

## Meeting March 21, 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 world peace. President Ruszkowski asked Borough Manager Landy to take roll call. Councilpersons present included Barnes, Czekanski, 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 March 7, 2022 since Council has been provided with a copy. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Lasko. Motion carried 8-0.

### Public Comment:

- Joseph Bauer, President of the Mount Pleasant Volunteer Fire Department, of N. Geary Street, Mount Pleasant, PA gave the following report for the Mount Pleasant Volunteer Fire Department:
  - Firemen's Fair will be a 3-day event, Thursday – Saturday, June 23, 24, and 25. The parade will be held on Friday, June 24<sup>th</sup>. Requests Smithfield Street to be closed from Church Street to Diamond Street during this time. There will be a car show in the parking lot on the 25<sup>th</sup>. They will be contacting the Parking Authority about using the parking lots.
  - Plans are being made and the Fire Department will be holding a touch-a-truck event for kids to see the equipment. They will also use it for recruitment. Mr. Bauer stated that once they send the younger ones for training, they end up leaving for a paid firefighter job. Borough Manager Landy asked if the Fire Department has to pay for this training. Mr. Bauer said that they do. They have tried to make a requirement that they must stay for one (1) year after the training. All Fire Departments are having recruitment issues and the numbers are down everywhere throughout the state.
  - Engine 4, mini pumper has heavy hand tools on it. They have received a grant in the amount of \$15,000.00 and will be buying a battery-operated tool for it. The tool is a spreader and will cost approximately \$14,000.00. They are also looking at cutters which will cost an additional \$11,000.00. Mr. Bauer spoke with a local bank who will possibly sponsor the monies for the cutter. The VFD would like to have both tools since the spreader is really no use without the cutter. Mr. Bauer asked Council if he cannot get the balance of the money from the bank, could he get it from the money the Borough has set aside for the fire department.
  - Mr. Bauer suggested to Council to not change any of the Ordinances regarding the fire department, such as Fire Chief and Assistant Fire Chief reside within the Borough. He believes it is important that they reside here in the Borough.
  - Jerry Lucia has been honored at the state level for his line of duty death. They would like the VFD to send an honor guard in October. They do not have the uniforms. They cost approximately \$400.00. Anyone that wants to get one is going to do a lease to own and purchase it themselves.
  - Held a successful gun bash last weekend. They will be holding a cash bash / purse bash in the fall.
  - They have approximately 2000 tickets left that will go off July 7, 8, 9, 2022 if anyone is interested in selling or buying any.

- Excelsa Frick, Harmon House, nursing homes, and schools have been put on the high risk as 1<sup>st</sup> alarm calls and will automatically call the neighboring company for assistance. They will not wait until they get there to see if they need another company for assistance. Mr. Bauer stated that there is a procedure that needs to be done to set this. The Department must approve it, then Council, then it goes to 911 for the activation.

**Speakers: None.**

**Mayors Report:**

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

The Department answered the following calls:

Incidents	114
Criminal Arrests	5
DUI Arrests	2
Parking Tickets Issued (Boro)	21
Traffic & Non-Traffic Citations	31
Assist Other Departments (Police, Fire, EMS)	6
Accidents Investigated	5

Income

Parking Tickets	\$235.00
Parking Meters	\$534.08
Fees for Police Reports	\$115.00
Clerk of Courts	\$615.42
District Court	\$586.76
Parking Permit	\$60.00
DUI Task Force Refund	\$0.00

Total Revenue	\$2,171.26
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Mayor Bailey gave the following report:

- Attended a planning meeting for National Night Out for August 9, 2022.
- Met with Mount Pleasant Parking Authority for their annual meeting on March 10, 2022. They elected Leo Wisniewski as President. James Sebek held that position for several years and asked for someone else to hold it now.
- Took part in the public safety meeting at the Borough Building.
- Attended a Business District Authority meeting.
- Attended the Medic 10 meeting.
- Mayor Bailey and Council President Ruszkowski were guests on the Jeff & Jerry Show.
- Visited a few more businesses in town to make herself familiar and the business can put a face to the name.
- Received a phone call from Frank Puskar, Mount Pleasant Township Supervisor, asking to split the \$500.00 deductible that is due to Mr. Rega for the damage to his wall last year during the tar & chipping.

