

Meeting August 19, 2013

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. Councilman McCloy, Pritts and Councilwomen Bailey, and Ruszkowski and Stevenson were present. Mayor Lucia was present and Solicitor Wolfe was absent. 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 August 5, 2013 since Council has been provided with a copy. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Ruszkowski. Motion carried 6-0.

Public Comment: None

Speakers: None

Mayor's Report:

Mayor Lucia said that the Street Department will paint a crosswalk at the intersection of Church Street and Eagle Street and also across the entrance to Frick Hospital.

Borough Manager Landy said that he received an email from Alan Elkins who lives on Warden Street requesting that Warden Street be made one-way going west because drivers pull into his yard when someone is coming the other way. President Bauer said that Council should get the opinion of all of the residents who live on Warden Street to see if they are all in agreement.

Mayor Lucia said that there was a meeting with B.I.U. and the Borough requested more reporting on landlord registration and inspection. Mayor Lucia said that the Borough told B.I.U. that no landlord who has had an initial inspection will have another inspection until all units in the Borough have been inspected.

Solicitor's Report: None

Treasurer's Report:

Borough Manager Landy read the following Treasurer's Report for the month of July 2013:

**Mt. Pleasant
Borough**

Treasurer's Report

Jul-13

		Previous Balance	Deposits	Disbursements	Balance 2013
General Fund Checking	PNC 00-0122-3513	51,296.00	334,914.13	336,210.13	50,000.00
General Fund Sweep	PNC 10-1149-3394	832,649.25	111,641.82	181,439.90	762,851.17
General Fund Budgetary Reserve	PNC 102-457-4388	43,365.08	3.92	0.00	43,369.00
**Fire	30,000.00				
**Police	0.00				
**Streets	10,000.00				
**Contingency Fund	3,358.08				
General Fund Budgetary Reserve	Standard Bank 321615	400,693.49	51.05	0.00	400,744.54
**Police	33,127.60				
**Streets	90,000.00				
**Contingency Fund	102,796.78				
**Infrastructure	100,000.00				
**BOMP1 Gas Well	9,250.00				
**BOMP2 Gas Well	4,572.81				
**Frick Park Gas Well	24,408.36				
**Levins	4,365.06				
**Surveillance Cameras	160.00				
**Surveillance Camera Grant	2,182.87				

**Early Warning Siren Grant		3,000.00				
**Fire		15,000.00				
**K-9		11,729.57				
Escrow Account	PNC Bank 10-2912-6867	5,000.00	0.00	0.00	5,000.00	
Liquid Fuels PLGIT	PLGIT 56980126	86,388.07	2.32	4,664.26	81,726.13	
Monument CD	Standard Bank 328188	5,950.65	0.00	0.00	5,950.65	
Holiday Lighting Fund	Standard Bank 050004849	1,802.29	0.08	0.00	1,802.37	
Payroll Fund	PNC 00-0122-6415	601.62	80,263.86	72,273.17	8,592.31	
Veterans Park Fund	First Niagara 981293700	1,176.49	420.00	1,250.00	346.49	
Veterans Park Fund	PLGIT 5698025	11,264.35	0.30	0.00	11,264.65	
Town Clock Fund	Standard Bank 0010038847	613.44	0.03	0.00	613.47	
Medic 10 Checking	Standard Bank 0010107643	78,131.52	48,623.39	50,752.98	76,001.93	
Medic 10 Savings	Standard Bank 0310000238	133,825.12	1,017.18	0.00	134,842.30	
Medic 10 Community Trust	Standard Bank 0000358253	2,571.29	0.00	0.00	2,571.29	
Storm Water Retrofit Phase II	PNC Bank 10-3388-4556	43,004.86	0.00	1,857.51	41,147.35	
Total General Fund Balance					1,626,823.65	
WWT Operational Acct	Standard Bank 0320012280	225,305.24	68,237.35	87,678.01	205,864.58	
WWT Savings	Standard Bank 0050021008	81,939.64	1,514.72	0.00	83,454.36	
WWT Budgetary Reserve	Standard Bank 0000287245	168,131.54	21.42	0.00	168,152.96	
**Contingency		108,089.39				
**Infrastructure		60,000.00				
Total WWT Balance					457,471.90	
Total Borough funds					2,084,295.55	

Councilwoman Susan Ruszkowski
Secretary Beverly Fedorchak

A motion was made by Councilman Pritts to approve the Treasurer's Report as read. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Stevenson. Motion carried 6-0.

President's Report:

A motion was made by Councilwoman Stevenson to revise the August 5, 2013 motion to read as follows: RFP's for Guaranteed Energy Savings Agreement Project must be at the borough office by 11am on September 3, 2013 as advertised. Motion seconded by Councilman Pritts. Motion carried 6-0.

