

## Meeting June 5, 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 for passing of our Borough Manager Jeff Landy. President Ruszkowski asked Assistant Borough Manager Lesko to take roll call. Councilpersons present included Barnes, Czekanski, Barrick, Lasko, Stevenson and Wojnar. Mayor Bailey and Solicitor Istik were present. President Ruszkowski stated that a quorum is present. Councilman Phillabaum attended via phone.

A Motion was made by Councilwoman Stevenson to approve the minutes of May 1, 2023 since Council has been provided with a copy. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Lasko. Motion carried 8-0.

**Speakers:** None.

### Public Comment:

- Zachary Gergas, Director of Medic 10, gave the following update of Medic 10:
  - Should have the new transit van in approximately one month.
  - Received state grant for \$7,242.00 that will be used towards the purchase of radios.
  - Hired two (2) casual employees.
  - Will be getting some service area back.
  - The funds from Live Casino will run through the end of June.
  - Call volume is high and they are extremely busy, to date they are 1100 calls.

Councilwoman Stevenson asked how that compares to the previous year. Mr. Gergas stated that compared to last year they are up approximately 350 calls, which was a covid year; and they are ahead of pre-covid years.

- Paul Harenchar, Assistant Fire Chief, gave the following update for the fire department:
  - The street fair/festival will be held this month on June 22, 23 and 24, 2023. The parade will be on Friday, June 23, 2023.
  - Firemen are selling tickets and they are still available.
- Joe Bauer of North Geary Street, Mount Pleasant, PA stated that he saw on the agenda the appointment of Sharon Lesko for the Borough Manager position. Mr. Bauer said that the years that he has known Ms. Lesko, he would like to give his support in that decision and of Sharon Lesko being Borough Manager and it is a well fit choice for her. Mr. Bauer stated that if he was President, he would be happy to have her as Borough Manager and that she is a good replacement for Mr. Landy.

### Mayor's Report:

Mayor Bailey gave the following report:

- Attended a Library Board Meeting. They were working on finishing changes to the employee handbook. Mayor Bailey said she did not believe that they had a handbook in place for many years.

Mayor Bailey stated that as we all know our Borough Manager Mr. Landy has passed away and that his knowledge and commitment to this Borough will be missed and his funeral service and cemetery mass were attended by many. Mr. Landy will be missed.

- The community yard sale had a good turnout despite the few showers.
- Attended the Veterans Park Advisory Committee meeting
- Attended the Westmoreland County Boroughs Association meeting with Councilman Phillabaum and Assistant Borough Manager Lesko. The topic was Hazardous Material Response to a Train Derailment.
- Spoke at the Memorial Day celebration at Veterans Park. Thanked everyone involved and all that attended. Councilwoman Stevenson stated that it was a larger crowd than they have had in the last few years. Mayor Bailey agreed.

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

The Department answered the following calls:

Incidents	94
Criminal Arrests	4
DUI Arrests	0
Parking Tickets Issued (Boro)	28
Traffic & Non-Traffic Citations	104
Assist Other Departments (Police Fire EMS)	8
Accidents Investigated	2

Income

Parking Tickets	\$171.00
Parking Meters	\$922.47
Fees for Police Reports	\$50.00
Clerk of Courts	\$292.83
District Court	\$621.40
Parking Permit	\$0.00
DUI Task Force Refund	\$0.00

Total Revenue \$2,057.70

**Solicitor's Report: None.**

**Treasurer's Report:**

Councilwoman Stevenson read the following Treasurer's Report for the month of April 2023:

Mt. Pleasant Borough Treasurer's Report		Apr-23			Balance
		Prev Bal	Deposits	Disbursements	2023
General Fund Checking	Scottdale Bank 19069335	870,095.79	209,893.96	129,609.37	950,380.38
General Fund Budgetary Reserve	Standard Bank 321615	998,896.04	2,960.69	0.00	1,001,856.73
**Police	48,591.82				
**Streets	157,131.00				
**Contingency Fund	346,056.40				
**Infrastructure	206,588.62				
**Workers					
Compensation	50,000.00				
**BOMP Gas Wells	25,262.20				
** Frick Park Gas					
Well	27,520.33				
**Levins	0.00				

