

Meeting July 20, 2009

The meeting of Mount Pleasant Borough Council was called to order by President Tabita at 7:05pm 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, Tate and Councilwomen Ruskowski and Stevenson were present. Mayor Lucia was present and Solicitor Toohey arrived at 7:07pm. 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 July 6, 2009. Motion seconded by Councilman Beranek. Motion carried 8-0.

Public Comment:

Johanna Kraisinger, 139 Quarry Street, Mount Pleasant said she would like to speak about the proposed WWT Project on Quarry Street. Ms. Kraisinger said there is no guarantee that this project will solve the problems and she estimates it will cost her \$30,000. Ms. Kraisinger went on to discuss proposed solutions to Mr. Topley's problem.

Dan Topley, 145 Quarry Street, Mount Pleasant said he had a sewage backup in December of 2008 and brought it to the attention of the Borough. Mr. Topley said he is satisfied with the proposed WWT Project on Quarry Street. Mr. Topley said he is willing to bear the expense of approximately \$15,000 now rather than pay more several years down the line.

Ms. Kraisinger said she also has issues with high grass on Frick Hospital property across from the tennis courts on Reservoir Street and behind her home on the bank of the football field. She has tried to contact the maintenance supervisor at the high school and he has not responded. President Tabita said the Borough will look into those properties.

Norm Stout, WWT Supervisor presented Council with a diagram of the proposed Quarry Street Project and an explanation of the project including where the new sewage line would be run and the laterals from the properties. The project was first proposed after Mr. Topley came to a meeting with his problem. Council requested that Mr. Stout look at the problem. Mr. Stout cameraed the main sewer line and Council was shown a video showing the excess flow in the line from the homes included in the proposed project. Council asked Mr. Stout for ways to resolve the issue and Mr. Stout proposed the current project. President Tabita asked Mr. Stout what the cost to homeowners would be and Mr. Stout said it would be difficult to give each homeowner a cost because each property is different. All of the homes involved in the project have surface water going into the main sewer lines and are in violation of Borough Ordinance #592 and could be cited. Councilman Bauer reminded Council that some years ago the DEP came into the Borough and said we were mandated to separate our storm water from our sanitary sewer. Ms. Kraisinger said that she has removed what she believes is the cause of surface water from her property and she would like WWT personnel to re-camera her lines. Further discussion ensued regarding the timing of the project. Mr. Stout emphasized to Council that if there is any aspect of the project that they do not understand he will be happy to explain. Mr. Stout said that he explained to Ms. Kraisinger that if she reconnects the existing lines there will be an inspection port installed and during every rain event WWT personnel will inspect her lines. If any significant storm water is going into the sanitary sewer she will be given a 30-day notice at that time. A lengthy discussion ensued regarding other ways Mr. Topley's problem could be solved. President Tabita said that the Waste Water Treatment Committee will look at all options and report back to Council.

Speakers:

Marie Murphy, Mount Pleasant BDA spoke to Council regarding the BDA's recommendations and comments on the proposed Sign Ordinance. Ms. Murphy told Council that the BDA has not had a chance to really go over the proposed ordinance and asked if it would be possible to postpone passage of the new ordinance. President Tabita said that it will not be possible to postpone passage of the proposed Sign Ordinance but everyone will be able to comment on the ordinance when it is advertised and presented for public viewing.

Ms. Murphy said she is unable to determine if the BDA has bylaws. Ms. Murphy said that the present BDA members are going to begin working on a set of bylaws.

Ms. Murphy also expressed concerns about the parking meters in the Borough. She feels there should be some changes made and for all of the meters to be more uniform. Some of the meters need new batteries and she would like Council to take responsibility for replacing those batteries.

Ms. Murphy said that Leo Wisniewski is no longer interested in purchasing the building housing the In Town Shops, which is owned by the BDA. The BDA is willing to discuss any options for the building whether it is to sell it or hire a manager and rent the space. Councilman Crivella said that Council made a motion to sell the property. As of 4:00pm today the building will be empty with no tenants. Council had a discussion regarding what steps could be taken against Bill & Andi's who owe back rent. Ms. Murphy said that the next meeting of the BDA will be Wednesday at 7:00pm and she would like someone from Council to attend.

