

Meeting August 18, 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. Councilmen Caruso, Pritts, Tate, Wagner, Wojnar and Councilwomen Bailey, 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 August 4, 2014 since Council has been provided with a copy. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Ruszkowski. Motion carried 9-0.

Public Comments:

Mr. Mark Krystyniak addressed Council as a representative for the buyer of the Cernuto property on Main Street. The Cernuto family tried to mow their property, but the owners of the neighboring property informed them that they did not have access because they own the property that is on the tax records as a paper alley. Mr. Krystyniak asked Council to send letters to the owners of the adjacent properties to the Cernuto property to inform them that the paper alley is not part of their property.

Speakers:

Councilman Wojnar explained to Council that the following speakers are going to discuss the Coal & Coke Bike Trail and what it would take for the bike trail to come to Main Street in the Borough.

Brian Lawrence, Westmoreland County Planning Commission made a detailed presentation to Council about exploring the possibility of connecting the Coal & Coke Bike Train with downtown Mount Pleasant. Mr. Lawrence said that communities that have a trail near their community recognize significant economic benefits by making safe, defined and attractive connections from the trail to their central business district. Mr. Lawrence presented slides of the route the trail would take from Willows Park, up through town mostly on residential back roads to Veterans Park. The challenges would be topography, design, cost and liability. Mr. Lawrence explained that because of topography, the shortest route is not the best route and that Veterans Park is the best destination because it would be the best place for amenities and for a message board that would include advertisements for the local businesses. But if Council wishes to end the trail at Washington Street as originally proposed that could be done as well. It also makes sense to make a connection to the proposed Penn Park on the east end of the Borough.

Mr. Lawrence said that the recommended cost of \$3,538.46 would cover all of the necessary elements and the recommended amenities. Mr. Lawrence said that it would be possible for the Borough to do the project in pieces, with the main trail first and then adding the east end later. The borough's Street Department would do the labor necessary which would keep the cost down.

The last part of the presentation involved liability. Mr. Lawrence said that the Borough's existing insurance policy would likely protect the Borough from any suits that may be filed. Current state statute will also protect the Borough under a number of state laws. Also, any liability would have to be the negligent or malicious type. Borough Manager Landy questioned whether mapping the route would open the Borough to greater liability than if the bikers who wanted to come into town just went the way they chose.

President Bauer said that he is concerned with extending the trail in regard to Clay Avenue because the Township tars and chips that road almost every year. Mr. Lawrence said that they mapped out what they thought would be the safest route. President Bauer said that a large part of the proposed route is in Mount Pleasant Township and they would have to share the liability.

Councilman Wagner said that Mount Pleasant has the opportunity to take the lead on a project like this because Scottdale, Connellsville and Latrobe are all considering projects that are not as advanced as this project. Councilman Wagner suggested an opportunity for Scottdale and Mount Pleasant to share advertising.

Ms. Kim Giles, Shop Demo Depot spoke to Council in support of the proposed bike trail extension and stated that the bike trail has had a tremendous impact on their business.

Deb Salopek, BDA, Westmoreland Chamber of Commerce, read a letter from the Chamber to Robert Keeler of the Coal & Coke Trail supporting the bike trail in that it will encourage economic growth, promotes recreation for families and health conscious individuals. The Chamber asked to be considered an active champion of this project. Ms. Salopek also spoke on behalf of the Mount Pleasant BDA. They feel it would be a benefit to be the first municipality to do a project

of this sort. Ms. Salopek referred to a report that says economic growth can be as much as 30%. Ms. Salopek read a statement from the BDA in support of the proposed bike trail extension into Mount Pleasant Borough and offered a yet to be determined monetary amount.

Mr. Robert Keeler, Secretary of the Coal & Coke Trail also spoke to Council in support of extending the bike trail into the Borough's business district. Mr. Keeler said that bike trails have a positive impact on communities and he is working with Scottdale Borough to have the bike trail connect to their business district. He feels extending the trail into Mount Pleasant Borough will bring visitors to the local businesses and restaurants in town.

Borough Manager Landy asked Mr. Keeler if there is any data or surveys to support his statement regarding bike trail users visiting local businesses and restaurants. Mr. Keeler said that no formal survey has been done. Councilman Wojnar said that he has encountered out of town visitors at the trail who said that they would absolutely use an extension that went to the business district.

