

Meeting July 19, 2021

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

A Motion was made by Councilwoman Ruszkowski to approve the minutes of July 6, 2021 since Council has been provided with a copy. Motion seconded by Councilman Wojnar. Motion carried 6-0.

Public Comment:

Jim Rega, Jr. of Mullin Avenue, Mount Pleasant, PA spoke to Council stating that the BDA is receiving complaints from business owners regarding the aggressive parking enforcement. Mr. Rega stated that being a small town, they are trying to build it to bring the people in to the businesses and that they should not be “rewarding” the people that are visiting these businesses with tickets while they are here. Councilman Wojnar asked if the meters are weekdays only or does that include weekends? Borough Manager Landy stated that it is Monday thru Friday until 5:00pm and parking lots are 24 hours 7 days a week. Councilman Wojnar asked if this happening during a prime time such as lunchtime. Mayor Lucia stated it is usually after 3:00pm and it is not every day. Mayor Lucia also stated that we had not ticketed often for the last few years. Councilwoman Ruszkowski asked if the complaints that the BDA is receiving are about not receiving enough time on the meter or they don’t want to pay the meter. Mr. Rega said it is probably both and also most people don’t carry coins with them anymore and once they find that they have a ticket on their car, now they have to have \$4.00 cash to put in an envelope and then find where they pay the ticket. Council President Caruso stated that our Ordinance states that you can only park at a meter for 2hours. Council President Caruso said that if someone is parked at a meter for 8 hours should they receive a ticket. Mr. Rega stated that as a business owner he is happy to see people coming to town and believes when you get aggressive issuing parking tickets, he believes that the people won’t return to shop at the businesses. Mr. Rega asked that Council to give it some thought.

Speakers:

Dan Busatto of Century Insurance spoke to Council regarding Dog Parks. Councilwoman Ruszkowski asked if the dog park has to have lighting. Mr. Busatto stated that most dog parks are open from dawn to dusk and that you should have lighting in your parking lot for those leaving at dusk. Mr. Busatto said that there is only one thing that the insurance company wants out there and that is to make sure that the people that are using the dog park know that the Borough of Mount Pleasant is not liable. When the individual steps into that dog park, they are liable for themselves and their dog. Mr. Busatto said that the insurance company does have recommendations for dog parks and he reviewed them with Council. Mr. Busatto stated that most importantly is that Mount Pleasant Borough does not assume any responsibility for injuries or damages to personal property and that it should be posted many places throughout the dog park and dog park area. Mr. Busatto stated that the only increase to the Borough insurance policy would be if you needed to insure the property, fence, benches, anything like that that you don’t already have insured.

Borough Manager Landy asked if we put up the signs and something happens and someone sues, is it that our insurance will not pay them regardless. Mr. Busatto stated that they have not dealt with this long enough to know since municipalities that they are working with are just now putting them in or they have recently been put in. Mr. Busatto did say that when he spoke with the underwriter, they stated that under no circumstances will they pay for any losses related to a dog park. Borough Manager Landy gave a scenario that if someone brings their dog, their leash gets wrapped around another person’s leg, gets hurt and goes to the hospital. Mr. Landy asked who is paying for that? Mr. Busatto stated that the person that got hurt will be responsible unless they decide to go after the dog owner. The Borough will not be held responsible as long as the dog parks are posted as he previously mentioned. You are there at your own risk. Borough Manager Landy asked if he needs a supervisor on site. Mr. Busatto stated that you do not need to. Councilman Wojnar asked if there should be security cameras at the dog park. Mr. Busatto stated that it is not mandatory but is a smart idea. Borough Manager Landy stated that they are

possibly looking at the soccer fields as the location for the dog parks; however, the fence is only a 4ft. fence and the recommendation is a 5ft. fence. Mr. Busatto stated that it is not mandatory to have a 5ft. fence. He suggested that you should have the double gate to the entrance of each dog park. Also, the 4ft. fence would probably be fine for the small dog fencing; however, the large dog area he would definitely recommend the 5ft. fence. Mr. Busatto reiterated that this is only a recommendation and they are not mandatory. Borough Manager Landy stated that he does not feel that we could keep up with and maintain a dog park at this time. Councilman Wojnar suggested a committee that would be willing to help with the dog park. Mayor Lucia stated that he has seen many times the residents cleaning up after their dogs when walking them at Frick Park. Mr. Busatto handed out a suggested list guidelines for dog parks.

