

May 4, 2020

The meeting of Mount Pleasant Borough Council was called to order by President Caruso 7:00pm in Council Chambers at 1 Etze Avenue, Mount Pleasant, PA 15666. The Pledge of Allegiance was said and President Caruso asked for a moment of silence for our deployed troops. President Caruso asked Borough Manager Landy to take roll call. Councilpersons present included Barnes, Bailey, Phillabaum, Smetak, Lasko, Ruszkowski and Wojnar. Mayor Lucia and Solicitor Istik were present. President Caruso stated that a quorum is present.

A Motion was made by Councilwoman Ruszkowski to approve the minutes of April 6, 2020 since Council has been provided with a copy. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Lasko. Motion carried 8-0.

Public Comment: Kathleen Ceroni of Orchard Hill Drive, Mount Pleasant, PA spoke to Council regarding creating a grass roots community action group called Our Town Spirit (OTS). Mission is to promote community spirit and engender community cohesion. Each week of the project would designate a specific group gratitude for that week (Gratitude Project). The weeks are as follows:

May 10 – May 16 / Healthcare Workers
May 17 – May 23 / First Responders
May 24 – May 30 / Essential Store Workers
May 31 – June 6 / Law Enforcement
June 7 – June 13 / Food Service Workers
June 14 – June 20 / Maintenance Workers
June 21 – June 27 / Sanitation Workers
June 28 – July 4 / Government Workers

Council expressed that they felt it is a great project and would approve of the project.

Speakers: None

Mayor's Report:

Mayor Lucia stated that for Memorial Day that there will not be a parade. He will be meeting with the VFW and the American Legion. He feels that they would like to have a small half hour ceremony to honor the veterans. Solicitor Istik was concerned that there would be a lot of older residents attending and that everyone should have masks but it is not mandated as a law. Mayor Lucia said that they will do a placing of the wreaths and the salute which is approximately 10 minutes. Council President Caruso suggested the simpler the program the better. Solicitor Istik suggested doing a "drive-up" ceremony where the cars can park and listen. Councilman Smetak suggested people being able to listen to it on their radio or a loud speaker. They would not have to leave their cars. Borough Manager Landy stated that there is a possibility that they can do that.

Mayor Lucia also gave the following report:

- The police have had very few incidents since the stay-at-home order began. Medic 10 calls are down because everyone is afraid to go to the hospital.
- Would like a letter sent to Robert Levin of Levins Furniture stating that Council and the Borough is supporting him.
- On Sunday, May 7, 2020, the Borough participated in the Bells Across Pennsylvania in honor of First Responders, essential workers, etc.
- Received a complaint about the grass cutting at the area of Ramsay Terrace where the "triangle" is. The grass was cut but not raked.

- Had several volunteers make masks for Police Department, Fire Department and Medic 10.

Solicitor's Report:

Solicitor Istik stated that she will give her report in executive session to discuss legal issues.

Treasurer's Report:

Borough Manager Landy stated that everyone has received a copy of the Treasurer's Report for the month of March 2020. Borough Manager Landy reported that there are two (2) reports for the month of March due to Scottdale Bank and Trust changing the interest rate.

