

## Meeting August 1, 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 those in the Kentucky area with the flooding. President Ruszkowski asked Borough Manager Landy to take roll call. Councilpersons present included Phillabaum, Lasko, Stevenson and Wojnar. Solicitor Istik was present. President Ruszkowski stated that a quorum is present. Mayor Bailey was absent. Councilman Cholock arrived at 7:04pm.

A Motion was made by Councilwoman Stevenson to approve the minutes of July 5, 2022 and July 18, 2022 since Council has been provided with a copy. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Lasko. Motion carried 5-0.

**Speakers: None.**

### Public Comment:

- Joe Bauer of President of the Mount Pleasant Volunteer Fire Department updated Council on events happening within the Fire Department. They will be making changes next year to the ticket sales that they are doing. They are promoting their purse bash. Also have a \$10.00 Halloween ticket to win \$20,000.00. They are looking at some in-house training.

Mr. Bauer reported the Fire Department held a special election yesterday, July 31, 2022 for the purpose of electing a Chief, Assistant Chief and Treasurer. The elections were as follows: Mark Kraisinger - Fire Chief, Paul Harenchar - Assistant Fire Chief and Joe Siska - Treasurer. Mr. Bauer stated that between Mr. Kraisinger and Mr. Harenchar they come with approximately eighty (80) years of experience of the firefighting service and are very well qualified. There are approximately 22 members in the Fire Department now. Mr. Bauer said although numbers are down for members, they are still able to get the trucks filled. Mr. Bauer stated he would like the Borough to help with recruitment in various ways and that one way would be to permit digital signs.

Borough Manager Landy said instead of only selling tickets at the Glass Festival that they should do a recruitment there. Mr. Bauer said that they do take applications during that time. Borough Manager Landy suggested having a sign stating that they are recruiting. Borough Manager Landy also suggested recruiting at National Night Out.

- Mark Kraisinger, Fire Chief of the Mt. Pleasant Volunteer Fire Department spoke to Council about his time with the VFD. This is his 46<sup>th</sup> year with the department. Training was much different in the past and everything was hands on, which was much better than the training offered now. Trainings offered nowadays, a lot of it is on the computer and book reading. Mr. Kraisinger stated that his goal for the fire department is to get it back and running on the straight and narrow. Mr. Kraisinger said it will take a while because this did not happen overnight, but he will get things straightened out and he will not take any b.s. as far as any members getting out of line and he will not stand for that.

Mr. Kraisinger had one request of Council to put out to the community. If any organization or business in town is holding an event/sponsorship and needs the fire department to assist, the fire department requests to have at least one week notice of the event. They are very happy to help; but they need time to get the people and things in order so they can help with the event.

- James Gallagher of 124 South Quarry Street, Mount Pleasant, PA, owner of Gallaghers Pub & Grille spoke to Council to request the temporary use of his property at 124 South Quarry Street, Mt. Pleasant next to business for overflow of parking for two (2) bike run events that will be held at his business on August 13<sup>th</sup> from approximately 11:00am to 1:00pm; and, the second on August 28<sup>th</sup> from approximately 9:00am to 4:00pm. Mr. Gallagher stated that the second event would have approximately 50 bikes.

Borough Manager Landy informed Mr. Gallagher that he spoke with Solicitor Istik and she advised that Council could give temporary permission for those two days and hours if they wish.

A Motion was made by Councilman Cholock to amend the agenda to permit temporary parking on the lot at 124 South Quarry Street, Mt. Pleasant next to Gallaghers Pub & Grille. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Lasko. Motion carried 6-0.

A Motion was made by Councilman Cholock to permit temporary parking on the lot at 124 South Quarry Street, Mt. Pleasant, next to Gallaghers Pub & Grille for two (2) bike runs on August 13, 2022 from 11:00am to 1:00pm and August 28, 2022 from 9:00am to 4:00pm. Motion seconded by Councilman Phillabaum. Motion carried 6-0.

**Mayor's Report:     None.**

**Solicitor's Report:**

Solicitor Istik gave the following report:

- Filed a complaint with the magistrate against the gentleman who did the damage to the bench at Veterans Park since the father did not comply and pay for the damages.
- Has the contract negotiations that she and Borough Manager Landy are working on for the Police. Will discuss in executive session.

