

## Meeting June 6, 2022

The meeting of Mount Pleasant Borough Council was called to order by President Ruszkowski 7:03pm 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 children who are unexpectedly killed. President Ruszkowski asked Borough Manager Landy to take roll call. Councilpersons present included Barnes, Czekanski, Phillabaum, Barrick, Lasko, Stevenson and Wojnar. Mayor Bailey was present. President Ruszkowski stated that a quorum is present. Councilman Cholock arrived at 7:13pm. Solicitor Istik arrived at 7:16pm.

A Motion was made by Councilwoman Stevenson to approve the minutes of May 23, 2022 since Council has been provided with a copy. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Lasko. Motion carried 8-0.

### Speakers:

- John “Chip” Purcell of Enviro21 spoke to Council regarding the upcoming garbage contract and methods for handling the bidding process. Mr. Purcell stated that Enviro21 is a reverse auction online platform. They reverse auction starts with a number and the bidding goes down instead of up. Mr. Purcell stated that the highest bid for garbage collection that they have received for other municipalities is \$18.50 per residence/per month. The current average in the area is in the mid-twenties per month. Mr. Purcell stated that with current gas prices, it is unknown what it could be now; however, he can get the lowest price available. Mr. Purcell mentioned a few municipalities and said to confirm it with Hempfield Township, Penn Township, McKeesport, Rankin Borough, they have done big and little communities. Mr. Purcell said that the other thing their company does is vet the garbage companies and if they do not meet the standards that the Borough has established, such as insurances and bonding, they have every legal right to not give them a passcode to get into the auction, so they will do what the Borough wants them to do. Mr. Purcell said the auction is transparent to the bidding companies, meaning that the companies see the low number that is being bid. It does not say who bid that, it will only show the low number and if they want to beat the low number they will bid. Mr. Purcell stated, as an example, that although they may say the bidding is over at noon on Thursday, if someone bids within the last five (5) minutes of closing, they will continue the bidding until there are no bids for a five (5) minute period. Mr. Purcell said that every bid is timestamped. Enviro21 works with whomever is writing our waste contract by assisting and making suggestions and recommendations. They do not change anything without approval from the Borough. Mr. Purcell said once the contract is set and there is trouble with the vendor, part of their job is to “run interference” if the municipality would like them to.

Mr. Purcell said the cost is zero expense to the Borough. There is a box that states that the winning bidder will be responsible to pay the appropriate monies to Enviro21 and they have done that all over and have had no trouble with it.

Borough Manager Landy asked Mr. Purcell if they have had a lack of bidders because of the way that they do this? Mr. Purcell stated that there are probably only three (3) bidders that can bid on the waste in the Borough. They would be Waste Management, Allied/Republic Services, and County Hauling. Mr. Purcell said that there isn't anybody else really big enough to come in and handle the waste for the Borough. Mr. Purcell said that every bid that they have done, those are the three (3) bidders. They do call other bidders. Advance has been sold. They will contact a smaller company if they are in the area and usually, they are not big enough and they do not want to go up against the bigger companies. Biggs will no longer bid on municipalities unless they are right near the municipality.

Borough Manager Landy asked Mr. Purcell if they have ever been challenged legally? Mr. Purcell replied “no” and that there is a statute in the State of Pennsylvania that allows this type of bidding.

Borough Manager Landy asked how much is the fee and is it negotiable? Borough Manager Landy said he understands that there is no fee to the Borough; however, it is passed on to the winning bidder/company. Mr. Purcell stated it is normally 3% or 6% and

that no one has challenged it. Borough Manager Landy asked if there is a negotiable amount? Mr. Purcell stated I cannot promise anything.

Mr. Purcell asked when the contract is up for the Borough. Mr. Landy said that is up at the end of this year. Mr. Purcell said that they would suggest to try and do the auction/bids a few months before the contract ends, that way if you don't like the numbers that you get or you don't get any because you started the number too low, then you still have time to rebid it.

Mr. Purcell stated that he will work with whomever is handling the waste contract for the Borough, give recommendations. Once everyone is good with the contract that has been set up, at that point Enviro21 will put the contract online, the Borough will review it and once approved, they set up the auction and the process begins.

Councilwoman Stevenson asked how long is the bid up usually? Mr. Purcell said he has had them up for one day, one week, it varies. Mr. Purcell said that the bidders have all received copies of the contract and have seen the bid way before the time of the auction because they reach out to them beforehand. Mr. Purcell recommended leaving the auction up between 2 to 4 hours because nobody bids until the last half hour anyways.

