

Meeting July 8, 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, Crivella, Slater, Tate, and Councilwoman Stevenson were present. Mayor Lucia was present and Solicitor Toohey was absent. President Tabita stated we have a quorum.

Reading of Previous Minutes:

A motion was made by Councilman Bauer to dispense with the reading of the minutes of June 23, 2008. Motion seconded by Councilman Tate. Motion carried 7-0.

Speakers:

Ms. Katie Pallone, American Cancer Society Relay for Life said that the local Relay for Life event will be July 26th and 27th at the Mount Pleasant YMCA. The American Cancer Society is trying to “Paint Scottdale and Mount Pleasant purple”. There will be a contest for the best decorated home or business. To enter the contest people must register by July 18th and the judging will be on July 19th with the winner announced at the Relay for Life event. To register call 412-919-1062 or email dawnkeefe@cancer.org.

Mayor Lucia proclaimed July Cancer Awareness Month and will have an official proclamation drafted. Mayor Lucia hopes everyone comes out to support the Relay for Life event.

Public Comment:

John Canterbury Church Street, Mount Pleasant addressed Council in support of Mrs. Posner growing bamboo on her property. President Tabita stated that any change in the ordinance would come through committee.

Dan Gelzheiser College Ave Mount Pleasant addressed Council to say that he lives beside Mrs. Posner and is asking Council for their continuing support and to have the Borough Solicitor appeal the COG ruling which came down in favor of Mrs. Posner and her bamboo.

President Tabita said that the issue will go before committee and a decision will be made on whether to appeal the COG decision.

Mayors Report:

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

Report of the Mount Pleasant Police Department for the month of June 2008

The Department answered 321 calls during the month as follows

Complaints	107
Requests for assistance	9
Assist Other Departments	9
Accidents investigated	4
Calls Returned	30
Assist Medic 10	11

The Department made 33 arrests during the month as follows

Vehicle Code	21
Crimes Code	12

Parking Tickets issued are as follows:

\$1.00 Meter Tickets	11
\$10.00 No Parking Tickets	29

Void / Excused	2	
\$1.00 Parking Tickets Paid	30	\$ 30.00
\$5.00 Parking Tickets Paid	1	\$ 5.00
\$10.00 Parking Tickets Paid	24	\$ 240.00
Return from Magistrate Eckels		\$1,737.92
Return from Clerk of Courts		\$1,664.85
Return from Report Fees		\$ -
Return from Parking Permits		\$ 20.00
Return from Soliciting Permits		\$ -
Return from Restitution		\$ -
Total		\$3,697.77
Meter Receipts 1 Collection		\$1,324.70
Total Receipts for the month		\$5,022.47

Mayor Lucia said that he received a letter and has been getting numerous calls regarding cats in the Borough at the lower end of town.

Mayor Lucia said that he is getting a lot of calls about high grass and the borough office has been getting calls as well. He spoke with Officer Grippo who will address the properties that were reported.

Mayor Lucia swore in newly hired part-time police officer James Phillips from Penn, PA.

Mayor Lucia said that Police Chief Ober uses the part-time officers to fill-in the schedule for 24/7 coverage in the Borough.

Mayor Lucia said that Street Supervisor Fontanazza gave him a list with two or three items that still need addressed in regard to the CSO Project. Borough Manager Landy said he will fax the list of problems to Widmer Engineering.

President Tabita commended Mayor Lucia on a job well done at the Community Picnic at Idle Wild Park on July 7th. He also thanked the Mount Pleasant Historical Society for all they did to make the picnic a successful tradition.

Solicitors Report: None

Tax Collectors Report:

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

Property Taxes	\$44,578.40
Supplemental Taxes	\$ 14.40
Per Capita Taxes	\$ 599.50
Total taxes collected	\$45,192.30

Mr. Landy said that he and Ms. Yancosky had a discussion about per capita taxes in the Borough. Ms. Yancosky said that the School district is asking for our help. The issue is that renters are moving out and leaving the tax roles and the Borough is not being informed of the new tenant. Therefore, per capita tax collection has gone down. Ms. Yancosky said that in neighboring boroughs landlords are required to register their renters and each year give the municipality a new list of tenants. The School District suggests that the Borough send a letter to landlords requesting them to register all of their tenants and resend the letter each year for updates. President Tabita said that Councilman Bauer's committee could include that in the Landlord Ordinance discussion. Mayor Lucia said that wage taxes are also being lost when we don't have a list of tenants. Ms. Yancosky said that the per capita tax is \$5.00 for the Borough and \$10.00 for the School

District once a year. Ms. Yancosky said that at a meeting with the School District they feel we are down by about 400 residents.

