

## Meeting March 6, 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 and President Ruszkowski asked for a moment of silence and prayers for those in need of prayers. President Ruszkowski asked Assistant Borough Manager Lesko to take roll call. Councilpersons present included Barnes, Cholock, Phillabaum, Barrick, Lasko, Stevenson and Wojnar. Mayor Bailey and Solicitor Istik were present. President Ruszkowski stated that a quorum is present.

A Motion was made by Councilwoman Stevenson to approve the minutes of February 21, 2023 since Council has been provided with a copy. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Lasko. Motion carried 8-0.

**Speakers: None.**

### Public Comment:

- Zach Gergas, Director of Medic 10, reported that they had an issue with their furnace that had a small fire, with no damages. They had Jim Kostyo from Kostyo Heating come in and repair it. Medic 10 is up to 449 calls for the year. Received a grant from Walmart in the amount of \$500.00. Will be advertising about the event at LIVE Casino that runs from April 1, 2023 to June 30, 2023 and the Applebee's event on March 30, 2023. The event at the LIVE Casino is a give back event where if you have a voucher to cash in, you can choose to donate the coin amount to Medic 10. LIVE Casino will hold a picture event and present Medic 10 with the money. There are 2 other organizations listed during the same time frame that can be donated to. One of the others is the Mount Pleasant Library.
- Patrick Hresko of 725 West Walnut Street, Mt. Pleasant, PA spoke to Council regarding maintenance of the Mount Pleasant Little League Field. Council suggested that Mr. Hresko contact Councilwoman Lasko, Parks and Recreation Chairwoman, to set up a meeting to discuss what they would like to do. Mr. Hresko will reach out to Councilwoman Lasko to schedule a time.
- Heidi Leeper, Director of the Mount Pleasant Library, gave the following report:
  - Had a calendar for the month of March 2023.
  - Asked if the Library Ordinances have been reviewed
  - The Mt. Pleasant Library will also be on the LIVE Casino give back event for the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter of the year. If a voucher is dropped in the box and not specified which organization the money is divided among the 3 organizations.
  - In the last month they had approximately 1600 people in the library which is more than last year and they have circulated almost 2000 items.
  - There are art exhibits going on all of this month at the library representing the student's art from elementary, junior high and senior high.
- Shane Grimes of 10 W. Vine Street, Mount Pleasant, PA spoke to Council regarding the proposed Parking Ordinance No. 664. Mr. Grimes requested a copy of the Ordinance and when and where it was posted. Assistant Borough Manager Lesko stated that the Ordinance was advertised in the local newspaper and that Mr. Grimes can come to the Borough Office and request a copy of the Ordinance.
- Charles Nitterright of 2703 Slope Hill Road, Mount Pleasant, PA spoke to Council regarding the proposed changes about nuisance houses in the Landlord Ordinance. Mr. Nitterright asked if Council has reached out to the Landlord Association that will be

involved in this. Council President Ruszkowski stated that to her knowledge nothing has been done with the Landlord Ordinance. Mayor Bailey stated that the only thing that has happened is that a template that was received from another municipality has been handed out to the Ordinance committee and they will review it, make changes to accommodate the Borough. Councilwoman Stevenson stated that there is not even an initial draft on this. Council President Ruszkowski stated that the Ordinance committee will review it and report back with a recommendation and at this time they have not done that. Mr. Nitterright asked if the Landlord Association could be involved in that when the time comes. Council President Ruszkowski said that nothing has been done with it.

- Mark Kraisinger, Fire Chief of the Mount Pleasant Volunteer Fire Department, will begin selling their street fair ticket and asked if they could park the squad truck on the Diamond to sell tickets. Council agreed that they could park the truck on the Diamond and sell their tickets as they have done in the past.

### **Mayor's Report:**

Mayor Bailey gave the following report:

- Drafted a letter to Senator Kim Ward asking her to support and co-sponsor Senator Rothman's proposed RADAR / LIDAR bill allowing local municipalities to use radar equipment. Council agreed and signed the letter to be sent to Senator Ward.

**Solicitor's Report: None.**

### **Tax Collector's Report:**

Assistant Borough Manager Lesko gave the following report:

- Taxes have been sent to the County for mailing and residents should be receiving them at any time.

### **Borough Manager's Report:**

Assistant Borough Manager Lesko gave the following report:

- Held a managers' meeting with Police Chief Grippo, Jeff McGuinness. Discussed the handicap parking sign protocol, posting no parking signs on the East side of South Hitchman Street.

