

## Meeting January 2, 2024

The meeting of Mount Pleasant Borough Council was called to order by President Ruszkowski 7:00pm in Council Chambers at 1 Etze Avenue, Mount Pleasant, PA 15666. The Pledge of Allegiance was said. President Ruszkowski asked Borough Manager Lesko to take roll call. Councilpersons present included Barrick, Lasko, Stevenson, Davis, Barnes, Czekanski, Wojnar and Phillabaum. Mayor Bailey was present. Solicitor was not present. President Ruszkowski stated that a quorum is present.

A Motion was made by Councilwoman Stevenson to approve the minutes of December 4, 2023 since Council has been provided with a copy. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Lasko. Motion carried 9-0.

### Public Comment:

- Zach Gergas gave the following report regarding Medic 10:
  - Calls to date is 2680. Last year's total calls were 1950. Billables, meaning they can bill the insurance company, are approximately 66% of the calls, which resulted in approximately 1,795. Total wheelchair van trips to date are 450. Brings overall volume to 3,130 calls. It is 730 calls more than last year. Missed 99 calls this year, meaning that they were out on other incidents, could not take the call and a backup had to be called, resulting in approximately 2.5% of their call volume.
- Paul Harenchar, Mount Pleasant Fire Chief, gave the following report:
  - Holding raffles online through Facebook.
  - Will be holding a gun bash in March.
  - Sutphen Towers, Inc. is to be sending pictures of the tower truck this week.

Mr. Harenchar stated that if an aerial truck is needed for a call, they have to call in Youngwood because Scottdale's truck is currently out of service. He is hoping that the truck will be back within a month.

**Speakers:     None.**

### Mayor's Report:

Mayor Bailey gave the following report:

- Wished everyone a Happy New Year.
- Attended the Candlelight Procession. Had heavy rains so everyone went to the church to gather instead of starting at the fire station. It was beautiful regardless of the weather.
- Attended Medic 10 Board Meeting and attended the Library Board Meeting on December 13, 2023.
- Library will be holding its annual association membership meeting on January 10, 2024 at 6:30pm. If you paid an annual membership, it gives you an opportunity to vote for Board members. They will be replacing 2 seats.
- Attended a BDA Meeting and their Christmas luncheon on December 20, 2023.

Council President Ruszkowski thanked Mayor Bailey for filling in on the library board in place of Mr. Landy and thanked Councilwoman Wojnar and Councilman Phillabaum for stepping in to be on the library board this year.

## Treasurer's Report:

Councilwoman Stevenson read the following Treasurer's Report for the month of November 2023:

Mt. Pleasant Borough Treasurer's Report		Nov-23			Balance
		Prev Bal	Deposits	Disbursements	2023
General Fund Checking	Scottdale Bank 19069335	1,212,775.18	125,680.79	109,611.73	1,228,844.24
General Fund Budgetary Reserve	Standard Bank 321615	1,036,219.37	3,403.62	1.10	1,039,621.89
**Police	48,591.82				
**Streets	148,604.25				
**Contingency Fund	369,251.04				
**Infrastructure	206,588.62				
**Workers Compensation	50,000.00				
**BOMP Gas Wells	26,773.10				
** Frick Park Gas Well	29,106.70				
**Levins	0.00				
**Fire	23,400.00				
**K-9	13,828.76				
**Medic 10	100,000.00				
**Marcellus Impact Fee Act 13	23,477.60				
Police Parking Tickets & Meters	Scottdale Bank 1026616	31,935.21	642.37	0.00	32,577.58
Escrow Account	Scottdale Bank 19069343	4,528.80	16.60	0.00	4,545.40
Liquid Fuels / Scottdale Bank	Scottdale Bank 19123645	61,195.15	224.33	0.00	61,419.48
Monument CD	Standard Bank 446635	7,382.80	0.00	0.00	7,382.80
Payroll Fund	Scottdale Bank 19069350	2,946.35	45,450.33	45,348.30	3,048.38
Veterans Park Fund	Somerset Trust Co 2003058309	25,456.60	2.30	0.00	25,458.90
Veterans Military Banners Fund	Somerset Trust Co 2004522337	2,475.33	0.22	0.00	2,475.55
Storm Water Retrofit Phase II	Scottdale Bank 19069368	1,256.66	4.61	0.00	1,261.27
ARPA Covid-19 (American Resuce Plan Act)	Scottdale Bank 19123652	456,072.08	1,671.85	0.00	457,743.93
Standard Bank CD	Standard Bank 432243	215,254.60	0.00	0.00	215,254.60
Scottdale Bank /MidPenn CD	Scottdale Bank 318012650	53,527.71	0.00	0.00	53,527.71
Standard Bank CD (200yr Anniversary)	Standard Bank 6677418044	54,243.17	0.00	0.00	54,243.17
<b>Total General Fund Balance</b>					<b>3,187,404.90</b>
Medic 10 Checking	Scottdale Bank 19069533	236,364.26	62,850.15	12,125.98	287,088.43
Medic 10 Savings	Scottdale Bank 19069723	58,458.37	214.29	0.00	58,672.66
Medic 10 Money Market	Scottdale Bank 19069376	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Medic 10 Pittsburgh Foundation	Standard Bank 0000358253	10,889.30	35.72	25.00	10,900.02
Medic 10 - 501(c)(3)	Scottdale Bank 19145689	250.97	0.34	0.00	251.31
Medic 10 CD	Standard Bank 371917	19,458.71	0.00	0.00	19,458.71
Medic 10 CD	Standard Bank 410053	5,269.88	55.54	5,325.42	0.00
Medic 10 CD	Mid Penn Bank 318023688	5,325.42	0.00	0.00	5,325.42
<b>Total Medic 10 Fund Balance</b>					<b>381,696.55</b>
WWT Capital Reserve Account	Scottdale Bank - 19123702	885,455.98	3,245.86	0.00	888,701.84