Mayor Bailey asked if companies can see the active bids if they are logged on. Mr. Purcell stated the bidders do not see which company gave the bid. They only see the lowest bid. The Borough would have a passcode and can see who did the bid.

Mr. Purcell stated that they push prices down. He recommends to all of his client to include in the first line of their contract to say "all pricing must be inclusive of all fees, surcharges, and taxes. No additional monies will be paid other than the winning bid price". An example would be the fuel surcharges.

Council thanked Mr. Purcell for speaking with them.

- Robert Regola made a special request to Governor Wolf to prepare a document for former Mayor Lucia. Mr. Regola read the presentation as follows

"To the family of Gerald D. Lucia, I would like to offer my deepest condolences for the passing of Gerald D. Lucia. Gerald touched the lives of many and were remembered by all who had the joy and privilege of knowing him. Gerald lived a life of service to his community and served as the Mayor of Mount Pleasant Borough for 36 years. Gerald also served as a volunteer firefighter with the Mount Pleasant Volunteer Fire Department for 36 years and served as a Chief for 31 years. Gerald will be remembered as a dedicated public servant that loved the community of Mount Pleasant. Our Commonwealth is privileged to have had Gerald as a resident and as a shining example of our values and traditions. The loss of a loved one changes us forever. As we gather in remembrance of Gerald, know that his legacy will resonate for many years to come. May the memories that you and your family share help to bring peace and comfort during a difficult time. Tom Wolf, Governor".

Mr. Regola gave a special presentation that he received from Governor Wolf to Diana Lucia in honor of former Borough Mayor Jerry D. Lucia. Mrs. Lucia thanked him and thanked Council.

Council thanked Mr. Regola for doing the request and thanked him for the presentation.

#### **Public Comment:**

- Jeff Kern and Amy Kern of 102 S. Depot Street, Mount Pleasant spoke to Council regarding a parking issue in front of their home. Mr. Kern stated that he and his family has resided at that address for approximately 4 years now and that when they had moved in, they were told by the property manager, acting on behalf of the landlord, that you park off of the road because Mr. Karfelt down the street cannot get his trucks through because it is a smaller road, so park on the curb. Mr. Kern continued that for 3 ½ years they have been doing that and then a few months ago his wife went outside to go to work and they had two (2) parking tickets on their vehicle in front of their house. They received

additional tickets so they contacted the Borough office, in turn who gave them the Mayor's phone number. Mr. Kern spoke with the new Mayor, who was nice enough to say I'm coming over to see if it can be resolved and she was going to bring the Borough Manager, the Chief of Police, which he couldn't make it, the landlord was there; and, after about 1 ½ hours Mr. Kern's consensus was what would be ideal would be for him to request from Council to make an exception which would allow him to park his truck in front of his house on the sidewalk. Mr. Kern passed around photos showing where the sidewalk ends and then a fire hydrant, which is to the left of his front door. Where he parks is approximately 10 feet away from his front door. Where he is parking now is approximately 3 or 4 times that distance. Mr. Kern stated that his ailments and condition make it very difficult. Mr. Kern asked for Council to help and to permit them to park one vehicle on the sidewalk and that none of their other vehicles would be parked there or parked illegally.

Councilman Cholock asked if the citations that he received were because he was parking on the sidewalk. Mr. Kern replied "yes".

Councilman Phillabaum asked since Mr. Kern is handicap is he eligible for special parking. Councilman Cholock said that it would be on the curb. Councilwoman Barnes said that handicap sign may not help because Mr. Kern is saying that he still needs to be on the sidewalk. Mr. Kern stated that if they purchase the handicap spot but anyone is allowed to park in it that is handicap.

Councilman Cholock stated that if they as a council decide that he could park on the sidewalk that they would have many residents asking for the same thing and parking on the sidewalks. Councilman Cholock stated that it would be very hard for Council to say that he could park on the sidewalk. Councilman Cholock asked if the Police are pressuring him to get off of the sidewalk or did a neighbor complain and why are they here asking this all of a sudden. Amy Kern stated that they have both parked there for the last four (4) years and have had no complaints or issues from neighbors; but now they have started getting tickets. Mr. Kern said it is not the police ticket and that they are doing their job because they are violating the Ordinance. Mr. Kern stated that they really just weren't aware of the Ordinance. Mr. Kern said in order for the tickets to stop, they would like an exception.

Mrs. Kern stated that after an evaluation by Mrs. Bailey and Mr. Landy on Friday afternoon, the conclusion was that they should present the issue and ask Council to vote for permission for them to have one vehicle on the sidewalk.

