

Meeting August 4, 2008

The meeting of Mount Pleasant Borough Council was called to order by President Tabita 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 Tabita directed Borough Manager Jeff Landy to take roll. Councilmen Beranek, Crivella, Slater, Tate, Wiltrout and Councilwoman Stevenson were present. Mayor Lucia and Solicitor Toohey were present. President Tabita stated we have a quorum. Councilman Bauer arrived at 7:02pm

Reading of Previous Minutes:

A motion was made by Councilman Slater to dispense with the reading of the minutes of July 21, 2008. Motion seconded by Councilman Beranek. Motion carried 7-0.

Speakers:

Glenn Wolfe, Widmer Engineering, updated Council on the progress of the Main Street Street-Scape Project. A request for bids has been advertised and bids will be opened on August 25, 2008 at 12 noon. Mr. Wolfe met with Penn Dot regarding permits required and Right-Of-Way Leases have been mailed.

Public Comment: None

Solicitor's Report:

Solicitor Toohey reported on the following:

- The Borough has acquired the Gormley property on Main Street and Council can go forward and do whatever they wish.
- Mr. Toohey has been in contact with Phillip Brewer, Vice-President and Operations Manager for Recovery at Citi Corp Credit Services Inc., who is the first lien holder on the DiNicola Property. They have indicated that they will give permission for the Borough or County to demolish the building. There is paperwork to be filed and documents to be signed but this is the first indication from them in seven years that they are willing to proceed.

Mayor Lucia asked President Tabita if the Borough will attempt to sell the Gormley property before demolition. President Tabita said that it would be Councils wish to be able to sell the property and get it back on the tax rolls. Mr. Landy said he posted a For Sale sign on the property to see if there is any interest and has received two calls. Councilman Crivella said that Council should require a performance bond from anyone buying the property so that things happen in a certain time frame.

A motion was made by Councilman Crivella to suspend the rules to advertise the sale of the Gormley property at 211 Main Street. Motion seconded by Councilman Bauer. Motion carried 8-0.

A motion was made by Councilman Crivella to advertise the sale of the Gormley property at 211 Main Street contingent upon a performance bond meeting Council's satisfaction. Motion seconded by Councilman Bauer. Motion carried 8-0.

Mayor Lucia said that the issues with the Gormley property have been ongoing for 20 years and Borough Manager Landy did a good job working with Solicitor Toohey to resolve them. Mayor Lucia said he is very pleased with the outcome.

Borough Manager Landy said that he has contacted Westmoreland County and demolition of the properties will probably occur sometime next year. The money earmarked for demolition this year has been spent. Mr. Landy said that the Street Department has secured the Gormley building and posted No Trespassing signs. A chain link fence has been put up around the back of the property. The Gormley property has been put on the Borough's insurance.

Mayor's Report:

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

Report of the Mount Pleasant Police Department for the month of July 2008:

The Department answered 413 calls during the month as follows:

Complaints	133
Requests for assistance	6
Assist Other Departments	6
Accidents investigated	4
Calls Returned	25
Assist Medic 10	17

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	25
\$10.00 No Parking Tickets	0
Void / Excused	1

\$1.00 Parking Tickets Paid	25	\$	25.00
\$5.00 Parking Tickets Paid	1	\$	5.00
\$10.00 Parking Tickets Paid	7	\$	70.00

Return from Magistrate Eckels	\$2,093.45
Return from Clerk of Courts	\$ 140.60
Return from Report Fees	\$ -
Return from Parking Permits	\$ 10.00
Return from Soliciting Permits	\$ -
Return from Restitution	\$ -

Total \$2,344.05

Meter Receipts 1 Collection

Total Receipts for the month

Mayor Lucia said that Police Chief Ober had to remove the mechanisms from the parking meters to be calibrated by the County and that is why there are no meter collections on the July Police Report.

Mayor Lucia said that he believes Mount Pleasant has the least expensive parking meters of any community around and the cost of a citation is still only \$1.00. The money from meter collections is used to maintain the meters.

Councilwoman Stevenson remarked on the number of complaints received by the Police Department and Chief Ober said that July was a busy month for the Department. Chief Ober said there were a number of thefts in July. The Call Service Report lists the nature of all calls.

Mayor Lucia said that the police will continue to patrol Frick Park and the problem of speeding in the Borough will be addressed. President Tabita said that anyone seeing anything bad happening in the park can dial 911 on their cell phones and the police will respond.

