

Meeting October 24, 2022

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 to give strength for anyone in the hospital and their families. President Ruszkowski asked Solicitor Istik to take roll call. Councilpersons present included Barnes, Czekanski, Cholock, Barrick, and Wojnar. Mayor Bailey and Solicitor Istik were present. President Ruszkowski stated that a quorum is present. Councilwoman Stevenson arrived at 7:12pm.

A Motion was made by Councilman Barrick to approve the minutes of October 3, 2022 since Council has been provided with a copy. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Czekanski. Motion carried 6-0.

Public Comment: None.

Speakers: None.

Mayors Report:

Mayor Bailey gave the following report:

- Library posted the story walk at Frick Park. In the evening there were kids that tore out the signs and needed put back into the ground.
- Met with Mrs. Shupe on South Church Street regarding dirt bikes and atv's running next to her house causing a nuisance. Councilman Barrick asked if the Borough has a nuisance ordinance that they could fall back on. Mayor Bailey stated that she and Solicitor Istik have discussed it. Borough Manager Landy stated that we do have a noise ordinance and suggested updating it.
- Attended the Medic 10 meeting.
- The library held the touch-a-truck event.
- Attended the public safety meeting.
- Attended the Business District Authority meeting.
- Married a couple this past Saturday at Green Dance Winery.

Solicitor's Report:

Solicitor Istik gave the following report:

- Received a hearing notice against David Tobias, parent of the juvenile, for the damages done at Veterans Park. They have entered a notice to defend and the hearing has been rescheduled to Thursday, December 22, 2022 at 11:15am.
- Will hold remainder of her report in executive session.

Treasurer's Report:

Borough Manager Landy read the following Treasurer's Report for the month of September 2022:

Mt. Pleasant Borough Treasurer's Report

Sep-22

		Prev Bal	Deposits	Disbursements	Balance 2022
General Fund Checking	Scottdale Bank 19069335	984,944.15	336,001.30	88,044.14	1,232,901.31
General Fund Budgetary Reserve	Standard Bank 321615	977,315.46	1,627.94	0.00	978,943.40
**Police	48,591.82				
**Streets	157,131.00				
**Contingency Fund	327,967.18				
**Infrastructure	206,588.62				
**Workers Compensation	50,000.00				
**BOMP Gas Wells	23,989.94				
** Frick Park Gas Well	23,968.48				
**Levins	0.00				
**Fire	3,400.00				
**K-9	13,828.76				
**Medic 10	100,000.00				
**Marcellus Impact Fee					
Act 13	23,477.60				
Police Parking Tickets & Meters	Scottdale Bank 1026616	25,219.03	2,158.88	572.08	26,805.83
Escrow Account	Scottdale Bank 19069343	4,409.87	1.63	0.00	4,411.50
Liquid Fuels / Scottdale Bank	Scottdale Bank 19123645	222,887.06	10,621.23	125,960.17	107,548.12
Monument CD	Standard Bank 446635	7,382.80	0.00	0.00	7,382.80
Payroll Fund	Scottdale Bank 19069350	2,744.00	50,181.27	50,179.32	2,745.95
	Somerset Trust Co				
Veterans Park Fund	2003058309	25,175.73	1.24	0.00	25,176.97
Storm Water Retrofit Phase II	Scottdale Bank 19069368	1,223.67	0.45	0.00	1,224.12
Turn Back Account	Scottdale Bank 19069384	24,893.67	9.21	0.00	24,902.88
ARPA Covid-19 (American Resuce Plan Act)	Scottdale Bank 19123652	222,619.44	73.19	0.00	222,692.63
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					2,957,760.99
Medic 10 Checking	Scottdale Bank 19069533	123,791.24	69,083.74	90,105.89	102,769.09
Medic 10 Savings	Scottdale Bank 19069723	50,897.02	18.82	0.00	50,915.84
Medic 10 Money Market	Scottdale Bank 19069376	6,026.24	2.23	0.00	6,028.47
Medic 10 Pittsburgh Foundation	Standard Bank 0000358253	9,443.42	41.74	0.00	9,485.16
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					193,927.15
WWT Capital Reserve Account	Scottdale Bank - 19123702	891,719.57	329.81	0.00	892,049.38
Capital Reserve M. A. Account	Somerset Trust Co 2004129745	458,066.39	22.59	0.00	458,088.98
Oceanview Annuity CD	Scottdale Bank - MidPenn	3,007,516.44	0.00	0.00	3,007,516.44
Standard Bank CD WWT Cap.Resv	Standard Bank 464569	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Scottdale Bank /MidPenn CD	Scottdale Bank 318015215	201,508.38	0.00	0.00	201,508.38
WWT Cap. Resv					
Athene Annuity CD (created Jan. 2021)	Somerset Trust	507,249.99	0.00	0.00	507,249.99

