

**Meeting August 4, 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 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 July 21, 2014 since Council has been provided with a copy. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Ruszkowski. Motion carried 9-0.

**Citizen of the Month:** Ethel Cooper

**Public Comments:** None

**Speakers:** None

**Mayor's Report:**

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

Report of the Mount Pleasant Police Dept. for the month of June 2014

The Department answered 381 calls during the month as follows

Complaints	77
Requests for assistance	5
Assist Other Departments	4
Accidents investigated	9
Calls Returned	10
Assist Medic 10	16
Assist Mutual Aid	0

The Department made 33 arrests during the month as follows

Vehicle Code	28
Crimes Code	5
Borough Ordinance	0
Warning Issued	

Parking Tickets issued are as follows:

\$4.00 Meter Tickets	10
\$10.00 No Parking Tickets	2
Void / Excused	2

\$2.00 Parking Tickets Paid	0	\$	-
\$4.00 Parking Tickets Paid	9	\$	36.00
\$5.00 Parking Tickets Paid	0	\$	-
\$10.00 Parking Tickets Paid	0	\$	-
\$15.00 Parking Tickets Paid	1	\$	15.00
\$10.00 No Parking Tickets Paid	2	\$	20.00

Return from Magistrate Eckels	\$	1,820.84
Return from Clerk of Courts	\$	64.34
Return from Report Fees	\$	150.00
Return from Parking Permits	\$	37.01
Return from Restitution	\$	-

Total \$ 2,143.19

1 Meter Collection \$ -

Total receipts for the month \$ 2,143.19

Mayor Lucia said that 1.8" of rain fell within one hour on Saturday night which caused some flooding problems on N Geary Street, Kennedy Avenue, Quarry Street and High Street due to manhole problems. There was also flooding on Orchard Avenue for the first time in 10 or 12 years. Mayor Lucia said that Larry Hague, WWT will be doing dye testing at some of the properties to try and see the problem. Mayor Lucia said that residents can help solve the problem by removing their downspouts from the sewer. The Borough will be dye testing properties to determine which ones are in violation, but it would be much better if the property owners corrected the problem on their own.

### **Solicitor's Report:**

Solicitor Wolfe said that he presented Council with an agreement with Mount Pleasant Township for Deer Creek Drive. Deer Creek Drive is a private drive that has a portion in the Township and a portion in the Borough. Mount Pleasant Township is in the process of adopting Deer Creek Drive and doing the maintenance on the road. They would like the Borough adopt their portion as a public street. After that is done, Mount Pleasant Township would like the Borough to enter into an inter-governmental cooperation agreement stating that the Township will agree to maintain the entire road in return for a portion of the Borough's Liquid Fuels revenue that is attributable to their portion of Deer Creek Drive. The portion of Liquid Fuels revenue in question is approximately \$185 per year. This would require the Borough to adopt an ordinance.

Solicitor Wolfe said the next issue is the repairs to the WWT Plant Bio-tower. There is a motion on tonight's agenda to assess Mount Pleasant sewage customers a \$15 Capital Improvement Assessment. There is also a motion on the agenda to move forward with preparation of the paperwork necessary to borrow money from Scottdale Bank & Trust Company in the amount of \$400,00 to pay for the repair of the bio-tower. The \$15 Capital Improvement Assessment would be dedicated to paying back the loan. If Council approves these agenda items Solicitor Wolfe will prepare the necessary documents.

Solicitor Wolfe reported that the Guaranteed Energy Saving Agreement with Honeywell has been prepared and before we move forward it will be necessary to have the appropriate financing in place for the initial outlay from the Borough before the positive cash flow. Financing is available through Honeywell at a very competitive rate or the Borough can seek other financing. There is an advantage to keeping the entire operation under one roof.

### **Tax Collector Report:**

Tax Collector Carol Yancosky read the following tax report for the month of July 2014:

Property Taxes = \$4,322.01 which is the total collected for the month of July.

Ms. Yancosky said that last year at this time taxes yet to be collected totaled \$37,825 and this year it is \$43,125.

Ms. Yancosky said that Per Capita, School and Property taxes were mailed. President Bauer said he would like the per capita tax statements explained. Ms. Yancosky said that the statements are in three parts and when residents receive their per capita statement they can keep the third copy for a receipt or they can send a self-addressed stamped envelope and she will stamp the receipt and return it to them.

Ms. Yancosky said that she has received numerous calls regarding the increase and explained that the Mount Pleasant School Board voted to increase their millage this year. The Borough has not raised taxes.

### **President's Report:**

President Bauer said that there were some very frustrated homeowners on Saturday night because of the flooding. Many people said that catch basins were clogged. President Bauer discussed cleaning the catch basins and replacing some. President Bauer said that the new paving project on Ann and Joseph Streets is causing the water to run away from President Bauer said that cleaning the catch basins will require the assistance of WWT personnel.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Ruszkowski to appoint Ed Christophano to the Mount Pleasant Business District Authority. Motion seconded by Councilman Wojnar. Motion carried 9-0.

A motion was made by Councilman Wagner to suspend the rules for the purpose of reappointing Mr. Nino Barsotti to the Mount Pleasant Business District Authority. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Bailey. Motion carried 9-0.

