

## Meeting February 1, 2016

The meeting of Mount Pleasant Borough Council was called to order by President Wagner 7:02pm 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 19, 2016 since Council has been provided with a copy. Motion seconded by Councilman Cholock. Motion carried 8-0.

### **Public Comment:**

Tony Veccio, Northwood Realty and Meg Caruso, ERA Lechner & Associates spoke to Council about a property at 324 College Avenue that is being sold. During the dye test it was discovered that a total of four homes were connected to one lateral under the basement floor of 324 College Avenue. WWT personnel cannot issue a passing dye test under these circumstances which would make it unsellable and eventually, the other three properties. Councilman Rogacki said that the Waste Water Treatment Committee will meet with WWT Superintendent Larry Hague to discuss the options. Mr. Veccio said that he would like to schedule the closing on the property at the end of March.

### **Reading of Communications:**

Borough Manager Landy read the following communications:

- Hayden's Pharmacy and Westmoreland Drug & Alcohol Commission Inc. will be presenting a free program open to the public on Thursday February 11, 2016 beginning at 7pm at the Mount Pleasant Area High School Auditorium featuring "Drug Abuse Education & Overdose Prevention Training".

### **Mayor's Report:**

Mayor Lucia thanked the Street, Waste Water Treatment, Fire, and Police Departments as well as Medic 10 for their excellent work during the recent snow storm.

Mayor Lucia reported that the Mount Pleasant Area Reality Tour will be held at Rumbaugh School on Thursday February 4, 2016 beginning at 6:30pm. Registration is available online. Any council member wanting to participate is welcome.

### **Borough Manager's Report:**

Borough Manager Landy said that Council has a copy of the current Budget Vs. Actual Report. If new council members have any questions they can schedule a meeting with Mr. Landy and he will go over it with them.

Borough Manager Landy said that he has met with new council members to bring them up to speed on current projects.

Mr. Landy said that the borough office is still working on the issues with the Municipal Building elevator. Meetings have been held with Schindler Elevator and West Penn Power to try and determine if there is too much power coming into the building causing a problem with the elevator.

Borough Manager Landy said that he and Mayor Lucia have been meeting with representatives from Frick Hospital. Excela Health has aggressive renovation plans for Phase II at Frick Hospital which will include a Heliport. Mr. Landy and Mayor Lucia have been discussing the location of the Heliport with Frick Hospital officials.

Mr. Landy said that he attended the Newly Elected Officials Training sponsored by the PSAB with Councilman Rogacki and Councilwoman Barnes. They were only able to attend the first day of the two-day course because of the snowstorm. Mr. Landy said that the course is very beneficial for newly elected officials and as a refresher course for current officials.

Mr. Landy said that a preparation meeting was held with borough departments in preparation for the snow storm. Councilman Caruso will hold meetings after the storm to assess how we did and what we can do better.

Borough Manager Landy reported that construction at Penn Park has started and meetings are ongoing with the contractors. Architect Jim Gayton has approved a payment to BCS Construction for the work done so far. More meetings will be held and some changes may be made including using artificial turf instead of planting grass at the park. The Borough may also be able to use the turf in our playgrounds.

The Borough received a letter from Mayor Lucia as the Emergency Management Coordinator requesting that we gather information on the costs incurred during the snowstorm for Westmoreland County. If there was enough money spent, the Municipalities may get reimbursed for 50% of the cost from PEMA. If the costs for all areas affected reach 17 million dollars the Federal Government will also declare a state of emergency and FEMA will reimburse 75%.

Mr. Landy said that he and President Wagner attended the Jacobs Creek Watershed Association Board Meeting on January 26, 2016. Mr. Landy said that he presented the Board with four grant possibilities in the Borough which included Main Street Storm Water, Penn Park and Borough Playgrounds. Borough Manager Landy said that he feels the Board was very receptive to his requests. They also asked him to sit on the Board.

