

## Meeting September 2, 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 Bauer, Beranek, Crivella, Slater, Tate, and Councilwomen Stevenson and Ruszkowski were present. Mayor Lucia and Atty Klimchock were present. 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 August 18, 2008. Motion seconded by Councilman Slater. Motion carried 8-0.

**Speakers:** None

**Public Comment:** None

### Mayor's Report:

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

The Department answered 421 calls during the month as follows

Complaints	117
Requests for assistance	9
Assist Other Departments	9
Accidents investigated	5
Calls Returned	30
Assist Medic 10	12

The Department made 107 arrests during the month as follows

Vehicle Code	91
Crimes Code	16

Parking Tickets issued are as follows:

\$1.00 Meter Tickets	28
\$10.00 No Parking Tickets	1
Void / Excused	3

\$1.00 Parking Tickets Paid	19	\$	19.00
\$5.00 Parking Tickets Paid	2	\$	10.00
\$10.00 Parking Tickets Paid	4	\$	40.00

Return from Magistrate Eckels	\$1,533.30
Return from Clerk of Courts	\$ 531.88
Return from Report Fees	\$ -
Return from Parking Permits	\$ 5.00
Return from Soliciting Permits	\$ -
Return from Restitution	\$ -

Total	\$2,138.68
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Meter Receipts 1 Collection	\$ 943.06
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Total Receipts for the month	\$3,081.74
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Mayor Lucia said that in July 2008 there was no meter collection because the meters were being repaired and collection for August was low. The Click It or Ticket campaign raised the Vehicle Code number this month and the police are cracking down on speeders.

Mayor Lucia said that the alley that runs from Eagle St around the rear of Chief Ober's residence out to Reservoir has no name. Someone suggested naming the alley Bob Cat Way. Mayor Lucia asked Chief Ober to see if the alley has a name and get back to him.

Mayor Lucia said that after the curb was cut on Cherry Ave the no parking sign was not put back up. Maricondia's Beer Distributor has requested that the sign be replaced or that the cut curb be painted yellow so that no one parks in front of it. President Tabita said that the Borough could paint the cut curb yellow and have the property owner put up their own "Private Drive" sign.

Mayor Lucia announced that on September 11<sup>th</sup> at 7:30pm there will be a ceremony to commemorate 9/11. The area fire and police departments have been invited and he hopes the citizens of Mount Pleasant will attend. President Tabita said that the Ministerium will begin their program at 7:00pm at the Freedom of Speech Area and the Borough program will begin at 7:30pm at the Gazebo. The Mount Pleasant High School Chorus will be there along with the Firemen's Band.

Mayor Lucia reminded everyone that the Glass and Ethnic Festival is fast approaching. This year is 20 years since the closing of the Volkswagon plant in New Stanton and the festival brochures will include a place at the festival where the past employees can meet for an informal reunion.

Councilman Bauer said he has been getting complaints about speeding on N Diamond St, North and South Church St and Smithfield St and complaints about people ignoring the stop sign at Ramsey School. Mayor Lucia said that citations have been written for failure to stop at the sign at Ramsey School and he will address the other complaints with Chief Ober.

### **Solicitor's Report:**

Councilman Bauer told Atty Klimchock that the Borough does not have any rules or regulations for Civil Service. Atty Klimchock said he would inform Solicitor Toohey.

Atty Klimchock reported to Council that he and Solicitor Toohey are working on written guidelines for paper alleys in the Borough. One of the complications of paper alleys is when sewage lines run underneath. The Borough would continue to have a public interest in those alleys and access to them could not be blocked. President Tabita said that it would then be appropriate to send a letter to any property owner who is planning on building a fence or structure that would block access to one of these alleys and Atty Klimchock agreed.

A motion was made by Councilman Bauer to suspend the rules for a motion to have Solicitor Toohey draft a letter to be used in these cases. Motion seconded by Councilman Crivella. Motion carried 8-0.

A motion was made by Councilman Bauer to have Solicitor Toohey draft a template for letter to be sent to residents who are blocking right-of-ways to paper alleys. Motion seconded by Councilman Crivella. Motion carried 8-0.

