

Meeting November 22, 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, Cholock, Phillabaum, Smetak, Lasko, Stevenson and Wojnar. Mayor Lucia and Solicitor Istik were present. President Ruszkowski stated that a quorum is present. Councilman Cholock left at 8:45pm. Mayor Lucia left at 8:46pm. Councilman Smetak left at 8:48pm.

A Motion was made by Councilwoman Stevenson to approve the minutes of November 1, 2021 since Council has been provided with a copy. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Lasko. Motion carried 9-0.

Public Comment:

- Robert Karfelt, Jr. of 114 S. Depot Street, Mount Pleasant and Nathan Stone of 2187 Bridgeport Street, Mount Pleasant, spoke to Council regarding the Levin/Bridgeport Street property as in interested party.

Borough Manager Landy stated that Mr. Karfelt owns a trucking company and currently has a lease agreement with the Borough regarding the Levin/Bridgeport Street property. The other interested party is Nathan Stone of Stone Natural Resources who currently owns a business on Bridgeport Street. Borough Manager Landy said that the property will need to be advertised which will have the following included: the description of the property; the attachment from DEP, which is a letter of clearance, the Environmental Covenants and what can be done with the property; and, what the minimum bid acceptance will be. Borough Manager Landy highly recommended that they bid one parcel as one (1) acre near Mr. Karfelt's property and bid the remaining as a second parcel of what acreage is left (approximately 5 acres) so they can fulfill the commitment to Mr. Karfelt that he can bid on the parcel near him and the remaining can be bid by Mr. Stone. Councilwoman Stevenson asked Mr. Karfelt if one (1) acre is all that he is interested in. Mr. Karfelt stated yes that he utilizes approximately .75 acres now and the remaining would be where the gas well was located, which he had no interest in. Borough Manager Landy stated that they would have to subdivide the property or do a 99year agreement with Mr. Karfelt for the rights to the gas well and access to the gas well. Mayor Lucia asked about the Municipal Authority of Westmoreland County where they would park their vehicles and stockpile gravel. Borough Manager Landy said it had been a while since he had spoken with them but he believed they said to let them know and they would find another location. Councilwoman Stevenson asked if the Municipal Authority would be interested in buying a piece of the property. Borough Manager Landy stated that it would have to be done during the subdivision. Councilwoman Barnes asked what Mr. Stone would be doing with the property. Mr. Stone stated that he would like to expand his current building and would lose his parking. He would like to make a parking pad and grow his business. Mr. Stone said his main concerns would be the DEP impact that might be saddled with the property and would like to see the report. Mr. Stone asked if you can dig on the property. Borough Manager Landy stated that he believes you can dig on the property but it cannot be used for a playground or residential. Mr. Stone said that he would only be using a portion of the property but is interested in the whole 5 acres.

Speakers: None.

Mayors Report:

Mayor Lucia gave the following report:

- Nativity light-up night will be on Sunday, November 28, 2021 at 6:00pm
- Christmas Parade will be on Wednesday, December 1, 2021 at 6:30pm

- Candlelight Procession will be on Sunday, December 12, 2021 at 5:30pm. It will begin at Mt. Pleasant VFD Central Station on S. Church Street to Washington to College Avenue to The United Methodist Church of Mt. Pleasant (Town Clock Church). The ceremony will be held inside this year.
- The Braddock Trail Chapter, NSDAR will be holding its Gala Opening of the 31st Annual Festival of Lights on Friday, November 26, 2021 from 7:00pm to 9:00pm. Cost is \$10.00 per person.

Mayor Lucia read the Mount Pleasant Police Dept. Report for the month of October 2021:

The Department answered the following calls:

Incidents	176
Criminal Arrests	11
DUI Arrests	1
Parking Tickets Issued (Boro)	62
Traffic & Non-Traffic Citations	85
Assist Other Departments	12
Accidents Investigated	2

Income

Parking Meter	\$768.82
Parking Tickets	\$288.00
Fees for Police Reports	\$90.00
Clerk of Courts	\$779.49
District Court	\$746.63
Parking Permit	\$0.00
DUI Task Force Refund	\$0.00

Total Revenue \$2,672.94

Solicitor's Report:

Solicitor Istik stated that her report will be held in executive session.

