

Meeting August 1, 2011

The meeting of Mount Pleasant Borough Council was called to order by President Bauer at 7:01pm 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 Ruszkowski and Stevenson 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 Stevenson to dispense with the reading of the minutes of July 18, 2011. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Ruszkowski. Motion carried 8-0.

Public Comment:

Ayeed Syed, Valero Gas Station, asked Council if they had made a decision regarding changing the ordinance to allow gas stations in the Borough to allow self-service 5 days a week and have full-service 2 days per week for senior citizens and the disabled. He feels that his business is losing customers because the station has to charge more for gasoline to cover the cost of employees to provide full-service 7 days per week.

Kal Patel, Sunoco Gas Station also requested that Council change the ordinance to allow gas stations in the Borough to have self-service 5 days per week and full-service 2 days per week which would allow borough residents to get less expensive gas in the Borough.

Elizabeth Lovar, 202 Railroad Street, Ruffs Dale PA said she is an employee at the Valero Gas Station in Mount Pleasant and asked Council to consider changing the gasoline ordinance. Ms. Lovar said she has started a petition for citizens who feel the ordinance should be changed.

Patrick Halfhill, 715 W Park Avenue, Mount Pleasant said he is also in favor of changing the gasoline ordinance to help the Borough economy.

Mr. Mark Krystyniak spoke to Council about the Landlord Ordinance. Mr. Krystyniak said he has check and knows the ordinance is legal but has some concerns. He would like to know how it will be possible to know that every rental that needs to be inspected will be inspected and how long it will take to complete the inspections. Mr. Krystyniak said he has a problem paying for the inspection up front. He will leave the funds necessary for inspection of his properties in an escrow account and will pay after the inspection is complete. Mr. Krystyniak said commercial properties are at a disadvantage because if he rents a commercial property to a business it needs inspected, but a business owner who owns the property that houses his business does not need to have it inspected. Mr. Krystyniak said he also objects to having to provide names and ages of tenants. Mr. Charles Nitterright, 203 Slope Hill Road said he feels the Landlord Ordinance and inspections will force landlords to raise rents and people will leave the Borough.

Kevin McFeaters , Washington Street said he feels the Landlord Ordinance is causing an unfair financial burden on landlords in the Borough. He would like to see the ordinance repealed.

Walter Higgin, 529 Washington Street would like to see the Gasoline Ordinance changed. He wants residents to know that if they need assistance at his gas station in any way he is happy to help.

Speakers:

Mr. John Sarp, Sarp & Company gave Council a report on the 2010 Borough Audit. Mr. Sarp said that his report is a good one and there were no qualified findings and the findings from last year have been satisfactorily corrected. There were no material changes in the audit reports. Mr. Sarp provided each council member with a copy of the

audit and said he would be available to answer any questions, but that it was a very good audit.

Mayor's Report:

Report of the Mount Pleasant Police Department for the month of July 2011

The Department answered 253 calls during the month as follows

Complaints	66
Requests for assistance	9
Assist Other Departments	9
Accidents investigated	1
Calls Returned	10
Assist Medic 10	3
Assist Mutual Aid	0

The Department made 12 Arrests during the month as follows

Vehicle Code	11
Crimes Code	1
Borough Ordinance	0
Warning Issued	0

Parking Tickets issued are as follows:

\$4.00 Meter Tickets	11
\$10.00 No Parking Tickets	6
Void / Excused	1

\$2.00 Parking Tickets Paid	0	\$	-
\$4.00 Parking Tickets Paid	9	\$	36.00
\$5.00 Parking Tickets Paid	2	\$	10.00
\$10.00 Parking Tickets Paid	0	\$	-
\$15.00 Parking Tickets Paid	1	\$	15.00
\$10.00 No Parking Tickets Pd	4	\$	40.00
\$20.00 Parking Tickets Pd	0	\$	-

Return from Magistrate Eckels	\$1,156.74
Return from Clerk of Courts	\$ 153.11
Return from Report Fees	\$ 60.00
Return from Parking Permits	\$ 25.00
Return from Soliciting Permits	\$ -
Return from Restitution	\$ -

Total \$1,495.85

1 Meter Collection \$1,271.06

Total Receipts for the month \$2,766.91

Mayor Lucia said that the Wounded Warrior Walk and Motorcycle Run put together by Brandon Miller was held on July 30th and was a great success.

Solicitor's Report: None

Tax Collector's Report:

Tax Collector Carol Yancosky read the following Tax Report for the month of July 2011:

Property Taxes = \$4,621.94

Total Taxes = \$4,621.94

Ms. Yancosky reported that the School, Property and Per Capita taxes were mailed out today and anyone who wants a receipt should include a self addressed stamped envelope with their payment.