Mayor Lucia asked Chief Ober how he addresses complaints of paper alleys being blocked. Chief Ober said that according to the Public Vehicle Code the police cannot cite someone blocking access to a paper alley that is not maintained by the Borough. Atty Klimchock said that Chief Ober's position was well stated.

### **Tax Collector Report:**

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

Property taxes	\$3,800.37
Per Capita taxes	\$2,062.90
Total	\$5,863.27

### **President's Report:**

President Tabita said that bids have been received for Phase II of the Main Street Street-Scape Project.

Glenn Wolfe, Widmer Engineering reported that 8 bids were received and the low bidder was Palumbo Contracting at \$264,996.35 which is within budget. All documents in the bid appear to be acceptable and they have been submitted to the county and the Borough Solicitor.

A motion was made by Councilman Bauer to award the bid for the Main Street Street-Scape Phase II Project to Palumbo Contracting, New Kensington, PA in the amount of \$264,996.35 contingent upon approval of Westmoreland County, approval of the Borough Solicitor, issuance of the Highway Occupancy Permit and subject to available funding. Motion seconded by Councilman Slater. Motion carried 8-0.

President Tabita said that Phase II will do a lot for Main Street and additional 14 Christmas lights may need to be purchased if the project is completed soon enough.

President Tabita said he attended a meeting of the Mount Pleasant Planning Commission regarding rezoning to expand the R1 Zone in the Borough.  $\frac{3}{4}$  of the Borough's revenue comes from earned income tax and real estate tax and these amounts must continue to grow and be strong. Council contracted Mullen and Lonergan to give us recommendations on how strengthen the Borough's tax base and improve the Borough. Expanding the R1 Zone promotes single-family dwellings and prevents owners from duplexing or tri-plexing a property. Young families can purchase a home at an affordable price on a nice and well-maintained street which in turn increases the real estate tax and in many cases brings more earned income tax into the Borough. The proposed zoning map has been sent to Widmer Engineering and we should have their recommendations at the next work session. At that point the maps will be sent to Westmoreland County for their approval and will be presented at a public meeting and we go from there. Any one who has concerns can be heard at the public meeting. Hopefully we can complete this rezoning by the end of 2008.

President Tabita reported that the gas well drilling at Frick Park cannot begin until the lines are laid and Kriebel Resources is in the process of laying the lines from Frick Park to the Hospital. When this is completed drilling can begin at the park.

President Tabita said he would like to see all of the residents turn out for the 9/11 ceremony at the Gazebo on September 11<sup>th</sup> at 7:30pm. There will be a Ministerium service at the Freedom of Speech Area at 7:00pm. A sign will be erected at Veterans Park as soon as everything is firm. It should be a very beautiful service for the Borough.

### **Borough Manager's Report:**

Borough Manager Landy made the following points in his report:

- The Profit & Loss Budget vs. Actual report shows that Current Real Estate Taxes and EIT Income is 75% of the budget. If we adopt the new zoning there is a better chance of these numbers improving.
- At the last meeting Council discussed contracting the Municipal Authority of Westmoreland County to do our sewage billing. Mr. Landy presented a copy of what the new sewage bill would look like. In the past the Borough billed sewage a quarter to a quarter and a half after the water bill for the same period which caused a lot of confusion. With this new billing the water and sewage bills would be combined on the same bill with the same read dates, but with separate coupons and different due dates. There are still details to be worked out including how to catch up on the lag time which now exists between the water and sewage billing. This new billing should occur within the next two months.
- Penn Dot has begun working on handicapped ramps on Diamond Street. They will be doing the ramps on all of Rte. 819 in the Borough. Penn Dot has assured us it will be complete before the Glass and Ethnic Festival and may also be able to pave before then.
- Mr. Landy had meetings with Scottdale and West Overton regarding the Main Street Manager Program. It is still in the discussion stage and may not happen in 2008.
- Mr. Landy and Mayor Lucia went around looking at right of way and property issues in the Borough and trying to solve them for the residents.
- Allied Waste will put another recycling container behind Ramsey School as soon as the School Board approves it.
- The dates of the Glass and Ethnic Festival in 2008 will be September 26, 27 and 28. This year there will be an "Old Town Mount Pleasant" area featuring the

Log Cabin. There will be a light show at the Gazebo each evening with 12,000 lights and music.

