

Meeting November 3, 2008

The meeting of Mount Pleasant Borough Council was called to order by President Tabita at 7:00pm 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 Tabita directed Borough Manager Jeff Landy to take roll. Councilmen, Bauer, Beranek, Slater, Wilttrout and Councilwomen Stevenson and Ruszkowski were present. Mayor Lucia and Solicitor Toohey were present. President Tabita stated we have a quorum.

Reading of Previous Minutes:

A motion was made by Councilman Wilttrout to dispense with the reading of the minutes of October 20, 2008. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Stevenson. Motion carried 7-0.

Public Comments: None

Mayor’s Report:

Mayor Lucia read the following Police Report for the month of October 2008:

Report of the Mount Pleasant Police Dept for the month of October 2008

The Department answered 394 calls during the month as follows:

Complaints	101
Requests for assistance	4
Assist Other Departments	4
Accidents investigated	9
Calls Returned	30
Assist Medic 10	11

The Department made 36 arrests during the month as follows:

Vehicle Code	25
Crimes Code	11

Parking Tickets issued are as follows:

\$1.00 Meter Tickets	18
\$10.00 No Parking Tickets	6
Void / Excused	3

\$1.00 Parking Tickets Paid	24	\$	24.00
\$5.00 Parking Tickets Paid	0	\$	-
\$10.00 Parking Tickets Paid	4	\$	40.00

Return from Magistrate Eckels	\$2,104.49
Return from Clerk of Courts	\$ 572.85
Return from Report Fees	\$ 180.00
Return from Parking Permits	\$ 45.00
Return from Soliciting Permits	\$ -
Return from Restitution	\$ -

Total \$2,966.34

Meter Receipts 1 Collection \$1,488.49

Total Receipts for the month \$4,454.83

Mayor Lucia said that the Halloween holiday went smoothly and there were no incidents.

Mayor Lucia said he would like Council to address the storm drain problems on Oak Street. There are numerous sump pumps discharging water into the storm drains causing flooding. Mayor Lucia asked the Street Department to look into the problem.

Solicitor's Report:

Solicitor Toohey said that it is Council's wish to raise the LST tax from \$10.00 to \$26.00. In order to do that an ordinance is required. In order to accommodate the required time frame a special meeting will be required on November 24th. Solicitor Toohey's office will proceed with the legal advertisements and reporting to DCED.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Stevenson to suspend the rules for the purpose of a motion for a special meeting. Motion seconded by Councilman Beranek. Motion carried 7-0.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Stevenson for a special meeting on Monday November 24, 2008 at 7pm for the purpose of enacting an ordinance to raise the LST Tax from \$10.00 to \$26.00 to begin in the year 2009. Motion seconded by Councilman Beranek. Motion carried 7-0.

Solicitor Toohey said that the Pennsylvania Municipal Retirement System supplied the Borough with a new Pension Agreement and a copy of an ordinance covering the new agreement. Solicitor Toohey's office will proceed with the legal advertisements for this new ordinance.

Solicitor Toohey said that his office is also working on the Zoning Amendment Ordinance and will proceed with the required advertisements etc. and a public hearing will have to be scheduled sometime in the future.

Solicitor Toohey said that Attorney Klimchock attended a meeting with Borough Manager Landy regarding a Salt Agreement with PennDot.

Solicitor Toohey said that the Sewage Rate Ordinance Amendment will be ready for Council's action at the next council meeting.

Solicitor Toohey said that his office is ready to close on the Bridgeport Street Levin property that was donated to the Borough. Borough Manager Landy said that the Levin family requested that this be done on December 1, 2008. Atty. Toohey said he would speak to the Levin representative and set that up.

Tax Collector Report:

Tax Collector Carol Yancosky read the following report for the month of October 2008:

Property Tax	\$3,926.22
Per Capita	\$ 405.00
Total	\$4,331.22

President's Report:

President Tabita reported that Phase II of the Main Street Street-Scape Project has begun and will continue until the weather turns cold. When the weather is too cold the cement work will have to be discontinued and begun again in the spring. All of the sidewalks involved in the project will be replaced. Businesses in the area will not be inconvenienced during the Holiday Season. There will be 14 new decorative lights installed during Phase II. It will be necessary to buy Christmas Wreaths for these new lights this year or next year. Anyone wishing to make a tax-deductible donation for these Christmas decorations can contact the borough office. Councilman Bauer said that the wreaths should be ordered for this year.