**Fire		3,400.00			
**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	29,097.35	27.68	0.00	29,125.03
Escrow Account	Scottdale Bank 19069343	4,431.21	8.89	0.00	4,440.10
Liquid Fuels / Scottdale Bank	Scottdale Bank 19123645	244,283.72	232.37	0.00	244,516.09
Monument CD	Standard Bank 446635	7,382.80	0.00	0.00	7,382.80
Payroll Fund	Scottdale Bank 19069350	2,084.81	53,015.59	53,011.81	2,088.59
Veterans Park Fund	Somerset Trust Co 2003058309	25,390.21	2.30	0.00	25,392.51
Veterans Military Banners Fund	Somerset Trust Co 2004522337	1,050.96	0.10	0.00	1,051.06
Storm Water Retrofit Phase II	Scottdale Bank 19069368	1,230.88	1.17	0.00	1,232.05
ARPA Covid-19 (American Resuce Plan Act)	Scottdale Bank 19123652	446,714.27	424.93	0.00	447,139.20
Standard Bank CD	Standard Bank 432243	215,254.60	0.00	0.00	215,254.60
Scottdale Bank /MidPenn CD	Scottdale Bank 318012650	53,527.71	0.00	0.00	53,527.71
Standard Bank CD (200yr Anniversary)	Standard Bank 6677418044	54,243.17	0.00	0.00	54,243.17
<b>Total General Fund Balance</b>					<b>3,037,630.02</b>
Medic 10 Checking	Scottdale Bank 19069533	179,385.53	52,458.40	57,244.22	174,599.71
Medic 10 Savings	Scottdale Bank 19069723	51,197.13	48.70	0.00	51,245.83
Medic 10 Money Market	Scottdale Bank 19069376	6,061.77	5.77	0.00	6,067.54
Medic 10 Pittsburgh Foundation	Standard Bank 0000358253	10,647.47	31.56	0.00	10,679.03
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>267,320.70</b>
WWT Capital Reserve Account	Scottdale Bank - 19123702	896,977.55	847.60	9,714.86	888,110.29
Capital Reserve M. A. Savings Acct	Somerset Trust Co 2004521230	464,493.06	1,408.75	0.00	465,901.81
Oceanview Annuity CD	Scottdale Bank - MidPenn	3,088,600.02	0.00	0.00	3,088,600.02
Standard Bank CD WWT Cap.Resv	Standard Bank 464569	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Scottdale Bank /MidPenn CD WWT Cap. Resv	Scottdale Bank 318015215	201,508.38	0.00	0.00	201,508.38
Athene Annuity CD (created Jan. 2021)	Somerset Trust	514,605.11	0.00	0.00	514,605.11
<b>Total WWT Balance</b>					<b>5,158,725.61</b>
<b>Total Borough funds</b>					<b>8,463,676.33</b>

Councilwoman Cynthia Stevenson / Secretary  
Sharon Lesko

A Motion was made by Councilwoman Wojnar to accept the April 2023 Treasurer's Report. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Lasko. Motion carried 8-0.

Councilwoman Stevenson stated that she looks at the treasurer's report and remembers how far we have come from where we were at and to where we are now and it is the legacy of our dear departed Borough manager Jeff Landy that we can sit here with a balance like this today and she trusts that Assistant Borough Manager Lesko will be equally unpleasant in keeping us all in line.