Councilman Wojnar stated that if we tell them they can do it, Mr. Karfelt can get in and out of the street; if they tell them they can't do it and have to park a certain way then Mr. Karfelt won't be able to get his trucks in and out.

Mayor Bailey added that they weren't ticketed for several years; but they then got a resident in a rental next to them, who then also started to park on the sidewalk. Mr. Kern stated that he can't remember ever of anyone not parking on the sidewalk on that street. Mrs. Kern said every tenant in those three (3) homes have parked on the sidewalk. Mrs. Kern said that they have spoken with the other tenants because their landlord wanted an investigation to see if it was only their home or everybody on that side; and yes, there are other tenants parking on the sidewalk. Mrs. Kern stated that even if they did park on the other side of the street that there aren't enough parking spaces for 1 vehicle per home. Mrs. Kern said that it was brought to their attention that everybody on that street has access to parking behind their home, such as an alley. They are the only home that does not have that. They have zero parking behind their home and have zero access to the property in the rear of the home.

Council President Ruszkowski asked was there any other suggestions of what could be done other than you parking on that sidewalk. Mr. Kern asked if she meant during the meeting of all of them? Council President Ruszkowski said "yes". Mr. Kern said there were a few but they weren't very good options considering his disability. Council President Ruszkowski stated she wasn't at the meeting and could he say what they were if he remembered. Mr. and Mrs. Kern said they wasn't sure what they were.

Mayor Bailey stated that she could help with that and that the options were: their sidewalk comes past their house and it ends and from the end of their sidewalk there is grass area and there is an option that the doctor who is the landlord and owns the property, was willing to move the fence so that they could have a parking space off the street but not on the sidewalk because he also owns the building next to them.

Councilman Cholock asked if that was further. Mr. Kern said it is a little further, but instead of spending the money, I could get permission to park there. Mayor Bailey stated that the doctor was not unhappy about spending the money. He wanted to accommodate his tenants. Mrs. Kern said it is an option but general contractor was with them and it would still take some time to measure out and then address the issue of the building closeness to the road as well as the vicinity of the fire hydrant so it wasn't conclusive although it was an option. They didn't conclude that it was possible.

Mayor Bailey said the other option was at the end of the sidewalk to be able to trim the curb and allow Mr. Kern to pull over the curb and pull in along his house, perpendicular to the street, and be able to get out the driver's side onto the sidewalk. Mayor Bailey said that he does have enough space on the other side of the sidewalk between his house and the sidewalk to be able to accommodate a driveway parking space. Councilman Cholock stated that he believes by cutting the curb that they will once again be opening a pandoras box by others wanting that also.

Councilwoman Stevenson asked the solicitor to confirm that they cannot carve out a little piece of the sidewalk and say that these people do not have to obey the Ordinance.

Solicitor Istik stated "correct". Councilwoman Stevenson stated that they cannot officially say that we have chosen this household or these people to not have to abide by the Ordinance, we cannot do that. Councilwoman Stevenson said that the two alternate solutions that the Mayor spoke about seem to her to be worthy of pursuing and it sounds like there is someone that is willing to accommodate those needs. Councilman Cholock stated that they are opening a door for others to request the curb to be cut. Councilwoman Stevenson said that she believes that they have permitted others to cut a curb for a driveway. Councilman Barrick stated that there are 4000 houses in the Borough and if everyone wants to cut the curb, give them a permit to cut the curb. Mayor Bailey stated it does not need to be cut. It just needs to be trimmed at the top.

Solicitor Istik stated that if you look at the pictures, the sidewalk and curb is already busted. It is not like someone has just freshly poured it. Solicitor Istik also stated that there is a tree next to the home that could possibly cut and removed where they could have a nice little driveway. Mr. Kern stated that the concern with the others was that the size of vehicle may not fit there unless there was some substantial grading work. Mrs. Kern said the additional concern was runoff and drainage from creating the driveway.

Councilwoman Stevenson asked Mayor Bailey what her opinion is of the option about moving the fence and the doctor that was willing to do that. Mayor Bailey stated that she and Mr. Landy were both there and the landlord is quite willing to accommodate his tenants. Mayor Bailey said she won't say that he is willing to take the entire fence down but he is willing to move a portion of it to allow them parking so that they are not parked on the sidewalk. He was also willing to take the tree down, put some backfill in there and make a parking space between the sidewalk and the house. Councilwoman Stevenson asked if removing the fence would require a permit to cut the curb. Mayor Bailey said that curb does not go up onto a sidewalk and that it goes onto another paved area so she was unsure as to what would be necessary for them to be able to get the vehicle on there and that we would try and accommodate them as much as we could legally.

