

March 1, 2021

The meeting of Mount Pleasant Borough Council was called to order by President Caruso 7:00pm in Council Chambers at 1 Etze Avenue, Mount Pleasant, PA 15666. The Pledge of Allegiance was said and President Caruso asked for a moment of silence for the anniversary of Pearl Harbor Day and our deployed troops. President Caruso asked Borough Manager Landy to take roll call. Councilpersons present included Barnes, Bailey, Cholock, Phillabaum, Smetak, Lasko, Ruszkowski and Wojnar. Solicitor Istik was present. President Caruso stated that a quorum is present. Mayor Lucia arrived at 7:34pm.

A Motion was made by Councilwoman Ruszkowski to approve the minutes of February 1, 2021 since Council has been provided with a copy. Motion seconded by Councilman Cholock. Motion carried 9-0.

Public Comment:

- Richard Cholock of 308 N. Church Street, Mount Pleasant spoke to Council regarding a donation/sponsorship to Hecla Sportsmen’s for their Youth Fishing Rodeo. Mr. Cholock stated that there is approximately 150 – 200 kids in the area that is involved. The donations go towards the stocking of fish, prizes for the event and restocking the fish after the event. There are 3 tiers of donation, \$300.00; \$200.00; and \$100.00.

Speakers: None.

Mayor’s Report:

Mayor Lucia read the Mount Pleasant Police Dept. Report for the month of February 2021:

The Department answered the following calls:

Incidents	129
Criminal Arrests	5
DUI Arrests	2
Parking Tickets Issued Boro	11
Traffic & Non-Traffic Citations	36
Assist Other Departments	14
Accidents Investigated	5

Income

Parking Meters	\$319.00
Parking Tickets	\$0.00
Parking Permits	\$10.00
Clerk of Courts	\$71.36
Restitution to Police Department	\$0.00
Fees for Police Reports	\$180.00
District Court	\$265.57
Task Force Refund	\$0.00

Total Revenue \$850.93

Mayor Lucia gave the following report:

- Levins is coming back to town. Mayor Lucia and Borough Manager Landy met with Robert Levin approximately one month ago. Mayor Lucia would like to have a parade welcoming them back and encourage residents to come out. The parade would run from Eagle Street to the store. Mayor Lucia stated it is the anchor store of the town and it would good for the store and the Borough. The store will be opening on Monday, April 12, 2021.
- Mayor Lucia stated he was busy with Covid shots. Dr. Esposito distributed 100 shots. It was held at the fire department.

Solicitor's Report:

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

Treasurer's Report:

Borough Manager Landy read the following Treasurer's Report for the month of January 2021:

Mt. Pleasant Borough Treasurer's Report		Jan-21			Balance
		Prev Bal	Deposits	Disbursements	2021
General Fund Checking	Scottdale Bank 19069335	984,260.59	15,080.81	73,813.25	925,528.15
**Town Clock	619.92				
**Holiday Lighting	1812.51				
General Fund Budgetary Reserve	Standard Bank 321615	932,252.43	150.45	0.00	932,402.88
**Police	47,619.03				
**Streets	107,131.00				
**Contingency Fund	288,387.25				
**Infrastructure	171,588.62				
**BOMP Gas Wells	22,462.69				
** Frick Park Gas Well	23,929.00				
**Levins	970.06				
**Fire	35,000.00				
**K-9	13,828.76				
**Medic 10	200,000.00				
**Marcellus Impact Fee					
Act 13	21,486.47				
Police Parking Tickets & Meters	Scottdale Bank 1026616	24,876.97	0.77	572.08	24,305.66
Escrow Account	Scottdale Bank 19069343	8,381.79	2.66	0.00	8,384.45
Liquid Fuels PLGIT	PLGIT 56980126	137,072.47	1.57	0.00	137,074.04
Monument CD	Standard Bank 446635	7,382.80	0.00	0.00	7,382.80
Payroll Fund	Scottdale Bank 19069350	945.39	46,334.78	46,348.76	931.41
Veterans Park Fund	Somerset Trust Co 2003058309	22,248.63	1.13	0.00	22,249.76
Storm Water Retrofit Phase II	Scottdale Bank 19069368	1,217.25	0.39	0.00	1,217.64
Turn Back Account	Scottdale Bank 19069384	29,975.46	9.53	0.00	29,984.99
Standard Bank CD	Standard Bank 432243	215,254.60	0.00	0.00	215,254.60
Standard Bank CD	Standard Bank 410571	53,320.84	0.00	0.00	53,320.84
Scottdale Bank /MidPenn CD	Scottdale Bank 318007294	52,396.87	0.00	0.00	52,396.87
Total General Fund Balance					2,410,434.09
Medic 10 Checking	Scottdale Bank 19069533	86,675.31	49,552.46	3,380.78	132,846.99
Medic 10 Savings	Scottdale Bank 19069723	125,834.69	1,040.28	0.00	126,874.97
Medic 10 Money Market	Scottdale Bank 19069376	5,994.51	1.91	0.00	5,996.42
Medic 10 Pittsburgh Foundation	Standard Bank 0000358253	7,550.55	0.00	0.00	7,550.55
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					297,997.52
WWT Capital Reserve Account	Standard Bank 0010175932	928,976.62	315.37	997.17	928,294.82
Capital Reserve M. A. Account	Somerset Trust Co 2004129745	950,072.93	38.55	500,000.00	450,111.48
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

