

Meeting April 2, 2018

The meeting of Mount Pleasant Borough Council was called to order by President Caruso 7:00pm 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, Cholock, McCloy, Rogacki, Ruskowski, Stevenson, and Yatsko. Mayor Lucia and Solicitor Istik were present. President Caruso stated that a quorum is present.

A Motion was made by Councilwoman Ruskowski to approve the minutes of March 19, 2018 since Council has been provided with a copy. Motion seconded by Councilman Cholock. Motion carried 8-0.

Public Comment:

- Jeanette Lahm, Executive Director of Laurelville Mennonite Church Center, 941 Laurelville Lane, Mount Pleasant spoke to Council regarding the Laurelville 75th Anniversary Pool and Welcome Center Project. They are open to the public and offer swimming and mini-golf. Ms. Lahm stated that are remodeling their Pool area and adding a welcome center. They are working to hit a goal of \$850,000.00. They are now at \$550,000.00. Ground Breaking Ceremony and Carnival will be held on Saturday, October 20, 2018 from 2:00pm – 5:00pm. Pool Opening is set for May 2019.
- Cheryl Barr of 107 S. Church Street, Mount Pleasant spoke to Council regarding a parking issue on S. Church Street. Ms. Barr stated that people going to the Library are parking in the spaces in front of her home instead of using metered spaces. Ms. Barr stated she is willing to pay a Permit Parking Fee for spaces in front of her home. Her home does not have back street parking.

Speakers:

- Mike Barrick of Hunt Valley Environmental, LLC 632 Hunt Valley Road, New Kensington, PA presented a proposal to Council to assist in developing and implementing a plan to address the stormwater issues on St. Clair Street in the Borough.

Mayor's Report:

Mayor Lucia stated that he and several other Mayors, Commissioners, Chamber of Commerce and the Redevelopment Authority met with Senator Casey regarding different issues within the communities.

Mayor Lucia stated he had a request for a stop sign to be installed at Anne Street and the corner of South Geary Street.

Solicitor's Report:

Solicitor Istik stated that she has been working on the Non-Uniformed Pension Ordinance; and, it should be ready for review for the next meeting. Solicitor Istik stated that she has received a hearing date for Jeff Zelenka at Magisterial District Judge Eckel's Office on April 24, 2018 at 10:30am for Building Code Violation.

Tax Collector Report:

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

Property Taxes = \$106,611.05
Per Capita Taxes = \$44.00
Total Collected = \$106.655.05

Tax Collector Carol Yancosky stated that the Borough had some tax exonerations issued by the County of Westmoreland. The name and the amounts of money that the Borough will not receive this year are as follows:

1. Mount Pleasant Property Associates, LLC in the amount of \$8,039.32;
2. Gallagher's on Quarry Street in the amount of \$224.35; and
3. Mount Pleasant LTD (Sand Hill Properties) in the amount of \$3,420.90.

Total of exonerations for this year (2018) is Eleven Thousand Six Hundred Eighty-Four Dollars and Fifty-Seven Cents (**\$11,684.57**).

Borough Manager Landy stated that not only will the Borough lose \$11,684.57 in exonerations for 2018, the Borough has received Notices from the Westmoreland County Real Estate Tax Office requesting refunds be issued pursuant to an Order of Court for the following Tax Assessment Appeals:

1. Mt. Pleasant Properties Associates, LLC
Tax Refund 2016 - \$ 4,070.37
Tax Refund 2017 - \$ 6,831.53
Total Refund - **\$10,901.90**
2. Mt. Pleasant LTD
Tax Refund 2017 - **\$ 3,201.56**

The total amount that the Borough must reimburse for the two (2) Tax Assessment Appeals is **\$14,103.46**.