Treasurer's Report:

Borough Manager Landy read the following Treasurer's Report for the month of June 2021:

Mt. Pleasant Borough Treasurer's Report		Jun-21			Balance
		Prev Bal	Deposits	Disbursements	2021
General Fund Checking	Scottdale Bank 19069335	1,153,480.76	61,155.40	109,822.16	1,104,814.00
**Town Clock	619.92				
**Holiday Lighting	1812.51				
General Fund Budgetary Reserve	Standard Bank 321615	998,826.60	20,157.45	0.00	1,018,984.05
**Police	52,619.03				
**Streets	147,131.00				
**Contingency Fund	309,584.23				
**Infrastructure	181,588.62				
**BOMP Gas Wells	22,654.77				
** Frick Park Gas Well	20,221.11				
**Levins	970.06				
**Fire	48,900.00				
**K-9	13,828.76				
**Medic 10	200,000.00				
**Marcellus Impact Fee					
Act 13	21,486.47				
Police Parking Tickets & Meters	Scottdale Bank 1026616	24,928.30	3,790.13	572.08	28,146.35
Escrow Account	Scottdale Bank 19069343	4,390.92	1.59	0.00	4,392.51
Liquid Fuels PLGIT	PLGIT 56980126	0.85	0.00	0.85	0.00
Liquid Fuels / Scottdale Bank	Scottdale Bank 19123645	238,958.77	63.98	106,260.56	132,762.19
Monument CD	Standard Bank 446635	7,382.80	0.00	0.00	7,382.80
Payroll Fund	Scottdale Bank 19069350	1,292.74	46,711.08	46,709.97	1,293.85
Veterans Park Fund	Somerset Trust Co 2003058309	22,857.46	301.14	0.00	23,158.60
Storm Water Retrofit Phase II	Scottdale Bank 19069368	1,219.22	0.44	0.00	1,219.66
Turn Back Account	Scottdale Bank 19069384	24,802.81	8.97	0.00	24,811.78
ARPA Covid-19 (American Resuce Plan Act)	Scottdale Bank 19123652	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Standard Bank CD	Standard Bank 432243	215,254.60	0.00	0.00	215,254.60
Standard Bank CD	Standard Bank 410571	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Scottdale/MidPenn CD (200yr Anniversary)	Scottdale Bank 318007294	52,396.87	0.00	0.00	52,396.87
Scottdale Bank /MidPenn CD	Scottdale Bank 318012650	53,527.71	0.00	0.00	53,527.71
Total General Fund Balance					2,668,144.97

Medic 10 Checking	Scottdale Bank 19069533	77,490.30	39,261.89	74,351.05	42,401.14
Medic 10 Savings	Scottdale Bank 19069723	131,043.70	1,047.72	0.00	132,091.42
Medic 10 Money Market	Scottdale Bank 19069376	6,004.24	2.17	0.00	6,006.41
Medic 10 Pittsburgh Foundation	Standard Bank 0000358253	8,466.81	4.01	0.00	8,470.82
Medic 10 CD	Standard Bank 371917	19,458.71	0.00	0.00	19,458.71
Medic 10 CD	Standard Bank 410053	5,269.88	0.00	0.00	5,269.88
Total Medic 10 Fund Balance					213,698.38
WWT Capital Reserve Account	Standard Bank 0010175932	917,216.60	301.50	288.51	917,229.59
Capital Reserve M. A. Account	Somerset Trust Co 2004129745	450,200.28	7,544.69	0.00	457,744.97
Oceanview Annuity CD	Scottdale Bank - MidPenn	3,007,516.44	0.00	0.00	3,007,516.44
Standard Bank CD WWT Cap.Resv	Standard Bank 464569	200,000.00	0.00	0.00	200,000.00
Athene Annuity CD (created Jan. 2021)	Somerset Trust	500,000.00	0.00	0.00	500,000.00
Standard Bank CD (Partial MAWC)	Standard Bank 446593	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Scottdale Bank /MidPenn CD (MAWC Final)	Scottdale Bank 318011768	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Total WWT Balance					5,082,491.00
Total Borough funds					7,964,334.35
Councilwoman Susan Ruskowski / Secretary Sharon Lesko					

A Motion was made by Councilman Wojnar to accept the June 2021 Treasurer's Report as read. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Lasko. Motion carried 6-0.

