

Meeting April 4, 2022

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 Ukraine. President Ruszkowski asked Borough Manager Landy to take roll call. Councilpersons present included Barnes, Czekanski, Phillabaum, Barrick, Lasko, and Wojnar. Mayor Bailey was present. Solicitor Istik was absent. President Ruszkowski stated that a quorum is present. Councilwoman Stevenson arrived at 7:11pm.

A Motion was made by Councilwoman Lasko to approve the minutes of March 21, 2022 since Council has been provided with a copy. Motion seconded by Councilman Phillabaum. Motion carried 7-0.

Council President Ruszkowski stated that on the agenda it says public comment, but for a brief period I am going to give our speaker a chance to talk and then I will get to public comment.

Speakers:

- Hallie Chatfield of the Senior Project Manager of the Redevelopment Authority for Westmoreland County spoke to Council regarding the demolition of two (2) blighted properties located at 24 North Shupe Street and 26 North Shupe Street. Title searches have been performed and have found that one does have a mortgage on it and the other, the owner is deceased with no estate opened. Ms. Chatfield has provided to Mr. Landy a Municipal Right of Entry Agreement that has been drafted by the County Solicitor and the Redevelopment Solicitor. This will enable the demolition to proceed forward with the municipality accepting liability for it. If the agreements are not signed, the other option would be to go through the civil court system and get a Court Order. Ms. Chatfield would hope that the municipality will sign the Agreements provided; and, that they have had several other municipalities sign the agreements so that the demolition can occur. Ms. Chatfield reminded Council that the Redevelopment Authority along with the Land Bank is holding a Blight Summit Seminar on April 22, 2022 at Westmoreland County Community College. Borough Manager Landy asked Ms. Chatfield what the time frame would be for the demolition. Ms. Chatfield stated that the sooner she receives the Agreements, the sooner she can schedule it and that funds are available this point and time for removal of blighted structures. Mayor Bailey asked about the property with the mortgage and how that would work. Ms. Chatfield said that the property at 24 N. Shupe Street has a mortgage from 2006 in the amount of \$49,000.00; and, she is unsure of the current balance. Ms. Chatfield also stated that the mortgage is with PNC and if there was a good relationship with PNC that they can consent to have the demolition occur in addition to the municipal waiver. Borough Manager Landy asked Ms. Chatfield if she has seen the properties; and, she replied that she has and that they fit the federal criteria of blighted property.

Mayor's Report:

Mayor Bailey gave the following report:

- Attended a Veterans Park Advisory Committee meeting.
- Attended the Westmoreland County Boroughs Association meeting with Councilman Phillabaum.
- Received a letter from Patricia Smith from the Westmoreland Chapter of Alliance of Bikers Aimed Towards Education requesting Mayor Bailey to do a proclamation designating May as Motorcycle Awareness Month. Mayor Bailey asked Ms. Smith what do the proclamations do to benefit the organization to bring awareness. Ms. Smith stated that they hold meetings and have educational seminar. They so lobbying and they will hold a training for anyone learning how to drive their vehicles around motorcycles. Ms. Smith said that most common accident is a driver turning left in front of motorcycles. They bring awareness to other drivers about motorcycles. They are based out of Ligonier and they handle all of Westmoreland County.

Mayor Bailey read a proclamation designating May as Motorcycle Awareness Month.

Council President Ruszkowski asked Mr. Bauer if he was here to report on the Fire Department.

Public Comment:

- Joseph Bauer of N. Geary Street, Mount Pleasant, PA, President of the Mount Pleasant Volunteer Fire Department, gave the following report for the Mount Pleasant Volunteer Fire Department:
 - They are in the process of certifying all of the members on the trucks. If you can't pump the truck, you are not permitted to drive.
 - The old air rigs have been removed from the roster and a list has been sent to the Attorney General's office indicating that they no longer have them in their inventory. They have donated the old air rigs to the Central Westmoreland Vo-Tech who now has a course called Protection Services, which includes training as medics, EMT's and firefighters.
 - Firemen's Fair will be a 3-day event, Thursday – Saturday, June 23, 24, and 25. The parade will be held on Friday, June 24th. Requests Smithfield Street to be closed from Church Street to Diamond Street during this time. There will be a car show in the parking lot on the 25th. They will be contacting the Parking Authority about using the parking lots. They will not be doing their food tent this year. They will be using various vendors to come in to do the food.
 - Will be holding their Easter Egg event on Sunday, April 10, 2022. They will also be riding around town with the Easter bunny on the fire truck.
 - Applied for a grant to put a remote operated deck gun on a truck which permits them to not have an additional man on board. One person would be able to operate the deck gun to fight fires.
 - Waiting on receiving their 501(c)(3).
 - Holding trainings. They are required by the State to have two (2) training sessions per month.
 - The water company is to be checking the fire hydrants to be sure they are working.
 - The fire department is always looking for new members.