Borough Manager's Report:

Borough Manager Landy gave the following report:

- Borough Manager Landy and Mayor Jerry Lucia met with Excelsa Health in Latrobe. Excelsa Health will be hiring approximately 1200 people throughout the Excelsa Health System. They have a large number of retirees. There is a possibility of 400 – 500 new hiring's for Frick Hospital. Excelsa Health is expanding along with expanding Frick Hospital.
- Borough Manager Landy and Councilwoman Bailey met with Blue Otter regarding an app that they are creating and works on tablets for mapping where the stop signs, traffic signs, last time cross-walks and lines were painted, ms4 inlets, when they were cleaned, sewage lines, when sewage lines were cameraed, etc. within the Borough.
- Spoke with Verizon and they will be providing 5 tablets to use for one (1) month trial to see if they will work for our departments. After the one (1) month period, they can be purchased through Verizon.
- Met with Enviro 21 regarding a recycling facility.
- Borough Manager Landy and Police Chief Sam looked at property on W. Smithfield Street regarding property maintenance.
- Met with Ed Christophano of the Business District Authority; and, the Chamber of Commerce.
- Borough Manager Landy attended a meeting with the Veteran's Park Committee.
- Met with HDH Insurance regarding bid for upcoming insurance policy renewal.
- Borough Manager Landy will meet with Westmoreland County on Tuesday, April 3, 2018 regarding the Comprehensive Plan.

- Borough Manager Landy will meet with the Jacobs Creek Watershed Association on Thursday, April 5, 2018.
- Received a letter from a gentleman that is interested as a Code Enforcement Officer.
- Met with the Safety and Security Committee for the Mount Pleasant Area School District. They would like the Borough to participate in the “Paint Mount Pleasant Orange” program to be held April 16 – 20, 2018.

President’s Report:

Executive session was held at 6:30pm and ended at 6:57pm regarding personnel.

Waste Water Treatment Report:

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

- Put a new conveyor belt on for the belt press at the Treatment Plant.
- Looked at extending the main line in the alley behind the Slovak Club.
- Camera a line for the Street Department on St. Clair Street.
- Met with Eric and Ken Orié from Gibson Thomas to calibrate the meter at Quarry Street Pump Station.
- Met with East Huntingdon Township to monitor the overflow at the Quarry Street Pump Station as of this date there has been no overflow.
- Jetted a main line for the Borough of Everson.
- Met with a contractor on Washington Street about requirements on a clean out.
- Met with Main Street Contractor about lateral lines from Silver Street to Diamond Street.

Home Inspections – 5
PA One Calls – 31

Councilwoman Barnes stated that the sewage bill for the Borough that is sent from MAWC should state that if you pay after the due date an additional \$5.00 late fee is charged by the Borough of Mount Pleasant.

Streets Report:

Councilwoman Bailey gave the following Street Department recap report for March 2018:

In addition to general maintenance of the Borough Streets, which included lights and signs, clean up of lots and parks, patching holes, marking of storm drains and lines for PA One Calls, maintenance of equipment and vehicles, picking up brush, the following occurred for March 2018:

- Worked on North Quarry Street repairing pipe and continuing to repair the rest of the pipe.
- Gathered data on drainage concerns and future pipe installation on St. Clair Street.
- Temporary repair of the curb drain on South Quarry Street.
- Coordinate with the railroad for purpose of identifying storm drains within railroad right of way.

Councilwoman Bailey stated that Rocky Anderson started today with the Street Crew Department. They now have a full crew.

Councilwoman Bailey stated that she received a message from Mr. Rendine regarding a problem he has on Diamond Street with the catch basin and the grill that is built into his concrete sidewalk. Councilwoman Bailey and Borough Manager Landy stated that they made a call to PennDOT regarding the issue. PennDOT stated that the catch basin is not theirs and it was not installed by PennDOT.

Councilwoman Bailey stated she contacted Mr. Mario Fontanazza regarding the catch basin. Mr. Fontanazza stated that the catch basin does belong to the Borough. Councilwoman Bailey stated that this type of storm drain was installed due to the trucks from Dollar General continuously running over the drain and crushing it. Councilwoman Bailey stated that it is the Borough's responsibility to fix the storm drain.

Councilwoman Bailey stated that the Street Department has not yet removed their plows or salt boxes due to the extended winter we have been having.

Councilwoman Ruszkowski asked if the turning lanes at Eagle Street onto Main Street is now one (1) lane instead of two (2) since there are no markings on the street. Councilwoman Bailey stated that there was construction and that was the reason for the markings not being there. Councilwoman Bailey and Borough Manager Landy will contact PennDOT regarding the painting of the lines on Eagle Street and Main Street.

Public Safety Report:

Councilman Cholock stated that he had missed the last meeting and would like to know the status of the 2010 Ford Explorer. Councilman Cholock read from the minutes of March 19, 2018 that the estimate received for the repairs for the 2010 Ford Explorer Police vehicle was \$3,343.00 for Medic 10 to use; and, that they have received a bid of \$500.00 for the wrecked trailblazer.

