

Meeting November 6, 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 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 October 23, 2023 since Council has been provided with a copy. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Lasko. Motion carried 8-0.

Speakers: None.

Public Comment:

- Zach Gergas gave the following report regarding Medic 10:
 - Reached 2260 calls today. Last year's total calls were 1950. They are now 310 calls more than they received all of last year. Had 44 wheelchair van trips in October. Currently at 8 with an abundance of wheelchair van trips scheduled for November.
 - 2023 sports season has ended and the invoice has been submitted to the school.
 - Subscriptions are with the mailing specialist and will be mailed out between Thanksgiving and Christmas.
 - They are teaming up with Helltown Brewery and Rockin Rods Roundup and will be holding a toy drive called "Jam A Van" at Helltown on Sunday, November 12, 2023 from noon to 5pm. There will be drop boxes at Medic 10, Helltown, Crivelli's, Espey's Meat Market, and the cancer center at the hospital. All of the toys collected will be delivered to the high school and go to local families.
- Paul Harenchar, Mount Pleasant Fire Chief, gave the following report:
 - The rescue truck should be coming back soon.
 - The tower truck is still being repaired. They are looking at mid December for it to be finished.

Mayor's Report:

Mayor Bailey gave the following report:

- Attended the Halloween Parade. Had a large turnout.
- Attended Veterans Park Advisory Meeting.
- Trick or treat went well. Thanked the fire department and police department for their help.
- Attended VFW Trunk or Treat. The Police Department and Medic 10 attended.
- Veterans Day Parade will be on Saturday, November 11, 2023 at 10:30am.
- Had some damage at the gazebo. Signs from the breast cancer awareness month were cut off of the gazebo and thrown into the trees behind the gazebo.

Solicitor's Report: None.

Tax Collector's Report: None.

Borough Manager's Report:

Borough Manager Lesko gave the following report:

- Met with Bob Regola regarding the LSA and SLISA Grants and the projects that we will be submitting.

- Have been working on the upcoming 2024 budgets. There are big expenses this upcoming year with engineering costs, surveillance cameras, 2 furnaces for the roof, are a few.

Councilwoman Lasko asked if money from the gas wells be used towards the security cameras since the money is to be used towards Frick Park.

- Police Department has finally received one of our new police cars and the Street Department has received their new excavator and skid steer. We have now received all of the equipment and vehicles from the 2022 Statewide Local Share Assessment (SLSA) grant.
- McCali Manor has been approved by the Commissioners and the Westmoreland County Land Bank will be advertising for demolition bids.
- Received the estimated cost of \$408,000.00 the Frick Park Hillside Project that will be submitted to the SLSA Grant. The grant pays for 5% of the engineering costs. Engineering costs are 15%. The Borough will be responsible for the remaining 10% of their costs which are approximately \$32,000.00. The GIS (Geographic Information System) for the stormwater lines come in at \$93,000.00; and the street sweeper cost is approximately \$230,000.00.

President's Report:

Council President Ruszkowski gave the following report:

- The painter will be coming tomorrow morning to begin painting Council Chambers, conference room, hallway and the lobby.
- The annual Christmas Parade will be held on Wednesday, November 29, 2023.

Property Report:

Councilman Barrick gave the following report:

- Looking into putting a hatch in the roof to access the furnaces on the roof.
- Bids were rejected for the gazebo project. Would like to look at small projects. We will need to have the framing done for the stained glass to be installed along with lighting for the stained glass.
- The boiler has been fixed at Central Fire Station.

The Borough will be using Kostyo Heating and Air for preventative maintenance at the street department, central fire station and 3rd ward.

Councilwoman Stevenson gave the following report:

- The carpet is on back order. Was hoping it would be done before the end of the year but that is not going to happen.

Streets / Stormwater Report:

A Motion was made by Councilman Phillabaum to purchase a snow plow and salt spreader for the new 2023 Ford F-550 from Smouse at a total cost of \$12,158.00, includes installation/setup. Money to be transferred from Budgetary Reserve – Streets. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Lasko. Motion carried 8-0.