**Tax Collector’s Report:**

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

Property Taxes	\$311,584.60
Supplemental Taxes	\$ 0.00
Per Capita Taxes	<u>\$ 0.00</u>
Total Collected	\$311,584.60

**Tax Collector’s Report:**

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

Property Taxes	\$ 10,500.27
Supplemental Taxes	\$ 0.00
Per Capita Taxes	<u>\$ 0.00</u>
Total Collected	\$ 10,500.27

**Borough Manager’s Report:**

Assistant Borough Manager Lesko gave the following report:

- Somerset Trust Will once again sponsor the July 3rd Party in the Park fireworks
- The Auditor for liquid fuels was in and I worked with him all day getting what he needed for the audit.
- Attended the pre-construction meeting for the street Paving project with Dairy construction and Jeff McGinnis of the street department. The paving project by Derry Construction has been completed. They were here for approximately one week and everything went well. They have done a great job. We have received many compliments regarding the paving that was done by this company.
- The auditor for the borough has been in several times and they are in the process of finalizing their report.
- Held a safety meeting. Topic was head injuries after the fall.
- Held the managers meeting.
- Met with Hallie Chatfield from the Westmoreland County Land Bank along with Councilman Barrick, Councilman Phillabaum, Mayor Bailey, Jeff McGuinness of the Street Department and the owner of McCali Manor Jane Altman regarding the status of McCali Manor and possible demolition by the County Land Bank. Ms. Altman was uncertain at that time what she wanted to do with the property. She was given a deadline of today June 2nd by the County Land Bank due to the Borough having to approve a resolution authorizing her to complete an application for the demolition. That resolution is on the agenda for this evening to be approved.
- Councilman Barrick stated that when we met with Ms Altman she wanted a partial demo, which included leaving the brick facade on the front of the building with the porch and roof and keeping the block building portion at the rear of the building. The Land Bank informed Ms. Altman that they would not do that. It was all or nothing. Councilman Barrick went on to say that he believes she has spoken with one of the Commissioners and the head of the land bank and gave her a feeling of possibility. Councilwoman Wojnar stated even if she did speak with one of the Commissioners and he spoke with the head of that department, this still has to be approved by the board of the commissioners.
- Met with Brandon Firestone of PennDOT regarding the street Paving project. He reviews all documents to make sure they are in proper order and then gives us a project number. All was approved.

- Met with Dan Busatto of Century Insurance regarding the liability insurance and cyber insurance which we will be approving this evening by resolution.
- Met with Jake Bohna from K2 engineering regarding McCali Manor.
- Met with Ashleigh and Tiffany Guittap from Mid Penn Bank regarding the annuity and our bank accounts.
- Met with the street department regarding playground equipment that Councilwoman Lasko would like to purchase.
- Had a phone conference with David Staricha from Spectrio along with Councilwoman Barnes and Council President Ruszkowski regarding the digital wall at Veterans Park.
- Will be meeting with Police Chief Grippo and Ron Frinfrock of Bridgeport Technology regarding security cameras in our parks and at the borough building.
- The sign at Medic 10 Park was damaged and the pavilion at Frick Park was damaged with graffiti. The street department has been working at getting it removed.
- Life's Work, which has office space on the second floor of the Borough building, will be bringing in volunteer students to work for the summer again. They have worked with the Borough the last few years in providing jobs for students. The students are supervised by a representative from the organization and are paid through Life's Work. The street department has projects for them to work on and we do have some work in the Borough building that they can do.

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

A Motion was made by Councilman Barrick to hold an executive session regarding personnel. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Lasko. Motion carried 8-0.

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

Council President Ruszkowski stated that the executive session was held from 7:27 pm to 7:59pm to discuss personnel issues.

### **Property Report:**

Councilman Barrick gave the following report:

- Bids were received for the Gazebo renovation project. The lowest bid was \$167,000.00 and was over our budget. The bids are being rejected.
- Bids were received at the same time as the gazebo bids for the electrical work of the Gazebo renovation project. The lowest bid was \$36,000 and was over our budget. The bids are also being rejected.

A Motion was made by Councilman Barrick to accept the proposal from Gibson-Thomas Engineering for the project scope at the Frick Park hillside at a cost of \$5,000.00, which includes a site plan/layout of new parking area adjacent to the Borough building and location directory about Frick Park, adjacent to Spence Way. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Lasko. Motion carried 8-0.

