

Meeting October 23, 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. President Ruszkowski asked Borough Manager Lesko to take roll call. Councilpersons present included Barnes, Czekanski, Phillabaum, Barrick, Lasko, Stevenson and Wojnar. Mayor Bailey was present. Solicitor Istik was absent. President Ruszkowski stated that a quorum is present.

A Motion was made by Councilwoman Stevenson to approve the minutes of October 2, 2023 since Council has been provided with a copy. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Lasko. Motion carried 8-0.

Speakers:

- Greg Cromer of Greg Cromer Aerial Photography spoke to Council regarding aerial photos that he had taken of Mount Pleasant Borough 3 days prior to the Glass Festival in September. Council agreed to purchase two (2) 20x28 of the aerial photos and the digital file at a total cost of \$390. Total includes a savings of \$50.00.

Public Comment:

- Zachary Gergas, Director of Medic 10, gave the following report:
 - 31 Wheelchair van call for the month of October, with pending wheelchair trips everyday until the end of the month.
 - Year to date calls for Medic 10 is 2150, which is 200 more than they did all of 2022.
 - Signed additional contracts with Greene Health Rehab in Greensburg and Loyalhanna Care Center in Latrobe.
 - Flu shots are in. They will set a date.
 - Attended multiple community events, VFW, 2 touch a truck events, will be attending the Halloween parade and also patrolling during trick or treat.

Councilwoman Lasko stated that it is great hearing how Mr. Gergas has done so well with bringing Medic 10 back and that we have heard so much bad news with it, that it is great to hear his report and how he has turned it around and how well things are going now. Councilwoman Stevenson agreed.

- Theresa Duchess of 195 Wyndfield Drive, Mt. Pleasant spoke to Council regarding parking issues on East Smithfield Street. Ms. Duchess asked Council to consider permit parking. Councilman Phillabaum believes that they should consider parking permits for that area. Councilwoman Stevenson stated if they issue parking permits for that street, people will park their car on the next street causing further issues for others. Ms. Duchess suggest one (1) permit per household. Council said one permit would not work with many homes having a husband and wife, not to mention kids driving. Councilwoman Stevenson stated that even if you did permits, it does not guarantee that you park in front of your house.
- Luke Strickland of 124 South Church Street, Mt. Pleasant, PA spoke to Council regarding the playground equipment that was laying on its side and that his daughter loved playing on it. Councilwoman Lasko informed Mr. Strickland that Frick Park had been vandalized and that was one of the pieces that was damaged along with a picnic table. Councilwoman Lasko would like to see anyone causing damage at the parks be held to the fullest extent of the law. Council will be turning it into the insurance and will be getting another piece of equipment for there.

Mayor's Report:

Mayor Bailey gave the following report:

- Attended the following meetings:
 - Safety Meeting on October 17, 2023 regarding Vehicle Safety.
 - Ribbon Cutting on Main Street for "Just Breathe".
 - Business District Authority (BDA) meeting.
- Was at the kick off for the Breast Saturday Ever 5k run/walk event on Saturday October 21, 2023. Had approximately 225 runners/walkers.
- Covid-19 shots will be given on Wednesday, October 25, 2023 at 5:30pm at the social room of the Mt. Pleasant Fire Department Central Station.

Solicitor's Report: None.

Treasurer's Report:

Councilwoman Stevenson read the following Treasurer's Report for the month of September 2023:

Mt. Pleasant Borough Treasurer's Report		Sep-23			Balance
		Prev Bal	Deposits	Disbursements	2023
General Fund Checking	Scottdale Bank 19069335	1,514,633.16	160,053.63	357,312.62	1,317,374.17
General Fund Budgetary Reserve	Standard Bank 321615	1,016,383.27	23,338.47	0.00	1,039,721.74
**Police	48,591.82				
**Streets	157,131.00				
**Contingency Fund	362,348.35				
**Infrastructure	206,588.62				
**Workers Compensation	50,000.00				
**BOMP Gas Wells	26,389.77				
** Frick Park Gas Well	27,965.82				
**Levins	0.00				
**Fire	23,400.00				
**K-9	13,828.76				
**Medic 10	100,000.00				
**Marcellus Impact Fee					
Act 13	23,477.60				
Police Parking Tickets & Meters	Scottdale Bank 1026616	30,835.44	783.97	0.00	31,619.41
Escrow Account	Scottdale Bank 19069343	4,495.23	15.93	0.00	4,511.16
Liquid Fuels / Scottdale Bank	Scottdale Bank 19123645	60,741.56	215.24	0.00	60,956.80
Monument CD	Standard Bank 446635	7,382.80	0.00	0.00	7,382.80
Payroll Fund	Scottdale Bank 19069350	2,913.28	48,623.55	48,607.29	2,929.54
Veterans Park Fund	Somerset Trust Co 2003058309	25,401.92	52.30	0.00	25,454.22
Veterans Military Banners Fund	Somerset Trust Co 2004522337	1,874.94	1,200.16	575.00	2,500.10
Storm Water Retrofit Phase II	Scottdale Bank 19069368	1,247.35	4.42	0.00	1,251.77
ARPA Covid-19 (American Rescue Plan Act)	Scottdale Bank 19123652	452,691.58	1,604.14	0.00	454,295.72
Standard Bank CD	Standard Bank 432243	215,254.60	0.00	0.00	215,254.60
Scottdale Bank /MidPenn CD	Scottdale Bank 318012650	53,527.71	0.00	0.00	53,527.71
Standard Bank CD (200yr Anniversary)	Standard Bank 6677418044	54,243.17	0.00	0.00	54,243.17