**Tax Collector's Report:**

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

Property Taxes	\$1,102.08
Supplemental Taxes	\$ 0.00
Per Capita Taxes	<u>\$ 0.00</u>
Total Collected	\$1,102.08

**Borough Manager's Report:**

Borough Manager Landy gave the following report:

- Spoke with Nat Abramson, Steve Samuelson, and Myrna Cohen regarding the Synagogue and the deteriorating condition of the building. They realize the condition of the building and agree that it would be better to have it torn down than to see it in the condition that it is in. Borough Manager Landy also spoke with Rabbi Lenny with the Tree of Life in Greensburg regarding the altar, the stained-glass windows and anything else that may be in the building that they would be interested in. Borough Manager Landy said that he would speak with Council regarding meeting with Rabbi Lenny to show him the building and items.

Councilman Cholock asked what would be the plans for that property after that. Borough Manager Landy said the Borough owns it and he would ask the County to tear the building down and afterwards with the Borough and the Fire Department try to get a grant to add a meeting room, lounge area to replace the standby room, an office or another bay to the fire department. It would have to be discussed but there would be room to do it. Mr. Bauer stated that the Synagogue is currently being used as a standby room for companies that come in on standby and have to stay for several hours.

Councilwoman Stevenson and Councilwoman Lasko believe that this is the proper way to handle this and let Rabbi Lenny come in and retrieve what they could possibly use.

Borough Manager Landy asked Mr. Bauer if it was possible to see if Handyman Joe would be able to board up the windows to protect them so they don't lose any of the stained glass.

- Borough Manager Landy and Councilman Phillabaum attended a stormwater webinar.
- Borough Manager Landy reminded Council that stormwater is going to be a big issue in the Borough and all Boroughs. They want anything going into Shupe's Run to be cleaned up, which means catch basins shouldn't have grass or dirt in them. It should only be water running through them. Councilman Cholock asked how often does the street department clean catch basins. Borough Manager Landy said that right now we have an MS4 Permit and we are required to do so many per year. We are ahead of schedule of doing so many per year. Our engineers had a plan that we could put filters over our catch basins at \$3500.00 each and they only last three (3) years. The Borough has approximately 90 catch basins. Borough Manager asked the engineer come up with a way to filter it before it gets to the creek, which is called an outfall and he believes that there are approximately 15 outfalls. Borough Manager Landy said it is going to be a problem and we will have to budget money for it.
- Held a manager's meeting. They are very successful and opens the communication between the street department, the police department and the Borough.
- Held a safety meeting. They are good. We receive 5% discount on insurance for holding the safety meetings.
- Would like the finance committee to start soon on how the Borough will be handling the first half of the ARPA money for 2023 budget and the second half for 2024.
- Will need to have the garbage contract committee meet and discuss what we would like to be in the bidding so it can be put out for bid.
- The two (2) houses on Shupe Street, the former Morris Barron car lot building that the Borough owns; and, one (1) building that St. Pius owns are on the demolition project for the County. They should be demolishing them within the next two (2) months.
- Spoke with a person that would like to possibly bring in an old fashion Diner and possibly putting it where the former Morris Barron car lot was at.

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

Councilman Cholock introduced Zachary Gergas as the new Director for Medic 10 and Eric Bell as the Assistant Director for Medic 10. Mr. Gergas was the supervisor prior to Ryan King leaving Medic 10. Mr. Cholock stated that both of these gentlemen have stepped up and do a lot for Medic 10 and thanked both of them.

Councilwoman Stevenson stated that the holiday lighting fund and the town clock fund was rolled into the general fund. There was \$16,600.00 in the general fund budgetary reserve – fire line that was transferred to the general fund for reimbursement of the air rigs that was previously purchased. The money (\$970.66) that was in the general fund budgetary reserve – Levin's line was moved to the general fund budgetary reserve - contingency line.

A Motion was made by Councilwoman Stevenson to approve the June 2022 Treasures Report that was reviewed at the July 18, 2022 meeting. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Lasko. Motion carried 6-0.

A Motion was made by Councilman Cholock to hold an executive session regarding personnel. Motion seconded by Councilman Phillabaum. Motion carried 6-0.

A Motion was made by Councilman Cholock to reconvene. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Lasko. Motion carried 6-0.

Council President Ruszkowski stated that the executive session was held from 7:41pm to 8:31pm to discuss personnel contracts.

## **Property Report:**

A Motion was made by Councilwoman Stevenson to approve and execute the Agreement to purchase 22 blinds for the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor of the Borough building from Budget Blinds at a cost of \$6,929.12. Motion seconded by Councilman Phillabaum. Motion carried 5-1. Councilman Cholock voted no.