Mrs. Kern said that were here this evening by the recommendation of Mrs. Bailey to present their side at Council and it is up to them to decide what they do next. Mayor Bailey agreed that she did recommend them to come before Council and said that it was because the options that they had offered weren't accepted well by Mr. and Mrs. Kern and that they didn't think that those options would work well for them. Mayor Bailey stated that she couldn't tell them that they could park on the sidewalk. Councilwoman Stevenson said that Council cannot permit that either and suggested to work with their landlord. Mr. Kern asked what he should do in the interim? Borough Manager Landy asked Solicitor Istik "Can the Council, if we meet with the landlord or Mr. Kern meets with the landlord, and the landlord says it's going to take me a month to do it, could this Council put a moratorium against writing this gentleman a ticket for one month.

Councilwoman Stevenson said no, we could put a moratorium against enforcing the Ordinance for anybody anywhere I guess for a month. You can't carve out something for one person. Borough Manager Landy said that's why I am asking the question. I am trying to figure out a solution. Councilman Wojnar said yes, temporary solution. Borough Manager Landy continued by saying a temporary moratorium. Councilman Barrick asked how many tickets are written monthly for somebody parking on their sidewalk. Mayor Bailey stated that she does not know that off the top of her head. She does know that we have enforced it. Councilwoman Stevenson said it's not hundreds. Councilman Barrick agreed and asked it's not like there's hundreds. Mayor Bailey said no, we have started enforcing it more vigorously because they have gotten more and more complaints. Councilwoman Stevenson asked "you do see people in other parts of town parking on the sidewalk" Mayor Bailey stated "yes and so with that, I asked the Police officers to please keep track or not keep track, but be aware, when you see somebody doing it, you talk to them, you ticket them, you see them doing it again". Councilman Barrick said that the funny this is that the sidewalk doesn't even go the whole way up the street. Mayor Bailey stated that it starts at their house. Councilman Barrick said or ends at their house depending on which way you are looking at it but there really is no rhyme or reason, the sidewalk was put there, probably historically there was a sidewalk there, now there is no sidewalk continuing to Main Street, so why do they need the sidewalk in front. If they want to park in front, you could say there is no sidewalk there, it is a paved parking spot. Mayor Bailey stated that she can't change that. Councilman Barrick stated but why do we have to describe it as a sidewalk, why can't we describe it as a paved parking spot. Councilwoman Stevenson said because it is a sidewalk. Mayor Bailey said it is a sidewalk. Councilman Barrick continued but its not. Councilwoman Stevenson said yes, it is. Mayor Bailey said it is. Councilman Barrick said that it doesn't continue up the street. Mayor Bailey said but it continues down the street. Councilman Barrick said but it doesn't give me, as a pedestrian, I can't walk all the way up the street on a sidewalk, I got to get out on the street somewhere to walk it. Mayor Bailey said you can cross the street and continue the walk. Councilman Barrick stated that there are no crosswalks either. Mayor Bailey said "no, there is nothing down there". Councilman Barrick continued and said so that is the whole thing, there's no crosswalk and they can't walk up the street. Mayor Bailey stated that the other issue is that everybody on the other side has access to parking in their alley but they choose not to do that and they park out on the street which is a public street and they are allowed to park where ever they want to park. They don't have to park in the back. Mayor Bailey stated "I don't vote, I'm just giving you the situation".

Solicitor Istik stated that she would not advise just to forego Ordinances for a period of time because then what will happen, you will want to implement an Ordinance where you can't have boats and trailers out on your streets so then what if somebody comes to you and says for the summer, I'm going to keep my boat on the street can you just forego the enforcement of this Ordinance, either way you look at it, you are going to open up a can of worms. Solicitor Istik stated to Mr. Kern, I do feel for you and I think that Council has given you a couple of good options to work with your landlord, but the problem is you keep doing one thing with these Ordinances, someone else will come up for it and then someone else; and, then why do you have an Ordinance in the first place.

