

**March 4, 2019**

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 for our deployed troops. President Caruso asked Borough Manager Landy to take roll call. Councilpersons present included Bailey, Phillabaum, Ruszkowski, and Stevenson. Mayor Lucia was present. President Caruso stated that a quorum is present. Solicitor Istik arrived at 7:06PM. Councilwoman Barnes arrived at 7:08PM.

A Motion was made by Councilwoman Ruszkowski to approve the minutes of February 18, 2019 since Council has been provided with a copy. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Stevenson. Motion carried 5-0.

**Public Comment:**

Elizabeth Zemba of 326 Eagle Street, Mount Pleasant, PA spoke to Council regarding the stop signs that were installed in the Spring of 2018 at South Church Street and College Avenue; and, South Church Street and Hemlock. Ms. Zemba asked the Borough to review the steps that it took prior to installing the stop signs to be sure they were installed with the Borough Ordinances and the applicable State regulations. Ms. Zemba cited Mount Pleasant Borough Ordinance Chapter 15, Section 15-102 regarding to traffic changes. Ms. Zemba stated she submitted a right-to-know request and guidelines were not followed according to Chapter 15, Section 15-102. Ms. Zemba further stated that according to Pennsylvania Code, there are two (2) Publications that govern traffic restrictions on public roads. First, Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices; and, second, is PennDOT's Official Traffic Control Devices, also known as Department Publication 212. According to the two (2) publications, in most cases, if not all, a traffic study should be done to show that a stop sign is necessary at an intersection. Ms. Zemba stated she has two (2) concerns: first, without a traffic study, you don't know if conditions existed to justify either of the stop signs that were installed. Ms. Zemba stated that the reasons given at previous Council meetings did not meet the criteria for the stop signs in her opinion; and, the second concern is that by not doing the traffic study along with not having an Ordinance, the Borough has opened itself to a liability in the event an accident occurs at either of the intersections. Ms. Zemba stated that the Borough Secretary and the Solicitor are looking to see if a traffic study does exist or not.

Councilwoman Stevenson asked Ms. Zemba if there was something that was troubling her regarding the stop signs. Ms. Zemba replied, first there was no Ordinance; and, second, she does not believe that the stop signs are necessary at those intersections. Ms. Zemba stated that in all of research that the fact that a bus cannot make a turn there is not a reason to install a stop sign. Ms. Zemba said that a traffic study will look at the volume of traffic through there and it will look at the number of pedestrians there; and, those are the things that justify stop signs. Ms. Zemba reported that at the time of installation of the stop signs, the Borough Police Department posted on their facebook account that it was for speed control; and, you cannot use stop signs for speed control.

Solicitor Istik spoke to Ms. Zemba and reported that with the turnover in the Police Department, the Borough could not find where Police Chief Sam may or may not have done a traffic study. Solicitor Istik stated that at the meetings, Council believed that a traffic study was done for those intersections which would have prompted the need for stop signs at those intersections, especially with pedestrian traffic for the employees along with visitors at Harmon House to and from their parking area. Solicitor Istik stated that when the Captain took over the duties, we were unable to find any studies so the Borough did employ Dawood Engineering Co. to do the traffic studies, which is not yet completed. Solicitor Istik stated that once the study is back, they will follow the recommendation of the Engineers.

Ms. Zemba asked if the study will be available for public viewing when it is completed. Solicitor Istik stated that the study will be available for anyone that would want to see it. Mayor Lucia stated that the residents, ages 60 and up, that live in the complex, on Hemlock Avenue had to cross South Church Street and wait to be picked up by the bus. Ms. Zemba stated that the study

will address that. Mayor Lucia stated that the sign at Hemlock was installed so the buses could get in and pick up those residents and they did not have to cross South Church Street.

**Speakers:     None**

**Mayor's Report:**

Mayor Lucia reported that Captain George Grippo brought it to the Mayor's attention that the Borough needs a Seat Belt Policy for Borough employees along with anyone that may be a passenger in a Borough vehicle or any vehicle that is used for Borough official business. Mayor Lucia read the Seat Belt Policy. Mayor Lucia asked Captain Grippo if this policy is for all Borough employees. Captain Grippo stated that the reason for bringing this to the Borough's attention was that the buckle-up grant had been applied for a while back; and, to complete the grant, the Borough must have a Seat Belt Policy in place. When Captain Grippo looked to see if the Borough had a Policy, he found that the Borough did not. In order to get the grant, the Borough must have a Seat Belt Policy.