Councilwoman Ruskowski asked Borough Manager Landy for a meeting with the finance committee to discuss how the monies that will be received from the ARPA (American Rescue Plan Act) Covid-19 will be used. Borough Manager Landy stated that we have until 2024 to spend the money. Councilwoman Ruskowski stated they want to sit down and see what the plan is for the money. Borough Manager Landy said that the rules and regulations are continuously changing on how the money can be spent and the longer you wait to spend it the rules will be loosened. Councilwoman Ruskowski said she thought the money was to be used for fire, police and EMS. Borough Manager Landy said that it just a partial list, but there are many things it can be used for. Councilwoman Ruskowski stated that the finance committee is requesting a meeting to go over what the money will be used for. Borough Manager Landy asked who does the committee want to meet with. Councilwoman Ruskowski said that the committee will meet with the Borough Manager and discuss what you are or are not allowed to do with the money at this time.

Borough Manager's Report:

Borough Manager gave the following report:

- Have a buyer interested in the Bridgeport Street property. It is a company across from the Bridgeport Street property. He is interested in purchasing all of the property or a portion of it. Borough Manager Landy asked if we should move forward in getting an appraisal for the property. Councilman Smetak stated it is an asset and should be appraised. Council agreed. Borough Manager Landy will follow up to have the property appraised.
- Have someone interested in renting the both of the buildings "concession stand" down near the Cook's Way Waterway Project that was acquired from Dale Walker. It is the building that Morris Barron had his car dealership at and the building across the street next to Pritt's Feed Mill. They possibly would like to make it a food concession stand. The one across the street, they mentioned a floral business. Councilman Wojnar said that they previously discussed letting a nonprofit use the building. Councilwoman Lasko asked if there is a kitchen or any setup that they would be able to use it as a concession

stand. Councilman Smetak stated that one can get a health license for a 10x10 as long as you follow all guidelines. Borough Manager Landy stated that they would have the kitchen items needed and that there is a bathroom in the facility.

- Borough Manager Landy will begin gathering specs for the music on Main Street.
- Purchased the new 2021 police car. We did not pay off the loan for the 2017 police car. The loan has a balance of approximately \$9,500.00. Will continue the loan since we paid cash for the new car.
- Everyone has received an updated gas well report.
- Councilman Wojnar asked if there is a reason that the police vehicle would be running and wasting fuel while parked outside the Borough building. Councilman Smetak stated that it has been discussed several times. Mayor Lucia stated that Council could send a letter could be sent to the Police Chief regarding the unattended running vehicles.
- Public Works employee, Rick “Peanut” Mognet, has been off work since the end of May due to a vehicle accident outside of work. Borough Manager Landy hired summer help and will be leaving when school begins. Borough Manager Landy would like to have our cleaning person, Paul Johnson, fill in and do some of the work that Peanut does until he returns. Councilwoman Ruzkowski asked if he gave a time frame of how long he would be off. Borough Manager Landy said no, he hasn’t checked in with us.
- Borough Manager Landy said that we need to decide now what we are doing with Christmas Lights. Councilwoman Ruzkowski stated that she believes Councilwoman Bailey has gathered information on this and will present it at the August meeting.
- At the last meeting Mr. Karfelt was approved to level the curbing by cutting the street against the apron in front of his business garage located at 115 South Depot Street. We need to provide Mr. Karfelt with an agreement. Borough Manager Landy will ask Solicitor Istik to prepare the agreement.
- The lights, benches and garbage cans have been ordered for the Cook’s Way Waterway Project. Should receive them in approximately 6 weeks.
- Ordered additional trash cans for the parks.
- We are receiving bids for the 2 tractors at the street department. Bids are due by 11:00am Friday, July 23, 2021 and read at 11:10am.
- The Mt. Pleasant Library will be holding a dedication of The Wings on Saturday, July 24, 2021 at 10:00am.
- There will be a pre-construction meeting for the Gazebo Refurbishment Project at the Gazebo tomorrow, Tuesday, July 20, 2021 at 10:30am.
- Mt. Pleasant Township did not fix the pipe out of the Dollar General. They installed a temporary pipe. They have recently awarded the project to a construction company and they believe the project should be completed this year. The Township is planning on doing the tar and chipping the beginning of August and recommended to have the signs ready for that.
- Received a letter from PennDOT that we will be receiving a reimbursement in the amount of \$850.72 for the Winter Traffic Services Agreement No. 3900039436.
- Received a new proposal for the new garage door at the Street Department. The cost has gone up a little since we received the last proposal in May. The cost has increased approximately \$400.00.

