

Meeting March 3, 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, Tate, Wagner, Wojnar and Councilwomen Ruszkowski and Stevenson were present. Mayor Lucia was present and Solicitor Wolfe was absent. President Bauer stated we have a quorum.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Stevenson to dispense with the reading of the minutes of February 17, 2014 since Council has been provided with a copy. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Ruszkowski. Motion carried 8-0.

Public Comment:

Bo Covalesky, 413 Washington Street spoke to Council about the recent appointment of Councilman Larry Tate to fill the 2 year council seat. Mr. Covalesky said that he feels Mr. John Rogacki should have been appointed because of the write-in votes he received and the petition that was presented to Council.

Valerie Tressler, 411 Spruce Street, registered through the National Cancer Society, addressed Council to promote a "Look Good, Feel Better" class she will be having every other month at Frick Hospital for any woman who is going through any kind of cancer treatment. The class will include the use of wigs, wraps, makeup and skin care etc. Every woman who attends the class will receive a free makeup kit. The next class will be held on March 17th from 6pm to 8pm. The phone number to register is 1-800-227-2345.

Speaker:

Mr. Ed Christophano, Christophano Associates and a resident of Mount Pleasant Township announced that he will be opening Hayden's Pharmacy at 535 W Main Street in Mount Pleasant. Mr. Christophano said that he met with Borough Manager Jeff Landy, Council President Joe Bauer and Mayor Jerry Lucia who were accommodating and informative and helped Christophano Associates purchase the property and obtain all necessary permits in record time. Mr. Christophano said the process was swift and enjoyable. Mr. Christophano said he hopes to open the pharmacy on April 1, 2014.

Mayor's Report:

Mayor Lucia read the following Police Report for the month of February 2014:

Report of the Mt. Pleasant Police Department for the month of February 2014

The Department Answered 104 calls during the month as follows

Complaints	64
Requests for assistance	9
Assist Other Departments	9
Accidents investigated	5
Calls Returned	8
Assist Medic 10	8
Assist Mutual Aid	1

The Department made 22 Arrests during the month as follows

Vehicle Code	16
Crimes Code	6
Borough Ordinance	0
Warning Issued	0

Parking Tickets issued are as follows:

\$4.00 Meter Tickets	31
\$10.00 No Parking Tickets	3
Void / Excused	1

\$4.00 Parking Tickets Paid	25	\$	100.00
\$5.00 Parking Tickets Paid	4	\$	20.00
\$10.00 Parking Tickets Paid	2	\$	20.00
\$15.00 Parking Tickets Paid	0	\$	-
\$10.00 No Parking Tickets Pd	3	\$	30.00
\$2.00 Parking Tickets Paid	1	\$	2.00
Return from Magistrate Eckels		\$	1,396.36
Return from Clerk of Courts		\$	68.28
Return from Report Fees		\$	45.00
Return from Parking Permits		\$	-
Return from Restitution		\$	-
Total		\$	1,681.64
1 Meter Collection		\$	-

Mayor Lucia reported that the March Reality Tour will be held at Rumbaugh Elementary School on March 13, 2014 at 6:30pm. The next Reality Tour will be on April 10, 2014. Mayor Lucia said that the March 16th Reality Tour is booked full so anyone interested in attending should register for the April 10th tour.

Mayor Lucia said that Mount Pleasant lost a dedicated Volunteer Fireman. Mr. Nick Etze died this week. Mr. Etze had 73 years of service with the Mount Pleasant Volunteer Fire Department and was the brother of the first Mayor of Mount Pleasant.

Mayor Lucia reminded residents that sidewalks must be shoveled within 24 hours of a snowfall and not to shovel the snow back into the street.

Mayor Lucia reported that the Emergency Warning Siren has been mounted on the roof of the Municipal Building. The siren was purchased with money from grant funds received with the help of State Representative Deberah Kula. The Borough will test the siren for the next couple of weeks on Saturdays at noon and in the future during the Firemen's Fair and the Glass Festival Parades.

State Representative Deberah Kula spoke to Council regarding the request from Borough Manager Landy for grant money to purchase the Warning Siren. Representative Kula said it was the first request for anything like this in the 52nd District and that she has not seen another Borough or Township with such community involvement. Representative Kula also said that the proposed pharmacy in Mount Pleasant will be a great benefit to the community.

