

Meeting May 1, 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 for our Fire Chief Mark Kraisinger who was laid to rest today. President Ruszkowski asked Assistant Borough Manager Lesko to take roll call. Councilpersons present included Barnes, Czekanski, 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 April 17, 2023 since Council has been provided with a copy. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Lasko. Motion carried 9-0.

Speakers:

- David Staricha of Arizona with Spectrio, formerly Industry Weapons, spoke to Council via telephone regarding issues with the digital wall at Veterans Park.

Councilwoman Barnes asked Mr. Staricha to give Council an idea of the discussions he had with her about how they are going to approach repairing the digital wall.

Mr. Staricha responded by saying what they are doing is pulling everything out of Industry Weapons and their command center that was previously being used and moving it into their newer platform called Engaged DSX to get the touchscreen functionality to run properly and give a better deployment. They are attempting to take everything that was there and recreate it in a new platform so it will be under the Spectrio name and they have a few different software versions through acquisitions, so they will be taking out what we previously had with the deployment for the wall and putting it into a different platform that should give us a lot better functionality and it is a lot easier to use and will give us what we need as far as the touchscreen deployment that has been causing trouble for a while.

Mayor Bailey asked when will the upgrade be ready and how long will the upgrade take. Mr. Staricha stated he is waiting on an official number and that he was on the phone with their content engineer team today trying to finish up the project because they had some final questions for him. Mr. Staricha said that it typically takes 6 to 7 weeks for full deployment to do the active touchscreen kiosk because we have a lot of the leg work done, they are really just recreating it and that they are not starting from scratch, that should shave that down a few weeks; and if he were to guess he would say about 4 weeks but he should have a final answer within the next day or two as for what the content engineering team has for an estimation.

Councilwoman Stevenson asked 4 weeks from when? Mr. Staricha responded 4 weeks from the signed contract; however, as of right now everything is in the works and a little more conceptual. Once he gets something back officially, he will then present that to us.

Councilwoman Wojnar asked once the upgrade takes place will Spectrio be able to look at it remotely or will they have to come here to do repairs. Mr. Staricha stated that most of their platforms they can look at and do a repair remotely because everything lives in the cloud. The support team can access it remotely; which was also the case from Industry Weapon, however there has been somewhat of a hiccup. Councilwoman Stevenson stated that this is a major giant long term ongoing hiccup.

Councilman Phillabaum asked about a warranty or guarantee that we will get with this. Mr. Staricha stated that warranty as far as equipment is concerned, it is one (1) year. Mr. Staricha stated that he doesn't have a guarantee because they need to have a roll out; what he can guarantee is that his engineering team and content team is on this and that they are really the experts on this and moving away from the platform. Mr. Staricha stated that he does not have a guarantee; but they will not hold us to a contract if it is not working and that this is really a last-ditch effort to try and rectify some of the issues that we have had in the past. Mr. Staricha continued that it is a little interesting because Industry Weapon was acquired by Spectrio and a few years ago when we began having a lot of the issues it

was around that same time as the acquisition. The software is very different between the two (2) companies and this is why it takes different devices. It is a better engine and most of the deployments that they currently do are on this software that they are presenting. Mr. Staricha stated that the deployment that we currently have is a very big and unique deployment especially for one location. A lot of times you will see this kind of deployment spread across from corporations across the country and he would call it a very unique and big outside of what he would call a standard digital signage.

Councilwoman Lasko asked how often would this software have to be updated and what is the recommendation, annually, bi-annually? Mr. Staricha said that it is usually annually. Councilwoman Lasko stated that support has been an ongoing problem and it was like a big black hole, would there be ongoing support as part of this contract? Mr. Staricha stated yes and that their support team has been pretty engaged on that. Their support is 24/7, if it is escalated to a tier 2 the response is within 72 hours. It is software and sometimes it takes a little while to get it figured out but they can remote in and access it via the cloud and again this software and solution is a lot simpler and better. It is built more for their creative teams and has better access to it to come in and do some modifications to it. At this time, they have 7 or 8 different software under the umbrella of Spectrio.