Presidents Report:

President Tabita thanked Council for all of their hard work in the last few years to make Mount Pleasant a better community.

President Tabita said that the Main Street Street-Scape Project is moving forward and a public meeting was held at 6:00pm this evening. All of the property owners who will incur costs related to the project were addressed. Phase II of the project will continue the decorative lights from College Avenue up to CoGo's and Saloom's Funeral Home. There are seven or eight properties affected. It is encouraging that the property owners affected are willing to make an investment in Mount Pleasant's Main Street and President Tabita thanked them.

A motion was made by Councilman Bauer to advertise for bids for the Main Street Street-Scape Project. Motion seconded by Councilman Crivella. Motion carried 7-0.

President Tabita said that funding for the Main Street Manager program between Scottdale and Mount Pleasant will not be in place until the second half of 2009. The BDA will handle the management of Main Street until then. The BDA meets every third Wednesday of the month at the In-Town-Shops and anyone wanting to participate is welcome.

President Tabita said that the Borough will be working on preparing a video promoting Mount Pleasant and Council is working to expand the R1 Residential District which will make Mount Pleasant an even better community to live in. It may be possible to apply for Elm Street funding which could be used on streets tying into Main Street to further improve our neighborhoods.

A motion was made by Councilman Bauer for an Executive Session. Motion seconded by Councilman Beranek. Motion carried 7-0.

Executive Session 7:38pm to 8:16pm.

President Tabita stated that real estate and litigation issues were discussed during the Executive Session.

Borough Managers Report:

Borough Manager Landy asked Council to look at the Profit and Loss Budget Vs. Actual report on their desks to see how their departments are doing with the budget. Mr. Landy said he feels that most of the line items look good so far.

Mr. Landy said that residents have been good about requesting zoning and building permits before starting projects and that has alleviated many problems.

Mr. Landy and Street Supervisor Fontanazza will be inspecting roads bonded by Kriebel Resources before returning the bonding money.

Mayor Tabita said he would like Council to receive a monthly or quarterly report on the income from the gas wells in the borough.

Mr. Landy spoke to Levins and has received an agreement regarding the property on Bridgeport Street that he will give to Solicitor Toohey for review.

President Tabita said that the Borough will be receiving support from Westmoreland County to develop the Bridgeport property for light industrial.

Mr. Landy said that in an article in the Pittsburgh Business Times they commended Mount Pleasant for our creative ways to bring revenue into the Borough by using revenue from the gas wells instead of raising taxes.

Mr. Landy asked Council's opinion on putting temporary dumpsters on sidewalks if there is no room on the property. Council said they would approve a temporary dumpster in an alley but not on a sidewalk and that there should be a time limit. Mr. Landy said the homeowner requested two months.

Mr. Landy said that Sarp & Company has completed the Borough audit and will be filing electronically with the DCED and will send hard copies to the borough this week.

Mr. Landy said that he spoke with Officer Grippo regarding the grass-cutting ordinance and the police will not be giving warnings any longer but will be issuing citations immediately for any properties with grass that exceeds the ordinance limit. Mr. Landy said he also spoke with the Chamber of Commerce and they will be sending out letters and speaking with business owners on Main Street about grass and weeds on Main Street.

Councilman Bauer said that the Fire Department has almost used its budgeted allowance for gasoline and the Police and Street Departments are probably not going to make it till the end of the year with their gasoline budgets. Councilman Bauer questioned the amount budgeted for parking meters, since they're new, and suggested transferring that money to fuel. Mr. Landy explained that the money budgeted for meters is to be used to replace the non-functioning meters on Washington Street.

Wastewater Treatment Report:

A motion was made by Councilman Tate to transfer \$2,000 from Line Item 840.28 (Engineer Retainer) to Line Item 840.39 (Miscellaneous) for the purchase of a FEMA Trailer. Motion seconded by Councilman Crivella. Motion carried 7-0.

