

## Meeting December 5, 2022

The meeting of Mount Pleasant Borough Council was called to order by President Ruskowski 7:00pm in Council Chambers at 1 Etze Avenue, Mount Pleasant, PA 15666. The Pledge of Allegiance was said and President Ruskowski asked for a moment of silence for our former Mayor, Jerry Lucia, who passed on December 17, 2021 and has been gone almost one year. President Ruskowski asked Borough Manager Landy to take roll call. Councilpersons present included Barnes, Czekanski, Cholock, Phillabaum, Barrick, Lasko, Stevenson and Wojnar. Mayor Bailey and Solicitor Istik were present. President Ruskowski stated that a quorum is present.

A Motion was made by Councilwoman Stevenson to approve the minutes of November 21, 2022 since Council has been provided with a copy. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Lasko. Motion carried 9-0.

### Speakers:

Renee Shipley, Manager of Municipal Sales of Republic Services spoke to Council about the new garbage contract. Ms. Shipley stated that they are pleased to service the Borough for the next three (3) years. Ms. Shipley stated that everything that everyone has been used to will remain that same and that nothing will change with any of the services that the Borough currently has. Mayor Bailey asked what the difference was in the increase. Ms. Shipley reported that there will be an increase in rates with the new contract and that the current rate for trash pickup is \$14.42 per month and will increase to \$19.85 per month and that they kept to as minimal of an increase as they could. Councilwoman Stevenson stated that what they have heard from other municipalities that this is remarkable. Borough Manager Landy asked Ms. Shipley how many years has Republic Services been servicing the Borough. Ms. Shipley stated that it has been more than 25 years. Councilwoman Lasko asked if there could be a flyer put in with customers bills explaining the recycling, what types of products can be put out and what type of containers that they can and can't put the recycling in. Ms. Shipley stated that she can put it in with the billing; however, there won't be enough time to get it in this next billing but it can be in the one after. Borough Manager Landy asked if they have a schedule of their holidays. Ms. Shipley stated that they do have a schedule and it is on their website. Councilman Barrick stated that they have an app that works very well and gives all the information also. Council President Ruskowski wished Ms. Shipley a happy holiday and thanked her for coming in to provide the information. Councilwoman Stevenson also thanked Ms. Shipley for working to give the Borough such a good deal.

### Public Comment:

Mark Kraisinger spoke to Council and stated on behalf of the Mount Pleasant Volunteer Fire Department he wished everyone a happy holidays and Merry Christmas. Council President Ruskowski thanked Mr. Kraisinger and wished him and everyone in the fire department the same.

### Mayor's Report:

Mayor Bailey gave the following report:

- Saturday, November 26, 2022 was Small Business Saturday.
- Attended the blessing and lighting of the nativity at the Diamond on Sunday, November 27, 2022. Mayor Bailey stated that it was so nice to see so many residents who come out and weathered the elements. Mayor Bailey thanked everyone that works on the nativity scene.
- Borough held its annual Christmas Parade and light up night on Thursday, December 1, 2022. The parade was moved from Wednesday, November 30, 2022 due to the weather. The parade was another great event with marching bands, fire trucks, beautifully

decorated floats and Santa Claus. Mayor Bailey stated that this year was unique for her because she got to be Santa's helper and give Santa the treats to give to the children.

- Resident Mark Kubasky approached Mayor Bailey about his company wanting to take a day and give back to the community. It will be held on Friday morning, December 9, 2022. Mayor Bailey checked with the Borough office, the fire department, the library and the street department to see about any help. The street department was happy to have some extra hands. There are approximately 9 – 13 volunteers that will be coming from the tri-state area to give the street department some help cleaning up some things at the old Levin's property on Bridgeport Street and around Frick Park and the Borough Building. They will be working approximately 3 hours and will attend a luncheon at a local restaurant in the Borough. Mayor Bailey stated that it was a great thing for Mr. Kubasky to reach out and offer his company to do this and if anyone see him to please thank him.
- Thanked the Street Department, Jeff McGuinness, Joe Yancosky and Rocky Anderson for getting all of the Christmas decorations, lighting and banners done. Also thanked the Historical Society for opening the cabins and participating in the Borough light up night.
- Mayor Bailey stated that we need to visit the landlord ordinance again. There have been some issues with tenants.

