

## Meeting April 3, 2023

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 and prayers for those devastated by the weekend storms. President Ruszkowski asked Assistant Borough Manager Lesko 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 March 20, 2023 since Council has been provided with a copy. Motion seconded by Councilman Cholock. Motion carried 9-0.

### Public Comment:

- Zach Gergas, Director of Medic 10, gave the following report:
  - As of March 31, 2023 they are at 643 calls for the year, which is 205 calls ahead of last year.
  - Held the Applebee's fundraiser and turnout seems to be a success and should have a total number in the next few weeks.
  - LIVE Casino donation drop box began Saturday evening and will run through the end of June.
  - Signed an Agreement with Scottdale Manor.
  - Running 2 crews mostly Monday through Friday.
  - A stretcher malfunctioned; however, it was covered under a grant with a maintenance warranty and the complete hydraulics were replaced at no cost.

Council President Ruszkowski asked how the new ambulance is coming along. Mr. Gergas stated that the last report that he had was that it will hit the line May 1 2023 and hope to have it on the road by the end of June. Mayor Bailey asked if this is the ambulance that Council agreed to pay for with ARPA Covid-19 money. Councilman Cholock stated that it is.

- Paul Harenchar, Assistant Fire Chief, spoke to Council about the new combi tool that was purchased for the fire department with ARPA Covid-19 money and thanked Council for the tool. Mr. Harenchar stated that they have used the tool already to help save a lady's arm that was stuck in a wheelchair van. Mr. Harenchar invited Council to see how the tool works when they hold their workshop for it.

Mayor Bailey stated that Mr. Siska of the fire department asked her to also thank Council for the combi tool and that all they need to do is hit a button and it is ready to go. There are no hoses or anything to hook up. Mr. Harenchar stated that it runs off a battery that is stronger than a breaker box and will work five (5') feet under water. Mr. Harenchar reported that they will be purchasing a second one with a grant.

Council President Ruszkowski expressed to Mr. Harenchar that Council wishes the best to Mark Kraisinger, Fire Chief, while he is in the hospital. Mr. Harenchar said that he would relay that message to him.

**Speakers:     None.**

**Mayor’s Report:**

Mayor Bailey gave the following report:

- Joe Siska of the Mt. Pleasant VFD called Mayor Bailey to ask her to thank Council for the purchase of the jaws of life combi tool for the fire department.
- The night time Police Officer will be locking the bathrooms at night around 10:00pm at Frick and opening them in the morning.

Mayor Bailey read the Mount Pleasant Police Dept. Report for the month of March 2023:

The Department answered the following calls:

Incidents	124
Criminal Arrests	4
DUI Arrests	0
Parking Tickets Issued (Boro)	28
Traffic & Non-Traffic Citations	40
Assist Other Departments (Police Fire EMS)	9
Accidents Investigated	2

Income

Parking Tickets	\$326.00
Parking Meters	\$1,612.53
Fees for Police Reports	\$90.00
Clerk of Courts	\$162.46
District Court	\$385.68
Parking Permit	\$0.00
DUI Task Force Refund	\$0.00
Total Revenue	\$2,576.67

**Solicitor’s Report:**

- Solicitor Istik stated that her report will be very short and held in executive session.

**Tax Collector’s Report:**

Assistant Borough Manager Lesko read the following report for the month of March 2023:

Property Taxes	\$140,023.19
Supplemental Taxes	\$ 0.00
Per Capita Taxes	<u>\$ 0.00</u>
Total Collected	\$140,023.19

**Borough Manager’s Report:**

Assistant Borough Manager Lesko gave the following report:

- Held the monthly safety meeting.
- Worked with Police Chief Grippo on a grant for a police car that will be awarded by Senator Kim Ward.
- 2023 Paving Project Bid packets were emailed out to construction companies.

- Met with Renee Shipley from Republic Services to complete recycling form for Westmoreland Cleanways.
- Received official notification regarding the electrical grant for the Waterway Project.
- Had a few discussions with the Auditor to finalize the audit.
- There will be a new Local Share Account (LSA) Grant that will come out in July. Now is the time to begin thinking of what we will want to apply for this grant.

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

Council President Ruszkowski gave the following report:

- Carol Yancosky, Tax Collector, attended an honor ceremony for Henry Caruso, Jr. of Mount Pleasant who was inducted in the Soldiers and Sailors War Memorial in Pittsburgh PA.

A Motion was made by Councilman Cholock to hold an executive session regarding personnel contracts. Motion seconded by Councilman Phillabaum. Motion carried 9-0.

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

Council President Ruszkowski stated that the executive session was held from 7:12 pm to 8:37pm to discuss personnel issues.