Council President Ruszkowski stated that they will go into public comment of tonight and that there is a 3-minute limit. Council President Ruszkowski asked if anyone had any public comment. Councilwoman Ruszkowski asked that they please state their name and address.

- David Barnes of Upper Marlboro Maryland addressed Council with the following:

“I came here because there was an article in the Mount Pleasant paper and I used to live here and it's about the Borough Council calls for the resignation of member which is Patience Barnes and as I read, I was concerned because there was three (3) issues. One of the issues, a vote of no confidence, another issue was call for her resignation, but as I read further it did not state the reason. Is there a reason why Council is calling for her resignation and if I understand, it is public knowledge.

Councilman Wojnar stated “Under the advice of our solicitor the thing he can say is there were accusations made against Borough employees, and I stress more than one (1), that were investigated by Council and found to be not true.”

David Barnes responded “Ok so you are or are not asking for her resignation?”

Councilman Wojnar stated “I believe we passed a motion last week that we are.”

David Barnes responded “Another question is, so did you inform the public of the specifics of why because in the newspaper it said you gave no specific reasons?”

Councilman Wojnar stated “I stand by the comment I just made. That is the only comment that can be made at this time and that will be my response moving forward.”

David Barnes replied “Ok. Also, you said she was censured, which means strongly and vehemently expressing disapproval and reprimanding. At what point and how far would you all go with that?”

Councilman Wojnar stated “I can only answer what I just stated.”

David Barnes replied “Ok. Also, I notice that in all three (3) of the votes, there was one (1) vote for no which was Patience Barnes and also other people abstaining. The question is, for the public is, if she is being removed and she is being censured, and resignation, in what I understand is voluntarily but I see that you all went further to write a statement to the State.

Councilman Wojnar stated “Governor Wolf”

David Barnes replied “Yes, I am concerned about that, if you are just asking for a resignation, the question I have is if she refuses to resign, what’s the next step?”

Councilwoman Lasko stated “We had said that we are sending a letter to the Governor”

David Barnes replied “Ok; and, another question, if she refused and she also takes steps to combat that resignation would all be treating her adversely for doing her job?”

Councilwoman Lasko responded and stated that “We don’t treat anybody adversely regardless of what the issue may be. No one has been treated adversely.”

David Barnes replied “So my question is if a councilman did

Councilman Phillabaum interrupted Mr. Barnes and stated the 3-minute time limit was up and did they want to extend it. Borough Manager Landy stated a motion needed to be made to extend it.

A Motion was made by Councilman Wojnar to extend the 3-minute time limit for public comment.

David Barnes stated “last question, Does Ms. Barnes know the reason why she is being censured and called for a resignation?”

Councilman Wojnar stated “I think it’s very clear”

Councilwoman Barnes stated “No its not, but go ahead”

David Barnes continued “Can she tell the public what the reason is that she feels that you are asking for her resignation in this meeting?”

Councilman Wojnar responded saying “I don’t think that’s up to us to determine. I think that is something the solicitor would advise.”

David Barnes asked “or is it something that she can choose to do?”

Councilman Wojnar stated “Councilwoman Barnes can choose to do whatever she wants.”

David Barnes responded “Thank you, I appreciate it.”

Councilman Phillabaum stated “Our solicitor is not here tonight because she gave birth on Thursday.”

David Barnes stated “I would like to state as a bystander that this article in the paper Borough Council calls for resignation of members was not forthcoming to the entire population of Mount Pleasant because they’re not aware of why she is being called for her resignation”

Councilman Wojnar responded “I think Borough Council is very aware of that, but we can not speak to that at this moment.”

David Barnes asked “Can you give me a reason why you can not speak? You don’t have to tell me why but can you give me a reason for that?”

Councilman Wojnar stated “I cannot under the advice of our solicitor.”

David Barnes replied “Ok. Thank you very much.”

Council President Ruszkowski thanked Mr. Barnes and asked if there was anyone else with public comment. Councilwoman Ruszkowski asked that they please state their name and address.