Treasurer's Report:

Borough Manager Landy read the following Treasurer's Report for the month of October 2021:

Mt. Pleasant Borough Treasurer's Report		Oct-21			Balance
		Prev Bal	Deposits	Disbursements	2021
General Fund Checking	Scottdale Bank 19069335	994,179.03	50,580.86	136,696.24	908,063.65
**Town Clock	619.92				
**Holiday Lighting	1812.51				
General Fund Budgetary Reserve	Standard Bank 321615	1,022,457.86	165.00	0.00	1,022,622.86
**Police	52,619.03				
**Streets	147,131.00				
**Contingency Fund	310,238.47				
**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	27,412.18	593.24	572.08	27,433.34
Escrow Account	Scottdale Bank 19069343	4,399.75	1.22	0.00	4,400.97
Liquid Fuels PLGIT	PLGIT 56980126	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Liquid Fuels / Scottdale Bank	Scottdale Bank 19123645	119,417.41	37.95	0.00	119,455.36
Monument CD	Standard Bank 446635	7,382.80	0.00	0.00	7,382.80
Payroll Fund	Scottdale Bank 19069350	2,794.38	43,482.24	43,495.82	2,780.80
Veterans Park Fund	Somerset Trust Co 2003058309	23,762.15	1.21	0.00	23,763.36
Storm Water Retrofit Phase II	Scottdale Bank 19069368	1,220.87	0.34	0.00	1,221.21
Turn Back Account	Scottdale Bank 19069384	24,836.46	6.91	0.00	24,843.37
ARPA Covid-19 (American Resuce Plan Act)	Scottdale Bank 19123652	221,107.79	70.27	0.00	221,178.06
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					2,684,324.96
Medic 10 Checking	Scottdale Bank 19069533	89,160.62	61,446.83	43,423.24	107,184.21
Medic 10 Savings	Scottdale Bank 19069723	135,224.79	1,036.68	25,000.00	111,261.47
Medic 10 Money Market	Scottdale Bank 19069376	6,012.38	1.67	0.00	6,014.05
Medic 10 Pittsburgh Foundation	Standard Bank 0000358253	8,474.88	0.00	0.00	8,474.88
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					257,663.20
WWT Capital Reserve Account	Standard Bank 0010175932	917,648.85	33.69	917,682.54	0.00
WWT Capital Reserve Account	Scottdale Bank - 19123702	917,820.82	255.22	123.12	917,952.92
Capital Reserve M. A. Account	Somerset Trust Co 2004129745	457,814.21	23.33	0.00	457,837.54
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	200,000.00	0.00	0.00	200,000.00
Athene Annuity CD (created Jan. 2021)	Somerset Trust	505,313.09	0.00	0.00	505,313.09
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					5,088,619.99
Total Borough funds					8,030,608.15
Councilwoman Susan Ruszkowski / Secretary Sharon Lesko					

A Motion was made by Councilwoman Lasko to accept the October 2021 Treasurer's Report as read. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Stevenson. Motion carried 9-0.

Borough Manager's Report:

Borough Manager Landy gave the following report:

