

Meeting March 5, 2018

The meeting of Mount Pleasant Borough Council was called to order by President Caruso 7:11pm in Council Chambers at 1 Etze Avenue, Mount Pleasant, PA 15666. The Pledge of Allegiance was said and President Caruso asked for a moment of silence for our deployed troops. President Caruso asked Borough Manager Landy to take roll call. Councilpersons present included Barnes, Cholock, McCloy, Rogacki, Ruszkowski, Stevenson, and Yatsko. Mayor Lucia and Solicitor Istik were present. President Caruso stated that a quorum is present.

A Motion was made by Councilwoman Ruszkowski to approve the minutes of February 19, 2018 since Council has been provided with a copy. Motion seconded by Councilman Cholock. Motion carried 7-0.

Public Comment:

- Shawn Carlson of 543 Washington Street, Mount Pleasant, PA spoke to Council regarding parking permits on Washington Street and College Avenue. Mr. Carlson stated that each homeowner is only allowed two (2) parking permits per household. Mr. Carlson stated that he has four (4) adult registered drivers with (4) registered vehicles; and, would like to know what he needs to do to get permits for the additional vehicles. Council President Caruso stated that they would review the applicable Ordinance along with talking to the Chief of Police to see what, if anything, can be done.

Speakers:

- Mr. Joe Zelenak, Commander of the VFW of Mount Pleasant and Mr. John Chearney, Commander of the American Legion of Mount Pleasant, offered a proposal to add an additional granite slab to Veterans Park near the Gazebo along with the cost. The additional granite slab would be able to consist of 188 names at a cost of \$15.00 per name along with a projected cost for the base and slab being \$19,828.00. The total projected cost for names, base and slab would be \$22,648.00 The footer is an additional cost. Mr. Zelenak would like to propose an application and to charge a cost of \$120.00 per person to have a name added to the granite slab to cover the cost of the \$22,648.00.

Councilman Rogacki stated that this has been discussed a lot within the Veteran's Park Committee and they feel that they should proceed with another granite slab.

Councilwoman Barnes stated that she has spoken with someone that has requested 3 names to be added to the granite slab and asked if they would please consider adding an additional granite slab. Councilwoman Barnes stated that people want their names on the slab more so than the digital wall. She stated there are 2 generations. The younger generation likes the digital and the older generation likes the granite wall. Councilwoman Barnes stated that she has contacted ITS Enclosures, Industry Weapon and she is going to visit Armstrong Cable and invite them all to their next meeting to see if they can get answers as to why the digital wall is not always working.

Mr. Zelenak stated that they would not be able to begin the project until all the money is raised from applications.

Mr. Zelenak stated if there was any way that the Borough could help allocate monies toward this project it would be appreciated.

Council President Caruso stated that they will discuss with the Veteran's Park Committee the possibility of adding an additional granite slab to Veteran's Park and that they will have an answer to Mr. Zelenak and Mr. Chearney by March 29, 2018, which is their Veteran's Meeting.

- Elgin Panichelle of Alpha Association, Crabtree, PA spoke to Council regarding bringing a group of Veteran's to Veteran's Park on June 2, 2018. Alpha Association is the "A" Company, 2nd Division, 12th Infantry Army. It is a reunion of a group of men that fought in the Vietnam War. Ms. Panichelle requested to use the park area along with the Gazebo.

Ms. Panichelle has also requested that the street be closed for the program. There would be a bus arriving at approximately 9:30 am and completing the program by noon.

Council President Caruso stated that there is an Ordinance regarding the uses of the Gazebo and they would have to be reviewed to be sure that there will be no violations of the Ordinance.

Mayor's Report:

Mayor Lucia stated that he and other Mayors have put together a Resolution calling upon all citizenry to become informed, become involve and vote in the special election for Congress in the 18th District.

Mayor Lucia recognized the following citizens that have recently passed away:

Erma Eckels, mother of Magistrate Roger Eckels, age 101, a lifelong member of the Borough of Mount Pleasant.

Robbie Caruso, past member of Medic 10 and businessman in the Borough of Mount Pleasant. Mr. Caruso is the Uncle of Council President Caruso.

Frank Lobinger, businessman in the Borough of Mount Pleasant.

Mayor Lucia stated that he spent time with the Street Department and Waste Water Treatment Department regarding the recent storms and flooding. Mayor Lucia stated that there is infrastructure that needs to be addressed regarding collapsed storm sewers that have collapsed due to age. Mayor Lucia commended the Street Department and Waste Water Treatment Department for their hard work. Mayor Lucia stated the Westmoreland Conservation District has met with the Borough and offered input to help resolve the issues.