### **Property Report:**

A Motion was made by Councilman Barrick to approve the purchase of the stained glass for the gazebo project at a total cost of \$32,000.00 with an initial deposit of \$9,600.00 due immediately, 2<sup>nd</sup> payment of \$11,200.00 due after 4 of the panels are completed, 3<sup>rd</sup> payment of \$8,960.00 due after all 8 panels are completed and the final payment of \$2,240.00 after full installation of all panels, monies to come from the Capital Reserve Municipal Authority Account as set forth in the Capital Reserve Distribution Plan. Motion seconded by Councilman Cholock. Motion carried 9-0.

Councilman Barrick asked how the CDBG grants work. Mayor Bailey stated that the County will let us know how much money is available to us in grant and it is a 3-year program. The Borough then determines what they would like to use the money for and begins gathering the information towards the project.

Council President Ruszkowski stated that we have not received the specs for the gazebo to put it out for bid yet. Councilman Barrick reported that he spoke with Mr. Ulery on Friday and was waiting on information regarding the electrical. He should have the information to us this week. Council President Ruszkowski stated that the person that handles the sound system at the gazebo for events said that there should be two (2) 220amp outlets installed and ten (10) outlets. Council President Ruszkowski reported that Jeff McGuinness said that the lights at the fountain are not working. Councilman Barrick reported that this is to be included in the electrical agreement along with Veterans Park and the gazebo renovations.

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

A Motion was made by Councilman Phillabaum to close the alley off of Washington Street next to Second Baptist Church on Sunday, June 11, 2023 for the church's annual kid's event. Motion seconded by Councilman Cholock. Motion carried 9-0.

A Motion was made by Councilman Phillabaum to close Route 31, Main Street, on May 29, 2023 from 10:00am to 11:00am. for the annual American Legion Memorial Day Parade. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Lasko. Motion carried 9-0.

A Motion was made by Councilman Phillabaum to close S. Diamond Street from Main Street to Washington Street on July 3, 2023 for the annual July 3<sup>rd</sup> Party in the Park. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Czekanski. Motion carried 9-0.

Councilman Phillabaum gave the following report:

- The street department will begin painting street lines and curbs weather permitting.
- Would like to purchase a trailer to haul the zero-turn mower and weed eaters.
- The street sweeping will begin in April 11, 2023.
- Yard sale signs will be going up.

Councilwoman Czekanski reported that she received a call regarding very large potholes that need to be filled in on the alley off of Vine Street near Zelenka's. Mayor Bailey also received a call about it. Councilman Phillabaum will make Jeff McGuinness aware of the problem.

### **Parks & Recreation:**

Councilwoman Lasko gave the following report:

- The restrooms are open at Frick Park now. Police will lock them at night and unlock them in the morning.
- There is money in the Capital Reserve WWT account set aside for the park's equipment. Councilwoman Lasko will be purchasing several pieces of equipment and remove some equipment for Medic 10 Park and Jack Bobbs Park. Councilwoman Lasko would like to avoid buying the plastic due to it not lasting very long.

Councilwoman Wojnar asked if something done with the retaining wall in the event of kids climbing on it. Councilwoman Lasko suggested putting up and securing the fence that was put around it along with no trespassing signs.

### **Public Safety Report:**

A Motion was made by Councilman Phillabaum to purchase the combi-tool spreader/cutter from ESI Equipment of Montgomeryville, PA for the fire department at a cost of \$13,230.00.00. Payment for the tool will be taken from the Covid-19 ARPA money. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Stevenson. Motion carried 9-0.

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

Total Calls – 57  
In Town – 11  
Out of Town - 46  
10-45's - 15  
Entrapments - 2  
Fires - 18  
AFA's - 11  
Hazardous Calls – 5  
Public Service Calls – 4  
Ambulance Assistance – 2  
Standby's – 0  
Turnpike Calls – 4  
Landing Zones – 1  
Drills – 0  
Total Members Answering – 639  
Avg. Member Per Call – 11

### **Veterans Park:**

Councilwoman Barnes gave the following report:

- They have received an additional Military Banner application bringing the total to 18.
- Received a call from one of the local banks regarding the requested donations and they will let us know by Friday of what they are going to be able to give. The bank asked if this was going to be asked for every year and Councilwoman Barnes informed that they it would not be every year and explained that the money was going to be used more for maintenance.
- Spoke with technician that come here before to fix the digital wall to see who gives him the authorization to come and fix the wall. Councilwoman Barnes asked for a contact name and if she does not hear from him by Friday, she will go to their office in Pittsburgh and speak to someone there. The digital wall is currently frozen.
- Currently have 22 banner applications. Councilwoman Barnes thanked Sharon Lesko for taking the applications and preparing them to be given to Denise at StukUp Grafix.
- Would like to have them up by the 2<sup>nd</sup> week of May so they are up for Memorial Day weekend.
- Will be inviting the artist to their next meeting. This is for the painting on the back of the wall at Veterans Park.