Borough Manager Landy said that backflows must be installed at all Borough facilities and Street Department Supervisor Mario Fontanazza has been discussing the project with a contractor who is also an inspector.

Mr. Landy said that he received applications for traffic signals from Penn Dot for the 2017 Main Street Project. Mr. Landy said that the paperwork looks to be in order, but he will ask Solicitor Liptak to review the documents.

Borough Manager Landy said that Penn Dot has indicated that MAWC and Columbia Gas have both signed on for the 2017 Main Street Project and the Borough will be meeting with engineers to discuss storm water and sewer replacement.

#### **Tax Collector's Report:**

Tax Collector Yancosky gave the following report for the month of January 2016:

Per Capita Taxes Collected = \$104.50

Ms. Yancosky said that Borough and County taxes will be mailed out on March 1, 2016 and the discount months are March and April.

#### **Solicitor's Report:**

Solicitor Liptak reported that she has provided Council with samples of employee contracts for review per a request from President Wagner.

#### **President's Report:**

President Wagner stated that since the Reorganization Meeting on January 4<sup>th</sup> Council has been very busy. Many meetings were held to familiarize new council members with borough departments and council members have been doing an outstanding job. President Wagner said that he welcomes any suggestions and wishes Council to work together for the betterment of the community.

President Wagner said that Mount Pleasant Borough is a great community, but he would like to present his assessment to Council. President Wagner said that we need to consider some options. The Borough has some major projects coming up and it is Council's responsibility to look at the present and the future. President Wagner feels that Council should look at the 2016 budget to see what is needed. Every borough department has needs and there are major projects coming up. President Wagner said he would like the Borough to have a cushion for when these expenses arise.

President Wagner said that he spoke to Solicitor Liptak about opening the 2016 budget to look at it. Solicitor Liptak said that from the date of the reorganization meeting Council has 30 days to reopen the budget with a majority vote of Council. Once opened it must be closed within another 30 days with a new passed budget.

President Wagner said that he would like to see two streets in every ward paved and two more full-time police officers, but will settle for one. President Wagner said he would like Council to consider opening the budget to at least view it and to look at raising the millage rate by one or two mills to prepare for 2017 and 2018.

A motion was made by Councilman Rogacki to amend the agenda. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Barnes. A discussion ensued regarding the time required to raise the millage rate since taxes are due to be

mailed out on March 1, 2016 and what grant opportunities are available to the Borough for upcoming projects. A roll call vote was called for on the motion to amend the agenda.

Councilman Pritts	No
Councilwoman Ruszkowski	Yes
Councilwoman Stevenson	No
Councilman Rogacki	Yes
Councilman Caruso	No
Councilman Cholock	Yes
Councilwoman Bailey	Yes
Councilwoman Barnes	Yes
President Wagner	Yes

Motion carried 6-3.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Barnes to open the 2016 General Fund Budget. Motion seconded by Councilman Pritts. Motion carried 8-1 with Councilwoman Stevenson voting no.

President Wagner said that meetings will be held to discuss the budget and Borough Manager Landy said that it will be necessary to gather as many facts as possible so that Council can understand the process. Committee meetings can be held without advertising as long as they do not include a council quorum. President Wagner said that Council should also consider the reserve accounts.

Mayor Lucia pointed out that tax dollars cannot be used to pay for the 2017 Main Street Sewer Project. Borough Manager Landy agreed and said that the current capital assessment charge on sewage bills could be continued by a vote of Council after the bio-tower loan is paid off. The continued assessment charge could then be used to pay for the 2017 Main Street Sewer Project.

President Wagner clarified the chain of command of borough officials by stating that the department heads report to the Mayor and Borough Manager.

Councilwoman Barnes said that at the recent Newly Elected Officials Class she attended it was stated that after a reorganization meeting when new council members take their seats, it is suggested that an audit be performed by an auditor that hasn't been used in the past.

A motion was made by Councilman Rogacki to amend the agenda. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Barnes. Motion carried 8-0.