President Bauer said that the Westmoreland County Conversation District is holding a Conservation Awards & Building Dedication on Thursday September 12, 2013 at 6pm at the district headquarters at 218 Donohoe Road, Greensburg PA. Council members who wish to attend must RSVP by September 3, 2013.

President Bauer said that Council received a letter from Patrick Brien, College Avenue, saying that he is interested on serving on the Mount Pleasant Borough Planning Commission. His letter states that he has been a resident of the Borough for three years and has extensive experience in community service.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Stevenson to appoint Mr. Patrick Brien to the Mount Pleasant Planning Commission. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Ruszkowski. Motion carried 6-0.

President Bauer said that at the recent meeting with B.I.U. they were instructed to send final notice letters to landlords who have not registered their properties or who have not gotten them inspected. Mayor Lucia will approve the list of landlords who receive a letter.

President Bauer said there will be a meeting of the Mount Pleasant Area Reality Tour on August 28th at Rumbaugh Elementary School. Committee members and volunteers should attend this very important meeting. The first Reality Tour is tentatively scheduled for October 2013.

Borough Manager's Report:

Mr. Landy reported that the Car Cruise at Frick Park on August 16th was a success and raised money to benefit the Mount Pleasant Glass and Ethnic Festival.

Borough Manager Landy said that the Borough has charged the contractor for the Frick Park Rain Garden approximately \$4,000 because of the delay in construction. The construction contract allows us to charge \$500 per day for any delay in completion of the project. The penalty amount of \$4,000 will be deposited into the

General Fund. The rain garden projects at Frick Park and at Frick Hospital have been completed with the exception of some paving and the project on Diamond Street is nearing completion. The project has been expanded to include some electrical conduit at the intersection in case power is ever needed at that location. The cost of this expansion will be \$650 which will not be absorbed by the Borough. President Bauer said that the electrical outlets can be used to power spotlights on the newly planted trees at the intersection.

A motion was made by Councilman Pritts to sign the addendum to the contract with Silvis Group for an additional \$650 to add conduit to the Diamond Street Rain Garden Project at no cost to the Borough General Fund. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Stevenson. Motion carried 6-0.

Borough Manager Landy reported that Sarp & Co. has started the annual audit of Borough funds.

Mr. Landy said that he and Mayor Lucia attended a discussion with county officials and representatives from Greensburg, Irwin and Sewickley Township regarding housing issues in Boroughs and how the County can help municipalities. Mayor Lucia said that at the meeting a proposed meeting between Irwin Council and Mount Pleasant Borough Council was discussed. Members of Mount Pleasant Borough Council would go to Irwin for a discussion and in turn, Irwin would come to Mount Pleasant for further discussion. The two communities will discuss how they handle housing issues.

Borough Manager Landy reported that our Health Inspector Rita Bornstein attended a hearing at Magistrate Eckels office regarding the condemnation of the property on Main Street owned by Dr. Alfonso Arevalo. Magistrate Eckels ruled in favor of the Borough, but there is an appeal process.

Mr. Landy said that the next event in the Borough will be the September 11th Tribute which will be held at the Gazebo Area of Veterans Park beginning at 6:30pm on September 11, 2013. The main speaker this year will be a first responder from Somerset County.

Mr. Landy reported that the monthly Safety Committee Meeting was held and no accidents were reported.

Mr. Landy said that he has received paperwork for a grant from the Rotary for the cost of the Welcome to Mount Pleasant sign for the east end of town. The grant paperwork is due by September 1, 2013.

Mr. Landy said that the Borough receives reports each month regarding property reassessments. Every year for the last four years property taxes in the Borough have decreased which causes a strain on the budget. Borough Manager Landy said that it is important for Council to look at ways to increase revenue either by raising fees or property taxes. Expenses are increasing at a rate of 7% and revenue is decreasing.

Mr. Landy said he received a letter from the Laurel Highland Visitors Bureau asking Council if there is any organization in the Borough they would like to recognize and passed the request to President Bauer for a response.

Waste Water Treatment Report: None

Street Report:

A motion was made by Councilman McCloy to close Route 819, Diamond Street from Route 31, Main Street to Washington Street on September 11, 2013 from 5:30pm to 8:00pm for the Mount Pleasant 9/11 Tribute. Motion seconded by Councilman Pritts. Motion carried 6-0.

A motion was made by Councilman McCloy to close Route 819, Diamond Street from Route 31, Main Street to Spruce Street and Washington Street from Church Street to Hitchman Street from 11am on September 26, 2013 until 8am on September 20, 2013 for the Glass & Ethnic Festival. Motion seconded by Councilman Pritts. Motion carried 6-0.

Motion to close Route 31, Main Street from Braddock Road Avenue to Cooks Way on September 28, 2013 from 12:30pm to 4:pm for the Glass & Ethnic Festival Parade. Motion seconded by Councilman Pritts. Motion carried 6-0.

