

## Meeting April 7, 2014

The meeting of Mount Pleasant Borough Council was called to order by President Bauer at 7:00pm 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, and Councilwomen Ruszkowski and Stevenson 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 March 24, 2014 since Council has been provided with a copy. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Ruszkowski. Motion carried 7-0.

### Public Comment:

Brian Covalesky, owner of Pleasant Visions Main Street Mount Pleasant spoke to Council regarding a comment made to him that some council members stated off-camera that they may no longer support his business because of complaints made by his father to Council. Mr. Covalesky stated that he and other residents believe that it would not be in the best interest of the Borough for any council member to withhold support for a local business. Mr. Covalesky said he and other business owners would like to be included more in the decisions Council makes. Mr. Covalesky thanked Councilman Pritts, Bauer, Tate and Councilwoman Ruszkowski for their support.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Ruszkowski to extend the three-minute rule for Mr. Covalesky during his public comment. Motion seconded by Councilman Pritts. Motion carried 7-0.

Mr. Bob Keeler, Coal and Coke Bike Trail, provided Council with an update on the bike trail. In 2014 projects will include constructing a quarter-mile extension into Scottdale Borough, completing a spur to the West Overton Museum, resurfacing and elevating areas of the trail in Mount Pleasant Township that were damaged by flooding and a route into the middle of Mount Pleasant previously discussed by Council. Mr. Keeler spoke with Mayor Lucia about flooding issues with the creek and Mayor Lucia said that work will start when the weather breaks. Councilman Wagner asked Mr. Keeler to elaborate on the cooperation of Scottdale and Mount Pleasant with the trail committee. Mr. Keeler said that the work in Mount Pleasant can be started as soon as a route is chosen and the cost and liability to the Borough is determined.

Mr. Landy said that an engineering study was done by the Borough bringing the bike trail from Willows Park up to Washington Street and through Jack Bobb's Park. Mr. Keeler said that in order for the trail to come into Mount Pleasant the hills have to be minimized and traffic safety must be determined.

Mr. Keeler said that there will be a map of the Borough on the trail map at Shop Demo Depot outlining businesses in town that bikers will be interested in. Mr. Keeler said that there is already easy access to the east end of the Borough. Mr. Keeler said that the Coal and Coke Bike Trail Committee meets the third Tuesday of every month.

A motion was made by Councilman Wagner to extend the three-minute rule for Mr. Keeler during his public comment. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Ruszkowski. Motion carried 7-0.

Debbie Salopek, Westmoreland Chamber of Commerce, spoke to Council about the success of "Coffee and Connections" and the business networking that occurs at the meetings. The next "Coffee and Connections" will Tuesday April 22nd at 7:45am

Jeff Landy Co-Chairman of the Mount Pleasant Glass and Ethnic Festival presented a check in the amount of \$1,000 to Mount Pleasant EMS Medic 10 to help them pay for the monitors they recently purchased. Mr. Rob Govern, EMS Medic 10 said that this check brings the total contributions to \$10,000.00. They were also able to recycle the old monitors for additional funds.

### Mayor's Report:

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

The Department answered 299 calls during the month as follows:

Complaints	56
Requests for assistance	9
Assist Other Departments	7

Accidents investigated	3
Calls Returned	10
Assist Medic 10	6
Assist Mutual Aid	0

The Department made 28 arrests during the month as follows:

Vehicle Code	24
Crimes Code	4
Borough Ordinance	0
Warning Issued	1

Parking Tickets issued are as follows:

\$4.00 Meter Tickets	38
\$10.00 No Parking Tickets	2
Void / Excused	

\$2.00 Meter Ticket Paid	1	\$	2.00
\$4.00 Parking Tickets Paid	30	\$	120.00
\$5.00 Parking Tickets Paid	3	\$	15.00
\$10.00 Parking Tickets Paid	0	\$	-
\$15.00 Parking Tickets Paid	4	\$	60.00
\$10.00 No Parking Tickets Pd	1	\$	10.00

Return from Magistrate Eckels	\$	1,246.88
Return from Clerk of Courts	\$	203.88
Return from Report Fees	\$	15.00
Return from Parking Permits	\$	-
Return from Restitution	\$	-

Total \$ 1,672.76

1 Meter Collection \$ 1,004.12

Total receipts for the month \$ 2,676.88

Mayor Lucia said that next week the Fire Department will be picking up a 2005 Engine Rescue that was purchased for \$300,000. The Department will find ways to purchase the vehicle without putting any burden on tax payers.