President Tabita said that he and Borough Manager Landy attended a meeting with Scottdale Borough and West Overton regarding the Regional Main Street Manager Program. It looks like grant funding will be made available for this program. The BDA will pay one-half of the cost of our portion. The total cost will be split into three. 1/3 to Scottdale, 1/3 to West Overton and 1/3 to Mount Pleasant. President Tabita said that Mount Pleasant and Scottdale could do some of the same marketing and promotion and business development. That will help the Regional Main Street Manager Program work

well. West Overton is becoming an interesting addition and it could be very exciting for the region and bring the communities together.

Borough Manager's Report:

Borough Manager Landy made the following report:

- Holiday Lighting has a small budget to be used this year.
- Storm Water Lines budget is still available to be used this year.
- The 2008 Budget is coming to a close and there will have to be some line item transfers at the next meeting.
- The Borough will be sponsoring and organizing the Christmas Parade this year. Medic 10 has agreed to continue financing the parade. The parade schedule is as follows:

11:00am Christmas Parade
12:00pm Hot Chocolate sponsored by Mount Pleasant Knights of Columbus
12:30pm Marshmallows by the fire at the Log Cabin sponsored by the Mount Pleasant Historical Society.
12:30pm to 4:00pm Sleigh Rides sponsored by the Glass & Ethnic Festival. There will be a small fee for the Sleigh Rides.
Ice Carvings sponsored by Leo & Sons Grille 31.

The festivities are also sponsored by the Mount Pleasant BDA, Laurel Highlands Chamber of Commerce and the Mount Pleasant VFD.

There will be crafters on the Diamond Street sidewalk between Main Street and Washington Street.

President Tabita suggested getting the Daughters of the American Revolution involved in the schedule.

- The Borough will enter into an agreement with Penn Dot to reserve some salt for the 2008 – 2009 winter season.
- Brianna Peters would like to do a senior project in the Borough and anyone with suggestions regarding a project can contact Mr. Landy at the borough office.
- Mr. Landy thanked Secretary Fedorchak for her work on the 2009 Budget and the sewage billing transition.
- Mr. Landy will be giving his Preview and Review report at the December 1st meeting.

Waste Water Treatment:

Borough Manager Landy said that there will be an increase in sewage rates in the Borough. This increase will not affect the first three tiers of rates and the minimum will not be increased.

The Borough contracted the Municipal Authority of Westmoreland County to do our sewage billing in the future. During the transition a catch up bill had to be mailed to our customers. The sewage bills were always two quarters behind the water bills because of the billing procedures in place at the time, so the Mount Pleasant sewage customers had to be billed for two quarters of sewage in order to catch up with the water bills. Mr. Landy wanted to assure customers who received this catch up bill that this is not a past due bill, but is for service they have not been billed for yet. The Borough office is receiving a large number of calls and will try to answer everyone's questions. The next sewage bill will be mailed with the water bill and will have the same consumption dates. The sewage bill and the water bill will have different account numbers and different due dates.

Public Safety, Zoning and Ordinance Report:

Councilman Bauer read the following Medic 10 Report for the month of October 2008:

Total Calls	162
Medical	121

MVA	15
Fire	12
Transfers	0
Standbys	14
In Town	91
Out of Town	71
Members per call	3.5

A motion was made by Councilman Bauer to close Rte 31 Main Street from Braddock Rd Ave to Center Ave on December 6, 2008 from 10am to 12:30pm for the Christmas Parade. Motion seconded by Councilman Beranek. Motion carried 7-0.

A motion was made by Councilman Bauer to close Rte 981 Diamond St from Main St to Washington St from 12 noon to 5pm on December 6, 2008 for Christmas programs. Motion seconded by Councilman Wilttrout. Motion carried 7-0.

Councilman Bauer said that there have been meetings with Congressman Murtha's office and the Finance and Public Safety Committees. The financing is in place to purchase the new Aerial Truck for the Fire Department.