Mayor Lucia reported that Captain Grippo has been doing a very fine job; and, morale has been great within the Police Department. Mayor Lucia thanked Captain Grippo.

Captain Grippo thanked everyone for giving him the opportunity to temporarily run the Police Department until a they decide on a long-term solution. Captain Grippo reported that he has been with the Borough since 1996, worked part-time for 3 years; and then hired on full-time in 1999.

Captain Grippo gave the following Police Department report:

- The Police Department held a productive meeting with Mayor Lucia and Councilwoman Ruszkowski; and, discussed some changes that will hopefully better the Police Department. Captain Grippo stated that over the past few weeks he has worked to get things changed to give him the access needed to run the Department effectively. Captain Grippo reported that the Police Department hire two (2) part-time Police Officers; and, they will have their firearms qualification done on Wednesday at a firing range so the paperwork can be sent to Harrisburg and they can begin working on their own. They have been training in the meantime.
- He wants all Officers to have access to things within the Police Department. He stated that previously Officers were limited on what they were permitted to use, such as a phaser, which is basically a taser, the JNet System, a system that is in the vehicles to run license plates. Captain Grippo stated that all the Officers will have access to everything so they can perform their job more efficiently and effectively. Captain Grippo stated that all Officers should be certified and not just one or two of them.
- Captain Grippo is working on implementing the split shift again. This would eliminate that no Officer is out at night alone where they previously could have run into a situation where the Officer was alone and no back up is available.

Mayor Lucia asked Captain Grippo if once the new part-time Police Officers are trained will there be enough Officers to be able to implement the split shift. Captain Grippo stated that they have enough Officers now that are volunteering to work the split shift; however, it will help once they are trained and ready also. Captain Grippo stated that he believes they will be able to get the split shift covered at least 3 or 4 days in the beginning and work to get it covered 7 days a week depending on the budget and where they are at with it.

Borough Manager Landy reported that he has seen Captain Grippo, under the circumstances, has tried to pulled things together and has given 100% effort. Borough Manager Landy stated that Captain Grippo is willing to listen to some things that might have been issues in the past and he has corrected them already. Borough Manager Landy stated that he is here every day and they

have been meeting almost every day. Borough Manager Landy stated that Captain Grippo is doing a good job.

Captain Grippo stated that if anyone has any ideas or suggestions, he is open to hearing them. Captain Grippo said they are here for the Borough, we all work together; and, if anyone has any ideas, good, bad or in between, there is no reason we all cannot work it out.

Councilwoman Barnes asked Captain Grippo about the system that is in the Police car where Officers can run license plates and that he will be certain that it is done judiciously. Captain Grippo stated that the State monitors it and that they have to be run accordingly and that they can't just be run at random. Councilwoman Stevenson asked does that mean you have to have a reason to run the plate. Captain Grippo said yes, you have to have a reason to run it and that you cannot run a plate just to see where someone lives or for information.

Councilwoman Barnes stated that as an African American she has been profiled and she was concerned about that and wanted to be sure we have Officers that are not going to do that and be judicious about it. Captain Grippo stated the Officers will be trained and will be doing the right thing; and, that there is no reason for him to believe that the Officers won't do the right thing.

Borough Manager Landy suggested that the Borough would like to strive for all of the Officers be more visible in the community, not only riding around; but, visible at events in the community, visible on the streets and in the neighborhoods. Mayor Lucia stated that they are at the Firemen's Fair; however, they would like to see them at some of the Church events, events at the parks, such as Movies in the Park, and the Glass Festival. Captain Grippo said that if they could possibly get a schedule or notice prior to the activity they can schedule accordingly.

Mayor Lucia asked Captain Grippo about the Officer Phil Program that works with grades Kindergarten through 4<sup>th</sup> grade and is it a valuable program to continue with. Captain Grippo stated that it is a good program and teaches the kids about bullying and different issues on how to report things to their teachers or Police Officer; and, he would recommend continuing it. Captain Grippo reported that he met with the gentleman from the Officer Phil program and he will be going to the school when they present the program to the students.

