

Meeting January 21, 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. Councilman Caruso, Pritts, Wagner, Wojnar and Councilwomen Bailey, Ruskowski and Stevenson were present. Mayor Lucia was present and Solicitor Wolfe was absent. President Bauer stated we have a quorum.

President Bauer called for nominations to fill the vacant Third Ward Council seat.

Councilman Wagner nominated John Rogacki for the 2-year Third Ward council seat.

Councilwoman Stevenson nominated Larry Tate for the 2-year Third Ward council seat.

President Bauer called for a roll call vote as follows:

Diane Bailey	John Rogacki
Councilman Caruso	John Rogacki
Councilman Pritts	Larry Tate
Councilwoman Ruskowski	Larry Tate
Councilwoman Stevenson	Larry Tate
Councilman Wagner	John Rogacki
Councilman Wojnar	Larry Tate
President Bauer	Larry Tate

Mayor Lucia swore in Mr. Larry Tate to the 2-year Third Ward council seat.

Public Comment:

Mr. Gerard Rendine spoke to Council about the Council appointment of Mr. Larry Tate and said that according to the votes, he feels Mr. Rogacki was next in line for the council seat and should have been appointed. A heated discussion ensued.

Mayor's Report:

Mayor Lucia said that he received a letter from the Mount Pleasant Area School District thanking the Mount Pleasant Volunteer Fire Department for their response to a water line break on January 7, 2014.

Mayor Lucia said that he met with representatives from B.I.U. regarding inspections and the paperwork they use specifying some of the items they look at during an inspection.

Mayor Lucia said he also spoke with B.I.U. about a business in town who applied to the Zoning Hearing Board for a zoning variance because they are changing the usage of the business. The owner began work on the property before they applied for a variance and Borough Officials will speak to the Borough Solicitor on how to proceed.

Reading of the Minutes:

A motion was made by Councilwoman Stevenson to dispense with the reading of the minutes of January 6, 2014 since Council has been provided with a copy. Motion seconded by Councilman Pritts. Motion carried 9-0.

Solicitor's Report: None

Treasurer's Report:

Borough Manager Landy read the following Treasurers Report for the month of December 2013:

**Mt. Pleasant
Borough Treasurer's
Report**

Dec-13

		Previous Balance	Deposits	Disbursements	Balance 2013
General Fund Checking	PNC 00-0122-3513	50,000.00	168,748.21	168,748.21	50,000.00
General Fund Sweep	PNC 10-1149-3394	762,566.09	53,963.24	86,260.00	730,269.33
General Fund Budgetary Reserve	PNC 102-457-4388	43,383.38	3.81	0.00	43,387.19
**Fire		30,000.00			
**Police		0.00			
**Streets		10,000.00			
**Contingency Fund		3,387.19			

General Fund Budgetary Reserve	Standard Bank 321615	399,244.74	50.81	2,182.87	397,112.68
**Police		33,127.60			
**Streets		90,000.00			
**Contingency Fund		103,199.28			
**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		1,300.00			
**Fire		15,000.00			
**K-9		11,729.57			
Escrow Account	PNC Bank 10-2912-6867	22,350.87	0.00	0.00	22,350.87
Liquid Fuels PLGIT	PLGIT 56980126	63,073.39	0.72	4,664.26	58,409.85
Monument CD	Standard Bank 328188	5,950.65	0.00	0.00	5,950.65
Holiday Lighting Fund	Standard Bank 050004849	1,802.67	0.07	0.00	1,802.74
Payroll Fund	PNC 00-0122-6415	538.34	80,495.14	72,375.16	8,658.32
Veterans Park Fund	First Niagara 981293700	691.49	0.00	0.00	691.49
Veterans Park Fund	PLGIT 5698025	5,548.16	0.06	0.00	5,548.22
Town Clock Fund	Standard Bank 0010038847	613.57	0.03	0.00	613.60
Storm Water Retrofit Phase II	PNC Bank 10-3888-4556	3,539.32	95,050.00	47,525.00	51,064.32
Total General Fund Balance					1,375,859.26
Medic 10 Checking	Standard Bank 0010107643	76,902.61	48,018.81	26,043.23	98,878.19
Medic 10 Savings	Standard Bank 0310000238	138,911.16	1,017.82	0.00	139,928.98
Medic 10 Money Market	PNC Bank 10-1516-8804	5,880.57	0.26	0.00	5,880.83
Medic 10 Community Trust	Standard Bank 0000358253	2,571.61	0.32	106.00	2,465.93
Total Medic 10 Fund Balance					247,153.93
WWT Operational Acct	Standard Bank 0320012280	231,827.43	30,555.78	53,506.19	208,877.02
WWT Savings	Standard Bank 0050021008	89,514.38	1,515.59	0.00	91,029.97
WWT Budgetary Reserve	Standard Bank 0000287245	168,237.29	21.43	0.00	168,258.72
**Contingency		108,237.29			
**Infrastructure		60,000.00			
Total WWT Balance					468,165.71
Total Borough funds					2,091,178.90

Councilwoman Susan Ruszkowski
Secretary Beverly Fedorchak

A motion was made by Councilman Pritts to approve the Treasurers Report as read. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Bailey. Motion carried 9-0.