- Candlelight Procession ceremony will be held indoors this year at The United Methodist Church of Mount Pleasant (Town Clock Church). The Church will have their Bell Choir and Church Choir perform during the ceremony.
- People have asked for the leaf program to last a little longer since the leaves did not fall as early as they normally do. Councilwoman Bailey stated that the leaf program runs until they have to put the winter maintenance equipment on the trucks.
- Public Safety Committee needs to decide on what the advertisement and how they want to handle the selling of the K-9 Jeep and the 2016 Ford Explorer.
- Received a call from a veteran by the name of Tony. They will be holding a bike run on August 6, 2022 with approximately 200 bikes. They would like to stop at Veterans wall. They are uncertain how long they will be stopped there. They would need to have a permit from PennDOT to shut down Diamond Street. Tony will call back after the holidays with additional information.
- Council has received the Meeting Schedule and Holiday Schedule that will need to be approved today.
- Met with Heartland to convert payroll from Paychecks. We will run through a test payroll with them. We will begin with Heartland the first pay of 2022.
- Met with T.P. Electric regarding the waterway specs for the electric.
- Applied for a grant with the County to demolish the building (formerly Morris Barron car lot) at the waterway.
- Met with Town Clock Church regarding the Candlelight Procession. They said they will handle the clock with as far as setting the time or fixing it.
- PennDOT held their groundbreaking in Norvelt for the Laurel Valley Connector. There were a lot of Harrisburg officials at the groundbreaking. Borough Manager Landy stated he believes they are starting the roundabout that is to be closest to Mount Pleasant. Councilwoman Lasko asked where the roundabouts are going to be located. Borough Manager Landy said that they will be at the following locations: 1) State Route 819 and State Route 981 near the Fox's Pizza, 2) Middle Churches near the high school; 3) Norvelt intersection near Coen Market; and, he believes there will be 2 others more towards Latrobe.
- Attended Library Board meeting.
- Met with K2 Engineering regarding fees for rental inspection and building permits.
- Made meter deposit with Police Chief Grippo.
- Worked with Medic 10 to purchase the wheelchair van.
- Have a few Boards that need members appointed, one (1) on the Parking Authority; two (2) for Planning Commission; one (1) Civil Service; and, two (2) for Zoning. Councilman Phillabaum stated that he would be interested in being on the Parking Authority Board if a Councilmember can be on it.
- Liquid Fuels audit has been completed and there are no findings.
- Councilman Phillabaum updated Council regarding the property damage at James Rega's home on N. Church Street. Mount Pleasant Township has turned the information over to their insurance company. Councilwoman Barnes attended the Mount Pleasant Township meeting with Mr. Rega. Councilwoman Barnes stated that the Township informed them that there is a state law that Mr. Rega must first turn the damages in to his homeowner's insurance. Solicitor Istik stated that it is called the municipal tort claims act and that it is

true but anyone still has the option to sue a municipality. Councilwoman Barnes stated that the Township informed Mr. Rega that they would work with him to get it resolved.

President's Report:

Council President Ruszkowski stated that she had received an email from Greg Wilson of the Business District Authority. Mr. Wilson stated in the email that the Business District Authority is not in favor of the digital signs; however, they know that they have no control over that and Council makes the final decision. Also, the Business District Authority will be holding a scavenger hunt on December 27, 2021 with 11 businesses participating within the Borough.

Council President Ruszkowski wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving and wished Councilman Wojnar a happy birthday.

A Motion was made by Councilman Wojnar to approve the 2022 Council Meeting Schedule. Motion was seconded by Councilwoman Lasko. Motion carried 9-0.

A Motion was made by Councilman Wojnar to approve the 2022 Holiday Schedule. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Lasko. Motion carried 9-0.

A Motion was made by Councilman Wojnar to hold an executive session. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Bailey. Motion carried 9-0.

A Motion was made by Councilman Cholock to reconvene. Motion seconded by Councilman Smetak. Motion carried 9-0.

Council President Ruszkowski stated that the Executive Session was held from 7:37pm – 8:17pm to discuss contracts.

Property:

A Motion was made by Councilman Smetak to approve the dedication of the area from S. Church Street to Frick Park and Public Library to Central Fire Station, including 1 Etze Avenue as the Gerald D. Lucia Campus effective November 1, 2021. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Barnes. Motion carried 9-0.

A Motion was made by Councilman Smetak to approve the sign for the Gerald D. Lucia Campus at 1 Etze Avenue at a cost of \$850.00 retroactive to September 22, 2021. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Lasko. Motion carried 9-0.