Mrs. Kern said but that is why every law is pleaded separately in every trial, because there are exceptions and different ways that we treat different people. It doesn't matter that a law is this. Mr. Kern said to have a disability and it's a reasonable accommodation and that they are coming to Council asking to let it continue. Solicitor Istik stated that their landlord has given them two (2) reasonable accommodations that he is willing to provide for them to park right in front of their home at no cost to them. Solicitor Istik stated that they cannot go to their neighbors and say don't park on the street because this young man has a disability and I want to make things easier for him. Mr. Kern asked why? Solicitor Istik continued by saying because it is a public street, there is a handicap spot. Mr. Kern said I want to understand this before I leave. You are unable to do that? Solicitor Istik stated, it is a public street with public parking. Mr. Kern said again, I just want to know you are unable to do that, you are powerless to do anything about it? Solicitor Istik said to enforce whether or not people park on the street? Mr. Kern said no, to allow a disabled person an exception, one handicapped guy? Solicitor Istik stated you were not asking for an exception to park in front of your home on the street. Mr. Kern said I am asking for an exception. Solicitor Istik stated you are asking to park on the

sidewalk and we cannot permit that and that the street in front of their home provides for public parking which means all public can park there. Mr. Kern stated he cannot park on the sidewalk in front of his home and as a disabled person, you are telling me that my accommodation is not reasonable and that my landlord should be taking care of it? Councilman Barrick asked if a handicap parking spot be placed across the street from his home? Solicitor Istik stated yes but it does not stop any other handicap person from using that space also.

Councilwoman Stevenson stated that she understands Mr. Kern would like his option of being permitted to park on the sidewalk; however, Council cannot approve that, but there are two (2) other that have been given at no cost to Mr. Kern, which Council does not think it is unreasonable to pursue whichever one he chooses of the last two (2) options. Mrs. Kern said that they were taking the steps that were suggested by Ms. Bailey and Mr. Landy to come to a meeting and present it to Council since they are the ones who can make the decision by a vote. Councilman Cholock stated that they were misled by Ms. Bailey and Mr. Landy because they cannot vote to approve anyone parking on a sidewalk. Mayor Bailey stated that the reason they were told to come to meeting was because no matter what option was offered, they were not willing to accept it or be happy with it. Mayor Bailey said that she doesn't believe that they believed them when they said it could not be done and they were then told to attend a meeting and Council would be able to hear the story and Council could let them know that it wasn't an option. Mrs. Kern said that Mayor Bailey stated that she is not the person to make the decision, that Council would have to vote on it and that is why they are here. Mrs. Kern asked if an Ordinance could be changed. Councilwoman Stevenson said you can change an Ordinance; however, it would apply to everyone equally and you can't exempt one person or a few people.

Councilman Wojnar asked if they would be acceptable to a handicap parking space being installed with the understanding that any person with a handicap placard can park there. Mrs. Kern said she would not deny the option of Council to approve a handicap space on the street. Mrs. Kern does not believe that they should have to pay \$150.00 for a handicap sign that anyone can park at and she is not paying for a sign.

Borough Manager Landy asked if he spoke with the landlord and he agreed to pay for the handicap sign what would you say then. Mrs. Kern said she would not deny a handicap parking space. Councilwoman Stevenson stated that this doesn't really solve the problem because he will be parking across the street. Mrs. Kern said they will work with the landlord and whatever he decides to do.

Solicitor Istik stated that Title 75 Section 3353 is a Pennsylvania state law prohibiting people from parking on any sidewalks or at any crosswalks. Solicitor Istik stated that even if a State Trooper would come through the Borough and see someone parked on a sidewalk, they would be able to issue a ticket for it.

Councilman Wojnar stated that they would be willing to install the handicap sign if Mrs. Kern's landlord would be willing to pay for it.

- 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:
  - Street Fair / Festival is coming up. June 23, 24, and 25. There will be no carnival. There will be games. Firemen will be selling burgers, kielbasa, and hotdogs. Firehouse Subs will be bringing a trailer to sell subs. Chick-fil-a will also be there.

Councilman Cholock asked what they will receive from Firehouse Subs. Mr. Bauer stated that they charge a flat fee for the trailer that they are bringing in.

- Mr. Bauer said they will be trying to bring a carnival back next year. The cake stand will be there this year.
- Call volume is up.

- They were going to wait until the end of the year until Jerry's term was up as Chief; however, with some of the turmoil going on at the fire department they feel it may be necessary to do it now. They may hold an election in July to get a Chief in place at the fire department. Once they have a Chief, they are in charge of the equipment.
- Synagogue is in bad shape and needs to be looked at. May look at the small building next to the fire department for some office space and to store extra gear.

Borough Manager Landy stated that the Borough owns the Synagogue; however, the fire department has use of the bottom floor.

Borough Manager Landy asked Mr. Bauer if he is saying that the fire department does not want to use the Synagogue. Mr. Bauer said they definitely want to use but they condition of the building should be looked at.

Mayor Bailey asked if the fire department needs volunteers for the Fireman's Fair / Festival or do they have it covered. Mr. Bauer said they would never turn down help but they do have most of it covered. They can always use help.