Speaker:

Mike Oplinger, Manager of Mount Pleasant EMS Medic 10 informed Council that Medic 10 was asked by Norvelt EMS and Kecksburg EMS to provide them with a paramedic when needed in place of Medic 930 which is no longer in service. The Medic 10 Board of Directors agreed and since December 1, 2013 Medic 10 has been placed as primary paramedic backup for Norvelt and Kecksburg. Medic 10 has also been placed on dual dispatch with Norvelt EMS since Norvelt does not always have a crew available. A long term mutual aid agreement allows Medic 10 to invoice \$75 for any paramedic assist. Mr. Oplinger said that Medic 10 is now offering CPR classes to the public at a cost of \$25.

Mr. Oplinger explained that Medic 10 hired a collection agency to collect unpaid service charges. Individuals who are paid directly from the insurance company do not always forward payment to Medic 10 and that money is outstanding along with any deductibles that are not paid. The company is American Profit Recovery; it is a three-year contract and covers up to 400 accounts.

President's Report:

President Bauer said that he is still working on committee appointments and will have Ms. Fedorchak email the list to all of Council as soon as it is complete. President Bauer reminded Council that the chairman of the Public Safety Committee will also be on the board of Medic 10. Mayor Lucia is the chairman of the Medic 10 Board.

Borough Managers Report:

Borough Manager Landy said that he ordered 150 ton of salt for the Street Department. Street Supervisor Mario Fontanazza is still mixing sand with the salt as an antiskid. Mr. Landy said he will call Penn Dot to find out at what temperature salt becomes ineffective and about the use of beet juice.

Mr. Landy said he met with April Kopas, Westmoreland County Redevelopment, the Superintendent of Mount Pleasant Area Schools and the President of the School Board about blighted properties and Westmoreland County has accepted Mount Pleasant Borough as a member of the Land Bank. This is the first year the Land Bank has been adopted in Westmoreland County. In order to have Land Banking all of the taxing districts must accept the rules and regulation of the Land Bank including the School District. The County has researched Mount Pleasant Borough and there are seven properties in the Borough that qualify for Land Banking.

Borough Manager Landy reported that Somerset Bank and Trust is looking at operating out of the old PNC Drive-thru. They have met with the Mount Pleasant Parking Authority and are very interested.

Mr. Landy asked Council to look at the Mount Pleasant Borough web-site to familiarize themselves with what it contains. Any council member who has ideas about what else should be included or what should be changed can contact the borough office.

Mr. Landy said that he has received the BDA Annual Audit for 2013 and it will be available in the borough office for anyone who wants to look at it.

Mr. Landy reported that there will be a hearing on a property maintenance code violation on January 27, 2014 at 7:30pm in Council Chambers.

Borough Manager Landy said that the Westmoreland County Chamber of Commerce has some networking opportunities available to Council. They will be holding "Small Business Roundtables" and "Coffee Connections" for those interested in attending.

Mr. Landy said that there are properties in the Borough who have water discharging on public streets after they disconnected their downspouts etc. from the sanitary sewer and in the winter it becomes an icing issue. After talking with the Borough Solicitor a letter was sent to one of the property owners on Eagle Street requesting that they reconnect to the sanitary sewer because of the runoff problem. The property owner has not responded to the Borough's request. Councilman Tate said that the water in this situation is not coming from only one property. Councilwoman Bailey said that there is also an issue with runoff on Oak Street.

Mr. Landy said he received a quote from Industry Weapons that included a \$360 charge for a maintenance agreement along with the \$1,500 license renewal fee. The Veterans Park Committee will have to decide whether to pay the maintenance agreement.

Borough Manager Landy said that he spoke with a representative from McCormick Taylor Engineers. In 2014 Council decided not to appoint a Borough Engineer. McCormick Taylor said that they feel it would be in the Borough's best interest if McCormick Taylor continued handling the MS4 which is the reporting for DEP regulations that is due in April 2014. McCormick Taylor Engineers has handled the reporting for the last two years and are familiar with the borough.

Mr. Landy said that Council has a copy of the Borough's gas well revenue thru October 2013.

