

## Meeting July 2, 2012

The meeting of Mount Pleasant Borough Council was called to order by President Bauer at 7:10pm 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 Councilman Pritts' Father who passed away this week. President Bauer directed Borough Manager Landy to take roll. Councilmen McCloy, Pritts, Tate and Councilwomen Bailey and Ruszkowski were present. Mayor Lucia and Solicitor Wolfe were present. President Bauer stated we have a quorum.

### **Reading of the Minutes:**

A motion was made by Councilwoman Ruszkowski to dispense with the reading of the minutes of June 18, 2012 since Council has been provided with a copy. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Pritts. Motion carried 6-0.

### **Speakers:**

Brian Shrum, Station Manager, Mount Pleasant EMS addressed Council. Mr. Shrum reported to Council that the Frick Hospital EMS will be closing in approximately 90 days. Mount Pleasant EMS recently purchased an SUV that will be used as a personnel carrier and occasional stand-bys. Mr. Shrum said that if anyone has any questions regarding the ambulance service they can stop at the station any time. The Mount Pleasant EMS is now offering CPR classes to the public and other professionals.

John Sarp, Sarp & Company presented a report on the Mount Pleasant Glass and Ethnic Festival. Mr. Sarp said his firm has been auditing the Glass Festival for many years. Mr. Sarp gave council members a recap of the audits for the last 5 years. Mr. Sarp reported that revenues for the Glass Festival have remained the same, in five years they have gone from \$88,000 to \$92,000. Expenditures have dropped, therefore producing more revenue. Mr. Sarp explained that the audit of the Glass Festival is done in the same manner as any other audit and his firm has always issued an unqualified opinion which is the highest form of assurance that an entity can get on its financial statements. There have never been any items included in the management letter or that Council should be made aware of other than the normal operation of this fund. Mr. Sarp said that the Glass Festival has always immediately provided any documents that his firm has requested and has been very forthcoming.

Allen Kukovich, Chairman of the Board of the Smart Growth Partnership said that funding for the Smart Growth Partnership has been harder to find and the role has changed to be more project specific and project oriented. Part of that process is to appoint new members to the Board and make it more diverse. One of the new board members is Mount Pleasant Borough Manager Jeff Landy. The shift is to try to make sure that the Partnership can go to foundations and show accomplishments. The reason for appointing Mr. Landy to the Board is because of the continuity shown by Mount Pleasant Borough that is lacking in some other municipalities in Westmoreland County and Mr. Landy has been a leader among other managers in the area. He has initiated greater collaboration between municipalities as well as the County. That kind of collaboration is absolutely necessary in order for municipalities to get the resources they need. Mr. Kukovich said that Mr. Landy has already provided insight in a number of areas. Funding for projects is getting tighter and tighter and is available to municipalities only if they are working in collaboration. Mr. Kukovich explained how Smart Growth is working with colleges and universities.

Chris Barnhart, Gingerbread Promotions, spoke to Council about a project for the holiday season. Ms. Barnhart presented a proposal for an annual gingerbread display and competition to be initiated in 2012. Participants will be asked to construct a gingerbread house that will be displayed at various businesses on Main Street. Ms. Barnhart explained the various categories of the competition and that they will be judged from child to professional. A Peoples Choice award will be given by the public by dropping off a ballot at each business that participates. The Peoples Choice award will benefit local business by soliciting patronage into their place of business. All proceeds from purchases of the gingerbread homes will benefit veterans programs. Mr. Landy said that the Glass and Ethnic Festival will be doing some pre-publicity for the event.

Hopefully the event will grow each year. With Council's approval of the project, we will provide information on the borough web-site and have the forms available.

A motion was made by Councilman Pritts to suspend the rules for the purpose of approving the Gingerbread House competition for the 2012 holiday season. Motion seconded by Councilman Tate. Motion carried 6-0.

A motion was made by Councilman Pritts to approve the Gingerbread House competition for the 2012 holiday season and to advertise as needed. Motion seconded by Councilman Tate. Motion carried 6-0.

Mr. Rich Kujawa, a member of the Mount Pleasant Glass & Ethnic Festival, presented Council with a check in the amount of \$1,000 donation for the July 3, 2012 fireworks display.

