

Meeting September 20, 2021

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 our deployed troops. President Ruszkowski asked Borough Manager Landy to take roll call. Councilpersons present included Barnes, Bailey, Phillabaum, Smetak, Lasko and Wojnar. Solicitor Istik was present. President Ruszkowski stated that a quorum is present. Mayor Lucia arrived at 8:10pm and left at 8:48pm. Councilman Smetak left at 8:37pm.

A Motion was made by Councilwoman Bailey to approve the minutes of September 7, 2021 since Council has been provided with a copy. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Lasko. Motion carried 7-0.

Council President Ruszkowski stated that there was one (1) candidate for the vacant Third Ward seat.

A Motion was made by Councilwoman Bailey to amend the agenda to appoint Cynthia Stevenson to fill the Third Ward Council Seat vacated by the resignation of Councilman John H. Caruso, Jr. Motion seconded by Councilman Phillabaum. Motion carried 7 – 0.

A Motion was made by Councilwoman Bailey appoint Cynthia Stevenson to fill the Third Ward Council Seat vacated by the resignation of Councilman John H. Caruso, Jr. Motion seconded by Councilman Phillabaum. Councilwoman Barnes abstained from voting. Motion carried 7 – 0.

Public Comment:

- James Rega from 10 N. Church Street, Mount Pleasant, PA 15666 spoke to Council regarding the tar that was sprayed on his wall during the tar and chipping project approximately one (1) month ago. Mr. Rega would like information as to who and when it will be fixed. Councilwoman Barnes stated she had spoken with Mr. Rega and explained to him why she did not vote for the Borough to pay to have the wall repaired; and, that she wanted to know if the Township was going to pay for the repairs. Councilwoman Bailey reported that she and Borough Manager Landy contacted Mount Pleasant Township the day after the last meeting when the motion was made and did not have a second. Councilwoman Bailey and Borough Manager Landy explained the situation. Mr. Puskar, who was in charge of his crew and the application, knows a gentleman who worked previously for Raimondo Masonry. This gentleman come out and looked at the wall and said that he will be able to clean it; however, he will not do it until Mr. Puskar returns from vacation. Councilwoman Bailey and Borough Manager Landy followed up with the Township this morning and spoke with Mrs. Mills and she did not have any definite answers at the time. Mrs. Mills followed up later in the afternoon with Borough Manager Landy by email stating that Mr. Puskar is away; however, she believes he would like to be here when the work was being done. Mrs. Mills was unable to reach him due to him having no phone service where he was. Councilwoman Barnes asked if our contract was with the Township. Solicitor Istik stated that there was no contract between the municipalities; and, that the Township offered to do the work. Councilwoman Bailey agreed that we did not do any contract. Councilwoman Barnes stated that it is an Intermunicipal Agreement then. Councilwoman Bailey stated it was and that there was discussion and they volunteered to come in and do it again for the Borough. Councilman Wojnar asked why we concerned about alienating the Township and are not concerned about one of our residents being taken care of. Councilwoman Bailey stated that she and Borough Manager Landy put the motion on the agenda because they felt it was the right thing to do; and, when she made the motion at the last meeting it had failed to get a second vote. Solicitor Istik stated that the Township did the work and therefore they are the responsible party to pay. Mr. Rega stated he wants the wall fixed properly; and, he does not want this to be dragged out.

Speakers:

- Renee Shipley from Republic Services spoke to Council regarding extending the residential garbage collection with Republic Services for one (1) year as an option year from January 1, 2022 through December 31, 2022. Ms. Shipley stated this is the last extension and there will be no price increase at all. Councilwoman Barnes stated that they have been not picking up Vine Street the last few weeks. Ms. Shipley said that they are aware of it and are working to rectify it. They are working through some staffing issues and employees out from Covid and that they will get this worked out. Borough Manager Landy stated that we have worked with Ms. Shipley in the past and that she is now taking over John McGoran's position. Andy Wartz, Manager of Municipal Sales, was in attendance with Ms. Shipley. Mr. Wartz has the same role as Ms. Shipley; however, he works out of Central PA in York, Harrisburg and Lancaster. He has been working with Ms. Shipley and doing some training with her for her new role.

Borough Manager Landy and Council President Ruszkowski presented former Council President Caruso with a plaque with his gavel. Mr. Caruso thanked Council.

