

Meeting April 18, 2022

The meeting of Mount Pleasant Borough Council was called to order by President Ruskowski 7:00pm in Council Chambers at 1 Etze Avenue, Mount Pleasant, PA 15666. The Pledge of Allegiance was said and President Ruskowski asked for a moment of silence for world peace. President Ruskowski 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 Ruskowski stated that a quorum is present.

A Motion was made by Councilwoman Stevenson to approve the minutes of April 4, 2022 since Council has been provided with a copy. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Lasko. Motion carried 8-0.

Public Comment: None.

Speakers: None.

Mayors Report:

Mayor Bailey read the Mount Pleasant Police Dept. Report for the Month of March 2022:

The Department answered the following calls:

Incidents	165
Criminal Arrests	1
DUI Arrests	0
Parking Tickets Issued (Boro)	46
Traffic & Non-Traffic Citations	33
Assist Other Departments (Police, Fire, EMS)	14
Accidents Investigated	5

Income

Parking Meters	\$534.26
Parking Tickets	\$66.00
Fees for Police Reports	\$120.00
Clerk of Courts	\$264.47
District Court	\$623.59
Parking Permit	\$30.00
Fingerprinting	\$45.00
DUI Task Force	\$0.00
 Total Revenue	 \$1683.32

Mayor Bailey gave the following report:

- Attended a Police Department meeting where Police Chief George Grippo reviewed policies and procedures with his officers. Meeting lasted approximately 45 minutes.

Solicitor's Report: None.

Treasurer's Report:

Borough Manager Landy read the following Treasurer's Report for the month of March 2022:

Mt. Pleasant Borough Treasurer's Report		Mar-22			Balance
		Prev Bal	Deposits	Disbursements	2022
General Fund Checking	Scottdale Bank 19069335	871,361.14	234,252.86	179,395.66	926,218.34
**Town Clock	619.92				

**Holiday Lighting	1812.51				
General Fund Budgetary Reserve	Standard Bank 321615	924,572.97	160.28	57,927.21	866,806.04
**Police	43,591.82				
**Streets	147,131.00				
**Contingency Fund	311,009.45				
**Infrastructure	181,588.62				
**BOMP Gas Wells	23,290.41				
** Frick Park Gas Well	21,918.32				
**Levins	970.06				
**Fire	0.00				
**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	26,521.90	829.93	572.08	26,779.75
Escrow Account	Scottdale Bank 19069343	4,404.50	0.75	0.00	4,405.25
Liquid Fuels / Scottdale Bank	Scottdale Bank 19123645	108,555.59	125,302.70	11,032.96	222,825.33
Monument CD	Standard Bank 446635	7,382.80	0.00	0.00	7,382.80
Payroll Fund	Scottdale Bank 19069350	2,685.86	74,302.70	74,301.84	2,686.72
Veterans Park Fund	Somerset Trust Co 2003058309	24,668.19	151.26	0.00	24,819.45
Storm Water Retrofit Phase II	Scottdale Bank 19069368	1,222.19	0.21	0.00	1,222.40
Turn Back Account	Scottdale Bank 19069384	24,863.32	4.22	0.00	24,867.54
ARPA Covid-19 (American Resuce Plan Act)	Scottdale Bank 19123652	221,473.92	75.24	0.00	221,549.16
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
Total General Fund Balance					2,650,741.96
Medic 10 Checking	Scottdale Bank 19069533	199,056.19	46,496.68	84,911.19	160,641.68
Medic 10 Savings	Scottdale Bank 19069723	50,834.95	8.63	0.00	50,843.58
Medic 10 Money Market	Scottdale Bank 19069376	6,018.88	1.02	0.00	6,019.90
Medic 10 Pittsburgh Foundation	Standard Bank 0000358253	9,425.38	0.00	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
Total Medic 10 Fund Balance					251,659.13
WWT Capital Reserve Account	Scottdale Bank - 19123702	897,418.69	152.44	0.00	897,571.13
Capital Reserve M. A. Account	Somerset Trust Co 2004129745	457,927.86	23.34	0.00	457,951.20
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	507,249.99	0.00	0.00	507,249.99
Total WWT Balance					5,070,288.76
Total Borough funds					7,972,689.85

Councilwoman Cynthia Stevenson / Secretary
Sharon Lesko

Councilwoman Stevenson reported that we have received the liquid fuels and turnback monies and have been deposited.