Councilwoman Lasko asked if they would put us on the calendar for the annual upgrades, would his team handle that? Mr. Staricha stated yes and that the upgrades come as development rolls out upgrades to the product roadmap, so sometimes there will be 3 or 4 per year and if they are having trouble troubleshooting, that is step 1, so yes, they may be able to put us on a schedule but it may require to do that remotely more than that. Industry weapon does only one (1) per year, currently right now the DSX platform is typically doing more updates than that. Mr. Staricha stated that there is no cost to the updates and is usually done in the cloud and there is rarely ever an issue with an upgrade so if you are going from 2.1 to 2.2 version it is done overnight and typically when you come in in the morning everything is good to go.

Mayor Bailey asked if there is a cost to move from the current platform to the new platform that he is speaking about. Mr. Staricha responded that the cost associated would taking all of the content out of the command center platform that we currently have and rolling it into the DSX and kind of recreating it. Mayor Bailey said so the answer is yes there will be a cost.

Councilwoman Stevenson asked if we have the contract and what the terms of the contract are. Councilwoman Barnes stated that we do not have the contract yet. Mr. Staricha stated that the contract will be sent once he gets the estimation from his content team in the next couple of days. It will include the equipment, the annual fee that we are typically used to; and, the fee to take all of the content out of the command center and recreate it into the new platform.

Assistant Borough Manager Lesko asked if he has any numbers now or an idea of what it will cost. Mr. Staricha said that he does not. He believes that the device is typically around \$1100.00. Councilwoman Lasko asked if he is replacing hardware and software. Mr. Staricha stated that yes it will be hardware and software and all needs to be done at the same time; and unfortunately, they cannot use what has already been done such as the player that we previously purchased from Industry Weapon. It will have to be replaced because there is new software and the player syncs to the software.

Councilwoman Stevenson asked how will the hardware get installed if they are in Arizona. Mr. Staricha stated that they have technicians in the surrounding area that they will send out. Mr. Staricha is in Pheonix, Arizona, they are headquartered in Tampa, Florida; but they do have install techs that they can deploy from anywhere.

Assistant Borough Manager Lesko stated that she would like to have a ballpark price. Is it going to be \$1000.00 or \$10,000.00, the last time it cost us over \$7,000.000. Mr. Staricha said it will not be \$10,000.00. He stated he needs to get the hours from his content team for rolling over the information so he would really be ballparking the cost and he is also working on discounts for us due to the problems and pain on this that we have had. Mr. Staricha stated that we were his account previously and we are not his

account any longer; but he didn't want to have us have to explain all of this to a new representative and start over because he understands how long it has been and wanted to do the right thing for us. He came on board in August of 2022 and he does not want to hand this off to anyone else that doesn't understand. Councilwoman Barnes stated that we do appreciate that. Mr. Staricha gave a ballpark figure of yearly it is approximately \$1200.00 for the license fees to get access to the software; the fee will come down and be closer to \$1000.00; the device is approximately \$1100.00, which is a one-time fee and he does not know on migrating the content and if he was to ballpark us, he believes \$3000.00 to \$4000.00 range. Councilman Cholock stated that \$7000.00 is the number. Mr. Staricha said that he would call this the retail price before he is getting a discount price and before working with and running it by leadership. This would be the max.

Mayor Bailey stated that the update would be the same as when you plug your phone in at night and it does an update and you get up in the morning and it is complete. Mr. Staricha stated yes that is how it would work.

Mr. Staricha stated that we had some larger charges in 2020 for the overlay for the screen that we purchased from ITS Enclosures will stay the same and that technology should get us for quite a while. It is really the player that runs in the back; to power up a kiosk that does touchscreen you are in the higher end of that. There is not an easy way around it. You have to have a bigger memory set and chip set that way you are not running into the device not being able to catch up with the inner activity.