Solicitor's Report: None

Treasurer's Report:

Tax Collector Carol Yancosky gave the following Tax Collector Report for the month of February 2014:

Per Capita Tax = \$99.00

Total = \$99.00

Ms. Yancosky said that county and borough statements have been mailed and today was a very busy day with residents coming to her office to pay their taxes. Anyone who has not received their statement by the end of this week can call the Tax Office at 724-547-7347.

President's Report:

A motion was made by Councilwoman Stevenson to sign an Intergovernmental Cooperation Agreement with Westmoreland County Land Bank pending Solicitor Wolfe's approval. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Ruszkowski. Motion carried 8-0.

President Bauer said that the deadline for street sign upgrades to comply with new regulations is June 2014.

Borough Manager's Report:

Borough Manager Landy explained how the sewage billing in the Borough is done. The Municipal Authority of Westmoreland County does our sewage billing and the water and sewage are included on the same bill, with different remittance dates. When a bill is not paid by the due date MAWC sends a delinquent notice. If the bill is not paid within 15 days of the delinquent notice MAWC will send a certified letter. If the bill is not paid within 10 days of the certified letter Mount Pleasant Borough posts the property. Water service will be terminated if the balance is not paid within 10 days of the posting. Mr. Landy said that sewage customers are waiting until they receive a notice from MAWC that service will be terminated within 24 hours. That does not give the customer or the borough office enough time to stop the termination.

Mr. Landy said that Honeywell is proceeding with the energy savings program at borough facilities. Honeywell has done a study of all borough buildings and there will be a meeting this week to discuss the details of the study before the Borough advertises for RFP's.

Borough Manager Landy said that he and WWT Superintendent Norm Stout will meet with Borough Engineers regarding the new Crivelli Chevrolet in East Huntingdon Township. The new building will be tapped into Mount Pleasant Borough sewage.

Mr. Landy said that Mr. Anthony Pologruto, Westmoreland County G.I.S. Coordinator will be at the borough office on Wednesday to give us a crash course on how to use the G.I.S. System. There have been a number of changes to the system recently.

Mr. Landy said that he and President Bauer met with Somerset Trust. They are looking at moving into the Borough.

Mr. Landy said that he met with HDH Group Inc, who handles the borough insurance and we may be able to save money on the Police Department insurance.

Borough Manager Landy said he received information about web-sites that the community should be aware of. One of the sites says that if you dial 211 and make less than \$52,000 per year you can get your tax return preparation free of charge.

Mr. Landy reported that there will be a planning meeting of the G-11 on Thursday March 6, 2014 at 6:30pm in Chambers. Any Councilperson who wants to be involved in the planning is welcome to attend.

Mr. Landy said that he has met with representatives from Code Red. Code Red is a program that is able to contact all borough residents via text or other electronic means with any road closings, flooding issues or even special events that Council wants citizens to be aware of. The cost would be \$5,000 per year, but if we are able to bring 20,000 residents to the program the cost would be lowered by \$2,000. Mr. Landy will bring the program to the G-11 participants to see if they are interested.

Mr. Landy said he has information regarding "Buy Local" through FayPenn from Uniontown. The program is an advertising promotion especially for Farmers Markets and other businesses in town. A Buy Local Card is available on their website for \$15 or can be purchased at various businesses for \$8. Registered cardholders can download and print extra coupons for Buy Local businesses directly from the website.

Waste Water Treatment Report:

Councilman Tate reported that a committee meeting was held this evening at 6pm to discuss personnel problems and other issues. Another meeting will be scheduled before the March work session.

Veterans Park Report: None

President Bauer said that Solicitor Wolfe advised him to inform Council that the borough will settle with Dorothy Zelenak, 111 N Hitchman Street, Mount Pleasant PA on her claim that sewer backed up into her home. We will receive documentation from Solicitor Wolfe and then issue the payment to Ms. Zelenak.

Streets Report:

Borough Manager Landy said that Councilwoman Bailey left a report for the meeting. Councilwoman Bailey met with Street Supervisor Mario Fontanazza and the Borough has enough salt and sand to get us through the rest of the winter. She is working with Supervisor Fontanazza and Councilman Wagner on a grant to replace our traffic signals with LED signals. Councilwoman Bailey said that the Street Department will begin making the required street sign upgrades.

President Bauer said that he would like to see the grant paperwork for traffic signals done by the next meeting.

President Bauer praised personnel from the Mount Pleasant Street Department for their efforts this winter to keep our streets cleared during all of the snow events. President Bauer said that he was in many municipalities where the streets were not as well taken care of.