John McGoran, Allied Waste spoke about curbside recycling in the Borough. He has been working with Councilman McCloy regarding this issue. Councilman Bauer asked about grant money for the containers. Mr. McGoran said that the cost of containers is in the original agreement and if grant money is made available to the Borough the cost to residents would be reduced. Right now the cost stands at \$1.28 per month to residents. If the Borough has curbside recycling the cost of our garbage collection could be reduced or any potential increase could be eliminated. Councilman Bauer asked where the savings would go and Mr. Landy said that any rebates on our garbage collection would be given back to residents. Councilman Bauer asked how businesses would handle curbside recycling and Mr. McGoran said that pick up would only be once a week. Businesses would pay the same amount for recycling as they do for garbage but the size of their regular garbage containers could be reduced. Residents would each get a recycling bin and they would put paper, plastic, cardboard and cans in the bins with no need to separate. Councilwoman Stevenson asked how residents would know about the recycling and Mr. McGoran said that the contract requires a 4-page flyer be given to each resident. The bins would be 18-gallon bins. Councilman Bauer asked how residents could get an extra bin if they want one. Mr. McGoran said that residents can buy a tub from somewhere and label it as recycling and Allied Waste will take what is in that bin as well. Councilman McCloy said that the curbside recycling program would probably start in January 2010.

A motion was made by Councilman McCloy to suspend the rules for the purpose of curbside recycling. Motion seconded by Councilman Bauer. Motion carried 8-0.

A motion was made by Councilman McCloy to authorize Allied Waste to prepare a recycling contract for the Borough to start January 1, 2010. Motion seconded by Councilman Bauer. Motion carried 8-0.

Mr. McGoran said he will meet with Borough Manager Landy on coordinating the public education of the recycling program.

President Tabita said that the public has been abusing the dumpster at the Street Department and it may have to be moved inside the locked gate. The dumpster is for Borough and Street Department use only.

Mayor's Report:

Mayor Lucia reminded car owners to lock their doors. Right now break-ins in the Borough are down and keeping car doors locked will help to keep them down.

Mayor Lucia said that he is still working on the addresses of four locations in the Borough but they should be resolved this week.

Mayor Lucia wanted to let the public know that speed control is in force right now to try to curb speeders in the Borough and the problem with the parking meters is being addressed. Mr. Landy said that after talking with Councilwoman Ruszkowski it was decided that there is money in the budget to repair some of the meters. He asked Chief Ober to do one section at a time and Chief Ober said he will start with the section from Goo's to Hitchman Street.

Mayor Lucia said he would like copies of the by-laws of all of the borough authorities on file at the borough office.

Councilman Crivella said that there is a 45mph speed limit sign at the top of the hill on Main Street after the light at Morewood Street and it should be moved further down.

Council discussed Welcome To Mount Pleasant signs. There are none in place right now. Locations for the signs was discussed.

Solicitor's Report: None

A motion was made by Councilman Crivella for an Executive Session. Motion seconded by Councilman Tate. Motion carried 8-0.

Executive Session 8:56pm to 9:57pm

President Tabita said the Executive Session was held to discuss property and litigation.

Treasurer’s Report:

Borough Manager Landy read the following Treasurer’s Report for the month of June 2009:

