

## Meeting February 7, 2022

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 and President Ruszkowski asked for a moment of silence for our deployed troops. President Ruszkowski asked Borough Manager Landy to take roll call. Councilpersons present included Barnes, Czekanski, Cholock, Phillabaum, Barrick, Lasko, Stevenson and Wojnar. Mayor Bailey and Solicitor Istik were present. President Ruszkowski stated that a quorum is present.

A Motion was made by Councilwoman Stevenson to approve the minutes of the reorganization of January 3, 2022, regular meeting of January 3, 2022 and meeting of January 24, 2022 since Council has been provided with a copy. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Lasko. Motion carried 9-0.

### Public Comment:

- Joseph Bauer, President of the Mount Pleasant Volunteer Fire Department, of N. Geary Street, Mount Pleasant, PA spoke to Council updating the status of the Fire Department. Received the air rigs. Will be in service by the April deadline. Thanked Council for helping with the cost of the air rigs. Grant was accepted. The grant was a regional grant that was placed with multiple fire companies. It will be used for new fire hoses, nozzles, a new gun for the top of fire engine 2 and 20 sets of gear. The gear has surpassed the ten (10) year lifeline. Spoke with their attorney and the 501(c)(3) is moving forward and hope to have it approved by May 2022. There is an annual hazmat 16-hour training scheduled next week. Mr. Bauer stated that there are approximately 30 active firemen, which includes active life members. The fire department will be enforcing the 200 hours of training for members. There are approximately 3 or 4 people signed up for firefighting 1 and firefighting 2 training, which can then qualify them as a paid fireman.

Borough Manager Landy asked Mr. Bauer about employees that work within the Borough can respond to fire calls and if there is a way to determine if that person is needed, as an example if it is a false alarm and they respond can they return to work immediately. Mr. Bauer stated that he knows of the situation Mr. Landy was referencing and yes, he was needed since he was the only driver for the fire truck available at that time. Mr. Bauer stated although they come in as a false alarm you still have to scan and do a sweep of the building. However, Mr. Bauer said that getting back to Mr. Landy's question, does he need to be there for an hour, probably not and in most cases the Assistant Chief or Captain can release them. Mr. Landy said maybe it is something to look at. Mr. Bauer said that the new air rigs that they got have thermal cameras on them and they can do the scan without having to send a camera in so they can get in and out faster and can get back to work. Mr. Bauer said that he and Mr. Brown, Assistant Fire Chief, can discuss it further.

Councilman Wojnar asked Mr. Bauer how the junior firemen program is. Mr. Bauer said that they have 5 or 6 junior firemen. Mr. Bauer said that there are a lot of regulations and requirements of what junior firefighters can and cannot do.

Mr. Bauer said that there is a fireman crisis across the state and the state will eventually have to do something to help it. Fire departments cannot survive on fish fry's and ticket sales alone with the trainings that they are requiring and the rising costs of everything at this point. They will be having their street fair ticket coming out in March. The Street Fair will be a three-day event again this year. They could not get a carnival. Councilman Phillabaum asked if they will be doing the cake stand this year. Mr. Bauer said that they will be having the cake stand.

Councilman Cholock reported that beginning this Saturday, February 5, 2022, and the 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday of every month thereafter, the fire department will be doing the emergency disaster siren test at 10:00am.

- Ryan Brown, Assistant Fire Chief of Mount Pleasant Volunteer Fire Department, thanked Council for helping with the cost of the air rigs and for Council's support.

Council thanked the Fire Department for all that they do.

**Speakers:     None.**

**Mayor's Report:**

Mayor Bailey read the Mount Pleasant Police Dept. Report for the month of December 2021:

The Department answered the following calls:

Incidents	146
Criminal Arrests	4
DUI Arrests	0
Parking Tickets Issued (Boro)	10
Traffic & Non-Traffic Citations	43
Assist Other Departments	7
Accidents Investigated	4

Income

Parking Tickets	\$114.00
Parking Meters	\$0.00
Fees for Police Reports	\$75.00
Clerk of Courts	\$39.21
District Court	\$868.07
Parking Permit	\$0.00
DUI Task Force Refund	\$0.00

Total Revenue \$1,096.28

Mayor Bailey read the 2021 Annual Police Report.

