

Meeting February 22, 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, and Stevenson. 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 February 7, 2022 since Council has been provided with a copy. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Czekanski. Motion carried 7-0.

Public Comment: None.

Speakers: None.

Mayors Report:

Mayor Bailey gave the following report:

- Attended a meeting at 7:00am with Borough Manager Landy, Councilman Phillabaum and Councilman Barrick at the Street Department with all of the street department employees to discuss the snowstorm and clean up.
- Laurelville Mennonite Camp had a fire and lost most of what they had in the maintenance building. Mayor Bailey and Borough Manager Landy reached out to Jeanette at Laurelville and offered help from the Borough. They thanked us for reaching out; however, at the moment they were in good shape with help and what they need.
- Met with a gentleman regarding water in a basement at a house on the corner of Church Street and Walnut. He asked if the Street Department could clean the catch basins there so they can determine where the water is coming from. The Street Department went and cleaned the catch basin and checked the stormwater lines and there were no problems detected with them.
- Attended the Safety Meeting on Tuesday, February 15, 2022.
- Began visiting the businesses in town. She visited Frock Day Care and there was a parking issue. Mayor Bailey, Police Chief Grippo and Borough Manager Landy visited the area. There were new No Parking signs installed and Police Chief Grippo will have his officers monitor the area. Once the weather breaks the Street Department will repaint yellow lines on the curbing there.
- Reviewed the parking area between Main Street and Smithfield Street on the right-hand side due to people parking on the grass area making it a muddy mess. Meters will be reinstalled that were removed from that area and there will be some curbing work done.
- Met with Police Chief Grippo and Sergeant Ferree regarding scheduling ideas. Councilman Cholock asked when the meeting was held. Mayor Bailey stated that it was held on Friday, February 18, 2022 and that Police Grippo asked her to meet. They also discussed commercial truck traffic. The Police Department will look into it and see what they can do about it.
- Attended a meeting with Borough Manager Landy and Borough Secretary Lesko with Dr. Esposito about being the medical examiner for the Borough regarding physicals and drug testing.
- At the request of Jeff McGuinness, Mayor Bailey tried to get through to 1-800-fix-road regarding Morewood Street and Diamond Street. They are state roads and the Borough

does not touch those. She finally got through to someone after several days and they stated that they would take care of it by the afternoon.

- Received several anonymous letters covering various subjects. Mayor Bailey announced that unless there is some sort of contact information in the letter there is nothing that they can do about them because she cannot respond to get additional information if needed; and, she cannot let the person know what is being done about it without being able to contact them. The letters are vague and usually does not give enough information to resolve the problem if there is one. One letter is regarding dead trees that property owners are to be responsible for and not maintaining. Mayor Bailey states that there is no way to know where the property is and the person writing the letter does not know if the Borough has done anything about it because you cannot address it with them since the letter is anonymous. They give no street address or any information. Mayor Bailey has received 5 letters since being appointed in January. Another letter states that there are people tapping into the water lines to get free water to use for their gardens and wash their vehicles. Once again, no address as to where this would be. The letters are very vague and the issues cannot be addressed. There was another letter regarding someone not paying for garbage and taking their garbage to someone else’s home. Mayor Bailey spoke saying to the anonymous person, we cannot respond to you because there is no contact information and the letters do not have enough information. Councilman Cholock stated that these letters are not worth addressing if they cannot provide the information. Mayor Bailey stated again that they cannot and will not address anonymous correspondence.

Solicitor’s Report:

Solicitor Istik gave the following report:

- The surveyor has been to the Bridgeport property regarding the subdivision. Once the survey has been completed and subdivided, they will be able to move forward with the bidding process. Council President Ruszkowski asked Solicitor Istik if she knew how long it will take to get the subdivision back. Solicitor Istik stated she would hope to have it within the next week or two.
- Councilman Phillabaum updated Council regarding the damaged wall from the tar and chip project last year at Jim Rega’s home on N. Church Street. Mr. Rega has finally gotten it resolved. He has received the payment from the Township’s insurance and the Township will be paying the remaining balance.

