

## Meeting March 2, 2015

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 Lord's Prayer and The Pledge of Allegiance were 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, Ruszkowski and Stevenson and were present. Mayor Lucia and Solicitor Wolfe were present. President Bauer stated we have a quorum.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Stevenson to dispense with the reading of the minutes of February 16, 2015 since Council has been provided with a copy. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Bailey. Motion carried 9-0.

### **Public Comment:**

Mr. Rick Albright, Jr. Football League said that the league will be celebrating their 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary on August 22, 2015. For the anniversary the league will be putting together a scrap book to sell and if anyone has anything to add to the scrap book please let him know. All former coaches, players, cheerleaders and anyone involved from 1965 to the present day are invited to attend the opening day ceremonies on August 22, 2015 at 1:00pm.

### **Speakers:**

John McGoran, Republic Services spoke to Council about the recycling program in the Borough. Mr. McGoran stated that 145 large recycling containers were delivered to Borough residents for a pilot program and a large amount of those customers are using the large containers. The numbers show that there is merit to the program. The larger bins are better able to hold cardboard which is the most valuable product to recycle. Mr. McGoran said he would like to see the pilot program run another three months and then send out a letter asking those customers to evaluate the service. Councilman Caruso said that he has received positive feedback about the pilot program. Mr. McGoran said that he was happy to visit Ramsay Elementary with Mr. Landy to talk to the students about recycling.

Councilman Wagner asked Mr. McGoran if the Borough is charged for the recycling program and Mr. McGoran said that a charge is added to each customer's bill. Councilman Wagner asked if Republic Services has any plans to eliminate the fuel surcharge now that the cost of fuel has gone down. Borough Manager Landy said that the fuel surcharge is evaluated at the end of every year and is based on a yearly average. The fuel surcharge did go down last year.

**Mayor's Report:** None

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

Solicitor Wolfe said he is working with Councilwoman Ruszkowski on an employee smoking policy and revising the parking permit ordinance.

### **Tax Collector Report:**

Tax Collector Yancosky read the following Tax Report for the month of February 2015:

Per Capita = \$71.50

Total Collected = \$71.50

Ms. Yancosky said that the County and Borough taxes have been mailed and if residents do not receive their tax statement by next week they should call the tax office.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Stevenson to authorize the Borough Solicitor to finalize ordinance for permit parking on Washington Street. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Bailey. Motion carried 9-0.

President Bauer said that he feels the Street Department did a good job of clearing borough streets after this last big snow storm. Streets in other communities were not as clear as the Borough.

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

Borough Manager Landy asked each council committee to look at the Profit & Loss Budget vs. Actual Report to see if there are ways to save money on some of the line items. Mr. Landy said that he is looking at other distributors for our natural gas who may be able to reduce our costs.

Mr. Landy said that he is meeting with WWT Superintendent Larry Hague about changing the sewage lines on Main Street before Penn Dot begins the \$8.6 million project. This is an expense to the Borough that just came up a month ago when Penn Dot said that the project was approved.

Borough Manager Landy said he has been keeping in contact with local car dealers and garages regarding a new police vehicle. Huffman Auto called and said that they have a 2010 Ford Explorer with 31,000 miles on it that they will sell the Borough for \$10,000. The total after the mandatory modifications will be around \$17,000.

Borough Manager Landy said that the security cameras at Willows Park need to be looked at because they seem to be fogging up. Larry Hague reported that the camera on the lower pavilion is not working at all.

Mr. Landy said that there is a meeting scheduled with Penn Dot, County Officials, Representative Harhai, someone from Senator Stefano's office, Bob Regola, Ed Christophano from the BDA and Mine Officials on Friday March 6, 2015 at the borough building. The meeting will be to discuss truck traffic in the Borough from a proposed deep mine in Donegal. Penn Dot makes the final decision regarding the truck route.

Borough Manager Landy said that Penn Dot has invited borough officials to a meeting at Southmoreland High School to discuss the preliminary design for improvements to State Route 119 from the State Route 0819 interchange to north of the State Route 3042 (Westec Drive) Interchange on March 9, 2015 from 3:30pm to 4:30pm.

Mr. Landy said that Penn Dot will be holding their Annual Community Outreach meeting on March 19, 2015 at the Greensburg-Hempfield Business Park beginning at 12:30pm. All of Council is invited to attend. The discussion will include the Penn Dot project on Main Street in Mount Pleasant.

## **Speaker:**

Mr. Ed Christophano, Mount Pleasant BDA said that the BDA held a public meeting to present the 2015 Budget. There were no issues and the budget passed and billing statements were mailed. Mr. Christophano said that he has accepted the position of BDA President. John Rega will be Vice President, Debbie Salopek, Secretary and Dale Walker, Treasurer. Mr. Christophano said that Council will be presented with BDA By-laws at the next meeting and asked to ratify those by-laws. Mr. Christophano will head a BDA Tax Assessment Committee to form a concrete, transparent tax formula. Vince Zacharia will be in charge of a calendar of events.

Mr. Christophano said that the BDA is moving forward and anyone who has a comment of complaint about a Mount Pleasant business should call the BDA at 724-547-0660. Mr. Christophano provided council members with his personal cell phone number so that they can call him directly with concerns or questions.

