

Meeting July 19, 2010

The meeting of Mount Pleasant Borough Council was called to order by President Bauer at 7:14pm 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, Tabita, Tate and Councilwomen Stevenson and Ruszkowski were present. Mayor Lucia was present and The Borough Solicitor was absent. 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 July 6, 2010. Motion seconded by Councilman Beranek. Motion carried 8-0.

President Bauer announced that an Executive Session was held at 6:30pm tonight before the regular work session to discuss real estate.

Public Comment:

Pastor Ben Tobias, Mount Pleasant Church of God talked to Council about the group of 60 young people in town doing some projects. They are from all over the country. The group started today and has already gotten a lot done. Borough Manager Landy said the young people are doing an excellent job and the Borough plans to have a small party on Friday before they leave.

Mr. Gary Miscovich, Norvelt PA spoke to council about Fay-West Fast-Pitch Softball League that would like to use Frick Park for their games this year. The league will provide liability insurance making the Borough second insured. They would like to use the field from July 26th to August 13th Monday, Wednesday and Friday. The games would start at 6:30pm and they would play two games per night finishing up at 9:45. Councilman Tate said that the Girl's Softball League could open the concession stand and make some money while the games are being played. Mr. Miscovich said that they would like to use the bases stored in the concession stand and if anything happens to any of the bases they will replace them. They will also pay the electric cost for using the lights.

A motion was made by Councilman Tate to suspend the rules for the purpose of a motion to allow Fay-West Fast Pitch League to use Frick Park ball field for their games. Motion seconded by Councilman Beranek. Motion carried 8-0.

A motion was made by Councilman Tate to allow Fay-West Fast Pitch Softball League use Frick Park ball field three days per week from July 26th to August 13th. Motion seconded by Councilman Tabita. Motion carried 8-0.

Speakers:

Catherine McCollom from the Trail Town Program spoke to Council regarding sign guidelines since we are interested in updating the Sign Ordinance. Ms. McCollom has experience in what works and what are best practices. Council discussed various issues include sandwich boards and projecting signage, size and materials. President Bauer brought up the subject of a board at Willows Park to draw bike trail users to Borough businesses. Ms. McCollom discussed a three-sided kiosk for that purpose. The cost for a kiosk would be between three and four thousand dollars. Councilman Tabita said that it would be necessary to also have a sign on Main Street pointing bikers to the trail and bike racks on Main Street. Mr. Landy suggested revitalizing the Social Walkway for bike racks and visitors.

Ms. McCollum also spoke to Council about the need to draw attention to the Borough as part of the Laurel Highlands. She presented Council with a proposal to create a comprehensive marketing approach and implementation plan of visitor attraction and business development strategies for the Borough.

Eric Fulmer and Bill Waselewski, Mullin & Lonergan spoke to Council about development objectives for the community and a comprehensive plan. Mr. Fulmer said that the Zoning Ordinance should be tied to a comprehensive plan in order for the courts to uphold zoning decision-making. Mr. Fulmer

discussed different aspects of a comprehensive plan. Any comprehensive plan would be developed in conjunction with the Planning Commission and would take approximately one year to complete. The law says that the Planning Commission shall prepare the comprehensive plan. Mr. Fulmer said that the Borough could request assistance from Westmoreland County under the CDBG Program. The cost of the comprehensive plan would be approximately \$65,000. Mr. Fulmer said that a solid GIS based map of the Borough would be developed and could be used for a variety of purposes. Mr. Fulmer stressed that the Borough's ability to regulate land use in the community needs to be tied to the comprehensive plan.

Mayor's Report:

Mayor Lucia reported that he attended the Annual Mayor's Conference. 55 mayors attended the conference and there were a lot of table-talk discussions. There were a lot of speakers from various state agencies. Mayor Lucia said that one of the main issues discussed is the loss of revenue to local clubs and churches since the legalization of gambling and opening of casinos in the area. Also discussed was the cuts in state funding in the next two or three years. In 2012 school taxes are expected to go up by 25% – 35% to cover the pension fund.