2021 Traffic Citations:

Expired Registration	128
Driving w/o a license	118
Driving w/suspended license	29
Driving w/no insurance	19
Failing to stop at stop signs/red lights	110
Speeding	35
Expired Inspection	58
Reckless/Careless driving	9
Permitting a violation	2
Accidents involving unattended property (leaving a scene)	2
Bald tires	1

2021 Non-Traffic Citations:

Unpaid parking tickets	30
Harassment	9
Disorderly Conduct	9
Public Drunkenness	10
Criminal Mischief	1

2021 Parking Tickets:

Meter Tickets	418
Parking Tickets	124
Ordinance Tickets	4

Mayor Bailey read the Mount Pleasant Police Dept. Report for the month of January 2022:

The Department answered the following calls:

Incidents	132
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Criminal Arrests	8
DUI Arrests	3
Parking Tickets Issued (Boro)	42
Special Details	0
Traffic & Non-Traffic Citations	48
Assist Other Departments	12
Accidents Investigated	6

Income

Parking Tickets	\$203.00
Parking Meters	\$0.00
Fees for Police Reports	\$150.00
Clerk of Courts	\$50.67
District Court	\$510.32
Parking Permit	\$0.00
DUI Task Force Refund	\$0.00

Total Revenue	\$913.99
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Mayor Bailey reported that she and Council President Ruszkowski were invited to the YMCA for a health equity tour vendor fair and to learn of the resources that are available in the area such as health insurance, drug abuse, injury prevention and rehabilitation, and inexpensive transportation along with several other topics. The YMCA is a hub for those resources.

**Solicitor's Report:**

Solicitor Istik stated that her report will be held in executive session.

**Tax Collector's Report: None.**

**Borough Manager's Report:**

Borough Manager Landy gave the following report:

- Had a few meetings with the street department after the snowfall.
- Met with Councilman Barrick to bring him up to speed with the Borough since he is new.
- Met with Mr. Sebek of the Mount Pleasant Parking Authority about how they were issuing parking meter tickets. The parking authority will be installing a box in front of the building for their parking meter tickets.
- Held a public safety meeting.
- Attended a Board meeting for the library.
- Received a call regarding workers comp. It will be going up approximately \$10,000.00. Will be scheduling a meeting with the insurance company to review the cost increase.
- Getting several requests for the bid packets for the electrical work at the Waterway Project. Bids are due March 7, 2022.
- Christmas lights, banners and bows need to be taken down since it is not snowing. Councilman Phillabaum will contact Jeff McGuinness at the street department.

**President's Report:**

A Motion was made by Councilwoman Stevenson to appoint Heidi Leeper and Kelly Carlson to the Mount Pleasant Business District Authority for a term of 2 years, expiring December 31,

2023, to fill the vacancies of Marquis Smith and Melissa Bando. Motion seconded by Councilman Phillabaum. Motion carried 9-0.

A Motion was made by Councilman Wojnar to authorize Borough Manager Jeff Landy to authorize employees to do work for any events, including nonprofit organization events, held within the Borough while not affecting the priority of Borough operations. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Lasko. Motion carried 8-1. Councilwoman Barnes voted no.

A Motion was made by Councilman Wojnar to hold an executive session. Motion seconded by Councilman Phillabaum. Motion carried 9-0.

A Motion was made by Councilwoman Lasko to reconvene. Motion seconded by Councilman Wojnar. Motion carried 9-0.

Council President Ruszkowski stated that the executive session was held from 7:28pm to 8:15pm to discuss personnel and legal.

### **Property Report:**

Councilman Barrick gave the following report:

- Spoke with Borough Manager Landy regarding the gazebo project, reviewed it and wants to be certain everyone is on board with what is to be done. Would like to have the project completed by mid-summer. Councilman Barrick stated that the only issue he saw with the project was the stone that was to be put at the top of the gazebo and suggested making it match the roof. Councilwoman Stevenson asked about the faux stained glass and what color would it be. Councilwoman Lasko and Mayor Bailey did not believe that the faux stained glass would look appropriate. Councilwoman Stevenson asked if the stained glass could be removed from the project. Borough Manager Landy asked if they have seen it and why would you remove it if you have not seen what it would look like. Borough Manager Landy asked them to at least try to envision the thought process behind the stain glass. First, Mt. Pleasant is a glass town and second when you put light in the ceiling and the stained glass goes to the ceiling it will light up. Councilwoman Lasko asked why not just put plain glass instead of the fake stained glass. Councilwoman Stevenson and Councilwoman Lasko would want to see the stained glass before it is agreed to install it. Councilman Cholock stated that this was all in the bid documents when it went out to bid and now, they want to bring it up again and start over. Borough Manager Landy stated that Council will have to decide if the property committee will make the decision or Council. Councilwoman Barnes asked if they do the stained glass can there be historical sites from the area on it. Councilwoman Stevenson stated that it will be very small to see since it is at the top of the gazebo and no one will know what it is. Council President Ruszkowski asked that the committee get together and come back with what they decide.

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

Councilman Phillabaum gave the following report:

- Will have the street department take down Christmas lights, bows and banners.
- Received a delivery of salt today
- Purchased better carbide tips for the plows and they are lasting longer than the steel ones.
- If anyone has any streets that they are interested in possibly being put on the list for paving, please let him know. Would like set up a meeting with the Street Committee, Mayor Bailey, Borough Manager Landy and all three (3) employees of the street department to be sure they are all on the same page. Borough

Manager Landy suggested 7:00am on Wednesday, February 9, 2022 at the maintenance shed.