Treasurer’s Report:

Borough Manager Landy read the following Treasurer’s Report for the month of January 2022:

Mt. Pleasant Borough Treasurer's Report		Jan-22			Balance
		Prev Bal	Deposits	Disbursements	2022
General Fund Checking	Scottdale Bank 19069335	991,327.44	51,178.67	179,689.98	862,816.13
**Town Clock	619.92				
**Holiday Lighting	1812.51				
General Fund Budgetary Reserve	Standard Bank 321615	1,022,947.63	1,490.59	100,000.00	924,438.22
**Police	52,619.03				
**Streets	147,131.00				
**Contingency Fund	310,714.42				
**Infrastructure	181,588.62				
**BOMP Gas Wells	23,290.41				
** Frick Park Gas Well	21,918.32				
**Levins	970.06				
**Fire	48,900.00				
**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	27,347.76	114.69	572.08	26,890.37
Escrow Account	Scottdale Bank 19069343	4,402.89	0.93	0.00	4,403.82
Liquid Fuels / Scottdale Bank	Scottdale Bank 19123645	114,731.13	38.98	0.00	114,770.11
Monument CD	Standard Bank 446635	7,382.80	0.00	0.00	7,382.80
Payroll Fund	Scottdale Bank 19069350	2,782.82	70,468.66	44,219.36	29,032.12
Veterans Park Fund	Somerset Trust Co 2003058309	24,515.80	151.25	0.00	24,667.05
Storm Water Retrofit Phase II	Scottdale Bank 19069368	1,221.74	0.26	0.00	1,222.00
Turn Back Account	Scottdale Bank 19069384	24,854.23	5.28	0.00	24,859.51
ARPA Covid-19 (American Rescue Plan Act)	Scottdale Bank 19123652	221,330.79	75.19	0.00	221,405.98
Standard Bank CD	Standard Bank 432243	215,254.60	0.00	0.00	215,254.60
Standard Bank CD	Standard Bank 410571	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Scottdale/MidPenn CD (200yr Anniversary)	Scottdale Bank 318007294	52,396.87	0.00	0.00	52,396.87
Scottdale Bank /MidPenn CD	Scottdale Bank 318012650	53,527.71	0.00	0.00	53,527.71
Total General Fund Balance					2,563,067.29
Medic 10 Checking	Scottdale Bank 19069533	40,003.72	172,889.16	5,267.26	207,625.62
Medic 10 Savings	Scottdale Bank 19069723	50,816.36	10.79	0.00	50,827.15
Medic 10 Money Market	Scottdale Bank 19069376	6,016.68	1.28	0.00	6,017.96
Medic 10 Pittsburgh Foundation	Standard Bank 0000358253	8,478.94	0.00	0.00	8,478.94
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	0.00	0.00	5,269.88
Total Medic 10 Fund Balance					297,678.26
WWT Capital Reserve Account	Scottdale Bank - 19123702	904,926.70	191.82	7,837.50	897,281.02
Capital Reserve M. A. Account	Somerset Trust Co 2004129745	457,883.45	23.33	0.00	457,906.78
Oceanview Annuity CD	Scottdale Bank - MidPenn	3,007,516.44	0.00	0.00	3,007,516.44
Standard Bank CD WWT Cap.Resv	Standard Bank 464569	200,000.00	0.00	0.00	200,000.00
Athene Annuity CD (created Jan. 2021)	Somerset Trust	505,313.09	0.00	0.00	505,313.09
Standard Bank CD (Partial MAWC)	Standard Bank 446593	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Scottdale Bank /MidPenn CD (MAWC Final)	Scottdale Bank 318011768	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Total WWT Balance					5,068,017.33
Total Borough funds					7,928,762.88

Councilwoman Cynthia Stevenson / Secretary
Sharon Lesko

A Motion was made by Councilman Phillabaum to accept the January 2022 Treasurer's Report. Motion seconded by Councilman Barrick. Motion carried 7-0.