Mayor Lucia announced that the 2014 Easter Egg Hunt sponsored by the Mount Pleasant VFD will be held on April 13th at 2:00pm.

Mayor Lucia said that he attended a hearing at the Westmoreland County Courthouse on one of the blighted properties in the Borough. He also attended the Westmoreland County Emergency Management Meeting, the State Mayor's Association Monthly Meeting and the Westmoreland County Fire Chiefs Association Meeting along with any meetings scheduled by Borough Manager Landy at the borough office.

**Solicitor's Report:** None

**Tax Collector's Report:**

Tax Collector Carol Yancosky read the following Tax Report for the month of March 2014:

Property Tax = \$108,670.21

Per Capita Tax = \$88.00

Total = \$108,752.21

**President's Report:**

Council discussed streets that need paved in the Borough.

President Bauer said that he met with Solicitor Wolfe and the landlord lawsuit should be put to rest sometime this month.

President Bauer said that John Sarp of Sarp & Company reported that he is working on Medic 10 furniture sale audit and it should be completed by the end of this month.

President Bauer said that there have been tests of the emergency siren and it can be heard from everywhere in the Borough. Councilman Wagner asked if there is a protocol for residents to follow when they hear the siren. Mayor Lucia said that he is putting together a flyer and looking for sponsors so that every household in the Borough will receive one. Councilman Tate said that he is working with the high school to have emergencies broadcast on their channel 39. The siren will be set off during an emergency from the police station and will run for five minutes according to FEMA recommendation.

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

Borough Manager Landy thanked Councilwoman Ruszkowski for donating the display case for Chambers.

Borough Manager Landy asked members of council to look at their line items on the Budget Vs. Actual Report and to call the office if they have any questions.

Mr. Landy said that John McGoran, Allied Waste called and would like to schedule a meeting with the Sanitation & Recycling Committee regarding the pilot program that was instituted in the last contract.

Mr. Landy said that he spoke to different municipalities regarding security doors and the larger municipalities do have security.

Mr. Landy said that at a meeting with West Penn Power, it was reported that they will be coming out with smart meters. Mr. Landy said that the West Penn Power web-site is very informative and contains information regarding power outages.

Borough Manager Landy said that Council has to decide if we are going to do a fund raiser for the July 3rd Fireworks.

Mr. Landy said that the G-11 will be held on April 24th thru the 26th at Laurelville. The discussions this year will include Police, Public Works, Secretary/Manager, Mayors, Grants, Volunteerism and Land Banking. Mount Pleasant Borough will host the discussion on Recreation and Special Events. A Solicitor will attend all of the sessions and will be able to answer legal questions for the communities.

Mr. Landy said that the Concert In The Park schedule has been finalized and there are all new bands this year. Councilman Wojnar suggested holding the last concert on a Friday night so the schedule reflects that change. The Mount Pleasant Rotary will be hosting Movies In The Park for kids again this year and the movies will be shown at Frick Park.

### **Waste Water Treatment Report:**

Councilman Tate said that a meeting is scheduled with an engineering firm to discuss problems at the Waste Water Treatment Plant. They will issue a report after the meeting.

### **Veterans Park Report:**

Councilman Tate said that he will be meeting with someone interested in joining the Veterans Park Committee. Borough Manager said that veterans and their families should be aware that we are now accepting applications for the Digital Wall. Councilman Tate said that literature about the Digital Wall will be handed out during the Concerts In The Park.

### **Street Report:**

Borough Manager Landy said he received an email from Councilwoman Bailey reporting the following:

- The traffic sign inventory project that is due in Mid-June is well under way.
- The Street Department and Waste Water Treatment have been in touch regarding leveling the wall at Frick Park and the work should be completed before the end of April.

### **Public Safety & Ordinance Report;**

A motion was made by Councilwoman Stevenson to hire Steven Fontana, Greensburg PA as a part-time Mount Pleasant Police Officer at the normal part-time rate of pay. Motion seconded by Councilman Wagner. Motion carried 7-0.

Councilwoman Stevenson read the following Fire Report for the month of February 2014:

Total Calls - 45  
In Town - 7  
10-45's - 18  
10-45's W/Entrapment - 3  
Fires - 8  
Public Service Calls - 8  
AFA's - 8  
Turnpike Calls - 5  
Total Members Answering - 579  
Average Member Per Call - 11  
Total Staff Hours - 503

Councilwoman Stevenson Read the following Fire Report for the month of March 2014:

Total Calls - 38  
In Town - 10  
Out of Town - 28  
10-45's - 6  
Fires - 14  
Public Service Calls - 5  
AFA's - 6  
Turnpike Calls - 5  
Total Members Answering - 546  
Average Member Per Call - 11  
Total Staff Hours - 503

Councilwoman Stevenson said that we should all be grateful for the hours that our volunteer firemen put in numerous hours to take care of their fellow citizens.