Councilman Smetak reported that they are waiting on the bid proposal for the gazebo. Borough Manager Landy stated that we do not have to bid the project since it has been advertised two separate times. The Borough can now negotiate to have the project done.

Stormwater/MS4:

A Motion was made by Councilman Phillabaum to adopt the Westmoreland County Model Stormwater Management and Land Disturbance Ordinance No. 658. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Bailey. Motion carried 9-0.

Streets:

Councilwoman Bailey gave the following report:

- Would like Council to let her know of any streets or alleys that they believe need to have work done, paving, resurfacing or tar and chipped so she can get bids out between January and February.
- Street Department has gotten all of the Christmas decorations up. Penn Park will be done Tuesday or Wednesday and there are a few finishing touches that need to

be done at the gazebo. Light up night will be right after the parade on Wednesday, December 1, 2021.

- Leaves will continue to be picked up until the weather changes and the snow equipment needs to be put on the trucks.

Parks and Recreation:

Councilwoman Lasko gave the following report:

- Jacobs Creek Watershed Association planted six (6) trees at Frick Park and four (4) at the waterway project.
- Councilwoman Lasko stated she walks through Frick Park almost every day and there are multiple piles of dog waste on the sidewalks. Dog waste is a bio and health hazard. Councilwoman Lasko suggested a sign stating that they would be fined if they do not clean up after their dog. Borough Manager Landy stated we do have an Ordinance requiring it. Councilman Smetak asked if there were restrictions as far as the length of a dog leash that is permitted. Borough Manager Landy asked if Council wanted the Borough employee from Public Works to go around and clean up with a scooper. Councilwoman Lasko stated that she would not like to take employees that have other things to do to clean up after others because they do not clean up after their own pets. Councilwoman Stevenson stated that the Borough Ordinance states that the fine for not cleaning up after their pets is not more than \$1,000.00 plus costs.

Public Safety Report:

A Motion was made by Councilman Phillabaum to allow free meter parking on Main Street from November 26, 2021 through January 2, 2022. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Lasko. Motion carried 9-0.

A Motion was made by Councilman Phillabaum to authorize Medic 10 to purchase a 2014 Dodge Caravan Wheelchair Van from Speclin Emergency Vehicle Sales and Service, retroactive to November 4, 2021, at a total cost of \$38,749.00. The van will be partially paid for by a grant received in the amount of \$27,267.00; remaining balance of \$11,482.00 will be paid from Medic 10 Saving Account. Motion seconded by Councilman Wojnar. Motion carried 9-0.

Councilman Cholock gave the following report:

- Councilman Cholock read a letter of resignation from Jim Pietro as a Board Member for Medic 10 due to a possible conflict of interest.
- Jack Caruso would like to sit on the Board of Medic 10.

A Motion was made by Councilman Cholock to amend the agenda to appoint Jack Caruso to the Medic 10 Board. Motion seconded by Councilman Phillabaum. Motion carried 9-0.

A Motion was made by Councilman Cholock to appoint Jack Caruso to fill the vacancy of Jim Peitro on the Medic 10 Board. Motion seconded by Councilman Phillabaum. Motion carried 9-0.

Veterans Park:

Councilwoman Barnes gave the following report:

- The military insignias have been put up and hopes everyone has had a chance to see them.
- Will follow up with Spectrio after the holidays to see where they are regarding the digital wall.

Human Resources / Ordinances:

Councilman Wojnar gave the following report:

- Discussed digital signs and wanted to know if the Ordinance could be specific to only the Borough and churches. Solicitor Istik stated that you cannot do that. Councilman Wojnar stated that he is opposed to the digital signs, especially the content that could be put on the sign. Councilwoman Stevenson said that they could hang a banner with that content also and that the decision is not about content but about aesthetics. Councilman Wojnar said that there is also a letter stating that the Business District Authority would prefer not to have digital signs. Councilman Cholock suggested doing a vote as to see who is in favor of digital signs and who is not. Mayor Lucia state that the fire department has been waiting for a digital sign ordinance so they can have a sign to advertise fundraisers and if they don't have a digital sign ordinance it could hurt the fire department. Councilman Wojnar stated that he is concerned about the door they are opening by approving it.