A motion was made by Councilman Bauer to purchase Aerial Fire Truck. Motion seconded by Councilman Beranek. Motion carried 7-0. The following is the Purchase Analysis. Motion seconded by Councilman Beranek. Motion carried 7-0.

		<u>Borough</u>	<u>VFD</u>
Purchase Price	\$385,000.00		
Deposit	<u>\$ 10,000.00</u>	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 5,000.00
Amount Due	\$375,000.00	\$187,500.00	\$187,500.00
Municipal Auth Loan		<u>(\$ 25,000.00)</u>	<u>(\$ 25,000.00)</u>
		\$ 162,500.00	\$162,500.00
2% WWT Loan (approximate)		<u>(\$163,470.51)</u>	
		0.00	

2009 Repayment

2009 Loan Repayment (deposit)	\$ 5,000.00
Municipal Auth Repayment (yr 1 of 5)	\$ 5,000.00
WWT Loan Repayment (yr 1 of 10)	<u>\$ 18,049.80</u>
	\$28,049.80

Debt Reduction

50/50 Split on 2008 Letter Campaign
50/50 Split on sale of Snorkel Truck
Fire Department will incur all expenses to certify new ladder truck.

Mayor Lucia stated that the new fire truck is certified. Councilman Bauer asked where the money saved for the fire truck out of the budget is and Borough Manager Landy said that it is in the Budgetary Reserve Account at PNC Bank. If it is Council's wish we can use that money for the purchase but he feels the Borough can do the purchase without the reserve monies.

President Tabita pointed out that this Aerial Truck is worth \$750,000 and we can purchase it for \$385,000. Mayor Lucia said that the Fire Department has exhausted all efforts to obtain a grant for the \$385,000.

Mayor Lucia said that since the purchase of the Snorkel Truck in 1974 Frick Hospital has expanded. Harmon House, Independence Apartments, Ridgeview Apartments, and

Greenwood Apartments were not in existence. These are all within our municipality and this Aerial truck hopefully will never be needed, but will be available in case of emergency to reach the top floors of these buildings. It will also add to the safety of fire fighters. Only two men can be hauled with the present Snorkel Truck so a fire engine had to be on scene as well. This Aerial truck will haul six men and will eliminate the need for a fire engine. Borough Manager Landy pointed out that the ISO insurance rating in the Borough should go down which will benefit residents, businesses and the borough by lowering their insurance costs. Councilman Bauer said that taxes in the Borough will not have to be raised to fund this fire truck.

A motion was made by Councilman Bauer to suspend the rules for the purpose of closing Main Street for the Veterans Day Parade. Motion seconded by Councilman Wiltrout. Motion carried 7-0.

A motion was made by Councilman Bauer to close Main Street from Braddock Rd Ave to Diamond Street and Diamond Street to Washington Street on November 11, 2008 from 10:30am to 12:00pm for the Veterans Day Parade and Services. Motion seconded by Councilman Wiltrout. Motion carried 7-0.

Councilman Bauer said that he would like his committee to review copies of Sign, Graffiti and Nuisance ordinances. These ordinances could be bundled in with the codification currently in progress. Councilman Bauer said he would like the Rental Property Registration Ordinance adopted by Council by January 2009. President Tabita said there should be a meeting with the landlords.

A motion was made by Councilman Bauer to suspend the rules for a meeting with the landlords. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Stevenson. Motion carried 7-0.

A motion was made by Councilman Bauer to have a meeting on November 17, 2008 at 6:00pm with landlords to discuss the proposed Landlord Ordinance. Motion seconded by Councilman Slater. Motion carried 7-0.

Borough Manager Landy said that the borough office will contact the list of landlords that we have by phone and inform them of the meeting.

Councilman Bauer said that he spoke with Councilwoman Stevenson regarding a program for cats in the Borough. Councilwoman Stevenson said that she has been contacted by volunteers willing to help but that there may have to be some money in the 2009 budget for the program.

Councilman Bauer said that his committee looked at an electronic police car. The cost would be \$50,000. Councilman Bauer asked if Council thought we could get a grant for that purchase. Council agreed that we should look into it.