A Motion was made by Councilman Barrick to accept the proposal from Gibson-Thomas Engineering for the project scope at the former soccer fields for a dog park \$10,000.00, which includes prepare/generate a master plan for the Willow Park property adjacent to the Coal &

Coke Trail, with master plan to secure grant opportunities for construction. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Wojnar. Motion carried 8-0.

A Motion was made by Councilman Barrick to accept the proposal from Gibson-Thomas Engineering for the project scope at the Arevalo property \$2,000.00 for the possibility of off-street parking at the East end of Main Street. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Lasko. Motion carried 8-0.

A Motion was made by Councilman Barrick to award the Gazebo Renovation Project General Construction Contract to Swede Construction in the amount of \$167,000.00. Bids were rejected due to high bids and over budget.

A Motion was made by Councilman Barrick to award the Gazebo Renovation Project Electrical Construction Contract to Westmoreland Electric Services, LLC in the amount of \$36,000.00.

A Motion was made by Councilman Barrick to close the gazebo area during construction of the gazebo renovations. Bids were rejected due to high bids and over budget.

A Motion was made by Councilman Barrick to approve Resolution No. 2023-03 authorize submission of demolition application for McCali Manor located at 462 W. Main Street using Act 152 funds. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Lasko. Motion carried 8-0.

A Motion was made by Councilman Barrick to amend the agenda to advertise for electrical bids for the gazebo area. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Lasko. Motion carried 8-0.

A Motion was made by Councilman Barrick to advertise for electrical bids for the gazebo / veteran's wall area. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Czekanski. Motion carried 8-0.

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

Councilman Barrick stated that the motion to close the alley between Veterans Park and the Gazebo during the Gazebo Renovation is not need since the gazebo bids have been rejected.

Councilman Phillabaum gave the following report:

- The residents on South Hitchman Street that were previously moving their vehicles on garbage day are no longer moving their vehicles, which is giving the garbage truck difficulty in making the turn. Councilman Phillabaum will be having the street department paint the curb.
- Met with Jeff McGuinness at a resident's house on South Diamond Street regarding the curb off of the alley crumbling and falling into his yard. The gentleman has old railroad ties in his yard against the alley that are deteriorating. The street department will build the curb up after the gentleman has had a chance to replaces or fixes his railroad ties so as to not interfere with him. If he does not want to replace or fix his railroad ties, the street department will work on fixing the curb.
- Resident put up a No Parking sign in the grass between the curb and the sidewalk on North Shupe Street. This is a public street with public parking and the signs are not valid. The Police Department will not enforce this if they get any calls on this.
- Would like to move the yard sale to the first weekend in June. Assistant Borough Manager suggested holding a second yard sale in early fall.
- Currently attending the PSAB Annual Conference. Won tickets to attend the fall PSAB conference in Erie, PA. Will not be able to attend, any Council member or administrative member could use the tickets if they would like to go.
- Attended the Westmoreland County Boroughs Association meeting with Mayor Bailey and Assistant Borough Manager Lesko. The topic was Hazardous Material Response to a Train Derailment. The County has a plan in place if there was a train derailment.

Councilman Barrick received a complaint regarding the inlet at the corner of South Diamond Street and Braddock Avenue that there is a cone in it and it is sinking and needs to be repaired. PennDOT needs notified that we are going to repair it.

Councilwoman Wojnar reported that the 2 street lights at the Dollar Bank and PNC Bank are dim and the tube lighting is out on the pole in front of Dollar Bank (formerly Standard Bank). Councilman Phillabaum stated that the street department is aware of this; however, they have to come in at night to change the street lights on Main Street due to the traffic during the day.

### **Parks & Recreation:**

Councilwoman Lasko gave the following report:

- Received a quote from Willy Goat for a few pieces of playground equipment for Medic 10 Park and Jack Bobbs Park. The street department will review to be certain that the equipment can fit in the area at the parks.