### **Mayor's Report:**

Mayor Bailey gave the following report:

- Mayor Bailey and Councilman Phillabaum attended the Monthly Dinner and Meeting held by the Westmoreland County Borough Association Meeting on Thursday, May 26, 2022.
- Thanked the American Legion and all Veterans for the Memorial Day celebration
- Attended the farmer's market held by the Mt. Pleasant BDA at the American Architectural Salvage Parking Lot. It was the first one of the season.
- Mayor Bailey, Councilwoman Czekanski, Councilwoman Barnes, Council President Ruskowski and Jeff McGuinness of the Street Department met on the alley that goes from Vine St to Mullin St regarding a fence issue and believe that it has been all ironed out and taken care of.

### **Solicitor's Report:**

Solicitor Istik gave the following report:

- Began a new job today with the law firm of Gilliland Vanasdale Sinatra Law Office, LLC in Cranberry Township, PA.

Council President Ruskowski asked Solicitor Istik if she had an update on the Levin / Bridgeport Street property. Solicitor Istik stated that the subdivision was kicked back and went back to Mr. Reagan to make some final updates on the actual subdivision and plans and they will then be resubmitted to the county. Council President Ruskowski asked who Mr. Reagan is. Solicitor Istik stated that he is the property appraisal that did the subdivision plot. Council President Ruskowski asked if there is a time frame. Solicitor Istik stated she would like to get it wrapped up and out for bids in July.

Councilman Cholock asked about the stolen parking meters and if it had ever been resolved. Solicitor Istik responded no, that we had to file suit against the construction company and we are still in litigation with it. Solicitor Istik stated that she had talked to the original adjuster who was going to attempt to pay us for the parking meters. That adjuster left the practice so we ended up having to sue the construction company in order to get the money back.

### **Tax Collector's Report:**

Borough Manager Landy read the following report for the month of May 2022:

Property Taxes	\$5,774.54
Supplemental Taxes	\$ 0.00
Per Capita Taxes	<u>\$ 0.00</u>
Total Collected	\$5,774.54

### **Borough Manager's Report:**

Borough Manager Landy gave the following report:

- Approval has been received from PennDOT for the Fireman's Parade and for the July 3<sup>rd</sup> Party in the Park.
- Met with Mayor Bailey, Jeff Kern and Amy Kern at S. Depot Street regarding parking
- Met with Councilman Barrick regarding a few projects.
- Held a luncheon for Ryan King, Director of Medic 10, who is leaving to go with Life Flight.
- Held the pre-construction meeting for street paving.
- Held the managers meeting. Councilman Phillabaum attended the meeting.
- Met with the MAWC – sewage company. It will be another year before bathrooms can be built at Willows Park. The sewage company will be redoing the plans near the vortex, so they suggested that we do not do the bathrooms at this time until it is reengineered. We will be adding port-a-johns temporarily.

**President's Report: None.**

### **Property Report:**

A Motion was made by Councilman Barrick to advertise for sealed bids for four (4) 12' x 20' sheds for the project at the east end of Main Street. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Stevenson. Motion carried 9-0.

Councilman Barrick gave the following report:

- Met with the glass maker and with the Harr's for the gazebo project. Will be reaching out to the Harr's for some additional pricing that they were working on for the roof, fascia work, brick work and some other improvements.
- Spoke with Borough Manager Landy about applying for a parking lot grant for the hillside at Frick Park which would tie it all in with the park.

Council President Ruszkowski asked Councilwoman Stevenson if she has began looking into the blinds for the Borough building. Councilwoman Stevenson said she has not done anything with it yet but she will be working on it soon. Councilman Barrick stated that he is looking into another grant that may help to cover the blinds along with some other improvements in the building.

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

Councilman Phillabaum gave the following report:

- Street paving project will begin anytime, weather permitting.



Councilman Barrick asked if PennDOT gave notice that they would be working on Diamond Street in the Borough. Borough Manager Landy stated that we did not receive any type of notice. Mayor Bailey stated that she did speak with George McKeeter of PennDOT at the Greensburg shed in February about how bad it was on South Diamond Street at the cemetery; and, he advised her then that PennDOT was going to be paving it. However, no one in the Borough, including Jeff McGuinness of the Street Department, knew of them going to do this at this time.

Borough Manager Landy asked Councilman Phillabaum if he knew if Jeff McGuinness checked on all of the manhole covers and raising the riser rings where they are paving. Councilman Phillabaum said he did not know and would check into it. Councilman Barrick stated that they should also check the inlets. Mayor Bailey stated she did not know if these were the Boroughs responsibility since it is a state roadway.