A motion was made by Councilman Tate to suspend the rules for the purpose of a motion to purchase a ditch shoring unit for Waste Water Treatment. Motion seconded by Councilman Slater. Motion carried 7-0.

A motion was made by Councilman Tate to purchase a 68XLP Trench Safety Box from United Rentals and the spreaders to go with it for a cost of \$5,225. Motion seconded by Councilman Bauer. Motion carried 7-0.

Councilman Tate said that property owners in the Borough can purchase inexpensive insurance to protect themselves if they get a sewage line backup. Owners can check with their insurance agents.

Councilman Tate said that they will be taking applications for a part-time laborer for the WWT Plant until July 11, 2008.

Public Safety Zoning and Ordinance Report:

Councilman Bauer read the follow Medic 10 Report for the month of June 2008:

Total calls for the month	107
Medical	81
MVA	10
Fire	9
Transfer	0
Standby	7
In town	52
Out of town	55
Members per call	1.9

Councilman Bauer read the following Fire Report for the month of June 2008:

Total calls	57
In town	19
Out of town	38

10-45's	22
Fires	13
AFA's	15
Public Service	5
Stand-by's	2
Total men answering	982
Average member per call	17
Total man hours	450

Councilman Bauer said he has been receiving numerous calls regarding cats. The best solution requires the Borough to enact an ordinance. Councilman Bauer said he will move forward to draft an ordinance.

Councilman Tate said that Mr. Overly who has a love for cats and volunteered to take stray cats was told by the Humane Society that he is not allowed to accept any more cats. Councilman Tate suggested contacting the Humane Society before drafting an ordinance.

Council discussed cat registration to identify pet cats versus strays.

The solution being looked at is for someone to come in and trap the cats, take them to a holding area. If the cat has a tag the owner is called. But no one will trap the cats until the Borough enacts an ordinance.

President Tabita asked Mr. Landy to request Solicitor Toohey to find out what authority the Humane Society has on any solution the Borough may come up with.

Councilman Bauer said that the sign ordinance, landlord ordinance and cat ordinance should receive top priority. Councilman Bauer said that he would like to see Council enact these three ordinances before the ordinance codification is completed so that they can be included.

Mayor Lucia said he would like to see a cross walk on Church Street at the intersection of Washington Street where the kids cross to come to Frick Park and the basketball court. Street Supervisor Fontanazza said he would take care of it.

Councilman Bauer said that there is a problem with people hanging home-made signs on the poles that were just freshly painted at the Diamond. The paint is being damaged by these signs. President Tabita said he would like the Street Department and Police Department to remove the signs as soon as they see them and throw them away. Council agreed.

President Tabita reminded anyone walking their dogs to clean up after them and to keep them off of private property. He would like to see the police have gloves available to give to people the first time they see them not cleaning up after their dogs and the second time issue a citation.

Councilman Tate said he would like an answer from Solicitor Toohey regarding the protocol for sewage violations. The first letters have been sent giving property owners 30 days to come into compliance and it's time for the second step. Solicitor Toohey was asked to look into the legality of procedures and protocol and has not given us an answer yet. Before fines are levied, is there an appeals process etc.

Street Department Report:

Councilman Crivella said that tomorrow evening there will be a meeting of the Street Committee at 6:30pm.

Councilman Crivella read the following as a reminder to residents:

All overgrowth must be trimmed and or cleared to keep sidewalks, thruways, roads, and alleys passable and street and traffic signs unobstructed. Borough Ordinance #325.

When the Street Department sees a property that is not in compliance, they will hang this notice on the door and if the property is not brought into compliance the next step will be a certified letter.

Councilman Crivella said that applications for the available position at the Street Department will be accepted until July 11, 2008 at 4:00pm.

Ms. Premoshis, who was observing the meeting wanted to let people in the Borough who have a problem with stray cats that there is a spray available at the local farm supply store that works as a repellent.

Finance Report: None

Property Report:

Councilman Beranek said that he and Borough Manager Landy are working on the elevator contract and looking at finding the lowest price for a maintenance contract.