### **Ordinances:**

Councilwoman Wojnar asked if anyone found anything as to why funds were cut in the past to the library. Council President Ruszkowski stated that to her knowledge it was due to the library withholding their annual financial audit. Mayor Bailey stated that this goes back many years when the library would not release any of their financials to the Borough as required and at that time it was decided to cut back on their funding. Mayor Bailey will be attending the library meeting and will ask for a copy of their audit. Council suggested changing the Ordinance. Councilwoman Wojnar stated that their treasurer needs to be bonded and does not believe that they are. Council President Ruszkowski said that they need to show proof that they are bonded.

Councilman Phillabaum reported that he had spoken with a resident who would like to add on to his home; however his side yard is only 3 feet off of an alleyway. Assistant Borough Manager Lesko stated that he would need to apply for a zoning permit and it would be denied due to the setback requirements and then he could request a variance before the Zoning Hearing Board. The gentleman would pay the costs, plead his case and there is no guarantee that it would be granted.

**Human Resources: None.**

### **Finance / Grants Report:**

Councilwoman Stevenson gave the following report:

- The Parking Authority has requested to be included with the Borough's annual audit and that they will pay their portion of the audit.

### **New Business:**

- The VFW will be holding a buffet luncheon on Mother's Day. Mothers eat free. Lunch is \$15.00 for anyone who is not a mother and kids 10 and under are \$5.00 and kids 4 and under are free.

- Westmoreland County Boroughs Association will be holding its annual banquet on Friday, April 28, 2023 at the Crystal Room, Ferrante's Lakeview, 6153 Route 30, Greensburg, PA. Cash bar 5:15pm to 6:30pm. Dinner 6:30pm. RSVP deadline is April 20, 2023.

Councilman Phillabaum discussed information that he received regarding calling 211. It is a social services number and helps with many different services, such as transportation, mental health children's services, etc. Councilwoman Wojnar stated that there is a company that will help with cutting grass for the someone elderly, porch painted, stairs fixed, etc.

**Reading of Communications:       None.**

**Discussion and Payment of Bills:**

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

**Public Comment:**

Gerard Rendine of 519 Wonders Lane, Ligonier, PA, President of the Greater Mount Pleasant Landlord Association spoke to Council regarding the landlord ordinance and previous discussion about possibly amending the ordinance regarding nuisance rentals.

Council President Ruszkowski informed Mr. Rendine that Council has chosen not to make any changes to the Ordinance at this time.

Councilwoman Stevenson asked Mr. Rendine that since they are discussing about cooperating with the Borough could the Borough have his commitment to go back to his members and encourage them to comply with our current Ordinance.

Mr. Rendine stated that the Ordinance in his eyes and some of the Borough officials didn't feel that it was not necessary.

Councilwoman Stevenson stated that Council had a voice vote last meeting and there was no one here that believes that they should not be enforcing this Ordinance. Councilwoman Stevenson asked Mr. Rendine again if he would cooperate with Council in asking his members to voluntarily comply with our current Ordinance.

Mr. Rendine stated that he does not believe that the Ordinance is necessary and he will not mandate any of his membership to comply with that Ordinance. He is not going to tell them to let the inspectors in or don't let the inspectors in. It is an individual decision.

Councilwoman Stevenson stated that if he is not going to comply how is it going to fit in with his declaration of wanting to be cooperate with us.

Councilwoman Lasko asked Mr. Rendine if he owns any properties in Ligonier. Mr. Rendine replied yes. Councilwoman Lasko asked if Ligonier has a landlord ordinance and do they enforce it because he went through the parking and how they enforce it. Do they enforce their ordinances there. It is a beautiful town. Mr. Rendine stated that every town has its faults and it is beautiful. Councilwoman Lasko stated that is because they enforce their ordinances. Mr. Rendine said they do enforce their ordinances; but they do not have an inspection ordinance. Councilwoman Lasko stated that the question is will you go back to your group and ask them to cooperate with the Borough and it was a yes or no question. Mr. Rendine stated that officials have told him that the inspections in the Borough did not change anything in the Borough. Councilwoman Stevenson stated it is not one's opinion as to whether or not they worked because that is completely irrelevant, but that inspections are the current law and you are saying that you would choose not to comply.

Councilman Phillabaum stated that he doesn't believe that is what he is saying. Councilwoman Stevenson said yes, he is. Councilman Phillabaum said at the end of the day it is up to Council to enforce it. Councilwoman Stevenson stated that there is absolutely a voluntary component to it. Councilman Phillabaum stated that is up to the Borough and Council to enforce the ordinances.

Mr. Rendine said that he offers his assistance to set down with the committee. Councilwoman Stevenson stated that his assistance is needed by complying with the ordinance.

**Miscellaneous and Adjournment:**

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

**Meeting Adjourned 9:38pm.**

Respectfully Submitted,

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Sharon Lesko  
Assistant Borough Manager

BOROUGH OF MOUNT PLEASANT

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Susan Ruszkowski, Council President

### **Motions from Meeting of April 3, 2023**

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