

Meeting September 6, 2016

The meeting of Mount Pleasant Borough Council was called to order by President Wagner 7:01pm in Council Chambers at 1 Etze Avenue, Mount Pleasant, PA 15666. The Pledge of Allegiance was said and President Wagner asked for a moment of silence for our deployed troops. President Wagner asked Borough Manager Landy to take roll call. Councilpersons present included Bailey, Barnes, Caruso, Cholock, Pritts, Rogacki, Ruszkowski and Stevenson. Mayor Lucia and Solicitor Liptak were present. President Wagner stated that a quorum is present. Solicitor Liptak left the meeting at 9:49pm.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Ruszkowski to approve the minutes of August 22, 2016 since Council has been provided with a copy. Motion seconded by Councilman Cholock. Motion carried 8-0.

Public Comment: None

Speaker:

Mr. Rick Skovensky, Penn Dot Municipal Services, spoke to Council about the Borough taking over SR3107 S. Church Street and SR2001 Bridgeport Street from Route 31 to the borough line using the "Turnback Program" Highway Transfer Program that takes roads used mainly for local use and gives them back to the municipality. Penn Dot will do a cost estimate to bring the roads up to an acceptable condition including pavement, drainage, curbs etc. That cost estimate will be reviewed by the Municipality to determine whether it is acceptable. After the streets are turned over the Borough will receive \$2,080 for S. Church Street and \$1,600 for Bridgeport Street annually and the winter maintenance money will be reduced. If the cost estimate is acceptable, Council will vote on a resolution and sign an agreement. The roads do not become the Borough's until payment is received via direct deposit into a borough account. The money must be in a separate line item and be spent according to what the agreement says.

Reading of Communications:

Borough Manager Jeff Landy read the following communications:

- Westmoreland Conservation District sent an invitation to a Conservation Awards Reception on Wednesday September 14, 2016 at 218 Donohoe Road Greensburg beginning at 6pm. RSVP deadline is September 7, 2016. The event is free and dress is casual.
- State Representative Candidate Mary Popovich would like to address Council and talk about her background.
- Westmoreland County Boroughs Association monthly meeting will be on September 22, 2016 at 218 Donohoe Road, Greensburg beginning at 7pm. There is no cost for the meeting.
- Mount Pleasant Public Library would like to hold its Eleventh Annual Walk in the Park on Saturday October 1st from 7am to 11am in Frick Park with a rain date of October 8th. Council approved the Library's request.

Mayor's Report:

Mayor Lucia said that there will be a 9/11 Ceremony at Veterans Park/Gazebo on September 11, 2016 beginning at 5:30pm. Following the ceremony at 7pm there will be a 5K Run sponsored by the Mount Pleasant VFD. There will be a special tribute for a "Tin Man" Fire Truck that was donated to the Borough. This fire truck was an active truck in New York City on 9/11 and five members of its crew lost their lives that day.

Mayor Lucia said that the Mount Pleasant Area Reality Tours will start on October 6, 2016 and the Glass & Ethnic Festival will be held on September 23rd through the 25th with the parade on Saturday the 24th at 2pm.

Mayor Lucia said that the Fire Department held a boot drive over the weekend and raised over \$9,000 to help the Fayette Co. flood victims. Donations for household goods etc. were accepted at the Central Fire Station in Mount Pleasant. Thirteen truckloads full of donated goods were delivered to Bullskin Township Fayette Co. Mayor Lucia thanked the Mount Pleasant community for its generosity.

Councilwoman Barnes said that WWT employee Andy Zelinsky's home was damaged in the Fayette Co. flood and he lost a lot. Borough Manager Landy said that the Glass & Ethnic Festival donated money to Mr. Zelinsky and also to the whole flood area through the Ministerium.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Bailey to allow the Mount Pleasant VFD to hold a 5K walk/run after the 9/11 Ceremony on September 11, 2016. Motion seconded by Councilman Pritts. Motion carried 8-0.

Mr. Jim Nowalk, Mayor of White Hall in Allegheny Co. and President of the PA State Mayor's Association introduced Mr. Keith Moss who presented Mayor Gerald Lucia with the 2016 Mayor of the Year Award. The PA State Mayor's Association is the largest mayors association in Pennsylvania and the membership voted Mayor Lucia as Mayor of the Year for 2016.

Mr. Keith Moss, Lucerne County and Chairman of the Mayor of the Year Selection Committee presented Mayor Lucia with the 2016 Mayor of the Year Award. The award is for distinguished service and community leadership by a Pennsylvania mayor.

Numerous local and Pennsylvania Mayors honored Mayor Lucia with their presence at the presentation.

State Representation Ted Harhai presented Mayor Lucia with a citation from the Pennsylvania Legislature. Westmoreland County Commissioners Gina Cerelli and Ted Kopas represented the County. Members of the Mount Pleasant Volunteer Fire Department were in attendance and Borough Manager Jeff Landy presented Mayor Lucia with an engraved mantle clock from the Glass & Ethnic Festival Committee. Mr. Landy said that there are many things that make Jerry and outstanding Mayor and he is very deserving of this award.

