

Meeting November 4, 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, Snyder, and Councilwomen Bailey, and 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 Councilman Snyder to dispense with the reading of the minutes of October 21, 2013 since Council has been provided with a copy. Motion seconded by Councilman Pritts. Motion carried 7-0.

Public Comment: None

Mayor Lucia presented a Certificate of Recognition to Christopher E. Kelly, Eagle Scout.

Speakers:

Christine Barnhart, Mount Pleasant PA spoke to Council about the upcoming Gingerbread House Competition. This is the second year of the competition. Ms. Barnhart said that last year there were 28 gingerbread houses and they expect a great turn out again this year. Ms. Barnhart thanked Levin Furniture for sponsoring the competition last year and again this year and the Mount Pleasant VFW for all of their help. The proceeds from the sale of the homes will be going to Wounded Warrior as well as local veterans. The houses will be on display at the In Town Shops this year. There will be an open house at the Mount Pleasant VFW on November 16th for a couple of hours where the houses can be seen. Ballot boxes will be at the open house on November 16th, at the In Town Shops during the hours they are open and at both Levin Furniture locations.

Mayor's Report:

Report of the Mount Pleasant Police Department for the month of September 2013

Complaints	58		
Requests for assistance	5		
Assist Other Departments	5		
Accidents investigated	11		
Calls Returned	10		
Assist Medic 10	7		
The Department made 14 arrests during the month as follows			
Vehicle Code	13		
Crimes Code	5		
Borough Ordinance	1		
Warning Issued	0		
Parking Tickets issued are as follows:			
\$4.00 Meter Tickets	40		
\$10.00 No Parking Tickets	0		
Void / Excused	2		
\$1.00 Parking Tickets Paid			
\$2.00 Parking Tickets Paid			
\$3.00 Parking Tickets Paid			
\$4.00 Parking Tickets Paid	28	\$	112.00
\$5.00 Parking Tickets Paid	4	\$	20.00
\$10.00 Parking Tickets Paid	0	\$	-

\$15.00 Parking Tickets Paid	1	\$	15.00
\$10.00 No Parking Tickets Pd	5	\$	70.00
Return from Magistrate Eckels		\$	1,414.27
Return from Clerk of Courts		\$	147.82
Return from Report Fees		\$	45.00
Return from Parking Permits		\$	30.00
Return from Restitution		\$	12.50
Total		\$	1,866.59
1 Meter Collection		\$	1,165.16
Total Receipts for the month		\$	3,031.75

Mayor Lucia said he received a letter from Penn dot stating what we need to do to put a crosswalk across Main Street/Route 31 at an intersection. Main Street/Route 31 is a state road and a crosswalk requires permission from Penn Dot. After we meet certain requirements we can put a crosswalk at the intersection of Main and Quarry Streets for Independence Apartments.

Independence Apartments is also requesting another handicap parking space and a 15 minute loading and unloading zone sign. Mayor Lucia said that he feels a speed bump is needed in the alley behind Independence Apartments.

Mayor Lucia said that the first Mount Pleasant Reality Tour was held and was a great success. There are many volunteers for the tour and everything ran very smoothly.

Solicitor's Report: None

Tax Collector's Report:

Tax Collector Carol Yancosky read the following report for the month of October 2013:

Property Taxes = \$2,078.38
Per Capita Taxes = \$ 559.80
Total = \$2638.18

President's Report:

President Bauer thanked Councilwomen Ruszkowski and Bailey and Councilman McCloy for all of their help with the 2014 budget as well as Borough Manager Landy and the borough office.

President Bauer also thanked all of the volunteers who participated in the Mount Pleasant Area Reality Tour especially the Mount Pleasant High School Drama Club who did a wonderful job.

President Bauer commended the WWT Department for their progress on the Quarry Street Project and the Street Department for their work on the wall at Frick Park.

President Bauer reminded everyone that November 5, 2013 is Election Day and November 11th is Veterans Day. The Veterans Day Parade begins at 10:30am and there will be a ceremony at Veterans Park at 11:00am.

Borough Manager's Report:

Borough Manager gave a list of community events during the Christmas season:

- Gingerbread House Tour/Competition begins November 16, 2013
- 24th Annual DAR Festival of Lights November 30, 2013
- Light Night December 1, 2013
- "A Gingerbread Christmas" Parade and programs December 7, 2013
- Candlelight Procession December 8, 2013

Mr. Landy said that with all of these special events and others throughout the year, as well as a balanced budget without cutting services or raising taxes, Mount Pleasant is a great place to start a business or raise a family.