A Motion was made by Councilwoman Stevenson to approve and execute the proposal of Ulery Architecture, LLC for architectural and engineering services for the renovation of the gazebo at a cost not to exceed a cost of \$8,500.00. Motion seconded by Councilman Cholock. Motion carried 6-0

Councilman Cholock asked what it cost to build the gazebo. Borough Manager Landy stated that it was built approximately 30 some years ago and it was before his time so he is uncertain of what the cost was. It was then remodeled by Medic 10 in 1976 at an approximate cost of \$25,000.00.

A Motion was made by Councilwoman Stevenson to accept bid from Riverside Structures of Corry, PA for the purchase of four (4) wooden buildings in the amount of \$30,180.00 for the East End of Main Street Project. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Lasko. Motion carried 6-0.

Borough Manager Landy reported that we have received a grant in the amount of \$23,000.00 towards the purchase of these building from the Westmoreland Cultural Trust Arts and Heritage. The buildings will be pop-up shops from the spring to late fall. Vendors will be able to rent them for the season.

A Motion was made by Councilwoman Stevenson to accept the proposal from Fay-West Tree Management for spraying treatment to remove Knotweed at the Waterway Project at a cost of \$325.00. Motion seconded by Councilman Cholock. Motion carried 6-0.

Solicitor Istik reported that Medic 10 is having an issue with their 5-ton air conditioning unit. The unit was purchased in 2019 and it is still under warranty; however, the company, Zelmore Heating and Cooling, that installed it wants to charge them \$1,680.00 to replace the coil and recharge the unit. The repairs will take up to six (6) weeks because they cannot get the part in until then. Medic 10 believes they will continue to have the same problems due to the unit being too large for the furnace that they have. They have had issues every year since having the unit installed. Solicitor Istik stated that it could be that they just received a “lemon” unit and since it is under warranty, they should be able to replace the unit. Medic 10 has been told that the unit should be a 4-ton unit to be compatible with their furnace.

Solicitor Istik suggested sending a letter to Zelmore Heating and Cooling to replace the unit. Council agreed that Solicitor Istik should send the letter to Zelmore Heating and Cooling.

## **Streets / Stormwater Report:**

A Motion was made by Councilman Phillabaum to approve the 2022-2023 Exhibit “A” for the Winter Municipal Snow Removal Agreement with PennDOT for an amount of \$10,566.94 retroactive to July 22, 2022. Motion seconded by Councilman Cholock. Motion carried 6-0.

A Motion was made by Councilman Phillabaum to approve the purchase of a rebuilt engine for the tub grinder at a cost of \$5,300.00. Motion seconded by Councilman Cholock. Motion carried 6-0.

Borough Manager Landy stated that the tub grinder will grind it up Christmas trees and brush into small pieces to make mulch.

A Motion was made by Councilman Phillabaum to close Main Street Route 31 from Braddock Road Avenue to Silver Street on September 24, 2022 from 12:30pm to 4:00pm for the Mount Pleasant Glass & Ethnic Festival Parade. Motion seconded by Councilman Cholock. Motion carried 6-0.

A Motion was made by Councilman Phillabaum to close S. Diamond Street from Route 31 Main Street to Spruce Street and Washington Street from College Avenue to Hitchman Street from

10:00am September 22, 2022 to 11:00am September 26, 2022 for the Mt. Pleasant Glass & Ethnic Festival. Motion seconded by Councilman Cholock. Motion carried 6-0.

A Motion was made by Councilman Phillabaum to close Route 31, Main Street from Braddock Road Avenue to Silver Street on Wednesday, October 26, 2022 from 6:00pm to 8:00pm for the 2022 Halloween Parade. Motion seconded by Councilman Cholock. Motion carried 6-0.

Councilman Phillabaum gave the following report:

- Will be following up with Jeff McGuinness regarding the street paving and drainage issues on Orchard Avenue. The curb has been built up to help temporarily correct the problem.

### **Parks & Recreation:**

Councilman Phillabaum reported that the basketball hoops at Jack Bobbs Park have been destroyed again for a third time this year. Councilwoman Lasko stated that they will not put them back up. Councilwoman Stevenson suggested putting a notice at the park and in the newspaper as to why they will not be put up.

Councilman Cholock asked what is the cost of the basketball hoops. Borough Manager Landy was uncertain of the costs.

### **Public Safety Report:**

A Motion was made by Councilman Cholock to retain Mark Kraisinger as Fire Chief / Fire Marshal and Paul Harenchar as Assistant Fire Chief for Mount Pleasant Borough from August 1, 2022 through December 31, 2022. Motion seconded by Councilman Phillabaum. Motion carried 6-0.