President's Report:

President Bauer said that the Wounded Warrior Walk and Motorcycle Run brought a lot of people into town and was a good thing for the Borough and he is very proud of Brandon Miller for organizing the event.

A motion was made by Councilman Tate to allow the Mount Pleasant Glass & Ethnic Festival to hold their annual Car Cruise at Frick Park on August 19, 2011 beginning at 6pm. The Rain date for the Car Cruise is August 26, 2011. Motion seconded by Councilman McCloy. Motion carried 8-0.

A motion was made by Councilman Beranek to close Route 819 Diamond Street from Route 31 Main Street to Spruce Street and Washington Street from Church Street to Hitchman Street from 12 noon on September 22nd to 8:00am on September 27th for the 2011 Mount Pleasant Glass and Ethnic Festival. Motion seconded by Councilman Tabita. Motion carried 8-0.

A motion was made by Councilman Crivella to close route 31 Main Street from Braddock Rd. Avenue to Cooks Way on September 24th from 1:00pm to 4:00pm for the 2011 Mount Pleasant Glass and Ethnic Festival Parade. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Ruszkowski. Motion carried 8-0.

Borough Manager's Report:

Borough Manager Landy gave the following report:

- Happy Birthday to Mayor Lucia.
- The Concert In The Park was well attended on Sunday July 31st. There are two more concerts left this summer.
- Mr. Landy met with Auditor John Sarp regarding an audit of Medic 10 and that audit will be presented to the Medic 10 Board of Directors as soon as it is complete
- A picture was taken for the newspaper for the designation of Jack Bobb's Park as a tobacco free "Young Lungs At Play" area and the Street Department will be erecting signs.
- This year marks the 25th year of the Mount Pleasant Glass and Ethnic Festival and it will be the best ever. Mr. Landy will provide Council with a schedule of entertainment at the September meeting.
- Mr. Landy presented Council with a check for \$1,000 from the Mount Pleasant Glass and Ethnic Festival for John E. Satcho Park. The money will be used to purchase new playground equipment.

Waste Water Treatment Report:

Councilman Tate said that work on the walkway from the Little League Field at Willows Park is 60% complete. The roof that was damaged at the plant by high winds is 80% complete and the electrical work will begin today.

Streets Report:

A motion was made by Councilman Tate to sign an agreement with Mount Pleasant Township to oil and chip as many Borough alleys as possible until such time as the end of an eight hour day, the \$10,000 contract maximum is met, or all identified alleys are treated, whichever occurs first. Motion seconded by Councilman Beranek. Motion carried 8-0.

Councilman Tate said that the work by the Township was completed today and it was money well spent because the Borough will not have funds for an alley paving project for at least five years.

Public Safety Report:

Councilman Beranek read the following Fire Report for July 2011:

Total Calls 44
In Town 11
Out of Town 33
Vehicle Accidents 11
Vehicle Accidents W/Entrapment 1
Fires 14
AFA's 13
Public Service Calls 4
Stand-Bys 1
Turnpike Calls 6
Water Rescue Calls 1
Total Men Answering 666
Average Member Per Call 15
Total Hours 419

A motion was made by Councilman Beranek to suspend the rules for the purpose of adding volunteers to the Medic 10 roster. Motion seconded by Councilman Crivella. Motion carried 8-0.

A motion was made by Councilman Beranek to add the following volunteers to the Medic 10 roster: Chris Angelona and Jason Frazier. Motion seconded by Councilman Crivella. Motion carried 8-0.

Zoning and Ordinance Report:

Councilman McCloy said that the Zoning and Ordinance Committee held a meeting to discuss amending the Gasoline Ordinance to allow self-serve as long as gas stations designated two days a week as full-service. If the Valero gas station has full-service on two days and the Sunoco gas station has full-service two other days, it would provide full-service for four days a week in the Borough.

Councilman McCloy said that Chief Ober contacted the property owner who had a stagnant swimming pool that was attracting mosquitoes the problem has been taken care of.

A discussion ensued regarding rental inspections. In 2010 there were 72 inspections done and in 2011 there were only 33 inspections done. According to the census in 2000, the Borough has 742 rentals. The recent letter sent to landlords by B.I.U. was an attempt to get landlords to register their rentals and to get them inspected. President Bauer said the inspection is for safety and the registration is so that the Borough knows how many adults live in each rental and does not lose Per Capita revenue. It is difficult to maintain the Borough on the revenues it collects and any time revenues are lost all of the citizens suffer. Council has said for some time that the landlords should form an association to work with Council. Ed Howley, the inspector from B.I.U. told Council that Mount Pleasant's inspection fee of \$50 is the cheapest in the area. Most communities charge \$100 and most require yearly inspections.