- The last Concert In The Park will be September 7, 2008 and will feature Kourtney Jean and Stampede.
- The PSAB is having a seminar on Rental Property Inspection on October 7, 2008 at the Westmoreland Conservation District. Mayor Lucia said he would attend this seminar with Mr. Landy.

**WWT Report:**

Councilman Tate said that having MAWC do our sewage billing would give us a better back-up plan since it is a larger company than S.O.S. and more than one person would be working on our billing.

A motion was made by Councilman Tate to sign a sewage billing and collection agreement with the Municipal Authority of Westmoreland County through December 31, 2009. Motion seconded by Councilman Crivella. Motion carried 8-0.

Councilman Tate reported that the S-10 pick up truck was donated to Vo-Tech and they were very happy for the project.

**Public Safety Zoning and Ordinance Report:**

A motion was made by Councilman Bauer to close Route 819 Diamond St from Rt 31 Main St to Spruce St from 12:00pm on September 25, 2008 to 2:00am September 29, 2008 for the Glass & Ethnic Festival. Motion seconded by Councilman Beranek. Motion carried 8-0.

A motion was made by Councilman Bauer to close Rt 31 Main St from Braddock Rd Ave to Cooks Way on September 27, 2008 from 1:00pm to 4:00pm for the Glass & Ethnic Festival Parade. Motion seconded by Councilman Slater. Motion carried 8-0.

A motion was made by Councilman Bauer to close Rt 819 Diamond St from Rt 31 Main St to Washington St on September 11, 2008 from 6:00pm to 8:30pm for a 9/11 Ceremony. Motion seconded by Councilman Slater. Motion carried 8-0.

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

Total Calls for the month	135
Medical	97
MVA	15
Fire	4
Transfer	1
Standby	18
In Town	59
Out of Town	76
Members per call	2.8

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

Total Calls	38
In Town	13
Out of Town	25
10-45's	11
Fires	10
AFA's	9
Public Service	1
Stand-By's	3
Drills	1
Total Men Answering	459
Avg Member per Call	10
Total Man Hours	269

Councilman Bauer said that a meeting was held with Keystate Publishing regarding the ordinance recodification and it seems it will not be as complicated as first thought. A discussion ensued regarding changing parking restrictions on some of the Borough

streets. In the report from Keystate, Carter St was mentioned and no one knows of a street by that name in the Borough.

Councilman Bauer said that a complaint was received from residents on Frick Ave stating that they cannot pull onto Diamond St because of hedges. Councilman Bauer said he would review the situation.

Councilman Bauer said that after looking at the 2008 budget he is concerned because the budget for fuel for the Fire Dept is almost depleted. He asked Borough Manager Landy to look from somewhere in the budget to transfer funds. Mr. Landy said that Councilwoman Ruskowski is looking into some transfers and will report on them at the next meeting.

### **Street Report:**

A motion was made by Councilman Crivella to suspend the rules for the purpose of an Executive Session. Motion seconded by Councilman Beranek. Motion carried 8-0.

A motion was made by Councilman Crivella for an Executive Session. Motion seconded by Councilman Beranek. Motion carried 8-0.

### **Executive Session 6:50pm to 7:00pm.**

President Tabita reported that Council held an Executive Session to discuss personnel.

President Tabita reported that Council also held a short Executive Session before the meeting to discuss personnel.

A motion was made by Councilman Crivella to hire William Kristoff for the full-time position on the Street Dept. Motion seconded by Councilman Tate. Motion failed 7-1 with Councilman Crivella as the only yes vote.

A motion was made by Councilman Slater to hire Jeffrey McGinness for the full-time position on the Street Dept. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Stevenson. Motion carried 7-1 with Councilman Crivella as the only no vote.

