

Meeting January 19, 2016

The meeting of Mount Pleasant Borough Council was called to order by President Wagner 7:19pm in Council Chambers at 1 Etze Avenue, Mount Pleasant, PA 15666. The Pledge of Allegiance was said and President Wagner asked for a moment of silence for our deployed troops. President Wagner directed Borough Manager Landy to take roll. Councilpersons present included Bailey, Barnes, Caruso, Cholock, Pritts, Rogacki, Ruszkowski, and Stevenson. Mayor Lucia and Solicitor Liptak, Davis & Davis were present. President Wagner stated that a quorum is present.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Ruszkowski to approve the minutes of January 4, 2016 since Council has been provided with a copy. Motion seconded by Councilman Cholock. Motion carried 8-0.

Public Comment:

Anthony Fazio, Fazio's Hair Design, Mount Pleasant PA spoke to Council about a parking problem in front of his business on Main Street. Mr. Fazio said that he would like two-hour parking signs on Main Street for patrons only. Mr. Fazio said that he was told at the last council meeting that there is an ordinance on the books stating that there is a two-hour parking limit on Main Street. Mr. Fazio presented Council with a petition signed by other business owners.

A motion was made by Councilman Rogacki to extend the three-minute time limit for Mr. Fazio. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Barnes. Motion carried 8-0.

Mr. Fazio asked his wife Michelle Lascio to speak to Council on the parking issue. Ms. Lascio stated that the parking problem has become a huge issue for their business.

Councilman Rogacki stated that he feels there are parking spaces that are not being utilized even though they may not be right in front of Fazio's Hair Design.

A motion was made by Councilman Rogacki to extend the three-minute time limit for Ms. Lascio. Motion seconded by Councilman Cholock. Motion carried 8-0.

Mr. Fazio said that he would like the two-hour parking signs put up and the Police to ticket offenders.

Mr. Mark Krystyniak, Krystyniak Limited Partnership spoke as the owner of the property in which Fazio's Hair Design is located. Mr. Krystyniak said that he understands Mr. Fazio's frustration because there are individuals who abuse parking by parking in a spot on Main Street the entire day.

President Wagner said that Council will continue to look at the situation and speak to Police Chief Sam regarding a solution and will answer Mr. Fazio's request as soon as possible.

Speakers:

President Wagner stated that he asked Mr. Ed Christophano, President of the Mount Pleasant BDA to attend tonight's meeting to meet the new council members. Mr. Christophano introduced himself along with Ms. Debbie Salopek and Mr. Jim Rega who are members of the BDA Board. Mr. Christophano said that the purpose of the BDA is to grow, strengthen and empower the Mount Pleasant business district through various projects. The BDA is funded by a tax assessment on owners of business properties. There will be a 15% reduction in the assessment in 2016 and will be based on county assessment value. Funds are used for planned business district projects and a business grant program. Mr. Christophano spoke of upcoming projects and how the BDA will help businesses during the 2017 Main Street Project. The Mount Pleasant BDA meets the third Wednesday of every month at the Main Street Deli beginning at 7pm. President Wagner commended the Business District Authority for their work in the community and stated that Council will assist them in any way they can. Ms. Salopek stated that the BDA is working closely with the Westmoreland County Chamber of Commerce, utilizing advertising opportunities and stressing social responsibility.

Reading of Communications:

Borough Manager Landy read the following communications:

- Make A Wish is requesting donations for the upcoming "Swishes For Wishes Basketball Game at Southmoreland High School on February 26, 2016.

- West Overton Village will hold their 2016 Parlor Talks on February 7th, March 13th and April 3rd in the Overholt Room.
- Desmoid Tumor Research Foundation will hold a Celebration of Hope on May 21st at the Westmoreland County Fairgrounds in Pleasant Unity, PA.
- A packet from the Westmoreland County Chamber of Commerce included various upcoming functions.

