

Meeting March 6, 2017

The meeting of Mount Pleasant Borough Council was called to order by President Caruso 7:06pm 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 Bailey, Barnes, McCloy, Pritts, Rogacki, Stevenson and Ruskowski. Mayor Lucia and Solicitor Liptak were present. President Caruso stated that a quorum is present. Councilman Cholock arrived at 7:08pm.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Ruskowski to approve the minutes of February 20, 2017 since Council has been provided with a copy. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Stevenson. Motion carried 9-0.

Public Comment: None

Speakers:

Mr. Joe Zelenak, VFW, Mr. John Chearney, American Legion, Mr. Mike Garchar, American Legion and Mr. Mike Aloisio, American Legion said that the Veterans Park Committee met and sent a letter to solicit donations for the park. The committee has received \$2,800 in donations. Donations were received from the VFW, Polish Falcons, Slovak Club, United Slovian Club and the American Legion.

Mayor's Report:

Mayor Lucia asked for a moment of silence for valuable Mount Pleasant residents who passed away recently. John DePalma, Businessman, Larry Paul, Businessman, Joe Rudnik, 40-year VFD volunteer, Bernard Paglio, lifetime member of VFD and Mike Linardi, former Councilman and volunteer.

The YMCA will have a "Save Substance Abuse" forum Tuesday March 14, 2017 from 6:30pm to 8pm. Learn about drug prevention efforts available in the community as well as intervention and treatment.

Mayor Lucia spoke to clear the air on accusations that he interfered in a recent hiring process. Mayor Lucia stated that he did not have a vote in the process and did not contact any doctor involved in the process as was rumored.

Solicitor's Report: None

Tax Collector's Report:

Tax Collector Carol Yancosky read the following report for the month of February 2017:

Per Capita Tax = \$110.00

Ms. Yancosky reported that the School and Borough taxes were mailed to property owners on March 1, 2017 and asked anyone who did not receive a statement to please call her office.

Borough Manager's Report:

Borough Manager Landy asked Council to look at the Budget Vs. Actual Report and if they have any questions to please call the borough office.

Mr. Landy said that he and Councilwoman Bailey are looking at options to purchase a new Street Department vehicle with Councilwoman Bailey.

Borough Manager Landy said that he is working on a proposal to adjust the Part-time Police hourly rate.

Borough Manager Landy said that the Borough's Liquid Fuels 2017 Allocation will be \$130,076.76 and will be automatically deposited into Liquid Fuels PLGIT Bank Account.

Mr. Landy said that the Borough received an addition check in the amount of \$3,312 from PEMA for Winter Storm Jonas. The Borough received \$29,806.84 from FEMA for Winter Storm Jonas making the total \$29,806.84.

Mrs. Gustafson, whose son was killed in March of 2016, would like permission for a balloon launch at Frick Park Basketball Court at 6:30pm on March 20, 2017. Mr. Landy said that it would be held before the council meeting that night and it would be nice if all of Council attended.

Borough Manager Landy said that a local Chiropractor, Dr. Ulery, gave a presentation on safe lifting at the most recent Safety Meeting and was very informative. The incident and accident boards that will track how long the Borough goes without any incident or accident were passed out to borough departments.

Mr. Landy said that he spoke to a representative from Unique Paving who will demonstrate a new product that will help with the problem at the basketball court and the apron at the Central Fire Department. Mr. Landy said that he will contact other municipalities interested in attending the demonstration. Councilman Rogacki suggested that the Borough also have an Engineer at the demonstration.

Borough Manager Landy presented the first "Above and Beyond" award to Solicitor Liptak for going above and beyond in her duties at Borough Solicitor.

Waste Water Treatment Report:

Councilman Rogacki said that WWT is looking at a project at Ramsey Terrace to solve the problem of sewage backups. WWT Superintendent Larry Hague said that an engineer will assist in looking at options and costs for the Ramsey Terrace problem and whether it is a Borough sewer or storm line causing the issue.

Mr. Hague gave the following report for the month of February 2016:

- Received the \$50,000 from the Mt. Pleasant Borough Municipal Authority for the Bar Screen Project.
- Painted and labeled all sludge piping in sub-basement
- Removed and painted safety guards on pumps in sub-basement
- Removed pump that was leaking at Rt. 31 Pump Station and found that a hole was worn through the case.
- Helped Street Department plow alleys
- Rebuilt hydraulic cylinder on the boom of the excavator
- Installed a new water heater
- Cleaned up area around Bar Screen from the construction and hauled stone that was stock piled for pipe repairs back inside the fence.
- Replaced railing around tanks at the plant.
- The Gas Company is still in town televising sanitary and storm sewers. WWT personnel had to jet and clean some lines so they could televise them.
- Northern Pipe is replacing gas lines for Columbia Gas, they have damaged some sanitary and storm pipes WWT personnel had to camera and assist with making the repairs.
- MAWC has been in town reconnecting services and performing other line maintenance, they also have damaged a few lines that WWT personnel had to assist them with.
- WWT answered 70 PA One Calls in February 2017, 5 emergency after-hours calls.
- WWT answered 2 Alarm Call Outs for February 2017.