Mayor Bailey read the Mount Pleasant Police Dept. Report for the Month of November 2022:

The Department answered the following calls:

Incidents	141
Criminal Arrests	4
DUI Arrests	2
Parking Tickets Issued (Boro)	6
Traffic & Non-Traffic Citations	21
Assist Other Departments (Police, Fire, EMS)	3
Accidents Investigated	9
Special Details	2
Income	
Parking Meters	\$0.00
Parking Tickets	\$185.00
Fees for Police Reports	\$15.00
Clerk of Courts	\$1350.76
District Court	\$470.00
Ordinance Fines	\$0.00
Fingerprinting	\$0.00
Donations	\$0.00
Total Revenue	\$2020.76

**Solicitor's Report: None.**

**Tax Collector's Report: None.**

**Borough Manager's Report:**

Borough Manager Landy gave the following report:

- Thanked Council President Ruszkowski, Council Vice President Phillabaum and Mayor Bailey for all of their help with the Christmas Parade and light up night since he was limited on what he could do to participate.
- Would like Council to do a final reading of the Parking Ordinance, make any necessary changes and move forward with it. Mayor Bailey stated that she had spoken with Solicitor Istik regarding the weight of vehicles and was to look into the width limits of

how wide the vehicle could be. Councilwoman Lasko agreed and stated that she was concerned about commercial vehicles such as Armstrong Cable van or a plumbing van, if that would be impacted. Councilman Cholock stated that we cannot do anything with Main Street, Diamond Street or Church Street due to them being a PennDOT state road and that we could only enforce this on Borough streets. Mayor Bailey stated we are doing an Ordinance because of safety issues due to some of the trailers being extra width and stick out onto the roadway outside of the parking space and into the travel lane. Councilman Cholock stated that trailers and boat trailers are standard for highway use. Mayor Bailey stated yes for highways, but not for our parking areas on the street when you get into the residential areas. The streets are not the same size as state highways.

- Met with a gentleman and would like to put up a digital sign at the Church of God. The sign doesn't blink or flash, it fades from one picture to another.
- Thanked Council and Secretary, Sharon Lesko for all of their support while he was out of the office.

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

Council President Ruszkowski gave the following report:

- Thanked everyone for their patience, phone calls and support this year with her while she was going through some of her issues.
- Wished everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

A Motion was made by Councilwoman Lasko to appoint Toni Wilson to fill the vacancy of Dennis Taylor on the Civil Service Commission for a 4-year term expiring 12-31-2026. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Stevenson. Motion carried 9-0.

A Motion was made by Councilwoman Stevenson to accept 2023 – 2026 Garbage bid from Republic Services in the amount of \$59.99 per quarter for 2023, \$64.31 per quarter for 2024 and \$69.45 per quarter for 2025. Motion seconded by Councilman Barrick. Motion carried 9-0.

Councilwoman Stevenson stated that she believes that the garbage contract is a much better deal that many of our surrounding municipalities are getting. Councilwoman Stevenson also thanked Borough Manager Landy for working on this and the relationships that he has to get us the deals that we got. Secretary Sharon Lesko stated that the Borough had two (2) requests for applications, one being Republic Services and the second was Noble Environmental. Republic Services was the only company to turn a bid in to the Borough.

A Motion was made by Councilman Cholock to hold an executive session. Motion seconded by Councilman Phillabaum. Motion carried 9-0.

A Motion was made by Councilwoman Lasko to reconvene. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Stevenson. Motion carried 9-0.

President Ruszkowski stated that the executive session was held from 7:25pm to 7:31pm to discuss personnel.