Mayor Lucia stated that he and Borough Manager Landy attended the PennDOT Connects Seminar on Thursday, March 1, 2018. Mayor Lucia stated that they addressed PennDOT regarding the flooding on Diamond Street possibly being in the Township along with it being PennDOT's right-of-way. Mayor Lucia stated PennDOT advised them that they will look into it.

Solicitor's Report:

Solicitor Istik stated that her report will need to be discussed during Executive Session.

Tax Collector Report:

Tax Collector Carol Yancosky read the following report for the month of February 2018:

Per Capita = \$71.50.

Ms. Yancosky said that property tax statements have been mailed.

Borough Manager's Report:

Borough Manager Landy gave the following report:

- A notice has been received that it is time to renegotiate the Street Department Contract. The previous contract was for two (2) years. The current contract ends September 30, 2018.
- Parks and Recreation has playground equipment that was purchased approximately 2 years ago that needs installed at Frick Park. Connellsville Township is going to excavate the ground at Frick Park where the playground equipment will be placed. This will be done at no cost since the Borough had done camera work on a line for Connellsville Township approximately 6 or 7 years ago.

- The G-Conference Meeting will be held Wednesday, March 7, 2018 at 6:30pm. Borough of Mount Pleasant will be hosting the meeting.
- Met with Mount Pleasant Area School District along with the Police Department regarding how the School Police work with the Borough Police. The meeting was called by the School District. Chief Doug Sam, Officer George Grippo and Borough Manager Landy attended the meeting.
- Mr. Landy had a conference call with a company called Passport, Inc. It is a company that has an app for mobile phones. They track Parking Permits. The cost is substantial.
- Borough Manager Landy and Mayor Lucia attending the PennDOT Connects Seminar on March 1, 2018. It is a new program that PennDOT offers with different programs that you can sign up for.
- Met with Jim Pillsbury from Westmoreland Conservation District to look at stormwater issues within the Borough. They will be providing reports on the issues along with Mike Barrick of Environmental Valley who offer a proposal and a stormwater plan in March.
- Interviews for Street Department are in progress. Borough Manager Landy interviewed 14 applicants. It has been narrowed to 6 good candidates. Councilwoman Ruszkowski and Borough Manager Landy will be conducting the second round of interviews and will narrow it to 2 candidates who will then meet with Jeff McGuinness at the Street Department. Interviews have been conducted for Waste Water Treatment with the same candidates. There are 2 candidates that would work well for Waste Water Treatment.
- Borough Manager Landy spoke with a representative at the Mount Pleasant Cemetery regarding flooding, zoning and the subdivision of the property that they are selling.
- Received confirmation from the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection that the Levin / Bridgeport Property has been finally approved for the Act 2 Clearance thanks to the Redevelopment Authority of Westmoreland County that has led the process in this.

President's Report:

Executive session was held at 6:30pm and ended at 7:10pm regarding personnel.

A Motion was made by Councilman Cholock to Amend the Agenda to adopt a Resolution to Encourage Resident to become Informed about the Candidates for Congress and become involved by Voting for their Candidate. Motion seconded by Councilman McCloy. Motion carried 7-0.

A Motion was made by Councilman Rogacki to adopt a Resolution to Encourage Resident to become Informed about the Candidates for Congress, Ignore Outside Organizations Seeking to Negatively Influence the Elections Outcome and become involved by Voting for their Candidate. Motion seconded by Councilman McCloy. Motion carried 7-0.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Ruzkowski for an Executive Session. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Barnes. Motion carried 7-0.

Executive Session 8:01pm to 9:11pm

A motion was made by Councilman Cholock to reconvene the meeting. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Barnes. Motion carried 7-0.

President Caruso announced that the Executive Session was held to discuss personnel issues

Waste Water Treatment Report:

Councilman Rogacki gave the following WWT Report for the month of February 2018:

- Installed a new solenoid on the vactor truck
- Helped the Street Department with pipe on N. Quarry Street
- Repaired an antifreeze leak at Diamond Pump Station
- Camera main lines and some residents' laterals
- Removed tree out of creek by plant
- Repaired railing around clarifier tanks
- Fixed leak at Route 31 Pump Station
- Drained and inspected chlorine contact tanks.

Streets Report: None.

Public Safety Report:

Councilman Cholock stated that the subscription form for Medic 10 is complete and can now be printed and mailed.