- Charlie Nitterright of Slope Hill Road, Mount Pleasant, PA addressed Council with the following:

“I am one of the people that supported Patricia Barnes getting her in office to begin with and I talked to the State Attorney General’s office today to ask her if she was within her realm to do what she did because I have talked to her different times and he told me that she was. Now there is no crime committed if you use public people to do public work as long as the motions passed before they do it, not after they do it and I am aware that all of this work was done before and that private people are not allowed to prosper from getting public people to do their work. I think some of this needs to be left out to the public so they know. If her ward wants to get rid of her and get her out of office, I think they have the right to vote her out. I don’t think you have the right to vote her out.”

Council President Ruszkowski thanked Mr. Nitterright and asked if there was anyone else with public comment. Councilwoman Ruszkowski asked that they please state their name and address.

- Daryl Holts of Pine Street, Mount Pleasant, PA addressed Council with the following:

“Been here 41 years. I am very very upset about what I am hearing tonight, very upset. I voted for her, my wife and I, we voted for her and the reason why we voted for her is for two (2) reasons, number 1 – we know Patience; and, we know her, we talk with her, we communicate with her and played ball with her, so I got to know her real well so I knew she was going to do a great job here; and, number 2 – you all ought to be worried about the diversity. We’re not living in the time where we lived before the pandemic. We’re living now and the issues that are raised now, besides racism, and in this town, it had to be diversity and reaching out and holding onto people that gives you a different aspect of life in this town, different aspect of a life. You know when I came to Mount Pleasant, I came from Erie, Pennsylvania, and my first day here after I got married, and I’m not being funny, but it was almost like what are you doing here; and, I faced that for a week and a half. I walked these streets in Mount Pleasant and I didn’t get a smile, a hello, whatever and so to much of my time here I didn’t speak to anybody other than my own kind. I sat on boards in Westmoreland County, I sat on special committees for diversity. I have dealt with Allegheny County, Westmoreland County, and all the other counties around here dealing with mental health and the

lack of attention of those issues and now we have someone here from your own kind, from your own kind here. I don't know what happened, I don't care what happened. I don't care but there is an under minded that's happening because she speaks her mind because she wants the truth. Somebody is not giving her the answer, I'm not saying all of you, somebody is not giving her the answer. If you give her the answer, she'll stop, she'll be satisfied. I'm not making no accusational points here. I'm a little upset, my tone is raised a bit but it should be because one of my own, were it your own you would say that she needs to go. We the public put her in office. We deserve the right to know right away and we deserve to know why she is being put out because there are people in this town that voted for her in and we deserve the right to know what is going on. We deserve it. I know you are going about protocol; and, I know about protocol. I know about protocol and I know you can only say so much, but you can't expect and I'm going to get down, you can't expect a group of African American people who come to your meeting and you expect us to say well you know this is the way it is, we voted already and this is the way this is happening. Well, if you're thinking about the diversity that is missing from this town, that's what I came to speak about and I want it to stop. I want diversity to be clear because there is people coming into this town that live in this town now that could be very much like her and to find that they don't have a voice in the very government that you want us to adhere to, then America has really changed. Don't you all watch tv? This is a flip. We don't live before the pandemic anymore. We're past the pandemic and life has changed for everybody. We live on the same level. That covid didn't choose this and this and this person. This covid went for everybody and now you with the very thing that I talk about in meetings in Allegheny County and Westmoreland, not Westmoreland County, but other counties about how diverse this Council is and then now you are undermining it because you do like how she says what she says, you don't like the questions that been posed to you. You don't provide the answers that she needs so that she can do her job. You don't clap and praise her for the good job that she's doing; and, I'm not saying that's everybody, believe me I'm not. You all need to wake up and smell the roses. No, I take that back, you need just to wake up. Thank you."

Council President Ruszkowski thanked Mr. Holts and asked if there was anyone else with public comment. Councilwoman Ruszkowski asked that they please state their name and address.

- David Coles of 412 Warden Avenue, Mount Pleasant, PA addressed Council with the following:

"I'm considering this matter that can't be disclosed by the advice of your solicitor, has she violated a code of ethics that you have or do you have a code of ethics to go by once their council members. Do you have a code of ethics?"

Council President Ruszkowski stated that "We do".

Mr. Coles continued "You do. Has she violated them?"

Council President Ruszkowski responded "At this time I can make no comment pending the situation that is going on."

Mr. Coles said "The solicitor is not here because she had a child is that what I am hearing?"

Council President Ruszkowski responded "Yes".

Mr. Coles continued "Why wouldn't she send an emissary to stand in her place? There should be somebody to represent what her purpose would be as to this proceedings."

Councilman Wojnar stated "I think her statement would be the same."