Community & Economic Development/Grants Report:

Councilman Tabita said that he met with a representative from the Historical Society who is putting together a booklet on the trails in the area. Councilman Tabita said that it may be to the benefit of the Borough to mark the trails and he will look into it.

Councilman Tabita said that he met with Engineer Tim Kilberg and it will be possible to bring the bike trail between the soccer fields with a bridge and an extension to Jack Bobb's Park and eventually to Veterans Park.

Councilman Tabita said he is also looking into the possibility of a walking tour of Mount Pleasant that would take visitors to historical sites in the Borough.

Councilman Tabita said that we received on interest in a community garden this year and if anyone is interested in next year they should contact us so that we can start now getting everything organized.

Councilman Tabita said that he feels there would be more volunteers in the community if they were aware of what was offered. Anyone interested can email him and he will try to match them up with a program in the Borough that they will be interested in.

Veterans Park Report:

Councilman Tabita said he is meeting with the software and hardware companies involved in the new Veterans Park Video Wall and things are moving forward. Applications for the Video Wall are available at the Borough Office and on-line at the Borough web-site. Mr. Landy asked if it would be possible to have a demo unit in place during the Glass Festival. It would be a way to reach a lot of people.

Parks and Recreation Report:

Councilman Crivella said he received a request from Rich Clawson, Scottdale Fast Pitch League to use the Frick Park ball field from August 1, 2011 until the end of their season.

Council discussed the problem last year with fowl balls. Council decided that as long as they provided a certificate of insurance and positioned someone to catch any fowl balls that they should be able to use the field.

A motion was made by Councilman Tate to suspend the rules for the purpose of a motion to allow Scottdale Fast Pitch to use the Frick Park ball field. Motion seconded by Councilman Beranek. Motion carried 7-0. Opposed by Councilman Crivella.

A motion was made by Councilman Tate to allow the Scottdale Men's Fast Pitch League to use Frick Park ball field from August 1st to the end of their season as long as they provide a certificate of insurance and post someone in the alley to catch any fowl balls. Motion seconded by Councilman Beranek. Motion carried 7-0. Opposed by Councilman Crivella.

Borough Manager Landy announced that Mr. and Mrs. Mark Krystyniak have donated \$1,000 toward the playground equipment at John E. Satcho's Park.

Councilman Tate said that the Street Department removed the trees around the Frick Park bathrooms that were blocking the security cameras. They also pressure washed the inside and outside of the bathrooms.

Finance:

Councilwoman Ruszkowski said that she, Borough Manager Landy and Secretary Fedorchak attended an exit conference with the auditor of the 2008, 2009 and 2010 Non-Uniform Pension Plan. The audit is complete and we are waiting for a written report.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Ruszkowski to sign an agreement with Westmoreland County Transit for July 1, 2011 to June 30, 2012 in the amount of \$1,295. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Stevenson. Motion carried 8-0.

Property Report:

Councilman Tate said that we have not gotten any volunteers to put up the Welcome sign. We did receive a quote to have the work done. Councilman Tate said we can lower the cost by providing the materials and having borough employees do some of the labor.

Sanitation and Recycling Report:

A motion was made by Councilwoman Stevenson to renew our membership to Westmoreland Cleanways in the amount of \$25. Motion seconded by Councilman Crivella. Motion carried 8-0.

New Business:

President Bauer permitted additional public comment.

Margaret Rose, 140 Morewood Street, Mount Pleasant expressed her opposition to the Landlord Ordinance. Ms. Rose said she may have to raise her tenant's rent to accommodate the extra expense. Council agreed that if all landlords were as consciencous as Ms. Rose the ordinance would not be necessary.

Reading of Communications:

Borough Manager Landy read the following communication:

- A letter from the Mount Pleasant Business District Authority asking permission to appoint board members to cover current vacancies. Mr. Landy said he will provide Council with a list of appointees for approval at the next meeting.

Discussion and Payment of Bills:

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

Miscellaneous and Adjournment:

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

Meeting adjourned 8:30pm.

Motions from August 1, 2011 Meeting

A motion was made by Councilwoman Stevenson to dispense with the reading of the minutes of July 18, 2011. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Ruskowski. Motion carried 8-0.

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