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					4,585,922.74
Total Borough funds					7,294,354.35

Councilwoman Susan Ruszkowski / Secretary
Sharon Lesko

A Motion was made by Councilwoman Bailey to accept the January 2021 Treasurer’s Report as read. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Lasko. Motion carried 9-0.

Councilwoman Barnes asked about broken parking meters and if they are going to be fixed or replaced. Council President Caruso stated that he did not know and that Councilwoman Barnes should check with Police Chief Grippo. Borough Manager Landy stated that he believes that Chief Grippo does have a plan regarding the meters; however, the weather had inhibited them from going out. Officer Ferree stated that they do have the replacement meters; however, the weather has been a big factor. Borough Manager Landy stated that the problem will be the certification. Councilman Phillabaum stated that he believes that the gentleman’s son that the meters were purchased from is certified to do the certification. Councilwoman Barnes asked Officer Ferree if she plugs a meter and it does not register, do they still get a ticket for not having time on the meter. Officer Ferree stated that they monitor the broken ones and they do not ticket anyone for them not working.

Tax Collector’s Report:

Borough Manager Landy gave the following report:

- Carol Yancosky, Tax Collector, would like to encourage all residents to mail their taxes instead of paying in person.

Borough Manager’s Report:

Borough Manager gave the following report:

- There are a lot of grants becoming available. There are approximately 3 – 4 available.
- The 2 dump trucks are being put up for sale. Borough Manager Landy stated that he signed up for Municibid, where you can put the trucks on the site for bidding.
- Had a meeting with the County regarding the Levin property on Bridgeport Street. Looking at it being turned into flexible warehouses and business. They will be getting back to us with a cost to put in utilities. Borough Manager said that Council needs to decide if they want to move forward with this project or if they only want utilities put in and let it sit for a while. Councilwoman Bailey stated that the Borough should not expend monies for utilities and then let it set. Borough Manager Landy reiterated that the County wants to do the flex warehouses and businesses and wants to be certain that is what Council wants to do with the property. Councilwoman Bailey wants to know if this is our only option. Borough Manager Landy said to take time and think about it. They will be getting back to the Borough with a cost. Councilman Phillabaum asked if there was any other interest in it. Borough Manager Landy said that there was nothing other than him going out and marketing it. He did go to Hell Town Brewery and thought he was going to buy it; however, he ended up buying property in Export, PA.
- Had bid openings for the VFD Fire Apron Rehabilitation Project and the 2021 Street Paving Project.
- Auditors are in working on the annual audit.
- Attended Board meeting at the Library and a Board meeting with Medic 10.

- Received a request from Levins to park 3 tractor trailers at the Street Dept property when they receive their new furniture. They want to block off a portion of Main Street where the parking stalls are at for 6 days to unload the trucks. It will begin on March 15, 2021. Council agreed and said welcome back.
- Bill Whetzel from K2 Engineering will be leaving them and going to the City of Jeannette. We will have a new building inspector assigned to us by K2 Engineering.
- Councilman Smetak sent information from a company that can build the building at the Street Department. It should be reviewed by the property committee and the street department committee.
- Medic 10 received their interest donation for the gazebo fund from Pittsburgh Foundation.
- Received final report from Berkheimer. The Borough was down approximately \$11,000.00.