Mr. Coles stated "but she is not here so we don't know that. We don't know that and you need to have documentation. Whatever the situation has to do with, there

has to be documentation as to why and what you have decided. There needs to be a record, a paper trail as to why this is decided and how it came about, what situation she is being accused of and whether its legal or not legal. There needs to be openness and fairness, so people need to know; but Council does not need to keep it closed in regardless of a solicitor. Whatever is going on should be open to the public so the public can make their decision. You're dealing with professional people who walked in professional fields all of their lives that vote. Many years ago, I was voting in the wrong place in Mt. Pleasant and had no knowledge of that then I found out where I should be voting that's where I went to vote. Why, because its proper. Things need to be done properly from the Council that governs our community. We want our community to be looked on as favorable in all respects. We don't want things hidden from the public because they answer to other people who are coming in, going out or might consider moving in to Mount Pleasant so we need to have openness and fairness and we put an article in the paper that doesn't disclose as openness and fairness, something is wrong. I have known Patience all my life. I know her to be a person of truth. If we can't provide from our local government truth, then I have a problem with that and many of our citizens will have a problem with it as well. I would like for you to reconsider what you are doing and see to it that it meets the peoples' expectations of people voted and placed in office that need to be straight up and they need to be about business that will govern this community correctly and leave it with a good reputation. Thank you."

Council President Ruszkowski thanked Mr. Coles and asked if there was anyone else with public comment. Councilwoman Ruszkowski asked that they please state their name and address.

- Deborah Williams of Howard Street, Mount Pleasant, PA addressed Council with the following:

"I just want to say that about five (5) years there is a house next door to me that is in deplorable conditions. I have made several calls to Council and different people and the only person who has shown any kind of consideration is Patience Barnes."

- Unknown resident stated: "You are going to have to be a little patient with me and I'm going to try to talk as loud as I can. My vocal cords were nicked and I still haven't gotten my voice back, as a matter of fact it may go out but I just wanted to make"

Council President Ruszkowski interrupted and asked if the microphone was on.

Unknown resident responded "It probably is." Asked "can you hear me now" Council President Ruszkowski responded "I can hear you". Asked "Can the other Councilmembers hear me. They responded "yes". "My name is Karen Nelson. I live in Mt. Pleasant on 3 Vine Street. Patience Barnes is my sister and I've known her all of my life and I'll tell you what, she'll despise to it, she gets on my nerves sometimes so I can imagine, but she's straight up. We disagree on a lot of things and we agree on a lot of things but I just want the Council to be aware that over the last couple of weeks we have been getting multiple calls at our house about the situation up here. My sister will tell you I'll look at the phone and keep sitting there watching Family Feud cause I'm not going to take all those calls. That's why we have an answering service but people have been calling us from out of state that get the paper wanting to know what is going on. I don't get into politics. I don't care. I don't get in and I don't comment on things that I don't know about, so when they ask me, the first thing I tell them is I don't know what's going on up there. I don't go to the meetings and there is a reason for that, cause I don't care. Anyway, I just wanted to make the Council people aware, people are starting to take notice of things that are going on in Mount Pleasant and I will say this, for years and years, and everybody here knows, for years and years you never had a black person on Council and we got calls, that's a great thing, that's wonderful, Mount Pleasant is changing, umm somewhat. They got a way to go yet. Out at the school, wasn't it you that tried to get a job at the school?"

David Barnes responded “Can I answer that please?” Councilwoman Barnes replied “yes”.

David Barnes stated “I am a retired assistant principal, principal of a school with 2,600 people, graduated from Penn State University, got one (1) master in special education and in Trinity College I have a masters in administration and supervision and so on and so on. I run a school with 2,600 people and when I put in an application in Mount Pleasant, it came back and I threw my application away and that’s why I left town; but since then, I have set on many boards with the Board of Education and the protocol and like I said before Patience Barnes, like my sister said, gets on her nerves, but guess what she’s the most honest person that I’ve ever known and that is probably her downfall with some because they can’t take honesty. The second thing is I help solicit in Mount Pleasant and I was the first to say Patience, and, pardon my expression, those white people aren’t going to vote for you. Guess what, when we solicited, everybody in her ward was glad to see her and it changed and Patience vowed to fight for those people. Even in her honesty, that’s the problem, a lot of people can’t take honesty. A lot of people can’t take what she is saying because Mount Pleasant has been doing the same thing for years and years and years and everybody is afraid to say that’s wrong, we need to do it this way and Patience steps in and says that and now you want to censor her. Censor means you want her to shut up and go away. Well guess what, Patience will never, she will go to her grave before she shuts up. That’s all I have to say.”