Councilman Cholock asked why are we paying for something that hasn't worked 100% from the beginning. Assistant Borough Manager Lesko stated that we paid \$1125.00 for the player two (2) years ago. Mayor Bailey stated that she believes he is explaining that the device needs to be programmed differently. Councilman Cholock asked if we will have to go through this every two (2) years that it doesn't work and we have to buy this and that. Councilwoman Lasko stated that is technology. Mr. Staricha stated that because we are going to different software, we need the new player. Mr. Staricha stated that will have the information and contract for us in the next few days and will send it to us. He is going to do what he can to help soften the blow. He is going to send examples of some other stuff that they have deployed with this software and maybe that will help. Most of it is financial space is where they see that which is most case of the software uses, but it will walk us through it to see how it looks. Mr. Staricha went on to say that it is odd and very unique to have to replace hardware in two (2) years. If we weren't having to switch away from command center Industry Weapon platform, that would not be an issue at all. The touchscreen piece that we purchased from ITS should last quite a few more years because that technology doesn't really change. The new player should last quite a few more years as well, it is technology and things do change and he just knows that this is a better platform, allows for more customization so if we have these issues our team can go in and add a lot more content and customization and the platform is easier to use.

Councilwoman Barnes said that Council would really appreciate it if he can do the best that he can to give us a discount on some of this since we have already spent so much money. Mr. Staricha stated absolutely and he is definitely working on that. Council thanked Mr. Staricha for his input and help with this.

Public Comment: None.

Mayor's Report:

Mayor Bailey gave the following report:

- Attended Safety Meeting, topic was hazard awareness.
- Attended Mount Pleasant National Night Out Meeting. It is planned for Tuesday, August 8, 2023 at Frick Park; rain date Wednesday, August 9, 2023.
- Met with Eric from Heinz History Center and Myrna Coen. He come and looked at some of the religious pieces that are in the synagogue. The pieces are too large for their history center. He will try and find someone that may take them.

- Attended the BDA meeting.
- Attended the Veterans Park Advisory Committee meeting.
- Attended the Westmoreland County Boroughs Association annual banquet with several Council members and Assistant Borough Manager Lesko. There will be a regular meeting on May 25, 2023 which address train derailments.
- Attended the funeral of Fire Chief Mark Kraisinger today. Mayor Bailey thanked all of our emergency responders from Mount Pleasant and the surrounding communities along with the residents that come out for his services.
- Police Chief Grippo's father passed away. There are no details for funeral services yet.

Solicitor's Report:

- Solicitor Istik stated that her report will be held in executive session.

Borough Manager's Report:

Assistant Borough Manager Lesko gave the following report:

- Met with Council President Ruszkowski to prepare for July 3rd Party in the Park.
- Met with Councilman Phillabaum and Jeff McGuinness at the soccer field regarding the dog park.
- Met with Councilwoman Barnes and prepared thank you letters to the banks for sponsorship. Discussed sending letters to individuals that paid \$225 for the banners and refunding \$25 to them.
- Met with Gibson Thomas Engineering and Bob Regola along with Councilmembers Lasko, Barrick and Phillabaum and Rocky Anderson of the Street Department regarding Frick Park Hillside; dog park; Arevalo Property and South Depot Street.
- Working with auditor regarding Workers Comp.
- Attended the annual Westmoreland County Borough's Association annual banquet with Council President Ruszkowski, Mayor Bailey, Councilman Phillabaum, Councilwoman Wojnar, Councilwoman Barnes and Councilwoman Czekanski.
- Auditor will be in on May 11, 2023 to work on the Liquid Fuels Audit.
- Attended the funeral service for Fire Chief Mark Kraisinger.

Third ward fire station does not have internet. They would like to get a hotspot from AT&T. They use this for when they receive a call. It will display on a screen of where the incident is and who is responding.

President's Report:

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

A Motion was made by Councilman Cholock to reconvene. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Barnes. Motion carried 9-0.

Council President Ruszkowski stated that the executive session was held from 7:31pm to 8:02pm to discuss personnel issues.