Capital Reserve M. A. Savings Acct	Somerset Trust Co 2004521230	474,635.80	1,439.51	0.00	476,075.31
Oceanview Annuity CD	Scottsdale Bank - MidPenn	3,088,600.02	0.00	0.00	3,088,600.02
Standard Bank CD					
WWT Cap.Resv	Standard Bank 464569	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Scottsdale Bank /MidPenn CD	Scottsdale Bank				
WWT Cap. Resv	318015215	201,508.38	0.00	0.00	201,508.38
American National (9/5/2023)	Scottsdale Bank - MidPenn	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Athene Annuity CD (created Jan. 2021)	Somerset Trust	514,605.11	3,989.63	518,594.74	0.00
American National (9/5/2023)	Mid Penn Bank - Scottsdale Bank	518594.74	0.00	0.00	518594.74
<b>Total WWT Balance</b>					<b>4,654,885.55</b>
<b>Total Borough funds</b>					<b>8,223,987.00</b>

Councilwoman Cynthia Stevenson / Secretary  
Sharon Lesko

Councilwoman Stevenson stated that Dollar Bank is charging us fees on the accounts that we have. Borough Manager Lesko has a meeting with them this week regarding the fees being charged.

A Motion was made by Councilman Phillabaum to accept the November 2023 Treasurer's Report. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Lasko. Motion carried 9-0.

**Solicitor's Report: None.**

**Tax Collector's Report:**

Tax Collector Carol Yancosky read the following report for the month of November 2023:

Property Taxes	\$2,551.63
Supplemental Taxes	\$ 0.00
Per Capita Taxes	<u>\$ 410.00</u>
Total Collected	\$2,961.63

Tax Collector Carol Yancosky read the following report for the month of December 2023:

Mrs. Yancosky stated that she is giving what she has collected so far; however, she has to collect until the 3<sup>rd</sup> of January due to any mail coming in being postmarked for December 30<sup>th</sup>.

Property Taxes	\$4,294.54
Supplemental Taxes	\$ 0.00
Per Capita Taxes	<u>\$ 863.50</u>
Total Collected	\$5,158.04

**Borough Manager's Report:**

Borough Manager Lesko gave the following report:

- Free parking has ended for the holidays. Meter ticketing will begin tomorrow.
- Conducted interviews for secretary position. It has been narrowed down to 2 candidates.
- Met with AT&T. Street department have received new phones.
- Will be meeting with Dollar Bank on Thursday, January 4, 2024 regarding fees that they have charged our accounts.
- Police have asked about utilizing the rest of the first floor. It hasn't been rented out in over a year. Borough Manager Lesko agrees with letting them use it and believes that the Police Chief should have his own office and that people should not be in the area of the security cameras and the holding cells when coming to meet with the police. Councilwoman Wojnar asked if we will need to remodel. Borough Manager Lesko stated that the major thing would be that they will need to get a man door on the outside door.

They will need to do some minor renovations. The police can paint the area. They will need to have flooring installed. Police Chief Grippo would like to add a locker room for the officers, possibly a kitchenette area, have an area for the security cameras, in addition to having an office for him. Councilwoman Czekanski stated that it would be nice for them. Councilman Davis agreed and stated that if it doesn't cost a lot of money and they need the space it is a great idea. Councilwoman Lasko stated that historically we haven't had much success with renting that area out. Borough Manager Lesko stated that she agrees with them having the area but ultimately it is up to Council. Council President Ruskowski asked if there was anyone that was not in favor of the police having the additional area. There was no one that was not in favor of it. Council all agreed that they could take over that additional area.

