

Meeting June 1, 2015

The meeting of Mount Pleasant Borough Council was called to order by President Bauer at 7:02pm in Council Chambers at 1 Etze Avenue, Mount Pleasant, PA 15666. The Pledge of Allegiance was said and President Bauer asked for a moment of silence for our deployed troops. Councilman Pritts led Council in a moment of prayer. President Bauer directed Borough Manager Landy to take roll. Councilmen Caruso, Pritts, Wagner, Tate and Councilwomen Bailey, Ruskowski and Stevenson were present. Mayor Lucia and Solicitor Wolfe were present. President Bauer said that a quorum is present.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Stevenson to approve the minutes of May 18, 2015 since Council has been provided with a copy. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Ruskowski. Councilman Wagner made some changes to the minutes under his report. Motion carried 8-0.

Public Comment:

Mr. McClain, 646 N. Geary Street Mount Pleasant PA 15666 said that the resolution to the drainage issue at his property has been an overwhelming success. Mr. McClain thanked Council for all of their efforts.

Ms. Debbie Salopek read a letter from Mr. James Tylka requesting permission from Council for a 5K Walk through Mount Pleasant for his mother Kathy Tylka who was diagnosed with pancreatic cancer in May of 2014. Mr. Tylka said that he trying to raise money for awareness for this horrible disease. Last year's walk raised \$6,100 for the Patients Assistance Fund and look to exceed that total this year. The Walk will begin at Spruce and Silver Streets and end at St. Pius Social Hall, taking the same route as last year... The Walk is planned for June 27, 2015 and will begin at 9am. Insurance will be provided for the Walk participants. Mr. Tylka asked for Police and EMS presence.

A motion was made by Councilman Tate to allow the Walk of Hope Saturday June 27, 2015. Motion seconded by Councilman Caruso. Motion carried 8-0.

Mayor Report:

Mayor Lucia said that the monthly Police Report will be presented at the second meeting of every month from now on so that all receipts can be included in the report.

Mayor Lucia said that the re-mounted Medic 10 ambulance is inspected and is ready to be put into use as soon as the state inspection of the inside of the ambulance is complete. All of the Medic 10 ambulances will be inspected at that time.

Mayor Lucia said that he attended a mock tornado exercise by Westmoreland County 911. This exercise was overseen by PEMA representatives from Harrisburg. These exercises make Westmoreland County better prepared for emergencies.

Mayor Lucia said that he drove 152 miles in the Borough during May checking for property maintenance issues.

Mayor Lucia thanked the American Legion for the Memorial Day ceremony on May 25, 2015 and The Mount Pleasant Rotary Club for putting up the flags on Main Street.

Borough Manager Landy reported that the Mount Pleasant Police Department has a bank account at Scottdale Bank & Trust in Mount Pleasant for meter and parking ticket funds. Scottdale Bank will be able to count the meter receipts and give the Police Department a total within two days.

President Bauer presented Mario Fontanazza with a commemorative watch for 50 years of service at the Mount Pleasant Borough Street Department.

Solicitor's Report:

Solicitor Wolfe talked about the Borough's desire to have a smoking policy for borough employees. He requested clarification on what tobacco products to include in the policy and what if any areas are permissible. Solicitor Wolfe reminded Council that this for union employees this is a bargaining issue.

Solicitor Wolfe said he will have a set of the most up to date version of Civil Service Rules and Regulations for Council's consideration within the next couple of days.

Solicitor Wolfe said he has drafted an ordinance for Council's consideration that would repeal Part 6 of Ordinance #624 of the Borough's Code of Ordinances that covers Yard Sale Permits and fees.

Solicitor Wolfe said that he has received a proposed draft agreement from Mount Pleasant Township regarding their share of the cost of the WWT bio-tower replacement. Councilman Larry Tate, WWT Superintendent Larry Hague and Solicitor Wolfe will go over the agreement for any change requests.