Solicitor's Report: None

Treasurer's Report:

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

Mt. Pleasant Borough Treasurer's Report:		Jun-10		
	Previous Balance	Deposits	Disbursements	Balance Jun10
PNC 00-0122-3513	50,000.00	209,795.02	209,606.02	50,189.00
PNC 10-1149-3394	793,753.82	54,941.07	129,021.99	719,672.90
PNC 102-457-4388	69,880.86	22.11	0.00	69,902.97
	30,000.00			
	10,000.00			
	10,000.00			
	19,902.97			
Standard Bank 321615	195,857.72	161.05	0.00	196,018.77
	40,000.00			
	40,000.00			
	56,518.77			
	50,000.00			
	7,000.00			
	2,500.00			
PLGIT 56980126	94,719.26	3.06	0.00	94,722.32
Standard Bank 242781	5,739.23	0.00	0.00	5,739.23
Standard Bank 050004849	1,799.02	0.23	0.00	1,799.25
PNC 00-0122-6415	1,527.70	49,971.04	50,024.81	1,473.93
First Niagara 981293700	5,499.13	570.00	360.42	5,708.71
PLGIT 5698025	11,252.70	0.36	0.00	11,253.06
PNC 10-1291-2642	850.50	0.00	0.00	850.50
Standard Bank 0010038847	612.33	0.08	0.00	612.41
PNC Bank 10-2825-9692	14,482.01	0.00	14,000.00	482.01
				1,158,425.06
Standard Bank 0320012280	253,677.06	29,992.30	59,466.20	224,223.16
Standard Bank 0050021008	22,777.76	3,029.42	0.00	25,807.18
Standard Bank 0000287245	127,973.08	105.23	0.00	128,078.31
	88,078.31			
	40,000.00			
				378,108.65

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

Mayor Lucia asked where the donations we are receiving for the K-9 Unit are being deposited. Borough Manager Landy said that the donations are being deposited into the General Fund in a separate line item. Borough Manager Landy also explained that the Drug Enforcement bank account is used strictly for drug enforcement. Patrolman Dan Zilli is now the Director of the Westmoreland County Drug Task Force and we will be seeing a lot more Drug Task Force activity. Mr. Landy said he will be meeting with Magistrate Eckels to make certain we handle everything the correct way so that arrests that are made are good arrests. Council discussed the K-9 Unit and how out of town calls etc. would be handled.

President Bauer asked Mr. Landy to have Police Chief Ober check on whether we can use the funds in the Drug Enforcement account for K-9 Unit expenses.

President's Report:

A motion was made by Councilman Tate to accept the resignation of 1st Ward Councilman Jim Tucholski. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Ruszkowski. Motion carried 8-0.

A motion was made by Councilman Tate to advertise for a 1st Ward Councilperson. Resumes must be at the borough office by 4:00pm on 8/20/10 and interviews will be conducted at 6:30pm on 8/23/10. Motion seconded by Councilman Beranek. Motion carried 8-0.

President Bauer said he, Mayor Lucia and Borough Manager Landy met with Westmoreland Conservation District regarding the rain gardens at the Library and in Levin's parking lot. It was agreed to pay W.G. Land Co. for their work since they did follow the specs laid out for them. Westmoreland Conservation District said that they will work out the financing to correct the problems in the rain gardens at the Library and Levin's parking lot. One of the solutions would be a trough drain in the alley behind Levin's to handle the water coming off of Main Street.

President Bauer said that bids for Phase II of the Storm Water Retrofit Project hopefully will be in and ready to be awarded at the August 23rd council meeting and construction can begin in one or two weeks after that. Construction would be completed by the end of October 2010. The rain gardens in Phase II will be designed to hold roof water from the home on the property where the garden is built. There have been discussions with Mount Pleasant Township about them doing some rain gardens to handle the run off from the trailer park onto N Geary Street.