### **Public Safety Report:**

Council President Ruszkowski read the following Fire Report for the month of April 2023:

Total Calls – 36  
In Town –10  
Out of Town - 26  
10-45's - 7  
Entrapments - 2  
Fires -12  
AFA's - 12  
Hazardous Calls – 1  
Public Service Calls – 2  
Ambulance Assistance –1  
Standby's – 0  
Turnpike Calls – 4  
Landing Zones – 1  
Drills – 0  
Total Members Answering – 639  
Avg. Member Per Call – 11

Council President Ruszkowski read the following Fire Report for the month of May 2023:

Total Calls – 32  
In Town –3  
Out of Town - 29  
10-45's - 10  
Entrapments - 0  
Fires - 6  
AFA's - 13  
Hazardous Calls – 2  
Public Service Calls – 1  
Ambulance Assistance –0  
Standby's – 0  
Turnpike Calls – 2  
Landing Zones – 0  
Drills – 0  
Total Members Answering – 294  
Avg. Member Per Call – 9

Assistant Borough Manager Lesko reported that the state was in to train Police Chief Grippo, Sergeant Ferree, Officer Joll and Street Department Jeff McGuinness on certifying the parking meters. Parking meters were certified today and they will begin replacing the meters.

Councilwoman Czekanski asked if the meters at Penn Park could be for 2 hours. Mayor Bailey stated that she was going to talk to Police Chief Grippo to be sure that the meters will be the same all through town.

Councilwoman Barnes said that there are fire hydrants that still are not cleaned around them. Mayor Bailey believes that when this was previously discussed it was found that the fire department was to keep them cleaned out and exposed. She will look into this further.

### **Veterans Park:**

Councilwoman Barnes gave the following report:

- Had a phone conference with David Staricha, Council President Ruskowski and Assistant Borough Lesko with Spectrio regarding the digital wall at Veterans Park. Mr. Staricha is working with the Borough to get the new platform converted to their software and upgrade the system. The Borough will be able to access the software to add any new names that would come in. It will take approximately 3 to 4 weeks to do the install and get it up and running.

A Motion was made by Councilwoman Barnes to approve and execute contract with Spectrio in the amount of \$4,585.04 which includes the subscription, digital engine intel nuc 10, SOW One-time custom video/photo and the installation fee. Motion seconded by Councilman Barrick. Motion carried 8-0.

Councilwoman Barnes gave the following report:

- Councilwoman Barnes apologized and stated that there was a miscommunication between herself and StukUp Grafix that the banners were not ordered and up before Memorial Day.
- Banners have been sent to the printer and we should have them back in the next week or two. We should have them up before the fireman's parade.
- We have a total of 29 banners now. The first 26 have been ordered. Once an additional 10 are received they will then be ordered.

### **Ordinances:**

Councilwoman Wojnar gave the following report:

- Sent some suggestions and will move forward with the Burning Ordinance.
- Will update the current noise Ordinance to include atv's.

Solicitor Istik reported that she did the Burn Ordinance and has emailed it to Councilwoman Wojnar to send to her committee for review.

### **Human Resources: None.**

A Motion was made by Councilwoman Czekanski to hire Sharon Lesko as Borough Manager for a 3-year contract with an effective date of June 1, 2023, at a salary of \$55,000.00. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Lasko. Motion carried 7-0. Councilwoman Barnes abstained from the vote due to possible legal matters.

Councilwoman Barnes stated "Sharon has already made a very very good Borough Manager, you have done a fantastic job and I will continue to support you from this point on but I am going to abstain because of potential legal questions that are still out there, but you have my full support".



Borough Manager Lesko thanked Council and said that she truly appreciated all of the support that she has received from them and that she is 100% dedicated to the Borough and she won't let them down.

