$10.00 No Parking Tickets	0
Void / Excused	0

\$4.00 Parking Tickets Paid	52	\$	208.00
\$5.00 Parking Tickets Paid	8	\$	40.00
\$10.00 Parking Tickets Paid	1	\$	10.00
\$15.00 Parking Tickets Paid	1	\$	15.00
3 paid @ \$2.00		\$	6.00

Return from Magistrate Eckels	\$1,104.12
Return from Clerk of Courts	\$1,021.53
Return from Report Fees	\$ 45.00
Return from Parking Permits	\$ -
Return from Soliciting Permits	\$ -
Return from Restitution	\$ -

Total	\$2,449.65
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1 Meter Collection	\$1,111.49
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Total Receipts for the month \$3,561.14

A motion was made by Councilman Tate to close Smithfield Street for the annual Firemen's Fair June 21, 2010 to June 26, 2010. Motion seconded by Councilman McCloy. Motion carried 9-0.

A motion was made by Councilman Tate to close Route 31 Main Street from Braddock Rd Ave to Kennedy Avenue on June 22, 2010 for the annual Firemen's Parade from 6pm to 8:30pm. Motion seconded by Councilman McCloy. Motion carried 9-0.

Mayor Lucia said with Penn Dot's approval he would like to put brightly colored sandwich boards warning motorists to slow down on Main Street, Morewood Street, Church Street, Braddock Road Avenue and Diamond Street. Mayor Lucia said that Borough Manager Landy is looking into borrowing a speed board showing the speed a vehicle is going and we will display the posted speed limit on the board to remind motorists to slow down. Mr. Landy said that the vascar lines need to be painted on Main Street first.

Mayor Lucia said he would like residents to be aware of any strange cars or individuals in their neighborhoods. They can call the police to come and check the situation.

Borough Manager Landy said that he has noticed that the problems in the parks have lessened because of the decisions Council has made. Other council members have also noticed the difference. Councilman Tate reassured residents that when they call the police department with a complaint or issue their names will be kept confidential.

Solicitor's Report:

Solicitor Wolfe asked Council if they want him to proceed with the summons for Command Fire Apparatus regarding the aerial fire truck. Council agreed that Mr. Wolfe should proceed with the writ summons regarding the statute of limitations.

Solicitor Wolfe said he is working on the legal issue of high grass in the Borough and will try to have some suggestions for Council by the next meeting.

Tax Collector's Report:

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

Property Tax = \$8,442.08

Per Capita = \$27.50

Total = \$8,469.58

Ms. Yancosky reminded residents that the 2009 School and Borough Per Capita Taxes that were sent last August are due by June 30 2010.

President's Report:

A motion was made by Councilwoman Stevenson to ratify Resolution #2010-02 designating Borough Manager Landy as authorized to execute for and on behalf of the Borough of Mount Pleasant in regards to the February 5th Snowfall. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Ruszkowski. Motion carried 9-0.

A motion was made by Councilman Tate to authorize Borough Manager Landy and the Borough Solicitor to attend the judicial sale of the DiNicola property on Main Street on June 9, 2010 at 10am at the Westmoreland Co. Courthouse in Greensburg for the purpose of acquiring the property. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Ruszkowski. Motion carried 9-0.

A motion was made by Councilman Tabita to suspend the rules for the purpose of an Executive Session. Motion seconded by Councilman Tate. Motion carried 9-0.

A motion was made by Councilman Tabita for an Executive Session. Motion seconded by Councilman Tate. Motion carried 9-0.

Executive Session 7:29pm to 7:43pm.

President Bauer reported that the Executive Session was to discuss real estate.

Borough Manager’s Report:

Borough Manager Landy made the following report:

- Mr. Landy is getting quotes for the sale of the Borough’s old tar buggy and paving roller.
- Mr. Landy and Mayor Lucia went to a meeting regarding flood plain maps. Our flood plain map is being updated. Mr. Landy said he turned the current map over to our engineer for a comparison.
- There is a traffic signal on a Verizon pole at Eagle and Main Streets that needs to be moved. Mr. Landy said he is getting a quote from TP Electric to move the signal.
- Mr. Landy said that Westmoreland County is going to discuss with us the possibility of replacing the railroad ties at Veterans Park with lighted bollards.
- Mr. Landy said he has met with Luanne Hout the new Director of the BDA going over Council’s discussions regarding the BDA and updating her on insurance issues.
- Phase I of the Storm Water Retrofit Project is almost complete.
- Mr. Landy and Councilman Tate spoke with the representatives from the Church of God Summer Kids Project which will begin July 18, 2010 and gave them a list of projects we would like them to do.
- The Street Department has begun using the new bucket truck. Mr. Landy said that borough logos will be put on the truck as well as the street sweeper.
- The Employee Manual is complete and will be distributed to employees on Thursday June 10th. Each employee will be required to sign a paper saying that they have read and understand the manual. Mr. Landy said he will instruct each supervisor to go over the manual with their department.