Streets Report:

Councilwoman Bailey asked for Council's permission to contact Mr. Rick Skovensky, Penn Dot, for assistance in getting measurements of various streets so that the Borough can request bids for paving. The Streets Committee is looking at paving projects on Eagle Street, W. Walnut,

N. Hitchman and the portion of Joseph Street that was not paved during the last project. The committee is also looking at streets to be tarred and chipped.

Councilwoman Bailey said that her committee has been conducting interviews for the open position at the Street Department. First round interviews have been conducted and 2nd round interviews will start. The committee should have a candidate for the position at the March 20, 2017 meeting. Hiring depends on the candidate passing all clearances including physical and drug test.

Councilwoman Bailey said that she is working on specs for a dump truck for the Street Department.

Street Crew Leader Jeff McGuinness gave the following report on work completed in February 2017:

- Salting & Plowing Streets
- Answer PA One Calls
- Clean debris & inspect storm drains and clean grates
- Replaced street and traffic signs.
- Emptied trash receptacles.
- Chipped 65 Christmas trees.
- Fixed and replaced stop signs.
- Secured property for Land Bank.
- Various vehicle repair.
- Patched holes.
- Cleaned shop and office.
- Progress will be starting on the Frick Park Project soon and Mr. McGuinness will start researching on how much the padding for under the astro turf will cost. Sand will have to be removed. The approximate completion date is April 2017. Councilwoman Bailey said the project will not start until the Borough hires a third employee for the Street Department.

Public Safety Report:

Councilman Cholock reported that the old Explorer is ready and it needs a plate. Borough Manager Landy said that he will assist the Police Department in getting a plate for the vehicle.

Councilman Cholock said that the Taurus is still sitting at C Harper Ford. There are options the Borough has in regard to the vehicle.

1. Wait for Ford Motor to decide what they want to do under the Lemon Law... which could take a considerable amount of time.
2. Have C Harper fix the Taurus, which they said they will do for free. That is unlikely since no one has been able to fix the vehicle before. Solicitor Liptak said that she would recommend against putting a police officer in the vehicle if it does get fixed because it is the same reoccurring problem that they have tried to fix seven times and would be unsafe.
3. Trade in the Taurus for another vehicle and wait for Ford to reimburse the Borough for the cost.

Borough Manager Landy said that he spoke to C Harper and was told that they will fix the car no matter what. But Mr. Landy agreed that safety comes first and he will move forward with whatever Council wishes him to do.

A motion was made by Councilman Cholock to amend the agenda. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Bailey. Motion carried 9-0.

A motion was made by Councilman Cholock to allow Borough Manager Landy to approach C Harper about what it would cost to trade the Taurus in as-is on another vehicle and bring the information back to the Safety Committee for a decision. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Bailey. Motion carried 9-0.

Solicitor Liptak said that she agrees with that decision and she would need an invoice with the total cost to the Borough so that she can move forward with reimbursement from Ford Motor Co.

Councilman Cholock said that the Borough will need all of the police equipment off of the Taurus before trading it in.

Zoning & Ordinance Report:

Councilwoman Stevenson said that Councilman McCloy has done extensive research on cell tower ordinances and has given Council a copy of what he has learned. Councilman McCloy said he will speak to Youngwood and Connellsville representatives to see what they have developed.

Mayor Lucia asked Councilwoman Stevenson if any more progress has been made on revising the Landlord Ordinance. Councilwoman Stevenson said that she feels as long as the inspection clause remains in the ordinance the Landlord Association is unwilling to move forward. Mayor Lucia said that Gerard Rendine, President of the Landlord Association would like to meet again some evening.

A motion was made by Councilman Cholock to amend the agenda. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Bailey. Motion carried 9-0.

A motion was made by Councilman Cholock to allow Medic 10 to print and mail the yearly subscription request that was approved by Solicitor Liptak. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Bailey. Motion carried 9-0.

Community & Economic Development Report:

Councilwoman Bailey said that she, Councilwoman Barnes and Borough Manager Landy spoke with representatives from Westmoreland County regarding the CDBG Grant for lighting at Veterans Park that was denied funding. County officials gave the Borough permission to resubmit the grant request stating that the lighting at Veterans Park is unsafe. Mr. Landy agreed to write the letter and submit the request.