Councilman Cholock stated that the cost of the repairs for the 2010 Ford Explorer would be paid for by Medic 10 since they will be getting the vehicle for their department to use. Councilman Caruso asked if it will be cost effective for Medic 10 to repair and use this vehicle. Councilman Cholock stated that the vehicle will be an "assist" vehicle and would not have all the equipment in it like an ambulance would.

A Motion was made by Councilman Cholock to Amend the Agenda to make a Motion to give the wrecked 2010 Ford Explorer Police Vehicle to the Mount Pleasant Medic 10 if they want to take and repair it for Medic 10 use. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Barnes. Motion carried 8-0.

A Motion was made by Councilman Cholock to give the wrecked 2010 Ford Explorer Police Vehicle to the Mount Pleasant Medic 10 if they want to take and repair it for Medic 10 use. Motion seconded by Councilman McCloy. Motion carried 8-0.

Councilman Cholock stated that Senate Bill 251 is for local municipalities to use radar guns. There will be holding a public hearing on Wednesday, April 4, 2018. Councilman Cholock stated that the Bill passed in the Senate but did not pass in the House. Mayor Lucia stated that he and Police Chief Doug Sam will be attending the public hearing.

Councilman Cholock asked if the Borough will be hiring a Code Enforcement Officer. Borough Manager Landy stated that you do not need to advertise for a Code Enforcement Officer. Mr. Landy also stated that there needs to be more discussion and that they do need to decide if the Borough will be hiring their own Code Enforcement Officer or if they will be partnering with another municipality.

Borough Manager Landy stated that he has received one (1) inquiry as to a Code Enforcement Officer.

Councilwoman Stevenson stated that she has contacted other municipalities regarding their Code Enforcement Officer. Ms. Stevenson said that she spoke with a gentleman that is a Code Enforcement Officer for several municipalities. The gentleman stated that he would want to do building inspections, code inspections and rental inspections; and, that he would not want to do just one (1) part. Councilwoman Stevenson stated that there is great value in hiring someone with a broader range of experience.

Zoning & Ordinance Report: None.

Community & Economic Development/Grants Report:

Councilwoman Stevenson stated that the grant has been submitted to Westmoreland Revitalization that she, Councilwoman Bailey and Borough Manager had worked on. Councilwoman Stevenson stated that this grant is for the music on Main Street, upgrading the appearance of the meters with a sleeve and repainting the heads of the meters; and planters on Main Street.

Parks & Recreation: **None.**

Veterans Park Report:

Councilwoman Barnes stated that they held their meeting for Veteran's Park a week early on Thursday, March 22, 2018. Councilwoman Barnes stated that Mr. Shannon Roberts from ITSEnclosures, Mr. Christian Armstrong from Industry Weapon; and Mr. David Pritts from Armstrong Cable were at the meeting. Councilwoman Barnes stated that the topic of discussion was the Digital Wall at Veteran's Park and its down time.

Councilwoman Barnes stated that the Digital Wall was working the day of the meeting; however, Councilwoman Bailey informed Councilwoman Barnes that the Digital Wall was not in service today, April 2, 2018.

Councilwoman Barnes stated that they visited the wall and some of the issues and possible causes that they have presented was:

- There may be an issue with the static IP address and may not having enough IP addresses and more may need to be provided.
- They found that the router was not connected.
- They also stated that there may be a problem with the handshake hardware; and that when the computer goes into sleep mode and someone taps the screen to wake it, it breaks the connection and the computer is not coming back on.
- Mr. David Pritts indicated the battery packs need to be changed. He stated that the battery packs are approximately five (5) years old and Armstrong changes their batteries every three (3) years.
- Industry Weapon would like to follow up and set up an additional meeting. They also indicated that will help with additional information to be added to the Digital Wall, such as if the name is on the Digital Wall and the regular wall; along with the uploading of the different wars, Korean, World War I and II, Afghanistan, etc.

Councilwoman Barnes stated that the shelf and router is going to be replaced in the Digital Wall.

Councilwoman Barnes stated that Industry Weapon indicated that they can reboot the Digital Wall remotely using iBoot; and, that there are different models available. They also wanted to look into the router and possibly changing it.

