

Meeting October 6, 2014

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 Caruso, Pritts, Tate, Wagner, Wojnar and Councilwomen Bailey and Ruszkowski were present. Mayor Lucia and Solicitor Wolfe were present. President Bauer stated we have a quorum. Councilman Wojnar left the meeting at 9:10pm.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Ruszkowski to dispense with the reading of the minutes of September 15, 2014 since Council has been provided with a copy. Motion seconded by Councilman Pritts. Motion carried 8-0.

Public Comments: None

Speakers:

Pam Soforic, Mount Pleasant Center for Active Adults, Mount Pleasant spoke to Council about the services the Multi-Service Center offers to seniors. Ms. Soforic said that the Center has opened its doors to younger members of the community and now serves adults 50 and over. Ms. Soforic outlined many of the new programs offered by the center.

Mr. Mike Burns, General Manager, Armstrong told Council that he has been in his position at Armstrong for a little over a month and he is looking forward to working with Council and the Mount Pleasant community.

Mr. Chris Baker, General Manager and Scott Thomas, Operations Manager, Republic Services spoke to Council about the recently instituted recycling pilot program in the Borough. Mr. Baker assured Council that if the pilot program does not work that Republic Services can make adjustments to the program.

Mayor's Report:

Mayor Lucia read the following Police Report for the month of September 2014:

Report of the Mount Pleasant Police Department for the month of September 2014

The Department Answered the following calls during the month as follows:

Complaints	69
Requests for assistance	2
Assist Other Departments	2
Accidents investigated	3
Assist Medic 10	5

The Department made 33 arrests during the month as follows

Vehicle Code	30
Crimes Code	3
Borough Ordinance	0
Warning Issued	0

Parking Tickets issued are as follows:

\$4.00 Meter Tickets	10
\$10.00 No Parking Tickets	3
\$5.00 Parking Tickets	1
Void / Excused	2

\$1.00 Meter Ticket Paid	8	\$	8.00
\$4.00 Parking Tickets Paid	1	\$	4.00
\$5.00 Parking Tickets Paid	1	\$	5.00
\$10.00 Parking Tickets Paid	0	\$	-
\$15.00 Parking Tickets Paid	0	\$	-
\$10.00 No Parking Tickets Paid	3	\$	30.00
	0		

Return from Magistrate Eckels \$ 1,338.60

Return from Clerk of Courts	\$	683.72
Parking Tickets Paid for Month	\$	67.00
Return from Report Fees	\$	-
Return from Parking Permits	\$	-
Return from Restitution	\$	-
Total receipts for the month	\$	2,089.32

Mayor Lucia announced that the Halloween Parade will be at 7pm on October 29th and Trick or Treat will be held on Sunday the 26th from 2pm to 4pm.

Solicitor's Report: None

Tax Collector's Report:

Tax Collector Carol Yancosky read the following report for the month of September 2014:

Property Taxes = \$3,151.98
 Per Capita Taxes = \$2,156.00
 Total Collected = \$5,307.98

President's Report:

President Bauer thanked everyone who helped with the Mount Pleasant Glass & Ethnic Festival this year. The weather was beautiful and the Festival was a great success.

President Bauer reported that the Commemorative Christmas Ornaments sold very well at the Glass Festival and there are only a limited number still available. The money from the sale of the ornaments will be used for holiday lighting and decorations.

Borough Manager's Report:

Borough Manager Landy reported on the following:

- The Glass Festival was a great success this year. The Festival requires a lot of hard work and couldn't be done without the support of Council.
- Mr. Landy said he has been working with Architect Jim Gayton on the Penn Park project. The survey is done and work is being done on plans for electric, water and fixtures for the park. The work and fixtures will be paid for with grant funds. A bike rack will be included at the park for riders from the Coal & Coke Bike Trail.
- This year the Christmas Parade will be held in the evening on December 4, 2014 beginning at 6pm. Other events will be planned for that evening.
- There will be a meeting of the Westmoreland County Land Bank on Wednesday October 8, 2014 and they will be looking at two Mount Pleasant properties.
- Mr. Landy attended a CDBG seminar at St. Vincent College and will be working with Councilman Wagner on the 2015- 2018 CDBG Grants.
- The demolition has started for the new First Niagara Bank location on Main Street.
- Today was the grand opening of Main Street Deli.
- Mr. Landy said that since he has been driving around the Borough looking for property maintenance violations he has noticed that a lot of the sidewalks in town need to be replaced or repaired.