Karen Nelson continued “and I can tell by the look on some of your faces, you’re not impressed, but that’s ok, that’s alright because everybody has their own mind and I encourage everybody to think with your own mind. Don’t let people influence you. That’s what I taught my children and they’ve learned it well but back to out at the high school, there have been several blacks that have tried to get jobs out there; and, one statement was told one of the black gentlemen, we will never hire a black out here. Ok that’s your choice, that is your choice; but in my brother’s case, it’s a good thing he wasn’t hired, cause he went to the top. He’d have never got that far here. So, I just want you to be aware that other places are watching; and, there’s a lot of this going on other places too, but when people call you from out of state and ask what the problem is when they don’t know, and like I don’t know, I can’t speak on it. It’s a foolish person that speaks on things that they don’t know about and I’m not a foolish person so I don’t speak on it; but I just want to give the Council people a heads up you know and hope that some of the words that come into your earshot have made a difference and maybe not, but that’s ok at least you heard me and I want to thank you for listening to what I have to say.”

Council President Ruszkowski thanked Ms. Nelson and said she appreciated her coming.

Karen Nelson continued “and oh by the way, there are more people thinking about coming up asking the same questions that are being asked tonight whether they get an answer or not. What I don’t understand if you can put certain things in the paper why can you not elaborate on it. That is like telling a child half the story, closing the book and the child is waiting for an ending, well what’s the ending mom? There ain’t none, go to sleep.”

- Clifford Zimmerman of Quarry Street, Mount Pleasant, PA addressed Council with the following:

“My only question is, you people were all voted to take care of the taxpayers and citizens of Mount Pleasant so why don’t we know what’s going on? Everything’s kept secret, little section rooms and that. You are here for us and yinz aren’t doing it.

Council President Ruszkowski thanked Mr. Zimmerman.

- Tina Wells of Uniontown, PA addressed Council with the following:

“I just want to say, you know, going through what I go through because of the color of my skin and I think you guys knew what you was doing when you put that out in the paper, I think it was about intimidation.

Councilwoman Lasko spoke and stated “Can I pause for just one second, when you say “put that out in the paper” there is a reporter here at every meeting, we put nothing in the paper. She covers

Tina Wells interrupted and stated “Ok, did I offend you?”

Councilwoman Lasko stated “No you didn’t offend me. I just want to clear that up that the reporter is here. She covers the meeting.

Tina Wells continued, “I don’t think it’s fair that you allegedly cast a black cloud over this woman of integrity’s name and then tell us that you can’t give us a reason why you put a black cloud over her name. That’s all we’re saying. Your justification here today has wasted all of our time. Where’s your person who can answer? It’s convenient that they’re not here.”

Councilwoman Lasko stated “She just had a baby.”

Tina Wells continued “ok, but that”

Councilwoman Lasko stated “Please come back to the next meeting. That’s what I would say to all of you. Please come back to the next meeting.”

Crowd asked “and what if she is not here at the next meeting?”

Tina Wells continued “where’s another representation? All these people are here because it was unfair of you to print, or you, to print what you print without having knowledge about what actually took place. Now you got people thinking that this woman has done something wrong when we know that she didn’t and we are simply here to say why, why, and you can’t answer that and because you can’t answer that you shouldn’t of print that. That’s all I’m saying. Thank you.”

Council President Ruskowski thanked Ms. Wells.

Councilwoman Barnes stated “I want to make a, I don’t know if anybody else has anything to say but I am going to say something and I think that it is important for you to know I don’t really care if the Governor takes me off this Council, it’s fine; but you do need to know why this happened and she has the document. They say here it is executive session. You cannot hide corruption in an executive session. Now the problem is we have been allowing Mr. Landy here to use the Glass Festival, our employees during working hours for his benefit for the Glass Festival. That’s what the issue is. These folks here have decided that Mr. Wojnar, on the end here, when that was brought up never investigated this. I don’t care what you tell these people.

Councilman Wojnar replied “What did we set back in that room and talk about?”

Councilwoman Barnes shouted “You never investigated it!”

Councilman Wojnar repeated “What did we set back in that room and talk about?”

Councilwoman Barnes continued to shout “All he did was told me I went down a rabbit hole and that I had a vendetta against Mr. Landy. I did not have a vendetta against Mr. Landy. I said that I was trying to protect our employees from being used by Mr. Landy for his personal benefit. That’s what this issue is about; and, so because this gentleman did not, Mr. Wojnar, want to really properly investigate what was going on, he just went on his way and they made a case against me of harassing our employees when I was trying to protect our employees. That’s what this is about and you all know, many of you know already that there are problems with the Glass Festival in this town and I brought up we have a problem here because this should not be. All the solicitor had to say was look, back off, keep these two (2) separate and you would not be here today. That’s really all that had to happen. It didn’t happen.”