Tax Collector Report:

Tax Collector Carol Yancosky read the following report for the month of May 2015:

Property Taxes = \$9,818.46
Per Capita Taxes = \$286.00

Total = \$10,104.46

Ms. Yancosky said that the reminders for 2014 unpaid Per Capita Taxes were mailed out in May and deadline to pay that tax is June 30, 2015

Presidents Report:

President Bauer said that he would like David Stairs reappointed to the Mount Pleasant Business District Authority.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Bailey to suspend the rules for a motion to reappoint David Stairs to the Mount Pleasant Business District Authority. Motion seconded by Councilman Wagner. Motion carried 8-0.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Bailey to reappoint Mr. David Stairs to the Mount Pleasant Business District Authority for a term ending on December 31, 2017. Motion seconded by Councilman Wagner. Motion carried 8-0.

President Bauer said that he feels the Yard Sale Ordinance can be repealed because the issues that were present when the ordinance was enacted are gone.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Bailey to approve the advertisement of an ordinance repealing Part 6 - Garage/Yard Sale Permits, comprised of section 601 through section 605 of chapter 13 - Licenses, Permits and General Business Regulations of the Mount Pleasant Borough Code of Ordinances. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Stevenson. Motion carried 8-0.

President Bauer said that since Armstrong Cable is no longer able to record the council meetings the Borough is looking into purchasing their own recording system. Costs should be available by the next council meeting.

President Bauer said that he has spoken to both full-time Mount Pleasant Policemen and they have both said that they are very pleased with the management of the Police Department by the new Police Chief. Councilman Bauer discussed some more building changes that have to be made at the Police Department.

Borough Manager's Report:

Borough Manager Landy made the following report:

- The cost from Premier Video to purchase everything needed to record the council meetings is \$1,649.00. Armstrong Cable agreed to air the video if we provide it.
- Mayor Lucia and Borough Manager Landy met with the Penn Dot Project Manager in charge of the project to redo Mount Pleasant Main Street regarding the right-of-ways and Penn Dot is now much more confident with the number they are going to present to us. The Penn Dot representative said that it is possible the total cost of the project could exceed \$8.6 million. He also said that they will try not to disrupt business activities on Main Street, they will do the project in quadrants.
- There will be a motion at the next council meeting to re-bid the Penn Park Project and bids are expected to come in at the amount available from grant funds.
- Initial property maintenance letters were sent out in May and tomorrow Mr. Landy will be going to the properties that received violation notices to see if they have complied. If they have not complied, a citation will be issued for a hearing before Magistrate Eckels.

Council discussed solutions to the abandoned properties in the Borough with high grass. The Borough can mow the grass and lien the property. Council will have to decide if the Street Department will mow the grass or the Borough will hire summer help to cut the grass.

Borough Manager Landy said that the Parks and Recreation Committee should make plans to inspect the playground equipment at the borough parks.

Waste Water Treatment Report:

Councilman Tate said further discussions with Mount Pleasant Township will be necessary regarding agreements for the bio-tower and flow meter expenses.

Councilman Tate said that Waste Water Treatment personnel moving forward on the wall at Frick Park and are just about ready to lay the final block.

Veterans Park Report: None

Streets Report: None

Public Safety & Ordinance Report:

Councilwoman Stevenson announced that the Mount Pleasant Community Yard Sale will be held on Saturday June 13th. Signs have been ordered and will be put up around town and there will be an ad in the Laurel Group newspapers next week. Dawn Kalp has volunteered to hand out maps in the parking lot behind Levin Furniture. Councilwoman Stevenson said that this year's participation should determine if the Borough will continue to fund a community yard sale in the future.

Councilwoman Stevenson said that the Borough received an email from a company that can provide us with ADA approved mulch for the playground at Frick Park. The cost of 100 cubic yards would be \$2,452 and that will not be enough to do the entire playground at Frick Park.

Councilwoman Stevenson said that she has received a request for a handicapped parking space on Howard Street. The requester is aware of the cost of the sign and that anyone with a handicap permit can use the space.

Councilwoman Stevenson said that after discussion with her committee, President Bauer and Mayor Lucia it has been decided that ordinance officer duties should be turned over to the Mount Pleasant Police Department. Police Chief Sam has agreed that the duties will be performed by a police officer, but will not be done on police time and the cost will not come from the police budget. Therefore it is the recommendation of the Public Safety Committee with approval from President Bauer and Mayor Lucia that the duties of Ordinance Officer will be turned over to the police.