Mayor Lucia asked Councilman Crivella if the Street Dept was able to do anything with the storm water drain from Spruce St to the borough line. Councilman Crivella said that there have been only two people working at the Street Dept for two months and projects have been delayed. Councilman Tate said that the money the Borough is receiving from the Mount Pleasant Municipal Authority can be used for this project. In the winter months the problem with ice forming is dangerous. A discussion of other storm water problems ensued.

A motion was made by Councilman Bauer to suspend the rules for the purpose of a motion for a storm water study. Motion seconded by Councilman Slater. Motion carried 8-0.

A motion was made by Councilman Bauer to authorize Widmer Engineering to do a storm water study and proposal of Spruce St to Warden Alley and from Orchard Avenue to the un-named alley. Motion seconded by Councilman Tate. Motion carried 8-0.

### **Finance Report:**

A motion was made by Councilwoman Ruskowski to sign an agreement with G.H. Harris to collect 2007 delinquent per capita taxes. Motion seconded by Councilman Slater. Motion carried 8-0.

### **Property Report:**

A motion was made by Councilman Beranek to award W.C. Dolan Enterprises, Inc., Mount Pleasant, PA the Central VFD Roof Repair Bid in the amount of \$21,044.65 contingent upon a performance bond. Motion seconded by Councilman Crivella. Motion carried 8-0.

A motion was made by Councilman Beranek to suspend the rules for the purpose of a motion to purchase materials for the Veterans Park sign. Motion seconded by Councilman Slater. Motion carried 8-0.

A motion was made by Councilman Beranek to obtain 3 quotes for a new Veterans Park sign to be awarded to the lowest responsible quote. Motion seconded by Councilman Slater. Motion carried 8-0.

**Business Economic Development and Contracts Report: None**

**Human Resource/Employee Contracts Report:**

Council had a discussion regarding the cat problem in the Borough. Councilwoman Stevenson asked anyone in the Borough interested in volunteering to help her with the problem to call the borough office and she will get a group together.

**Recreation Report:**

Councilman Slater said he got two quotes for trimming the trees at Jack Bobbs Park and he has the money in his budget for this expense. The work was given to D & S Tree Service.

**New Business:**

Councilman Bauer put out a request for all of the homeowners in town and especially on Washington and Main Streets to clean up their properties for the upcoming Glass & Ethnic Festival so that the Borough looks good.

**Reading of Communications:**

Borough Manager Landy read the following communications:

- The Castellano and Kujawa families thanked Council for resolving the issue regarding the curb along North Alley and thanked Street Dept worker Dan Dean for his outstanding work.
- An invitation for the Third Annual Deberah Kula Golf Scramble on Friday September 12, 2008 at Duck Hollow Golf Club.
- A meeting notice for the Westmoreland County Boroughs Association for September 25, 2008 at 7:00pm at the Westmoreland County Transit Authority Office.
- A meeting of the Pennsylvania One Call System at 9:00am on October 29, 2008 at the Four Points Sheraton in Mars, PA.
- An invitation to attend Representative Kula's Event to Honor Vietnam War Veterans at N. Uniontown on September 20, 2008 at 10:00am.
- An invitation to a seminar by DCNR regarding how to successfully obtain grant money on November 6, 2008 at 8:30pm at the Municipal Building in Latrobe, PA.
- Anyone wishing to ride in the Glass & Ethnic Festival Parade should contact Mayor Lucia or Marie Dawson.

**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 8-0.

**Miscellaneous and Adjournment:**

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

Meeting adjourned 8:48pm.

### **Motions from September 2, 2008 Meeting**

A motion was made by Councilman Bauer to dispense with the reading of the minutes of August 18, 2008. Motion seconded by Councilman Slater. Motion carried 8-0.

A motion was made by Councilman Bauer to suspend the rules for a motion to have Solicitor Toohey draft a letter to be used in these cases. Motion seconded by Councilman Crivella. Motion carried 8-0.

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A motion was made by Councilman Bauer to pay all authorized and approved bills. Motion seconded by Councilman Beranek. Motion carried 8-0.

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