Mt. Pleasant Borough Treasurer's Report		March 1 -12, 2020			Balance
		Prev Bal	Deposits	Disbursements	2020
General Fund Checking	Scottdale Bank 19069335	815,367.37	27,830.89	34,286.74	808,911.52
General Fund Budgetary Reserve	Standard Bank 321615	802,151.20	0.00	0.00	802,151.20
**Police	47,619.03				
**Streets	147,131.00				
**Contingency Fund	289,804.08				
**Infrastructure	171,588.62				
**BOMP Gas Wells	21,955.15				
** Frick Park Gas Well	22,768.03				
**Levins	970.06				
**Fire	65,000.00				
**K-9	13,828.76				
**Marcellus Impact Fee Act	21,486.47				
13					
Police Parking Tickets & Meters	Scottdale Bank 1026616	26,149.73	0.00	0.00	26,149.73
Escrow Account	Scottdale Bank 19069343	8,341.26	5.20	0.00	8,346.46
Liquid Fuels PLGIT	PLGIT 56980126	211,937.02	0.00	0.00	211,937.02
Monument CD	Standard Bank 446635	7,286.68	0.00	0.00	7,286.68
Holiday Lighting Fund	Standard Bank 050004849	1,810.59	0.00	0.00	1,810.59
Payroll Fund	Scottdale Bank 19069350	962.58	23,228.82	23,227.05	964.35
Veterans Park Fund	Somerset Trust Co 2003058309	21,044.96	0.00	0.00	21,044.96
Town Clock Fund	Standard Bank 0010038847	616.27	0.00	0.00	616.27
Storm Water Retrofit Phase II	Scottdale Bank 19069368	1,211.35	0.76	0.00	1,212.11
Turn Back Account	Scottdale Bank 19069384	284,135.70	177.10	0.00	284,312.80
Standard Bank CD	Standard Bank	208,875.95	0.00	0.00	208,875.95
Standard Bank CD	Standard Bank 410571	52,120.89	0.00	0.00	52,120.89
Scottdale Bank /MidPenn CD	Scottdale Bank 318007294	50,983.85	0.00	0.00	50,983.85
Total General Fund Balance					2,486,724.38
Medic 10 Checking	Scottdale Bank 19069533	98,126.14	4,678.75	2,689.77	100,115.12
Medic 10 Savings	Scottdale Bank 19069723	115,252.35	1,072.36	0.00	116,324.71
Medic 10 Money Market	Scottdale Bank 19069376	5,965.50	3.72	0.00	5,969.22
Medic 10 Pittsburgh Foundation	Standard Bank 0000358253	7,519.98	0.00	0.00	7,519.98
Medic 10 CD	Standard Bank 371917	18,992.22	0.00	0.00	18,992.22

Medic 10 CD	Standard Bank 410053	5,199.37	0.00	0.00	5,199.37
Total Medic 10 Fund Balance					254,120.62
WWT Operational Acct	Standard Bank 0010175932	716,986.07	0.00	0.00	716,986.07
WWT Savings	Standard Bank 0050021008	183,771.04	0.00	0.00	183,771.04
WWT Budgetary Reserve	Standard Bank 0000287245	141,139.85	0.00	0.00	141,139.85
**Contingency	113,670.03				
**Infrastructure	27,469.82				
WWT Bio-Tower	Standard Bank 10127923	191,023.64	0.00	0.00	191,023.64
Total WWT Balance					1,232,920.60
Total Borough funds					3,973,765.60
Councilwoman Susan Ruskowski / Secretary Sharon Lesko					

Mt. Pleasant Borough Treasurer's Report

March 13-31, 2020

		Prev Bal	Deposits	Disbursements	Balance 2020
General Fund Checking	Scottdale Bank 19069335	808,911.52	99,512.81	66,270.20	842,154.13
General Fund Budgetary Reserve	Standard Bank 321615	802,151.20	392.60	0.00	802,543.80
**Police	47,619.03				
**Streets	147,131.00				
**Contingency Fund	290,196.68				
**Infrastructure	171,588.62				
**BOMP Gas Wells	21,955.15				
** Frick Park Gas Well	22,768.03				
**Levins	970.06				
**Fire	65,000.00				
**K-9	13,828.76				
**Marcellus Impact Fee Act	21,486.47				
13					
Police Parking Tickets & Meters	Scottdale Bank 1026616	26,149.73	475.30	572.08	26,052.95
Escrow Account	Scottdale Bank 19069343	8,346.46	3.22	0.00	8,349.68
Liquid Fuels PLGIT	PLGIT 56980126	211,937.02	3,965.25	0.00	215,902.27
Monument CD	Standard Bank 446635	7,286.68	0.00	0.00	7,286.68
Holiday Lighting Fund	Standard Bank 050004849	1,810.59	1.92	1,812.51	0.00
Payroll Fund	Scottdale Bank 19069350	964.35	48,467.15	25,490.84	23,940.66
Veterans Park Fund	Somerset Trust Co 2003058309	21,044.96	450.00	0.00	21,494.96
Town Clock Fund	Standard Bank 0010038847	616.27	0.65	616.92	0.00
Storm Water Retrofit Phase II	Scottdale Bank 19069368	1,212.11	0.47	0.00	1,212.58
Turn Back Account	Scottdale Bank 19069384	284,312.80	109.83	0.00	284,422.63
Standard Bank CD	Standard Bank	208,875.95	0.00	0.00	208,875.95
Standard Bank CD	Standard Bank 410571	52,120.89	0.00	0.00	52,120.89
Scottdale Bank /MidPenn CD	Scottdale Bank 318007294	50,983.85	0.00	0.00	50,983.85
Total General Fund Balance					2,545,341.03
Medic 10 Checking	Scottdale Bank 19069533	100,115.12	30,888.05	32,190.00	98,813.17
Medic 10 Savings	Scottdale Bank 19069723	116,324.71	44.94	0.00	116,369.65
Medic 10 Money Market	Scottdale Bank 19069376	5,969.22	2.31	0.00	5,971.53
Medic 10 Pittsburgh Foundation	Standard Bank 0000358253	7,519.98	19.77	0.00	7,539.75