Councilwoman Stevenson said that Police Chief Sam has reported that police presence at Frick Park is greatly increased.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Stevenson to ratify Medic 10 ambulance remount at a cost of \$55,100. Motion seconded by Councilman Pritts. Motion carried 8-0.

Community & Economic Development/Grants Report: None

Parks & Recreation Report:

Borough Manager Landy said that all of the county requirements for playground equipment and the basketball court at Frick Park have been met and we are waiting for a letter from them saying that they are releasing grant funds for the project. Bob Regola said that he can be instrumental in getting those funds released.

Finance & Human Resources Report:

A motion was made by Councilwoman Ruszkowski to transfer \$14,265.02 from PNC General Fund to Standard Bank Budgetary Reserve for income from Act 13 Marcellus Impact Fee for the years 2012, 2013 and 2014. Motion seconded by Councilman Pritts. Motion carried 8-0.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Ruszkowski to ratify the renewal of borough insurance with HDH Group Inc. at a cost of \$59,784.00. Motion seconded by Councilman Pritts. Motion carried 8-0.

Councilwoman Ruszkowski clarified a question Councilman Wagner had on the Treasurer's Report.

Property Report:

Councilman Pritts reported that the wall was installed in the Police Department and the evidence drop-off box is complete.

Councilman Pritts thanked Councilwoman Bailey and the Street Department for the work they have done in 1st Ward repairing pot holes.

Councilman Pritts said that the grass in the volleyball court is getting high and Council should look into completing plans to tear down the fence and make the area a parking lot. Borough Manager Landy said that the Girls Softball League has agreed to take down the fence around the volleyball court and he will talk to them about when they can do the job.

President Bauer scheduled a meeting of the Park & Recreation Committee for 5:00 on Tuesday June 2, 2015.

Sanitation & Recycling Report: None

President Bauer thanked Berkshire Hathaway Real Estate for putting flags at their properties in the Borough on Memorial Day and Councilman Tate thanked the Mount Pleasant Garden Club for the beautiful flowers they plant at Veterans Park and the Gazebo Area.

Speakers:

Mr. Ed Christophano reported to Council that Vince Zaccaria has resigned his post on the Mount Pleasant Business District Board. With the absence of Charlotte Mowry, there are now only seven members on the Board. Mr. Christophano said that the BDA wishes to remain at nine members on their Board and they will be looking at active members to keep the number at nine. The Board will also be looking for members to form committees. Mr. Christophano said he would like to meet with the Borough Solicitor to finalize the BDA by-laws.

Mr. Christophano said that the BDA would like to offer it's assistance in decorating the Welcome to Mount Pleasant sign to make it more welcoming to our business district. President

Bauer said that the Borough may not have enough access around the sign to support much landscaping. Mr. Christophano said the BDA will do as much as possible.

New Business:

Councilwoman Stevenson made some comments regarding the recent primary election. Councilwoman Stevenson said that she feels the Landlord Association had a big part to play in the election. Councilwoman Stevenson said that she feels the current council members are serving on Council to improve Mount Pleasant and not for their own personal gain.

Reading of Communications:

Borough Manager Landy read the following communications:

- The Mount Pleasant Glass & Ethnic Festival is requesting the use of Frick Park for their annual car show on August 21, 2015 at 7pm.
- Southmoreland School District will have its free lunch program for kids up to 18 years old at Frick Park from June 22, 2015 through August 7, 2015.
- The property on Rumbaugh Avenue that has a garage that needs to be torn down has requested three weeks to tear it down. This resident is also having a problem with drivers who are using the alley next to his property pulling onto his property when another car approaches from the opposite direction. The alley is only wide enough for one car and he would like Council to make the alley one-way. Councilwoman Bailey said that she has looked at the alley and feels it would be best to make it one-way from Rumbaugh Avenue to St. Clair Street.

Discussion and Payment of Bills:

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

Miscellaneous and Adjournment:

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

Meeting Adjourned 8:35pm

Motions from June 1, 2015 Meeting

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