Councilman Beranek said that bids for the replacement of the Central Fire Department roof will be accepted until August 1, 2008 and awarded at the meeting on August 4, 2008.

Councilman Beranek congratulated everyone on a very successful Community Day Picnic but questioned why it was moved to Monday when it was on a Tuesday in the past. Councilwoman Stevenson said that is when the park was available.

Councilman Beranek said that anyone wanting to volunteer to work on the Premoshis Christmas Displays being renovated for this year can call the borough office. As soon as Barry Premoshis is available work will begin. Students from the Mount Pleasant Area High School will be volunteering again this year.

Business/Economic Development and Contracts Report:

Borough Manager Landy reminded everyone that recycling bins are located outside the Municipal Building, at Willows Park, the Borough Shed and at the N & N Store on Church Street. Mr. Landy said that if the number of phone calls to the borough office is any indication, people seem to be very receptive to recycling in the Borough. President Tabita said it could have a significant impact on our rates and could result in curb-side recycling.

Human Resources/Employee Contracts Report:

Councilwoman Stevenson said that she is recycling and has seen the amount of garbage that remains cut in half. She encouraged all of the residents to recycle.

Recreation Report:

Councilman Slater announced that the July 3rd Fireworks have been rescheduled to Sunday July 27th due to rain. "Kardaz" will perform at the Gazebo from 6:30pm to 10:00pm and the fireworks will follow. There will be a car show and the food will be sponsored by Leo and Sons Grille 31. The list of \$500 sponsors for the fireworks are as follows:

- Assunta Club
- Spechlin
- Leo & Sons Grille 31
- Rochling Machined Plastics
- Glass & Ethnic Festival
- Allied Waste
- Wal-Mart of Mount Pleasant
- Attorney John Toohey
- Higbee Insurance
- The Slovak Club

Mr. Landy said that this year the display is going to be much larger and the reason it had to be canceled on July 3rd is because the fireworks require four hours to be set up.

Mayor Lucia said that the St. Pius Festival will also be that weekend. Mount Pleasant will be a busy place.

Councilman Slater said that 123 names are available on the Tablets at Veterans Wall. Once those slots are filled, a decision will have to be made to erect another tablet. Borough Manager Landy is looking into the cost of another tablet and what the price for each engraved name will be.

A motion was made by Councilman Slater to close Diamond Street from Main Street to Washington Street from 6:30pm to 10:30pm on July 27th for the fireworks display and authorize the borough office to make the appropriate request. Motion seconded by Councilman Bauer. Motion carried 7-0.

Councilman Slater said he would like to see police presence at Frick Park to continue throughout the summer. Mayor Lucia said he will be meeting with Police Chief Ober to address the issue but wants surveillance to continue all year round. Councilman Slater said that the police presence has helped but that it is time to actually make some arrests so that people know we are serious about making Frick Park safe for everyone.

President Tabita said he would like to see cameras installed in the parks as soon as possible and monitors in the police cars so that the police can monitor the cameras.

Councilman Tate said that the decorative light poles in Veterans Park are starting to fade and he was approached by someone who will paint them free of charge with paint that is guaranteed for 20 years. He will also paint the base of the Gazebo.

New Business: None

Reading of Communications:

Borough Manager Landy read the following communications:

- WCOG response to the hearing on the bamboo issue.
- The USDA will be holding meetings throughout Southwestern Pennsylvania. The closest one to Mount Pleasant will be held July 31, 2008 at the USDA Agricultural Service Center in Greensburg starting at 9:30am.
- The New Stanton Business Association has invited Council to attend a meeting on July 10, 2008 from 4:30pm to 7:30pm. Alex Graziano from SmartGrowth will speaking from 6:30 to 7:30pm. There will be a buffet dinner at a cost of \$15.00 per person.
- The Mount Pleasant Parking Authority has granted the Borough's request to erect a Borough Information sign at the old PNC Drive through on Main Street and have agreed to allow Allegheny Power to install a ground transformer at that location.

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.

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 9:16pm.

Motions from July 8, 2008 Meeting

A motion was made by Councilman Bauer to dispense with the reading of the minutes of June 23, 2008. Motion seconded by Councilman Tate. Motion carried 7-0.

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