Mt. Pleasant Borough Treasurer's Report:		Jun-09			
		Previous Balance	Deposits	Disbursements	Balance Jun09
General Fund Checking	PNC 00-0122-3513	50,220.00	196,708.32	194,759.32	52,169.00
General Fund Sweep	PNC 10-1149-3394	656,697.39	59,983.15	105,509.28	611,171.26
General Fund Budgetary Reserve	PNC 102-457-4388	102,680.23	77.78	0.00	102,758.01
**Fire		30,000.00			
**Police		10,000.00			
**Streets		10,000.00			
**Contingency Fund		52,758.01			
General Fund Budgetary Reserve	Standard Bank 321615	100,317.54	143.67	0.00	100,461.21
**Police		20,000.00			
**Streets		20,000.00			
**Contingency Fund		20,461.21			
**Infrastructure		30,000.00			
**Recreation Grant Fund		10,000.00			
Liquid Fuels PLGIT	PLGIT 56980126	180,720.18	60.72	0.00	180,780.90
Monument CD	Standard Bank 242781	5,626.71	0.00	0.00	5,626.71
Holiday Lighting Fund	Standard Bank 050004849	1,796.33	0.22	0.00	1,796.55
Payroll Fund	PNC 00-0122-6415	1,088.23	47,960.73	47,969.69	1,079.27
Veterans Park Fund	National City 981293700	1,774.83	1,725.00	120.00	3,379.83
Veterans Park PLGIT	PLGIT 5698025	11,228.76	3.77	0.00	11,232.53
Police Drug Enforcement	PNC 10-1291-2642	850.50	0.00	0.00	850.50
Town Clock Fund	Standard Bank 0010038847	611.41	0.08	0.00	611.49
Total General Fund Balance					1,071,917.26
WWT Operational Acct	Standard Bank 0320012280	305,599.86	35,283.00	58,151.34	282,731.52
WWT Savings	Standard Bank 0050021008	7,549.03	10.81	0.00	7,559.84
WWT Budgetary Reserve	Standard Bank 0000287245	101,546.01	145.44	0.00	101,691.45
**Contingency		61,691.45			
**Infrastructure		40,000.00			
Total WWT Balance					391,982.81
Total Borough funds					1,463,900.07

Respectfully Submitted:
 Councilwoman Susan Ruszkowski
 Borough Manager Jeff Landy

A motion was made by Councilwoman Stevenson to approve the Treasurer’s Report as read. Motion seconded by Councilman Bauer. Motion carried 8-0.

President’s Report:

President Tabita said that there will be a meeting tomorrow to try and resolve the problem of wattage for the decorative lights on Main Street. The Borough may be able to get an exception that will allow 250-watt bulbs. Right now we are only able to use the 150-watt bulbs recommended by our engineer. They would be only slightly brighter than the lights of Phase I of the Street Scape Project. President Tabita said that our engineer should have told us about the Penn Dot requirements at the beginning of the project.

Councilman Bauer said that our current engineering company has made other mistakes and he feels that it’s time to look into changing engineering firms. Councilman Bauer said he is concerned with the safety of Main Street with the low wattage bulbs. President Tabita said that Council must make a decision regarding changing engineering firms or any other service providers before the reorganization meeting in January 2010.

President Tabita said that he and Mayor Lucia met with Jack Amoroso regarding occupancy permit inspections. Mr. Amoroso said he feels that he should have an option to bring in another certified inspector if he disagrees with Mark Stanton’s interpretation of what is required for inspection. Also, if someone can go just outside the Borough and

build for 10% less, it's not a good thing for the Borough. Councilman Beranek made the point that the Township has higher taxes.

Council discussed various options for contracting an inspector. One option was to have an alternate inspector for anyone unhappy with the first inspection. The property owner would have to pay the cost of both inspections, but that would be an option they would have. Councilman Crivella said that banks have a list of inspectors that people can choose from. Council agreed that there has to be a primary inspector. Council also agreed that the reason people are unhappy with our inspector is because he interprets the code very strictly. Mayor Lucia said we have to check to see if the law even allows more than one inspector. President Tabita said he would like a report on building permits and occupancy inspections for the next meeting.

Borough Manager's Report:

Borough Manager Landy made the following report:

- Regis Kraisinger is requesting that the Street Department put in a 75ft or a 236ft curb in front of his property because he is flooding since the CSO Project. Mr. Landy said he told WWT Supervisor Norm Stout to speak with Marie Hartman of Widmer Engineering who was in charge of the CSO Project.
- Kriebel Resources sent a report stating that there is only 73,000 cubic feet of gas remaining available from the Frick Park gas well for 2009. Fall is fast approaching and Council needs to take a close look at the Central VFD. One issue is that the pilot keeps going out on the boiler at the fire station because the amount of gas coming from the gas well can't keep it lit. There may be a similar problem with the hot water heater in the borough building that supplies hot water to Dr. Rinchuse office. Councilman Bauer said that the Borough should look into installing small water heaters that only heat the water when it being used. They are much more energy-efficient.
- Gas well revenues thru April 2009 are \$6,784.37 for Frick Park and \$4,709.92 for Willows Park.
- All of Council has a report of income and expenditures for the years 2005, 2006 and 2008 to give an idea of actual year-end figures.
- Penn Dot has announced that the bridge on Mount Pleasant Scottdale Road that goes over Rte 119 is scheduled for construction.