Mayor Bailey stated that we are waiting for the poles to come in for the no parking signs on South Hitchman. Councilman Phillabaum doesn't agree that we should post the signs. Mayor Bailey stated that this is being done because it is an Ordinance and needs to be abided by. Mayor Bailey said that there was an issue on South Hitchman Street and nothing was done previously and now she is going to be sure something is done about it and that the Ordinance reads that there is no parking on the east side of South Hitchman Street. Mayor Bailey said that it is her job to be sure that the Police Department enforces the Ordinances of this Borough. The signs are in but we have not received the poles yet.

Council President Ruszkowski asked if the people on that street were notified. Mayor Bailey said that they were. Councilman Barrick stated that there are some houses along South Hitchman Street that do not have parking other than on-street and will then have to park on the west side across from their home. Councilman Phillabaum asked about someone that is handicap. Mayor Bailey said that they will have to park on the west side unless changes are made to the Ordinance. Mayor Bailey said that no tickets have been handed out yet due to the signs not being up.

- Received the quoted from Todd at The Uber Company for the furnaces for the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor Borough Building
- Met with Jeff McGuinness regarding the bathroom issues on the 1<sup>st</sup> floor.
- Met with Zach Gergas of Medic 10 regarding subscriptions, insurance deposits and payroll.
- Met with Dan Busatto of Century Insurance and completed the workers comp application and payments. Mr. Busatto hand delivered the application and payment to SWIF in Pittsburgh.
- Joe Zelenak of the VFW has requested to use the gazebo and Veterans Park for an Easter Egg Hunt that they are holding on April 1, 2023. It is open to the public.

Councilwoman Stevenson asked if we would have to close the street. Council President Ruzkowski stated that it was advertised on Facebook before they called to ask to use the area. Mayor Bailey stated that she does not have a problem with the gazebo area; however, with Veterans Park it should not be used for anything other than in memory of the veterans. Council agreed that the gazebo would be good if Diamond Street could be blocked. Assistant Borough Manager Lesko stated that she would not have enough notice and time to get authorization from PennDOT to have the street blocked. Councilwoman Stevenson suggested that they use Frick Park for the Easter Egg Hunt. Councilwoman Lasko stated that she is not in favor of them using the gazebo area if Diamond Street was not closed. Councilman Cholock asked if there was some way that we could accommodate them. Assistant Borough Manager will follow up with Mr. Zelenak informing him that we do not have the time to notify PennDOT to close Diamond street and that they can use Frick Park or any of the other parks.

- Received the liquid fuels and turn back money.
- Renewed a CD for an additional 2 years with Scottdale Bank & Trust, a division of Mid Penn Bank. Rate increased from .75% to 4.5%. Compared rates with Dollar Bank which offered 2.5% and Somerset Trust offered .35%.

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

Council President Ruzkowski gave the following report:

- Met with Assistant Borough Manager Lesko to review the outstanding projects that we have.
  - Lights at the Water Way Project. Waiting to hear back on a grant for the installation of the electricity. Once the electricity is installed then the lights can be put up.
  - Sheds at the East End Main Street Project.
  - Gazebo Project
  - Playground equipment

A Motion was made by Councilman Phillabaum to authorize Council President Ruzkowski to execute the deed to the Municipal Authority of Westmoreland County finalizing the sale of the sewage plant. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Stevenson. Motion carried 8-0.

### **Property Report:**

Councilman Barrick gave the following report:

- There is still an issue with the Police Department sewage. Bob Hudec has come in and cameraed the lines and believes that there is an issue with the 2 cleanouts under the steps

of the former dentist office by not venting properly and causing a suction to not let it flow properly. The caps have been temporarily removed to see if this the problem continues. He suggested a vented cap for those cleanouts. Councilman Barrick will speak with Jeff McGuinness and decide if they should get a plumber.

- Grant was received for the sheds for the East End Marketplace. There was a preliminary layout and there is some grading work that will need to be completed. There will also need to be electric drops. Borough Manager Landy also wanted portable air conditioners in the buildings. Councilman Barrick stated that he would have to have the electrical engineer come in, put the specs together and then it would have to be advertised for bids which he believes it will be costly due to the electric drops. Councilman Barrick suggested a single stage mini-split air conditioner, which he would include in the bid. Councilman Barrick asked who would be doing the grading work, if it will be the street crew or are we hiring a company to do it since there were no grading plans done. Assistant Borough Manager Lesko stated that she believes that according to the grant, we have to have the sheds purchased by the end of March.