Waste Water Treatment Report:

Councilman Tate said that the WWT engineering firm did a presentation at the G3 Conference that he feels would be beneficial for all of Council to see and he would like to show it at the next work session.

Mayor Lucia said that there is a sinkhole on Jordan Street near the Sunoco Station beside the manhole and another one on Kraisinger Way at the top near Morewood Street near the catch basin. Councilman Tate said that WWT Supervisor Norm Stout is going to contact Attorney Nat Abromson to see if that is still covered under the CSO Project performance bond. WWT cameraed the line and there is a break.

Mayor Lucia said that WWT personnel are going to camera the storm sewer behind S. Geary Street. It will show if there is debris in the sewer.

Public Safety Report:

Councilman Beranek read the following Fire Report for the month of May 2010:

Total calls	36
In Town	12
Out of Town	24
10-45’s In Town	4
10-45’s Out of Town	7
Fires	14
AFA’s	7
Turnpike Calls	2
Public Service Calls	2
Total # of Men	536
Average Men Per Call	15
Total Hours	593

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

Total Calls for the Month	135
Medical	111
MVA	12
Fire	8
Transfer	0
Standby	4
In Town	84
Out of Town	51
Members Per Call	2.8

Councilman Beranek said that there was a Public Safety meeting last week to discuss the possibility of acquiring a K-9 unit for the department. The Mount Pleasant Animal Hospital has donated medical care for the dog. President Bauer said he feels the K-9 unit is a good idea but would like to see the funding on paper before we proceed. President Bauer said he also wants to make sure that residents continue to have police protection while Officer Grippo has the dog on an out of town call. Officer Grippo said that he would only go on out of town calls in an emergency. Councilman Tate said that any income from the K-9 unit should be put back into the K-9 fund. There would be no cost to the Borough for the K-9 unit. Mr. Landy said there will be annual costs to the Borough for the K-9 unit and asked Officer Grippo to use the fund raising money and donations for that cost. Officer Grippo said he will get grants and donations before he purchases the dog. Councilman Tucholski said he is concerned about future costs. Officer Grippo said that he would organize fundraisers for future costs. Officer Grippo said that the dog will be his responsibility 24/7. Officer Grippo said that the cost of liability insurance is \$400 per year. There are other optional insurances that can be purchased. Officer Grippo said that training for the dog will take 5 – 6 weeks and he himself will have to be certified every year to handle the dog.

A motion was made by Councilman Beranek to acquire a K-9 unit for the Mount Pleasant Police Department contingent upon finding available funds. Motion seconded by Councilman Crivella. Motion carried 9-0.

A motion was made by Councilman Beranek to suspend the rules for the purpose of making a motion to purchase a new police vehicle. Motion seconded by Councilman Crivella. Motion carried 9-0.

A motion was made by Councilman Beranek to purchase a new police vehicle from the State Contract with monies in the Budgetary Reserve Contingency Fund. Motion seconded by Councilman Crivella. Motion carried 9-0.

Councilman Tabita said that the command trailer is close to being completed and he feels it would be an asset to the Borough. We would need a vehicle to pull the trailer. Mayor Lucia said that the trailer still needs equipment to be complete. Mayor Lucia said that when the trailer is complete we will need to build a carport onto the borough shed where it can be stored but still be available. President Tabita said he feels a command trailer would be another tool for the safety of borough residents.

Zoning and Ordinance Report:

Councilman McCloy said Council has been supplied with a copy of the 2009 Edition of the Property Maintenance Code.

A motion was made by Councilman McCloy to suspend the rules for the purpose of a motion to upgrade the Property Maintenance Code to the 2009 Edition. Motion seconded by Councilman Crivella. Motion carried 9-0.

A motion was made by Councilman McCloy to upgrade the Property Maintenance Code for the Borough of Mount Pleasant to the 2009 Edition. Motion seconded by Councilman Crivella. Motion carried 9-0.

Councilman McCloy said that the changes to the Landlord Ordinance and the Sign Ordinance will be complete for the next work session.

Councilman Tabita said that a change needs to be made to the R1A Zoning Ordinance. Councilman McCloy said his committee will discuss the change and have it ready for the next work session.

Street, Parks and Recreation Report:

Councilman Tucholski said that Liberty Flag Pole Company will be putting the footer for the new flagpole in Frick Park and the flag should be installed this week.

Councilman Tucholski said that the Street Department has started cutting high grass at some vacant properties in the Borough when we were unable to contact the owner. Street Supervisor Mario Fontanazza will keep track of hours spent at each property so that the Borough can lien the property.

Councilman Tucholski updated Council on who will be handling each of the Concerts In The Parks this year.

Councilman Tabita said that in the past the Borough had a schedule for brush pickup. Supervisor Fontanazza said that currently we are responding to individual calls and not a set schedule. There is a fee of \$25 for a truckload. Councilman Tucholski said that it might be better to get back on a schedule. Street Supervisor Fontanazza said that if residents need to drop brush off at the borough shed on the weekend they can leave it in a spot by the gate and he can move it with the high lift as long as they don't block the gate.