## **Waste Water Treatment Report:**

Councilman Tate read the following list of what the WWT personnel have been working on:

- Paint walls and piping in basement
- Paint floor in electrical room
- Service belt filter press
- Remove chlorine booster pump and had it rebuild
- Change ballast in lights in garage
- Serviced mowing equipment and other small equipment
- Service lab equipment
- Repair collapsed sewer line in alley behind 12 & 14 W. Vine Street
- Help Mt. Pleasant Township with blocked sewer line at Route 819 and Shady Street.
- Ice issues at plant. Lines froze, ice on the bio-towers.

- Met with Gibson Thomas on GIS Mapping
- Superintendent Larry Hague attended a management class in Greensburg by PA Rural Water.

### **Veterans Park Report:**

Councilman Tate said that letters were sent to local businesses asking for donations to help with some needed repairs at Veterans Park.

### **Streets Report:**

A motion was made by Councilwoman Bailey to approve the expense of \$425.38 to send Councilwoman Bailey to the Annual PSAB Spring Conference in Lancaster PA. Motion seconded by Councilman Wagner. Motion carried 9-0.

Councilwoman Bailey reported that the Street Department has purchased cold-patch from Unique Paving in Somerset PA. There is a special process to using this cold-patch and the Street Department personnel will be following that process.

Councilwoman Bailey said that the Street Department has been making repairs to the Frick Park restroom. Heaters were installed in the restrooms but the water meter needs to be replaced and some lines need repaired. In addition, the department continues to maintain borough streets by plowing snow and patching pot holes. The procedure is to plow the main arteries first followed by side streets and alleys. If there is time, they will do parking lots.

Councilwoman Bailey reported that a request for bids for the paving project on South and North Geary Streets will be in the paper next week and when the bids come in we will be able to determine if the Borough can afford other paving projects in 2015.

President Bauer said that he would like to see the Street Department mill the potholes, fill them and borrow a roller from Connellsville so that the patch lasts longer. He also suggested that WWT part-time worker Derek Hoover could work for the Street Department part-time helping with road work. Councilwoman Bailey said that would work as long as the union contract allows it.

Councilman Tate said that WWT Superintendent Hague said that if the Street Department Union will allow it, he would be willing to send WWT personnel the first week of April to help the Street Department patch as many potholes as possible that week. Councilman Bauer said that when council members are on borough streets they should take note of where potholes are.

### **Public Safety Zoning & Ordinance Report:**

A motion was made by Councilwoman Stevenson to appoint Doug Sam as Chief of Police of the Mount Pleasant Borough Police Department, at an annualized salary of \$55,000, effective immediately, with an anticipated start date of March 19, 2015. Motion seconded by Councilman Pritts. Motion carried 8-0. Councilman Wagner voted no.

President Bauer said that he would like to see an ordinance governing parking lots in the Borough approved before any more buildings are torn down and replaced with parking lots. Councilwoman Stevenson said that she and Borough Manager Landy are working on an ordinance.

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

Councilman Wagner said that he has become aware of grant funds available through the Westmoreland County Parks & Recreation Department. There is a Local Arts Grant opportunity that Councilman Wagner will look into with the help of Borough Manager Landy and Councilman Wojnar. Councilman Wagner said this grant may be able to benefit the Concert In The Park series.

### **Parks & Recreation Report:**

Councilman Wojnar said that he will be meeting with Bob Keeler to determine a time when they can work on putting up the signs etc. for the extension of the Bike Trail.

Councilman Wojnar said that on Wednesday the Cub Scouts will be holding their meeting in council chambers beginning at 6:00pm. Everyone on council is welcome to attend. The Cub Scouts will be talking about borough government.

**Finance & Human Resources Report:**

A motion was made by Councilwoman Ruszkowski to ratify the Worker's Comp Renewal Proposal with Higbee Insurance for the year 3/1/15 to 3/1/16 in the amount of \$48,530. Motion seconded by Councilman Wagner. Motion carried 9-0.

**Property Report:**

Councilman Pritts discussed repairing the apron at Central Fire Station and the wall at Third Ward Fire Station in Mount Pleasant.

**Sanitation & Recycling Report:** None

President Bauer spoke with Councilman Wojnar regarding having two weekends for clean up in the Borough.

**New Business:** None

**Reading of Communications:**

Borough Manager Landy read the following communications:

- A letter from PA Public Utility Commission with detailed plans regarding the installation of fiber optic cable and messenger where State Route 31-East Main Street crosses Southwest Pennsylvania Railroad Company.
- A bulletin from PA Borough Council Association regarding an "Outstanding Councilman of the Year" Award.
- Mount Pleasant Borough has been awarded a \$47,000 CDBG Grant for Fiscal Year 2015 to be used for Frick Park, Jack Bobb's Park and Medic 10 Park.
- Make-A-Wish Greater Pennsylvania and West Virginia is requesting sponsors to benefit the "Swishes for Wishes Basketball Game at Mount Pleasant Junior/Senior High School on March 27, 2015 at 7pm.
- Westmoreland County Boroughs Association will hold its monthly meeting at the Westmoreland Conservation district Office on Donohoe Center in Greensburg on March 26, 2015 beginning at 7pm.

Councilwoman Bailey reported that a street light was ripped down at the corner of Center Avenue and Main Street. It is believed that the damage was done by a drilling rig. It will be repaired as soon as parts are available.

Councilman Wagner thanked Police Officers Dan Zilli and George Grippo as well as the Mayor and all part-time Police Officers who stepped in to handle the department during the process of hiring a Police Chief.

**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 9-0.

**Miscellaneous and Adjournment:**

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

**Meeting Adjourned 8:25pm**

### **Motions from March 2, 2015 Meeting**

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