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

Borough Manager's Report:

Borough Manager Landy gave the following report:

- The cavalcade of champions and pep rally at the gazebo for the local high school on April 19, 2022 at 7:00pm for the several WPIAL category winnings that they have had has been cancelled due to the weather and will be rescheduled.
- Everyone has received a copy of the gas well report.
- Safety Meeting will be tomorrow morning at 9:00am along with a safety training certification webinar.
- Received the bids for the grass cutting.
- Rode with Police Chief Grippo to look at a few properties that there are some issues with. Checked on a building permit and a dumpster issue on Howard Street and got that resolved.
- Received a call from the Assunta Club regarding installing a guardrail along one side of Assunta Way by the houses in the right-of-way. The Assunta Club will pay for the guardrail, installation and the maintenance of the guardrail. Borough Manager Landy said if Council agrees, they can have Solicitor Istik do an agreement with the Assunta Club. Council agreed that the Assunta Club can do the guardrail once Solicitor Istik completes the agreement and it is signed. Borough Manager Landy stated he will notify the Assunta Club that Council has agreed; however, they cannot install it until the Agreement is completed.
- There will be a Red and Blue Gala held at Yinzer Farms on Saturday, April 23, 2022 which benefits the Mount Pleasant School District. Costs are \$40.00 per person / \$75.00 per couple. Tickets can be purchased online. There will be 4 inductees, Jerry Lucia, Mike Reese, Bob Gumbita, Sr. and Warren Leader.

Councilwoman Barnes asked if someone wants to donate to it, can they do that. Borough Manager Landy stated that you can do donations.

- Everyone has received a copy of the 2021 Audit Report from McClure & Wolf.

President's Report:

Council President Ruszkowski reminded Council that the County Boroughs Association Banquet will be on Friday, April 29, 2022 at Ferrante's Lakeview Crystal Room, 6153 Route 30, Greensburg, PA. Cash bar is at 5:45pm with dinner at 6:45pm.

Property / Grants: None.

Streets / Stormwater:

A Motion was made by Councilman Phillabaum to reimburse \$250.00 to the Township of Mount Pleasant to split the cost of the deductible for the damages of the wall at James Rega's residence on N. Church Street. Motion seconded by Councilman Wojnar. Motion carried 8-0.

Councilman Phillabaum gave the following report:

- Received and opened the bids today for the 2022 Paving Project. The lowest bidder was Redstone Excavating with a bid of \$111,355.00.

- Asked Jeff McGuinness to put a No Outlet sign on the alleyway that dead ends, Lobinger's Way off of N. Shupe Street. Mayor Bailey stated that there used to be a dead-end sign there.

Borough Manager Landy stated that they will need to contact Brandon Firestone of PennDOT to review the bids, approve it and then Council can award the contract at the next meeting.

Parks and Recreation:

A Motion was made by Councilwoman Lasko to accept the bid from E&H Contracting and Landscaping to cut, bag and weed Frick Park / Gerald D. Lucia Campus, Veterans Park and cut and weed Willows Park and Soccer Fields at a cost of \$475.00 per week. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Stevenson. Motion carried 8-0.

Councilwoman Barnes asked if they will be picking up the debris or trash so they don't run over it. Borough Manager Landy stated that he believes if they are bagging the grass, they should be picking up the debris; and that he will monitor that.

Councilwoman Barnes stated she spoke with Borough Manager Landy about the boat that is sitting at the street department. Councilwoman Barnes said that Mr. Landy informed her that he would like to use it and put water in it. Councilwoman Lasko stated that they have discussed it and that there is nothing final with it; and, it is a project in motion.

Public Safety Report:

Councilman Phillabaum reported that Council has received a copy of a Taser Policy for the Police Department.

Mayor Bailey stated that she believes that the Police have received the taser training; however, they are not permitted to use them until they have a policy in place.

A Motion was made by Councilman Phillabaum to amend the agenda to adopt the Mount Pleasant Police Department Taser Policy. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Czekanski. Motion carried 8-0.

A Motion was made by Councilman Phillabaum to adopt the Mount Pleasant Borough Police Department Taser Policy with corrections as presented to Council. Motion seconded by Councilman Barrick. Motion carried 8-0.

Councilwoman Lasko asked that they receive an updated Taser Policy once the corrections have been made. Solicitor Istik stated she will send the changes to Council and Police Chief Grippo.

Veterans Park:

Councilwoman Barnes gave the following report:

- Councilwoman Barnes and Joe Zelenak met with a lady at Veterans Park regarding installing one rail. They will provide a quote. Borough Manager Landy stated that there may be ADA requirements. Councilwoman Barnes stated she will check to see if there are ADA requirements.
- Has not heard from William Dunn of Spectrio regarding the digital wall. They were to have a conference call every Tuesday at 3:00pm. Councilwoman Barnes reached out and spoke with William Dunn. Mr. Dunn has informed her that they are going to have to farm out what we need done for the digital wall. Mr. Dunn is to have an answer for her by Friday, April 22, 2022.

Council President Ruszkowski asked Solicitor Istik that if they do not hear from Mr. Dunn by Friday, April 22, 2022, since there has been a lot of empty promises then what can they do? Solicitor Istik stated that she can begin by sending him a letter threatening legal action.

Councilwoman Lasko asked if Mr. Dunn has pinpointed the actual problem, if the technology is too old, can it not be upgraded? Councilwoman Barnes stated we actually did just do an upgrade. Councilman Wojnar agreed it was upgraded and the reason it was upgraded so it was forward compatible with anything that might come up. Councilman Wojnar said that he believed it was their operating system that was upgraded to accommodate future updates. Borough Manager Landy stated that he believes that since Industry Weapons sold out to Spectrio, they lost people and the people that started on the digital wall here are probably no longer there and this wall makes them no money so its easier for them to farm it out for someone else to do it and it will cost us in the end, which is the not what we want to do since we have paid so much for this now.