Mayor Lucia said that he has received numerous compliments on this years fireworks and the Concerts In The Park. President Tabita said that we should begin in March next year to solicit for donations for the fireworks so that they can be even better in 2009. If citizens sent the money they would spend on personal fireworks to the Borough we would have the funds to make the July display more spectacular. The money would be tax deductible for citizens.

Tax Collector's Report:

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

Property Taxes	\$4,025.12
Supplemental	\$ 14.27
Total	\$4,039.39

Ms. Yancosky said that the School and Per Capita taxes were mailed on Friday and if anyone does not receive them please contact the Tax Office. Len Santimyer is the new Tax Assessor for the area.

A motion was made by Councilman Bauer to suspend the rules for an Executive Session. Motion seconded by Councilman Slater. Motion carried 8-0.

Executive Session 7:20pm to 8:38pm.

President Tabita announced that the Executive Session was for personnel and litigation.

President's Report:

President Tabita said that the Borough has advertised for bids for the Main Street Street-Scape Project and they will be opened at a public meeting at noon on August 25, 2008. An opinion on awarding the bid will be made at the September 2nd meeting.

President Tabita said that four or five new businesses have opened in the Borough within the last year and have proved that you can make money on Main Street.

President Tabita said that there is an organization of women called Dutchtown who have been doing crafts and baking for many years and are very talented. If these women and other creative people in the Borough would like a place to market their skills President Tabita said that he would do his best to find them a place by working with the BDA and others. Anyone who is interested can contact him through the borough office.

There will be a Planning Commission meeting that will decide on expanding the R1 Zoning area in the Borough.

There has been discussion on separation of Church and State in the Borough and information is being gathered regarding anything that can be done to encourage religious gatherings that is within the guidelines of the law. Council unanimously agreed to restrict the use of Veterans Park to certain functions dedicated to the Veterans. There are other areas in the Borough more suited to gatherings that do not restrict parking or require road closings etc.

President Tabita said that the Borough will not pay for any sewage backup claims for residential or commercial properties where our insurance carrier finds us not to be liable. The option for homeowners is to have a rider added to their insurance to cover these claims.

The agreement between Kriebel Resources and the Borough for the gas well at Frick Park is being discussed and details are being worked out. The wellhead has to be 4 feet above the ground to avoid the danger of putting workers into a manhole. The distance from the fence surround the well equipment to home plate will be 250 feet. A tank to collect water is required for two years. The tank at Frick Park will be 6feet high and 8 feet in diameter. All of the equipment will be contained within 10ft X 21ft fence and Kriebel will erect an 8ft high electronic scoreboard on top of the fence. The fence will be slatted so that the equipment will not show and will have a roof. Landscaping will also provide cover for the fence. Gas lines will be run from the well to the Municipal Building and Central VFD and provide free gas to those buildings. President Tabita showed a picture of the well enclosure and a discussion ensued. The proposed drilling date for the well is August 25, 2008.

A motion was made by Councilman Bauer to suspend the rules for the purpose of a motion for the gas well amendment. Motion seconded by Councilman Beranek. Motion carried 8-0.

A motion was made by Councilman Bauer to accept the amendment to the Frick Park gas well agreement with Kriebel Resources covering the scoreboard and other amenities. Motion seconded by Councilman Beranek. Motion carried 8-0.

Borough Managers Report:

Borough Manager Landy asked Council to look at the Profit and Loss Budget Vs Actual Report and to see which items may be going over budget. Mr. Landy projected that the gasoline line item for the Fire Department will be over budget by approximately \$3,500. Medic 10 will be \$2,500 over budget for gasoline, the Street Department \$4,000 and WWT approximately \$1,500. Now is the time to take a close look at the gasoline line items.

The Street Department erected all of the Borough boundary signs, which include "permits required". Mr. Landy asked the Ordinance Committee if the Borough will continue to have free hoagie sales in 2009. Some other boroughs do charge for out of town organizations.

Mr. Landy said that the 2007 audit has been completed by Sarp & Co. and electronically filed with DCED and Penn Vest.

Mr. Landy said that regularly scheduled Cruise Nights will have to wait till next year but impromptu Cruise Nights could be scheduled for this year. These Cruise Nights are becoming successful for the Borough.

Mr. Landy attended a Municipal Redevelopment meeting with other Boroughs where multi-municipal grant projects were discussed. One of these grants should be put together shortly.

Mr. Landy read the following statement to comply with the Borough's MS4 Permit.