Medic 10 CD	Standard Bank 371917	18,992.22	0.00	0.00	18,992.22
Medic 10 CD	Standard Bank 410053	5,199.37	0.00	0.00	5,199.37
Total Medic 10 Fund Balance					252,885.69
WWT Operational Acct	Standard Bank 0010175932	716,986.07	36,725.12	47,114.82	706,596.37
WWT Savings	Standard Bank 0050021008	183,771.04	89.94	0.00	183,860.98
WWT Budgetary Reserve	Standard Bank 0000287245	141,139.85	69.08	0.00	141,208.93
**Contingency	113,739.11				
**Infrastructure	27,469.82				
WWT Bio-Tower	Standard Bank 10127923	191,023.64	9,732.43	0.00	200,756.07
Total WWT Balance					1,232,422.35
Total Borough funds					4,030,649.07
Councilwoman Susan Ruszkowski / Secretary Sharon Lesko					

A Motion was made by Councilwoman Bailey to accept the Treasurer's Report as read. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Lasko. Motion carried 8-0.

Tax Collector's Report:

Borough Manager Landy read the following report for the month of April 2020:

Property Taxes	\$293,189.37
Supplemental Taxes	\$ 00
Per Capita Taxes	<u>\$ 00</u>
Total Collected	\$293,189.37

Mr. Landy said that Carol Yancosky compared last years collections to this year to see if we are running behind. The total difference is we are only behind by \$12,131.59.

Borough Manager Landy stated we will be down at the end of the year due to the extension of the 2% discount and not charging a penalty this year. The one we will have to watch is the Earned Income Tax (EIT) that will be sent out the end of this month. We will know in a few months. The EIT is probably 20% of the budget. Since this is based on earnings, this will be down due to people laid off and not working.

Borough Manager's Report:

Borough Manager gave the following report:

- All Borough employees will be returning to their regular schedules. Masks and sanitizer have been provided to the employees. They will be required to keep distances. Borough Office will not be accepting walk-ins. The Tax Collector will still be working from home. Council agreed to this schedule.
- Waste Water Treatment schedule returns to regular schedule of 8:00am and 8:30am.
- Met with the Municipal Authority of Westmoreland County.
- Met with A. Liberoni Construction. Construction has begun on South Church Street. The water company is doing a project, there is a sewage project and there is the street project all going on. There are two (2) companies working in the same area making for a tough project.
- Councilwoman Bailey and Mr. Landy gave Jeff McGuinness a review.
- Spoke with United Steel Workers Union regarding COVID-19 safety.

- Public Works Department work is picking up. Purchased a new zero turn mower. Traded in an old tractor towards it. Cost of the mower was \$3,082.00 after the trade-in.
- Industry Weapons sent an email to Borough Manager Landy. They would like to set up a meeting to speak with Christian, the original contact at Industry Weapons. Mr. Landy suggested Thursday, May 7, 2020. Mr. Landy stated once he responds with a time, he will inform Councilwoman Barnes so she can participate in the meeting.
- The fountain at Veterans Park has not been opened. Borough Manager Landy suggested leaving the fountain closed, due to being noisy, until the Memorial Day event is done. They always shut off the fountain during the Memorial Day event. Councilwoman Ruskowski suggested keeping the fountain off until we are in the green to avoid people congregating at that area.