Total WWT Balance	5,066,413.17
Total Borough funds	8,218,101.31

Councilwoman Cynthia Stevenson / Secretary
Sharon Lesko

Councilwoman Stevenson reported that we have received the following:

- \$20,295.06 from the Volunteer Fire Relief Association that will be paid to the Mt. Pleasant Volunteer Fire Department Relief Association.
- \$54,039.00 from the Pennsylvania Municipal Pension State Aid;
- \$10,566.00 for the Winter Maintenance Agreement; and
- \$221,000.00 for the remaining ARPA monies.
- Paid Redstone Paving the balance of \$118,360.00 from liquid fuels account for the 2022 Paving Project.

A Motion was made by Councilman Barrick to accept the September 2022 Treasurer's Report. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Stevenson. Motion carried 7-0.

Borough Manager's Report:

Borough Manager Landy gave the following report:

- Held the G-Conference. Thanked Council and the employees for attending. Speakers included individuals from the following: the District Attorneys Office, PA State Association of Boroughs, Engineer spoke about stormwater, PennDOT spoke about snowplowing. Attendance was not what was expected. They will try one (1) more year. They are looking at possibly charge \$100.00 fee per municipality to participate and if you attend five (5) sessions, you will be refunded \$50.00. This is to hopefully get a commitment to attend and to drive up participation.
- Attended a 3-day PennDOT LTap seminar with Jeff McGuinness in Oglebay, WV. Borough Manager Landy stated that it was a good seminar and that he did learn some new things and that Jeff McGuinness benefited the most from it and did a good job attending the different sessions.
- Met with Councilwoman Wojnar.
- Met with Councilwoman Barnes and Rocky Anderson at the Veterans Video Wall.
- Met with Daynelle Sanner of the Business District Authority and Police Chief Grippo about the upcoming Color Run 5k walk/run.
- Attended the Open House at Harmon House.
- Met with Renee from Republic Services and Councilwoman Stevenson.
- Went with Police Chief Grippo regarding parking problem on Morewood Street. One resident has plenty of room and is going to create off-street parking. The other person should now have a place to park if the first person creates their off-street parking.
- Spoke with the pastor from the Baptist Church and they are having a speaker for the Gideons coming and they have requested to land a helicopter in the Borough. Borough Manager Landy mentioned the Bridgeport Street property and the Scottdale / Mt. Pleasant Heliport. Council stated that they should land at the Scottdale / Mt. Pleasant Heliport and not on property within the Borough. Councilman Barrick stated that there is also a private airport on the other side of the high school that they could call and possibly make arrangements to land there or at the Latrobe Airport or Connellsville Airport. Councilwoman Barnes will notify the pastor.

- There is a webinar for Liquid Fuels Funding 101 that Borough Manager Landy and Secretary Sharon Lesko will be attending on November 9, 2022 from Noon to 1:00pm.
- Westmoreland Drug and Alcohol Commission will be holding a dedication of a bench on Saturday, October 29, 2022 at 11:00am for Jerry Lucia, our late Mayor and Fire Chief, outside of the Fire Station on Church Street.
- Joe's Pools donated filters in the amount of \$116.00 for the fountain at the Veterans Wall.

President's Report:

Council President Ruszkowski gave the following report:

- Trick or Treat will be held on Sunday, October 30, 2022 from 4:00pm to 6:00pm. If you want trick or treaters to come to your house, you are to put on your porch light.

A Motion was made by Councilman Cholock to hold an executive session. Motion seconded by Councilman Barrick. Motion carried 7-0.

A Motion was made by Councilman Barrick to reconvene. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Barnes. Motion carried 7-0.

Council President Ruszkowski stated that the executive session was held from 7:38pm to 9:03pm to discuss personnel.