As part of the Pennsylvania DEP'S MS4 Program (SMALL MUNICIPAL SEPARATE STORM SEWER SYSTEMS), the Borough of Mount Pleasant would like to remind everyone that our storm sewer inlets and drainage swales discharge directly to Jacobs Creek. We are striving to educate the public about the drainage systems and the problems with allowing various items to enter our streams and waterways. Shupe Run and Jacobs Creek bring many benefits to our community. We ask your assistance in educating our community about inappropriate practices that will damage one of our most precious resources.

Mr. Landy congratulated President Tabita and his wife on their 35th wedding anniversary.

Mr. Landy said that the Mount Pleasant Glass and Ethnic Festival is two months away on September 26, 27 and 28th and there will be new activities announced at the September 2, 2008 meeting.

President Tabita read a letter of resignation from Councilwoman Chris Rega.

A motion was made by Councilman Bauer to accept the resignation of Councilwoman Chris Rega effective immediately. Motion seconded by Councilman Slater. Motion carried 8-0.

A motion was made by Councilman Bauer to advertise for the vacant 2nd Ward council seat. Resumes will be accepted at the borough office until 4pm August 15, 2008. Interviews will be at 6:00pm in Council Chambers on August 18, 2008. Motion seconded by Councilman Slater. Motion carried 8-0.

Waste Water Treatment Report:

A motion was made by Councilman Tate to suspend the rules for the purpose of hiring a part-time employee for WWT. Motion seconded by Councilman Slater. Motion carried 8-0.

A motion was made by Councilman Tate to hire Tom Pawlikowsky for the part-time position at the WWT Plant at a rate of \$9.50 per hour. Motion seconded by Councilman Bauer. Motion carried 8-0.

Councilman Tate said that about a year ago a WWT Project was begun near the Sub & Pub and was not completed because of the start of the CSO Project. WWT would like to continue that project. It requires working in the Mount Pleasant Cemetery and an

agreement with the cemetery has to be drawn up by Solicitor Toohey allowing us to do that. The cost of the project will be approximately \$25,000. Councilman Tate suggested asking the Mount Pleasant Municipal Authority to fund the project. President Tabita directed Borough Manager Landy to send a letter to the Municipal Authority requesting the funds.

Councilman Tate thanked Mayor Lucia and Borough Manager Landy for everything they did to help with the Relay For Life event last weekend. The 2008 goal for the relay was \$55,000 and \$ 97,000 was raised. Mr. Landy facilitated fireworks at the relay by Keystone Fireworks.

Public Safety, Zoning and Ordinance Report:

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

Total Calls for the month	129
Medical	90
MVA	13
Fire	14
Transfer	1
Standby	11
In Town	60
Out of Town	69
Members per call	2.5

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

Total calls	46
In Town	11
Out of Town	35
10-45's	15
Fires	12
Public Service	6
AFA's	11
Watercraft rescue	1
Stand-by's	1
Total men answering	656
Avg member per call	14
Total hours	551

A motion was made to appoint the following people to the Mount Pleasant Health Appeals Board:

- Dr. Bill Jenkins
- Kelly Vanyo
- Dr. O'Laughlin
- Ed Yuras
- Jerry Lucia

Motion seconded by Councilman Slater. Motion carried 8-0.

President Tabita said that appeals would be public and these would be the voting members.

Councilman Bauer said he would like to see the Borough move forward on agreements with the Township for the Police, Fire and EMS.

Councilman Bauer said he received an application for handicapped parking on N Shupe Street.

A motion was made by Councilman Bauer to suspend the rules for the purpose of a handicapped parking permit. Motion seconded by Councilman Tate. Motion carried 8-0.

A motion was made by Councilman Bauer to grant the request for a handicapped parking space at 100 N Shupe Street. Motion seconded by Councilman Tate. Motion carried.

Councilman Bauer said he has a meeting scheduled on Wednesday August 20, 2008 with Keystate Publishers to go over the Ordinance Re-codification. Councilman Bauer strongly suggested that council members read the report from Keystate.

Councilman Bauer said he feels rental properties are already covered under the Property Maintenance Code and it may only be necessary to require the landlords to register their properties with the Borough. Fines for not registering was discussed. Mayor Lucia asked if it would be possible to get a list of tenant turnovers from the MAWC.

Street Report:

Councilman Crivella reported that the Street Committee meeting scheduled for tomorrow is canceled.

Councilman Crivella said that the committee is in the process of looking over all of the applications received for the full-time position at the Street Department. The initial interviews will be conducted on August 11, 2008 beginning at 2:00pm and the final interviews will be before the meeting on September 2, 2008.