Mayor Lucia recognized the following citizens that have recently passed away:

Eleanor Rega, business woman, owned a beauty shop.

Regis Klinchock, successful business man and always supported the Borough of Mount Pleasant.

Lou Ross, business woman, owned Sub n Pub.

Mayor Lucia read the Mount Pleasant Police Dept. Report for the month of February 2019:

The Department answered the following calls:

Incidents	87
Criminal Arrests	7
DUI Arrests	3
Parking Tickets Issued Boro	0
Traffic & Non-Traffic Citations	17
Assist Other Departments (Police, Fire, EMS)	8
Accidents Investigated	5

Income

Parking Meters	\$1,451.74
Parking Tickets	\$0.00
Parking Permits	\$0.00
Fence Permits	\$0.00

Miscellaneous Fees	\$0.00
Clerk of Courts	\$425.74
Restitution to Police Department	\$0.00
Fees for Police Reports	\$55.00
District Court	\$1191.13
Task Force Refund	\$0.00
Total Revenue	\$3,123.61

**Solicitor’s Report: None**

**Tax Collector’s Report:**

Tax Collector, Carol Yancosky, read the following report for the month of February 2019:

Property Taxes	\$0.00
Supplemental Taxes	\$0.00
Per Capita Taxes	\$0.00
Total Collected	\$0.00

Tax Collector, Carol Yancosky, reported that the 2019 County and Borough taxes are now out. Mrs. Yancosky also reported that on Thursday, March 21, 2019 the Tax Office will be closed.

**Borough Manager’s Report:**

Borough Manager gave the following report for February 2019:

- Borough Manager Landy reported that he has been assisting Captain Grippo with any questions and things he may need to know.
- Borough Manager Landy reported that he gave his leadership speech at the Westmoreland County Chamber Leadership.
- Received the Audit from the Business District Authority.
- Borough Manager Landy asked Council to review their Profit & Loss Budget vs. Actual
- The Pittsburgh Foundation is money that Medic 10 had given 17 years ago to the Westmoreland Foundation, now the Pittsburgh Foundation. They have awarded a grant to the Borough for the Gazebo in the amount of \$895.79.
- Liquid Fuels payment was awarded in the amount of \$139,620.51.
- Road Turnback Annual Maintenance payment was awarded in the amount of \$3,760.00. In addition to the previous monies received, this amount is for the maintenance of the takeover of South Church Street and Bridgeport Street. Councilwoman Bailey asked if this will be received annually or is it for a limited period of time. Borough Manager Landy stated he does not remember there being an end to it but he will have to contact Rick Skovensky of PennDOT to be sure.
- Received a couple updated Tax Assessment Reports on a few residents and the assessment has gone up.
- Met with the Parking Authority and they seem to be struggling a bit. They would like to repave the parking lots. They are trying to get grants from the County to help with the paving. Councilwoman Bailey asked if the paving of the parking lots could be put in with the bid for the street paving. Borough Manager Landy stated that it could be added. Borough Manager Landy asked the Parking Authority if there was any way they can cut their expenses; and, also gave the possibility of one parking lot being repaved in the year.

- The Borough applied for the eWaste pickup; and, it was approved. There will be a flyer going out to residents.
- Met with Hunt Valley Environmental regarding the Frick Park Basketball Courts. The Borough has received a grant for the Basketball Courts through CDBG. It does not include the engineering fees.
- Borough Manager Landy reported that with April and May coming there will be rains coming; and, need to work on a stormwater plan.

**President’s Report:**

Council President Caruso discussed that the biggest problem with the stormwater is the downspouts and water infiltration into the sanitary sewer lines from downspouts and sump pumps. Council President asked residents to please check their downspouts to see if they are in the ground and expose them; and, if they are unsure, call the Borough Office and leave information and someone will come and look for them.

Mayor Lucia stated that the big problem areas for stormwater is behind Gary’s Garage on North Church Street and runs along South Geary and runs to the park down through to the creek. Borough Manager Landy that past the Waste Water Treatment Plant to Bridgeport the County is going to clean out the creek. Mayor Lucia stated that the Borough needs it cleaned from the plant to behind the laundromat, which is the Township. Mayor Lucia reported that there is a pipe that runs along Diamond Street that is going to be replaced, which is the Township, that will help Hoza’s Garage.