Councilwoman Barnes stated that the people that did know how to do this are now gone from the company.

Councilwoman Barnes read the message that she received from William Dunn of Spectrio which stated that the content engineering team is at a standstill and they are looking to outsource it. Councilman Barrick asked if they do outsource it are they taking responsibility for it and paying. Councilwoman Barnes will ask that question when she speaks with Mr. Dunn.

Human Resources / Ordinances: None.

Finance Report:

A Motion was made by Councilwoman Stevenson to execute and pay the 2021 – 2022 Westmoreland County Transit Agreement in the amount of \$1,785.00 which represents no increase from the previous year. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Lasko. Motion carried 8-0.

New Business: None.

Reading of Communications:

Mayor Bailey received a thank you note from Patty Smith who attended the last meeting who received a proclamation for Motorcycle Awareness.

Discussion and Payment of Bills:

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

Public Comment:

- Karen Nelson of 3 Vine Street addressed Council with the following:

“Good evening, Council people. I came back up to clarify something. I spoke with Mr. Landy last meeting and he was telling me how he felt; and usually when people tell me how they feel, I listen, so I tried to tell him that’s not the way it was supposed to be. Does anybody here feel that I disrespected them last week?”

Councilman Wojnar stated “honestly you’re a Borough resident and I feel you have the opportunity to say whatever you want to say and I didn’t feel disrespected in any way.”

Ms. Nelson continued, “well just because I’m a Borough resident, or anybody, that doesn’t say anybody should be disrespectful. I don’t tolerate it and I wouldn’t do it to anybody else cause I don’t want anyone to feel less than important; but the reason why I came up was to get clarity of what had happened because a lot of people don’t realize this, my sister and I don’t speak that much at home. She’s running around doing her thing and I’m trying to make it through another day with treatments and stuff; but my intentions was not to insult, intimidate, or to make anybody feel disrespected. I can’t speak for the other people that spoke because I don’t know what was in their heads, but I know what was in mine, so I did not want to make anybody feel bad about it but I do think that when questions are asked and things are not answered it does make people feel some kind of way, so all I wanted to say was I did not mean to disrespect anybody on Council.

Council President Ruszkowski stated “I appreciate your comments.”

Borough Manager Landy stated “I appreciate you asking me. I didn’t feel that you disrespected me. That comment to you was more of some of the peoples’ comments. I didn’t feel that it was you. When you asked me that question, I had to be honest about it.”

Ms. Nelson responded “Well I was a little concerned.”

Borough Manager Landy said “Well I know you were and listen Karen, you know I have always had a good relationship with you.”

Ms. Nelson responded “Yes”

Borough Manager Landy continued “but, listen I have been going through this for a while now”

Ms. Nelson replied “Well, yeah”

Borough Manager Landy said “so, it wasn’t anything about you though, please understand that. You had asked me and I just wanted to tell you how I felt at that moment. That meeting was rough for me.”

Ms. Nelson responded “and I listened to what you said, that’s why I came back

Borough Manager Landy said “I know and I appreciate that”

Ms. Nelson continued “to clarify because I didn’t know how many other people felt this same way you did and I thought to myself, if I walked out of there and they felt that I disrespected them and that was my game plan, it was not to disrespect anybody.”

Borough Manager Landy said “My comment wasn’t directed at you. It just so happened you asked me the question.”

Ms. Nelson said “Well you know its sad when you’re in a meeting and you have people that feel that, the reason why I say that is because my job, we used to have staff meetings, 12 people, all women, and they got real disrespectful toward each other and I’m like you know I’m not going to sit here for this, so they decided for some reason to have each year, meetings; and, I let them know to begin with, you are not going to disrespect, you are not going to intimidate and you are not going to embarrass anybody. Now, you may not like what somebody has to say, but like he said, you have the right to say it just in a respectful tone. Respect everybody. If you don’t think you are going to respect people at this table, there is the door. We won’t be upset that you walk out. As a matter of fact, when some people left, the meeting went a whole lot better.”

Council President Ruszkowski stated “Well I want to thank you again and I appreciate your comments. Thank you for those words tonight.”

Ms. Nelson said “I want to thank you for listening.”

Council thanked Karen Nelson.

Miscellaneous and Adjournment:

Councilman Phillabaum read an email from Dian Schaefer of Youngwood Borough asking if anyone that is planning on attending the G-Meeting on April 21, 2022 to please let her know by Tuesday, April 19, 2022, 4:00pm. It will be held at the Youngwood Municipal Building.

Councilman Barrick asked what the procedure is for requiring permits in the Borough. Borough Manager Landy stated that K2 Engineering handles all building permits and that the Borough handles zoning permits.

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

Meeting Adjourned 7:49pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jeffrey A. Landy,
Borough Manager

BOROUGH OF MOUNT PLEASANT

Susan Ruszkowski, Council President

Motions from Meeting April 18, 2022

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