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A motion was made by Councilman Pritts for an Executive Session. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Stevenson. Motion carried 9-0.

### **Executive Session 7:40pm to 8:20pm**

President Bauer stated that the Executive Session was held to discuss personnel and contracts.

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

Borough Manager Landy said that he and Councilman Wagner attended a recent CDBG meeting regarding the cycle of CDBG funds. The Borough will have to apply sometime in October of this year for 2015.

Mr. Landy said that he attended a meeting at Frick Hospital about their renovation project.

Borough Manager Landy said that the Profit & Loss Budget Vs. Actual Report for July 2014 is a good indication of where each department stands. Preparations for the 2015 Budget will begin in October.

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

Councilman Tate said that he, Borough Manager Landy and Larry Hague WWT attended a meeting at the Harmon House because there is still grease going down their sewer and they experienced a blockage. Harmon House personnel said that the problem will be taken care of in the very near future.

A motion was made by Councilman Tate to suspend the rules for the purpose of promoting Mr. Larry Hague to Superintendent of the Waste Water Treatment Plant. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Bailey. Motion carried 9-0.

A motion was made by Councilman Tate to promote Mr. Larry Hague to Superintendent of the Waste Water Treatment Plant. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Bailey. Motion carried 9-0.

A motion was made by Councilman Tate to assess Mount Pleasant Borough sewage customers a \$15 Capital Improvement Assessment per billing cycle effective immediately. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Stevenson. Motion carried 9-0.

President Bauer said that the funds from this assessment will be used to pay back the \$400,000 loan for the repair of the bio-tower at the WWT Plant and then put aside for any future repairs.

### **Veterans Park Report:**

Councilman Tate said that the Digital Wall at Veterans Park is up and running and he hopes people will start sending in applications.

### **Streets Report:**

Councilwoman Bailey reported that sealed bids were opened for the Braddock Road and Quarry Street paving project and will be awarded at the next council meeting.

Councilwoman Bailey reported that the Mount Pleasant Township will begin the Deer Creek paving project tomorrow and they hope to have it completed by next week.

President Bauer questioned Solicitor Wolfe about a change order for the Braddock Road/Quarry Street paving project. There is a forty foot section of Spence Way that needs to be milled and President Bauer asked if it would be permissible to add it to the paving bid as a change order. Solicitor Wolfe said that would be permissible.

### **Public Safety Zoning & Ordinance Report:**

Councilwoman Stevenson said that she spoke to the owner of the property at the corner of Spence Way and Eagle Street regarding water coming from his sump pump onto the alley. The property owner said that he will be talking to a couple of plumbers and will get back to Councilwoman Stevenson next week.

Councilwoman Stevenson said that Council has received a request to use the Freedom of Speech Area from the Mount Pleasant Church of God for their youth group to shoot a video on August 29<sup>th</sup> beginning at 5:00pm.

Councilwoman Stevenson said that the sample grass cutting ordinance she received from Latrobe. Their ordinance says that once a property is cited the owners have 5 days to mow the lawn. If they do not mow the lawn the city mows it and bills the owner.

Councilman Stevenson said she received a call from a business owner in town who said that they were very pleased with K2 Engineering and their handling of her permit.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Stevenson to approve the preparation and advertisement of an ordinance formally accepting that portion of Deer Creek Drive that is located within the boundaries of the Borough of Mount Pleasant as a public street and to enter into an intergovernmental cooperation agreement with Mt. Pleasant Township pursuant to which the Township agrees to accept responsibility of future repairs and maintenance of that portion of Deer Creek Drive in exchange for an assignment of that portion of Liquid Fuels revenue attributable to this portion of Deer Creek Drive. Motion seconded by Councilman Pritts. Motion carried 9-0.

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

Councilman Wagner said that most grant opportunities involve research and development along with job creation that the Borough is not eligible for.

President Bauer said that he would like Borough Manager Landy to get more involved in researching grant opportunities because grants will be very important to the future of the Borough. Mayor Lucia said that there may be opportunities for regional grants such as the one the Fire Department applied for.

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

Councilman Wojnar said that he was approached by PA Cleanways about a fall cleanup program in the Borough like the one that was held in the spring.

Councilman Wojnar said that Mr. Brian Lawrence for the Westmoreland County Planning Commission will be a speaker at the next council meeting and will give a presentation on an in-town bike trail.

### **Finance & Human Resources Report:**

A motion was made by Councilwoman Ruszkowski to authorize the Solicitor to move forward with preparation of the paperwork necessary to effectuate a loan with Scottdale Bank & Trust Company to borrow \$400,000 at a tax free rate of 1.45% based on a 10-year amortization schedule on the operative terms as set forth in their letter dated June 19, 2014 for repairs at the WWT Plant. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Bailey. Motion carried 9-0.

**Property Report:**

Councilman Pritts said the electric connection has been completed at the Welcome Wall and we are only waiting on an inspection.

**Sanitation & Recycling Report:**

A motion was made by Councilman Caruso to approve the recycling program with Allied Waste. Motion seconded by Councilman Wagner. Motion carried 9-0.

**New Business:** None

**Reading of Communications:** None

**Discussion and Payment of Bills:**

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

**Miscellaneous and Adjournment:**

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

**Meeting Adjourned 9:10pm**

### **Motions from Meeting of August 4, 2014**

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