President's Report:

A Motion was made by Councilwoman Ruszkowski to hold an Executive Session. Motion seconded by Councilman Cholock. Motion carried 9-0.

A Motion was made by Councilman Cholock to reconvene. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Bailey. Motion carried 9-0.

Council President Caruso announced that the Executive Session was held from 7:20pm – 7:55pm to discuss personnel issues.

Property Report:

Councilman Smetak gave the following report:

- They have been meeting regarding repairing the gazebo. There will need to be some of the metal flashing removed from the gazebo to determine if there is any rotting. They will be meeting with two (2) engineering firms to get a professional opinion before proceeding any further. Gibson Thomas Engineering will be at the gazebo on Thursday at 9:30am. Councilman Smetak stated that at least 2 of the columns should be pulled back to check for rotting while the Engineers are there to see it.
- Received some quotes for a building that he is going to have built. There is a company out of Ohio that builds pole buildings in this area. The quotes that he received on his building was one of the best he has ever seen; however, the quote did not include concrete or electrical. Councilman Smetak believes that they may be able to give a quote on the new building at the street department.

Councilman Smetak reported that they had received 6 bids for the VFD Apron Rehabilitation Project with El Grande Industries being the lowest bidder at \$76,743.00 and the highest bid coming in at \$170,038.00.

A Motion was made by Councilman Smetak to award bid to El Grande Industries, Inc. in the amount of \$76,743.00 for the VFD Apron Rehabilitation Project. CDBG will pay \$70,000.00 and remaining balance will be paid from Budgetary Reserve – Fire. Motion was seconded by Councilwoman Bailey. Motion carried 9-0.

Stormwater/ MS4 Report:

Councilman Phillabaum gave the following report:

- Received an email from Michelle Cannone and Doug Siler regarding rescheduling the MS4 meeting. Councilman Phillabaum stated to Borough Manager Landy that as long as he has a bit of a notice as to the date, he will be certain to be available for the meeting.

Streets Report:

Councilwoman Bailey reported that they had received 8 bids for the 2021 Street Paving Project with Tresco Paving being the lowest bidder at \$93,277.20 and the highest bid coming in at \$346,433.12.

A Motion was made by Councilwoman Bailey to award bid to Tresco Paving in the amount of \$93,277.20 for the 2021 Street Paving Project which will be paid from the Liquid Fuels account. Motion seconded by Councilman Cholock. Motion carried 9-0.

Councilwoman Bailey gave the following report:

- Councilwoman Bailey received a phone call approximately 2 weeks ago from Mr. and Mrs. McCune regarding their wall. They are concerned that the wall needs to be repaired by the Borough because they feel the alley is causing their problems with the wall. Councilwoman Bailey and the Street Department have looked at the wall. Mayor Lucia and Councilman Wojnar stated that they have seen it. Councilwoman Bailey stated she does not believe that the alley is causing their problem. The McCune's would like the Borough to call in an engineer to look at the wall because they feel that the Borough built the wall approximately 40 years ago. Councilman Wojnar stated that the indication that they gave him was that it is their wall and they had it repaired in the last 10 years and that they aren't worried about the wall. It was that they are worried about the street itself collapsing. Councilwoman Bailey stated that she was led to believe that the wall was falling in and that the wall was constructed by the Borough. Councilwoman Bailey stated that she may have misunderstood. Councilman Wojnar stated that he may have misunderstood and that she may want to get clarification from the McCunes. Councilwoman Bailey stated that Mr. McCune wants them to call in an engineer and she informed him that she could not do that without bringing it to Council due to engineering costs. Council President Caruso stated that if Mr. McCune wanted to get an engineer, he could do that. It would be his right to do so. Councilwoman Bailey stated that it is the alley between Spring Street and Washington Street. Council believes that it is the homeowners responsibility. Councilwoman Bailey stated that she can call them and let them know what Council's decision is and that it is their responsibility.

