

Meeting August 24, 2009

The meeting of Mount Pleasant Borough Council was called to order by President Tabita at 7:06 pm 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 Beranek, Crivella, McCloy, Tate and Councilwomen Ruszkowski and Stevenson were present. Mayor Lucia and Solicitor Toohey were present. President Tabita stated we have a quorum. Councilman Bauer arrived at 7:40pm.

Reading of Previous Minutes:

A motion was made by Councilwoman Stevenson to dispense with the reading of the minutes of August 3, 2009. Motion seconded by Councilman Crivella. Motion carried 8-0.

Public Comment:

Leo Wisniewski, 839 Main Street Mount Pleasant owner of Leo's Grille 31 at 501 W Main Street Mount Pleasant spoke to Council about getting approval from the Pennsylvania LCB to serve alcohol at his sidewalk café. Mr. Wisniewski said he and Borough Manager Landy went over all of the borough ordinances before opening the sidewalk café. At that time there were no ordinances prohibiting him from serving alcohol on the patio. Mr. Wisniewski then filed an extension of premise with the LCB. Since the patio area is connected to the sidewalk, a letter from the Borough to the LCB is necessary for approval. The LCB must receive a letter from the Borough by September 5, 2009 or the process would have to begin again. Mr. Wisniewski gave examples of procedures he will implement to make sure alcohol does not leave the patio area. Mr. Wisniewski said that before he receives the extension from the LCB he is allowed to sell 6-packs to go and that is the reason there are people drinking beer on the patio which is not against Borough Ordinance. Councilwoman Ruszkowski asked what hours alcohol would be served on the patio. Mr. Wisniewski said that it would only be in the summer and it would be until 11:00pm weekdays and 2:00am on weekends. Mayor Lucia asked what the ratio of food and alcohol is at Grille 31 and Mr. Wisniewski said 70-80% food and 20-30% alcohol. The LCB handles every application separately, so anyone wanting to do this in the future would have to file their own application and get approval from the Borough. Mr. Wisniewski said he would be willing to sign an agreement with the Borough if they have special stipulations. Mr. Landy asked if Mr. Wisniewski would be willing to provide Council with sales tax reports stating what percentage of his sales are food and what are alcohol. Solicitor Toohey said that what Mr. Wisniewski said is accurate. Council can approve the request with conditions or without conditions.

Mr. Bo Covaleski 413 E Washington Street Mount Pleasant questioned Council's decision to put new parking meters on Washington Street and forcing people to use meters to park in front of their homes. Mayor Lucia said the Mr. Covaleski should make a request for parking permits for that area. Mayor Lucia told Mr. Covaleski that a permit will not guarantee a place to park in front of his home it only allows permit holders to park on the street without feeding the meters. Solicitor Toohey said that Ordinance 520 states that one parking permit per household can be issued by the Chief of Police to residents who live on streets with metered parking. President Tabita said that since there is already an ordinance in place it is just a matter of coordinating how the permits are issued and administered. Solicitor Toohey said that Council can change the parking permit fees through resolution.

Andrew Raul, 421 Washington Street Mount Pleasant asked Council if tickets they received in the mean time could be exonerated. President Tabita said yes and the police will be instructed to go light on tickets in that area until this matter is resolved. Mr. Raul asked if residents could have two permits per residence and President Tabita said that would require an amendment to the ordinance.

Speakers:

Mark Stanton, B.I.U. Jeannette PA, Mount Pleasant Code Inspection Officer said that he is continuing his efforts to bring properties in the Borough into compliance. Mr. Stanton brought up the subject of property owners using their own inspectors. Under the UCC Code each municipality must have a Building Code Official and that person must sign the Occupancy Permits. No Building Code Official would be willing to sign an Occupancy Permit when the inspection of the premises was done by another inspector. Mr. Stanton does not feel there have been any delays in inspections and doesn't foresee any. There will always be individuals who are not pleased with the results of an inspection. Mr. Stanton said that if the Borough had opted out of the program any inspector in the state could do inspections and that would only apply to one or two family dwellings. Anything beyond that would have to go to Pennsylvania Labor and Industry in Harrisburg which can be very difficult. President Tabita and Councilman Bauer said they feel Mr. Stanton and his associates have

done a good job in the Borough. Councilman Bauer feels the process is working and does not want to see it change. Mr. Stanton said that there is a new law requiring all contractors who do a job over \$500 or do more than \$5,000 per year to register with the Attorney General's Office. Mr. Stanton said that he has been advised that unless the municipality directs him to enforce this law, they are not to do so. But every contractor is now required to have liability insurance. Mr. Stanton said that if Council would like him to ensure compliance he will do so.