Councilwoman Stevenson, Councilman Cholock, Councilwoman Bailey, Councilwoman Ruszkowski, Councilman Pritts, former Councilman Bauer, and President Wagner all spoke about Mayor Lucia's dedication to the position, always being able to answer any question and treating all council members equally and his many years of service to Mount Pleasant Borough.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Stevenson at 7:52pm to adjourn the meeting. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Ruszkowski. Motion carried 8-0.

Council and everyone present attended a reception at Central Fire Station in honor of Mayor Lucia.

A motion was made by Councilman Rogacki at 8:38pm to reconvene the council meeting. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Barnes. Motion carried 8-0.

Meeting reconvened 8:38pm

A motion was made by Councilman Caruso for an Executive Session. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Ruszkowski. Motion carried 8-0.

Executive Session 8:40pm to 9:49pm

A motion was made by Councilman Rogacki to reconvene the council meeting. Motion seconded by Councilman Pritts. Motion carried 8-0.

President Wagner stated that the Executive Session was held to discuss personnel.

Borough Manager's Report:

Borough Manager Landy said that Penn Park is close to completion. Mr. Jeff McGuinness, Street Department said that Willow Park Playground will soon be completed.

Mr. Landy said that the G13 pulled together and sent people to help the flood victims in Connellsville.

Borough Manager Landy said that anyone riding in the Glass & Ethnic Festival Parade should let the borough office know as soon as possible. This year's festival should bring in the biggest crowds ever.

Borough Manager Landy said that Council needs to look at the 2017 Budget and come up with an income amount so that we know how to budget expenses. Councilwoman Bailey agreed that the 2017 Budget cannot be balanced based on this year's income.

Tax Collector's Report:

Tax Collector Carol Yancosky gave the following report for the month of August 2016:

Property Tax = \$6,677.62

Per Capita = \$1,866.90

Total Collected = \$8,544.52

Solicitor's Report: None

President's Report:

President Wagner said that Council needs to look at 2017 and decide what projects need to be accomplished. What do we want and need for borough parks, how many streets do we want to pave etc. President Wagner said that there is equipment at the Street Department and WWT that we do not use and that can be sold or donated. Council also has to look at what equipment needs to be purchased. All requested expenditures should be discussed with the Finance Committee and the Borough Manager.

Waste Water Treatment Report:

A motion was made by Councilman Rogacki to pay all expenses as presented. Motion seconded by Councilman Caruso. Motion carried 8-0.

A motion was made by Councilman Rogacki to advertise for a part-time employee for WWT Plant. 32 hours per week at \$10 per hour. Motion seconded by Councilman Pritts. Councilwoman Bailey questioned where the money for a part-time employee is coming from for the rest of 2016 and for 2017 and why a part-time person is necessary. Councilman Rogacki stated that the WWT Plant is operating with 1,800 less man hours than before. A discussion ensued regarding hiring a part-time person for WWT. A roll-call vote was requested.

Councilwoman Bailey	No
Councilwoman Barnes	Yes
Councilman Caruso	Yes
Councilman Cholock	Yes
Councilman Pritts	Yes
Councilman Rogacki	Yes
Councilwoman Ruszkowski	No
Councilwoman Stevenson	No
President Wagner	Yes

Motion carried 6-3.

A motion was made by Councilman Rogacki to accept a quote in the amount of \$2,600 from Mount Pleasant Mine Service to replace a deteriorated hand rail at the WWT Plant. Motion seconded by Councilman Pritts. Motion carried 8-0.

A motion was made by Councilman Rogacki to accept the quote in the amount of \$14,244 from RAM Industrial to repair pump #2 of the Bio-tower. (New pump would cost approximately \$55,212) Motion seconded by Councilman Pritts. Motion carried 8-0.

A motion was made by Councilman Rogacki to replace the main sewer line behind 831 W. Main Street at a cost of \$3,600. Motion seconded by Councilman Pritts. Motion carried 8-0.

A motion was made by Councilman Rogacki to extend the main sewer line in the alley behind 811 Smithfield Street at a cost of \$3,700. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Barnes. Motion carried 8-0.

Mr. Larry Hague said that he is looking at a grant opportunity through the DCED. The grant requires 15% matching funds.

Streets Report:

A motion was made by Councilman Caruso to pay all expenses as presented. Motion seconded by Councilman Pritts. Motion carried 8-0.

Mr. Jeff McGuinness, acting Street Department Supervisor, gave a report on the Street Department:

- One of the pieces of playground equipment at Willow Park will be completed by tomorrow and then work will start on the swing set.
- Work will also start on installing the new playground equipment at Frick Park.
- Street Department personnel have started replacing the Borough street signs to bring them up to required standards.