President Bauer said that Mr. Kubaski, N Geary Street would like the Borough to re-pave his entire driveway after the storm drain underneath it is repaired. President Bauer said that we will do the best we can with the money that has been budgeted.

Public Safety & Ordinance Report:

A motion was made by Councilwoman Stevenson to suspend the rules for the purposes of approving the repair of the police vehicle. Motion seconded by Councilman Pritts. Motion carried 8-0.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Stevenson to authorize G & H Auto to repair the 2013 Ford Taurus at an estimated cost of \$895.75. Motion seconded by Councilman Pritts. Motion carried 8-0.

Councilwoman Stevenson said that at the last meeting Council approved the purchase of new monitors for Medic 10. Medic 10 now has the most up to date equipment to assist patients in an emergency.

Councilwoman Stevenson said that the Borough is mandated by law to provide fire protection to our citizens. Councilwoman Stevenson said she would like taxpayers to consider what the cost would be if we did not have an all-volunteer fire department. She encouraged everyone to support the fundraising efforts of the Mount Pleasant Fire Department.

Community & Economic Development/Grants Report: None**Parks & Recreation Report:**

Councilman Wojnar said that his committee is finalizing plans and participants of the Parks & Recreation Advisory Committee.

Councilman Bauer said that there are reports that vehicles are using the bike path behind Third Ward Fire Station and Council is going to have to come up with a solution to block these vehicles.

Councilman Bauer said that soccer parents need to be reminded that the bridge at Willows Park is for emergency vehicles only.

Finance & Human Resources Report:

A motion was made by Councilwoman Ruszkowski to contribute \$100 to the Mount Pleasant VFD for their Annual Golf Outing. Motion seconded by Councilman Pritts. Motion carried 8-0.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Ruszkowski to approve the expense of \$486.54 to send Councilwoman Bailey to the Annual PSAB Spring Conference in State College. Councilwoman Bailey will repay \$118.97 for one night's stay, lowering the cost to \$367.57. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Stevenson. Motion carried 8-0.

Property Report:

Councilman Pritts said that the video surveillance computer was moved down to the Police Station to be reviewed by the Sheriff's Department and will be moved back to the third floor as soon as possible. Mayor Lucia asked if it would be possible to mount two more camera heads in the Police Station and Councilman Pritts said that there may be an issue with recording. We may have to add another recorder.

Councilman Pritts stated that he is interested in the Code Red Program and that it may be a better option for residents than an electronic sign. Councilman Tate said that it would be a good idea to talk to the Mount Pleasant Area School District about the system they use to inform students and parents.

Sanitation & Recycling Report:

Councilman Caruso reported that the 2013 Recycling Report from Republic Services was sent to Westmoreland Cleanways. Total residential recycling was 160.10 tons and commercial collection was 20.96 tons making a total of 181.06 tons of recycling in the Borough in 2013.

Borough Manager Landy asked Councilman Caruso if he was able to look at the situation in the alley between the VFW and Subway. Councilman Caruso discussed the stop sign and whether the alley should be one-way coming down off Main Street.

New Business: None

Reading of Communications:

Borough Manager Landy read the following communications:

- Westmoreland Conservation District sent communication about a series of storm water programs. One is titled "The Life of a Stormwater Practice" on March 12, April 16 and May 21, 2014 and another one on "BMP Maintenance". These two webinars would be worth attending.
- The Westmoreland County Chamber of Commerce is requesting sponsorship for their annual Staff Appreciation Luncheon at the Greensburg Country Club on April 23rd. In the past we have donated a gift basket.
- PSATS will be hosting a "Learning at Lunch Webinar" on April 9, 2014 from noon to 1:30pm about the importance of traffic sign inventory.
- Westmoreland County Boroughs Association will hold its annual banquet on Friday May 2, 2014 at Lakeview beginning at 6:00pm.

New Business: None

Discussion and Payment of Bills:

A motion was made by Councilman Pritts to pay all approved and authorized bills. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Ruszkowski. Motion carried 8-0.

Mayor Lucia reminded everyone that the Mount Pleasant Area School District High School Play will be held this weekend. Mayor Lucia said that Council and borough residents should show their support.

Mayor Lucia said that he is disappointed with individuals criticizing Council in the past weeks. He reminded people that this is the same Council that has not raised taxes in the last ten years and has done a lot of good for Mount Pleasant Borough.

Miscellaneous and Adjournment:

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

Meeting adjourned 8:05pm

Motions from March 3, 2014 Meeting

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