Borough Manager Landy said that Council has been discussing paving Braddock Road Avenue and time is running out this year. Mayor Lucia said that Mount Pleasant Township paved their portion of Braddock Road Avenue and our portion is in very bad shape. President Bauer said that it may be too late this year, but should be on the list for bids in January 2014. Councilwoman Bailey said that tri-axle trucks use Braddock Road

Avenue as a short cut and they are overweight. Our Police Department must fine them to stop their use of the road or it will be in the same shape after we pave the street.

Public Safety Report:

Borough Manager Landy read the following Fire Report for the month of July 2013:

Total calls 57
In town 18
Out of town 39
10-45's 14
10-45's w/entrapment 1
Fires 11
AFA's 9
Public service 13
Standby's 1
Turnpike calls 5
Total members answering 922
Average member per call 16
Total staff hours 766

Zoning & Ordinance Report:

Councilman McCloy said he feels it is very important for the Borough to hire a code enforcement officer because property is deteriorating in town. Councilman McCloy said a code enforcement officer should cost the Borough approximately \$7,000 per year for two six-hour shifts per week.

Community & Economic Development/Grants: None

Veterans Park:

Borough Manager Landy said that when the Digital Wall was originally planned and priced out it did not include the cost of the software to input the veteran's information. Industry Weapon was persuaded to include the software at no cost and will train our personnel to use the software as soon as it is complete.

Parks & Recreation Report:

Borough Manager Landy read the following report from Councilman Wojnar:

- Followed up with Silvis regarding bees in Frick Park. They sent someone out to re-treat and while it alleviated the immediate problem, we need to address removing the sand as a permanent solution.
- Bill Bair called regarding fencing that Little League was planning to replace. He was informed that there is no issue, as it is to repair existing fencing.
- Contacted JR Paving and they feel that the basketball court is too damaged to seal and recommend resurfacing. They quoted an estimate of \$16,900 for replacement of courts and relining. I then contacted Lutz Asphalt, the company that originally installed the courts, and they are coming to give their opinion on sealing vs. resurfacing.
- Re-establish the Parks and Recreation Citizens Advisory Group with previous and a few new members. Any recommendations from Council are appreciated.

Mr. Tony Splendore was named the 2013 Boys Tennis Coach of the Year by the National High School Coaches Association.

Council agreed to recognize Mr. Tony Splendore as September 2013 Citizen of the Month.

Finance & Human Resources Report:

Councilwoman Ruskowski asked Council if the Borough is moving forward with organizing a Firecracker Ball to raise money for the 2013 July 3rd fireworks. Council agreed to move forward and Councilwomen Stevenson and Ruskowski agreed to put together a committee.

Property Report:

Councilman Pritts said that the surveillance cameras at Willows Park are connected to a video server at the Waste Water Treatment Plant and are using excessive band width. Armstrong Cable is going to start charging for over-usage. The Borough may have to shut the camera down temporarily until we can purchase a server and record it locally. Borough Manager reported that Armstrong said they will give us two months before they start charging us for over-usage.

Sanitation & Recycling Report: None**New Business:**

Councilwoman Stevenson reported that she attended the recent meeting of the Coal & Coke Trail and they are currently working on acquiring easements to take the trail beyond Scottdale. Councilwoman Stevenson said that the Coal & Coke Trail received grant money and may use it to uncover some old coke ovens that sit along the trail. They have no plans to refurbish the ovens, only to uncover them and clear the brush so that people can see where they were. There is an issue of liability and the committee will confer with their Solicitor.

Councilwoman Stevenson said that the Coal & Coke Trail Committee would still like to discuss the possibility of a bike path from the end of the trail up into Mount Pleasant. A discussion ensued about whether it would be a benefit to the borough businesses and whether bicyclists will use the path.

Councilwoman Stevenson said that representatives from the Coal & Coke Trail will attend a future council meeting to request a yearly donation from the Borough for the trail.

Reading of communications:

Borough Manager Landy read the following communications:

- Westmoreland Conservation District is having a Conservation Awards & Building Dedication on Thursday September 12, 2013 at 6:00pm at their headquarters located at 218 Donohoe Road, Greensburg PA 1560. Council must RSVP by September 3, 2013
- Westmoreland County Development Council will hold a seminar entitled "Reclaiming Communities" on Wednesday, September 25, 2013 from 9am to 2pm at WCCC Commissioners Hall. They have requested that Mayor Lucia, President Bauer and Borough Manager Landy speak. The topics include positioning your town for development, community design resources; code enforcement and land banking, which may provide a solution to dealing with blighted properties.
- Westmoreland Chamber of Commerce will host a ribbon cutting ceremony at their new office inside the Shop Demo Depot from 11am to 1pm on Friday August 23, 2013.
- Harmon House is having a "Dash and Dine" tour of their short and long term care facilities on August 28th from 11:30am to 1:00pm.

Discussion and Payment of Bills:

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

Miscellaneous and Adjournment:

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

Meeting adjourned 8:36pm

Motions from August 19, 2013 Meeting

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