**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 February 2022:

<b>Mt. Pleasant Borough Treasurer's Report</b>		<b>Feb-22</b>			<b>Balance</b>
		<b>Prev Bal</b>	<b>Deposits</b>	<b>Disbursements</b>	<b>2022</b>
General Fund Checking	Scottdale Bank 19069335	862,816.13	99,322.13	90,777.12	871,361.14
**Town Clock	619.92				
**Holiday Lighting	1812.51				
General Fund Budgetary Reserve	Standard Bank 321615	924,438.22	134.75	0.00	924,572.97
**Police	52,619.03				
**Streets	147,131.00				
**Contingency Fund	310,849.17				
**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	26,890.37	203.61	572.08	26,521.90
Escrow Account	Scottdale Bank 19069343	4,403.82	0.68	0.00	4,404.50
Liquid Fuels / Scottdale Bank	Scottdale Bank 19123645	114,770.11	34.19	6,248.71	108,555.59
Monument CD	Standard Bank 446635	7,382.80	0.00	0.00	7,382.80
Payroll Fund	Scottdale Bank 19069350	29,032.12	23,941.49	50,287.75	2,685.86
Veterans Park Fund	Somerset Trust Co 2003058309	24,667.05	1.14	0.00	24,668.19
Storm Water Retrofit Phase II	Scottdale Bank 19069368	1,222.00	0.19	0.00	1,222.19
Turn Back Account	Scottdale Bank 19069384	24,859.51	3.81	0.00	24,863.32
ARPA Covid-19 (American Resuce Plan Act)	Scottdale Bank 19123652	221,405.98	67.94	0.00	221,473.92
Standard Bank CD	Standard Bank 432243	215,254.60	0.00	0.00	215,254.60
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
<b>Total General Fund Balance</b>					<b>2,538,891.56</b>
Medic 10 Checking	Scottdale Bank 19069533	207,625.62	35,450.52	44,019.95	199,056.19
Medic 10 Savings	Scottdale Bank 19069723	50,827.15	7.80	0.00	50,834.95
Medic 10 Money Market	Scottdale Bank 19069376	6,017.96	0.92	0.00	6,018.88
Medic 10 Pittsburgh Foundation	Standard Bank 0000358253	8,478.94	946.44	0.00	9,425.38
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
<b>Total Medic 10 Fund Balance</b>					<b>290,063.99</b>
WWT Capital Reserve Account	Scottdale Bank - 19123702	897,281.02	137.67	0.00	897,418.69
Capital Reserve M. A. Account	Somerset Trust Co 2004129745	457,906.78	21.08	0.00	457,927.86
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	1,936.90	0.00	507,249.99
<b>Total WWT Balance</b>					5,070,112.98
<b>Total Borough funds</b>					<b>7,899,068.53</b>

Councilwoman Cynthia Stevenson / Secretary  
Sharon Lesko

A Motion was made by Councilwoman Lasko to accept the February 2022 Treasurer's Report. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Stevenson. Motion carried 8-0.

**Borough Manager's Report:**

Borough Manager Landy gave the following report:

- Would like to review the 14 security cameras that are located within the Borough to see what is working and what is not working. Councilman Wojnar suggested also seeing if the coverage that we have is adequate.
- Received the electrical bids for the Waterway Project. They came in higher than expected. The bids will be rejected due to the bids being higher than expected.
- There will be a cavalcade of champions for the local high school on April 19, 2022 at 7:00pm for the several WPIAL category winnings that they have had. They will hold a pep rally at the gazebo.
- Spoke at the Leadership Seminar at the County Courthouse.
- Attended Medic 10 Meeting.
- Borough Manger Landy and Secretary, Sharon Lesko completed the Statewide Local Share Grant for the equipment which is approximately \$500,000.00.
- Attended National Night Out meeting. Would like to honor Gerro, the Mount Pleasant Police Dog who passed away.
- Had the G-Conference meeting on March 10, 2022. The next meeting will be April 21, 2022 in Youngwood.
- Will be having an MS4 conference call regarding stormwater on Wednesday, March 23, 2022 at 1:00pm.
- Would like Council to create a special committee to handle the upcoming waste contract.
- The Street Department and Police Department contracts will be this year.
- Berkheimer report is in and they are ten (10%) percent above what they collected last year.