- Attended the monthly dinner and meeting for the Westmoreland County Boroughs Association with Mayor Bailey. Topic was Blight in the Boroughs.
- Attended the annual PSAB Conference in Hershey. Participated in voting for the Resolution Committee and the municipalities with less than 5000 residents and under could have representation voted in and work for the Borough and another was using radar in Boroughs.
- Street Department is getting new poles for stop signs.
- Spoke with Val Tressler. She asked if they would be permitted to close the alley beside The Second Baptist Church on Washington Street for their church festival between 10:00am and 5:00pm this coming Sunday. Councilman Phillabaum asked if it was voted on in the past or how they did it. Borough Manager Landy said no, all the Borough ever did was say it is okay that they do it. Borough Manager Landy asked if they need horses. Councilman Phillabaum stated he believes that they have them but will check with Val.
- Councilman Phillabaum stated that a lot of municipalities have moved their meetings between Tuesday and Thursday due to the updated guidelines of the sunshine act so that they can still get things on the agenda at the last minute the day before the meeting. Also, it was discussed that most municipalities are only meeting once a month.

### **Parks & Recreation:**

A Motion was made by Councilwoman Lasko to get quotes for Frick Park which includes the removal of shrubs and trees along the hillside, leave ones as discussed, move 3 by the gas valve area, remove steps, 2 sets. Grade step area, seed and mulch. Borough will provide chipper. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Stevenson. Motion carried 9-0.

Borough Manager Landy said that this is the beginning of the project to clean up at that area and that the railroad ties are not being removed yet. Councilwoman Barnes asked what is the rest of the project. Borough Manager Landy stated it is the one Councilman Barrick mentioned earlier in his report about putting in a parking lot and tying it in with the rain gardens and Frick Park.

### **Public Safety Report:**

Councilman Cholock gave the following report:

- Ryan King, director of Medic 10, has given his resignation and will be going to Life Flight. There are a couple of people interested in the position. They currently have the following positions, Director; Supervisor; and Station Manager. Two people have reached out for the position, Zach Gergas is interested in moving from Supervisor to the Director and Eric Bell is interested in Supervisor. Councilman Cholock stated that Ryan King is going to be missed dramatically. He did a lot of extra work that he did on his own. The guys that are there now are great. Zach Gergas is just as good as Ryan King is

but you are losing “Kinger”. Councilman Cholock said I know that other guys will not do what Ryan King did. Everybody knows that we are battling an uphill battle with Medic 10 as it is now and this now throws a big wrench into it. We cannot even offer a match what Life Flight will pay Ryan. Life Flight is through Allegheny Health Network, which is who Medic 10 operates through. If Ryan worked for Medic 10 also, he would have to be paid his life flight rate through Allegheny Health Network. Ryan King did offer to help out when he had the time. Councilman Cholock stated that we do need to be thinking of a Plan B and the last option is to bring in another ambulance service. Councilman Cholock stated that if it would ever come to it, one option is that they could possibly make Medic 10 an authority and possibly bill the residents for having an EMS service.

Councilwoman Stevenson asked what steps should we be taking at this moment. Councilman Cholock stated we don’t need to take any steps right at this moment and that he just wanted everybody to be aware and that this isn’t anything new and has been going on for the last 2years and with Ryan leaving, which was a key part because Ryan put so much time and effort into, he is going to be missed. Councilman Cholock said, not that Zach Gergas can’t step up and do the same thing, he definitely can; but Ryan and Zach were a team doing it together. Ryan King will never be able to be replaced. Borough Manager Landy agreed completely with Councilman Cholock. Councilman Cholock stated that Ryan King is eligible to be a life member of Medic 10 and at the next meeting he will make a motion to make him a life member. Borough Manager Landy stated that Medic 10 is running approximately \$100,000.00. Borough Manager Landy said that Medic 10 does a subscription. Councilman Cholock stated that it is about 30% – 35% return of subscriptions. Councilman Barrick asked if they could levy a tax such as a safety tax, public safety. Councilman Barrick stated that the problem with an Authority is that you then have to deal with a Board instead of Council. Councilman Barrick stated that you may need to prepare by raising taxes at the end of this year and possibly again next year and nobody wants hear that. Councilman Cholock stated that Medic 10 Board is comprised of three (3) Councilmembers and three (3) residents.