Councilman Cholock asked who is calling the street department out when the roads are starting to get bad. Councilman Phillabaum stated that he had contacted Jeff McGuinness Friday evening around 8:00pm regarding the roads. Mr. McGuinness stated that he had not received a call from 911 to call him out. Councilman Phillabaum stated that he believed that the protocol had been discussed at a previous meeting with the street department and would like to know the chain of command as far as the street department being called out. Councilwoman Barnes stated that she had to call Jeff McGuinness one day last week about an incident on N. Church Street where a lady had slid down the hill and into a stop sign that flew into a neighbor's vehicle and others were having difficulty going up the hill on N. Church Street. Mr. McGuinness informed her that he would send someone out to salt and that he would get the sign on Monday. Councilwoman Barnes stated that they did put the sign back up with sand bags.

Mayor Bailey stated that the discussion was that Jeff McGuinness was responsible for calling out until 10:00pm and after that the police would contact 911 to contact Jeff McGuinness and he would dispatch the street department. Councilman Cholock asked who does their schedule through the week and what they are doing the last few days. Councilman Cholock said that he had many calls this last snow saying a lot of the streets were cleaned; however, there were many that were not. Borough Manager Landy stated that the schedule of cleaning the streets is done by the street department. Mayor Bailey said that they have been told and are aware that once the traffic lanes are cleared, they are to go back and clear to the curb. Mayor Bailey also said that the street department does have a priority list such as, Main Street Diamond Street, Church Street.

- Will need to order street paint

**Parks & Recreation:**           **None.**

**Public Safety Report:**

A Motion was made by Councilman Cholock to hire Manuel Hidalgo as a part-time Police Officer at the part-time training rate of \$12.50 and then to the part-time rate of \$16.50. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Lasko. Motion carried 9-0.

**Veterans Park:**

Councilwoman Barnes gave the following report:

- Has been trying to contact William Dunn with Spectrio (formerly Industry Weapons) regarding the digital wall. Will continue to try and contact him.

**Human Resources / Ordinances:**

Councilman Wojnar gave the following report:

- The Ordinance regarding Veteran's Park and the gazebo prohibiting skateboards, bikes, scooters, etc. has been advertised and will be on the next agenda for adopting.
- Need to codify the Ordinances which will cost approximately \$1350.00.

**Finance / Grants Report:**

A Motion was made by Councilwoman Stevenson to approve sending Councilman Phillabaum to the Annual PSAB Spring Conference in Hershey, PA, May 22, 2022 to May 25, 2022 at a cost not to exceed \$1,000.00 which includes registration (\$250.00), lodging (\$209.00 + 11% occupancy tax per night), fuel and turnpike tolls. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Lasko. Motion carried 9-0.

Councilwoman Czekanski would like to set up a meeting with Borough Manager Landy to get caught up with Borough happenings. Would like to attend the virtual Newly Elected Municipal Officials Boot Camp seminar on March 4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup>, 2022. Councilwoman Czekanski stated that she

has only been on Council for two (2) weeks and she has already received complaints about the parking meters that some work, some don't, and that some give different times such as 1 hour as opposed to 2 hours.

**New Business:**

**Reading of Communications:**

- Westmoreland County Redevelopment Authority and the Westmoreland County Landbank will be holding its First Annual Blight Remediation Summit Blight Boot Camp 2022 on Friday, April 22, 2022 at the WCCC Youngwood Campus.
- Westmoreland Conservation District will be holding its 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Municipal Roundtable on Friday, February 25, 2022 from 11:30am – 3:30pm at the Westmoreland Conservation District J. Roy Houston Conservation Center, 218 Donohoe Road, Greensburg, PA 15601
- Westmoreland County Boroughs Association will be holding its 70<sup>th</sup> Annual Banquet on Friday, April 29, 2022 in the Crystal Room at Ferrante's Lakeview, Greensburg PA. More information will follow.
- PSAB will hold its 110<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference 7 Exhibition on May 22 – 25, 2022.
- Councilman Barrick stated that he was contacted by Matthew Muir, Regional Field Director for Coalition Against Bigger Trucks. Mr. Muir is asking that the Borough send a letter to our State Representatives to prohibit truck sizes getting longer and hauling heavier weight. They would go from 53' to 63' and the tonnage would go from 80,000 to 100,000. Councilman Cholock stated he is aware of this due to the work he is in; and, that there is a shortage of drivers and manufacturers are looking to see how much more they can get in a truck. Councilman Cholock said that companies are going to support this in a huge way because an extra 10' on a truck that is 9' high is a lot of additional inventory.

**Discussion and Payment of Bills:**

A Motion was made by Councilwoman Lasko to pay all authorized and approved bills. Motion seconded by Councilman Wojnar. Motion carried 9-0.

**Public Comment: None.**

**Miscellaneous and Adjournment:**

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

**Meeting Adjourned 9:04pm.**

Respectfully Submitted,

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Jeffrey A. Landy,  
Borough Manager

BOROUGH OF MOUNT PLEASANT

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Susan Ruszkowski, Council President

## **Motions from Meeting of February 7, 2022**

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