Mayors Report:

Mayor Lucia gave the following report:

- This will be the 34th year for the Mt. Pleasant Glass & Ethnic Festival. Mayor Lucia asked Council for their blessing that employees be permitted to help in the preparation of setting up for the festival. Mayor Lucia stated that the Festival not only benefits the Borough, it benefits the businesses of Mount Pleasant and the surrounding area because the vendors go there to buy supplies. Borough Manager Landy stated that he had spoke with Gene from the Village Restaurant and he told Mr. Landy that it is his best weekend of the year and looks forward to the Festival. Councilwoman Stevenson asked what it was that Mayor Lucia asking about the employees. Mayor Lucia stated he would like Council to be aware that there are employees of the Borough that do certain things for the Festival, such as the Police Department and Street Department. Councilman Phillabaum believes that it is a good idea for our Borough Police to make a presence during the Festival. Councilwoman Barnes stated that she had questioned whether employees of the Borough were doing work for the Festival. Councilwoman Barnes stated that she met with Mayor Lucia and Borough Manager Landy to discuss it and that the only reason she had asked was because it was usually mentioned at meetings in prior years that employees would be helping; and, it was not this year. Borough Manager Landy said that when they met with Councilwoman Barnes, she had told them the reason she was asking was because former Police Chief Doug Sam stated that by having Officers at the Festival, it had blown his budget out of the water. Borough Manager Landy stated that if Mr. Sam had Officers at the Festival, that was his decision to have them there. Borough Manager Landy stated that his budget did not get blown out of the water because of a part-time officer going to the Festival. Councilwoman Barnes stated that all of her questions were answered as far as she is concerned. Council all acknowledged and agreed that Borough employees may offer some assistance and are permitted to assist the Mt. Pleasant Glass & Ethnic Festival. Councilwoman Barnes asked how much time Borough employees would be giving to the festival. Borough Manager Landy stated that this is on Borough time. Councilman Wojnar stated that as long as there is oversight that the employees are being productive then that should not be an issue. Councilwoman Bailey stated that some do get pulled away from other duties. Councilwoman Stevenson stated that she doesn't believe that this is a bad thing. Councilwoman Bailey agreed stating that it is good to see the employees involved. Councilman Wojnar stated that it would be a bad thing if the festival went away. Council President Ruszkowski stated that if there was an emergency, the Street Department would take care of that issue immediately. Councilwoman Bailey agreed and stated that the Street Department is aware of what they have to do and that they have been doing it for 34 years now. Mayor Lucia stated that it was originally the Nationality Days which was held on Main Street by the Chamber of Commerce. When they decided to not hold it anymore, that is when they decided to put together the Glass Festival. Mayor Lucia stated that the churches benefit by it, the senior citizens benefit by it, the Rotary Club, the Historical Society and the Cat Committee all benefits by it. Council President

Ruszkowski stated that the Police presence makes it safer and people walking see their presence. Councilwoman Barnes agreed but she wanted to know as far as the Street Department what are reasonable hours that they should spend during the day towards the festival. Councilwoman Barnes agrees that the Police presence should be there. Mayor Lucia stated that it is Veterans Park and the gazebo area that they are cutting, cleaning and preparing for the festival. Councilwoman Bailey stated that it is the same routine every year; however, this year might be a bit more only because we do not have the waste water treatment employees that usually did things. Councilwoman Bailey said the street department sweeps the street after and the fire department hoses the street. The only additional is the street department helps with the picnic tables, barrels and the far stage. Councilwoman Bailey stated she does not believe it is anything over an above. Councilman Wojnar stated that it has been confirmed that there is oversight that they are being productive.

Solicitor’s Report:

Solicitor Istik stated that her report will be given in Executive Session.