A Motion was made by Councilwoman Ruszkowski to hold an Executive Session. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Stevenson. Motion carried 6-0.

A Motion was made by Councilwoman Stevenson to reconvene. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Bailey. Motion carried 6-0.

Council President Caruso announced that an Executive Session was held from 7:52 pm – 8:46pm pm to discuss personnel and legal issues.

**Property Report:**

Borough Manager Landy gave the following report:

- The waterproofing has not been completed on the first floor yet. The Borough now has to get a cost for patching and fixing the wall after the demolition the wall. They were originally to demolition 6 inches, now they will be demolishing 2 feet. This was not originally part of the contract; and, the company that is doing the waterproofing may help with some of this cost.

**Waste Water Treatment Report:**

Councilman Phillabaum gave the following report for February 2019:

- Cleaned chlorine contact tank.
- Cleaned and repaired grit chamber.
- Turned in paperwork for Chapter 94 Report.
- Roof on Garage is complete.
- Put stone down in utility ditch until spring when asphalt can be obtained.

Home Inspections – 6  
PA One Calls – 46  
Emergency One Calls – 16

**Streets Report:**

Councilwoman Bailey gave the following report:

A Motion was made by Councilwoman Bailey to approve hiring CZ Survey and Land Development, LLC for the Eagle Street and South Church Street Rehabilitation and Planning as it refers to the stormwater issue at a cost of \$7,550.00. Motion seconded by Councilman Phillabaum. Motion carried 6-0.

**Storm Water Management Report:**

Councilman Cholock stated that he suggests a follow-up letter be sent to Greenwood Apartments as discussed earlier in the meeting.

**Parks & Recreation:**

A Motion was made by Councilwoman Stevenson to advertise for bids for the Mount Pleasant Borough Grass Cutting and Snow Removal Contract for April 1, 2019 through December 31, 2019. Bids will be accepted at the Borough Office until 2:00pm 04/01/2019 and will be opened at 2:15pm 04/01/2019. Motion seconded by Councilman Phillabaum. Motion carried 6-0.

Councilwoman Stevenson reported that the grass cutting specs were modified by Councilman Phillabaum, Councilwoman Bailey and Borough Manager Landy with the idea of hiring a part-time Public Works employee that would primarily work in the parks and do some grass cutting. The new specs include some of the larger parks. The part-time public works employee would be doing the work at the smaller parks, such as grass cutting, weed eating and snow removal, along with, if a need arises, helping with the street department or the waste water treatment department.

Councilwoman Stevenson reported that the YMCA Summer Program at Frick Park has been renewed with the same parameters as last year. Also, Councilwoman Stevenson is hoping to revitalize the Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee.

Councilwoman Stevenson stated that there has been a lot of work done at Frick Park; and, they would like to have a small celebration for Frick Park possibly in June once the kids are out of school to point out all of the work that has been done.

Councilwoman Stevenson stated that the next park that needs focused on is Satcho Park; and, who is the targeted audience age group for that park. Borough Manager Landy suggested have a neighborhood meeting inviting residents to the park for suggestions. Councilwoman Bailey suggested to possibly target that park for adults and seniors, such as horseshoes, pickleball, where it would not entice the younger crowd to that area.

**Public Safety Report:**

A call was placed to Councilman Rogacki and he joined the meeting via speaker phone for the public safety committee report.

Councilman Rogacki questioned if there is a state law to wear seatbelts then why does it need added to the Employee Policy Handbook. Councilwoman Ruskowski stated that the Police Department is applying for a grant; and, to be accepted for the grant it must show in the Employee Handbook Policy.

A Motion was made by Councilwoman Ruskowski to approve a Seat Belt Policy for the Employee Policy Handbook. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Bailey. Motion carried 7-0.

Councilwoman Ruskowski reported that she will be getting a meeting together with the Public Safety Committee to meet with Captain Grippo.

**Veterans Park Report:**

Councilwoman Barnes reported that they have 85 applications for the new tablet. She spoke with Shoemaker Monuments and he is uncertain that the plaque will be here in time for Memorial Day but it will be sometime close to that. Councilwoman Barnes stated that they would have liked to do an unveiling on Memorial Day; however, if it is not ready then, they will hold it at another time.