Councilman Barrick asked if we have advertised for an assistant since a motion was made at the last meeting. Solicitor Istik stated that the ad will be placed by Friday. Councilwoman Czekanski will meet with Borough Manager Lesko this week to get a description and an ad together to be placed on Indeed, the website and Facebook along with possible questions for interviewing.

A Motion was made by Councilwoman Czekanski to pay Secretary Sharon Lesko for remaining unused 5 ½ days of 2022 vacation. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Stevenson. Motion carried 8-0.

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

A Motion was made by Councilwoman Stevenson to approve the liability insurance retroactive effective June 1, 2023 through May 31, 2024 through Berkshire Hathaway Insurance Company through broker, Dan Busatto of Century Insurance for a total cost of total cost of \$47,759.00. (Last year's cost was 44,208.00). Motion seconded by Councilwoman Wojnar. Motion carried 8-0.

A Motion was made by Councilwoman Stevenson to approve Cyber Liability Insurance retroactive from June 1, 2023 through May 31, 2024 through broker, Dan Busatto of Century Insurance, for a total cost of \$2,899.75 (Last year's cost was 2,999.00). Motion seconded by Councilwoman Wojnar. Motion carried 8-0.

### **New Business:**

Councilwoman Stevenson spoke regarding the following:

- reminded residents that fireworks fall under state law and that they are not allowed to set off fireworks within 150 feet of a structure or residence and that there is nowhere in the Borough that has a structure that is not within 150 feet; and, therefore if you are setting off fireworks within the Borough you are violating the law.
- she has spoken with Cory Miller at Copperwood Creations regarding the desks and that he is out of state in Arizona working on a project and should be available in July.
- The Historical Society will be holding "The Darkside of Helltown" tour on Saturday, June 10, 2023. It is a walk that begins at the log cabins and you go to the fire station on South Church Street, out South Church Street to the DAR House and work your way back to the historical society. There will be 6 tours with 3 different tour guides.

Mayor Bailey received a letter from Barbara McMillen regarding Rustic Ridge underground coal mine and the effects it will have on mountain property and in the near future the watershed. Ms. McMillen would like letters of concern sent to various organizations.

Councilman Barrick stated that Rustic Ridge is looking to expand their underground coal mine and a waste pile along Route 31 somewhere above Laurelville. The current portal is on Countyline Road, which is next to Ms. McMillen's home.

Mayor Bailey received a complaint from a resident that has paid for a handicap sign but they are having an issue with others parking there that have a handicap placard. Mayor Bailey asked Council to think about giving priority to those that paid for handicap sign. Borough Manager Lesko stated that when the resident pays for the handicap sign that there is no guarantee that they will have that spot and that anyone with a handicap placard can use that space.

Borough Manager Lesko read a letter from the Mt. Pleasant Glass & Ethnic Festival requesting the use of Frick Park for their annual car show on August 18<sup>th</sup>, 2023 with a rain date of August 25<sup>th</sup> 2023. Council agreed that the Mount Pleasant Glass & Ethnic Festival can use Frick Park for the car show.

**Reading of Communications:**

Council President Ruszkowski read the following communications:

- Thank you card from Kelsey Beckas, daughter of Borough Manager Jeff Landy.

Council President Ruszkowski asked Council if they are available to please attend the July 3<sup>rd</sup> Party in the Park.

**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 8-0.

**Public Comment: None.**

**Miscellaneous and Adjournment:**

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

**Meeting Adjourned 9:08pm.**

Respectfully Submitted,

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Sharon Lesko  
Borough Manager

BOROUGH OF MOUNT PLEASANT

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Susan Ruszkowski, Council President

### **Motions from Meeting of June 5, 2023**

A Motion was made by Councilwoman Stevenson to approve the minutes of May 1, 2023 since Council has been provided with a copy. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Lasko. Motion carried 8-0.

A Motion was made by Councilwoman Wojnar to accept the April 2023 Treasurer's Report. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Lasko. Motion carried 8-0.

A Motion was made by Councilman Barrick to hold an executive session regarding personnel. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Lasko. Motion carried 8-0.

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