**President's Report:**

Council President Ruszkowski gave the following report:

- Thanked everyone for the card that was sent to her expressing well wishes.

A Motion was made by Councilman Barrick to hold an executive session. Motion was seconded by Councilman Phillabaum. Motion carried 8-0.

A Motion was made by Councilwoman Lasko to reconvene. Motion seconded by Councilman Phillabaum. Motion carried 8-0.

Council President Ruszkowski stated that the Executive Session was held from 7:37pm – 9:00pm regarding personnel.

### **Property / Grants:**

A Motion was made by Councilman Barrick to ratify Resolution No. 2022-05 dated March 15, 2022 requesting a Statewide Local Share Assessment Grant in the amount of \$503,617.81 from the Commonwealth Financing Authority for new equipment and vehicles for the Street Department, Police Department and Medic 10. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Stevenson. Motion carried 8-0.

A Motion was made to amend the agenda to reject the bids for the electrical work at the Waterway Project. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Lasko. Motion carried 8-0.

A Motion was made to reject the bids for the electrical work at the Waterway Project. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Lasko. Motion carried 8-0.

Councilman Barrick gave the following report:

- The Borough has applied for a grant for the Statewide Local Share Assessment Grant for equipment in the amount of \$503,617.81.
- Made some modifications to the Gazebo renovations project. Councilwoman Stevenson questioned the railing with the glass and who will be keeping this cleaned. Mayor Bailey asked if the glass portion would be plexiglass. Councilman Barrick stated that he is looking into a much heavier type of glass which would be approximately 3/8” thick and much harder to break. Councilwoman Stevenson suggested additional security cameras for the area.
- Would like to move the Medic 10 monument to the Washington Street sidewalk where there was a fountain previously proposed.

### **Streets / Stormwater:**

A Motion was made by Councilman Phillabaum to approve the following streets for the 2022 Paving Project which includes the following streets: paving of Spring Street from Eagle to South Quarry Street, Hemlock Street, Orchard Avenue from North Church Street to Mullin, Hayden’s Alley, Pine Street from Willow Street to College Avenue, Vine Street from North Quarry Street to Braddock Road Avenue, North Hitchman Street, Flower Way, no name alley from South Depot to Bridgeport Street, Silver Street from Terrace Avenue to Spruce Street; and leveling on car wash alley from South Diamond Street to Dead End. Tar & Chip streets are: Hickory Street and Gulisek Way. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Stevenson. Motion carried 8-0.

Mayor Bailey asked why alleys are being paved instead of tar and chipped. Councilman Phillabaum stated that he rode with Jeff McGuinness to review the streets and decided which to pave and which to tar and chip.

A Motion was made by Councilman Phillabaum to advertise for bids for the approved streets for the 2022 Paving Project. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Stevenson. Motion carried 8-0.

### **Parks and Recreation:**

A Motion was made by Councilwoman Lasko to authorize the Mt. Pleasant Girls Softball League to make improvements to the ballfield at Frick Park which include, a revolving gate behind the backstop to block in dugouts, add open dugouts to home and away side, fencing around the dugouts, remove metal bleachers and install Trex artificial wood bleachers, a moving gate where cars are brought in and out so they would be able to tarp the field for the winter months; and, to approve their schedule for the 2022 season. Motion seconded by Councilman Phillabaum. Motion carried 8-0.

Councilwoman Lasko gave the following report:

- Received complaints regarding loud music, profanity, dogs and bikes at the basketball court at Frick Park. Mayor Bailey stated that she made a call to the officer on duty this evening and asked them to talk to the people at the court and have them turn the music down and no profanity.

**Public Safety Report:**

Councilman Phillabaum gave the following report:

- Medic 10 is now a 501(c)(3) organization.
- Their total trips continue to rise. At the time of their last meeting on March 16, 2022, they already had 80 trips for the month.
- Medic 10 has discussed offering CPR classes to the public for a cost of \$75.00 per person.

**Veterans Park:**

Councilwoman Barnes gave the following report:

- The digital wall had gone down. It come back up on its own.
- Will be having a phone conference with William Dunn from Spectrio (formerly Industry Weapons) on Tuesday, March 22, 2022 at 3:00pm.
- William Dunn confirmed via email that he has received the information for the digital wall from Secretary, Sharon Lesko, that was received from Marie Dawson.

