

## Meeting October 7, 2024

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 Lasko, Stevenson, Davis, Barnes, Wojnar, and Phillabaum. Mayor Bailey was present. Solicitor Mlakar and Solicitor Leechalk were present. President Ruszkowski stated that a quorum is present.

A Motion was made by Councilwoman Stevenson to approve the regular meeting minutes of September 3, 2024 since Council has been provided with a copy. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Lasko. Motion carried 7-0.

Presentation to James Gallagher Re: Vietnam Memorial Wall.

### Medic 10 Report:

- Director Zach Gergas gave the monthly report. A copy of the report is attached hereto.

### Fire Department Report:

Mr. Harenchar spoke gave the following report:

- October is Fire Prevention Month, so there will be fire drills done this month.
- Trick or Treat will be Sunday October 27, 2024 from 2-4.
- Halloween Parade will be Wednesday October 30, 2024 starting at 7:00 P.M.
- The Fire Department will be participating in the Trunk or Treat with Medic 10 at Harmon House on October 24, 2024 from 6-8 P.M.

A copy of the report is attached hereto.

### Public Comment:

- Joe Bauer of 607 North Geary Street, Mt. Pleasant, PA spoke on behalf of the Glass Festival Committee. "I wanted to thank everyone that helped out this year. It was very successful considering what happened last year after the death of Jeff and Jerry. We had some hiccups the last couple of years but I'm happy to say its back. We have a list of vendors waiting to get in. We had a couple holes this year but there were situations that arose. A lady had Covid, another guy had cancer and had treatment, another lady had a liver problem come up, so the holes weren't intentional, they were filled but when someone gets sick, we can't help it. We did call at the last minute and try to fill them but it was just to late to fill. My hats off to the committee and everyone wo helped. I thought it was very successful. Most of the committee is on the board and walked around and talked to all the vendors. The vendors were all very happy and they are all coming back next year. They even have friends who are asking to get into the festival. So, we should have some wood working things going on next year and a couple ither new vendors and probably some new food chooses. We are going to make some changes. We won't make those announcements until next year. We are going to try to lessen the work load on setting that thing up. Especially the old town area and there are some ideas we are going to kick around with the board, so I think you'll see a change down there next year, but for the better/ Everything worked out great this year except for the rain, but even though it rained we still had a crowd, and none of the vendors were upset at all. SO, thanks to Council for letting us use the streets again and we already set the date for next year. Thank you."

**Speakers: Kim Hauser, Esq & Richard Pologruto, President – Mt. Pleasant Volunteer Fire Department**

Kim Hauser: “Members of Council, Mayor, and the citizen, I have been familiar with your Fire Department for years. I am an Assistant Chief of the City of Greensburg Volunteer Fire Company. I also represent about 200 Fire Company’s on various things. The Fire Department called me and asked me to come look at where we’re at. We are having difficulties, and we are having problems recruiting. They are also getting older; you have a great Fire Department. The point of this is that some Municipalities will pay \$30,000.00 for this study. These guys, I know them really well, and I know the data you all need to see. Usually, Fire Departments do not share a lot of there financial information, and sometimes they aren’t even sure of there own operations. They work hard, they work for free, they do fundraise. The harsh reality at this moment is do you realize what 1 fire engine costs? Over a million dollars. That submarine they sell every week just doesn’t cut it anymore. Then besides that, the lawyers using the NFPA standards to beat up the volunteer fire companies is killing them. These people technically when they go on calls can be charged with criminal homicide if they don’t have people who at least have essential training or a safety supervisor, those are the PA Standards. ISO comes in from out of town and say they are looking at everything you have in your fire services including your responders, training, are all your members getting the 200 hours of training required by ISO? Do the officers get the 20 hours for officer training? I gave all of you a copy of the ISO Standards. So, to put all of this into perspective with your fire folks, how do we capture the important data that Council needs to know? So, obviously number 1 is what is your population, what’s the call volume? What kind of hazards are they responding to? How many are working fires? How many hours do the firefighters get? 3200 hours just on fire calls. On average if you take all there calls there are about 10.5 firefighter per call. That’s a lot, some fire departments have a hard time getting 2. The reality of what is there responsibility in putting a fire company together. You got a good legacy and they work hard with fundraising and every which way. These fire trucks are very expensive and the radios are about \$10,000 apiece. The upstart and important points that I’m making is I had you firefighters take a look at one sheet that is what’s your apparatus look like. The ages at 23-25 years you should be looking at updating these vehicles. These no longer have the safety features needed to help keep everyone safe. Council may say OSHA doesn’t really apply to you, until your firefighter gets killed in a line of duty. Then the experts all around say look at all the OSHA violations. What Volunteer Companies do is try to meet as many as we can with the finding we got. I think your company here is at a turning point, they can’t recruit people to come in and help because you are going to have to have a 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> job of hours to fundraiser to earn money for OSHA equipment that cost over millions of dollars. They have a lot of older vehicles that they should be up to date, certified and they are skipping it because they do not have the money. The fortunately got some Grants, but they still need radios, there’s are from 1990. I tried to put together the “Big Data” of what they are missing. The fire chief put together why they need a fire tax. This is stuff that needs to be fixed now. I realize you all are in Budgetary Mode and it would have been nice if you had this at the end of summer but we jumped in and gave it as much analysis as I could generate. There is just not sufficient funding for them.