Clifford Zimmerman spoke out “If the Glass Festival is making money, why do we have to pay for the employees? If it’s not making money, why do we have a Glass Festival?”

Councilwoman Stevenson stated “This is not a debate session. This is public comment for which you stand at the podium and don’t just shout out questions.”

Councilwoman Barnes continued “and the other problem is that the reason why they’re not answering is because the solicitor is saying it’s executive session. I am a public servant. I am not an employee. Executive session handles employees, personnel, I am not personnel. This is not something that should have been done just in executive session. It has been hidden from the public as to the real reason why you are here. That’s what the problem is and I say there’s a problem here, we need to take care of that problem and stop doing what we are doing. I am not resigning by the way and I don’t have to resign. You cannot remove a public official who has been voted by the people and you all need to know that. You voted me in, but that’s what this is about and if they don’t want to say that, ok, if she says don’t say anything, fine, but the solicitor should have cut this short a long time ago. It could have been over. That’s all that took. That’s what this is about.”

- James Meredith of Mount Pleasant Township, addressed Council with the following:

“Patience you pretty much said everything that I would have filled in except for one very important thing. What Patience, what I am assuming up to this point, what she is saying is that she is actually trying to protect each and every one of you on Council by bringing up these issues and eliminating these issues. Actually, we thought that these issues were taken care of years ago but they obviously have not. They’re continuing to this date. Thank you.

Councilwoman Barnes said “and one other thing needs to be clarified because the Council has voted to allow Mr. Landy, in February, to use Borough employees to help non-profit organizations, that can be done. However, in talking to the Attorney General and I talked to them today, if Mr. Landy has been using public employees for his personal benefit, that is to be taken to the Police Department and then taken to Greensburg for investigation. That’s what’s been happening, so I am trying to say, look let’s stop doing what we’re doing here and protect our employees instead of coming after me as the bad guy and you know I’m not. That’s been the problem and this gentleman right here, Mr. Wojnar, is the one that’s been leading this charge, so you know, deal with that, but that’s what’s been happening just for you all. The public deserves to know.”

Councilwoman Stevenson stated “I think the voting record reflects the will-wishes of everyone on Council.”

Councilwoman Barnes stated “Mr. Wojnar lead the charge.”

Council President Ruszkowski asked if there was anyone else that has any public comment today.

Councilwoman Barnes stated she has one last comment and said “I want to thank my brother who came all the way from Maryland and my sister, Sarah, who came all the way from Maryland; and, all of you, thank you so much. I didn’t know all of you were coming. Thank you.”

- Beverly Rogacki of Mount Pleasant, PA addressed Council with the following:

“As you all know my husband was on Council many years. He would tell you how honorable Patience is and how smart she is and she was voted in by the people, not by Council, so she can’t be voted out by Council. Take it to the people. Tell them what’s wrong. Let them vote. That’s what they’re for. I couldn’t vote for Patience because I’m not in her ward but I worked for her and I would work for her again.”

Clifford Zimmerman asked if he could say one other thing. Council President Ruszkowski said to go ahead.

- Clifford Zimmerman of Quarry Street, Mount Pleasant, PA addressed Council with the following:

“Your solicitor couldn’t make it. Is she like a couple lawyers or whatever?”

Someone answered “yes.”

Clifford Zimmerman asked “Well why didn’t they have someone replace her because of what was going on tonight? This isn’t a dilly dally thing. There’s always a coincidence, that this is not here or we can’t find these papers or this or that. Why?”

Someone in the background stated “They knew that there would be controversy”.

Councilwoman Barnes stated “I do have one more comment. I want to speak to the reporter. She didn’t have a chance to ask me. I ran by her so I did talk to her later. She wasn’t able to so that really wasn’t her fault.”

Council President Ruszkowski asked if there was anyone else that has any public comment.

Solicitor’s Report: None.

Tax Collector’s Report:

Tax Collector Carol Yancosky read the following report for the month of March 2022:

Property Taxes	\$145,438.88
Supplemental Taxes	\$ 0.00
Per Capita Taxes	\$ 0.00
Total Collected	\$145,438.88

Borough Manager’s Report:

Borough Manager Landy gave the following report:

- Council has received an updated Profit & Loss Budget vs. Actual date April 4, 2022. This will be the first quarter of expenses and income. On your sections of your committees, you should look it over and make sure that expenditures look proper. If something doesn’t look right, bring it up and get with Sharon to review it so be sure it is in the proper line item.
- Had some of the employees help the library. We set up tables for their Spring Fling which is a craft show for them.
- Hired a cleaning person, she started today.
- Since the Borough lost our public works person, Borough Manager Landy decided to look for a subcontractor to fill that position. We will have to get quotes. Discussed it with the Street Department and they picked the parks and area that they want to cut.