Waste Water Treatment Report:

WWT Supervisor Norm Stout told Council that he got a call from Ms. Kraisinger, Quarry Street, regarding problems with drainage in her home that she attributed to the CSO Project. Mr. Stout said WWT personnel went to her residence while she was there and cameraed the main line all the way to her lateral and our line is fine. The problem is from the house to our line.

Council discussed whether the Borough should go ahead with the Quarry Street Project. President Tabita said that we need to have a signature from all of the homeowners involved saying they want to go ahead with the project and understand there will be a cost to them. Mr. Stout asked Council's opinion on going onto private property and President Tabita said that if it saves the homeowner money and that's what they want us to do they will have to sign something giving us permission.

Public Safety Zoning & Ordinances Report:

A motion was made by Councilman Bauer to contract Rita Borenstein to handle citations for high grass in the Borough at a cost of \$15.00 per case. The cases to be turned over to Ms. Borenstein will be determined by Borough Manager Landy. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Stevenson. Motion carried 8-0.

Mr. Landy said that Officer George Grippo is unable to handle the cases where there are property maintenance code violations on homes that are in foreclosure. It is much too time consuming to find a contact name and address for the foreclosing bank in order to mail a citation. Rita said she has the time and resources to do this.

Councilman Bauer said he and Mr. Landy met with Keystate Publishing last week to discuss the proposed ordinances and they will be clearly marked in the front of the book for the public to look at after the recodification is advertised. Councilman Bauer said that the Landlord Ordinance will be a two or three page ordinance and will include tenant registration, which will be done by the landlord.

A motion was made to advertise the ordinance re-codification when we receive the final copy from Keystate Publishing. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Ruszkowski. Motion carried 8-0.

Borough Manager Landy said an ordinance is required to open a budgetary reserve account and he got a copy of a one-page ordinance and sent it to Keystate Publishing.

Streets/Park & Recreation:

A motion was made by Councilman Bauer to sell the 1985 Elgin Street Sweeper to Mount Pleasant Township for the amount of \$4,000 plus transfer costs. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Stevenson. Motion carried 8-0.

A motion was made by Councilman Bauer to purchase a swing set for Jack Bobb’s Park from Design Systems for a cost of \$2,030 plus freight. The Mount Pleasant Glass & Ethnic Festival will donate the cost of the swing set to the Borough. Motion seconded by Councilman Crivella. Motion carried 8-0.

Councilman Bauer said that the VFW would like to replace the shrubs around the Doughboy that they planted because they are overgrown and weeds are growing.

President Tabita instructed Mr. Landy to have Street Supervisor Fontanazza move the dumpster into the fenced area at the Street Department location.

Finance Report:

Councilwoman Ruszkowski said that she and Borough Manager Landy will begin working on the preliminary 2010 budget in August.

Councilwoman Ruszkowski reported that there will be a meeting in August with the VFD to discuss fundraising. She will email Council when the time and place are confirmed.

Property:

Councilman Beranek said that the letters on the new Veterans Park sign are not bright enough and he is ordering special paint to fill in the letters.

Community Eco-Green Report:

Councilman McCloy asked Council to look at the letter from Edward V Johnstonbaugh, Penn State Cooperative Extension regarding a walk-thru energy audit of Borough facilities from March 30, 2009. The letter contains a report on the Borough Building, Central VFD and Third Ward VFD. Mr. Johnstonbaugh will be working toward the goal of identifying opportunities to fund the implementation of some of the recommendations through Allegheny Power’s recently published Act 129 implementation plan.

Human Resource/Employee Contracts Report: None

Community and Economic Development/Grants Report:

Councilman Crivella reported that he attended the last two meetings of the BDA and there was not a quorum present.

New Business: None

Reading of Communications:

Borough Manager Landy read the following communications:

- 84 Lumber now has a special department specializing in government contracts.
- There will be a seminar on Act 32 regarding LST Tax on July 23, 2009 at the University of Pittsburgh at Greensburg from 7pm to 8:30pm.

Discussion and Payment of Bills:

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

Miscellaneous and Adjournment:

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

Meeting Adjourned 11:38pm.

Motions from July 20, 2009 Meeting

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