**Human Resources / Ordinances:**

Councilman Wojnar stated that all of the motions he is making he is calling for a roll call vote.

A Motion was made by Councilman Wojnar to amend the agenda to call for the resignation of Councilwoman Barnes. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Stevenson. Motion carried 8-0.

A Motion was made by Councilman Wojnar to call for the resignation of Councilwoman Barnes. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Lasko.

The roll call vote was as follows:

- |                                |   |
|--------------------------------|---|
| • Councilwoman Barnes          | No  |
| • Councilwoman Czekanski       | Abstained/Not on Council long enough to make a determination. |
| • Councilman Cholock           | Absent  |
| • Councilman Phillabaum        | Yes   |
| • Councilman Barrick           | Abstained/Not on Council when actions took place.             |
| • Councilwoman Lasko           | Yes   |
| • Councilwoman Stevenson       | Yes   |
| • Councilman Wojnar            | Yes   |
| • Council President Ruszkowski | Yes   |

Motion to call for the resignation of Councilwoman Barnes carried by a vote of 5 -1- 2.

A Motion was made by Councilman Wojnar to amend the agenda for a vote of no confidence for Councilwoman Barnes. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Lasko. Motion carried 7-1.

A Motion was made by Councilman Wojnar for a vote of no confidence for Councilwoman Barnes. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Lasko.

The roll call vote was as follows:

- |                          |     |
|--------------------------|-----|
| • Councilwoman Barnes    | No  |
| • Councilwoman Czekanski | Yes |

- Councilman Cholock Absent
- Councilman Phillabaum Yes
- Councilman Barrick Yes
- Councilwoman Lasko Yes
- Councilwoman Stevenson Yes
- Councilman Wojnar Yes
- Council President Ruszkowski Yes

Motion for a vote of no confidence for Councilwoman Barnes carried by a vote of 6 -1- 1.

A Motion was made by Councilman Wojnar to amend the agenda to censure Councilwoman Barnes. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Lasko. Motion carried 8-0.

A Motion was made by Councilman Wojnar to censure Councilwoman Barnes. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Lasko.

The roll call vote was as follows:

- Councilwoman Barnes No
- Councilwoman Czekanski Yes
- Councilman Cholock Absent
- Councilman Phillabaum Yes
- Councilman Barrick Yes
- Councilwoman Lasko Yes
- Councilwoman Stevenson Yes
- Councilman Wojnar Yes
- Council President Ruszkowski Yes

Motion to censure Councilwoman Barnes carried by a vote of 7 -1.

A Motion was made by Councilman Wojnar to amend the agenda to send a letter to Governor Wolf requesting Ms. Barnes removal from Borough Council. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Lasko. Motion carried 8-0.

A Motion was made by Councilman Wojnar to send a letter to Governor Wolf requesting Ms. Barnes removal from Borough Council. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Lasko.

The roll call vote was as follows:

- Councilwoman Barnes No
- Councilwoman Czekanski Abstained/Not on Council long enough to make a determination.
- Councilman Cholock Absent
- Councilman Phillabaum Yes
- Councilman Barrick Yes
- Councilwoman Lasko Yes
- Councilwoman Stevenson Yes
- Councilman Wojnar Yes
- Council President Ruszkowski Yes

Motion to send a letter to Governor Wolf requesting Ms. Barnes removal from Borough Council carried by a vote of 6 -1- 1.

**Finance Report: None**

**New Business:**

Councilwoman Stevenson reported that the Historical Society is going to revive the popular cemetery walk at the Mount Pleasant Cemetery. It will be held on two (2) Saturdays in June. She will update as she gets additional information.

Mayor Bailey spoke with Police Chief Grippo regarding the upcoming yard sale and the traffic issues at Ramsay Terrace. There will be no parking on one side of the street during this time.

Councilman Phillabaum suggested naming a portion of Main Street or a highway dedicated to former Mayor Lucia. Mayor Bailey stated that there was a portion dedicated for Representative Mike Reese when he passed away. Council stated that it is definitely worth considering.