Councilwoman Lasko asked shouldn't we be utilizing engineers, electricians and plumbers who are professionals in their field? Councilman Barrick agreed that it is easier to rely on the professional and it may cost us more and not reflect well with the budget. Councilman Barrick believes that the electric along would cost approximately \$20,000 to \$25,000. The grant that was received is only for the sheds. Councilwoman Lasko said that this is the reason we should have an engineer doing this. Assistant Borough Manager Lesko said that the Borough should have an engineer on retainer. Solicitor Istik stated that they should appoint an engineer during reorganization. Council agreed due to the costs that this project should be put on hold for the time being.

- Met with Shawn Ulery of Ulery Architecture regarding the gazebo project. Mr. Ulery is preparing the bid package and we should see that within the next week or two. Councilman Cholock asked what the timeframe is to do the work. Councilman Barrick stated that the goal would be to have it completed by July 1, 2023 so it could be completed for the July 3<sup>rd</sup> Party in the Park. Councilman Cholock asked if there will be penalties if it is not completed by the date specified. Councilman Barrick said that it is in the package; however, if there is something delayed because of it being a special order, such as the hand railing, that there would be an exception made. Everything else should fall within the time range.
- Did the PA One Call for the Bridgeport Street property. He received everything except the mapping on the stormwater.
- Councilman Barrick reported that PennDOT has funding available along with some other funding available possibly to address things with Depot Street. Councilman Barrick would like to maybe make Depot Street one way in and building a connecting street to Bridgeport Street with proper turning radius' so they can make a left and go back out to Main Street and fixing the turning radius' on Main Street. Councilman Barrick suggested having Bob Regola involved and that this project would take 3 or 4 years to complete if they would do it.
- Received a proposal from The Uber Company for the replacement of 2 gas heat/air conditioning units for the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor of the Borough building. One is a 3-ton unit that heats and cools the front office area. The second is a 6-ton unit that heats and cools the meeting room area. Councilman Barrick would like to put this out for bids since both units are between 25 – 30 years old.

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

A Motion was made by Councilman Phillabaum to accept the quote from Don's Auto Body in the amount of \$2,000.00 for the repairs to the Street Department 2011 Dodge Utility Truck. Motion seconded by Councilman Cholock. Motion carried 8-0.

A Motion was made by Councilman Phillabaum to approve the following streets for the 2023 Paving Project which includes the following streets: paving of Washington Street from Morewood Street to Eagle Street; Spence Way from Eagle Street to South Church Street; 1<sup>st</sup> Street from W. Main Street to Washington Street; Broad Street from St. Clair St. to Mullin Avenue; North Geary Street from 612 N. Geary St to Mullin; Smithfield Street from N. Church Street to Mullin Avenue; Vine Street from N. Church St to St. Clair St; Park Ave from Evans Street to N. Church St; Orchard Avenue by Evans Street; N. Depot Street from East Main St to East Vine St; Unnamed Alley by Jack Bobbs Park; and Unnamed Alley that circles 3<sup>rd</sup> Ward Fire Station. Motion seconded by Councilman Cholock. Motion carried 8-0.

A Motion was made by Councilman Phillabaum to name the alley between South Silver Street & Shupe Street **Jack Caruso Way**. Motion seconded by Councilman Cholock. Motion carried 8-0.

Councilman Cholock reported that the family of Jack Caruso thanked Council for considering the naming of the street.

A Motion was made by Councilman Phillabaum to name the alley that runs between Big Dogs Gym and Gorky's between North Silver Street and North Shupe Street **Big Dogs Way**. Motion seconded by Councilman Cholock. Motion carried 8-0.

A Motion was made by Councilman Phillabaum to purchase a Graco LineLazer 3400-line painter from Sherwin Williams at a cost of \$5,729.75 using funds from the streets reserve in the general fund budgetary reserve account. Motion seconded by Councilman Cholock. Motion carried 8-0.

Councilwoman Wojnar asked if there was any additional information from PennDOT regarding the bus stop sign on South Diamond Street and any updated information regarding the crossing guard that parks near the former sub-n-pub on North Church Street obstructing the view of people pulling out onto North Church Street from Park Avenue. Councilman Cholock stated that he will have Police Chief Grippo speak with her.