Public Safety Report:

Councilman Cholock attended the “Paint the Town Gold” ceremony on September 1, 2016 and it was a very emotional event. All monies collected at the Glass & Ethnic Festival “Kids Fest” on Sunday September 25th will be donated to the Childhood Cancer Fund.

A motion was made by Councilman Cholock to amend the agenda. Motion seconded by Councilman Caruso. Motion carried 8-0.

A motion was made by Councilman Cholock to hire Timothy Ferree, Mount Pleasant as a part-time Police Officer for the Mount Pleasant Borough Police Department with pay according to the current wage scale. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Bailey. Motion carried 8-0.

A motion was made by Councilman Cholock to pay all expenses as presented. Motion seconded by Councilman Rogacki. Motion carried 8-0.

Councilman Cholock discussed purchasing two Phaser Guns to replace the current Tasers used by the Police Department because they are less expensive.

Zoning & Ordinance Report:

Councilwoman Stevenson said that the committee met and discussed ideas to amend some ordinances. At this meeting it was decided to support the denial of Mr. Auber’s Zoning Permit for a swimming pool that is already in place because it does not meet set back requirements. The Borough Solicitor will send a letter to Mr. Auber.

Parks & Recreation (General) Report:

A motion was made by Councilwoman Barnes to pay all expenses as presented. Motion seconded by Councilman Pritts. Motion carried 8-0.

Councilwoman Barnes said that she still needs two more people for the Veterans Park Committee and they should meet before the next council meeting. Borough Manager Landy suggested to Councilwoman Barnes that she contact members of the original Veterans Park Committee who were there when the park was built for their input.

Councilwoman Barnes said that the fence has been completed at Jack Bobb’s Park and the committee is looking at replacing the trees that were removed.

Councilwoman Barnes said that the Mount Pleasant Borough Recreational Advisory Committee will meet on the third Thursday of September at 6pm.

Councilwoman Barnes said that a letter of thanks will be signed by her and Councilwoman Ruszkowski and sent to the Mount Pleasant Area Landlord Association for painting the picnic tables at Willow Park.

Councilwoman Barnes said that Mark Gustafson has requested that Council consider naming the Frick Basketball Court after his son who was killed recently and frequently played basketball at the court.

President Wagner asked Councilwoman Barnes to have the Fire Truck playground equipment removed from Frick Park. Borough Manager Landy said that when the Street Department installs the new equipment they can remove the fire truck.

Finance & Human Resources Report:

A motion was made by Councilwoman Bailey to sign the 2016-2017 Westmoreland Co. Transit agreement at a cost of \$1,700. Motion seconded by Councilman Cholock. Motion carried 8-0.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Bailey to amend the agenda. Motion seconded by Councilman Cholock. Motion carried 8-0.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Bailey to donate \$1,000 to a Connellsville flood victim who is also an employee of the Borough. Motion seconded by Councilman Cholock. Motion carried 8-0.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Bailey to pay all expenses as presented. Motion seconded by Councilman Cholock. Motion carried 8-0.

Negotiations:

Councilwoman Bailey said that borough representatives met with United Steel Worker Union representatives regarding the Street Department contract. A counter proposal was received from the union and another meeting will be held within the next week. A job description for the Street Supervisor position will be written after contract negotiations are complete and it is decided whether the position will be a union position or not.

Property Report:

Councilwoman Ruszkowski said that a contractor has been chosen to do the backflows at the Municipal Building but has not begun the work yet.

Councilwoman Ruszkowski said that the railing in front of the Municipal Building will be replaced as soon as the curb is replaced. The Borough will pay the invoice and be reimbursed by the insurance company.

Councilwoman Ruszkowski said that the furnace and air-conditioning unit on the second floor of the Municipal Building needs to be replaced.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Ruszkowski to pay all expenses as presented. Motion seconded by Councilman Rogacki. Motion carried 8-0.

Sanitation & Recycling Report: None

Community & Economic Development/Grants Report:

Councilwoman Stevenson said that there is a DCED Grant available for small water & sewer projects. The application requires an Engineer etc. and is very complicated. A quote was received from EADS Group to manage the application and grant.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Stevenson to engage the EADS Group to manage the PA DCED Small Water and Sewer Grant at a cost not to exceed \$3,000. Motion seconded by Councilman Rogacki. Motion carried 8-0.

New Business: None

Public Comment: None

Miscellaneous & Adjournment:

Councilman Cholock read the following Fire Report for the month of August 2016:

10-45's - 18

Entrapment Calls - 2

Fires - 10

AFA-S - 17

Public Service Calls - 8

Standby's - 2

Turnpike Calls - 7

Total Members Answering - 879

Avg. Member Per Call - 16

Total Staff Hours – 988

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

Meeting Adjourned 11:46pm

Motions Meeting of September 6, 2016

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