Street, Parks and Recreation Report:

Councilman Slater said that the Street Department was able to put restrictor plates on the salt spreaders which will cut down on salt use. Councilman Slater said that the salt spreaders have been calibrated.

Councilman Slater said that the new names were engraved on the Veterans Wall Tablets this week and Skowronek will put in the pavers.

Councilman Slater said that the restrooms at Willows Park have been closed and winterized.

A motion was made by Councilman Slater to open the sealed bids for Frick Park softball outfield chain link fence. Motion seconded by Councilman Bauer. Motion carried 7-0.

The following bids were opened by President Tabita:

All Around Fence Co. Uniontown PA	\$17,388.00 with no bid bond
Allegheny Fence Construction Co., Inc Pittsburgh PA	\$15,460.00 with bid bond
Marker's Fencing Co. Mount Pleasant PA	\$13,706.00 with no bid bond
Penn Fencing Inc Butler PA	\$21,337.57 with bid bond

A motion was made by Councilman Slater to turn the bids over to committee for review and award. Motion seconded by Councilman Bauer. Motion carried 7-0.

A motion was made by Councilman Slater to advertise for bids to sell the used street sweeper. Motion seconded by Councilman Bauer. Motion carried 7-0.

A motion was made by Councilman Slater to have Santa Claus at the Gazebo November 30, 2008 from 7:15pm to 8:00pm. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Stevenson. Motion carried 7-0.

Councilman Slater said that the new wall that was installed at Frick Park was chipped by a bicycle and will have to be repaired. The concrete company who installed the wall said they will come in and patch it free of charge this time.

President Tabita said that the sloped area behind the backstop at Frick Park is causing a problem with kids riding bikes using it as a ramp. A discussion ensued on how to solve the problem. It was decided to temporarily block it off and do something more permanent in the spring.

Councilman Slater said that the fountain at Veterans Park will be winterized by our WWT Department the day after Veterans Day.

Finance Report:

A motion was made by Councilwoman Ruszkowski to transfer \$163,000 from the WWT CD to the General Fund for the purchase of the Aerial Fire Truck. Motion seconded by Councilman Wiltrout. Motion carried 7-0.

Borough Manager Landy said that the Borough's C.P.A. OK'd the use of the CD. This CD is earning less than 2%. The loan to the General Fund will pay 2%, which justifies the loan. The bank was going to charge 4% to loan us the money.

Borough Manager Landy presented a preliminary 2009 Budget. The following line items were discussed:

- Real Estate Taxes are the same until we get the updated number from the County.
- Per Capita Taxes went down.
- EIT Tax will increase which was a big help in balancing the budget.
- The line item for Donations will be between 5,000 and 7,500.
- A new line item showing the money Kriebel Resources is donating to the Borough for landscaping.
- Frick Park and Willows Park gas well income numbers came from Kriebel Resources. President Tabita said that any extra revenue from the gas wells would be spent on Recreation.
- Under expenses, Marketing, Consulting and Employee Handbook line items are new line items.
- Special Events line item will cover the Christmas Parade and other small activities sponsored by the Borough.
- Patrolman Part-time line item was raised to cover the graduated raise in part-time patrolman salaries.
- Central VFD Boiler is budgeted money to replace the boiler at the fire station that is over 40 years old. A more efficient boiler will save us money on expenses.
- Some Fire and Medic 10 expenses were lowered.
- The Zoning expense was increased.
- Planning Commission expense was increased because of the rezoning plans.
- Holiday Property was raised in anticipation of new decorations.
- Tree Trimming was lowered because money will be used from Recreation to cover some of the cost of tree trimming.
- Health Officer line item was raised.
- Traffic Light Equipment under the Street Dept budget was raised.
- Under Recreation the last five items were added for the Coal & Coke Trail, Frick Park Improvements, Summer Help, and Bike Trail Signage.

Councilman Slater questioned where the \$10,000 from Kriebel Resources for the fencing is and Mr. Landy said it is in this year's budget.

Mr. Landy presented the Request for Project Funding form which will be given to the various sports leagues who wish to use money from gas well income for improvements to recreation. Hopefully projects will be spread out through the summer to accommodate the gas well payment schedule.