Councilwoman Barnes asked what the review entailed regarding Jeff McGuinness. Borough Manager Landy stated that it was a status review, an employee review, to go over what he has done and what he can improve on.

- Borough Manager Landy stated that the Bridgeport Sportsmen's Club would like to sell a ticket at the Freedom of Speech area. Mayor Lucia stated that for the past 15 years they have sold tickets there in May and June for the Fire Department. Mayor Lucia stated that it is looking more like the fair is going to be cancelled and they need to sell the tickets. Councilwoman Bailey stated that she does not feel they should be selling tickets there. Borough Manager Landy stated that other outside entities have sold there. Solicitor Istik stated that you are walking a thin line permitting one organization sell tickets and another not. Borough Manager Landy stated that the Ordinance allows the approval of the permit.
- Borough Manager Landy stated that the following event after the firemans fair is the July 3rd event. Mr. Landy said that he has time to decide what to do with that.

President's Report:

A Motion was made by Councilwoman Bailey to hold an Executive Session. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Lasko. Motion carried 8-0.

A Motion was made by Councilman Smetak to reconvene. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Lasko. Motion carried 8-0.

Council President Caruso announced that the Executive Session was held from 7:57pm – 8:51pm to discuss legal issues and real estate.

A Motion was made by Councilwoman Bailey to re-hire Mark Cypher as the Borough Code Enforcement Officer retroactive to April 7, 2020. Motion seconded by Councilman Phillabaum. Motion carried 8-0.

A Motion was made by Councilwoman Ruskowski to approve Resolution No. 2020-04 to follow the guidelines set forth in the Resolution adopted by the County of Westmoreland which modifies the timeframe allowed for real estate tax payments at a discounted rate through August 31, 2020; and, without penalty if taxes are paid in full between August 31, 2020 through December 31, 2020. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Bailey. Motion carried 8-0.

Council President Caruso asked if Council noticed that the Chambers has been repainted. Council President Caruso and Borough Manager Landy have met with contractors regarding renovating Chambers with new desks and flooring. Borough Manager asked Council if they had an idea of what they would like to spend for the renovations. Council President Caruso stated that the desks will be made of oak and flooring will be a water proof vinyl wood-look. Councilman Smetak figured renovations would cost approximately \$25,000.00. Borough Manager Landy asked if it was in the range of \$25,000.00 would they go for it. Council stated that they would. Council President Caruso stated he would hope that it does not cost that much.

Property Report:

Councilman Smetak reported that they decided that the coloring of the roof for the synagogue will be burgundy. He is not sure when they will be starting the project due to the shut downs regarding the coronavirus COVID-19.

Waste Water Treatment Report:

Councilman Phillabaum reported that he will contact Glenn regarding the permit that will need to be renewed.

Streets Report:

Councilwoman Bailey gave the following report:

- The Street Department has begun doing crack sealing. They have completed Ramsay Terrace; and, they have a list of streets that they will be doing as weather permits.
- A. Liberoni Construction is back working now. They have completed S. Church Street and are now moving to Eagle Street. Liberoni met with the water company regarding the stormwater lines on S. Church Street and revise the plan since the gentleman at the end of S. Church Street would not give a right-of-way.

Councilwoman Barnes asked if the signs are being installed. Councilwoman Bailey said that they had to put that on hold due to the company that sells the signs not permitted to sell and was shut down as a non-essential business. Councilwoman Bailey stated that all of the signs that we had in stock have been installed.

- A few of the projects that they will be doing is painting lines, filling potholes, they are looking at the alley behind Harmon House.

Council President Caruso asked when will they be doing street sweeping. Councilwoman Bailey said that she advised them not to do street sweeping since everyone is home and cars would be parked on the streets due to the stay-at-home order from Governor Wolf. Councilwoman Bailey stated that they did do Main Street, Church Street and she believes Diamond Street.

