

Meeting March 7, 2022

The meeting of Mount Pleasant Borough Council was called to order by Vice President Phillabaum 7:00pm in Council Chambers at 1 Etze Avenue, Mount Pleasant, PA 15666. The Pledge of Allegiance was said and Vice President Phillabaum asked for a moment of silence for our deployed troops. Vice President Phillabaum asked Borough Manager Landy to take roll call. Councilpersons present included Barnes, Czekanski, Barrick, Lasko, Stevenson and Wojnar. Mayor Bailey was present. Vice President Phillabaum stated that a quorum is present. Councilman Cholock arrived at 7:35pm. Solicitor Istik was absent but participated in executive session via phone. Councilman Cholock and Councilwoman Czekanski left at 9:05pm.

A Motion was made by Councilwoman Stevenson to approve the minutes of February 22, 2022 since Council has been provided with a copy. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Lasko. Motion carried 7-0.

Public Comment: None.

Speakers:

- Dave Demko, Assistant Director, and Kate Angela of Scenic Pittsburgh, which has been in existence for 11 years, spoke to Council regarding routes in the Borough that they would like to make part of the Westmoreland County Scenic Byway. Routes included State Route 0981, State Route 0031, Washington Street, South Church Street; and State Route 0819 (Diamond Street). The scenic byway will create a tourism. It is built around various scenic properties, natural history, archeological history, architectural history and cultural amenities. The byway will begin at Bushy Run Battlefield which has French and Indian war history, Jeannette which has industrial history, Hannastown has revolutionary war history, Crabtree through Unity Township has tremendous mining history; and, continuing towards Connellsville where they will then work on Fayette County and into Washington County. You must first declare yourself a scenic byway and then the State must accept it as a scenic byway, which is what their company handles. You then become eligible to receive scenic byway state funding, which can be used for lighting, trails, sidewalks, museums, marketing, signage, etc. You will also be on a national database online to make people aware of the scenic byway. The commitment that is required is you recognize the routes as a scenic byway and you must ban billboards along the scenic byway. This would be new billboards. If there are billboards currently there, it does not affect them and are grandfathered in.

Councilwoman Stevenson asked when they are thinking about Mount Pleasant are they thinking of the glass industry history. Ms. Angela said absolutely that they are and that there are a lot of things of interest just in this area. Ms. Angela said that that glass industry history here in Mount Pleasant is huge as well as the Glass Festival that is held annually.

Councilwoman Stevenson also asked if the participation of the Mount Pleasant Historical Society be of use to them. Ms. Angela stated that once you are opted into it, then you have access to other things, such as applying for various types of funding. Councilwoman Stevenson asked if they help with applying for the funding. Ms. Angela stated that they are going to help with it.

Councilwoman Barnes asked if they put signage along the way. Ms. Angela stated that the state does put signage up designating it as a scenic byway along it along with holding an opening ceremony, publicity and the state adds you to various websites with information about the scenic byway.

- Joseph Bauer, President of the Mount Pleasant Volunteer Fire Department, of N. Geary Street, Mount Pleasant, PA and Ryan Brown, Assistant Fire Chief of the Mount Pleasant Volunteer Fire Department, gave the following report for the Mount Pleasant Volunteer Fire Department:
 - Demonstrated for Council how the new SCBA (Self Contained Breathing Apparatus) air rigs work and the importance of having them. Mr. Bauer stated that the tanks on them have to be inspected every five (5) years.

- The air trucks have been sent out to a company in Dunbar to have the air tanks inspected. There is a problem with two (2) of the air tanks on the truck that may have to be replaced.
- Mr. Bauer asked if there were any updates on a digital sign ordinance. Vice President Phillabaum stated that it was voted on in November and it did not pass.

Mayor Bailey stated that they were to have a meeting with the fire department previously that was canceled; however, she and the others that were to meet are willing to meet whenever the fire department has time. Mr. Bauer said that he would get back with them to set something up.

- The Fire Department will be holding the Easter Egg event this year. It will be held on Palm Sunday. He is not certain of the time. The fire truck will still go through town with the Easter Bunny on it.
- They have lost a few members; one due to relocating to another state and another that has to travel all the time.
- They are now going to watch the types of calls they respond to due to the high prices of gasoline, such as an automatic fire alarm that other outside of the Borough that other fire departments are the primary department responding to until there is confirmation that they are needed at the call. They will be meeting with other municipalities and departments to work on this as they are all having the same issue with fuel.
- Chelsey Frock with the Mt. Pleasant Girls' Softball League spoke to Council regarding making a few renovations to the field at Frick Park. They would like to add open dugouts, fencing around the dugouts, artificial wood bleachers, and the open gate (where cars are brought in on the field for the car show) they would like to put a moving gate there so they would be able to tarp the field. All of the work being presented would be done by Rich Bundridge.