Property / Grants:

Councilman Barrick gave the following report:

- Spoke with Mr. Ulery of Ulery Architect regarding the gazebo project. Hoping to have some concept plans for the next meeting and hopefully be able to put something together to get bids in January or February.
- Asked about the plans for the Bridgeport Street Property and who the surveyor is so he can make him the contact for the PA One Call. Solicitor Istik stated that she will email Councilman Barrick the contacts name and that the plans are not finalized with Terry. Solicitor Istik also reported that she had spoke with Bobby Karfelt today to make him aware that the plans are not completed.
- Received a grant for the East End Marketplace. Will be contacting an engineering firm to get a quote for the laying out the area/design.

Councilwoman Stevenson gave the following report:

- Window cleaning for the 3rd floor Borough building, which also includes the window sills and the tracks and all of the windows on the outside of the Borough building are scheduled for November 4, 2022 and the blinds for the 3rd floor will be installed on Wednesday, November 9, 2022.
- Met with Cory Miller from Millers Copperwood Creations and he has taken her desk from Council Chambers and is going to refurbish it to see if Council would like to have all of the desks done and remove the shell that sits on top of all of the desks in Chambers.

Streets / Stormwater:

A Motion was made by Councilman Barrick to close Route 31, Main Street from Braddock Road Avenue to Diamond Street on Wednesday, November 30, 2022 from 6:00pm to 8:00pm for the 2022 Christmas Parade. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Stevenson. Motion carried 7-0.

Borough Manager Landy stated that the theme of the Christmas Parade this year is Santa “Claws and Paws”.

A Motion was made by Councilman Barrick to close Main Street from Eagle Street to Diamond Street from 10:30am to 11:30am on Friday, November 11, 2022 for the annual Veterans Day Parade and ceremonies. Motion seconded by Councilman Cholock. Motion carried 7-0.

A Motion was made by Councilman Barrick to close Diamond Street from Main Street to Washington Street on November 11, 2022 from 10:30am to noon for the Veteran’s Day Parade and Ceremonies. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Stevenson. Motion carried 7-0.

Councilwoman Barnes stated that someone had asked her about the stop bar, white line that is painted on Mullin Street next to the former Scottdale Bank and Trust, being too close to Main Street and they cannot make the right turn off of Main Street if a car is pulled up there. Councilman Barrick suggesting contacting PennDOT since they are turning off of Main Street, to check on the turning radius to see if there is enough turning room where the white line is at currently. Mayor Bailey stated she has a contact person at PennDOT and she will check with him to see if they can do that.

Parks and Recreation:

A Motion was made by Councilman Barrick to advertise for bids for grass cutting / snow removal from December 7, 2022 to December 7, 2023. Bids will be accepted at the borough office until 10:00am November 18, 2022 and will be opened at 10:05am on November 18, 2022. Motion seconded by Councilman Cholock. Motion carried 7-0.

Public Safety Report:

A Motion was made by Councilman Cholock to approve putting a Blessing Box at the Central and 3rd Ward Fire Station. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Czekanski. Motion carried 7-0.

Veterans Park:

Councilwoman Barnes gave the following report:

- Repairs have been completed to Veterans Wall.
- Spectrio sent a gentleman to check the digital wall. However, Spectrio had not sent the part that was needed. Spectrio sent the part overnight. Councilwoman Barnes notified Spectrio that we had received the part.
- Painting of a mural will be done on the back side of the wall. It will be done in the spring. Will discuss it more fully with Council in the spring before anything is done.
- Have received seven (7) applications for the Veterans Banners.

Borough Manager Landy asked if the joint Veterans Committee could look at the base of the Doughboy. It has wars listed that don’t have an ending date on it. Would like to see if they could research it so dates could be added.

Ordinances:

Mayor Bailey asked if we could look into getting an Ordinance regarding dirt bikes and atv’s.

Discussed the Parking Ordinance and putting up no parking signs on streets that are not to have parking on them. Councilwoman Stevenson stated that it is a safety issue when ambulances and fire trucks cannot get through because of vehicles parked on the street and should not be. Borough Manager Landy stated that people need to create off-street parking if they can. It would solve a lot of parking issues.

Human Resources: None.