Mr. Landy said that he feels it would benefit Council and help them make a decision if there was some data to support the claims.

President Bauer said that he feels that this should be a BDA project if it is to entice visitors to the business district and the Borough will give the money budgeted for the trail this year toward the project.

Councilwoman Stevenson said that she feels the project would be a feature that a community that is trying to attract younger people would support. Councilman Wojnar said the Borough could be the first, and a leader for this type of project. Councilman Wojnar also said that the money budgeted for a reward in the parks has never been used and could be better spent on this project. Council discussed different ways to pay for the project. Councilwoman Bailey said that she feels this is something that Council can make happen and President Bauer agreed, but wants to look over the presentation before making a decision. Council thanked Mr. Lawrence for a very informative demonstration.

Mayor's Report:

Mayor Lucia said that he attended the Mayor's Conference in Hershey PA and there was a lot of discussion about allowing local police departments to use radar for speed control. The Pennsylvania State Police were present at the conference to demonstrate the radar. Mayor Lucia said that all officers, both part-time and full-time would have to be trained on the use of radar and the cost of training would be shared by the state. Mayor Lucia said that the Federal Drug Task Force was also at the conference and spoke about drug prevention.

Solicitor's Report: None

Treasurer's Report:

Borough Manager Landy read the following Treasurer's Report for the month of July 2014:

Mt. Pleasant Borough Treasurer's Report		Jul-14			Balance
		Previous Balance	Deposits	Disbursements	2014
General Fund Checking	PNC 00-0122-3513	60,716.00	212,183.67	221,331.67	51,568.00
General Fund Sweep	PNC 10-1149-3394	829,386.28	93,691.62	104,472.10	818,605.80
General Fund Budgetary Reserve	PNC 102-457-4388	43,402.40	1.85	0.00	43,404.25
**Fire	30,000.00				
**Police	0.00				
**Streets	10,000.00				
**Contingency Fund	3,404.25				
General Fund Budgetary Reserve	Standard Bank 321615	470,347.87	39.95	0.00	470,387.82
**Police	33,127.60				
**Streets	90,000.00				
**Contingency Fund	180,469.43				
**Infrastructure	100,000.00				
**BOMP1 Gas Well	9,250.00				
**BOMP2 Gas Well	4,572.81				
**Frick Park Gas Well	24,408.36				
**Levins	970.06				
**Surveillance Cameras	160.00				
**Early Warning Siren Grant	1,300.00				
**Fire	15,000.00				
**K-9	11,129.56				
Escrow Account	PNC Bank 10-2912-6867	25,323.81	0.00	0.00	25,323.81
Liquid Fuels PLGIT	PLGIT 56980126	120,254.57	2.91	50,679.54	69,577.94

Monument CD	Standard Bank 328188	5,950.65	0.00	0.00	5,950.65
Holiday Lighting Fund	Standard Bank 050004849	1,803.19	0.08	0.00	1,803.27
Payroll Fund	PNC 00-0122-6415	661.51	76,931.85	76,931.85	661.51
Veterans Park Fund	First Niagara 981293700	886.49	0.00	333.51	552.98
Veterans Park Fund	PLGIT 5698025	5,548.69	0.12	5,548.81	0.00
Town Clock Fund	Standard Bank 0010038847	613.75	0.03	0.00	613.78
Storm Water Retrofit Phase II	PNC Bank 10-3888-4556	3,042.21	0.00	0.00	3,042.21
Total General Fund Balance					1,491,492.02
Medic 10 Checking	Standard Bank 0010107643	131,718.64	43,833.88	9,061.44	166,491.08
Medic 10 Savings	Standard Bank 0310000238	146,005.72	1,012.49	0.00	147,018.21
Medic 10 Money Market	PNC Bank 10-1516-8804	5,882.29	0.25	0.00	5,882.54
Medic 10 Community Trust	Standard Bank 0000358253	3,336.26	0.41	159.58	3,177.09
Total Medic 10 Fund Balance					322,568.92
WWT Operational Acct	Standard Bank 0320012280	359,083.86	79,402.30	72,031.02	366,455.14
WWT Savings	Standard Bank 0050021008	100,105.98	1,512.75	0.00	101,618.73
WWT Budgetary Reserve	Standard Bank 0000287245	73,335.39	6.22	0.00	73,341.61
**Contingency		13,341.61			
**Infrastructure		60,000.00			
Total WWT Balance					541,415.48
Total Borough funds					2,355,476.42

Councilwoman Susan Ruszkowski
Secretary Beverly Fedorchak

A motion was made by Councilman Pritts to accept the Treasurer's Report as read. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Bailey. Motion carried 9-0.