Borough Manager's Report:

Borough Manager Landy gave the following report:

- Met with Mayor Bailey as she previously discussed in her report above.

- Had Borough Secretary Sharon Lesko do the paperwork for the American Legion's Memorial Day Parade.
- Met with representatives from Scenic America, which is a national organization, regarding doing a Resolution making the road a scenic byway. According to them, once you get the designation of a scenic byway, they have funding that they can get to beautify Main Street and do projects for Main Street. They stated that there are other communities doing this and it helps with tourism. Borough Manager Landy believes that this is something that we should do.
- Auditors were in for one day. They believe that they do not have to come back in and have all that they need. If there is something that they need they should be able to do it via email.
- Met with Ben Higbee with Higbee Insurance regarding the Borough's workers comp insurance. The increase is due to state laws that have passed regarding the fire department. The Borough is required to cover the Fire Department. Workers Comp went up approximately \$7,500.00 mostly due to how they do their automatic ratings. Next years workers comp figures will be the reflection on our past fire chief, who passed away in the line of duty. Borough Manager Landy proposes that every year in March, he transfers what he looks at as profit from the general fund from the previous year to set aside for workers comp in the event the firemen would have more claims, those claims are big. Based on the information that we received, the Borough should start putting money away to secure that we are not stuck in the future and are trying to figure out how you are going to pay for the increased workers comp. Borough Manager Landy stated that we will have a line item for it in the Budgetary Reserve.
- Attended a Medic 10 meeting.
- Attended a meeting with the Planning Department of the County regarding blighted property on Shupe Street. They will give the money to have them torn down. They are also going to take care of tearing down the building at the former Morris Barron car lot. Also met with the Redevelopment Authority and met with the Westmoreland Trust. Discussed getting a grant for the portable buildings/sheds to have a small shops or market in them. They will be on the former Arevalo property on the East Main Street. The building is approximately 20 x 20 or 20 x 30 and there would be 4 of them. It will be called East End Marketplace.

President's Report:

Council President Ruszkowski gave the following report:

- Asked Council if they are having any committee meetings to please inform her and provide her with an update.

Property / Grants:

Councilman Barrick gave the following report:

- Met with Councilwoman Stevenson at the gazebo to discuss the gazebo renovation project.

Streets / Stormwater:

Councilman Phillabaum gave the following report:

- Had a meeting with Borough Manager Landy, Mayor Bailey, Councilman Barrick and the employees of the Street Department regarding the snowstorm to discuss their suggestions and input.
- Replaced the man door on the garage.

- Received a letter from a resident regarding a retaining wall that is next to an alley and is leaning toward their property. The property owner wants the Borough to fix the wall. The Borough did not build the wall and is not on Borough property. Solicitor Istik stated that the letter states it is on a paper alley. Mayor Bailey said it is not a paper alley and that it is a regular alley and is traveled consistently and our street department plows and maintains it. Mayor Bailey believes that Mario Fontanazza, former Street Department Supervisor, said that the property owner's family had built the retaining wall many years ago. Borough Manager Landy stated that former Mayor Lucia also stated that the Borough did not build the retaining wall. Solicitor Istik asked if the Borough has done any damage to the wall such as hitting it. Borough Manager Landy said no there has never been any report as to any damage to it. Solicitor Istik stated that at this point she does not believe that this is the Boroughs problem to fix and she will respond to the letter.

A Motion was made by Councilman Phillabaum to install four (4) parking meters on North Diamond Street from Main Street to Smithfield Street. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Stevenson. Motion carried 6-1. Councilman Cholock voted no.

Mayor Bailey stated that there will be 2 parking meters beginning on the corner of North Diamond Street, next to the side of McCali Manor, from Main Street, with the remaining being painted yellow to the alley and then 2 parking meters after the alley and then the line painted yellow to Smithfield Street.