**Reading of Communications:**

- Received a thank you card from the Jerry Lucia family.
- PSAB is holding a classroom training regarding Police Civil Service Procedures Training on May 5, 2022 from 9:00am to 4:00pm at the Westmoreland County Courtyard by Marriott at 700 Power Line Drive, Greensburg, PA 15601.
- Westmoreland County Boroughs Association will be holding its dinner and meeting on March 31, 2022 at 6:30pm at the Westmoreland Conservation District Office, Donohoe Center, 218 Donohoe Road, Greensburg, PA 15601. Program will be with Rick Skovensky and Brandon Firestone, PennDOT Municipal Services Division regarding liquid fuels update and a Q&A session.

**Discussion and Payment of Bills:**

A Motion was made by Councilwoman Stevenson to pay all authorized and approved bills. Motion seconded by Councilman Phillabaum. Motion carried 8-0.

**Public Comment: None.**

**Miscellaneous and Adjournment:**

A Motion was made by Councilman Phillabaum to adjourn the meeting. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Lasko. Motion carried 8-0.

**Meeting Adjourned 9:37pm.**

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 March 21, 2022

A Motion was made by Councilwoman Stevenson to approve the minutes of March 7, 2022 since Council has been provided with a copy. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Lasko. Motion carried 8-0.

A Motion was made by Councilwoman Lasko to accept the February 2022 Treasurer's Report. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Stevenson. Motion carried 8-0.

A Motion was made by Councilman Barrick to hold an executive session. Motion was seconded by Councilman Phillabaum. Motion carried 8-0.

A Motion was made by Councilwoman Lasko to reconvene. Motion seconded by Councilman Phillabaum. Motion carried 8-0.

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Councilman Wojnar stated that all of the motions he is making he is calling for a roll call vote.

A Motion was made by Councilman Wojnar to amend the agenda to call for the resignation of Councilwoman Barnes. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Stevenson. Motion carried 8-0.

A Motion was made by Councilman Wojnar to call for the resignation of Councilwoman Barnes. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Lasko.

The roll call vote was as follows:

- |                          |   |
|--------------------------|---|
| • Councilwoman Barnes    | No  |
| • Councilwoman Czekanski | Abstained/Not on Council long enough to make a determination. |
| • Councilman Cholock     | Absent  |
| • Councilman Phillabaum  | Yes   |
| • Councilman Barrick     | Abstained/Not on Council when actions took place.             |

- Councilwoman Lasko Yes
- Councilwoman Stevenson Yes
- Councilman Wojnar Yes
- Council President Ruszkowski Yes

Motion to call for the resignation of Councilwoman Barnes carried by a vote of 5 -1- 2.

A Motion was made by Councilman Wojnar to amend the agenda for a vote of no confidence for Councilwoman Barnes. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Lasko. Motion carried 7-1.

A Motion was made by Councilman Wojnar for a vote of no confidence for Councilwoman Barnes. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Lasko.

The roll call vote was as follows:

- Councilwoman Barnes No
- Councilwoman Czekanski Yes
- Councilman Cholock Absent
- Councilman Phillabaum Yes
- Councilman Barrick Yes
- Councilwoman Lasko Yes
- Councilwoman Stevenson Yes
- Councilman Wojnar Yes
- Council President Ruszkowski Yes

Motion for a vote of no confidence for Councilwoman Barnes carried by a vote of 6 -1- 1.

A Motion was made by Councilman Wojnar to amend the agenda to censure Councilwoman Barnes. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Lasko. Motion carried 8-0.

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The roll call vote was as follows:

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- Councilman Cholock Absent
- Councilman Phillabaum Yes
- Councilman Barrick Yes
- Councilwoman Lasko Yes
- Councilwoman Stevenson Yes
- Councilman Wojnar Yes
- Council President Ruszkowski Yes

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The roll call vote was as follows:

- Councilwoman Barnes No
- Councilwoman Czekanski Abstained/Not on Council long enough to make a determination.
- Councilman Cholock Absent

- Councilman Phillabaum                      Yes
- Councilman Barrick                            Yes
- Councilwoman Lasko                           Yes
- Councilwoman Stevenson                    Yes
- Councilman Wojnar                            Yes
- Council President Ruszkowski              Yes

Motion to send a letter to Governor Wolf requesting Ms. Barnes removal from Borough Council carried by a vote of 6 -1- 1.

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