

Meeting September 5, 2017

The meeting of Mount Pleasant Borough Council was called to order by President Caruso at 7:03pm 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, McCloy and Ruszkowski. Mayor Lucia and Solicitor Liptak were present. President Caruso stated that a quorum is present.

A motion was made by Councilman Ruszkowski to approve the minutes of August 21, 2017 since Council has been provided with a copy. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Bailey. Motion carried 5-0.

Public Comment:

Mr. Dale Dix, Greensburg PA approached Council about purchasing Military Banners to be placed on the poles on Main Street. Local Veterans would be able to purchase a banner with their name and picture on it.

Mayor's Report:

Mayor Lucia read the August 2017 Code Enforcement Report. Mayor Lucia said that Code Enforcement Officer Ira Bennett has been busy this summer and has done a good job with reports of high grass and weeds.

Mayor Lucia asked for Council's support by signing a petition for Permanent Medicare Ambulance Relief and Reform to correct the issue of Medicare reimbursing ambulance service providers below cost. Ambulance companies are having financial problems and many are being forced to close because they are not being reimbursed for their costs.

Borough Manager Landy said that Penn Dot has said that they will be painting crosswalks and stop bars on state roads in the Borough.

Mayor Lucia said that the Mount Pleasant Police Department will be enforcing speed limits in the Borough. The Police Department will be putting lines on Main St., Diamond St., Morewood St., Bridgeport St., and Braddock Rd. Ave. They will also be enforcing red lights and stop signs for the public's safety.

Mayor Lucia said that the Borough is working on solving the flooding problems in town. Mayor Lucia said that he would like Council to support a joint effort between the Borough and Mount Pleasant Township to send a letter to the DEP and to the Army Corps of Engineers to see about cleaning out Shupes Run. Borough Manager Landy said that this is the only viable solution to the flooding problem because the proposals received from EADS Group LLC did not present any solutions. Council asked Solicitor Liptak to draft the letter.

Solicitor's Report: None

Tax Collector's Report:

Tax Collector Carol Yancosky read the following Tax Report for the month of August 2017:

Property Taxes = \$3,279.87
Per Capita Taxes = \$1,974.70

Total Collected = \$5,254.57

Mayor Lucia said that while he was at the Municipal Building today he noticed that Tax Collector Yancosky had a very hard time hearing and understanding tax payers who came to the newly installed bullet-proof window and they could not hear her. Mayor Lucia said that he would like to see some sort of speaker installed so that it is easier to hear through the window. President Caruso said that he will speak to Councilman Rogacki when he returns from vacation.

Borough Manager's Report:

Borough Manager Landy gave the following report:

- Mr. Peter Mullin has donated his time and labor at Jack Bobb's Park and Lowe's Home Improvement has done work at Frick Park at no cost to the Borough and the parks are looking much better. Mr. Mullin would like to make more improvements and will submit plans to Council.
- Mr. Landy and Street Crew Leader Jeff McGuinness attended an equipment show at Smouse's to look at plows. Mr. Landy said they gathered some information but the Borough does have plows in inventory.
- A meeting was held with Columbia Gas regarding the completion of their portion of the 2017 Main Street Project.
- Penn Dot will begin concreting the intersections and installing storm water lines on Main Street.
- A meeting was held with the Borough's Building Inspector and representatives from Westmoreland County about the former R & R Restaurant. The building is deteriorating and the question is how much money it will cost to rehabilitate the property. If it is not possible, the Land Bank may have to demolish the building.
- There will be a 9/11 Tribute at Veterans Park and the Gazebo on September 11, 2017 beginning at 6pm.
- A sewage customer is requesting that the minimum sewage billing be waived at a property he owns because there is no one living there and no water is being used. Mr. Landy said that he will meet with the Waste Water Treatment Committee to discuss it.
- Work on the 2018 Budget will begin on October 2, 2017 and any council member who has a spending proposal should present it then. Mr. Landy said that health care costs will probably be higher this year.

President's Report:

Council once again discussed what to do about the Ford Taurus police vehicle. Mayor Lucia said that if the Borough cannot get a good deal on a trade-in, the car should go back on the road during the over-lapping shift in the evening.

President Caruso said that a letter is being composed to be sent to the home owners who are having sewage problems and a meeting will be held with property owners from Ramsey Terrace.

President Caruso said that he is working with Mr. Heide about the location of the Flag Retirement Ceremony Area at Willow Park. Mr. Heide requested the use of WWT equipment and was told that was not possible. Andy Zelinski, WWT said that he will volunteer a couple hours of his time on a Saturday to assist Mr. Heide by operating WWT equipment. President Caruso said that Council is giving Mr. Zelinsky permission to use WWT equipment to dig a trench for electric from the upper pavilion to the Eagle Scout Project.