Councilman Yatsko asked if there is a possibility to doing an automatic reboot. Borough Manager Landy stated that was a solution that they offered; however, this comes back to the handshake issue of when it goes into sleep mode it will not come back on.

Councilwoman Barnes stated that the meeting was very productive and they will continue to follow-up so that the Digital Wall can be working 100% of the time.

Finance & Human Resources Report:

A Motion was made by Councilwoman Ruszkowski to approve a refund to Mt. Pleasant Properties Associates, LLC in the amount of \$10,901.90 for the overpayment of taxes paid for Tax Map No. 21-02-

02-0-160 on March 28, 2016 and March 13, 2017 pursuant to an Order of Court dated February 23, 2018. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Bailey. Motion carried 8-0.

A Motion was made by Councilwoman Ruszkowski to approve a refund to Mt. Pleasant LTD in the amount of \$3,201.56 for the overpayment of taxes paid for Tax Map No. 21-01-06-0-037 on April 26, 2017 pursuant to an Order of Court dated March 9, 2018. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Bailey. Motion carried 8-0.

A Motion to Amend the Agenda was made by Councilwoman Ruszkowski to hire Justin Toia as a full-time laborer at the Waste Water Treatment Plant at the rate of \$13.50 per hour provided he pass the required physical and drug test. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Bailey. Motion carried 7-0. Councilman Cholock abstained.

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Property Report:

Councilman Rogacki stated that there was an issue on the second floor of the Borough Building with ants, which has been taken care of by Safeway Pest Control.

Storm Water Management Report: None.

New Business:

Councilwoman Stevenson stated that Westmoreland Cleanways is now accepting electronics.

Reading of Communications:

Borough Manager Landy read the following communications:

- Public Works Management Training being held in Montgomery County and Crawford County.
- Citizen of the Year Banquet will be held on April 22, 2018 at Nino's. Cost is \$30.00 per person.
- Mount Pleasant Library will be holding Chair Yoga on the second Thursday of the Month at 10:00am; and, on the third Mondays of each month at 6:00pm. The dates for April are April 12, 2018 at 10:00am and April 16, 2018 at 6:00pm.
- Realtors Association of Westmoreland, Indiana and Mon Valley will be holding a Smart Growth Meeting on May 24, 2018 from 1:00pm – 5:00pm at Ferrante's Lakeview Restaurant, 6153 State Route 30, Greensburg, PA. Cost is \$10.00 per person.
- PennDOT will be holding a meeting regarding the S.R. 0031 Pavement Preservation Project on May 2, 2018 at 1:30pm at the parking lot of the Mount Pleasant Plaza (Super Dollar) near the Railroad tracks at the beginning of the project. The project is the resurfacing of 2.8 miles of PA 31 from Bridgeport Street to Route 982 in the Mount Pleasant Borough and Mount Pleasant Township.
- YMCA of Laurel Highlands will be holding their Annual YMCA of Laurel Highlands Golf Classic on Friday, May 18, 2018 at Pleasant Valley Country Club, Connellsville, PA. Entry Fee of \$500.00 per team / \$125 Individual Player.

- The Westmoreland Museum of American Art will hold a Diversity, Equity, Accessibility + Inclusion Matters with Dr. Johnnetta Betsch Cole meet and greet with breakfast on Thursday, May 24, 2018 from 7:30am to 9:30am.
- The Lions Club will be sponsoring a fundraiser called Dining in the Dark on Friday, April 20, 2018 at 5:30pm at the Mount Pleasant Area High School to benefit the Westmoreland County Blind Association. Cost is \$20.00 per person.
- PennDOT is holding a free workshop regarding Liquid Bituminous Seal Coat on April 5, 2018 from 8:00am – 12:00pm at the Westmoreland County Rostraver Township Municipal Building, 201 Municipal Drive, Belle Vernon, PA 15012.
- PA Rural Water Association is holding a training class regarding Intermediate Applied Math for Drinking Water and Wastewater – Part 1 – Location: Cambria Suites Washington, 451 Racetrack Road, Washington, PA Date: April 11, 2018 from 8:00 am to 3:30 pm.

Discussion and Payment of Bills:

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

Miscellaneous and Adjournment:

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

Meeting Adjourned 9:37pm

Motions from Meeting of April 2, 2018

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