A Motion was made by Councilman Phillabaum to sell 2003 Waste Water Treatment Dump Truck with plow and salt spreader. Money will replace the cost of new snowplow and salt spreader for 2023 Ford F-550 in budgetary reserve - streets. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Stevenson. Motion carried 8-0.

A Motion was made by Councilman Phillabaum to approve the Preventative Maintenance Agreement with PALCO Power Systems for the generators at the Borough Building at a cost of \$333.59 for Annual Service (one visit), Central Fire Station at a cost of \$474.04 for Annual Service (one visit) and 3rd Ward Fire Station at a cost of \$302.72 for Annual Service (one visit). Motion seconded by Councilwoman Czekanski. Motion carried 8-0.

Councilman Phillabaum gave the following report:

- Councilman Phillabaum said that he had a resident reach out to him regarding parking issues on East Smithfield Street and would like the Borough to consider parking permits. The resident cannot find a parking space on the street due to other residents having multiple cars. Councilwoman Stevenson stated that even with a parking permit it would not guarantee a place to park. Council agreed that they cannot do anything with it. It is a public street.

Councilwoman Czekanski said that residents have reached out to her regarding skunks in Ramsay Terrace. Borough Manager Lesko stated that we have a number for a gentleman that traps animals; however, it is at the cost of the resident.

Parks & Recreation:

Councilwoman Lasko gave the following report:

- Waiting to review final plans from Gibson-Thomas Engineering for the Frick Park Hillside.
- Would like to see if we can use some of the Frick Park Gas Well money for the security cameras.
- The playground equipment that was damaged has been turned into our insurance.

Public Safety Report:

Council President Ruszkowski asked everyone to keep Councilman Cholock in their thoughts and prayers as he recovers from his surgery

Councilman Phillabaum read the following Fire Report for the month of October 2023:

Total Calls – 46
In Town – 9
Out of Town - 37
10-45's - 14
Entrapments - 1
Fires - 10
AFA's - 17
Hazardous Calls – 4
Public Service Calls – 1
Ambulance Assistance – 0
Standby's – 0
Turnpike Calls – 2
Landing Zones – 1
Drills – 0
Total Members Answering – 402
Avg. Member Per Call – 9

Veterans Park:

Councilwoman Barnes gave the following report:

- Received a call from Mr. Mates for putting his loved one's banner back up. He called back and said that the banner was gone again. Councilwoman Barnes spoke with Jeff McGuinness and he said that the banner was turned in and that he has the banner.
- Joe Yancosky drew the backside of the Veterans Wall and had the square footage of each section of the wall. This will be used to request proposals for the drawing that will be done.

- The digital wall is still up and running.

Mayor Bailey reported that the Township Supervisors are happy to allow us to go into the Township with the Veterans Banners. Councilwoman Barnes thanked Councilman Phillabaum for the suggestion of running the banners into the Township on the East End of Main Street.

Ordinances: None.

Human Resources: None.

Finance / Grants Report:

A Motion was made by Councilwoman Stevenson to advertise the 2024 Budgets for General Fund, Liquid Fuels and Medic 10. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Lasko. Motion carried 8-0.

Councilwoman Stevenson stated that we do have a lot of expenses coming up for the 2024 budget. Things that have perhaps been postponed or pushed off and that we can no longer hold off on them. We will be spending some money with capital improvements.

New Business:

Councilwoman Stevenson reported that Mr. Joe Bauer spoke with her regarding a call that the fire department responded to. It was an apartment with carbon monoxide and people were sick and had to be removed. Councilwoman Stevenson stated that if would enforce our residential rental safety inspection that something like that may have been caught. Councilwoman Stevenson went on to say that there is a big portion of the Ordinance that requires voluntary compliance from the landlords. The landlord association will not cooperate.

Reading of Communications: None.

Discussion and Payment of Bills:

A Motion was made by Councilman Phillabaum to pay all authorized and approved bills. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Stevenson. 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 8:11pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Sharon Lesko
Borough Manager

BOROUGH OF MOUNT PLEASANT

Susan Ruszkowski, Council President

Motions from Meeting of November 6, 2023

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