Mr. Stanton said that he got a call last week from Wells Fargo Bank, the current owner of 18 Eagle Street and they have ordered the grass to be cut and will look into the problem with rodents.

Mayor's Report:

Mayor Lucia said that Council has received its first list of tenants from Pleasant Acres Apartments. If the Landlord Ordinance is passed we should know more about who is living in the Borough. Mr. Landy asked how the borough office should proceed to ensure that all of the tenants are on the tax rolls.

Mayor Lucia said that he was down at Willows Park because the bathrooms were vandalized again. The new sinks and dispensers that were recently installed were destroyed. Mayor Lucia feels that it may be necessary to lock the restrooms and only open them when the pavilions are rented out. The restrooms need refurbished overall. Mr. Landy said that the ordinance states that the park is closed at dusk unless there is a game in progress so the restrooms can be locked at night. Borough Manager Landy said that if we are only going to open the restrooms when there is a pavilion rental we will have to put up a sign saying there are no restrooms available.

Councilwoman Stevenson asked where we stand with the video cameras we got a grant for. Mr. Landy said that the grant was from Homeland Security and most of the cameras had to face Main Street and Diamond Street. There was not enough money for cameras at Willows Park and also no way to monitor the cameras at that location. We could put cameras at the Little League Field and at the Soccer Field because there are buildings to house the recorders.

Mayor Lucia reported that Senator Kim Ward will host a workshop of Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agencies on September 16, 2009 in Adamsburg at 7:00pm on post disaster recovery with FEMA. Elected Officials and Emergency Management Coordinators are invited to attend.

Solicitors Report:

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

Executive Session 8:34pm to 9:31pm.

President Tabita said the Executive Session was to discuss real estate.

Treasurer's Report:

Borough Manager Landy read the following Treasurer's Report for the month of July 2009:

Mt. Pleasant Borough Treasurer's Report: Jul-09

		Previous Balance	Deposits	Disbursements	Balance Jul09
General Fund Checking	PNC 00-0122-3513	52,169.00	250,563.66	250,362.66	52,370.00
General Fund Sweep	PNC 10-1149-3394	611,171.26	127,423.20	96,439.33	642,155.13
General Fund Budgetary Reserve	PNC 102-457-4388	102,758.01	71.51	0.00	102,829.52
**Fire		30,000.00			
**Police		10,000.00			
**Streets		10,000.00			
**Contingency Fund		52,829.52			
General Fund Budgetary Reserve	Standard Bank 321615	100,461.21	144.30	0.00	100,605.51
**Police		20,000.00			
**Streets		20,000.00			
**Contingency Fund		20,605.51			
**Infrastructure		30,000.00			

**Recreation Grant Fund		10,000.00				
Liquid Fuels PLGIT	PLGIT 56980126	180,780.90	59.54	4,972.24		175,868.20
Monument CD	Standard Bank 242781	5,626.71	0.00	0.00		5,626.71
Holiday Lighting Fund	Standard Bank 050004849	1,796.55	0.23	0.00		1,796.78
Payroll Fund	PNC 00-0122-6415	1,079.27	48,834.79	48,837.18		1,076.88
Veterans Park Fund	National City 981293700	3,379.83	1,500.00	0.00		4,879.83
Veterans Park PLGIT	PLGIT 5698025	11,232.53	3.78	0.00		11,236.31
Police Drug Enforcement	PNC 10-1291-2642	850.50	0.00	0.00		850.50
Town Clock Fund	Standard Bank 0010038847	611.49	0.08	0.00		611.57
Storm Water Retrofit Phase 1	PNC Bank 10-2825-9692	0.00	14,500.00	0.00		14,500.00
Total General Fund Balance						1,114,406.94
WWT Operational Acct	Standard Bank 0320012280	282,731.52	71,379.65	122,954.12		231,157.05
WWT Savings	Standard Bank 0050021008	7,559.84	3,019.85	0.00		10,579.69
WWT Budgetary Reserve	Standard Bank 0000287245	101,691.45	146.06	0.00		101,837.51
**Contingency		61,837.51				
**Infrastructure		40,000.00				
Total WWT Balance						343,574.25
Total Borough funds						1,457,981.19

Respectfully Submitted:
Councilwoman Susan Ruskowski
Borough Manager Jeff Landy

A motion was made by Councilman Bauer to accept the Treasurer's Report as read. Motion seconded by Councilman McCloy. Motion carried 8-0.

President's Report:

The decorative lights of Phase II of the Main Street Street-Scape Project are on and are 150 watt pulse lights. They do seem to throw enough light but it may not be worth the estimated \$5,000 it would cost to put the same bulbs in Phase I. The trees may be a factor in how much light is coming from the decorative lights in the Phase I area. The BDA has agreed to ask businesses on Main Street to keep the lights on in their windows until at least 9:00pm.