- Borough Manager Landy reminded Council once again to review the Profit & Loss Budget vs. Actual Report.
- Received a letter from Westmoreland County Department of Planning and Development Community Development Division regarding the 2022 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program. Applications will be due **no later than** September 30, 2021 for 2022 projects. The 2022 program year begins May 1, 2022. Councilman Wojnar asked if there are any grants available to update parking meters. Borough Manager Landy stated that he does not know of any.
- The County has a program for removing lead paint from homes that qualify.

Topics/Discussion:

Council President Caruso asked Council to review the new law regarding requirements on municipalities for holding public meetings. The Governor signed on June 30, 2021 Senate Bill No. 554, which is now known as Act 65 of 2021. The Act takes effect August 29, 2021. Council President Caruso stated that it will change the way meetings are held and what you are permitted and not permitted to do at a meeting.

Councilman Smetak reported that there will be a pre-bid meeting held at the gazebo at 10:30AM on Tuesday, July 20, 2021 for the Gazebo Refurbishment Project.

Councilwoman Lasko would like to get additional feedback on the dog park. Councilman Wojnar and Councilwoman Ruszkowski agreed that they need additional discussion about the dog park.

Councilwoman Ruszkowski stated that Councilwoman Bailey will updating Council on her research for the holiday lighting.

Councilman Wojnar asked public safety committee to consider putting out a letter regarding the police cars running when parked in front of the station. Councilman Wojnar stated that he will reach out to the Human Resources Committee regarding personnel matters.

Councilwoman Barnes will check into the handrail and possibly get some costs.

Mayor Lucia stated that he does not believe that the parking meter ticketing is being unfair. They have gone 2 years with no ticketing. Councilman Wojnar asked if the ticketing is happening at various hours throughout the day or is it consistent. Mayor Lucia stated that it is one officer that does the tickets maybe once or twice a week and the time is consistent. Councilwoman Lasko said that the concern is whether the meters are registering the same amount of time per cost. Councilwoman Ruszkowski said that when you park at a meter, you know that you are to plug the meter. Councilman Wojnar asked if the Borough should look into an app to pay for parking. Borough Manager Landy stated that the Borough has looked into the app as a possible way to pay and it was very costly. They also looked into kiosks. Councilwoman Barnes stated that she has not visited any town where you got 15 minutes of free parking. Councilwoman Lasko stated that the problem with not having meters or monitoring the meters, you will have people or residents parking at them all day long tying up the spaces that others could be using when coming in to town. Councilman Wojnar said that when the BDA receives a complaint, they should direct them to contact the Borough so that it may be handled. Borough Manager Landy said that he has heard from businesses that love it that they are patrolling the meters, due to people parking in front of their business and being there all day long.

New Business: None.

Reading of Communications: None.

Discussion and Payment of Bills:

A Motion was made by Councilman Wojnar to pay all authorized and approved bills. Motion seconded by Councilman Smetak. Motion carried 6-0.

Miscellaneous and Adjournment:

A Motion was made by Councilwoman Lasko to adjourn the meeting. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Ruszkowski. Motion carried 6-0.

Meeting Adjourned 8:15PM.

Respectfully Submitted

Jeffrey A. Landy,
Borough Manager

BOROUGH OF MOUNT PLEASANT

John H. Caruso, Jr., Council President

Motions from Meeting of July 19, 2021

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