Waste Water Treatment Report:

Councilman Tate reported that construction started on the roof at the WWT Plant and should be completed this week.

Councilman Tate said that there will be a preconstruction meeting tomorrow October 7th at the WWT Plant for the replacement of the bio-tower at 10am and construction will begin October 25, 2014.

Councilman Tate said that WWT personnel will be getting hepatitis shots as a precaution.

Veterans Park Report: None

Streets Report:

A motion was made by Councilwoman Bailey to close Route 31, Main Street on October 29, 2014 from Braddock Road Avenue to Center Avenue from 6pm to 8pm for the 2014 Halloween Parade. Motion seconded by Councilman Pritts. Motion carried 8-0.

Councilwoman Bailey reported that the Street Department began crack sealing on Friday October 3, 2014 and will continue two days a week until the weather gets bad. There is a valve on the tar buggy that needs to be replaced.

Public Safety Zoning & Ordinance Report:

A motion was made by Councilman Tate to adopt Ordinance #643 approving an agreement with Mount Pleasant Township for the paving of Deer Creek Drive. Motion seconded by Councilman Pritts. Motion carried 8-0.

Councilman Tate said that a number of the Mount Pleasant Policemen are in attendance to support the promotion of Officer Dan Zilli to Police Chief. A signed petition was presented by the group which was signed by 700 residents of the Borough along with endorsement letters from local businesses. Councilman Tate said that he is impressed by the amount of signatures.

Acting Police Chief Dan Zilli gave a report to Council regarding what the Police Department has been doing in the last six to eight weeks. The station has been cleaned and organized and evidence procedures have been improved to be more effective so that there are fewer issues with chain of custody. Evidence that was kept in a locked room on the second floor of the municipal building that is no longer needed for cases was destroyed. Laptop computers that have been at the department for two years are programmed and ready to be installed in the police cruisers. Officer Zilli completed his report stating that Officers are continuing training and reporting has been brought up to date.

Officer Zilli reported that he is working with the Pennsylvania State Police and the PUC on a program to weigh and inspect trucks that come through the Borough. Officer Zilli said that there is a trucking company that will be bringing between 40 and 60 coal trucks through town daily from now through December 2014.

Officer Zilli said that the Visual Alert software that was purchased several months ago is now installed and Borough Police Officers will attend a training webinar on the product.

Officer Zilli said that he spoke to John Peck and Sheriff Hale regarding guns that were purchased with a grant in the 1980's. The guns are out of date and not being used by the department. Mr. Peck and Sheriff Hale said that if the guns are sold, preferably to Borough Patrolman, since the guns were purchased with grant funds, the proceeds should be used to purchase new equipment for the department.

Officer Zilli said that there is not an Officer Activity Report is posted in the station showing what each individual officer has done from the beginning of the month to the end. Council is welcome to come to the station any time to see the report.

Officer Zilli that scheduling issues that arose from the retirement of Police Chief Ober are being worked out and should be resolved within the next two weeks.

President Bauer said that there will be a meeting on Wednesday of the committee that was formed to assist with hiring a new Police Chief. President Bauer said that he appreciated the effort put into the petition presented by the Police Officers and they will be reviewed, but petitions have never had a bearing on who is hired for a position in the Borough.

Mount Pleasant Patrolman Kowalchuk spoke on behalf of all of the officers who were in attendance at the council meeting to support Officer Dan Zilli for the position of Mount Pleasant Borough Police Chief.

Borough Manager Landy said that a list has been compiled of properties in violation of the Property Maintenance Code and several of them have been resolved. Of the properties that still have issues only about four to six will still be on the list at the end of the month and these properties are the ones that have had issues for a long time. Solicitor Wolfe, Mr. Landy and K2

Engineering are all working on these properties but there is still not a real good way to address them.

Community & Economic Development/Grants Report:

Councilman Wagner said that he is also impressed by the number of signatures on the petition presented by Borough Police Officer. The signatures show people's confidence that acting Police Chief Zilli can fill the position of Police Chief.

Councilman Wagner asked for the status on the Premoshis Christmas Displays and Borough Manager Landy said that Mr. Premoshis indicated that he has no place to store the displays. Mr. Landy said that he is waiting to hear whether the Mount Pleasant Historical Society is interested in taking the displays.

Councilman Wagner said that his committee and Mr. Landy are working on the 2015-2018 CDBG Grant and are getting feedback from Council regarding projects to apply for. Some suggestions are for purchases and repairs to borough park equipment and sidewalks, paving, the apron for the Fire Department and repairs to the basketball court.