### **Property Report:**

Councilman Barrick gave the following report:

- Spoke with Mr. Ulery regarding the gazebo project. Hope to have the plans and things finalized in January.
- Waiting on the surveyor to complete and submit the subdivision for the Bridgeport Street property. He needs to mark all the utility lines on the survey. Solicitor Istik stated that she has contacted the surveyor and that all preliminary work has been completed and will be at the location this week finalizing what he needs.

Councilwoman Stevenson gave the following report:

- The window blinds have been installed and she would like to keep moving forward with getting chambers taken care of.
- Mr. Cory Miller from Miller's Copperwood Creations has completed the refurbishing of one of the desks from chambers. Each council person has a desk under the top shell where they sit. Councilwoman Stevenson asked Council to consider renovating the remaining desks at a cost of \$250.00 per desk along with keeping the history of the desks in chambers. The costs would not exceed \$300 per desk in the event some need a little more work than others. For the front desk, there are no desks under the shell. Mr. Miller would build something out of oak and stain it to get it close to matching the desks. Councilwoman Stevenson stated that she would like to get the room back to honor its age and history.

### **Streets / Stormwater Report:**

Councilman Phillabaum wished everyone a Merry Christmas.

### **Parks & Recreation:**

Councilwoman Lasko gave the following report:

- The park bench honoring Vicki Smith-Hickle, who was an elementary teacher with the Mt. Pleasant School District and recently passed away suddenly, has been installed at Frick Park on the hillside where Linda Macaluso and a group of friends picked out. Councilwoman Lasko thanked the Street Department for installing the bench.

### **Public Safety Report:**

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

Total Calls – 57  
In Town – 18  
Out of Town - 39  
10-45's - 18  
Entrapments - 0  
Fires - 18  
AFA's - 5  
Hazardous Calls – 8  
Public Service Calls – 5  
Ambulance Assistance – 2  
Standby's – 1  
Turnpike Calls – 3  
Landing Zones – 0  
Drills – 0  
Total Members Answering – 641  
Avg. Member Per Call – 11

Councilman Cholock thanked Councilman Phillabaum for attending the firemen's meetings and keeping up with the fire department.

### **Veterans Park:**

Councilwoman Barnes gave the following report:

- Would like to meet with Borough Manager Landy and the Solicitor regarding the documents received from Spectrio.

Thanked Councilman Phillabaum and Councilwoman Czekanski for being on the Veteran's Park Committee and the Veteran's Park Advisory Committee and all that they do.

**Ordinances: None.**

**Human Resources:**

Councilwoman Czekanski stated that a member of the VFW had their vehicle hit on Main Street due to a woman speeding and had a child with her. It is the second time that his car has been hit on Main Street. Councilwoman Czekanski asked Mayor Bailey about the police patrolling the alleys and the area on Main Street where the vehicle accident happened last week. Mayor Bailey stated that she will address it with Police Chief Grippo.

Councilwoman Czekanski wished everyone happy holidays.

**Finance / Grants Report: None.**

A Motion was made by Councilwoman Stevenson to advertise Ordinance Number 663 Amending Chapter 24, Taxation, Part 4, Realty Transfer Tax, providing waivers for additional fees due to unpaid real estate taxes and the effect of failure to receive real estate tax notice. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Lasko. Motion carried 9-0.

A Motion was made by Councilwoman Stevenson to authorize Borough Manager Landy to pay all invoices through January 3, 2023. Motion seconded by Councilman Phillabaum. Motion carried 9-0.

Borough Manager Landy asked Council to review the profit and loss budget vs. actual.

**New Business:**

- Received call from Mr. Karfelt who is leasing the property at the Bridgeport Street property. The contract will run out the end of 2023. He would like to extend the contract.

**Reading of Communications:**

- PSAB Update states that Act 57 requires all taxing districts to enact an ordinance or pass a resolution on or before January 7, 2023 regarding Waiver of Additional Charges for Delinquent Real Estate Tax Payments.

**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 9-0.

**Public Comment: None.**

**Miscellaneous and Adjournment:**

A Motion was made by Councilwoman Lasko to adjourn the meeting. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Stevenson. Motion carried 9-0.

**Meeting Adjourned 7:52pm.**

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 December 5, 2022**

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