Councilman Wojnar asked if the field was tarped would it restrict use for the community to use it. Ms. Frock stated that it would restrict the use; however, it would only be tarped during the winter months when no one would be on it. Councilman Wojnar agreed with Ms. Frock that during that time period the field would be snow covered or wet and sloppy. Ms. Frock stated that they have put fresh new soil on the field approximately five (5) years ago and spent \$15,000.00 to \$20,000.00 and the field can handle a lot more water now. The Borough will be given a key to the gate.

- Ms. Frock also reported that they switched the key to the concession stand which they will get to the Borough immediately. The other issue they would like to fix would be adding fencing around the backstop where the drainage pipe is. They are having issues with kids running around that corner and falling into it. The fencing will be attached with the dugouts so it is the only access to that area.

Borough Manager Landy asked what type of fencing they will be using because he believes that the Borough has to clean that drain out. Ms. Frock stated that they could put a gate so there will be access to it. Ms. Frock stated that they would like to do a bathroom; however, with participation and parent involvement down, they are not going to do that at this time.

Councilwoman Lasko stated that she had asked Ms. Frock to come and speak this evening and that she will have it on the agenda for the next meeting. Ms. Frock said that she will get a schedule over to be approved also.

Mayor's Report:

Mayor Bailey congratulated the Mount Pleasant Viking Girls Swimming and Diving Team for winning the WPIAL Championship. It is the first time winning in Viking history. They received a welcome escort by the Fire Department. Mayor Bailey thanked Ryan Brown, Assistant Fire Chief of the Mount Pleasant VFD, for coordinating the escort with the Mount Pleasant VFD, Mount Pleasant Police Department, Medic 10, Hecla VFD, Kecksburg VFD and Norvelt VFD.

Mayor Bailey congratulated the Boys Team who also made it to the finals. She also congratulated Councilman Barrick who has a son and daughter on those teams.

Mayor Bailey gave the following report:

- Went with Borough Manager Landy to Bobcat in New Stanton to get quotes on a Bobcat excavator and skid steer.
- Police Chief Grippo and Jeff McGuinness will begin working on the parking meters this week.

Mayor Bailey reminded citizens that if they observe any suspicious activity in their neighborhoods to please call 911 immediately to report the incident.

Mayor Bailey read the following Fire Report for the month of February 2022:

Total Calls – 35
In Town – 11
Out of Town - 24
10-45's - 7
Entrapments - 1
Fires -9
AFA's - 5
Public Service Calls – 8
Standby's – 2
Hazardous Calls – 4
Drills – 0
Turnpike Calls – 0
Total Members Answering – 463
Avg. Member Per Call – 13

Mayor Bailey stated that Police Chief Grippo reported that the police made three (3) arrests in the Borough involving warrants and narcotics. At the location there were two (2) individuals dealing and selling drugs from the residence. A search warrant was served and found over 80 grams of crystal meth, over 5grams of crack cocaine and approximately 5grams of powder cocaine along with drug paraphernalia throughout the residence. Scottdale Borough Police, the Attorney General's Office and the Westmoreland County Drug Task Force were called in for assistance.

Solicitor's Report:

Borough Manager Landy stated that Ms. Istiks report will be held in executive session.

Tax Collector's Report: None.

Borough Manager's Report:

Borough Manager Landy gave the following report:

- Went with Mayor Bailey to Bobcat in New Stanton to get quotes on a Bobcat excavator and skid steer.
- There is an opportunity to get several pieces of equipment that Borough Manager Landy and Councilman Barrick are working on. A few things that they are looking at getting is a police car, excavator, dump truck, and a tub grinder for compost.
- G-17 meeting will hold its first meeting in Mount Pleasant on March 10, 2022 at 6:00pm at the Mount Pleasant Room. It will be a planning meeting.