Treasurer’s Report:

Borough Manager Landy read the following Treasurer’s Report for the month of August 2021:

Mt. Pleasant Borough Treasurer's Report

Aug-21

		Prev Bal	Deposits	Disbursements	Balance 2021
General Fund Checking	Scottdale Bank 19069335	999,747.98	92,474.05	120,206.43	972,015.60
**Town Clock	619.92				
**Holiday Lighting	1812.51				
General Fund	Standard				
Budgetary Reserve	Bank 321615	1,022,133.24	164.96	0.00	1,022,298.20
**Police	52,619.03				
**Streets	147,131.00				
**Contingency Fund	309,913.81				
**Infrastructure	181,588.62				
**BOMP Gas Wells	22,958.04				
** Frick Park Gas					
Well	20,911.28				
**Levins	970.06				
**Fire	48,900.00				
**K-9	13,828.76				
**Medic 10	200,000.00				
**Marcellus Impact					
Fee Act 13	23,477.60				
Police Parking Tickets & Meters	Scottdale Bank 1026616	27,575.86	978.90	572.08	27,982.68
Escrow Account	Scottdale Bank 19069343	9,636.56	3.38	0.00	9,639.94
Liquid Fuels PLGIT	PLGIT 56980126	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Liquid Fuels / Scottdale Bank	Scottdale Bank 19123645	132,805.84	46.11	3,979.05	128,872.90
Monument CD	Standard Bank 446635	7,382.80	0.00	0.00	7,382.80
Payroll Fund	Scottdale Bank 19069350	1,280.06	65,613.37	44,135.78	22,757.65
Veterans Park Fund	Somerset Trust Co 2003058309	23,159.78	451.20	0.00	23,610.98
Storm Water Retrofit Phase II	Scottdale Bank 19069368	1,220.06	0.43	0.00	1,220.49
Turn Back Account	Scottdale Bank 19069384	24,819.94	8.70	0.00	24,828.64
ARPA Covid-19 (American Resuce Plan Act)	Scottdale Bank 19123652	220,957.63	77.49	0.00	221,035.12
Standard Bank CD	Standard Bank 432243	215,254.60	0.00	0.00	215,254.60

Standard Bank CD	Standard Bank 410571	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
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					2,782,824.18
Medic 10 Checking	Scottdale Bank 19069533	78,827.50	56,849.09	40,882.27	94,794.32
Medic 10 Savings	Scottdale Bank 19069723	133,135.18	1,047.02	0.00	134,182.20
Medic 10 Money Market	Scottdale Bank 19069376	6,008.38	2.11	0.00	6,010.49
Medic 10 Pittsburgh Foundation	Standard Bank 0000358253	8,470.82	0.00	0.00	8,470.82
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					268,186.42
WWT Capital Reserve Account	Standard Bank 0010175932	917,541.25	107.60	0.00	917,648.85
Capital Reserve M. A. Account	Somerset Trust Co 2004129745	457,768.30	23.33	0.00	457,791.63
Oceanview Annuity CD	Scottdale Bank - MidPenn	3,007,516.44	0.00	0.00	3,007,516.44
Standard Bank CD	Standard Bank 464569	200,000.00	0.00	0.00	200,000.00
WWT Cap.Resv					
Athene Annuity CD (created Jan. 2021)	Somerset Trust	503,542.44	934.29	0.00	504,476.73
Standard Bank CD (Partial MAWC)	Standard Bank 446593	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Scottdale Bank /MidPenn CD (MAWC Final)	Scottdale Bank 318011768	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Total WWT Balance					5,087,433.65
Total Borough funds					8,138,444.25

Councilwoman Susan Ruskowski /
Secretary Sharon Lesko

A Motion was made by Councilwoman Lasko to accept the August 2021 Treasurer's Report as read. Motion seconded by Councilman Phillabaum. Motion carried 7-0.

Borough Manager's Report:

Borough Manager Landy gave the following report:

- Met with Bob Regola and County Commissioner Gina Cerilli. Ms. Cerilli talked about the Covid money that municipalities received, it is administered by the County Commissioners. Ms Cerilli said that they should be loosening the reins on how the money is to be spent and should have an update before the end of the year.
- The Borough did not receive any bids for the gazebo renovation project. This was the second time it had been advertised and have not received any bids either time. Borough Manager Landy stated that since it has been advertised two different times; and have not received bids either time, the Borough can now negotiate with a contractor to do the work.
- Borough Manager Landy reminded residents that there will be many visitors from out of town and they should spruce up their residence to show them how great our town is.
- Reminded Council to review the Profit and Loss Budget vs. Actual.

President's Report:

A Motion was made by Councilwoman Bailey to hold an executive session. Motion seconded by Councilman Smetak. Motion carried 7-0.

A Motion was made by Councilwoman Bailey to reconvene. Motion seconded by Councilman Smetak. Motion carried 7-0.