A motion was made by Councilman Rogacki to explore the possibility of using another independent auditor than the one we have used in the past to conduct an audit of borough finances. Motion seconded by Councilman Pritts. Motion carried 8-0.

Mayor Lucia impressed upon Council how important it is for all council members to pass the NIMS certification for emergency management. The course can be taken on line.

Councilwoman Stevenson asked for clarification on the reason Council chose to dismiss Solicitor Tucker Arensberg Attorneys and appoint Davis & Davis Law Office, what other firms were considered and who interviewed them. Councilman Rogacki responded that he attended several council meetings before he was elected and he was not impressed by the Tucker Arensberg Solicitor and President Wagner said that he felt in certain instances where he dealt with Solicitor Wolfe that he was very unprofessional. Councilwoman Barnes stated that the importance of choosing a solicitor was also spoken about many times at the Newly Elected Officials Class. President Wagner stated that he felt uninformed during the reorganization meeting of his first term on Council and he understands the frustration. Councilman Cholock said that he is hoping that Council can move forward and work as a team.

### **Waste Water Treatment Report:**

WWT Superintendent Larry Hague spoke to Council regarding a recent meeting with East Huntingdon Township and the Quarry Street Agreement. A new agreement is being drafted by their attorney and should be ready for the Borough to look at and reach some kind of an agreement.

Councilman Rogacki said that he would like to start the process of hiring a temporary part-time employee at the WWT Plant because of the absence of Tom Pawlikowski who is off due to an injury.

A motion was made by Councilman Rogacki to pay all approved expenses as presented. Motion seconded by Councilman Caruso. Motion passed 8-0.

**Streets Report:**

Councilman Caruso commended the Street Department and WWT personnel for the tremendous job clearing borough streets during the recent snow storm and thanked the Fire Department, Police Department and Medic 10 for their assistance. Councilman Caruso said that a meeting will be held before the next council meeting to discuss what was done and what needs to be done in the future.

Councilman Caruso said that when the weather breaks Council can look at what streets need paved and which can be tarred and chipped. Councilwoman Bailey said that the earlier paving bids are requested the better the price will be. Councilman Caruso said to call him with any obvious potholes that need to be fixed.

A motion was made by Councilman Caruso to pay all approved expenses as presented. Motion seconded by Councilman Cholock. Motion carried 8-0.

**Public Safety Zoning & Ordinance Report:**

Council agreed that Police Chief Sam can begin the process of requesting applications to hire another full-time police officer for the Borough.

Councilman Cholock said that he has a quote for a police vehicle and his committee will look over the quote and pass it on to Councilwoman Bailey and the Finance Committee.

Councilman Cholock read the following Fire Report for the month of January 2016:

Total Calls – 41  
10-45's – 13  
10-45's W/Entrapment – 2  
Fires – 14  
AFA's – 6  
Public Service – 7  
Standby's – 1  
Turnpike Calls – 4  
Total Members Answering – 682  
Average Member Per Call – 16  
Total Staff Hours – 572

Councilman Cholock presented Council with different ways to change the crosswalks at Ramsay School to make them safer for the crossing guards and the children crossing the street.

A motion was made by Councilman Cholock to amend the agenda. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Stevenson. Motion carried 8-0.

A motion was made by Councilman Cholock to advertise the repeal of Appendix 15-IIC in the Parking Ordinance #456 which specifies two and three hour parking on certain streets. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Barnes. Motion carried 8-0.

A discussion ensued regarding different parking limits in the Borough.

A motion was made by Councilman Cholock to pay all approved expenses as presented. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Stevenson. Motion carried 8-0.

A motion was made by Councilman Cholock to amend the agenda. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Barnes. Motion carried 8-0.

A motion was made by Councilman Cholock for a seven-minute Executive Session for personnel. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Barnes. Motion carried 8-0.

President Wagner announced that there will be a four-minute extension to the Executive Session.