President Bauer said that the Mount Pleasant Glass & Ethnic Festival has always supported Mount Pleasant and as of the end of 2011, the Festival has donated \$71,836.39 to the community.

**Public Comment:**

Rosemary Skaggs, 100 Bessemer Road, Mount Pleasant PA spoke to Council about a group of veterans, many of whom are wounded veterans, are participating in an event sponsored by State Farm Insurance called Sea to Shining Sea. These veterans will bicycle for 68 days and 3,700 miles from San Francisco to Virginia Beach. The purpose of the ride is to honor our military and to inspire people with disabilities. On July 18, 2012 these riders will reach Mount Pleasant at noon. Leo & Sons Grille 31 has agreed to provide a lunch for the riders. The organizers of the event are requesting permission to use the Freedom of Speech Area as a resting place for the riders and to close Diamond Street in front of Veterans Park between noon and 2:00pm in order to make this a safe and successful event. Mr. Landy said that Council has asked businesses on Main Street to come out on the street to support the riders.

A motion was made by Councilman Tate to suspend the rules for the purpose of closing Diamond Street on July 18, 2012. Motion seconded by Councilman Pritts. Motion carried 6-0.

A motion was made by Councilman Tate to close Diamond Street from Main Street to Washington Street on July 18, 2012 from noon to 2PM for the Sea to Shining Sea program. Motion seconded by Councilman Pritts. Motion carried 6-0.

**Mayor's Report:**

Mayor Lucia read the following Police Report for the month of June 2012:

Report of the Mount Pleasant Police Department for the month of June 2012

The Department answered 119 calls during the month as follows

Complaints	89
Requests for assistance	5
Assist Other Departments	4
Accidents investigated	6
Calls Returned	15
Assist Medic 10	0
Assist Mutual Aid	0

The Department made 26 arrests during the month as follows:

Vehicle Code	43
Crimes Code	10
Borough Ordinance	0
Warning Issued	0

Parking Tickets issued are as follows:

\$1.00 Meter Ticket	2
\$4.00 Meter Tickets	0
\$10.00 No Parking Tickets	0

Void / Excused	0	
\$2.00 Parking Tickets Paid	0	\$ -
		\$
\$4.00 Parking Tickets Paid	2	8.00
\$5.00 Parking Tickets Paid	0	\$ -
		\$
\$10.00 Parking Tickets Paid	5	50.00
\$15.00 Parking Tickets Paid	0	\$ -
\$10.00 No Parking Tickets Pd	0	\$ -
\$20.00 Parking Tickets Pd	0	\$ -
		\$
Return from Magistrate Eckels		717.08
Return from Clerk of Courts		\$ -
		\$
Return from Report Fees		15.00
		\$
Return from Parking Permits		10.00
Return from Soliciting Permits		\$ -
Return from Restitution		\$ -
Return from Fence Permits		\$ -
		\$
Total		800.08
1 Meter Collection		n/a
		\$
Total Receipts for the month		800.08

Police Officer George Grippo reported that there have been about 15 to 20 vehicle break-ins in the Borough with various items including guns and knives stolen. A search warrant was obtained, an arrest was made and items were confiscated including knives and guns. Officer Grippo asked anyone who had their vehicle broken into to please call the Mount Pleasant Police Department to identify their property.

Officer Grippo said that Friday evening Police Officer Dan Zilli got a tip that a vehicle with out-of-state plates was coming into the Borough to sell illegal narcotics. The vehicle was spotted and the driver, who was a wanted felon, took off on foot. Officer Grippo was called to bring the K-9 Officer to the scene to do a track. The Mount Pleasant K-9 was able to track the suspect and an arrest was made. Officer Grippo said that the K-9 Officer has had 22 deployments since being trained.

Mayor Lucia asked Officer Grippo about the present situation at the basketball courts. Officer Grippo reported that everything seems to be under control, but if any policeman hears profane language or if garbage is left on the courts, they will be locked. President Bauer said that he and Mayor Lucia have given the police department the authority to lock the courts when they see any bad behavior.