Waste Water Treatment Report:

Mr. Andy Zelinsky, WWT gave the following report for the month of August:

- Cleared Right-of-Ways
- Helped with tar and chip of streets
- Opened and cleaned all manholes on Main Street when paving was completed
- Cleaned towers and clarifiers at WWT Plant
- Cleaned filters at all pump stations
- Had Chlorimeter calibrated
- Cleaned Grit Chamber
- Hauled away dirt from bar screen project
- Cameraed Main Street at Cherry Avenue
- Replaced blown fuse at VFD caused by electrical storm

Home inspections – 7

PA 1 Calls – 76

Emergency PA 1 calls – 11

Call outs – 6

Streets Report:

A motion was made by Councilwoman Bailey to install stop signs on S. Church Street. Two signs at Hemlock, 2 signs at College Avenue and add crosswalk. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Ruszkowski. Motion carried 5-0.

Borough Manager Landy said that Police Chief Doug Sam would like blinkers on the new stop signs until drivers are used to them.

Councilwoman Bailey read the following August 2017 recap provided by Street Crew Leader Jeff McGuinness:

In addition to general maintenance of borough streets which included lights and signs, cleanup of lots and parks, patching holes, marking of storm drains and lines for PA 1 calls, maintenance of equipment/vehicles, and picking brush, the following events occurred:

- Continued work on Ramsey Terrace drainage project.
- Lawn maintenance of Borough/Westmoreland Land Bank properties and Levin Property.
- Ms. Julia Specht started on the Frick Park equipment, painting at Willow Park and is painting the Jack Bobb Park sign so it can be put back up.
- Located ditch from Greenwood Apartments to N Geary Street Extension.
- Swept tar and chipped roads.
- Working to resolve the drainage problem on St. Clair Street.
- Line/curb painting at Ramsay School and Harmon House areas.
- Repair manhole on Main/Bridgeport Streets.
- Blacktop Hoza Way where new pipe was installed.
- Mount Pleasant Mine Service repaired running board from truck #5.

Borough Manager Landy said that he spoke with a representative from Penn Dot regarding the issue on S. Diamond Street at Mr. Rendine's property. Penn Dot said that they will have a maintenance crew look at the manhole that's there to try and stop the puddling problem.

Public Safety Report:

Mayor Lucia said that the monthly Medic 10 meeting will be held on Wednesday September 6, 2017. Mayor Lucia said that he is pleased with the direction Medic 10 is taking.

Mayor Lucia said that Mount Pleasant Borough was part of a grant application applied for by 60 fire departments in Westmoreland County. The grant is for recruitment and retention of volunteer firemen and the total that was awarded was 4.3 million dollars.

Policies Report: None

Zoning & Ordinance Report:

Councilman McCloy said that he will have a motion on the next agenda to advertise for the amendment to the Noise Ordinance. Councilman McCloy said he will speak to Police Chief Doug Sam because Chief Sam initially approved the original amendment until his comments at the last meeting. Mayor Lucia said that he will strongly support the amendment.

Councilman McCloy thanked everyone who participated in the Community Yard Sale. Next year there will be some changes to make it even better.

Community & Economic Development/Grants Report:

Councilwoman Bailey said that the CDBG Grant is due by the end of September and her and Borough Manager Landy will be working on the application.

Parks & Recreation Report:

Councilwoman Barnes thanked everyone who participated in Family Fun Day and made it such a success. There were many volunteers and helpers who made the day special. The budget for Family Fun Day was \$700 and \$779 was actually spent. A Chinese Auction held brought in \$229.75 which put the event under budget.

Councilwoman Barnes said that Jack Bobb's Park is looking very nice thanks to Mr. Mullin who donated his time. Councilwoman Barnes spoke about various other things that need to be done in the parks.

Councilwoman Barnes said that the ground lights at Veterans Park need to be replaced with LED lights. The cost to replace the lights will be between \$1,350 and \$1,500.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Barnes to amend the agenda. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Bailey. Motion carried 5-0.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Barnes to replace the lights in front of Veterans Wall at a cost not to exceed \$1,500. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Barnes. Motion carried 5-0.

Finance & Human Resources Report:

The first meeting to negotiate the renewal of the Police Contract will be held Thursday September 7, 2017 at 5pm at the police station.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Ruszkowski to advertise for a secretary for the borough office. The position will be full-time with benefits and \$13.75 per hour. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Bailey. Motion carried 5-0.

Property Report: None

Sanitation & Recycling Report: None

New Business: None

Reading of Communications:

Borough Manager Landy read the following communications:

- Westmoreland County Boroughs Association meeting will be held on September 28, 2017 at the Westmoreland Conservation District Office on Donohoe Road in Greensburg beginning at 7pm.
- Western Pennsylvania Water Pollution Control Association will hold a meeting on water pollution control at Kiski Valley WPCA in Leechburg PA on October 27, 2017 beginning at 8:30am. The cost for members will be \$20.
- Everson Borough is requesting a mutual agreement with Mount Pleasant Borough for police protection. Mr. Landy said that he will have Solicitor Liptak approve the agreement before it is signed.

Discussion & Payment of Bills:

A motion was made by Councilwoman Bailey to pay all approved and authorized bills. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Ruszkowski. Motion carried 5-0.

Public Comment:

Jim Meredith thanked the Mount Pleasant VFD for their help at the Mount Pleasant Church of God Carnival. It was a great success.

Miscellaneous & Adjournment:

A motion was made by Councilwoman Bailey to adjourn the meeting. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Ruszkowski. Motion carried 5-0.

Meeting Adjourned 8:25pm

Motions From Meeting of September 5, 2017

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