Parks & Recreation / Veterans Park Report:

Councilwoman Barnes said that any recreational leagues wishing to use borough facilities should submit their schedule by the end of this month.

Councilwoman Barnes said that the Veterans Park Committee has suggested extending the sidewalk around the back of the wall so that names can be added on that side. They would like to know if anyone else is interested in doing this. Mayor Lucia said that he would like to see a bigger effort in promoting the Digital Wall before taking this step.

Finance & Human Resources Report:

A motion was made by Councilwoman Ruszkowski to ratify acceptance of the Workers Comp quote from Higbee Insurance in the amount of \$50,410. Motion seconded by Councilman Cholock. Motion carried 9-0.

A motion was made by Councilman Cholock to amend the agenda. Motion seconded by Councilman Rogacki. Motion carried 9-0.

A motion was made by Councilman Cholock for an Executive Session to discuss employee contracts. Motion seconded by Councilman Rogacki. Motion carried 9-0.

Executive Session 8:32pm to 8:52pm

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

Property Report:

Councilman Rogacki said that he will be getting quotes to repair the roof at the Street Department maintenance building.

A motion was made by Councilman Rogacki. Motion seconded by Councilman Pritts. Motion carried 9-0.

A motion was made by Councilman Rogacki to approve quote from King’s Electric, LLC, Connellsville, PA 15425 for electrical repairs to the Municipal Building in the amount of \$1,598.00. Motion seconded by Councilman Pritts. Motion carried 9-0.

A motion was made by Councilman Rogacki to amend the agenda. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Barnes. Motion carried 9-0.

A motion was made by Councilman Rogacki to approve an additional cost for the safety door on the third floor of the municipal building in the amount of \$1,200 bringing the total cost to \$13,811. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Barnes. Motion carried 9-0.

Sanitation & Recycling Report: None

New Business: None

Reading of Communications:

Borough Manager Landy read the following Communications:

- West Overton Village will hold the 2017 Parlor & Garden Talks on March 5th, March 23rd and April 20th this year. Tickets are \$5.00 per person per event.
- The Church of God gets permission to do Christmas Caroling every year. The weather was bad this year and they were unable to do it. They would like permission to carol on Palm Sunday from 6:30pm to 7:30pm. Council agreed to give them permission.
- Westmoreland County Borough’s Association will hold its monthly meeting on March 23rd beginning at 7pm .

Discussion & Payment of Bills:

A motion was made by Councilman Pritts to pay all authorized and approved bills. Motion seconded by Councilman Rogacki. Motion carried 9-0.

Miscellaneous & Adjournment:

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

Meeting Adjourned 9:20pm

Motions From Meeting of March 3, 2017

A motion was made by Councilwoman Ruszkowski to approve the minutes of February 20, 2017 since Council has been provided with a copy. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Stevenson. Motion carried 9-0.

A motion was made by Councilman Cholock to amend the agenda. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Bailey. Motion carried 9-0.

A motion was made by Councilman Cholock to allow Borough Manager Landy to approach C Harper about what it would cost to trade the Taurus in as-is on another vehicle and bring the information back to the Safety Committee for a decision. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Bailey. Motion carried 9-0.

A motion was made by Councilman Cholock to amend the agenda. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Bailey. Motion carried 9-0.

A motion was made by Councilman Cholock to allow Medic 10 to print and mail the yearly subscription request that was approved by Solicitor Liptak. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Bailey. Motion carried 9-0.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Ruszkowski to ratify acceptance of the Workers Comp quote from Higbee Insurance in the amount of \$50,410. Motion seconded by Councilman Cholock. Motion carried 9-0.

A motion was made by Councilman Cholock to amend the agenda. Motion seconded by Councilman Rogacki. Motion carried 9-0.

A motion was made by Councilman Cholock for an Executive Session to discuss employee contracts. Motion seconded by Councilman Rogacki. Motion carried 9-0.

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

A motion was made by Councilman Rogacki. Motion seconded by Councilman Pritts. Motion carried 9-0.

A motion was made by Councilman Rogacki to approve quote from King's Electric, LLC, Connellsville, PA 15425 for electrical repairs to the Municipal Building in the amount of \$1,598.00. Motion seconded by Councilman Pritts. Motion carried 9-0.

A motion was made by Councilman Rogacki to amend the agenda. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Barnes. Motion carried 9-0.

A motion was made by Councilman Rogacki to approve an additional cost for the safety door on the third floor of the municipal building in the amount of \$1,200 bringing the total cost to \$13,811. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Barnes. Motion carried 9-0.

A motion was made by Councilman Pritts to pay all authorized and approved bills. Motion seconded by Councilman Rogacki. Motion carried 9-0.

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