Mayor’s Report:

Mayor Lucia said that he received a request to place more benches around the walking track at Frick Park. Borough Manager Landy said that the Borough will be doing a project at Frick Park using CDBG Grant funds and we may be able to install some benches at the same time.

Mayor Lucia said that he would like to name the alley currently known as Eagle Street Extension in honor of Police Chief Pore who was the only Mount Pleasant Policeman killed in the line of duty. He would like the name to be Chief Pore Way. Police Chief Sam said that he would also like to name the Juvenile Detention Room at the Police Department after Chief Pore and the dedications could be combined. Mayor Lucia said that the anniversary of his death will be April 13, 2016. Council discussed steps to be taken to name the alley.

Mayor Lucia said that there are quite a few ordinances related to the parking issue brought to Council’s attention by Mr. Fazio that have to be reviewed by the Public Safety Committee and brought back to Council. President Wagner said that there are many ordinances that need to be looked at by the Public Safety & Ordinance Committee and all of Council.

President Wagner announced a meeting of the Public Safety, Zoning & Ordinance Committee on Monday January 25, 2015 at 6:00pm in council chambers.

Mayor Lucia said that Mr. Joseph Polakovsky passed away on Sunday January 17, 2016. Joe was a long-time member of the Mount Pleasant Glass & Ethnic Festival Committee and volunteered each year to put up the Borough Christmas decorations.

Borough Manager’s Report:

Borough Manager Landy said that Council has been provided with the latest report on gas well revenue. Gas well revenues are being kept in the reserve account to be used for parks and recreation. This is money that can be used to purchase benches for the walking track at Frick Park.

Mr. Landy said that the Borough Municipal Building and Central Fire Station are allotted a certain amount of gas each year from the well. When that allotment runs out we can purchase gas at a reduced rate from Kriebel Minerals. In the past there was the option of using Columbia Gas as a backup, but now Columbia is not allowing us to have two gas inlets and we have to choose one. Mr. Landy suggested keeping Kriebel Minerals because of the gas allotment and the reduced rate after the allotment runs out. The Property Committee will discuss and make a decision.

Mr. Landy said that Jacobs Creed Watershed Association would like the Borough to attend a meeting on at the Scottdale Borough Building January 26th at 6:30pm to discuss the Annual Financial Review and discuss plans for 2016.

Borough Manager Landy stated that he will look through the list of motions made in 2015 to determine which motions have not been completed and still need to be worked on in 2016. These can be included on the Agenda under Unfinished Business.

A discussion ensued regarding the past history of the gas wells in the Borough.

Treasurer’s Report:

Borough Manager Landy read the following Treasurer’s Report for the month of December 2015:

Mt. Pleasant Borough Treasurer's Report		Dec-15			Balance
		Previous Balance	Deposits	Disbursements	2015
General Fund Checking	PNC 00-0122-3513	59,029.00	145,081.05	154,110.05	50,000.00