Stormwater Management Report: None.

Parks & Recreation:

Councilwoman Lasko reported that playgrounds cannot be open until the Governor moves us into the “green phase” due to the coronavirus. Borough Manager Landy stated that the Borough does not own the tennis courts. They are owned by the School District. If the tennis courts are closed, they are closed by the School District; and, not by the Borough.

Borough Manager Landy reported that there was a previous motion on October 7, 2019 that Penn Park and Veterans Park was to be sprayed by Silvis Landscaping and never happened. Mr. Landy wants to have them sprayed before things begin opening up.

Public Safety Report: None.

Veterans Park Report:

Councilwoman Barnes reported that she called Industry Weapons and informed them that they need to come here to see what is going on with the digital wall. They followed up with Borough

Manager Landy. Mr. Landy suggest Thursday, May 7, 2020. He is waiting for a return call with a time for a conference call. Mr. Landy will notify Councilwoman Barnes once he has the time.

Human Resources/Ordinances Report:

Councilman Wojnar gave the following report:

- He has been gathering information regarding digital signs. He contacted Greg Wilson with the Business District Authority to set up a meeting about digital signs. David Stairs emailed Councilman Wojnar to give his opinions on digital signs.

Councilman Wojnar recognized the Borough employees for the great job that they have done during this crisis. Councilman Wojnar said that in particular Borough Manager Landy and Secretary Sharon Lesko have done an exemplary job, shifting schedules and keeping the Borough running and he commends them.

Borough Manager Landy said that he has been asked to sit on a Board for the County to discuss how Boroughs are handling the Coronavirus COVID-19 pandemic. The meeting will be on Wednesday, May 6, 2020. Borough Manager Landy stated that he did tell them that he didn't want to disrupt the Boroughs operation and tried to keep it open and running as best we could. Things were modified but he feels that the public never felt that we were short changing them.

- Councilman Wojnar received an email from a resident regarding having chickens in the Borough. She asked that we look at our Ordinance regarding chickens based on sustainability. Councilman Wojnar contacted other Boroughs regarding their chicken ordinances. Etna Borough permits them; however, their Ordinance Officer stated that they will attract rats; and, he was not in favor of the chicken ordinance. Ligonier and Blawnox do not permit chickens at all. Councilman Wojnar discussed it with Councilwoman Ruszkowski and Councilwoman Lasko and decided that all of the benefits would be for the individual; however, the shortcomings would affect the surrounding neighbors. Councilman Wojnar contacted the resident and informed her that they would not be changing the Ordinance to approve chickens in the Borough. She followed up with an additional email asking the Borough to consider chickens as pets. Councilman Wojnar stated that he reviewed the pets section of the Ordinance and chickens do not fall under the category of pets. Councilman Wojnar reported that he and Borough Manager Landy contacted Youngwood Borough since they have a chicken ordinance; however, it states that you must be 150 feet from a property line or thoroughfare. It was very restrictive.

Finance / Grants Report: None.

New Business: None.

Reading of Communications:

- Westmoreland Cleanways Recycling Center will be opening its new recycling center to the public on May 11, 2020. The new address is: 355 Pleasant Unity Mutual Road, Greensburg, PA 15601.
- Received from the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania the amount to be deposited into Liquid Fuels account. \$135,887.70.

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 8-0.

Public Comment: None.

Miscellaneous and Adjournment:

Mayor Lucia reported that there was a problem in the alley behind PNC Bank with the drive through and backing up traffic in the alley. The bank personnel is going to contact their District Manager to let them know it has been brought to their attention that traffic is backing up into the alley and causing problems.

A Motion was made by Councilwoman Lasko to adjourn the meeting. Motion seconded by Councilman Smetak. Motion carried 8-0.

Meeting Adjourned 9:34pm.

Respectfully Submitted

Jeffrey A. Landy,
Borough Manager

BOROUGH OF MOUNT PLEASANT

John H. Caruso, Jr., Council President

Motions from Meeting of May 4, 2020

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