Finance Report:

Councilwoman Stevenson gave the following report:

- Borough Manager Landy is working on the preliminary budget.
- Will not be doing the reverse auction for the garbage contract. Reviewed the previous garbage contract and updated it. Discussed mandating that garbage is in a container. The customer would be responsible for the cost of the container. The container has a chip in it and the garbage company would know which house it belongs to and if the bill is paid or not. Councilwoman Stevenson said that you can buy your own containers and that the Borough could discuss an Ordinance requiring garbage in containers.

Borough Manager Landy gave the following report:

- he and Zach Gergas have worked on the Medic 10 budget. To balance their budget, the Borough had to put \$65,000.00 in from the Budgetary Reserve – Medic 10 line. That will leave approximately \$35,000.00 left in the budgetary reserve. This year Medic 10 budget should have approximately \$15,000.00 to \$20,000.00 left. With the \$35,000.00 and the remaining \$15,000.00 to \$20,000.00 it may buy Medic 10 a third year. There is a chance that with the monies now coming in from Harmon House, Medic 10 will not need that the \$65,000.00. It will be put in if needed and based on the flow of the money received. Medic 10 budget is balanced.
- Borough budget is preliminary. There are figures that have not been confirmed and are yet to be decided on. A few figures that we are waiting on is real estate figures from the county and interest figures. At this time, the figures are off by \$33,000.00. Looking at two ways to balance the budget, 1. by cutting expenditures; and 2. using monies from the ARPA Covid-19 funding. We need to be certain that we can use the monies from ARPA because we do not want to use it and end up having to pay it back because it was not an approved expenditure through the grant. Councilwoman Wojnar asked if the Borough would be in the same situation next year? Borough Manager Landy stated yes that this is just a band-aid that the ARPA money will not always be there and that unless Council considers slowly raising taxes gradually so that in the future there will not be a big hit of millage increase to balance the budget. The Borough has raised taxes one time in 17 years. One mil would get the Borough approximately \$44,000.00. With the costs of everything on the rise, it will be the only way to balance the budget in the future. Borough Manager Landy stated that you could also use money from budgetary reserve which is also putting a band-aid on it as the money will just be depleted and it is not fiscally responsible. Borough Manager suggested raising a half-mil since the school district is not raising taxes and said that the Borough should not do an increase when the school district is raising taxes. Councilman Barrick agreed with taxing at a small increase and not do it like the school did it. Councilman Barrick stated that the school didn't raise taxes for several years and then all of a sudden did a big tax increase. Mayor Bailey asked what it would cost a household for a millage increase. Councilman Barrick stated that he believes that one-mil is approximately \$30.00.
- Would like to use ARPA money to purchase the piece of rescue equipment for the Fire Department, which costs approximately \$12,000.00, once we receive confirmation that we can use it ARPA funding for it.

Business:

Councilwoman Stevenson stated that she put a post on her personal Facebook account about Borough Manager Landy needing a liver. Anyone is welcome to share it on their own Facebook account.

Reading of Communications:

- Good Shepard Lutheran Church of 822 West Main Street will be holding its annual Community Thanksgiving Day Meal on Thursday, November 24, 2022 from 11:00am to

3:00pm. It is sponsored by Mt. Pleasant businesses, churches and organizations and it is free to everyone.

- Mt. Pleasant Area Wrestling Parents Club is requesting ways to help them by placing a business ad in their wrestling program book or business name on the back of a shirt. Sponsorship is: Gold level \$100.00; Silver level \$60.00; and Bronze level \$40.00.

Discussion and Payment of Bills:

A Motion was made by Councilwoman Stevenson to pay all authorized and approved bills. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Czekanski. Motion carried 7-0.

Public Comment: None.

Miscellaneous and Adjournment:

A Motion was made by Councilman Barrick to adjourn the meeting. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Czekanski. Motion carried 7-0.

Meeting Adjourned 10:13pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jeffrey A. Landy,
Borough Manager

BOROUGH OF MOUNT PLEASANT

Susan Ruskowski, Council President

Motions from Meeting October 24, 2022

A Motion was made by Councilman Barrick to approve the minutes of October 3, 2022 since Council has been provided with a copy. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Czekanski. Motion carried 6-0.

A Motion was made by Councilman Barrick to accept the September 2022 Treasurer's Report. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Stevenson. Motion carried 7-0.

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A Motion was made by Councilman Barrick to adjourn the meeting. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Czekanski. Motion carried 7-0.