Councilman Cholock asked if all of the meters on Main Street are in working order and if they are not, why are we installing working ones in places that do not have meters now. Borough Manager Landy stated that he believes that this is two separate issues. Councilman Cholock disagreed and said that the working meters should be used to replace the nonworking meters. Borough Manager Landy stated that we have additional meters and that the nonworking meters need to be repaired. Councilman Cholock asked who is doing the repairs. Borough Manager Landy stated that currently it is Police Chief Grippo and Jeff McGuinness from the Street Department. Councilman Cholock wanted to know when they repairs will be done. Borough Manager Landy and Mayor Bailey stated Police Chief Grippo and Jeff McGuinness said that the repairs would be done the following week. Councilman Cholock stated that there is nothing done about a car that is covered and parked on Main Street for weeks; but we will add meters where a resident possibly parks at and will now have to pay. Councilwoman Stevenson agreed with Borough Manager Landy that she believes it is 2 separate issues. Councilman Cholock stated that there are meters on Main Street that you can pick and choose where to park so they don't have to pay because the meter doesn't work, and others park and get a ticket because they didn't plug the meter. Councilman Barrick stated that in the parking lot at the east end of town, it is a \$10.00 ticket if you do not plug the meter. Councilman Cholock stated we need to fix what we have now. Mayor Bailey stated that the Police Department and the Street Department are going to work at getting all of the meters in working order. Councilman Cholock stated that they were to be repaired last year and it did not happen. Mayor Bailey stated she will take responsibility for it and speak with the Police Department and Street Department on a regular basis to be sure it is being taken care of. Councilman Barrick asked about going to a meter box like Pittsburgh has. Councilman Cholock stated it was very expensive like \$25,000.00 - \$30,000.00 and that we would need at least 4 of them. Councilman Barrick stated it was a one-time purchase and that they would be able to use an app on their phone to pay. Borough Manager Landy stated that from 9:00am – 5:00pm eighty (80%) percent of the people in town are senior citizens that do not have a smart phone; and, after 5:00pm it is free parking on the street. Parking lots that are required to pay 24/7. Borough Manager Landy stated that the money that was given to the Borough by the Redevelopment Authority to build Penn Park was based on the parking lot being for visitors to Penn Park only. Borough Manager Landy said that there is a sign stipulating that it is to be used for Penn Park visitors. Councilwoman Czekanski stated that she received a ticket there at 10:00pm and the cost was \$10.00. Borough Manager Landy stated that it costs 25cents to park. Councilwoman Czekanski stated that there was no consistency as to getting ticketed. Borough Manager Landy said when you get away with not plugging a meter you should consider yourself lucky.

A Motion was made by Councilman Phillabaum to authorize Council President to execute the Road/Sidewalk Repair Agreement between the Borough of Mount Pleasant and Robert and

Nicole Karfelt upon receiving Karfelt signatures. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Barnes. Motion carried 7-0.

Parks and Recreation: None.

Public Safety Report:

A Motion was made by Councilman Cholock to authorize Borough Manager Landy to place the 2016 Ford Explorer Police Interceptor with a reserve bid of \$11,000.00 and the 2008 K-9 Jeep with a reserve bid of \$5,000.00 for sale on Municibid. The money will be used to offset part of the purchase of the 2021 Ford Explorer Police Interceptor. Motion seconded by Councilman Phillabaum. Motion carried 7-0.

Councilman Cholock reported that Medic 10 will now be running two (2) crews and are currently working on another contract with another facility.

Veterans Park:

Councilwoman Barnes gave the following report:

- Has not heard from Spectrio / Industry Weapons for some time now. Councilwoman Barnes attempted to contact them every day for one week and finally heard back from William Dunn. Borough Manager Landy stated that this company has failed the Borough as far as he was concerned. They asked for an email stating what the Borough wanted so they can approach their director and get answers for us as to when they can get started on updating the digital wall. An email was sent to them as they requested. Councilwoman Barnes stated that they are setting up a conference call every Tuesday at 3:00pm with her and Borough Manager Landy to keep the Borough updated. Councilwoman Barnes stated that William Dunn is no longer in charge of this and it will be going back to Greg Crossey again.