**Executive Session 9:02pm to 9:14pm.**

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

### **Parks & Recreation (General) Report:**

Councilwoman Barnes said that she was approached by someone who wants to play fast-pitch softball at Frick Park. Councilwoman Barnes said that the people interested can contact her to discuss it because her committee will be looking at the Frick Park baseball field schedule.

Councilwoman Barnes said that she attended the Mount Pleasant Glass & Ethnic Festival Committee Meeting and she stated that the festival committee meetings should be advertised so that the public can attend the meetings.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Barnes to pay all approved expenses as presented. Motion seconded by Councilman Cholock. Motion carried 8-0.

### **Finance & Human Resources Report:**

Councilwoman Bailey said that she would like committee chair people to impress upon their departments the importance of having a purchase order approved before they make the purchase.

Councilwoman Bailey said that the Finance Committee will need to be kept informed regarding any new hires.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Bailey to approve payment of expenses as presented. Motion seconded by Councilman Cholock. Motion carried 8-0.

### **Property Report:**

Councilwoman Ruszkowski said that the Borough received four quotes to repair the bathrooms in the Police Station and on the second floor of the Municipal Building.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Ruszkowski to amend the agenda. Motion seconded by Councilman Rogacki. Motion carried 8-0.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Ruszkowski to accept the quote from Joe Siska in the amount of \$5,551 to repair the bathrooms in the Police Department and on the second floor of the Municipal Building. Motion carried 8-0.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Ruszkowski to pay all approved expenses as presented. Motion seconded by Councilman Cholock. Motion carried 8-0.

Mayor Lucia said that last year Councilman Pritts was looking at replacing some of the windows in the Central Fire Station. The windows are getting worse.

Councilman Pritts reported that the phone line has been installed and the Police, Emergency Management Coordinator and Borough Manager will be able to remotely activate the Emergency Siren.

### **Sanitation & Recycling Report:**

Councilman Pritts said that he has not received the information required for the Recycling Report. As soon as he receives the information he will file the report.

Councilman Pritts said that he was questioned about the cost of commercial trash collection going up. Councilman Pritts said that commercial accounts are billed by the size of their dumpster and how often it is picked up and he will check to see what the cost was last year. Borough Manager Landy said that after talking to some businesses downtown, it was discovered that four businesses were using one dumpster and Republic Services said that each business will be billed separately.

### **Community & Economic Development/Grants Report:**

Councilwoman Stevenson said that she has a scheduling conflict the time of the BDA board meetings and Councilman Pritts will be attending the meetings to represent the Borough.

Councilman Pritts said that he did attend the BDA meeting and the board members discussed sponsoring a "Safe Zone" for parents to exchange their children after visitation. It could also be used for anyone who wants

a safe place to meet someone they have purchased from on Craig's List etc. Outside of the Municipal Building was discussed as a location because there would be a camera there.

**New Business:**

Borough Manager Landy said that it would help the secretary if council members would inform her of the unfinished business to include on the agenda.

Mr. Landy said that he would like to turn over the agreement from a couple of years ago with Honeywell to Solicitor Liptak to see where we stand and if we want to continue the agreement.

Borough Manager Landy said that he spoke to President Wagner about keeping a Bible in Chambers for official swearing in. It is not done in other communities, but Mr. Landy said that he feels it would be a nice tradition for Mount Pleasant to start. The Bible would be kept in the showcase in Chambers.

President Wagner said that there is a vacancy on the Mount Pleasant Zoning Hearing Board. There are two hearings coming up and the Solicitor of the Zoning Hearing Board asked that the vacancy be filled.

A motion was made by Councilman Pritts to amend the agenda. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Barnes. Motion carried 8-0.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Bailey to reappoint Nino Barsotti to another 5-year term on the Mount Pleasant Zoning Hearing Board. Motion seconded by Councilman Rogacki. Motion carried 8-0.

**Miscellaneous & Adjournment:**

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

**Meeting Adjourned 9:45pm**

## Motions from February 1, 2016 Meeting

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