- Scottsdale Bank & Trust (Mid Penn Bank) is closing the Main Street Office. They are donating some chairs and file cabinets.
- Met with the County about applying for a grant for the buildings at the East End Marketplace or art sculptures. Mr. Landy will take with the grant administrator and depending on what they will be approving, will determine what the Borough applies for in the grant.
- Attended the Library Board meeting.
- All suites on the 2nd floor of the Borough building are now rented out. The only available space is on the 1st floor where the Westmoreland Drug & Alcohol offices were.
- Borough Manager Landy and Councilman Phillabaum attended the Westmoreland Conservation Round Table meeting.
- Attended the Economic Connections Seminar in Latrobe.
- Looked at the money that was remaining in last year's budget and would like to take \$100,000.00 and put into the reserve account. Would like to put money back in the budgetary reserve for future worker's comp expenses.

Councilman Wojnar asked about the fuel increase and how it is affecting the Borough. Borough Manager Landy stated that we are paying the fuel bill immediately when it comes out due to the limits. Borough Manager Landy stated that he spoke with the Street Department about not making several trips to purchase things and possibly having 2 guys ride in a truck when they can and not have each one driving a truck. He also spoke with Police Chief Grippo about not leaving the police vehicles idling in front of the building.

Councilwoman Czekanski asked if we receive additional quotes for workers comp insurance. Borough Manager Landy stated that we get the insurance quoted every three (3) years. Borough Manager Landy stated that there are only two companies now that will quote municipalities for workers comp. They are AmTrust and the state.

President's Report:

A Motion was made by Councilwoman Stevenson to participate in the G-17 conference. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Czekanski. Motion carried 8-0.

A Motion was made by Councilman Wojnar to hold an executive session. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Lasko. Motion carried 8-0.

A Motion was made by Councilwoman Stevenson to reconvene. Motion seconded by Councilman Wojnar. Motion carried 8-0.

Council President Ruszkowski stated that the executive session was held from 7:50pm to 8:34pm to discuss personnel and legal.

Property Report:

Councilman Barrick gave the following report:

- Prior to last meeting Councilman Barrick and Councilwoman Stevenson met at the gazebo and reviewed a few things. Mr. Barrick will be sending everything over to Jeff so it can be distributed to council for review and then get it to contractors.

Borough Manager Landy asked if they were eliminating the stained glass that was in the previous scope. Councilman Barrick stated that when they met and they discussed the stained glass with a patriotic theme on it.

- Councilman Barrick reported that there are several grants available. There is the statewide Local Share Assessment Grant that Borough Manager Landy mentioned previously regarding equipment and vehicles. Borough Manager Landy stated that he is ready to move forward with that grant whenever Councilman Barrick is ready. The grant is due March 15, 2022. Borough Manager Landy stated that once this grant is complete, he would like to begin on the Covid ARPA grant and the money that the municipality received. Councilman Wojnar asked if the Borough could be reimbursed by the Covid ARPA grant for the air rigs that was purchased for the fire department. Mr. Landy said that with the Covid ARPA grant, you have to justify how any money used ties in with covid. One of things he would like to purchase is an ambulance with the Covid ARPA grant. He believes that he could possibly justify the air rigs.

Councilman Phillabaum stated that after speaking with Mr. McGuinness that there is a possible need for a new salt storage building. Mr. McGuinness informed Councilman Phillabaum that there had been previous discussions when Councilman Smetak was here. Councilman Barrick stated that he and Borough Manager Landy have discussed this. Councilman Barrick said that he is seeing more money coming over with the infrastructure dollars and is hoping they will open additional grant funding. Borough Manager Landy stated that when these grants become available, Council should be prepared to get these grants filed immediately and that the earlier they are filed the better. Councilman Barrick agreed. Councilman Barrick stated that when you know something is in poor shape, get the estimates that way when the grant becomes available you are ready to proceed in a timely manner. Mayor Bailey stated that the CDBG Grant is out now and will be coming to an end soon. Borough Manager Landy stated that he would like to get a bathroom built at Willows Park.

Streets / Stormwater Report:

A Motion was made by Councilman Barrick to approve Resolution No. 2022-04 to support the nomination designating Westmoreland County Scenic Byway as an official Pennsylvania Scenic Byway, specifically S. R. 0981, S. R. 0031, S. R. 0819, Washington Street and South Church Street within the Borough of Mount Pleasant. Motion seconded by Councilman Wojnar. Motion carried 8-0.

