

Meeting October 2, 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. President Ruszkowski asked Borough Manager Lesko to take roll call. Councilpersons present included Barnes, Czekanski, Lasko, and Stevenson. 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 September 5, 2023 since Council has been provided with a copy. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Lasko. Motion carried 6-0.

Speakers: None.

Public Comment:

- Zach Gergas gave the following report regarding Medic 10:
 - Reached 2000 calls today. They are now 50 calls more than they received all of last year. Projecting to be approximately 2500 calls for this year.
 - Several nursing homes have reached out to Medic 10 to do non-emergency transports. Mr. Gergas stated that Harmon House is our main priority with Scottdale Manor second and then they could transport for the other nursing homes in between. Mr. Gergas met with one of the homes and they wanted someone to only service them.
 - The new 2023 transport van ambulance has come in and is in service. It has passed the state licensing requirements.
 - Will be applying for the 2023 State Grant and will use the funds for intubation kits and a techni-mount device that goes on the stretcher.
 - There will be no additional grants this year. They will begin again for next year. They have done well with the grants and monies received.
 - Fayette EMS held a conference call with Medic 10 and Mutual Aid regarding municipalities giving \$5 per head per capita in Fayette County. It will affect Medic 10 because of some of the area that they cover in Bullskin Township being in Fayette County. It is in the very early stages.

Mayor Bailey asked if Fayette EMS is doing the work on this and Medic 10 will receive funds from the municipalities. Mr. Gergas stated that is correct and that they don't want to try and divide Bullskin Township with some paying and some not, they want to apply it to the entire Township. All three (3) of these ambulances service the Township.

Councilwoman Lasko asked if this is a pilot program and no one has done this. Mr. Gergas said that is correct and that he has had several meetings over the past month, even with Westmoreland County and State Representatives, regarding funding and different ideas to help with EMS.

- Allegheny Health Network has provided them with the annual flu shots. Once they come in, they will be providing a flu shot clinic with the fire department.
- Spoke with Speclin and it is possible to see the second new ambulance within six (6) to eight (8) months.
- Paul Harenchar, Mount Pleasant Fire Chief, gave the following report:
 - There are 2 trucks that are out of service. The rescue truck and the aerial tower truck.
 - Halloween Parade will be October 25, 2023 at 7:00pm. Anyone is welcome to participate.
 - Will be participating in the touch-a-truck event for the library on October 21, 2023 from noon to 3:00pm. Trucks will be at central fire station.
 - Fire Department requests that the time for trick or treat return to its original time of 2:00pm to 4:00pm. It is difficult for them to get firemen to volunteer at the later time. Council stated that there were discussions about it this year and it will be on Sunday, October 29, 2023 and the time will return to original time of 2:00pm to 4:00pm.

- Boiler unit is leaking at Central Fire Station. Borough Manager Lesko stated that Kostyo Heating and Air will be contacting Fire Chief Harenchar to set a time to come out and fix it.
- Bruce Gearhart is now the Assistant Fire Chief for the Mount Pleasant Volunteer Fire Department.

Mayor’s Report:

Mayor Bailey gave the following report:

- Councilwoman Barnes and Mayor Bailey met with an artist from Pittsburgh to submit a drawing and proposal for the backside of the Veterans Wall.
- Attended the 9-11 Ceremony.
- Attended the Medic 10 meeting on September 13, 2023. They received the new ambulance.
- Attended the monthly Safety Meeting.
- Glass Festival was held on September 22, 23, and 24. It was a great festival as it always is other than the rain. Mayor Bailey complimented the festival committee and getting through the event without Mr. Landy this year.

Solicitor’s Report: None.

Treasurer’s Report:

Councilwoman Stevenson read the following Treasurer’s Report for the month of August 2023:

Mt. Pleasant Borough Treasurer's Report		Aug-23			Balance
		Prev Bal	Deposits	Disbursements	2023
General Fund Checking	Scottdale Bank 19069335	1,630,877.43	157,743.77	273,988.04	1,514,633.16
General Fund Budgetary Reserve	Standard Bank 321615	1,012,945.00	3,438.27	0.00	1,016,383.27
**Police	48,591.82				
**Streets	157,131.00				
**Contingency Fund	359,009.88				
**Infrastructure	206,588.62				
**Workers Compensation	50,000.00				
**BOMP Gas Wells	26,389.77				
** Frick Park Gas Well	27,965.82				
**Levins	0.00				
**Fire	3,400.00				
**K-9	13,828.76				
**Medic 10	100,000.00				
**Marcellus Impact Fee	23,477.60				
Act 13					
Police Parking Tickets & Meters	Scottdale Bank 1026616	30,719.08	116.36	0.00	30,835.44
Escrow Account	Scottdale Bank 19069343	4,478.27	16.96	0.00	4,495.23
Liquid Fuels / Scottdale Bank	Scottdale Bank 19123645	64,204.55	241.39	3,704.38	60,741.56
Monument CD	Standard Bank 446635	7,382.80	0.00	0.00	7,382.80
Payroll Fund	Scottdale Bank 19069350	2,143.10	70,241.59	69,471.41	2,913.28
Veterans Park Fund	Somerset Trust Co 2003058309	25,399.55	2.37	0.00	25,401.92
Veterans Military Banners Fund	Somerset Trust Co 2004522337	2,224.74	0.20	350.00	1,874.94
Storm Water Retrofit Phase II	Scottdale Bank 19069368	1,242.64	4.71	0.00	1,247.35

ARPA Covid-19 (American Resuce Plan Act)	Scottdale Bank 19123652	450,983.28	1,708.30	0.00	452,691.58
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
Total General Fund Balance					3,441,626.01
Medic 10 Checking	Scottdale Bank 19069533	225,918.39	73,223.36	66,171.16	232,970.59
Medic 10 Savings	Scottdale Bank 19069723	57,806.09	218.97	0.00	58,025.06
Medic 10 Money Market	Scottdale Bank 19069376	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Medic 10 Pittsburgh Foundation	Standard Bank 0000358253	10,780.34	36.59	0.00	10,816.93
Medic 10 - 501(c)(3)	Scottdale Bank 19145689	250.97	0.00	0.00	250.97
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					326,792.14
WWT Capital Reserve Account	Scottdale Bank - 19123702	884,482.79	3,350.37	0.00	887,833.16
Capital Reserve M. A. Savings Acct	Somerset Trust Co 2004521230	470,248.52	1,473.75	0.00	471,722.27
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
Total WWT Balance					5,164,268.94
Total Borough funds					8,932,687.09
Councilwoman Cynthia Stevenson / Secretary Sharon Lesko					

A Motion was made by Councilwoman Lasko to accept the August 2023 Treasurer's Report. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Czekanski. Motion carried 6-0.

Tax Collector's Report: None.

Borough Manager's Report:

Borough Manager Lesko gave the following report:

- Intern, Kenzi Whipkey, has begun working. She is working out well.
- Met with Medic 10 Director Zach Gergas and Assistant Director, Eric Bell to transfer paperwork for the new ambulance at Speclin.
- Met with Councilwoman Lasko and Street Department Rocky Anderson and went to various parks looking at park equipment and getting measurements to see if certain new equipment would fit there.
- Met with Jeff McGuinness and Doug Siler of Gibson Thomas Engineering regarding MS4 Stormwater issues from the DEP and have corrected them.
- Attended monthly Safety Meeting regarding "Fatigue" and the other topic was "Caught or Crushed Injuries".
- Met with Police Chief Grippo to transfer the 2016 Ford Explorer to the Mount Pleasant Area High School.
- Attended and spoke at the 9-11 Ceremony.

- Attended the Medic 10 Meeting on September 13, 2023.
- Attended the Glass Festival on September 22, 23 and 24. Everything went well even with the rain on Saturday and Sunday.
- Attended the Westmoreland County Boroughs Association Dinner and Meeting on Thursday, September 28, 2023 along with Council President Ruszkowski and Councilwoman Barnes. The topic was “Strategic Doing”.
- Will be filing for the dog park under the LSA Grant.
- Will be filing for the SLSA Grant by the end of November. Looking at several things for this grant. We will be doing the Frick Park Hillside for sure and a street sweeper. Other ideas are the GIS Mapping for the stormwater lines within the Borough, 3rd Ward Fire Station Apron replacement and the salt shed at the maintenance building.
- Former Councilman David Pritts is going to help with the settings in the digital wall on Tuesday. He is familiar with the technology that is installed inside. He will be working with Spectrio on the phone. The wall is close to be up and running.
- Still waiting on agreements to be finalized with County Commissioners for McCali Manor. Once it is completed, the Land Bank can put it out for the bidding process and move forward.

President’s Report:

Council President Ruszkowski gave the following report:

- The annual Christmas Parade will be held on Wednesday, November 29, 2023.