Councilman Crivella said that weeds and brush are growing out into the alleyways and cars can be damaged. He asked homeowners to trim along the alleys.

Finance Report: None

Property Report:

Councilman Beranek said that he may be able to get the granite donated to the Borough for the Veterans Park sign. Councilman Bauer said he is concerned that someone may drive by and throw something at the sign and break the granite. Different stones and ways of constructing the sign were discussed.

A motion was made by Councilman Beranek to open the sealed bids for the Central VFD roof. Motion seconded by Councilman Tate. Motion carried 8-0.

President Tabita read the following bids:

W. C. Dolan Enterprises	\$21,044.65
West Roofing Systems	\$40,000.00

A motion was made by Councilman Beranek that the bids be turned over to committee for review and award contingent on meeting advertising requirements. Motion seconded by Councilman Tate. Motion carried 8-0.

Work on the Premoshis Christmas displays was discussed.

Business/Economic Development & Contracts Report:

Councilman Wilttrout reminded everyone that there are recycling bins located at the borough shed on Depot Street, N & N Store, the Municipal Building parking lot and Willows Park. No separation is required.

President Tabita said that any resident receiving the Sunday Tribune Review got a Laurel Highlands supplement containing a very useful page on recycling.

Councilman Wilttrout said that we are still waiting to hear about the 902 Grant that we applied for. Hopefully in January 2009 we can begin cur-side recycling. Mr. Landy said that in September Allied Waste will give us a report on how much we are actually recycling.

Human Resource/Employee Contracts Report:

Councilwoman Stevenson said that there has been more progress on the Employee Handbook.

Paychex is offering a seminar on human resource issues and Councilwoman Stevenson and the borough secretary will be attending on Thursday August 7, 2008.

Councilwoman Stevenson did request a copy of the Library's audit but the person in possession of the audit is on vacation and will provide us with the documents when she gets back.

Recreation:

Councilman Slater said that softball season is finished and the concession stand can be used for the car cruise coming up. Recreational basketball league will be done on August 31, 2008

Councilman Slater asked if it will be necessary to close Frick Park during the drilling of the gas well. President Tabita said that a portion will have to be closed while the equipment is in the park. A temporary fence will be erected.

Councilman Bauer said that the borough office is now handling Veterans Park. Councilman Bauer said he would like to see the part-time secretary handle Veterans Park. That way one person would be responsible. An expansion is almost inevitable. The July 31, 2008 applications are all in and the next deadline for applications will be January 31, 2008.

Borough Manager Landy said that The Moonlighters will be playing at the Concert In The Park on Sunday August 10th and there will be a car show.

President Tabita said that the borough office should request road closings from Penn Dot for the remaining Concerts In The Park and the Car Shows.

A motion was made by Councilman Slater to suspend the rules for a motion to close Diamond Street for remaining Concerts In The Park and the Car Shows. Motion seconded by Councilman Crivella. Motion carried 8-0.

A motion was made by Councilman Slater to close Diamond Street from Main Street to Washington Street from 5pm to 10pm for the remaining Concerts In The Park and Car Shows. Motion seconded by Councilman Crivella. Motion carried 8-0.

New Business:

Mayor Lucia reported that Monday August 11, 2008 there will be a ribbon cutting at Pittsburgh Electric Engines located at the old Lenox glass plant at 10:30am. All of Council is invited to attend. Congress Murtha will be present.

Reading of Communications:

Borough Manager read the following communications:

- Senator Regola's Annual Golf Outing will be Wednesday August 20, 2008 at the Greensburg Country Club.
- The COG meeting will be August 19, 2008 at 7:00pm and they will be awarding 2008-2009 salt contract and will present a sample ordinance on digital signs.
- Smart Growth will be having an open house on August 8, 2008 from 12pm to 4pm on Donohoe Road in Greensburg, PA.

Discussion and Payment of Bills:

A motion was made by Councilman Bauer that all authorized and approved bills be paid. Motion seconded by Councilman Tate. Motion carried 8-0.

Miscellaneous and Adjournment:

A motion was made by Councilman Bauer to adjourn the meeting. Motion seconded by Councilman Beranek. Motion carried 8-0.

Meeting adjourned at 9:55pm.

Motions from August 4, 2008 Meeting

A motion was made by Councilman Slater to dispense with the reading of the minutes of July 21, 2008. Motion seconded by Councilman Beranek. Motion carried 7-0.

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