Councilman Cholock asked why this matter is not handed over to Solicitor Istik to handle this. Councilwoman Barnes stated that they are moving on it now and that we will see if they follow through. Councilman Barrick stated that maybe the solicitor should send a letter. Borough Manager Landy stated he does not want the progress to get halted; however, if it stops again, then the solicitor should send a letter. Councilman Cholock stated that as long as he has been here the digital wall has never worked properly and for Councilwoman Barnes to continuously have to bring this up is a waste of time for a good councilperson.

Councilwoman Barnes stated that Rocky Anderson from the Street Department has been doing the reset when the digital wall goes down. Councilman Cholock stated that the digital wall was not put in there to have our street department go there continuously to reset it.

Human Resources / Ordinances:

A Motion was made by Councilwoman Czekanski to adopt Ordinance No. 622 Amending Chapter 16 Parks & Recreation adding section 16-120 Regulations for Veteran's Park/Gazebo Parklet, regarding prohibited uses. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Stevenson. Motion carried 7-0.

Borough Manager Landy stated that we need to codify our Ordinances; however, he would like to adopt any Ordinances before this is done and that Council should work on the Ordinances that have been previously discussed so they can be all added at the same time.

Finance Report:

A Motion was made by Councilwoman Stevenson to ratify the Worker's Comp Renewal Proposal with Higbee Insurance for the year beginning March 1, 2022 through March 1, 2023 in the amount of \$57,035.00. Previous year quote was \$53,953.00. Motion seconded by Councilman Cholock. Motion carried 7-0.

New Business:

Councilman Phillabaum reported that the Community Yard Sale will be held on Friday, May 6, 2022 and Saturday, May 7, 2022 from 8:00am to 3:00pm. Maps will be available on Friday, May 6, 2022 and Saturday, May 7, 2022 at the Mount Pleasant Historical Society.

Councilman Barrick sent a draft letter out to Council to send to legislation and PSAB to opposing allowing trucks to haul larger trailers.

Reading of Communications:

- PSAB 110th Annual Conference will be held on May 22 – 25, 2022 at Hershey Lodge.
- Westmoreland County Boroughs Association will be holding its annual banquet on Friday, April 29, 2022 in the Crystal Room, Ferrantes Lakeview, 6153 Route 30, Greensburg, PA. Cost is \$25.00 per person. Cash bar opens at 5:45pm with dinner at 6:45pm. Reservations due by April 18, 2022.
- DAR Braddock Trail Chapter is requesting a basket for their annual Basket Bazaar being held on May 7, 2022 at the Kecksburg VFD Firehall 5128 Water Street in Kecksburg, PA. Doors open 12:30pm. Admission is \$15.00. Baskets are due by April 20, 2022 and delivered to Samuel Warden Mansion 200 S. Church St. Mt. Pleasant.
- PSAB will hold an online 2-part series seminar on The Ethics Act for Elected and Appointed Officials Online Learning Series on March 10 & 17, 2022. Time is from 5:30pm to 7:00pm. Member rate is \$50.00.
- The Pittsburgh Foundation will deposit the annual interest in the amount of \$943.78 in the Medic 10 Gazebo Account.

Discussion and Payment of Bills:

A Motion was made by Councilman Cholock to pay all authorized and approved bills. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Stevenson. Motion carried 7-0.

Public Comment: None.

Miscellaneous and Adjournment:

A Motion was made by Councilman Cholock to adjourn the meeting. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Stevenson. Motion carried 7-0.

Meeting Adjourned 8:34pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jeffrey A. Landy,
Borough Manager

BOROUGH OF MOUNT PLEASANT

Susan Ruszkowski, Council President

Motions from Meeting February 22, 2022

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