Borough Manager Landy asked Council what their position is on cutting the grass in alleys. Council agreed that the homeowner is responsible for cutting the grass in the alley and should be cited if it is not cut. Borough Manager said some of the properties may have safety issues and the process could take too long. Council discussed changing the ordinance to make it more efficient.

Veterans Park Report:

Councilman Tate thanked the Street Department for laying the pavers at Veterans Park and for helping with the flagpole.

Councilman Tate said that R K Shumaker is drawing up a design for the expansion of Veterans Park and as soon as it is complete he will present it to Council. President Tabita said he feels Architect Jim Gayton should be involved with the design. Councilman Tate asked Councilman Tabita to contact Mr. Gayton for a meeting.

Finance Report:

Councilwoman Ruszkowski reported that the Borough is in step one of the Energy Audit Reimbursement Program where we are looking to secure approval before we sign a contract. Councilwoman Ruszkowski said she will have more information in a month or so.

A motion was made by Councilman Ruszkowski to donate \$100 to the Mount Pleasant Historical Society for the 2010 Mount Pleasant Community/School Picnic. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Stevenson. Motion carried 9-0.

Property Report:

A motion was made by Councilman Crivella to authorize Conklin Roofing Systems/ K. L. Miller/ Brubaker Enterprises to reseal the roof of the Municipal Building at a cost of \$5,920 from line item #415.01. Motion seconded by Councilman Tate. Motion carried 9-0.

Borough Manager said that Brubaker Enterprises got quotes from local resealing companies and the lowest price came from K.L. Miller.

Councilman Crivella said he is still working on the Welcome to Mount Pleasant signs and is looking for suggestions for a tag line for the signs.

Sanitation and Recycling Report:

Councilwoman Stevenson said that at our next meeting we will be six months into the curb-side recycling program and she would look into getting a review of the program.

President Bauer said that he feels it would be very beneficial to the Borough if the social clubs in town were able to recycle. Councilwoman Stevenson said that Allied Waste would have to charge the clubs for a recycling dumpster. President Bauer said he would like to know what the cost would be.

Community and Economic Development/Grants Report:

Councilman Tabita said that the Mount Pleasant video has been getting a lot of hits on You-Tube. There is a direct link to the You-Tube site from the Mount Pleasant web site. There has been a lot of interest from businesses to advertise 15 seconds within the 30-second Mount Pleasant video. The cost would be \$1.00 for a 30-second commercial that covered several cable channels in Fay-West, Irwin and Greensburg. Councilman Tabita said he will hold a committee meeting on June 16th to discuss cost recommendations. Councilman Tabita said he feels that since this is a Borough funded video, any business outside of the Borough should pay a higher price to advertise than a business in the Borough. The full-length version of the video on DVD will be available for purchase soon.

Councilman Tabita said he is happy to see LuAnn Hout as the new director of the BDA. He feels that she is already making a difference.

Councilman Tabita said he met with Kathy McCollom from the Progress Fund who he met at the G3 Conference to discuss trailhead towns. Her specialty is helping to improve the bike trail. She could help with signage to bring trail users into the business section of the Borough. It would be beneficial to the Borough to have a route from the trail into town and some bike racks on Main Street. Kathy will be attending the committee meeting at 2:00pm on June 16th.

Councilman Tabita said that on June 14th Scottdale will make a decision on whether they will continue with the Frick Communities and commit to funding. If Scottdale does not participate Councilman Tabita said we have alternate funding that he will present at the work session.

Councilman Tabita said he is working with Seth from Armstrong to get Mount Pleasant on Facebook. Then anyone who becomes a friend of Mount Pleasant on Facebook will receive any announcements including emergency situations. Councilman Tucholski agreed that Facebook can be useful, but pointed out that it is interactive and we will be opening ourselves up for adverse comments that everyone who is a friend on our page will see. Seth said that our Facebook page will be a fan page and we can turn off the ability to post public comments. People can send a message, but it would not be public.

New Business:

Councilwoman Stevenson suggested that since there will be a new flagpole erected at Frick Park and next Monday is Flag Day it would be nice to have a small ceremony at the raising of the first flag.

Councilman McCloy referred Council to the ordinance requiring property owners to trim or remove any grass, weeds, trees, shrubs or hedges that are in violation of the ordinance. If the property owner does not act after being notified by the Borough that they are in violation, they can be fined not more than \$1,000 plus costs. Councilwoman Stevenson said that there is also an ordinance specific to trees requiring that they be trimmed to 15 feet above a roadway and 7 feet above a sidewalk and property owners can be fined immediately for up to \$1,000.

President Bauer said that he feels if council committees had meetings between the regular council meetings more could be accomplished.

Reading of Communications: None

Discussion and Payment of Bills:

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

Miscellaneous and Adjournment:

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

Meeting adjourned 9:06pm

Motion from June 7, 2010 Meeting

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