Councilman Cholock asked when will PennDOT be putting the lines to monitor the speeding back down on South Diamond Street and North Church Street. Borough Manager Landy stated that PennDOT will tell us that when they have several roads in the area to do that is when they will come and do it all at one time.

Borough Manager Landy stated that he believes that they discussed this at the Managers Meeting and Rocky Anderson stated that there are markings where the lines were previously and that the street department will be painting them. Councilman Phillabaum will follow up with the street department tomorrow to verify this and make arrangements to get the lines painted.

Councilman Phillabaum reported that he attended the Fireman's Officer meeting and their general meeting and discussed the Knox Box Ordinance.

Councilman Cholock stated that the siren test will be done on Saturday, August 6, 2022 at noon. The siren test is to be done on the first Saturday of every month.

Councilman Phillabaum read the following Fire Report for the month of July 2022:

Total Calls – 45  
In Town – 9  
Out of Town - 36  
10-45's - 14  
Entrapments - 2  
Fires -8  
AFA's - 9  
Hazardous Calls – 6  
Public Service Calls – 6  
Ambulance Assistance –0  
Standby's – 2  
Turnpike Calls – 2  
Landing Zones – 0

Drills – 1  
Total Members Answering – 520  
Avg. Member Per Call – 11

### **Veterans Park:**

Councilman Phillabaum asked Mr. Meredith if he had any updates on Veterans Park.

Mr. Meredith stated the following:

- They are trying to find someone that will be able to do the parging on the backside of the wall. Mr. Bauer stated that the wall was definitely a solid concrete wall. Borough Manager Landy agreed and said that there were forms for the concrete. Borough Manager Landy and Councilman Cholock stated that it has to be getting water in it from somewhere to cause it to crack. Mr. Meredith stated that maybe the next step is to get someone in to look at it and see where the water would be getting in at.
- Had an artist come in to look at possibly painting a design on the backside of the wall.
- Created a subcommittee for to start working on banners for Veterans and will be put up on Main Street. They are in the early stages of organizing it and hopefully will have something by the first of the year. They have discussed having a booth at the Glass Festival. Councilman Cholock stated that he will pay for half of the cost of the booth if they decide to set up at the Glass Festival.

Borough Manager Landy reported that Spectrio (formerly Industry Weapons) has emailed a proposal regarding the digital wall. Mr. Landy said that is doing exactly what we have asked for and it is just a general statement on the proposal that they are going to fix it. Borough Manager Landy stated that he would like to speak with them and ask a few questions.

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

- Solicitor Istik will send a copy of the draft Parking Ordinance to all of Council for their review.

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

- Will be meeting with Councilwoman Lasko and Borough Manager Landy regarding the garbage contract.

### **New Business:**

- Standard Bank will merge with Dollar Bank as legal entities on September 6, 2022. Standard Bank will then operate as “A division of Dollar Bank”. In early 2023, Standard Bank will fully merge with Dollar Bank.
- KeyBank will be celebrating the Mount Pleasant Office for being #1 nationwide by holding a community event on Wednesday, August 10, 2022 from 11:00am to 2:00pm at the Mt. Pleasant Office at 544 West Main Street, Mt. Pleasant.
- The Business District Authority will be hosting Wake Up Westmoreland on Tuesday, August 16, 2022 from 8:00am – 9:15am. Standard Bank in Mt. Pleasant will be the breakfast sponsor.

**Reading of Communications:**        **None.**

### **Discussion and Payment of Bills:**

A Motion was made by Councilwoman Stevenson to pay all authorized and approved bills from the July 18, 2022 meeting retroactive to July 19, 2022 due to lack of quorum and to pay all current authorized and approved bills. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Lasko. Motion carried 6-0.

**Public Comment:**

- Joe Bauer spoke to Council regarding the National Night Out donating a bench to the Mount Pleasant VFD in memory of Jerry Lucia. It will be placed where the old bench was sitting at the fire department. Mr. Bauer asked if the Street Department would be able to help remove the old bench since it is concrete. Borough Manager Landy and Council President Ruszkowski stated that yes that can be done by the Street Department. Mr. Bauer said that they should remove the one in front of the Synagogue because it too is falling apart and deteriorating.

**Miscellaneous and Adjournment:**

A Motion was made by Councilman Phillabaum to adjourn the meeting. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Lasko. Motion carried 6-0.

**Meeting Adjourned 9:08pm.**

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 August 1, 2022**

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