Mayor Lucia said that all of the members of the Mount Pleasant Volunteer Fire Department want to thank everyone who participated in the 2012 Firemen's Fair. The support is greatly appreciated.

Mayor Lucia said that the back door of Saloom's Funeral Home opens directly onto Coppula Drive and the situation is dangerous. Mayor Lucia said that he would like members of the Public Safety Committee to meet with representatives from Saloom's to look at the situation.

Mayor Lucia said he received a request to make the alley between Rumbaugh and Mullin one-way.

Mayor Lucia said that the most recent report from B.I.U. regarding rental inspections is as follows:

# of known landlords	380
# of landlords registered	163

# of properties paid 401  
# of properties inspected 341  
# of properties paid & not inspected 60

**Solicitor's Report:** None

**Tax Collector's Report:**

Tax Collector Carol Yancosky read the following tax report for the month of June 2012:

Property Taxes	\$42,643.20
Per Capita Taxes	\$ 511.50
Total	\$43,154.70

**President's Report:**

A motion was made by Councilwoman Ruszkowski to accept Councilwoman Bailey's resignation from the Mount Pleasant Civil Service Board. Motion seconded by Councilman Pritts. Motion carried 6-0.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Ruszkowski to appoint Councilman Snyder as Chairman of the Mount Pleasant Civil Service Board. Motion seconded by Councilman Pritts. Motion carried 6-0.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Ruszkowski to appoint Mr. Albert Beranek to the Mount Pleasant Civil Service Board. Motion seconded by Councilman Pritts. Motion carried 6-0.

President Bauer said that he is going to appoint Councilman Snyder as Chairman of Public Safety, Councilman McCloy will remain as Chairman of Zoning & Ordinance, Councilman McFeaters will be Chairman of Parks & Recreation and Sanitation & Recycling, Councilwoman Ruszkowski will be Chairman of Finance as well as Human Resources, Councilman Pritts will remain Chairman of Property and Councilwoman Bailey will be Chairman of Community & Economic Development/Grants. President Bauer said that he will remain Chairman of Waste Water Treatment until he appoints someone in the future.

President Bauer said that he is going to appoint Councilwoman Stevenson to a new committee that will oversee communications.

President Bauer asked everyone to come out for the music and fireworks on July 3rd. Some residents asked if the Borough was having fireworks this year because not enough money was raised. President Bauer said that the donation from the Glass & Ethnic Festival will help a great deal and Council has agreed to pay the balance from the General Fund. President Bauer said he is already working with Borough Manager Landy for ways to fund next year's fireworks.

**Borough Manager's Report:**

Borough Manager Landy said that as Co-Chairmen of the Mount Pleasant Glass & Ethnic Festival, he and Mayor Lucia do not vote with the Festival Committee and he was very proud that at the last meeting the Glass Festival Committee voted unanimously to contribute to the Borough's July 3rd fireworks display. The committee volunteers have always wanted to do what's right for the Borough. Mr. Landy said that the members of the Committee are the best of the best and should be recognized as such.

Mr. Landy said that this year there will be vendors at the July 3rd Party in the Park along with the music and fireworks.

Mr. Landy asked Council to look at the most recent Budget Vs. Actual report and if they have any questions or comments to please call him at the borough office.

Mr. Landy said that there will be a meeting with representatives from the School District tomorrow at 2:15pm to discuss the Borough's options regarding the tennis courts. There may be

a possibility to save two of the courts through a joint venture with the School District and the Borough.

Mr. Landy said that a meeting of the Mount Pleasant Safety Committee is held each month with discussions on how to make each department and its personnel safer, from safety gear to how to handle chemicals.

Mr. Landy said that there have been planning meetings with representatives from the County regarding the proposed parklet on the property where the old theater was located. This will be the first project of its kind for the Westmoreland County Redevelopment Authority. The Borough Solicitor will handle the paperwork involved in transferring the deed from Robert and Donna Beck, who are donating the property, to the Borough. Demolition of the building should occur sometime before October 2012.

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

WWT Superintendent Norman Stout said that he was approached by Mr. Joe Piefer who works for a company contracted by the Pennsylvania Turnpike to maintain the turnpike maintenance sheds and to dispose of wastewater from washing the vehicles etc. Mr. Piefer has asked to be allowed to haul 20,000 to 30,000 gallons of this waste water, four to six times per year to the Mount Pleasant WWT Plant. Mr. Stout said that he explained to Mr. Piefer that any costs incurred would have to be paid by them.