General Fund Sweep	PNC 10-1149-3394	844,088.40	54,270.60	81,513.10	816,845.90
General Fund Budgetary Reserve	Standard Bank 321615	566,058.15	48.08	0.00	566,106.23
**Police		30,683.60			
**Streets		110,000.00			
**Contingency Fund		204,416.43			
**Infrastructure		96,588.62			
**BOMP1 Gas Well		11,498.30			
**BOMP2 Gas Well		4,668.35			
**Frick Park Gas Well		28,783.09			
**Levins		970.06			
**Surveillance Cameras		160.00			
**Early Warning Siren Grant		1,300.00			
**Fire		50,000.00			
**K-9		12,772.76			
**Marcellus Impact Fee Act					
13		14,265.02			
Police Parking Tickets & Meters	Scottdale Bank 7000126	12,351.35	0.00	0.00	12,351.35
Escrow Account	PNC Bank 10-2912-6867	2,203.70	15,123.22	0.00	17,326.92
Liquid Fuels PLGIT	PLGIT 56980126	58,795.54	4.33	10,429.02	48,370.85
Monument CD	Standard Bank 328188	6,747.79	0.00	0.00	6,747.79
Holiday Lighting Fund	Standard Bank 050004849	1,804.47	0.08	0.00	1,804.55
Payroll Fund	PNC 00-0122-6415	625.07	77,703.45	77,703.45	625.07
	Somerset Trust Co				
Veterans Park Fund	2003058309	6,249.21	0.00	40.00	6,209.21
Town Clock Fund	Standard Bank 0010038847	614.19	0.02	0.00	614.21
Storm Water Retrofit Phase II	PNC Bank 10-3888-4556	1,247.21	0.00	0.00	1,247.21
Total General Fund Balance					1,528,249.29
Medic 10 Checking	Standard Bank 0010107643	27,688.12	96,264.32	59,882.76	64,069.68
Medic 10 Savings	Standard Bank 0310000238	163,225.83	1,012.44	25,000.00	139,238.27
Medic 10 Money Market	PNC Bank 10-1516-8804	5,886.46	0.25	0.00	5,886.71
Medic 10 Community Trust	Standard Bank 0000358253	4,001.83	0.49	180.90	3,821.42
Total Medic 10 Fund Balance					213,016.08
WWT Operational Acct	Standard Bank 0320012280	414,781.96	48,736.69	69,759.42	393,759.23
WWT Savings	Standard Bank 0050021008	125,837.25	1,514.89	0.00	127,352.14
WWT Budgetary Reserve	Standard Bank 0000287245	40,872.53	3.47	0.00	40,876.00
**Contingency		33,406.18			
**Infrastructure		7,469.82			
WWT Bio-Tower	Standard Bank 10127923	60,246.53	9,702.50	13,830.50	56,118.53
Total WWT Balance					618,105.90
Total Borough funds					2,359,371.27

Councilwoman Diane Bailey
Secretary Beverly Fedorchak

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

Solicitor's Report:

Attorney Deanna Liptak of Davis & Davis Law Offices answered the following questions posed to her by President Wagner:

- Can members of the Zoning Appeals Board also issue Zoning Permits which are not issued by the Borough Manager? It is the opinion of Attorney Liptak and the PSAB that these duties should be kept separate. Council can form a committee to issue Zoning Permits initially, but the members of the Appeals Board should not be on that committee.
- Does the police vehicle that is having mechanical problems fall under the Lemon Law. The law requires that the problem be reported to the manufacturer's authorized dealer within the first year of ownership and the Borough's vehicle does not meet this requirement. However, if the Borough continues to take the vehicle to the same person doing the repairs, and it continues to have the same issues, the Borough can take appropriate actions against the company who has been doing the repairs. Attorney Liptak stated that Davis & Davis would advise the Borough if they decided to seek money from the repair company.

Councilwoman Bailey asked Attorney Liptak if the Borough can continue using the Borough Manager to issue Zoning Permits. Attorney Liptak said yes the Borough does not have to change the procedure. Borough

Manager Landy said he feels that input from the Public Safety, Zoning & Ordinance Committee would be helpful in some cases.

President Wagner apologized for the delay to the start of the meeting. Council members were in session discussing personnel matters related to the Police Department.

A motion was made by Councilman Pritts for a 15-minute Executive Session. Motion seconded by Councilman Cholock. Motion carried 8-0.

Executive Session 8:20pm to 8:58pm

A Motion was made by Councilman Rogacki to resume the council meeting. Motion seconded by Councilman Cholock. Motion carried 8-0.

President Wagner reported that the Executive Session was held to discuss personnel.

President Wagner discussed Committee Breakout Sessions. Committees will use the Breakout Sessions to discuss ongoing projects. After the Breakout Sessions Council will continue with committee reports and updates. Unfinished business items will be listed and updated each meeting.

President Wagner said that each committee will make a motion to approve the expenses for their departments and give a summary of the expenses to Council. A discussion ensued about when these sessions could be held. Attorney Liptak explained that if Council wishes the public to be able to join committee discussions during the breakout session then Council would have to make a motion to suspend the regular meeting and also a motion to resume after the breakout sessions are complete. Attorney Liptak suggested putting a time limit on public discussion during breakout sessions.