President's Report:

A motion was made by Councilwoman Bailey to appoint Dennis Taylor to the Mount Pleasant Civil Service Board. Motion seconded by Councilman Wagner. Motion carried 9-0.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Bailey to appoint Fred McCloy to the Mount Pleasant Civil Service Board. Motion seconded by Councilman Pritts. Motion carried 9-0.

A motion was made by Councilman Tate to accept the bid from First Niagara Bank in the amount of \$14,000 for the property at 524 W. Main Street. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Ruszkowski. Motion carried 9-0.

President Bauer said that the Borough is working on solving many of the storm water issues.

President Bauer said that drivers are making a left turn onto Church Street from Spence Way alley, then making a right to go down Union Alley and some are even going all the way to Main Street. President Bauer said that the Borough needs better signage at that intersection.

Borough Manager's Report:

Borough Manager Landy said that he and Mayor Lucia met with representatives and engineers from MAWC and it is looking very promising that storm water line on Main Street will be redone from Eagle Street to Center Avenue. The key is to get Columbia Gas and MAWC to upgrade their lines before anything is done with the storm water lines. MAWC has agreed to start the process of upgrading their lines on Main Street and Columbia Gas has already put new lines on Main Street. Mr. Landy said that the Borough has already stopped over-sized loads from using our Main Street until they obtain a permit.

Mr. Landy said that there is a problem with water coming into the first floor of the Municipal Building and he has talked to Joe Siska and Bob Hudek and they will be providing Council with proposals to fix the problem. Mr. Siska discovered that water is going into the well below the elevator and then being pumped out. He would like to find out where the water is going and how that can be fixed at the same time. Mr. Landy said that would make the project bigger than anticipated.

Mr. Landy said that he was informed both the County and the School District have suspended the L.E.R.T.A. program. Therefore the Borough can no longer offer the program.

Borough Manager Landy reported that the Minimum Obligation for the Non-union Pension for the year 2015 will be \$51,984.00.

Borough Manager Landy reported that the Minimum Obligation for the Police Pension for the year 2015 will be zero because the plan is over-funded at this time.

Waste Water Treatment Report:

Councilman Tate said that the hiring committee will be holding second interviews for nine applicants for the WWT Laborer. The third interview will be conducted by Superintendent Larry Hague at the WWT Plant.

Councilman Tate said that he requested quotes from three different contractors for the roof at the WWT Plant and only received a quote from one company.

President Bauer said that Solicitor Wolfe informed him that Mr. J.T. Sowers is responsible for the cost of tapping into the borough sewage lines and he will write him a letter to that effect. Councilman Tate said that WWT Superintendent Hague saved Mr. Sowers a significant amount of money by showing him how to avoid opening Diamond Street, which is a state road.

Veterans Park Report:

Councilman Tate said that he would like Council to limit bike trail signs at Veterans Park to one sign and to avoid putting a bike rack at the park because of the damage it would do to the grass and landscaping.

Streets Report:

A motion was made by Councilwoman Bailey to award the paving bid for Braddock Road Avenue and Quarry Street to East Coast Paving & Seal Coating in the amount of \$27,416.50. Motion seconded by Councilman Pritts. Motion carried 9-0.

President Bauer said that he would like to make a change order to the bid to include paving Spence Way. Councilwoman Stevenson said that she spoke to the property owner on Eagle Street who has water from a sump pump running onto Spence Way and he said that he will have it fixed by mid-October. President Bauer said that he would like the paving company to put a curb on Spence Way to help with water run-off.