Property Report:

Councilman Barrick gave the following report:

- The gazebo project will be advertised this week. Pre-construction meeting will be May 9, 2023 at 8:00am. Bids are due Friday, May 19, 2023 at 2:00pm, bids will be opened immediately following. If bid is accepted, work is to begin after the July 3rd Party in the Park with the work to be completed on or before Labor Day. Councilman Barrick also stated that the electric for the gazebo will be in the bid also. As for the additional electric requested by an outside group for their event, Councilman Barrick stated that it is going to be too expensive and that there should be set up as its own separate box and panel. Councilman Barrick stated that it may be in the best interest of the group to pay for that. Council President Ruszkowski stated that as long as the electrical upgrades for the gazebo are enough because the Borough had issues during the July 3rd Party in the Park event with the electric.

Council President Ruszkowski asked Councilman Barrick to reach out to Councilman Cholock about moving the stone for Medic 10 so he can take it to the Board at Medic 10 for discussion. Councilman Barrick responded that he was hoping to put it on Washington Street near where at one time there was going to be a fountain and the wall. Councilwoman Stevenson agreed that there were discussions about moving it along Washington Street where the alcove is. It will set on a pedestal. Councilman Cholock asked if it could set near the steps of the gazebo where people could see it. Councilman Barrick stated that he would look into it and get back to Councilman Cholock about it. Councilwoman Stevenson asked if they put it at the alcove will it be a safety hazard depending on height and asked that they just think about where they want to put it before moving it. Councilman Barrick suggested meeting one evening at the site and discuss it.

- Steve Sulosky is still working on the electrical bid for the Veterans wall, panel box and fountain. Councilman Barrick would like to get the bid out in June and no later than July.
- Have received several complaints regarding the garbage and debris on the sidewalks along McCali Manor. Assistant Borough Manager Lesko stated that our Police Officer spoke with the owner this morning notifying her that she has to clean it up and he asked that the Borough office notify the Code Enforcement Officer. He has been notified and will be contacting her also.

Streets / Stormwater Report:

Councilman Phillabaum gave the following report:

- The street sweeping has begun. Watch for signs notifying when the street is going to be cleaned. Councilman Barrick stated that this also helps with the MS4 program. The poundage (dirt) that they collect helps with what stays out of the waters.
- Yard sale will be held Saturday, May 13, 2023 and Sunday, May 14, 2023 from 8:00am to 3:00pm. If you want on the map, please contact the Borough office.

Parks & Recreation:

Councilwoman Lasko gave the following report:

- Met with Assistant Borough Manager Lesko, Rocky Anderson of the Street Department, Councilman Phillabaum, Councilman Barrick, Gibson Thomas Engineering and Bob Regola regarding two (2) big projects along with a few other things. One being the Frick Park hillside and the second was a potential dog park at the soccer fields at Willows Park. We will also add a “wish list” for the Borough of things we would like to see happen, such as improving bathrooms at Frick Park, cameras at all parks and on Main Street,

workout stations at Willows Park and Frick Park, pickleball court with seating, street sweeper, improving parking. These will be things that we will move forward with in time and work with the engineer to come up with an overall improvement.

- Would like to replace 2 older pieces of playground equipment at Medic 10 park with something new. Councilwoman Lasko believes one of the pieces was done by a fundraiser between 25 - 35 years ago and wants to be certain that they are good with replacing it with something new. Councilwoman Lasko asked Councilman Cholock to be certain with Medic 10 that they are good with replacing it. Councilman Cholock can't believe that anyone would be against putting something new in if the old piece is becoming unsafe but he will look into it. Councilwoman Lasko would like to avoid purchasing the plastic equipment due to the lifespan.
- A few of the things that were discussed at the proposed dog park would be to use the old concession stand there, there are bathrooms and thought about possibly doing a bike rental since the trail is next to it.

Public Safety Report: None.

Veterans Park:

Councilwoman Barnes gave the following report:

- Currently have 26 banner applications.
- Would like to have them up the week of May 22nd so they are up for Memorial Day Weekend.
- They have 2 bank sponsors currently and waiting to hear from another one.
- StukUp Grafix will be sending the banners to the printer this week.

Ordinances:

Councilwoman Wojnar gave the following report:

- Will update the current noise Ordinance to include atv's.
- Amending Parking Ordinance for South Hitchman Street to permit parking on both sides of street. Assistant Borough Manager Lesko asked that if they are going to amend the streets with no parking or parking on one side to please go to all of those streets and look at them and amend the Ordinance one time instead of amending the ordinance for one street at a time.