### **Parks & Recreation:**

A Motion was made by Councilwoman Lasko to approve the purchase of new LED lighting in the amount of \$1,640.90 and a remote button in the amount of \$83.28 for the Frick Park Basket Ball Court for a total amount of \$1,724.18. Motion seconded by Councilman Cholock. Motion carried 8-0.

Councilwoman Lasko gave the following report:

- Councilwoman Lasko asked Assistant Borough Manager Lesko if there was any updates to the bollards. Assistant Borough Manager Lesko stated that Mr. McGuinness said that Scott Electric is having trouble finding a replacement for those and that they suggested a clear wrapping until they can get a replacement.
- Reviewing ideas for playground equipment. Councilwoman Lasko stated that she and Borough Manager Landy had met with Eric from E and H Landscaping regarding building some pieces for the playground; however Councilwoman Lasko is concerned about the safety requirements and regulations for the playground equipment. Councilwoman Lasko believes it is a better option to purchase a few pieces of playground equipment than to build something.
- Reached out to Laurel Highlands Visitors Bureau regarding tree planting. She has not heard back from them yet.

Councilman Phillabaum reported that the basketball hoops are back up at Jack Bobbs Park and that there will be a dog park committee meeting on Wednesday, March 8, 2023 at 5:30pm at Central Fire Station.

Councilman Cholock stated that there is a piece of playground equipment at Willows Park that is needing a bolt in it. Councilwoman Lasko will have the street department check it out.

**Public Safety Report:**

A Motion was made by Councilman Phillabaum to approve the request of the Business District Authority to hold the annual Breast Saturday Ever 5k run/walk on Saturday, October 21, 2023 from 9:00am to noon pending approval of the route by Police Chief Grippo. Motion seconded by Councilman Cholock. Motion carried 8-0.

A Motion was made by Councilman Phillabaum to approve the Mount Pleasant Police Department Body Camera Policy. Motion seconded by Councilman Cholock. Motion carried 8-0.

Councilman Phillabaum asked if there was a protocol if a train derailment would occur. Councilman Phillabaum and Mayor Bailey suggested meeting with other local municipalities to work on having an emergency plan in place. Councilman Barrick stated that there is a protocol in place at the County level and that when there is a train derailment, the train company contacts Emergency Management Services. Westmoreland County Emergency Management knows who has the proper equipment to take care of the hazardous materials and they call that fire department. Councilman Cholock stated that our Emergency Management Coordinator, Corey Snyder, would be contacted.

Councilman Phillabaum read the following Fire Report for the month of February 2023:

Total Calls – 30  
In Town –10  
Out of Town - 20  
10-45's - 6  
Entrapments - 1  
Fires -7  
AFA's - 8  
Hazardous Calls – 5  
Public Service Calls – 2  
Ambulance Assistance –1  
Standby's –  
Turnpike Calls – 1  
Landing Zones – 0  
Drills – 0  
Total Members Answering – 279  
Avg. Member Per Call – 9

**Veterans Park:**

Councilwoman Barnes gave the following report:

- They have received an additional Military Banner application bringing the total to 18.
- Will be delivering letters to the local banks asking for donations.
- Spoke with Spectrio and informed them that the digital wall is frozen. They will be sending someone out to look at it.

**Ordinances:**

A Motion was made by Councilwoman Wojnar to adopt Ordinance Number 664 Prohibited Parking Ordinance. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Stevenson.

Councilman Cholock asked if the Ordinance was for emergency vehicles. Councilwoman Wojnar stated that it is to prevent oversized vehicles from parking on the streets for vehicles and that the Ordinance goes by the width of a vehicle. They removed the weight and the definition of

commercial vehicles. This will prevent an emergency vehicle from not being able to get past the oversized vehicle. Solicitor Istik read the Ordinance out loud.

Councilwoman Barnes stated that Mr. Grimes that spoke during public comment is her neighbor and the problem that she has is the he could park his truck in the alley behind his home however, there is a fence obstructing it, which has been there for a long time and has been grandfathered in. Councilwoman Barnes stated that the alley is not the proper width due to someone putting the fence up which intruded into the alley. The alley is 6' smaller than it is supposed to be. Mayor Bailey stated that the fence has been up for twenty plus years. Solicitor Istik stated that we have been discussing this parking ordinance for over a year, made several revisions and it is time to move forward. Solicitor Istik suggested doing a roll call vote.