Zoning & Ordinance Report:

Councilman McCloy stated that the Wireless Cell Tower Ordinance and the Ordinance Amending the Borough's Police Pension Plan to Add a Deferred Retirement Option Plan have been advertised and will be able to adopted at the next meeting on March 19, 2018.

Councilman McCloy stated that the Community Yard Sale will be held on Saturday, May 12, 2018.

Community & Economic Development/Grants Report:

Councilwoman Stevenson stated that she has spoken with a company that has an outdoor exercise area. They stated that they have grants to help reduce the costs; but, the costs are very high and the grant covers very little of that expense.

Parks & Recreation: None.

Veterans Park Report:

Councilwoman Barnes stated that there only 21 people signed up for the digital wall at Veterans Park. Councilwoman Barnes stated that more needs to be done to develop the digital wall. Councilwoman Barnes stated that she does not believe they should have "too many" of the granite slabs – tablets. Councilwoman Barnes stated that there is room for an additional wall. Ms. Barnes stated she would like to keep the symmetry of the park.

Councilwoman Barnes stated that Marie Dawson has great history of the area and that some of that history would great if it could be displayed in the digital wall.

Finance & Human Resources Report:

A Motion was made by Councilwoman Ruszkowski to ratify the Agreement with Higbee Insurance retroactive to February 28, 2018 for the 2018-2019 Worker's Compensation & Municipal Liability Insurance at a cost of \$77,479.00. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Stevenson. Motion carried 7-0.

Property Report:

A Motion was made by Councilman Rogacki to Accept the Bid from Jaime Kunkle for renovations to the former Dentist's Office on the first floor for the removal of wallpaper, spray walls with mold killer, clean walls to accept primer and paint, replace damaged and water stained ceiling tile in the amount of One Thousand One Hundred Twenty-Five (\$1,125.00) Dollars. Motion seconded by Councilman Cholock. Motion carried 7-0.

Storm Water Management Report:

Councilman Cholock stated that a gentleman that lived on St. Clair Street that was at the previous meeting stated that there was an issue that was the Borough's problem. After further investigation, it was found that it was not the Borough at fault; and, that the owner had a crushed line on his property causing the backup into his home.

Councilman Cholock suggested that the Street Department reopen the pipe that was capped and filled with brick and concrete on St. Clair Street. Mayor Lucia stated that he and Borough Manager Landy met with Jim Pillsbury from Westmoreland Conservation District and Mr. Pillsbury's recommendation was to cut the street and install a new pipe. Borough Manager Landy stated that he has received a letter from Jim Pillsbury of the Westmoreland Conservation District with his recommendation.

Reading of Communications:

Borough Manager Landy read the following communications:

- Pennsylvania State Boroughs Association regarding Meeting of Municipal Police Department Supervision and Oversight on April 10, 2018 at 9:00am to 3:30pm at the Allegheny County Doubletree by Hilton, 101 Mall Blvd., Monroeville, PA. Registration cost is \$150 for PSAB Members.
- Thank You from Mr. Roger Eckels for the wind chimes for his Mother's funeral.
- Thank you from Pat Zelmores and Marie Ochaba for donations in the past for the Mount Pleasant Food Pantry.
- The Mount Pleasant Library will be offering an Irish Heritage Event on March 17, 2018 at 1:00 pm at the Mount Pleasant Library.
- Pennsylvania Rural Water Association is holding its 2018 Annual Conference March 20 – 23, 2018 at Penn State Hotel & Conference Center, State College, PA.
- Westmoreland County Boroughs Meeting on March 22, 2018 at the Westmoreland Conservation District Office, Donohoe Center, 218 Donohoe Road, Greensburg. It will be Dinner and Meeting at 7:00pm. with Chelsea Gross regarding the West Nile Virus Program for Westmoreland County.

Discussion and Payment of Bills:

A Motion was made by Councilwoman Stevens to pay all authorized and approved bills. Motion seconded by Councilman McCloy. Motion carried 7-0.

New Business: None.

Miscellaneous and Adjournment:

A Motion was made by Councilman Rogacki to adjourn the meeting. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Barnes. Motion carried 7-0.

Meeting Adjourned 9:40pm

Motions from Meeting of March 5, 2018

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A Motion was made by Councilwoman Ruzkowski for an Executive Session. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Barnes. Motion carried 7-0.

A Motion was made to Reconvene by Councilman Rogacki. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Barnes. Motion carried 8-0.

A motion was made by Councilman Cholock to reconvene the meeting. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Barnes. Motion carried 7-0.

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