Total General Fund Balance						3,271,022.91
Medic 10 Checking	Scottdale Bank 19069533	232,970.59	48,621.98	61,416.75	220,175.82	
Medic 10 Savings	Scottdale Bank 19069723	58,025.06	205.62	0.00	58,230.68	
Medic 10 Money Market	Scottdale Bank 19069376	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	
Medic 10 Pittsburgh Foundation	Standard Bank 0000358253	10,816.93	35.53	0.00	10,852.46	
Medic 10 - 501(c)(3)	Scottdale Bank 19145689	250.97	0.00	0.00	250.97	
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						314,238.52
WWT Capital Reserve Account	Scottdale Bank - 19123702	887,833.16	3,134.05	8,960.00	882,007.21	
Capital Reserve M. A. Savings Acct	Somerset Trust Co 2004521230	471,722.27	1,430.68	0.00	473,152.95	
Oceanview Annuity CD	Scottdale Bank - MidPenn	3,088,600.02	0.00	0.00	3,088,600.02	
Standard Bank CD WWT Cap.Resv	Standard Bank 464569	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	
Scottdale Bank /MidPenn CD WWT Cap. Resv	Scottdale Bank 318015215	201,508.38	0.00	0.00	201,508.38	
Athene Annuity CD (created Jan. 2021)	Somerset Trust	514,605.11	0.00	0.00	514,605.11	
Total WWT Balance						5,159,873.67
Total Borough funds						8,745,135.10
Councilwoman Cynthia Stevenson / Secretary Sharon Lesko						

A Motion was made by Councilwoman Lasko to accept the September 2023 Treasurer's Report. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Wojnar. Motion carried 8-0.

Borough Manager's Report:

Borough Manager Lesko gave the following report:

- Frick Park was vandalized damaging a piece of playground equipment and a picnic table. The street department can repair the picnic table; however, the playground equipment was not. Have a call into the insurance company.
- Veterans Day Parade will be held Saturday, November 11, 2023 at 10:30am.
- The Halloween Parade will be held on Wednesday, October 25, 2023 at 7:00pm.
- Former Councilman David Pritts worked with Spectrio to resolve the IP conflict at the digital wall. It is now up and running.
- Attended the regular meeting at Medic 10.
- Met with Police Chief Grippo and Daynelle Sanner of the BDA regarding the routing of the 5k run/walk on Saturday, October 21, 2023.
- Attended the PSAB Fall Conference in Erie PA. Topics included Right-to-Know Requests; Short Term Rentals; K-9 Program; Cyber Security.

- Held the Safety Meeting. Topic was “Vehicle Safety”.
- Attended the ribbon cutting ceremony at the former Gradler Building for “Just Breathe”.
- Opened bids for Gazebo Renovation Project.
- Met with Gibson Thomas Engineering Re: Frick Park Hillside
- Met with Uber Heating re: furnace access to the roof top.
- The Toys for Tots Train will be coming through Mt. Pleasant on Saturday, November 11, 2023 at approximately 8:20am. Santa will be on the train.

President’s Report:

Council President Ruszkowski gave the following report:

- The theme for the Christmas Parade will be “Christmas Movies” for anyone wanting to participate with a float. It can be any Christmas movie. Floats will be judged. The Christmas parade will be on Wednesday, November 29, 2023.
- Borough Manager Lesko is working on the budget. Everyone will get a copy to review at the November meeting. We will advertise on the 2nd meeting of November and adopt on the 1st meeting of December.

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

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

President Ruszkowski stated that the executive session was held from 7:54pm to 8:21pm to discuss personnel issues.

Property Report:

Councilman Barrick gave the following report:

- The bids for the gazebo renovation project come in. The lowest base bid was \$167,000.00, which was approximately the same cost as the last time. Councilman Barrick stated that he suggests not accepting and throw the bids out. Council agreed that the bids were too high and the bids were rejected and not accepted.
- Mt. Pleasant Parking Authority plans to dissolve. Councilman Barrick has requested that the Parking Authority send a letter to the Borough stating that they are dissolving and that they would like the Borough to take over the lots.
- Would like to investigate making a portal to the furnaces that are on the rooftop along with getting bids for the furnaces on the roof.
- Met with Gibson Thomas Engineering, who is applying for the SLSA Grant on our behalf through the state, for the Frick Park Hillside.