Councilwoman Lasko asked what parks the Street Department wanted to cut. Borough Manager Landy stated that they will cut Satcho, Jack Bobs, Medic 10 and Penn Park.

- Had a meeting with the Street Department and Mayor Bailey many times throughout the last few weeks.
- Had a conference call with Gibson-Thomas Engineering and Councilman Phillabaum regarding MS4. MS4 will be a big topic this year for all Boroughs. Borough Manager Landy will be reading a statement that will be read about stormwater and how we’re going to have to handle it in the future.

- Borough Manager Landy brought up a member of our community who passed away this weekend. Mark Krystyniak. The Krystyniak family was in business for many many years in the Borough of Mount Pleasant. They owned Shop N Save at one time. They owned several buildings within the Borough. Mark was the kind of guy who was always involved in the community, always helped with anyone that asked for support. It will be a big loss to this community not having Mark around. Borough Manager Landy requested prayers for the family. Mark's mother is still living who is close to 100 and it is hard when a parent loses a child.

Borough Manager Landy read the following Public Service Announcement:

Mount Pleasant Borough Public Service Announcement on Stormwater

The Mount Pleasant Borough would like to remind all people who live and work within the Borough that our storm sewer inlets, curbs and gutters, drainage ditches and storm pipes discharge directly and untreated into Sherricks Run, Shupes Run and other natural waterways within the Borough. In order to help keep our streams and lakes clean, we remind residents and businesses to please:

- Do NOT discard leaves, grass clippings, used oil, paints, solvents, pet wastes or other wastes into the storm drains, onto the street or into streams or other waterways.
- Clean up after your pet. Don't let pet wastes get washed into the street or down the storm drain.
- Wash your vehicle at a commercial car wash or if washing it at home, wash your vehicle in a grassy or gravel area. Or divert your washwater into the grass or gravel area.
- Properly dispose of used motor oil, oil-based paints, solvents, household cleaners and other hazardous household chemicals. Go to www.westmorelandcleanways.org for more info.

(SPRING & SUMMER)

- Maintain the grass height in your yard at 3 inches or more. Longer grass is healthier and requires less fertilizer.
- If using fertilizers or pesticides, always follow the directions and never apply immediately before a rain storm.

(FALL)

- If draining your pool, allow your pool to dechlorinate first by keeping it uncovered and waiting ten (10) days after its last chlorination to allow the chlorine to dissipate in the air.
- Do NOT discard leaves onto the street, into the storm drains, streams or other waterways.

Together, we can protect and preserve the streams and lakes of our community.

Council President Ruszkowski asked if there were any questions for the Borough Manager.

President's Report:

Council President Ruszkowski read a letter from the Mount Pleasant Parking Authority requesting Ken Phillabaum to be appointed to their Board to replace Alfonso Maida.

A Motion was made by Councilwoman Stevenson to appoint Ken Phillabaum to fill the remaining 5-year term of Alfonso Maida, on the Parking Authority, whose term will expire December 31, 2022. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Lasko. Motion carried 8-0.

Property Report:

A Motion was made by Councilman Barrick to accept quotes to cut and weed Frick Park/Gerald D. Lucia Campus, Willows Park, Soccer fields and Veterans Park. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Stevenson. Motion carried 8-0.

Streets / Stormwater Report:

A Motion was made by Councilman Phillabaum to amend the motion approved on July 6, 2021 updating the cost for the garage door at the Street Department to Firestone Garage Door for a new overhead door in the amount of \$2,674.00 to be taken out of the Capital Reserve WWT Account. Previous cost was Suter & Son Contracting in the amount of \$3,975.00 and Firestone Garage Door for a new overhead door in the amount of \$2,258.00. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Czekanski. Motion carried 8-0.

Borough Manager stated that the cost difference is due to the overall rising costs.

A Motion was made by Councilman Phillabaum to close Smithfield Street from Church Street to Diamond Street from June 23rd to June 25th, 2022 for the Fireman's Fair. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Stevenson. Motion carried 8-0.

A Motion was made by Councilman Phillabaum to close Route 31, Main Street on June 24, 2022 from 6:00pm to 8:30pm for the annual Fireman's Parade. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Lasko. Motion carried 8-0.