Parks & Recreation Report:

Councilman Wojnar said he is meeting with Bob Keeler from the Coal & Coke Bike Trail to look at the Gazebo area for a location to put a bike rack. Councilman Wojnar said that the bike rack will not be near Veterans Wall out of respect to the Veterans. Councilman Wojnar said that the County will donate the stencils for the directions on the road for the bike trail extension and Mr. Keeler has an estimate on the signage.

Councilman Wojnar said that Mr. Calitri from the Mount Pleasant Little League contacted him to report that the footbridge at the park has disappeared and may have been washed away. Councilman Wojnar said that he will meet with Mr. Calitri to look at the situation.

Finance & Human Resources Report:

Councilwoman Ruszkowski said that work will begin on the 2015 Budget and she and Mr. Landy will be meeting with a healthcare representative to discuss the projected hospitalization cost.

Property Report:

A motion was made by Councilman Pritts to suspend the rules for the purpose of approving the quote in the amount of \$7,550 from Handyman Joe for repairs to the first floor of the municipal building. Motion seconded by Councilman Wagner. Motion carried 8-0.

A motion was made by Councilman Pritts to approve the quote in the amount of \$7,550 from Handyman Joe to repair the water issues on the first floor of the municipal building. Motion seconded by Councilman Wagner. Motion carried 8-0.

Councilman Pritts said that Mayor Lucia said that there may be a water damage issue at the Central Fire Station and Councilman Pritts said he will look at the property.

Sanitation & Recycling Report:

Councilman Caruso reported that the recycling pilot program with Republic Services of the 95-gallon recycling bins began on Church Street and College Avenue. Councilman Caruso said that he has received complaints from some of the pilot residences. One of the complaints is that the container is too large for some of our senior citizens to handle. Councilman Caruso said that there is a smaller container available and he is working with Republic Services to have these small containers placed at some addresses. President Bauer said that the recycling program is in place to keep down the cost of garbage collection.

New Business:

Councilman Wojnar mentioned that someone needs to remind residents that grass cuttings cannot be blown into the streets because it clogs the storm sewers.

Councilman Wojnar said that the street near Harmon House is in pretty bad shape after a utility company opened it. President Bauer said that the company will come and do a permanent patch.

President Bauer said that he is going to contact Columbia Gas about extending service in Ramsey Terrace to approximately six more properties and to run the line at no charge to the residents.

Councilman Pritts thanked the Glass & Ethnic Festival Committee for the great job they did this year.

President Bauer introduced Randy who has a new Farmers Insurance office in the Borough. Randy spoke to Council about Farmers Insurance and what they offer.

Councilman Wagner announced that the Mount Pleasant BDA has taken the initiative to “paint the town pink” in honor of Breast Cancer Awareness Month.

Reading of Communications:

Borough Manager Landy read the following communications:

- Standard Bank has requested a donation to their “Make A Wish” program this year. President Bauer said that he will make up a basket to donate.
- Council received a card from the residents of Woodfield Estates thanking them for the wonderful job on the road. It was sign by each resident personally.
- Westmoreland County Chamber of Commerce will hold Coffee & Connections on Tuesday, October 28, 2014 at Amber House at Harmon House beginning at 7:45am.
- The 2014 Annual Dinner for the Economic Growth and Connection for Westmoreland will be held November 4th at the Ramada Inn.
- Council received a nice Thank You letter from Ethel Cooper for honoring her as Citizen of the Month in August.
- There will be a ribbon cutting ceremony on October 24, 2014 for WATT at 402 E Main Street Suite 800 beginning at 11am.
- Westmoreland County Borough Association will hold its monthly meeting at the Westmoreland Conservation District Office on Donohoe Road in Greensburg on October 23rd beginning at 7pm.

Mayor Lucia said that on November 12th the PSAB will hold a seminar on “Managing a Professional Police Department at the Doubletree in Monroeville. The cost to anyone attending will be \$125. Councilwoman Stevenson has requested to be allowed to attend the seminar.

A motion was made by Councilman Wagner to approve the \$125 cost for Councilwoman Stevenson to attend the PSAB “Managing a Professional Police Department” seminar on November 12, 2014. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Bailey. Motion carried 8-0.

Discussion and Payment of Bills:

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

Miscellaneous and Adjournment:

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

Meeting adjourned 8:23pm

Motions from October 6, 2014 Meeting

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