**Human Resources / Ordinances Report:**                      **None.**

**Finance & Grants Report:**

A Motion was made by Councilwoman Ruszkowski to ratify the Agreement with Higbee Insurance retroactive to February 28, 2019 for the 2019-2020 Worker's Compensation & Municipal Liability Insurance at a cost of \$72,758.00. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Barnes. Motion carried 6-0.

**New Business:**

Councilwoman Stevenson discussed the issue of when she needs to resign from Council when she moves. Councilwoman Stevenson stated she is not living at her new house; and, that once she moves to her new house, she will notify Council and resign at that time. Councilwoman Stevenson stated that if anyone has any questions that they can contact her. Councilwoman Barnes stated that she had two (2) people ask; and if anyone else should ask she will direct them to contact Councilwoman Stevenson.

Solicitor Istik stated that she was asked by a couple of Council Members to review the issue of when Councilwoman Stevenson needed to resign. Solicitor Istik stated that the Borough Code states "termination of residency"; and, when she looks at that, she determines it to mean she does not live in that same ward any longer. Solicitor Istik further stated that there were questions as to an address change on a voter registration and she believes that does not mean that there was a termination of residency; and, that a termination of residency is "I sold my house, I no longer live there, I moved to another residence". Solicitor Istik reported that she contacted the PA Borough's Association and asked for clarification with them in regards to the word termination of residency; and, they stated that it is a grey area and Council would have to decide. Solicitor Istik stated that in her opinion termination of residency is when the no longer live there, so if they are still living in that house, just because their registration changed inadvertently or advertently, it does not mean termination. Mayor Lucia asked Solicitor Istik if it is where you lay your head to sleep. Solicitor Istik stated yes, it is presumably where the adult of the house or whomever is in question where their bedroom is and you lay your head to sleep to determine which ward you are in. Solicitor Istik stated that Councilwoman Stevenson's house that she is residing at is in the 1<sup>st</sup> Ward. Council President Caruso stated that Councilwoman Stevenson will notify Council when she moves from 1<sup>st</sup> Ward to 3<sup>rd</sup> Ward.

**Reading of Communications:**

Borough Manager Landy read the following communications:

- The Mount Pleasant Library will be hosting a Mindfulness Workshop at the Library on March 14, 2019 at noon.
- Westmoreland County Boroughs Association will be holding a dinner and a meeting on Thursday, March 28, 2019, 7:00PM, at the Westmoreland Conservation District Office, Donohoe Center, 218 Donohoe Road, Greensburg, PA 15601.
- Received a request from Daynelle Sanner from Find Your Fire Fitness to hold an Obstacle Course Challenge event on Saturday, June 1, 2019, from 8:00am – 1:00pm and a picnic following at the Soccer Fields and Pavilion. They will set up on Friday, May 31, 2019 after 5:00pm.

- There will be a First Annual Ride Against Hunger on July 13, 2019 for the Mount Pleasant Food Pantry. Ride starts and ends at Bridgeport Sportsman's Club 265 Hammondville Street, Mount Pleasant, PA 15666. Bikes and Cars welcome. \$25.00 per vehicle. Pre-registration discount \$20.00 per vehicle. Registration from 10AM-12PM. Kickstands up at 12PM. Driver safety meeting at 11:50AM. All proceeds will be used to purchase turkey vouchers for the 2019 Thanksgiving and Christmas Season.

**Discussion and Payment of Bills:**

A Motion was made by Councilwoman Stevenson to pay all authorized and approved bills. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Ruszkowski. Motion carried 6-0

**Public Comment:**

Jim Meredith 119 West Meadow Road, Mount Pleasant Township spoke to Council regarding Councilwoman Stevenson's residency. Mr. Meredith addressed Councilwoman Stevenson and stated that rumors go around town; and, he believes the only reason they ask Councilwoman Barnes to look into things is because she will follow through. Mr. Meredith believes there is no animosity with Councilwoman Barnes towards Councilwoman Stevenson.

**Miscellaneous and Adjournment:**

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

**Meeting Adjourned 9:16 pm**

### **Motions from Meeting of March 4, 2019**

A Motion was made by Councilwoman Ruszkowski to approve the minutes of February 18, 2019 since Council has been provided with a copy. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Stevenson. Motion carried 5-0.

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