

Special Meeting April 25, 2025
Small Water & Storm Sewer Grant

The meeting of Mount Pleasant Borough Council was called to order by President Ruszkowski 2:30pm 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 Barrick, Lasko, Stevenson, Davis, Barnes, Czekanski, Wojnar, and Phillabaum. President Ruszkowski, Mayor Bailey was present. Solicitor Mlakar were present. President Ruszkowski stated that a quorum is present.

President Ruszkowski – Asked is there any other finance?

Solicitor will now conduct the hearing.

Solicitor Mlakar stated the reason for this meeting is, there is a Pennsylvania Small Water and Sewer Program / Grant Program deadline for filing that petition is April 30th, 2025. We have to get this done. That is why we asked for this special meeting.

Borough Manager Lesko stated that the cost match is 15% for this grant.

Solicitor Mlakar stated the grant request is for a planning grant of One Hundred Twenty-One Thousand One Hundred Seventy (\$121,170.00) Dollars for engineering and design services for storm sewer and storm water damage project in the 1ST and 2ND Wards of the Borough of Mt. Pleasant. There is a cost estimate from Gibson attached to the resolution. It's up in the air whether or not these kinds of requests can be approved by the Commonwealth Financing Authority. Generally, they like to see a project ready to go. We are asking for financing to do the design. So, we are going to submit, no guarantee that we will get it or not get it, but like I said there is no harm in asking. You can do the motion to approve Resolution 2025-19.

A Motion was made by Councilman Barrick to approve Resolution number 2025-19 for the purpose of a grant from the Commonwealth Financing Authority for the engineering and design services for a storm sewer and storm water management project in the 1ST and 2ND Wards of the Borough of Mt. Pleasant. Councilwoman Lasko seconded the Motion. Motion carried 7-0.

President Ruszkowski asked if there were any questions.

Councilwoman Barnes asked if we get the grant to do the designs, what happens?

Councilman Barrick stated the design studies would be ideally to look at the storm sewer system between Park and Quarry Street, between Park and Orchard. Beginning up by the cemetery all the way up to Mullin. Then the other one, part of the study would also include from Gary's Garage to Ramsay Terrace.

Councilwoman Barnes asked is this where the water over flows that people were having the problem? Councilman Barrick stated basically, everything flows underground. There were some issues with flooding and small pipes. We are looking at those two (2) streams of in-pipes. It is not a fix right now; but we are looking at ways to fix it, to come up with funding to repair it or replace it. We are not doing anything with construction right now. It is all planning.

Councilwoman Barnes asked so, once the study is over you will have the information that you need, do we then go look for additional funding? Councilman Barrick stated yes, this will give us a cost estimate, plans and designs to go to the next step.

Councilwoman Barnes stated the question I had if you know you had a problem in second ward, why did you not put them on the list? Aren't those residence part of a variance?

Mayor Bailey replied that the Borough had repaired that. Part of that pipe was crushed and we repaired that section. They had traced it. Mayor Bailey stated that Councilman Barrick had helped trace that area from the cemetery down. It was on St. Clair Street that was crushed and those pipes were replaced and we have yet to hear that we are having anymore trouble there.

Councilwoman Barnes asked if they are talking about the properties along Church Street and if those are the pipes that can be replaced. Councilman Barrick stated that the study is to investigate the storm sewer system from Quarry Street to Church Street and from Church Street to Mullin. In places that the storm sewer systems go through backyards, goes through people's land, the simplest thing would be to look at inlet systems different smaller systems with a main trunk line but that is for the engineers to figure out. Mayor Bailey stated that St. Clair Street is one street passed Mullin. St. Clair is where they had the issues in the past and were fixed. Dollar General also put in a catch tank and that has helped as well.

Councilman Barrick stated to keep in mind that there are two (2) streams, one goes through Ramsay Terrace and the other between Orchard and Park. The two come together at Shupe Run. One goes through the park at Ramsay Terrace and the other one goes through Falcons Field. The one that goes through Falcons Field runs behind the Falcons and comes out at the Dollar General and it runs parallel to SR 819 into Shupes Run.

Mayor Bailey asked the one that goes behind the houses in Ramsay Terrace, is a piped stream? Councilman Barrick stated that they are both piped streams. The one in Ramsay Terrace is the bad one, it is under homes and it is unsure if it is owned by the Borough or not. Councilman Barrick stated that they would probably have to go back and look at the subdivision when it was done in the 50's or 60's.

Solicitor Mlakar stated assuming you get the grant this is the next step. If you don't get the grant and you still want to do this type of project, then the Borough is going to have to figure out a way to fund the engineering and design independently. Then submit a separate grant application for the project. We will try to get this grant so the Borough doesn't have to fund it.

Councilman Barrick stated unfortunately, it's expensive to design, the studies are expensive, you are looking at \$121,000.00 so it's about a year for the work for the engineer and a good portion is for the engineer. The next step is to, if it's awarded great, if it's not awarded then we look for other sources.

Mayor Bailey asked will we have to bid this out to other engineers? Solicitor Mlakar stated no and that there are some programs that require an RFP (Request for proposals) that you look for engineers but generally they will accept you taking the municipal engineer. This does not require that.

Miscellaneous and Adjournment:

A Motion was made by Councilman Phillabaum to adjourn public hearing. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Czekanski. Motion carried 7-0.

Meeting Adjourned 2:41 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Sharon Lesko
Borough Secretary

BOROUGH OF MOUNT PLEASANT

Susan Ruszkowski, Council President

Motions from Special Meeting of April 25, 2025

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