Councilwoman Stevenson said that she is working on revising sign ordinance in regard to digital signs. Councilwoman Stevenson said she has reviewed the PennDot regulations regulating digital signs and has spoken to Solicitor Wolfe and members of the Mount Pleasant Parking Authority. Borough Manager Landy said that when the amendment has been drafted PennDot has said that they would be glad to review look at it for us.

Councilwoman Stevenson said she had a discussion with her committee members and they have decided to recommend as a committee that the Borough not action on an ordinance to specify how parking lots are done. President Bauer said he would like to see further discussion covering water runoff.

Councilman Pritts reminded residents that there is an ordinance against any kind of burning in the Borough.

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

Councilman Wagner reported that a grant application has been submitted to the Southwest Pennsylvania Commission for a Regional Traffic Signal Grant for LED lights. Councilman Wagner thanked Councilwoman Bailey, Councilman Caruso and Street Supervisor Mario Fontanazza for their assistance. Grant funds would be used to update 18 of the Borough's traffic signals.

Councilman Wagner said that he has information regarding a grant that may be beneficial to our police department and he will speak to Police Chief Ober about that grant.

Councilman Wagner said that he met with Jessica from PNC Bank about some opportunities that they have for the Borough and he will also meet with Standard Bank.

Councilman Wagner commended businesses on Main Street who are taking advantage of the nice weather and doing some improvements to their store fronts which makes the Borough more inviting.

Councilman Wagner said that he will continue to work with the Coal & Coke Bike Trail Committee as well as contacts provided by Debbie Salopek, Westmoreland Chamber of Commerce.

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

Borough Manager Landy gave the following report provided by Councilman Wojnar:

- Councilman Wojnar will be working with representatives from Latrobe's bike trail about what they are doing.
- Councilman Wojnar is finalizing a parks inspection form and will start inspecting the parks early in the year so that if anything needs to be repaired, our Street Department can start working on it.
- Councilman Wojnar said that he would like to see the lights at the basketball court turned off at 10pm.

Borough Manager Landy said that he met with Architect Jim Gayton and got the drawings for Penn Park that can be submitted to the county engineers.

**Finance & Human Resources:**

Councilwoman Ruszkowski said that if anyone on council has a question about their budget, since we are a quarter of the way through the year, she will be glad to help.

**Property Report:**

Councilman Pritts said that he is aware that we need to upgrade the electric on the third floor of the Municipal Building and install more outlets.

Councilman Pritts said he will meet with someone to review the camera locations in the Municipal Building.

**Sanitation & Recycling Report:**

Councilman Caruso questioned whether the Borough is going to adopt the Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful Program this year. Council agreed that the paperwork should be sent in to adopt the program.

**New Business:**

President Bauer said that the property on the corner of Park Avenue was flooded during the recent rain event and the street is being damaged as well. The problem is caused by sump pumps and springs in the area. President Bauer discussed the possibility of installing a catch basin on that corner. Street Supervisor Fontanazza said that there is already a pipe there but he is not sure what it is for. Councilman Tate said that he will send Waste Water Treatment workers to camera the pipe.

**Reading of Communications:**

Borough Manager Landy read the following communications:

- John McGoran, Allied Waste, sent a card thanking Council for their thoughtful gift when his father passed away.
- The Westmoreland County Redevelopment Authority sent a letter confirming our participation in the County Land Bank.
- A Penn Dot County Outreach Meeting will be held on April 17, 2014 and Mayor Lucia and Borough Manager Landy will attend.
- Building One Pennsylvania is an organization working on getting communities together to meet with our Senators and State Representatives. The next meeting will be May 16, 2014.
- The Packers Cheerleaders have sent a letter requesting the use of our property by the Municipal Building for their practices. Council agreed to grant their request.

**Discussion and Payment of Bills:**

A motion was made by Councilman Pritts to pay all authorized and approved bills. Motion seconded by Councilman Wagner. Motion carried 7-0.

**Miscellaneous and Adjournment:**

A motion was made by Councilman Pritts to adjourn the meeting. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Stevenson. Motion carried 7-0.

**Meeting Adjourned 8:16pm.**

### **Motions from Meeting of April 7, 2014**

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