President Bauer made the following changes to Council Committees:

Public Safety: Remove Councilwoman Stevenson
 Add Councilman McCloy

Separate Streets and Parks & Recreation as follows:

Streets: Larry Tate, Chairman
 Councilman Crivella
 Councilwoman Stevenson

Parks & Recreation: Councilman Crivella, Chairman
 Councilwoman Stevenson
 Councilman Tate

Property: President Bauer, temporary appointment
 Councilman Tabita
 Councilwoman Ruszkowski

President Bauer said that if anyone feels their workload is too heavy the committees can be adjusted.

President Bauer asked Councilman Tabita to move forward with plans to bring bike trail visitors to Main Street. Council discussed different ideas on how to proceed.

Borough Manager’s Report:

Borough Manager Landy went on record as being very disappointed in Phase I of the Storm Water Retrofit Project (rain gardens). He does not feel that Westmoreland Conservation District designed them correctly and that they underestimated the water flow. Since the gardens have overflowed three times in this short time Mr. Landy said he feels that the design failed. Mr. Landy has asked McCormick Taylor Engineers to be more involved in the Borough’s position. Mr. Landy said he feels it would be a major mistake to put rain gardens on personal property until all of the problems are ironed out.

Mr. Landy said Councilman Tabita has also asked McCormick Taylor Engineers to speak to Council about a comprehensive plan. They are coming from the perspective that the Borough apply for grant money to fund the plan.

Mr. Landy said that the Sea To Shining Sea event that brought disabled veterans to the Borough went very well and he thanked everyone who participated.

Mr. Landy said that Sarp and Co. has started the 2009 audit of the Borough and they assured us that it will move much faster this year.

Mr. Landy said that at Councilman Beranek’s request he and Mayor Lucia double-checked the size of the sidewalk that is being restored in front of McCali Manor. The sidewalk measured 6’ 4” which is 4” more than is required.

Mr. Landy met with the Redevelopment Authority and there is an inventory of each community on a county website showing businesses, properties for rent and properties for sale. The website will be up and running in a month or two. Anyone who wants to come to the Borough and develop will be able to go to the website and go to a tax map number to see the property.

Mr. Landy said that CoGo’s has given the Borough permission to put up a sign that says “Picture Spot” where visitors can take pictures of our Main Street with the mountains in the background.

Mr. Landy said that Suzy Q’s donated \$110 from their July 3rd proceeds and Aunt Dee Dee’s donated \$150 making the total \$160.00.

Mr. Landy said he received information from the Southwest Pennsylvania Commission regarding a traffic signal program. Mr. Landy said he will turn the grant information over to Police Chief Ober. The deadline for the grant is September 10, 2010.

Waste Water Treatment Report:

Councilman Tate said that the Kraisinger resident flooded. WWT personnel repaired a broken line in the alley and installed two catch basins. It is our belief that the broken line did not contribute to the flooding. There will be some curbing installed also. After the curbing is installed McCormick Taylor Engineers will draft a letter stating that the issue is resolved and Mr. Kraisinger has agreed to sign it. Council discussed the prospect of running a line down the street and requiring the property owners to tap into it. Other solutions were discussed by Council. Two of the properties need to have a line run out the back. Council discussed whose responsibility is it to run the line. President Bauer told Mr. Landy to call Nat Abromson, Mount Pleasant Municipal Authority, to set up a meeting with him and the Waste Water Treatment Committee.

Public Safety Report:

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

Total calls for the month:	140
Medical	113
MVA	5

Fire	9
Transfer	1
Standby	12
In town	74
Out of town	66
Members per call	3.0

Councilman Beranek said Patrolman George Grippo is doing an excellent job raising money for the K-9 Unit.

President Bauer said that he has observed that more and more municipalities are purchasing 6 cylinder vehicles that get better mileage.

Zoning and Ordinance Report:

Councilman McCloy said that Ms. McCollom is going to look over our Sign Ordinance and make some recommendations.