Waste Water Treatment Report:

Councilman Rogacki reported that he has toured the Waste Water Treatment Plant and discussed some of their issues with Superintendent Hague.

WWT Superintendent Hague said that one of the issues facing the Plant is financing for upcoming projects. Mr. Hague discussed the fluctuating number of sewage customers. There are 107 fewer customers this year. Losing those customers could mean a decrease in revenue of approximately \$20,000. Mr. Hague said that it is important that the Borough know exactly how many sewage customers we have including the customers in the Township. Mr. Landy said that MAWC should be able to provide us with a list of customers that were added and deleted each quarter.

Mr. Hague reported that the permit through the DEP for the proposed bar screen has been submitted. The cost for the bar screen would be approximately \$180,000 and the Borough portion would be approximately \$120,000.

Mr. Hague said that the Borough is still working with East Huntingdon Township on the Quarry Street Agreement. Councilman Rogacki said that the Borough should relay to East Huntingdon Township that this agreement would be temporary. The agreement involves sanitary overflow on Quarry Street being processed by East Huntingdon Township. If they allow us to access their plant for our overflow, as soon as it becomes a problem for them they will terminate the agreement and then the Borough will continue to be fined by the DEP until a permanent solution is found.

Mr. Hague said that there is a major problem from CoGo's down to Eagle Street with storm water overflow into the sanitary sewer and hopefully during the Main Street Project in 2017 the problem can be found and solved, because right now there is no access to camera that section of sewer lines.

WWT Superintendent Hague said that there is still a personnel issue regarding weekend coverage at the Waste Water Treatment Plant. The Borough has not hired a replacement for Tom Pawlikowski and the other employees have been covering the weekends which is driving up the overtime charges.

Unfinished Business:

- Quarry Street overflow
- Storm water on Main Street

Street Report:

Councilman Caruso said he will meet with Councilwoman Bailey to get updated on Street Department current projects and will update Council at the next meeting.

A discussion ensued regarding the possible snow emergency coming this weekend. A meeting will be scheduled with borough departments to coordinate a plan.

A motion was made by Councilman Cholock to pay Street Department expenses. Motion seconded by Councilman Pritts. Councilman Caruso abstained. Motion carried 7-0.

Unfinished business:

- Paving Project
- Scratch Coating
- Tar & Chipping Alleys

Public Safety, Zoning & Ordinance Report:

A motion was made by Councilman Cholock to promote Officer George Grippo to the rank of Sargent. Motion seconded by Councilman Pritts. Motion carried 8-0.

A motion was made by Councilman Caruso to hire Jacob Cholock, Greensburg PA as part-time police officer for the Borough of Mount Police Department. Councilman Cholock abstained. Motion carried 7-0.

A motion was made by Councilman Cholock to reinstate Part-time Officer John Brown. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Stevenson. Motion carried 8-0.

Councilman Cholock stated that Police Chief Sam requested that he be allowed to start interviewing possible candidates for an additional full-time police officer for the Borough. A decision has not been made by Council to hire another full-time officer, but the process would take a long time and he would like to start making a list of eligible candidates.

Councilman Cholock said that he spoke to Borough Manager Landy about leasing another vehicle for the Police Department. Borough Manager Landy outlined different lease options.

A motion was made by Councilman Cholock to pay Police Department expenses. Councilman Caruso abstained. Motion seconded by Councilman Pritts. Motion carried 7-0.

Unfinished business:

- Hiring full-time police officer.

Parks & Recreation (General) Report:

A motion was made by Councilwoman Barnes to pay all Parks & Receptions expenses. Motion seconded by Councilman Pritts. Motion carried 8-0.

Finance & Human Resources Report:

A motion was made by Councilwoman Bailey to pay all Finance & Human Resources expenses. Motion seconded by Councilman Cholock. Motion carried 8-0.