Council discussed roads that need to be sealed before the end of the season. Mr. Landy said that crack-sealing should be a priority for our Street Department and Council agreed. Councilman Tate said that he would like to see more roads tarred and chipped in the Borough.

Public Safety Zoning & Ordinance Report:

A motion was made by Councilwoman Stevenson to accept the resignation/retirement of Police Chief Stephen Ober effective August 25, 2014. Motion seconded by Councilman Tate. Motion carried 9-0.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Stevenson to advertise for a Police Chief. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Ruszkowski. Motion carried 9-0.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Stevenson to approve Resolution 2014-04 to amend building permit fees as follows: For Commercial and Industrial properties, an administrative fee will be added in the amount of 25% of the fee charged by the contracted inspection company. For Residential properties, an administrative fee of \$25 will be added to the fee charged by the contracted inspection company. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Bailey. Motion carried 9-0.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Stevenson to authorize Council President to approve an agreement with K2 Engineering, to include the updated building permit fees. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Bailey. Motion carried 9-0.

Councilwoman Stevenson reported that Borough Manager Landy has seen that the property inspections that have been paid for by landlords will be done at no further cost to the landlords. Councilwoman Stevenson said that she will be writing a letter to the president of the Landlord Association to inform him of this.

Council discussed properties in the Borough that are in violation of the grass cutting ordinance. President Bauer said that the decals will be removed from the police vehicle that is not in use and Borough Manager Landy will use it to drive the Borough looking for violations and in January 2015 Council will hire a Zoning Officer.

Mayor Lucia said that he received a complaint regarding the parking spaces on Main Street at Leo's Grille 31. The spaces are so tight that it is impossible to get a wheelchair in and out of a car. Mayor Lucia suggested eliminating a parking space and widening the rest while designating a couple as handicapped.

Community & Economic Development/Grants Report:

Councilman Wagner said that he will be talking to representatives from Connellsville regarding the grant they received for a new dump truck and he will be working with Councilwoman Bailey on the CDBG Grant.

Councilman Wagner thanked Mayor Lucia and Nathan Kristoff for their assistance in pressure washing the Social Walkway over the weekend. The Mount Pleasant BDA will be doing some other things to spruce up the walkway before the Glass & Ethnic Festival in September.

Councilman Wagner announced that the Farmers Market has moved to the parking lot at Shop Demo Depot and it seems the new location is working out well.

Parks & Recreation Report:

Councilman Wojnar reminded residents that school starts next week and motorists should be aware of school buses and children walking.

Finance & Human Resources Report:

A motion was made by Councilwoman Ruszkowski to approve a \$.37 per hour raise for Borough Secretary Beverly Fedorchak to be taken from Line Item #405.12, Part-time Office. Motion seconded by Councilman Wagner. Motion carried 9-0.

Property Report:

Councilman Pritts discussed repairs needed on some borough buildings.

Councilman Pritts said that he received another quote for surveillance cameras in the police station.

Councilman Pritts said that the lights are installed and functioning at the Welcome to Mount Pleasant sign and Council agreed that it looks very nice. Councilman Pritts said that Warren Turner donated the lights for the sign.

Sanitation & Recycling Report: None

New Business:

President Bauer said that a sample bill was received by MAWC that includes the \$15 Capital Improvement Assessment. President Bauer said that he explained to Mount Pleasant Township what the funds from this assessment will be used for after the loan for the bio-tower is paid off. There are numerous repairs needed at the WWT Plant.

Reading of Communications:

Borough Manager Landy read the following communications:

- The PSAB Fall Leadership Conference will be held in Gettysburg PA October 17-19, 2014.

Discussion and Payment of Bills:

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

Miscellaneous and Adjournment:

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

Meeting Adjourned 9:54pm

Motions from August 18, 2014 Meeting

A motion was made by Councilwoman Stevenson to dispense with the reading of the minutes of August 21, 2014 since Council has been provided with a copy. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Ruszkowski. Motion carried 9-0.

A motion was made by Councilman Pritts to accept the Treasurer's Report as read. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Bailey. Motion carried 9-0.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Bailey to appoint Dennis Taylor to the Mount Pleasant Civil Service Board. Motion seconded by Councilman Wagner. Motion carried 9-0.

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