Property Report:

Councilwoman Stevenson gave the following report:

- Corey Miller of Miller Woodworking has completed building the front desk. The grain on the small desks is from wood known as quarter sawn or tiger oak. Mr. Miller was worried he could not get something close to match the desks. The lumber company found a tree that had a pattern that resembled the small desks.
- Ordered one chair from Amazon to see if it goes well with the desks. Looking for chairs for the desks where the chair will not mark up the desks. Council agreed on the blue/teal chair that was ordered from amazon.

Streets / Stormwater Report:

A Motion was made by Councilwoman Lasko to close Route 31, Main Street from Braddock Road Avenue to Silver Street on Wednesday, November 29, 2023 from 6:00pm to 8:00pm for the annual 2023 Christmas Parade and Route 819 Diamond Street from Main Street to Washington Street on November 29, 2023 from 6:00pm to 10:00pm. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Stevenson. Motion carried 6-0.

A Motion was made by Councilwoman Lasko to close Main Street from Eagle Street to Diamond from 10:30am to 11:30am on Saturday, November 11, 2023 for the annual Veterans Day Parade and ceremonies. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Stevenson. Motion carried 6-0.

A Motion was made by Councilwoman Lasko to close Diamond Street from Main Street to Washington Street on November 11, 2023 from 10:30am to noon for the Veteran’s Day Parade and Ceremonies. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Stevenson. Motion carried 6-0.

Councilman Phillabaum gave the following report:

- Councilman Phillabaum said that he had a resident reach out to him regarding parking issues on East Smithfield Street and would like the Borough to consider parking permits. The resident cannot find a parking space on the street due to other residents having

multiple cars. Councilwoman Stevenson stated that even with a parking permit it would not guarantee a place to park. Council agreed that they cannot do anything with it. It is a public street.

Councilwoman Czekanski said that residents have reached out to her regarding skunks in Ramsay Terrace. Borough Manager Lesko stated that we have a number for a gentleman that traps animals; however, it is at the cost of the resident.

Parks & Recreation:

Councilwoman Lasko gave the following report:

- Met with Borough Manager Lesko and Rocky Anderson of the Street Department regarding new equipment for a few parks.

Councilwoman Czekanski stated that the 2 playground items that are on the springs at Satcho Park are unsafe and need to be removed.

Public Safety Report:

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

Total Calls – 44
In Town – 13
Out of Town - 31
10-45's - 10
Entrapments - 2
Fires - 9
AFA's - 19
Hazardous Calls – 2
Public Service Calls – 1
Ambulance Assistance – 2
Standby's – 0
Turnpike Calls – 6
Landing Zones – 1
Drills – 0
Total Members Answering – 397
Avg. Member Per Call – 9

Veterans Park:

Councilwoman Barnes gave the following report:

- Spoke with Mr. Pritts at the Glass Festival and he confirmed that he will be working at the digital wall tomorrow to help with some settings.

Mayor Bailey stated that they have done a remarkable job of the layout of the digital wall.

- Just sent in 4 banners with StukUp Grafix and this will be the last of the banners for this year.
- Met with a graphic designer regarding submitting a proposal and drawing for the backside of the Veterans Wall. There will be a UV protectant over the painting.

Ordinances: None.

Human Resources: None.

Finance / Grants Report: None.

New Business:

Borough Manager Lesko reported that Life's Work of Western PA who is a tenant on the second floor submitted a letter stating that they will be terminating their lease at the end of this year.

Councilwoman Stevenson thanked that Mt. Pleasant Glass Festival Committee for the work that they did to make the festival a success with out past leadership and the short amount of help that they have.

Councilwoman Stevenson congratulated the VFW and stated that it pleases her to see the VFW with a little higher profile and being out in the community and that she has a very high regard for Veterans.

Reading of Communications:

Borough Manager Lesko read the following communications:

- Westmoreland County Boroughs Association will be holding its dinner and meeting on Thursday, September 28, 2023 at 5:30pm at Hoss' in Greensburg, PA. Topic is Strategic Doing.

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 6-0.

Public Comment:

Jim Meredith spoke highly of the Ladies Auxiliary of the VFW and that the events are conducted by them and deserve great accolades.

Miscellaneous and Adjournment:

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

Meeting Adjourned 8:00pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Sharon Lesko
Borough Manager

BOROUGH OF MOUNT PLEASANT

Susan Ruszkowski, Council President

Motions from Meeting of October 2, 2023

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