Councilman Phillabaum gave the following report:

- Has provided a possible list of streets for paving to Secretary, Sharon Lesko to send to Jeff McGuinness. Jeff McGuinness will meet with Brandon Firestone of PennDOT to get a cost estimate. Once that is complete it will be reviewed to see what streets can or cannot be done due to the cost and the amount of money that is budgeted for paving. The proposed list currently has 13 streets to be paved and 3 tar and chipped.
- Street sweeping will begin the week of April 11, 2022. Street sweeping should be completed by the end of May. Signs will be posted on the respective streets on the day prior to street being cleaned. Weather permitting. Sweeping will begin at 8:00am.

Parks & Recreation:

Councilwoman Lasko gave the following report:

- Chelsea Frock from the Mt. Pleasant Girls Softball League spoke at the beginning of the meeting to Council about improvements they would like to make to the field at Frick Park. Councilwoman Lasko stated she will have the information for the next meeting along with their schedule for Council to approve.

Councilman Phillabaum spoke to a few residents throughout the community regarding the possibility of a dog park at the former soccer fields. They are willing to form a dog park committee to be able to have this project move forward. Councilman Phillabaum stated that any resident that is interested on being on the committee to please email him. He will then arrange a

meeting and go from there. Borough Manager Landy stated that the committee is a good idea; however, there has to be some longevity in the committee.

Public Safety Report:

The motion to transfer \$2,500.00 from Budgetary Reserve K-9 Fund to General Fund to cover the cost of a computer for the 2021 Ford Explorer Police Interceptor was tabled.

A Motion was made by Councilwoman Stevenson to transfer \$9,027.21 from Budgetary Reserve Police to General fund to cover the costs by Speclin for work performed on the 2021 Ford Explorer Police Interceptor pursuant to previous motions approved on July 6, 2021. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Lasko. Motion carried 8-0.

Veterans Park:

Councilwoman Barnes gave the following report:

- Marie Dawson is putting together the information that Spectrio (formerly Industry Weapons) needs to add to the digital wall. Once she does that, Secretary Sharon Lesko, will send the information to William Dunn at Spectrio so that they can proceed with adding it to the digital wall. This information has been sent before; however, they do not know what happened to it.

The motion to authorize Solicitor Istik to send a letter to Spectrio (formerly Industry Weapons) regarding the digital wall was tabled.

Human Resources / Ordinances:

Councilman Wojnar gave the following report:

- Discussing the possibility of revising the trash collection ordinance to include that all trash must be bagged and in a container.

Councilman Phillabaum stated that it seems that Republic Services has been consistent now with picking up the trash in his area. Councilwoman Stevenson said that they are consistent now in her area also. Councilwoman Lasko said that they are approximately 2 or 3 days behind last week with getting her garbage. Councilman Wojnar said that it was 1 day behind last week getting his trash. Borough Manager Landy stated that 1 or 2 days is a lot different than it had been in prior weeks. Councilman Wojnar stated that a can with a lid on it would be much better than the bags laying along the street.

Finance / Grants Report: None.

New Business:

- Westmoreland County Redevelopment Authority & Land Bank will be holding a Blight Boot Camp on April 22, 2022 from 9:00am – 3:00pm at the Event Center at WCCC Youngwood Campus.
- Borough Manager Landy recognized Henry Caruso, Jr. who recently passed away. Mr. Caruso was a highly decorated veteran and had a long list of accomplishments.

Reading of Communications:

- Received a call from a resident that has an autistic child. She would like a sign put up. Borough Manager Landy informed her that the Borough would purchase the sign and she would pay to put it up. She also asked about a sign in the alley behind her. Mr. Landy advised her that they have never done that. She said that maybe she would put a sign similar to the yard sale signs and put that at the rear of her home in the alley. Council all agreed that the sign could be purchased and that she would pay to install it.

- Received an email from First Energy/West Penn regarding assistance with electric bills for low-income constituents. The winter utility disconnection moratorium is set to expire on April 1st, 2022. Individuals interested in learning more about the utility assistance programs can do so by visiting the bill assistance web page at www.firstenergycorp.com/billassist to see available programs based on income and household size or contact the customer service team Monday through Friday from 8:00am to 6:00pm for West Penn Power at 1-800-686-0021.

Discussion and Payment of Bills:

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

Public Comment: None.

Miscellaneous and Adjournment:

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

Meeting Adjourned 9:16pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jeffrey A. Landy,
Borough Manager

BOROUGH OF MOUNT PLEASANT

Susan Ruszkowski, Council President

Motions from Meeting of March 7, 2022

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