Councilman Tate had a question about Land Banking and Mr. Landy explained as follows:

When a property goes up for a Judicial Sale the Land Bank can buy the property. After they buy the property the Land Bank will redevelop the property. The property will then go up for sale and after it is sold it will go back on the borough tax rolls. For the first five years after it goes back on the tax rolls the Land Bank will receive 50% of the tax revenue, the Borough, Westmoreland County and the School District split the remaining 50% of the tax income. Mount Pleasant School District, at their School Board meeting must decide whether to approve land banking for any property in the school district.

Community & Economic Development/Grants Report:

Councilwoman Bailey said that she performed an income survey of the homes on Braddock Road Avenue to determine whether the Borough can use CDBG funds to pave their street. Since part of the street is owned by East Huntingdon Township and part by Mount Pleasant Borough county officials required a survey of homes on Braddock Road Avenue between Vine Street and the third gate of Mount Pleasant Cemetery. The survey needed to show that 51% of the homes were low income and it did not show that, therefore we will not be able to use CDBG funds to pave Braddock Road Avenue. But Terri Yurcisin, Westmoreland County Planning said that we can take the money we were going to use to pave Braddock Road Avenue and use it to build new bathrooms at Willows Park. Councilwoman Bailey said that the Borough will get two estimates for the Willows Park bathrooms which will include two stalls in the women's restroom and one stall with a urinal in the men's restroom. Both will be handicap accessible and closer to the pavilions with a walkway that a wheelchair can move on easily. Borough Manager Landy said that the Borough approached the county with three projects. Replacing the roof at Third Ward Fire Station, paving our part of Braddock Road Avenue and Willow Park restrooms and was awarded \$39,000. The roof and the paving project were rejected. After the Borough gets two estimates for the bathrooms we can use some of the \$39,000 to build them. Whatever is left can be carried over and will not be lost. Council discussed the best way to limit vandalism at the bathrooms and whether we can upgrade the pavilions or the parking area.

Parks & Recreation Report:

Councilman Wojnar said that he has partnered the Borough with "Get Outdoors PA" and they will be holding a state wide rollout event on June 14, 2014. Councilman Wojnar said he will meet with the Mount Pleasant YMCA to see if

they would like to do something with that event. President Bauer said that the Borough should get the different programs that are held in our parks, or the groups that want to do work in our parks, to sign an insurance waiver. Council discussed holding different sports clinics at the parks this summer.

Finance & Human Resources Report:

A motion was made by Councilwoman Ruszkowski to approve Resolution 2014-01 increasing quarterly pension contribution from \$3.00 per each hour worked by a member to \$3.10 per hour worked by a member. Motion seconded by Councilman Pritts. Motion carried 9-0.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Ruszkowski to approve Resolution 2014-02 waiving the required member contributions to the Police pension plan for calendar year 2014 only. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Bailey. Motion carried 9-0.

Property Report:

Councilman Pritts asked Borough Manager Landy for an update on the Town Clock. Mr. Landy said that the motor has been installed but is running faster than 2rpms. The individual who has been working on the clock does not have as much spare time as he used to and the weather has been too cold to work outdoors in the clock tower.

Sanitation & Recycling Report:

Councilwoman Stevenson reported that Westmoreland Cleanways has moved its location to Unity Township and will have expanded opportunities for recycling.

Councilman Wagner said that he looks forward to working on Council. Councilman Wagner said that he understands that Council followed procedure under Borough Code, but he does not agree that Councilmen from First and Second Wards should appoint a Councilman for Third Ward over what he believes the voters wanted and he apologized to Third Ward residents.

President Bauer asked Councilman Caruso if there was anything he wanted to add and Councilman Caruso said he hopes to see Council move forward and work together.

Reading of Communications:

Borough Manager Landy read the following Communications:

- The Mount Pleasant Area Junior Football League will be holding a Golf Outing on Saturday July 12, 2013 at Norvelt Golf Course.
- The Mount Pleasant Packer Cheerleaders have asked permission again this year to use Frick Park Softball Field outside of the fence.
- Council received a letter from a resident stating that her and her husband are both senior citizens and are should not be paying school taxes.

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 9-0.

Miscellaneous and Adjournment:

A motion was made by Councilwoman Stevenson to adjourn the meeting. Motion seconded by Councilman Pritts. Motion carried 9-0.

Meeting adjourned 8:25pm

A motion was made by Councilwoman Stevenson to dispense with the reading of the minutes of January 6, 2014 since Council has been provided with a copy. Motion seconded by Councilman Pritts. Motion carried 9-0.

A motion was made by Councilman Pritts to approve the Treasurers Report as read. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Bailey. Motion carried 8-0.

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A motion was made by Councilwoman Ruszkowski to approve Resolution 2014-02 waiving the required member contributions to the Police pension plan for calendar year 2014 only. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Bailey. Motion carried 9-0.