There are changes in Debt Service, which include the additions for the purchase of the Aerial Fire Truck.

The Payroll & Hospitalization figures are good numbers for 2009.

After getting the final figure from the County for Property Taxes Borough Manager Landy said that he will present a balanced budget on December 1, 2008 for Council's approval and vote.

Under the WWT Budget:

- Sewer Bill Revenues is a firm number.
- Line items for the PennVest Loan # 2 and the Municipal Authority Bridge payment from the Township and the Mount Pleasant Municipal Authority are included.
- Dye Testing has added income to the WWT Budget.
- The budget reflects the increase in hospitalization.
- Expenses reflect the PennVest payments payable by WWT.
- A line item was added to build a garage at the WWT plant.
- New Equipment was decreased.

Liquid Fuels Budget:

- \$97,777.34 will be received from the Commonwealth.
- Major Equipment is for purchase of new Sealer.
- Paving budget is \$100,000.00
- Salt budget of \$20,000.00 is anticipating an increase.
- The Liquid Fuels Budget shows a negative, but with the Budgetary Reserve it is actually a positive number.

Mr. Landy requested that Council notify him of any changes they wish to make in the budget.

Councilman Bauer said he would like to look into the purchase of a bucket truck so that we could trim trees ourselves and not rely on the Fire Department to put up the Christmas decorations etc. If not this year perhaps next year. President Tabita said that Council can look into funding for a bucket truck.

Property Report:

A motion was made by Councilman Beranek to open sealed bids for the sale of 211 Main Street. Motion seconded by Councilman Wilttrout. Motion carried 7-0.

President Tabita reported that no bids were received. Borough Manager Landy pointed out that this is the second round of bids with none received. The Borough now has to wait 30 to 60 days before negotiating a non-bid sale.

Councilman Beranek said that we will be looking at setting up the Premoshis Christmas displays soon.

Community Eco-Green Report:

Councilman Wilttrout said that John McGoran from Allied Waste will speak at the next work session to discuss the progress of curbside recycling and to report on the success of the voluntary recycling program now in place. Councilman Slater said that it might be time for Allied Waste to empty the recycling containers more than once a week because they are always full.

Human Resource/Employee Contracts Report:

Councilwoman Stevenson reported that at the next meeting there will be professionals from the area speaking to Council regarding ways to handle our cat program. They will also try and educate the public on ways to handle the problem.

Councilwoman Stevenson said that the Historical Society's Annual Christmas House Tour will be Saturday December 13th. There will be tickets for the tour on sale at the Christmas Parade on December 6th.

Community and Economic Development/Grants Report: None**New Business:**

President Tabita said that we will be appointing a 501 C3 committee for the Main Street Manager Program. It will be a Board comprised of members from Mount Pleasant, Scottdale and West Overton.

Reading of Communications:

Borough Manager read the following communications:

- Westmoreland County Commissioners are going to prepare a countywide storm water management program according to Act 167. They are requesting that we attend a meeting on Tuesday November 18, 2008 at the Commissioners Meeting Room at the County Courthouse to discuss the plan. The meeting will begin at 6:30pm.
- PSAB sent information on the Pennsylvania Low Income Energy Assistance Program which began today November 3rd. People needing assistance can contact Representative Kula's office on the second floor of the Municipal Building.
- Westmoreland County Borough's Association meeting will be November 20th at The Barn in Greensburg. Open Records will be discussed at the meeting.
- Information from the Light Up Committee regarding having Santa at the Gazebo. This will be a Borough event.

Discussion and Payment of Bills:

A motion was made by Councilman Bauer to pay all authorized and approved bills. Motion seconded by Councilman Beranek. Motion carried 7-0.

President reminded everyone that tomorrow is voting day and asked everyone to get out and vote.

Miscellaneous and Adjournment:

A motion was made by Councilman Bauer to adjourn the meeting. Motion seconded by Councilman Slater. Motion carried 7-0.

Meeting adjourned 8:50pm.

Motions from November 3, 2008 Meeting

A motion was made by Councilman Wiltout to dispense with the reading of the minutes of October 20, 2008. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Stevenson. Motion carried 9-0.

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