Councilwoman Stevenson asked, “Will the fire department be willing to open their financial records to us?”

Kim Hauser, Esq. responded, “Absolutely, they raised last year \$96,000. On average you need \$180,000 to reach just the basic needs. The fundraising part is used to recruit and retain. You need to have some “Fun Money” set aside so the volunteers and their families can have functions. I realize they should be using tax money but they don’t want to use that. The OSHA equipment should be provided by the municipality. These guys work for free.

Councilwoman Barnes stated, “I think everyone sitting here supports our fire departments and would like to do more. Ever since I have been on Council it has been very difficult to know what the budget has been. When you talk about Council doing more, we need to know what have you been doing and what have you been spending? That has been a huge issue through the years, what is your budget?”

Kim Hauser, Esq. responded, “I have been telling them for this open process they have got to show you.”

Councilwoman Wojnar asked, “Is our fire department a 501(c) 3? I know that is something they have been working on for the last 5 years? Has that been accomplished?”

Kim Hauser, Esq. responded, “It has not been completed yet. They had to change their articles which has been done and they are now waiting on the accountant to get the letter back to them. I can tell you once they get the letter its 18 months backwards. People give donations to the fire department all the time. Is it easier to say you’re a 501(c)3, probably.

Councilwoman Wojnar says, “That also opens up their ability to apply for grants.”

Kim Hauser, Esq. responded, “Absolutely, but 501(c)3 has no affect on Federal Grants. They can write for firetrucks and fire stations.

Councilwoman Wojnar, “It will also allow them to apply for things like the Casino that does bingo and they will make \$20,000.”

Kim Hauser, Esq., “But they will also be competing against every other none profit that says we want to have a bingo.”

Councilwoman Wojnar, “But our Medic 10 just got theirs.”

Kim Hauser, Esq., “There are only so much grant money available. They are more than willing to work with anyone to get a grant.

Borough Manager Lesko, “So, are you saying they don’t need a 501(c)3 to get grants for firetrucks and such?”

Kim Hauser, Esq., “Federal Grants you do not, state fire commissioner you do not. They are trying to get those. The bulk of the federal grant money goes to natural disasters.

Councilwoman Stevenson, “What other municipalities in out county have implemented a fire tax?”

Councilwoman Wojnar, “Greensburg”

Mayor Bailey, “Mount Pleasant Township. May I also ask what guidelines are there for the tax. Is there a ceiling or?

Kim Hauser, Esq., “3 million is max. If the Borough wanted to own the title to the truck, they are more than happy to let you.”

Councilwoman Wojnar, “If it does come through the taxes as a fire tax, is that money ear marked for certain projects?”

Solicitor Mlakar, “You can do it different ways.”

Kim Hauser, Esq., “You help guide where it stands. They are ready to talk about it. If tis tax money they have to present it to you.”

Solicitor Mlakar, “The money stays in the municipality. The purchase order comes in and you approve it.”

Kim Hauser, Esq., “You can see whatever you want to see. What’s the value of not having your own volunteers?