- Met with Bob Regola to discuss the grants that we have filed through the LSA and SLSA grants. Will continue to meet with Mr. Regola regarding grants that we have applied for and any available grants. Mr. Regola knows what our priorities are and what we desire for the Borough.
- Toured the former American Architectural Salvage building with County representatives. Discussed the right of way with the street off of Main Street along with a right-of-way to the Borough property that is next to the former soccer fields that sits behind their property. They believe they should be able to do both of these things for the Borough.
- Kostyo Heating and Air had stopped in the office and said that he had checked the furnace at the synagogue building. Mr. Kostyo said that there is a crack and is letting off fumes and that the furnace needs to be replaced. The quote for a new furnace for the synagogue is \$3,250.00. Councilwoman Lasko stated that she thought that the synagogue building was going to be torn down. Council President Ruskowski stated that we are not tearing it down and that story was started by a fireman. Councilwoman Wojnar stated that she heard it was being cleaned out so the firemen could hold trainings in the upstairs area. Mayor Bailey stated that the stained-glass windows do need repairs. Borough Manager Lesko asked Fire Chief Harenchar about the building. He has an office in there and they also utilize the building for fire departments that do standbys for them. Mr. Harenchar said that that first floor was for the fire department and the second floor was for the Borough. Mr. Harenchar said that the windows are the only issue that he knows of with the building. Councilman Phillabaum asked if we could have the windows removed and look into other options for windows. Mayor Bailey said that they have been offered to several Jewish organizations and they don't want them due to the size, weight and the amount of work involved getting them out. Councilwoman Stevenson stated that no one wants the stained-glass windows. Borough Manager Lesko suggested asking the gentleman that is doing the stained glass for the gazebo if he would want the them. Councilman Davis suggested if no one wants them, then get rid of them put something in the window with a painting of the station 38 logo for the fire department.

Council President Ruskowski stated that we can hold a meeting with the Fire Department Board and discuss the future of the building. Mr. Harenchar said that he thought it was going to be torn down and then there was a new roof put on it.

- The street department has a trailer which will not hold the weight of the new equipment that we have gotten through our grant. They would like to get a new trailer to haul the excavator and skid steer. They received a quote for a trailer from Best Choice Trailers of Irwin, PA in the amount of \$7,000.00. They would do a trade for the trailer that we currently have in the amount of \$1,750.00. Smouse did not have this type of trailer and recommended this company. Councilman Barrick suggested not getting rid of the smaller trailer but we do need to look at getting a new trailer. Council agreed.
- Attended Medic 10 meeting.
- The Borough will be taking over the parking lots from the Mt. Pleasant Parking Authority beginning January 2024. Police Chief Grippo would like to set the fees for 2024 at the following:

Monthly fee: \$15.00

Annual fee if purchased in January: \$75.00  
After January, the annual fee would be: \$100.00

Police Chief Grippo stated that the permits will only be for businesses and once we have a feel for this, we can set new fees accordingly for 2025. They will get the permits from the Police department. Councilwoman Stevenson stated that we should go with these rates and if we need to adjust for next year we can. Councilwoman Lasko and Councilman Davis agreed. Councilman Barrick asked what if the business would like to buy a few spots for customers to park. Mayor Bailey asked how do we enforce that. How do you know that those people are customers of the business or someone is just parking there and going elsewhere.

Councilman Phillabaum stated that the Parking Authority rented the lot to the Mt. Pleasant Glass & Ethnic Festival and to the Business District Authority for the farmer's market. That will need to be discussed down the road also.

Council agreed to go with the rates that was proposed by Chief Grippo for the 2024 year.

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

Council President Ruszkowski gave the following report:

- Welcomed Councilman Davis. This is his first term. Council President Ruszkowski said that he can reach out to herself and/or Borough Manager Lesko with any questions.
- Looking forward to working with everyone this year.

#### **Property Report:**

Councilman Barrick gave the following report:

- The Borough building furnaces for the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor will need to be replaced.
- The Synagogue building will need to have the furnace replaced.
- The gazebo will need to have a new plan for repairs and modification since bids come in too high and were rejected.
- Chambers is currently being renovated.
- Police department will be extended and that area will be renovated.
- There will be electrical repairs needed at the gazebo and Veterans Park area.

#### **Streets / Stormwater Report:**

Councilman Phillabaum gave the following report:

- Crosswalks need to be touched up once the weather breaks and gets nice out. Mayor Bailey asked Councilman Phillabaum to have curbs, yellow lines painted. Councilman Phillabaum stated that they are on the list along with some handicap ones also. Mayor Bailey stated that there are handicap signs that can be removed on Washington Street and that Jeff McGuinness can check with Police Chief Grippo. Borough Manager Lesko said that it was discussed this at the Managers Meeting.
- Will be repairing the catch basin on College Avenue once the weather cooperates.
- Protocol for the street department to be called out for snow plowing after hours has been discussed and established with the Police Department. The Police will call County 911 after 3pm if the street department needs to be called out for weather. County 911 will contact Jeff McGuinness for dispatching.