Council President Ruszkowski stated that the Executive Session was held from 7:36pm – 8:16pm to discuss legal issues.

Mayor Lucia swore in Councilwoman Stevenson.

Property:

Councilman Smetak gave the following report:

- Met at the gazebo on the 14th for a pre-construction meeting and no one showed up. There were no bids received for the gazebo renovation. Councilman Smetak stated that they will begin to look at proposals for piecing out the project. Councilman Smetak suggested the roof and skirting first.

Stormwater/MS4:

Councilman Phillabaum gave the following report:

- Met with Councilwoman Bailey and Borough Manager Landy regarding the MS4 Permit. Street Department will be keeping a daily log of what work is being done on the drains. Councilwoman Bailey said that we have to do so much per year to the storm drains and show that there is progress being done. Councilwoman Bailey said that we do need to adopt a MS4 Stormwater Ordinance.

Streets:

Councilwoman Bailey gave the following report on Streets:

- The lights are in for the decorative lamp posts along with the bows. The banners were a little more difficult since the pricing was not what they originally said it would be. We need 30 banners. We can do one of two things. Order the 30 banners and brackets and that would exceed the initial cost by \$766.00 or we can do the banners every other pole and fill them in the following year. The banner will be the lamppost with the wreath that says Merry Christmas on it. Council agreed with the design of the banner. Council President Ruszkowski stated that they would like to get rid the old wreaths with the candles. Councilwoman Bailey stated they could be put up for sale. Borough Manager Landy asked if they will be getting rid of all of them or just some. Councilwoman Bailey stated they should get rid of all of them.

Parks and Recreation:

Councilwoman Lasko asked residents to please remember to clean up after their dogs at Frick Park.

Borough Manager Landy reported that he received a call regarding a slide being damaged. The police roped it off. Borough Manager Landy will have public works repair the slide.

Public Safety Report: None.

Veterans Park:

Councilwoman Barnes gave the following report:

- Councilwoman Barnes stated she has not heard anything additional regarding the water condensation in the lights. There are also lights out on the upright tablets. Mayor Lucia stated that he will have T.P. Electric look at the lights.
- Borough Manager Landy reported that there is a new guy, Bill Dunn, from Spectrio formerly Industry Weapons, handling the digital wall. He was unaware of the issues and he will look into it and get back with us.

- Councilwoman Barnes stopped at Splash Lagoon in Erie PA and spoke with the gentleman that she had previously talked to. The gentleman got her another contact and number for the corporate office that she can call.

Human Resources / Ordinances: None.

Finance / Grants Report:

Councilwoman Bailey stated that budget time is coming up and that people should be getting their wish lists together.

New Business:

Councilwoman Stevenson stated that there are a lot of people moving from the large cities such as Pittsburgh to small towns like ours. She would like to come up with a way to welcome people moving into our small town. Someone had suggested to her that it could be via the website or electronically or maybe through the Business District Authority.

Councilman Wojnar asked if Council permitted a sign to be put up at the gazebo for the high school fall play. Council agreed that it could be put there.

Reading of Communications:

- Received invitation from Mt. Pleasant Volunteer Fire Department for their annual banquet. They will be recognizing Jerry Lucia, Sr. 45 years, Mark Kraisinger 45years, and Bruce Gearhart 45years. It will be held on October 9, 2021 at the Mt. Pleasant Social Hall at 622 Smithfield Street, Mt. Pleasant with cocktails at 5:00pm and dinner at 6:00pm. RSVP by September 30, 2021.
- Received an invitation from the Westmoreland Conservation District for the 2021 Awards Celebration on Wednesday, October 6, 2021 from 6:00pm to 8:00pm at J. Roy Houston Conservation Center, 218 Donohoe Road, Greensburg, PA. RSVP by September 29, 2021.

Discussion and Payment of Bills:

A Motion was made by Councilwoman Bailey to pay all authorized and approved bills. Motion seconded by Councilman Phillabaum. Motion carried 6-0.

Public Comment: None.

Miscellaneous and Adjournment:

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

Meeting Adjourned 8:56pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jeffrey A. Landy,
Borough Manager

BOROUGH OF MOUNT PLEASANT

Susan Ruszkowski, Council President

Motions from Meeting September 20, 2021

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