Borough Manager Landy reported that the Veterans Park Digital Wall is up and running. Anyone interested in having someone's name on the wall can download the application from the Borough's web site or pick one up at the borough office.

Mr. Landy said that we are still working on insurance issues regarding the lightning strike at the WWT Plant this summer. Everything is coming along and we should be reimbursed for all of the damage minus the \$1,000 insurance deductible.

Mr. Landy reported that Phase II of the Storm Water Retrofit Project is complete and we are in the process of closing out the grant and paying the vendors. It took four years and three quarters of a million dollars, but it shows that the Borough is doing the best for Borough residents who have flooding issues. The rain gardens will not fix all of the problems, but it's a good start.

Mr. Landy said that Mount Pleasant is one of the communities who were picked by the county to be involved in land banking. The Borough budgeted funds in 2014 for land banking.

Mr. Landy requested that department heads look closely at the Profit and Loss Budget vs. Actual because the line items must be balanced before the end of the year.

Waste Water Treatment Report:

President Bauer reported that the Quarry Street Project is almost complete. WWT Superintendent Norm Stout will do some patching in the ditches before the asphalt plants close for the season and will do permanent fixes in the spring. Mr. Stout said that the residents on Quarry Street have been very cordial and helpful during this project. President Bauer said that he has asked Mr. Stout to research what the cost would have been if the Borough had hired an outside contractor to do the work versus doing it in-house.

Streets Report:

A motion was made by Councilman Pritts to close Route 31 "Main Street" from Braddock Rd Avenue to Cherry Avenue on December 7, 2013 from 10:30am to 1:00pm for the Christmas Parade and Route 981 "Diamond Street" from Main Street to Washington Street from 12 noon to 2:00pm on December 7, 2013 for Christmas programs. Motion seconded by Councilman Snyder. Motion carried 7-0.

Councilman Pritts said that the Street Department and Fire Department were great assets to have after the recent storm left trees down and caused other damage.

Public Safety Report:

A motion was made by Councilman Snyder to hire Michael Murphy, Greensburg PA as a part-time Police Officer for the Borough of Mount Pleasant at the normal part-time rate of pay. Motion seconded by Councilman Pritts. Motion carried 7-0.

A motion was made by Councilman Snyder to suspend the rules for the purpose of adding a speed bump behind Independence Apartments. Motion seconded by Councilman Pritts. Motion carried 7-0.

A motion was made by Councilman Snyder to add a speed bump in the alley behind Independence Apartments on the 900 block. Motion seconded by Councilman Pritts. Motion carried 7-0.

A motion was made by Councilman Snyder to suspend the rules for the purpose of adding a crosswalk at the intersection of Main and Quarry. Motion seconded by Councilman Pritts. Motion carried 7-0.

A motion was made by Councilman Snyder to add a crosswalk at the intersection of Main Street and Quarry Street. Motion seconded by Councilman Pritts. Motion carried 7-0.

A motion was made by Councilman Snyder to add a 15 minute loading and unloading zone in front of Independence Apartments. Motion seconded by Councilman Pritts. Motion carried 7-0.

A motion was made by Councilman Snyder to add a 15 minute loading and unloading zone in front of Independence Apartments on Main Street. Motion seconded by Councilman Pritts. Motion carried 7-0.

A motion was made by Councilman Snyder to suspend the rules for a motion to have free meter parking on Main Street for the Holiday Season. Motion seconded by Councilman Pritts. Motion carried 7-0.

A motion was made by Councilman Snyder to have free meter parking on Main Street from November 29, 2013 thru January 2, 2014 for the Holiday Season. Motion seconded by Councilman Pritts. Motion carried 7-0.

Councilman Snyder read the following Fire Report for the month of October 2013:

Total Calls - 46
In Town - 13
Out of Town - 33
10-45's - 15
10-45's W/Entrapment - 2
Fires - 12
Public Service Calls - 8
AFA's - 10
Turnpike Calls - 2
Total Members Answering - 693
Average Member per Call - 15
Total Staff Hours - 339

President Bauer said that he suggests when deciding to make a street permit parking only, that someone goes door-to-door on that street and get the opinion of every resident. If the street is made permit parking only, two permits will be issued to each residence. The permit allows the permit holder to park anywhere on that street, and does not reserve a spot directly in front of their home. There is also a \$10 fee for the permits. Councilman Snyder said that it is very difficult to enforce permit parking, especially on a street such as Eagle where there is an elementary school and a church.