## **Parks & Recreation:**

Councilwoman Lasko gave the following report:

- Will be ordering mid-month from Willy Goat a few pieces of playground equipment for Medic 10 Park, Satcho Park and Jack Bobbs Park. She is trying to time it so the equipment will come in 10-12 weeks around mid-March or April so the street department will not have to store the large pieces of equipment for very long. This is a project that has been worked on for 2 years and will be paid from the Capital Reserve WWT account as approved in the 2021 Capital Reserve Distribution Plan. The money that was reserved for this was \$80,000.00. The cost for the equipment that is being ordered is approximately \$22,000.00.
- Councilman Phillabaum asked if he is permitted to sell tickets for the dog park. Borough Manager Lesko stated that the dog park is Borough owned and that the dog park would follow suit similar to how Veterans Park is handled. We would create an account for the dog park for any funds that are for the dog park such as an example of selling plaques or bricks with pet's names on it, signage, etc. Councilman Barrick stated that he may be able to piggyback off of another group and partner with them under their 501(c)(3) for fundraising. Borough Manager Lesko asked shouldn't all of this be run through the Borough since it is Borough owned. Councilwoman Wojnar stated it would be similar to a citizen advisory board that have their own fundraisers that supports a Borough project.

Councilwoman Barnes discussed having bike rentals there also. Borough Manager Lesko stated that she believes that is a great idea. Borough Manager Lesko said that we need to get the grant first and get it developed before we move into too many other directions.

## **Public Safety Report:**

A Motion was made by Councilman Phillabaum to approve the purchase of security cameras from Armory Locksmiths in the amount of \$9,430.00. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Wojnar. Motion carried 9-0.

Borough Manager Lesko stated that this is phase 3 of 4 for the security cameras.

Councilman Phillabaum read the following Fire Report for the month of December 2023:

Total Calls – 37  
In Town – 6  
Out of Town - 31  
10-45's - 9  
Entrapments – 1  
Extrication - 1  
Fires - 11  
AFA's - 10  
Hazardous Calls – 3  
Public Service Calls – 0  
Ambulance Assistance – 2  
Standby's – 1  
Turnpike Calls – 2  
Landing Zones – 0  
Drills – 0  
Total Members Answering – 304  
Avg. Member Per Call – 8

Councilman Phillabaum read the following Fire Report for the year 2023:

Total Calls – 530  
In Town – 123

Out of Town - 407  
10-45's - 134  
Entrapments – 14  
Extrication - 1  
Fires - 135  
AFA's - 172  
Hazardous Calls – 37  
Public Service Calls – 26  
Ambulance Assist – 15  
Standby's – 5  
Turnpike Calls – 37  
Landing Zones – 7  
Drills – 1  
Aircraft Down – 1  
Total Members Answering – 5,565  
Avg. Member Per Call – 10  
Borough Fire Loss – McCali Manor - \$500,000.00

**Veterans Park:**

Councilwoman Barnes gave the following report:

- The committee will not meet until February 2024.
- They will be having an artist coming in March to discuss the painting on the wall.
- Will continue to follow up on the railing for Veterans Park.

Councilwoman Czekanski asked if anything has been done with the digital wall as far as the initials that was carved in the screen. Councilwoman Barnes said she has not looked into yet but will be doing that. Borough Manager Lesko stated that we purchased that touchscreen through ITS Enclosures. Councilwoman Barnes said she will reach out to them.

**Ordinances: None.**

**Human Resources:**

Councilwoman Czekanski gave the following report:

- Completed interviews. It is narrowed down to two (2) ladies and either one would be wonderful.

**Finance / Grants Report:**

A Motion was made by Councilwoman Stevenson to approve Resolution 2024-01 setting the 2024 Quarterly Contribution for Non-Uniform Pension at \$3.85 per hour. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Lasko. Motion carried 9-0.

A Motion was made by Councilwoman Stevenson to approve Resolution 2024-02 waiving the required Police Pension member contributions for calendar year 2024 only. Motion seconded by Councilman Phillabaum. Motion carried 9-0.

**New Business: None.**

**Reading of Communications: None.**

**Discussion and Payment of Bills:**

A Motion was made by Councilwoman Stevenson to pay all authorized and approved bills. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Czekanski. Motion carried 9-0.

**Public Comment: None.**

**Miscellaneous and Adjournment:**

A Motion was made by Councilman Phillabaum to adjourn the meeting. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Lasko. Motion carried 9-0.

**Meeting Adjourned 8:15pm.**

Respectfully Submitted,

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Sharon Lesko  
Borough Manager

BOROUGH OF MOUNT PLEASANT

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Susan Ruszkowski, Council President



### **Motions from Meeting of January 2, 2024**

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