A Motion was made by Councilman Phillabaum to close S. Diamond Street from Main Street to Washington Street on July 3, 2022 for the annual July 3rd Party in the Park. Motion seconded by Councilman Barrick. Motion carried 8-0.

Councilman Phillabaum gave the following report:

- Had a conference call with Borough Manager Landy and Gibson-Thomas Engineering regarding MS4/Stormwater. The new Stormwater Ordinance will need to be updated on the website.
- Discussed having a community clean up day.

Borough Manager Landy suggested reaching out to the Boy Scout or some of the local banks that have employees volunteer in the community for a day. Councilman Phillabaum also suggested students that need volunteer hours to graduate. Councilman Wojnar stated that they could check with Westmoreland Cleanways, that they used to donate supplies for the cleanup.

- Attended a County Borough's Association meeting with Mayor Bailey. Topic was liquid fuels.

Councilman Phillabaum reminded residents that the annual yard sale will be held on Friday, May 6, 2022 and Saturday, May 7, 2022 from 8:00am to 3:00pm. Residents can contact the Borough office to have their address added to the yard sale map.

Parks & Recreation: None.

Public Safety Report:

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

Total Calls – 56
In Town – 18
Out of Town - 38
10-45's - 18
Entrapments - 2
Fires -11

AFA's - 18
Public Service Calls – 0
Standby's – 1
Hazardous Calls – 5
Ambulance Assistance – 2
Landing Zones – 1
Drills – 0
Turnpike Calls – 6
Total Members Answering – 628
Avg. Member Per Call – 11

A Motion was made by Councilman Phillabaum to transfer \$31,773.00 from General Fund Budgetary Reserve – Police to reimburse General Fund (Check No. 20527) for the cost of the new 2021 Ford Police SUV. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Lasko. Motion carried 8-0.

Veterans Park:

Councilwoman Barnes gave the following report:

- There are approximately 28 spots available yet on the wall.
- They are going to get started trying to take care of the cracks behind the wall where the flags are for the armed services. They will need approval from Council to move forward on that.

Councilwoman Barnes stated they can try to get three (3) bids. Councilwoman Lasko asked how bad are the cracks, are they really bad? Councilwoman Barnes responded yes, that water is starting to come down and it is going to get worse. Borough Manager Landy stated once they find out the cost, they will need a motion to approve.

Council President Ruszkowski asked if everybody was good with getting quotes for the repairs of the cracks. All of Council agreed.

- Should be speaking with Mr. Dunn from Spectrio (formerly Industry Weapons) regarding an update on the digital wall.

Human Resources / Ordinances:

A Motion was made by Councilman Wojnar to hire Patty Sage as a part-time cleaner at the rate of \$12.00 per hour pending physical and background check. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Lasko. Motion carried 8-0.

Finance / Grants Report:

A Motion was made to transfer \$100,000.00 from General Fund to the following Budgetary Reserve Line Items: Police - \$5,000.00; Streets - \$10,000.00; Contingency - \$10,000.00; Workers Compensation - \$50,000.00; and, Infrastructure - \$25,000.00. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Lasko. Motion carried 8-0.

New Business: **None.**

Reading of Communications: **None.**

Discussion and Payment of Bills:

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

Public Comment:

- Clifford Zimmerman of Quarry Street, Mount Pleasant, PA addressed Council with the following:

“I have been talking to a few people and we want to find out if we the taxpayers and property owners of Mount Pleasant can form a committee to look over Council that we won’t have anymore surprises like this. We want to know what’s going on from the beginning. So, we are looking in to it. I just wanted to let you know.”

Council President Ruszkowski thanked Mr. Zimmerman and asked if there were any additional public comment.

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 8:20pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jeffrey A. Landy,
Borough Manager

BOROUGH OF MOUNT PLEASANT

Susan Ruszkowski, Council President

Motions from Meeting of April 4, 2022

A Motion was made by Councilwoman Lasko to approve the minutes of March 21, 2022 since Council has been provided with a copy. Motion seconded by Councilman Phillabaum. Motion carried 7-0.

A Motion was made by Councilman Wojnar to extend the 3-minute time limit for public comment.

A Motion was made by Councilwoman Stevenson to appoint Ken Phillabaum to fill the remaining 5-year term of Alfonso Maida, on the Parking Authority, whose term will expire December 31, 2022. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Lasko. Motion carried 8-0.

A Motion was made by Councilman Barrick to accept quotes to cut and weed Frick Park/Gerald D. Lucia Campus, Willows Park, Soccer fields and Veterans Park. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Stevenson. Motion carried 8-0.

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

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