Parks & Recreation:

Councilwoman Lasko gave the following report:

- Everyone has a picture of a new piece of playground equipment. It is a freestanding unit that can be moved from park to park. The home base for the equipment will be at Frick Park on this side of the fencing and the gas well in the grassy area. It can be relocated and do a tour to be at each of the parks for a time. Councilwoman Barnes asked if it will be landscaped to stay at Frick Park. Borough Manager Landy stated that they will not if they are going to move it from park to park. Councilman Cholock asked if we need to put safe ground underneath it. Borough Manager Landy stated no, not by law in Pennsylvania. Councilman Wojnar asked if we have the capability in house to move it from park to park. Borough Manager Landy stated it would need to be disassembled to be moved. Councilwoman Barnes asked where it is coming from. Councilwoman Lasko stated it is coming from Cal Cooper of Design Systems and the manufacturer is Kidstale. Borough Manager Landy said that the equipment is being shipped from Alabama.

A Motion was made by Councilwoman Lasko to purchase a Freestanding play structure in the amount of \$4,200.00 (\$3,000.00 structure and \$1,200.00 freight) from the Frick Park Gas Well Reserve monies. Motion seconded by Councilman Cholock. Motion carried 8-0. Councilwoman Barnes abstained from voting.

A Motion was made by Councilwoman Lasko to allow Westmoreland Drug & Alcohol Commission, Inc. to use Frick Park for the National Night Out Program on Tuesday August 3, 2021 from 5:30pm – 8:00pm with a rain date of Thursday, August 5, 2021. Motion seconded by Councilman Cholock. Motion carried 9-0.

Public Safety Report: None.

Veterans Park Report:

Councilwoman Barnes gave the following report:

- Councilwoman Barnes spoke with Councilwoman Bailey regarding Mr. Roger Uhlerly helping with the digital wall. He has been busy. Councilwoman Bailey stated that she spoke with Mr. Uhlerly. He is the tech person at the school district. He said that he would help the Borough; however, he is tied up at the moment with the computer and technical information going on with the home schooling. Also, the weather has not been good. Councilwoman Bailey stated that she would reach out to him at the end of March or beginning of April.

Human Resources/Ordinances Report:

Councilman Wojnar stated that once the school begins back with a normal schedule, he will be reaching out to Principal Gumbita regarding trying to get the Junior Council program started.

Councilman Wojnar asked if we are still getting the Officer certified for truck inspections. Councilman Cholock stated that they have tried; but the class is full.

Finance / Grants Report:

A Motion was made by Councilwoman Ruskowski to ratify the Agreement with Higbee Insurance retroactive to February 23, 2021 for the 2021 – 2022 Worker’s Compensation & Municipal Liability Insurance at a cost of \$53,953.00. Previous year cost was \$51,042.00. Motion seconded by Councilman Cholock. Motion carried 9-0.

A Motion was made by Councilwoman Ruskowski to transfer \$75,000.00 from General Fund to the following Budgetary Reserve Line Items: Police - \$5,000.00; Streets - \$40,000.00; Contingency - \$20,000.00; and Infrastructure - \$10,000.00. Motion seconded by Councilman Cholock. Motion carried 9-0.

A Motion was made by Councilwoman Ruskowski to approve the Stipulation of Settlement regarding Mr. and Mrs. Vorum’s property located at Tax Map ID No. 21-01-14-0-012 resulting in the 2020 Tax Assessment of \$8,060.00 and 2021 Tax Assessment of \$7,330.00. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Lasko. Motion carried 9-0.

A Motion was made by Councilwoman Ruskowski to approve the Stipulation of Settlement regarding Mr. and Mrs. Vorum’s property located at Tax Map ID No. 21-01-14-0-013 resulting in the 2020 Tax Assessment of \$23,610.00 and 2021 Tax Assessment of \$21,480.00. Motion seconded by Councilman Cholock. Motion carried 9-0.

New Business:

- Public Works Department has done in the month of February:
 - Snow and salt removal.
 - Checked all areas each morning.
 - Done some repairs in the Borough Building
 - Done some work in the Police Station

Reading of Communications:

- Received a letter from Armstrong. They are raising their rates.

Discussion and Payment of Bills:

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

Public Comment: None.

Miscellaneous and Adjournment:

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

Meeting Adjourned 8:40PM.

Respectfully Submitted

Jeffrey A. Landy,
Borough Manager

BOROUGH OF MOUNT PLEASANT

John H. Caruso, Jr., Council President

Motions from Meeting of March 1, 2021

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