Councilman Cholock stated that he does not agree with changing an Ordinance every time one person complains. Councilman Cholock stated he is not in favor of any of the Ordinance changes that have been presented.

Mayor Bailey stated that if the Ordinance isn't changed then the No Parking signs need to be put up on South Hitchman Street and the Police should start ticketing. Councilman Barrick stated that everyone would be unhappy about this. Mayor Bailey said that the issue is that the Borough is not enforcing the Ordinance. Councilman Barrick stated that he has lived there since 1980 and it has never been enforced. Councilwoman Wojnar stated that they can propose to amend the Ordinance and vote on it.

- Burning Ordinance. Possibly amending burning ordinance to include recreational burning which as an example would include burning in an outdoor grill, smoker, chiminea, outdoor fireplace, firepit, specifically in a place for containing a fire, must burn permitted materials, charcoal, natural gas or other clean burning fuels, cleaned waste, logs or other

products. No painted or chemically treated woods, plastic, cardboard boxes, paper, household waste, obnoxious materials, cloth, weeds, green yard waste or other materials, etc. Size and height of fire, required distance from structure, time permitted, must be attended at all times, cannot burn on a deck or patio, necessity to have it in an open pit as opposed to doing an open burn would also need to be included.

Council agreed that this is an ordinance that they should consider.

- Landlord Ordinance – Council agreed that they do not want to do anything at this time with this Ordinance.

Human Resources: None.

A Motion was made by Councilwoman Czekanski to amend the agenda to advertise for a Borough secretary. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Stevenson. Motion carried 9-0.

A Motion was made by Councilwoman Czekanski to advertise for position Borough secretary. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Lasko. Motion carried 9-0.

A Motion was made to amend the agenda to approve the revised employee handbook. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Lasko. Motion carried 9-0.

A Motion was made to approve the revised and amended Mount Pleasant Borough Employee Handbook. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Stevenson. Motion carried 9-0.

A Motion was made to amend the agenda to approve the new meeting schedule. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Lasko. Motion carried 9-0.

A Motion was made to approve the Borough of Mount Pleasant new meeting schedule to one (1) meeting per month effective immediately, meetings will be held on the 1st Monday of every month at 7:00pm with the exception of July, being held on July 5, 2023 at 7:00pm. Motion seconded by Councilman Phillabaum. Motion carried 9-0.

Council President Ruszkowski reported that Councilwoman Czekanski will be the Chairwoman for the Entertainment Committee going forward. Junior Guthrie and the Push will be the entertainment for the July 3rd Party in the Park, fireworks will be at 10:00pm, there will be 2 food trucks along with the VFW running a food booth.

Finance / Grants Report: None.

New Business:

Councilwoman Stevenson spoke regarding previous meetings where representatives from the Landlord Association attended and there were discussions about the Landlord Ordinance and stating that they would like to cooperate with the Borough and that the Landlord Association has made it abundantly clear that they have no intention of complying with the Mount Pleasant Borough's ordinance regarding residential safety inspection and have made it perfectly clear that they have no regard for our ordinance, no respect for ordinance and no intention of complying with it.

Councilwoman Czekanski asked Councilwoman Stevenson if there is any update regarding the desks. Councilwoman Stevenson stated that she is waiting for the gentleman to finish up another project.

Reading of Communications:

Assistant Borough Manager Lesko read the following communications:

- Thank you card for the kind expression of sympathy from Michael and Jennifer Barrick and the family of Joseph R. Ovitsky.

Discussion and Payment of Bills:

A Motion was made by Councilman Stevenson to pay all authorized and approved bills. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Lasko. Motion carried 9-0.

Public Comment: None.

Miscellaneous and Adjournment:

A Motion was made by Councilman Cholock to adjourn the meeting. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Czekanski. Motion carried 9-0.

Meeting Adjourned 8:58pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Sharon Lesko
Assistant Borough Manager

BOROUGH OF MOUNT PLEASANT

Susan Ruszkowski, Council President

Motions from Meeting of May 1, 2023

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