Council President Ruszkowski asked Council to do a roll call vote.

Councilwoman Barnes	No
Councilman Cholock	No
Councilman Phillabaum	Yes
Councilman Barrick	Yes
Councilwoman Lasko	Yes
Councilwoman Stevenson	Yes
Councilwoman Wojnar	Yes
President Ruszkowski	Yes

The Motion to approve Ordinance No. 664 Parking Ordinance passed with a vote of 6-2.

**Human Resources: None.**

**Finance / Grants Report:**

A Motion was made by Councilwoman Stevenson to amend the agenda to add Assistant Borough Manager / Secretary, Sharon Lesko to all Borough bank accounts. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Lasko. Motion carried 8-0.

A Motion was made by Councilwoman Stevenson to approve Assistant Borough Manager / Secretary, Sharon Lesko as an authorized signer on all of the Mount Pleasant Borough accounts with Scottdale Bank & Trust, a division of Mid Penn, Somerset Trust and Dollar Bank, formerly Standard Bank for an indefinite term. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Lasko. Motion carried 8-0.

**New Business:**

- Westmoreland County Boroughs Association will be holding its annual banquet on Friday, April 28, 2023 at the Crystal Room, Ferrante's Lakeview, 6153 Route 30, Greensburg, PA. Cash bar 5:15pm to 6:30pm. Dinner 6:30pm. RSVP deadline is April 20, 2023.
- Westmoreland County Boroughs Association will be holding its Dinner and Meeting on March 23, 2023 at 5:30pm at the Westmoreland Conservation District Office, Donohoe Center, 218 Donohoe Road, Greensburg, PA. RSVP by March 20, 2023

**Reading of Communications:**

- Regional Family YMCA of Laurel Highlands will be holding a Gift Basket Bonanza fundraiser on Sunday March 26, 2023 at the YMCA.
- Southmoreland School District has requested the use of Frick Park for the fee meals to children for the summer as part of the USDA Summer Food Service Program. There is no income requirements or registration required. Free meals are provided to children 18years

and under at no cost. Tentative dates are Monday through Friday, June 19, 2023 through August 11, 2023 (excluding July 4).

- Mount Pleasant Business District Authority has requested permission to host the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Breast Saturday Ever 5K Color Run/Walk on Saturday, October 21, 2023 from 9:00am to noon.

**Discussion and Payment of Bills:**

A Motion was made by Councilman Stevenson to pay all authorized and approved bills. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Wojnar. Motion carried 8-0.

**Public Comment: None.**

**Miscellaneous and Adjournment:**

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

**Meeting Adjourned 8:45pm.**

Respectfully Submitted,

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Sharon Lesko  
Assistant Borough Manager

BOROUGH OF MOUNT PLEASANT

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Susan Ruszkowski, Council President

### Motions from Meeting of March 6, 2023

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A Motion was made by Councilman Phillabaum to authorize Council President Ruszkowski to execute the deed to the Municipal Authority of Westmoreland County finalizing the sale of the sewage plant. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Stevenson. Motion carried 8-0.

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A Motion was made by Councilman Phillabaum to approve the Mount Pleasant Police Department Body Camera Policy. Motion seconded by Councilman Cholock. Motion carried 8-0.

A Motion was made by Councilwoman Wojnar to adopt Ordinance Number 664 Prohibited Parking Ordinance. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Stevenson.

Council President Ruszkowski asked Council to do a roll call vote.

Councilwoman Barnes	No
Councilman Cholock	No
Councilman Phillabaum	Yes
Councilman Barrick	Yes
Councilwoman Lasko	Yes

Councilwoman Stevenson	Yes
Councilwoman Wojnar	Yes
President Ruszkowski	Yes

The Motion to approve Ordinance No. 664 Parking Ordinance passed with a vote of 6-2.

A Motion was made by Councilwoman Stevenson to amend the agenda to add Assistant Borough Manager / Secretary, Sharon Lesko to all Borough bank accounts. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Lasko. Motion carried 8-0.

A Motion was made by Councilwoman Stevenson to approve Assistant Borough Manager / Secretary, Sharon Lesko as an authorized signer on all of the Mount Pleasant Borough accounts with Scottdale Bank & Trust, a division of Mid Penn, Somerset Trust and Dollar Bank, formerly Standard Bank for an indefinite term. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Lasko. Motion carried 8-0.

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