Property Report:

Unfinished business:

- Councilwoman Ruszkowski said that her committee is waiting for another quote for the Police Department bathroom.

Councilman Rogacki stated that he and Borough Manager Landy are working on getting the elevator back in service. Schindler Elevator said that the problem was a power surge, but West Penn Power did tests and determined that there have been no power surges. They will put a monitor on the elevator to determine if there are any surges.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Ruszkowski to pay all Property expenses. Motion seconded by Councilman Pritts. Motion carried 8-0.

Sanitation & Recycling Report:

Unfinished business:

- Recycling Report

Community & Economic Development/Grants Report:

Councilwoman Stevenson reported that the committee met on Friday with the President of the Mount Pleasant BDA regarding community and economic development. Councilwoman Stevenson said that her committee will be represented at the BDA meetings and she will be working with Mr. Bob Regola on opportunities discussed during their trip to Harrisburg last fall.

A motion was made by Councilman Rogacki to pay all Waste Water Treatment expenses. Motion seconded by Councilman Pritts. Motion carried 8-0.

New Business:

Council discussed the article in the newspaper about Plum Borough and Monroeville negotiating a new contract with MAWC for a much cheaper rate. Councilwoman Barnes brought the article to President Wagner's attention and questioned why the Borough is paying such a high rate. Borough Manager Landy received an email from Mr. Tom Ceraso explaining that under the new contracts with Plum Borough and Monroeville they are responsible for all the things necessary to get the water to their customers and they agree to pay for an average daily minimum amount of water per year even if the minimum is not used.

Councilwoman Bailey reported that she attended the Library Board meeting and there were some changes in board members as well as a vacant board member seat. Any Mount Pleasant Borough or Township resident interested in serving on the board can contact Dwayne Hutter at Mount Pleasant Township.

A motion was made by Councilman Pritts to appoint Mr. Greg Wilson to a 3-year term on the Mount Pleasant Business District Authority. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Stevenson. Motion carried 8-0.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Bailey to reappoint Mr. James Rega to a 3-year term on the Mount Pleasant Business District Authority. Motion seconded by Councilman Pritts. Motion carried 8-0.

A motion was made by Councilman Pritts to reappoint Mr. Dale Walker to a 3-year term on the Mount Pleasant Business District Authority. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Barnes. Motion carried 8-0.

Public Comment:

Zarcheary Stumpf, Mount Pleasant made a request of Council to be reinstated as a part-time police officer for the Borough of Mount Pleasant. President Wagner stated that Mr. Stumpf's application would be considered to be a new application to the position and not a reinstatement.

Miscellaneous & Adjournment:

Solicitor Liptak cautioned new council members that what is said in an Executive Session must not be discussed outside Council.

President Wagner asked for clarification of his right to vote on council motions. Solicitor Liptak said that according to the PSAB Council President has the option to vote based on the likelihood of the Mayor attending meetings. If the Mayor is not present, Council President's vote would break a tie vote and during a roll call vote the President would have to voice an opinion.

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

Meeting Adjourned 10:18pm

Motions from January 19, 2016 Meeting

A motion was made by Councilwoman Ruszkowski to approve the minutes of January 4, 2016 since Council has been provided with a copy. Motion seconded by Councilman Cholock. Motion carried 8-0.

A motion was made by Councilman Rogacki to extend the three-minute time limit for Mr. Fazio. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Barnes. Motion carried 8-0.

A motion was made by Councilman Rogacki to extend the three-minute time limit for Ms. Lascio. Motion seconded by Councilman Cholock. Motion carried 8-0.

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A motion was made by Councilwoman Barnes to pay all Parks & Receptions expenses. Motion seconded by Councilman Pritts. Motion carried 8-0.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Bailey to pay all Finance & Human Resources expenses. Motion seconded by Councilman Cholock. Motion carried 8-0.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Ruszkowski to pay all Property expenses. Motion seconded by Councilman Pritts. Motion carried 8-0.

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