President Bauer reported that the Mount Pleasant Volunteer Fire Department is holding a Gun Bash this weekend and there are only a few tickets left. Also, before the end of the year the Fire Department will be raffling off a brand new Ford F150. The cost of the raffle ticket will be \$20. Money raised from these events will be used to purchase a new pumper for the Fire Department.

Zoning and Ordinance Report:

Councilman McCloy said that these last two week have been a busy time for him. He has been working on a new ordinance fee schedule, attending budget meetings as well as volunteering for the Mount Pleasant Area Reality Tour. Councilman McCloy said that he would like to stress to the new council members that being on Council involves much more than simply attending two council meetings per month.

Community & Economic Development/Grants Report:

Councilwoman Bailey reported that the CDBG Grant was submitted on time and the Borough requested \$25,000 to pave Braddock Road Avenue, \$3,600 to repair the roof on the Third Ward Fire Station and \$9,700 to reconstruct the bathrooms at Willows Park. We will wait to hear from the County about whether we will receive the funds.

Councilwoman Bailey encouraged parents to bring their children to the Mount Pleasant Area Reality Tour because the first live tour has such an impact on the parent and children who attended. President Bauer said that he has received a lot of positive feedback from people who attended. The next Reality Tour will be held on November 14, 2013.

Veterans Park Report: None

Parks & Recreation Report: None

Finance Report:

Councilwoman Ruszkowski thanked the Finance Committee members Councilwoman Bailey and Councilman McCloy for all of their help preparing the 2014 budget as well as Borough Manager Landy. The balanced budget will be presented for advertising at the November 18, 2013 meeting and will not include a tax increase.

Councilwoman Ruszkowski said that she was impacted by the Mount Pleasant Area Reality Tour by the fact that so many grandparents came with their children and grandchildren and the emotions that showed on their faces. It was apparent that the people who attended were affected and that means the tour is successful. President Bauer said that the Reality Tour will save tax dollars in the long run because drug related issues cost the Borough a great deal of money.

President Bauer commended the Finance Committee and Borough Manager Landy on balancing the budget without raising taxes or cutting services. Councilman Bauer said that there are all political parties present on Mount Pleasant Borough Council and they all work together for the betterment of the Borough. Mayor Lucia remarked that he didn't understand the recent campaign platforms that declared Mount Pleasant needs change. It does not speak to the progress that the current council has made. Other municipalities have had to raise property taxes along with cutting services. Mount Pleasant has not had to raise property taxes in the last eight years.

Property Report:

Councilman Pritts said that feed from the surveillance cameras were used this week to see an incident that happened in the Police Station. Councilman Pritts said that he thinks the recorder should be moved down to the Police Station so that the Police have access to the recordings on a read-only basis.

Sanitation & Recycling Report:

Councilwoman Stevenson said that she has received a proposal from Allied Waste for garbage pickup that outlines a one-year extension of the current contract including a second option year with no rate increase. Allied Waste has also pledged community development funds as well as a pilot program for automated carts.

A motion was made by Councilman Snyder to suspend the rules for a motion to have free meter parking on Main Street for the Holiday Season. Motion seconded by Councilman Pritts. Motion carried 7-0.

A motion was made by Councilman Snyder to have free meter parking along the streets from November 29, 2013 thru January 2, 2014 for the Holiday Season. Motion seconded by Councilman Pritts. Motion carried 7-0.

New Business: None

Reading of Communications: None

Discussion and Payment of Bills:

A motion was made by Councilman Pritts to pay all approved and authorized bills. Motion seconded by Councilman Snyder. Motion carried 7-0.

Miscellaneous and Adjournment:

A motion was made by Councilman Snyder to adjourn the meeting. Motion seconded by Councilman Pritts. Motion carried 7-0.

Meeting Adjourned 8:12pm

Motions from Meeting of November 4, 2013

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A motion was made by Councilman Snyder to have free meter parking along the streets from November 29, 2013 thru January 2, 2014 for the Holiday Season. Motion seconded by Councilman Pritts. Motion carried 7-0.

A motion was made by Councilman Pritts to pay all approved and authorized bills. Motion seconded by Councilman Snyder. Motion carried 7-0.

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