#### **Streets Report:**

Councilman Tate said that the part-time personnel recently hired for the Street Department are working out well. They are handling a lot of clean up and will start painting lines and crack-sealing next month.

President Bauer said that the Borough should begin changing traffic signs to comply with the new regulations.

A discussion ensued regarding maintaining borough streets.

**Public Safety Report:** None

#### **Zoning & Ordinance Report:**

A motion was made by Councilman McCloy to adopt Sump Pump Ordinance #634. Motion seconded by Councilman Tate. Motion carried 6-0.

Councilman McCloy said that at the next council meeting he would like to discuss amendments to the ordinance pertaining to the Mount Pleasant Library and the monies the Borough contributes to the Library and stipulations of receiving the contribution. Councilman McCloy would also like to discuss amendments to the Motor Vehicles and Traffic Ordinance regarding how monies from meter collections are allocated.

#### **Parks & Recreation Report:**

A discussion ensued regarding the use of the Basketball Court at Frick Park. The courts should not be monopolized by rogue leagues, but are for the use of residents of the Borough.

Mr. Landy said that it has been discussed with the recreational leagues in the Borough about having a recreational weekend. It would be a program where there would be a day of three-on-three basketball games, a day of family whiffle ball, a family soccer game and other events.

**Community & Economic Development/Grants Report:** None

**Veterans Park Report:** None

President Bauer reported that the new fence was installed at Satcho's Park last week and there is no longer an entrance to the township, all entrances are from N. Geary Street.

**Finance Report:**

A motion was made by Councilwoman Ruszkowski to transfer \$3,395 from Budgetary Reserve, Levins Line Item, to pay the invoice from RTR Landscaping for work done at the Howard Levin Monument at Willows Park. Motion seconded by Councilman Pritts. Motion carried 6-0.

Councilman Tate said that the Levin family was notified of the renovation and they are very pleased with the results.

Councilwoman Ruszkowski reported that she attended a meeting with HDH Group who is the Borough's insurance carrier regarding insuring borough entities. Many concerns were clarified regarding those coverages. Councilwoman Ruszkowski said she received a letter today outlining the issues and she will have a report ready for the next council meeting.

**Property Report:**

Councilman Pritts said that he provided the Street Department with a list of maintenance issues and many of them have already been completed. He thanked Street Supervisor Fontanazza and his crew along for doing such a good job.

Councilman Pritts thanked Council and borough employees for the flowers that were sent to his father's funeral. Councilman Pritts said that he appreciates all of the support he received.

Borough Manager Landy said that he has received a preliminary sketch for the Welcome to Mount Pleasant sign that he will share with Council. The cost is under \$2,000, which is half the last estimate.

**Sanitation & Recycling Report:** None

**New Business:**

President Bauer thanked Supervisor Mario Fontanazza and Street Department personnel for removing a tree in Satcho's Park. President Bauer said that there are two more trees that need to be removed before they also cause problems.

**Reading of Communications:**

Borough Manager Landy read the following communications:

- The second annual Wounded Warrior Project Motorcycle Run will be held on Saturday July 28, 2012 and the Borough will accommodate them at the Veterans Park area. There will be a dinner for the Veterans at the Mount Pleasant VFW from 1:00pm to 7:00pm.
- A Newly Elected Officials Summer Program schedule.
- A letter from Mr. Bob Altman regarding bagging the meters at McCali Manor.
- The Mount Pleasant Area Cheerleaders are having a golf outing on August 5, 2012 and they are requesting that the Borough sponsor a hole.

**Discussion and Payment of Bills:**

A motion was made by Councilman Pritts to pay all authorized and approved bills. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Ruszkowski. Motion carried 6-0.

**Miscellaneous and Adjournment:**

A motion was made by Councilman Pritts to adjourn the meeting. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Ruszkowski. Motion carried 6-0.

**Meeting Adjourned 8:24pm**

## **Minutes from July 2, 2012 Meeting**

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