A Motion was made by Councilman Cholock to amend the agenda to amend the Sign Ordinance. Motion seconded by Councilman Smetak. Motion carried 9-0.

A Motion was made by Councilman Cholock to amend the Sign Ordinance to include digital signs. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Lasko.

Councilman Cholock called for a roll call vote to see who is in favor of digital signs:

Councilwoman Barnes	No
Councilman Bailey	No
Councilman Cholock	Yes
Councilman Phillabaum	Yes
Councilman Smetak	Yes
Councilwoman Lasko	No
Councilwoman Stevenson	Yes
Councilman Wojnar	No
Council President Ruszkowski	No

The Motion to amend the Sign Ordinance to include digital signs failed with a vote of 4 Yes and 5 Nay.

Finance / Grants Report:

A Motion was made by Councilwoman Bailey to adopt the 2022 General Fund Budget, 2022 Liquid Fuels Budget and the 2022 Medic 10 Budget. Motion seconded by Councilman Phillabaum. Motion carried 8-0.

A Motion was made by Councilwoman Bailey to adopt Ordinance No. 661 setting the millage rate at 17.5 mils for 2022. Motion seconded by Councilman Phillabaum. Motion carried 8-0.

New Business: None.

Reading of Communications:

- Good Shepherd Lutheran Church of 822 West Main Street, Mount Pleasant PA will be holding a Community Thanksgiving Meal on Thursday, November 25, 2021 from 11:00am to 3:00pm. It is free to everyone.
- PSAB will be holding a Newly Elected Municipal Officials Boot Camp seminar on January 21, 2022 and January 22, 2022.
- Mt. Pleasant Business District Authority will be having an open house on Tuesday, December 7, 2021 at 446 W. Main Street, Mount Pleasant from 5:00pm to 7:00pm.

- Mt. Pleasant Area Wrestling Parents Club requests sponsorship in their program.
- Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful requests a donation.

Discussion and Payment of Bills:

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

Public Comment: None.

Miscellaneous and Adjournment:

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

Meeting Adjourned 8:52pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jeffrey A. Landy,
Borough Manager

BOROUGH OF MOUNT PLEASANT

Susan Ruskowski, Council President

Motions from Meeting November 22, 2021

A Motion was made by Councilwoman Stevenson to approve the minutes of November 1, 2021 since Council has been provided with a copy. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Lasko. Motion carried 9-0.

A Motion was made by Councilwoman Lasko to accept the October 2021 Treasurer’s Report as read. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Stevenson. Motion carried 9-0.

A Motion was made by Councilman Wojnar to approve the 2022 Council Meeting Schedule. Motion was seconded by Councilwoman Lasko. Motion carried 9-0.

A Motion was made by Councilman Wojnar to approve the 2022 Holiday Schedule. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Lasko. Motion carried 9-0.

A Motion was made by Councilman Wojnar to hold an executive session. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Bailey. Motion carried 9-0.

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Councilman Cholock called for a roll call vote to see who is in favor of digital signs:

Councilwoman Barnes	No
Councilman Bailey	No
Councilman Cholock	Yes
Councilman Phillabaum	Yes

Councilman Smetak	Yes
Councilwoman Lasko	No
Councilwoman Stevenson	Yes
Councilman Wojnar	No
Council President Ruszkowski	No

The Motion to amend the Sign Ordinance to include digital signs failed with a vote of 4 Yes and 5 Nay.

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A Motion was made by Councilwoman Bailey to adopt Ordinance No. 661 setting the millage rate at 17.5 mils for 2022. Motion seconded by Councilman Phillabaum. Motion carried 8-0.

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

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