Councilwoman Barnes asked about someone saying that the purchase of the wheelchair van and that we were doing better. Borough Manager Landy said Medic 10 was losing money so when they got Harmon House it was better but it is still not at a break even point. It is better and hope that it keeps getting better but we are not there yet. Councilman Cholock stated that the big loss was the Norvelt / Kecksburg area and now that the Township has given that area to Mutual Aid, Medic 10 will never be the back up for them.

- Mt. Pleasant VFD has given a letter to Council asking them to discuss amending the Ordinance that requires that Assistant Fire Chief to live within Borough limits changed to be able to live one (1) driven mile from Borough lines. Councilwoman Stevenson stated that she does not believe that the Borough should change the ordinance because of political nonsense going on in other organizations. Councilman Cholock agreed. Councilman Barrick stated that we should address their letter with a return letter. Solicitor Istik stated that a vote is not necessary to address the letter and that you only need to vote if you are taking action, not to do inaction. Council agreed that they do not want to change the Ordinance and a letter will be sent to the fire department making them aware that the Ordinance will remain as is.

Councilman Cholock read the following Fire Report for the month of May 2022:

Total Calls – 49  
In Town – 13  
Out of Town - 36  
10-45's - 11  
Entrapments - 1  
Fires -14  
AFA's - 16  
Hazardous Calls – 3  
Public Service Calls – 1

Ambulance Assistance –1  
Standby's – 1  
Turnpike Calls – 7  
Landing Zones – 0  
Drills – 0  
Total Members Answering – 573  
Avg. Member Per Call – 11

### **Veterans Park:**

Councilwoman Barnes gave the following report:

- Four (4) names have been put on the wall before Memorial Day.
- Councilwoman Barnes would like to request Solicitor Istik to write a letter to Spectrio (formerly Industry Weapons) requesting a refund since we have had two (2) years and received no service. Solicitor Istik asked if the digital wall is working. Borough Manager Landy said that it is working; but the reason it isn't working is because there are things that they needed to correct and fix and have not done that.
- Spectrio has asked that the information that Marie Dawson compiled and sent be updated in a different format.
- Contacted the Spectrio headquarters in Florida and let them know that there is a problem. Was given another number; however, no one answered the phone call or a text.

Borough Manager Landy stated that the next list of names will not be added until around Veteran's Day unless we have at least ten (10) names before then.

### **Human Resources / Ordinances:**

Councilman Wojnar gave the following report:

- Solicitor Istik is working on an Ordinance regarding recreational vehicles parked on the street.
- Councilman Wojnar is reviewing the Quality-of-Life Ordinance to be sure that they don't coincide with Ordinances that we already have in place.

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

Councilwoman Stevenson gave the following report:

- Councilwoman Stevenson and Borough Manager Landy will be meeting with an auditing company on Wednesday, June 8, 2022.

Councilwoman Barnes asked why are we changing auditors. Borough Manager Landy said pricing. Councilman Wojnar stated that additional fees were added on last year. Councilman Cholock said that it is recommended to change auditors every few years.

### **New Business:**

- Received a request from Richard Kujawa to use Frick Park for the Mount Pleasant Glass & Ethnic Festival annual car show August 19, 2022 with a rain date of August 26, 2022. Council agreed that he can use Frick Park. Councilwoman Barnes asked what they are using the park for? Council President Ruszkowski stated it is for the car show and asked Councilwoman Barnes if she is alright with that? Councilwoman Barnes said yes.
- Councilman Phillabaum asked if Council was invited to ride in the Fireman's Parade. Borough Manager Landy said he believes that everyone is invited to participate in the parade.

**Reading of Communications:       None.**

**Discussion and Payment of Bills:**

A Motion was made by Councilman Phillabaum to pay all authorized and approved bills. Motion seconded by Councilman Barrick. Motion carried 9-0.

**Public Comment:   None.**

**Miscellaneous and Adjournment:**

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

**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 of June 6, 2022**

A Motion was made by Councilwoman Stevenson to approve the minutes of May 23, 2022 since Council has been provided with a copy. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Lasko. Motion carried 8-0.

A Motion was made by Councilman Barrick to advertise for sealed bids for four (4) 12' x 20' sheds for the project at the east end of Main Street. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Stevenson. Motion carried 9-0.

A Motion was made by Councilwoman Lasko to get quotes for Frick Park which includes the removal of shrubs and trees along the hillside, leave ones as discussed, move 3 by the gas valve area, remove steps, 2 sets. Grade step area, seed and mulch. Borough will provide chipper. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Stevenson. Motion carried 9-0.

A Motion was made by Councilman Phillabaum to pay all authorized and approved bills. Motion seconded by Councilman Barrick. Motion carried 9-0.

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