Councilwoman Lasko also reported with the new Frick Park Hillside development, if we receive the funds, they would make Spence Way a one-way street.

Mayor Bailey stated that she had someone ask about making Walnut Street a one-way street. You would only be able to exit onto Diamond Street. Councilman Barrick stated that before that is done, we should reach out to the neighborhood and get their input, because people do use it both ways. Borough Manager Lesko asked if we have that big of an issue that we need to do this. Mayor Bailey stated she had 2 ladies ask her about it.

Councilwoman Stevenson gave the following report:

- Accepted the proposal for the flooring from DePalma Flooring. Made the deposit, they will order in the materials and hopefully have it installed before the end of the year. Tentative date is December 11, 2023
- The painting will be done before the flooring is put in.
- The glass for the front desk will be delivered once the carpeting is installed so it doesn't get broken when the furniture needs moved.

Streets / Stormwater Report:

Councilman Phillabaum gave the following report:

- The tub grinder is up and running again.
- Suggested hiring a 4th street department employee since we have not moved forward with a public works position. Borough Manager Lesko stated that the public works did not assist the street department due to street department contract. Councilwoman Stevenson asked if they are complaining? Councilman Phillabaum stated that they have not complained or suggested it. Councilwoman Lasko said that maybe it is something to consider in the future.

Parks & Recreation:

Councilwoman Lasko gave the following report:

- Met with Gibson Thomas Engineering along with Borough Manager Lesko and Councilman Barrick regarding the Frick Park Hillside.
- Would like Borough Manager Lesko to keep moving forward with getting security cameras due to the vandalism in Frick Park. Borough Manger Lesko stated that quotes have come in between \$26,000.00 and \$46,000.00, which includes Frick Park, Veterans Park, Gazebo, and Willows Park. Borough Manager Lesko stated that Police Chief Grippo wants to be certain that the cameras can do facial recognition and license plates at night time.

Public Safety Report: **None.**

Veterans Park:

Councilwoman Barnes gave the following report:

- Spoke with David Staricha from Spectrio and thanked us for the communication with them.
- Will be getting the square footage for the Veterans Wall to get quotes for painting to be done on the backside of the wall.

- All of the Veterans banners are now up. They will remain up until after Veterans Day.
- We had to purchase a second banner for Mr. Emerson Mates due to it missing. When Jeff McGuinness was putting the banner someone from across the street brought the original one out. They never turned it in to the Borough or called to say they had it. Anyone finding a banner are asked to please contact the Borough office.
- The Veterans Banner subcommittee will clean all of the banners once they are taken down for the winter.
- The digital wall at Veterans Park is now up and running.

Ordinances: None.

Human Resources:

Councilwoman Czekanski gave the following report:

- We will need to readvertise for a secretary. We do have the intern; however, she is only working 2 days a week at 5 hours per day.
- The VFW will have Trunk-or-Treat on October 31, 2023 from 5:00pm to 7:00pm. Medic 10 and the Police will be there.

Borough Manager Lesko stated that she will be off the week of October 30, 2023.

Finance / Grants Report: None.

New Business:

Councilwoman Wojnar discussed pursuing a Junior Councilperson at the beginning of the year.

Reading of Communications:

Borough Manager Lesko gave the following report:

- Westmoreland County Boroughs Association will be holding its dinner and meeting at Hoss' Steak & Seafood in Greensburg on Thursday, October 26, 2023 at 5:30pm regarding PennDOT. It will be the last meeting of the year.
- Good Shepherd Lutheran Church will be holding its annual traditional Thanksgiving Day meal with all of the trimmings on Thursday, November 23, 2023 from 11:00am to 3:00pm for ANYONE in the area that wants to come. There will be no charge and no free-will offering for the meal. It is their 24th year.
- Will be receiving the annual Winter Maintenance Agreement payment from PennDOT in the amount of \$10,778.30.
- The estimated liquid fuels allocation for 2024 is \$123,200.56 and the estimated allocation for the turnback is \$3,760.00. Amount received in 2023 for liquid fuels was \$125,274.03.

Councilman Barrick reported that the girls' soccer varsity team has a playoff game tomorrow evening against West Mifflin and if they win tomorrow, they will have a game on Saturday at Mt. Pleasant High School for anyone wanting to go and support them. The girls are undefeated in the section.

Discussion and Payment of Bills:

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

Public Comment: None.

Miscellaneous and Adjournment:

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

Meeting Adjourned 9:05pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Sharon Lesko
Assistant Borough Manager

BOROUGH OF MOUNT PLEASANT

Susan Ruskowski, Council President

Motions from Meeting of October 23, 2023

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