Councilman McCloy said that the ordinance under Health and Safety regarding cutting and trimming grass needs revised. Councilman McCloy feels another paragraph needs to be added stating that “After the first season if repeated offenses by the owner or occupant occur, the Mayor, officer or employee of the Borough need not give repeated notices, and the Borough authorities may again remove, trim or cut such grass weeds or vegetation or trees, hedges, bushes or shrubbery and the cost thereof, together with any additional penalty authorized by law, may be collected by the Borough from such person, firm or corporation in the manner provided by law.” Mr. Landy said he will give the change to Solicitor Wolfe for his opinion on the legalities.

President Bauer said he gave Councilman McCloy a letter from FEMA concerning Flood Plains stating that we have to have an updated ordinance so that anyone in the flood insurance program is able to participate. There is a deadline for this to be done.

Streets/Parks & Recreation Report:

Councilman Tate said that the nine people who were invited to sit on the Recreational Advisory Committee are:

- Bob Hauser
- Dale Flaherty
- Phillip Beanner
- Tony Splendor
- John Depasquale Jr.
- Dan Szolek
- Bill Potoka Jr.
- Bob Sofranko
- Bob Seder

Councilman Crivella said that since he will be chairing the Recreation Committee he would like to pick the people he feels should be on the Advisory Committee. President Bauer asked Councilman Crivella to get together a list of names.

Veterans Park Report: None

Finance Report:

A motion was made by Councilwoman Ruszkowski to sign a Delinquent Tax Collection Service Agreement with G.H. Harris for collection of 2009 delinquent per capita tax. Motion seconded by Councilman Beranek. Motion carried 8-0.

Property Report:

Councilman Crivella said that there is a local Boy Scout who would like to put up the Welcome To Mount Pleasant signs. Councilman Tate said that the only place we currently have ground to erect a sign is by CVS Pharmacy.

Sanitation & Recycling Report: None

Councilwoman Stevenson said that for commercial recycling the business owner must call Allied Waste for a dumpster. There will be additional cost for the dumpster, but less garbage would go into their regular dumpster.

Community and Economic Development/Grants Report:

Councilman Tabita talked about a proposal from Catherine McCollom for market analysis. It is a strategy to position Mount Pleasant to reap the economic benefits of outdoor recreation trail based tourism opportunities. Mr. Landy said that since the Frick Communities doesn't seem to be going anywhere, we could use the money budgeted for that to fund this program. Councilman Tabita stressed the need for economic development and also the need for businesses to cooperate with any program that is instituted. President Bauer suggested going to the BDA and requesting that they contribute their share of the Frick Communities to this project.

Councilman Tabita said that this week he will work on putting together a 30 second ad from the Mount Pleasant DVD with Kingfish Productions. Councilman Tabita talked about a proposed iphone application for Mount Pleasant and Council continued to discuss the possibility of a comprehensive plan.

New Business: None

Reading of Communications:

Borough Manager Landy read the following communications:

- The 1st Annual Community and Economic Development Summit will be held on September 9, 2010 at the Conference Center at St. Vincent College in the Fred M. Rogers Center, Latrobe.
- Council received two letters from residents requesting a "Watch Children" sign be placed on both ends of Broad Street. President Bauer asked Mr. Landy to turn the requests over to the Safety Committee.
- An invitation from McCali Manor to celebrate the opening on July 31, 2010 from noon to 8pm.
- There will be a Board of Assessment Appeals hearing for 515 W Main Street at the Westmoreland County Courthouse on July 21, 2010. The Borough can attend the hearing to protest the tax reduction.
- Smart Growth Partnership is having a Power of 32 – Community Conversations at St. Vincent College on July 27, 2010 from 6:30pm to 8:30pm.

Discussion and Payment of Bills:

A motion was made by Councilman Beranek to pay all authorized and approved bills. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Stevenson. Motion carried 8-0.

Miscellaneous and Adjournment:

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

Meeting Adjourned 9:54pm

Motions from July 19, 2010 Meeting

A motion was made by Councilwoman Stevenson to dispense with the reading of the minutes of July 19, 2010. Motion seconded by Councilman Beranek. Motion carried 8-0.

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