Mayor Bailey, “I have heard from numerous people that we as a Borough must provide a fire service.”

Kim Hauser, Esq., “It’s in the statute.”

Mayor Bailey, “So even if these guys close up shop, then it’s our responsibility to find someone to volunteer or be a fire service.”

Kim Hauser, Esq., “We look forward to having more meetings with you, and are open to ideas.”

Borough Manager Lesko, “\$30,000 a mill, our budget now we already provide 3 mill, \$90,000 and we are over that right now. We are at about \$112,000 not including workers comp.

Mayor Bailey, “Do we have any data on what 1 mill could cost an average family?”

Solicitor Mlakar, “It runs anywhere from \$4.80-\$12.50 a year per mill. That is just residential not commercial property.”

Richard Pollogruto, “I would like to thank Council for letting us submit this proposal and we look forward to work with you. Also, I thank you for letting us head the parade for the Glass Festival, it was an honor for us. We also presented a young special needs child with an older helmet of ours. It turned out nice. Thank you.

A motion was made by Councilman Phillabaum for Executive Session regarding personnel and real-estate. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Wojnar. Motion carried 7-0.

Start Time: 7:37 End Time: 7:58

A motion was made by Councilman Phillabaum to reconvene. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Wojnar. Motion carried 7-0.

**Mayor’s Report:** Congratulations Glass Festival Committee.

**Solicitor’s Report:**

- On October 2, 2024 I attended a Tax Assessment Appeal for a Mr. Caruso on a piece of property in the Borough. It had a value of \$426,000 using the county value, his appraisal report showed it being worth \$195,000. So, he is definitely going to get a reduction. This is going to happen more and more, so you better be prepared because the county will send you an assessment for you budget and that is not going to be necessarily accurate. There have been at least 4 tax appeals filled and so substantial reductions, so you are going to lose that money.

**Treasurer’s Report:**

Councilwoman Stevenson gave the following Treasurer’s Report for the month of August 2024:

Mt. Pleasant Borough Treasurer's Report		Jul-24			
		Prev Bal	Deposits	Disbursements	Balance 2024
General Fund Checking	Scottdale Bank 19069335	1,254,091.83	77,291.39	221,586.08	1,109,797.14
General Fund Budgetary Reserve	Standard Bank 321615	1,085,332.25	3,680.81	0.00	1,089,013.06
**Police	48,591.82				
**Streets	148,604.25				
**Contingency Fund	397,438.07				
**Infrastructure	206,588.62				
**Workers Compensation	50,000.00				
**BOMP Gas Wells	27,156.44				
**Frick Park Gas Well	29,927.50				
**Levins	0.00				
**Fire	43,400.00				
**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	36,202.57	447.11	0.00	36,649.68
Escrow Account	Scottdale Bank 19069343	4,663.90	28,574.53	0.00	33,238.43
Liquid Fuels / Scottdale Bank	Scottdale Bank 19123645	184,051.39	742.16	0.00	184,793.55
Monument CD	Standard Bank 446635	7,382.80	376.36	7,759.16	0.00
Monument CD	Mid Penn Bank 318039101	7,759.16	0.00	0.00	7,759.16
Payroll Fund	Scottdale Bank 19069350	26,651.35	54,532.13	77,549.37	3,634.11
Veterans Park Fund	Somerset Trust Co 2003058309	25,925.46	452.46	0.00	26,377.92
Veterans Military Banners Fund	Somerset Trust Co 2004522337	727.01	2,400.25	700.00	2,427.26
Storm Water Retrofit Phase II	Scottdale Bank 19069368	1,294.14	5.22	0.00	1,299.36
ARPA Covid-19 (American Rescue Plan)	Scottdale Bank 19123652	263,552.75	1,062.73	0.00	264,615.48
Standard Bank CD	Standard Bank 432243	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Scottdale Bank /MidPenn CD	Mid Penn Bank 318039102	233,991.26	0.00	0.00	233,991.26
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					3,101,367.29
Medic 10 Checking	Scottdale Bank 19069533	357,597.53	73,742.97	68,414.46	362,926.04
Medic 10 Savings	Scottdale Bank 19069723	60,202.20	242.76	0.00	60,444.96
Medic 10 Pittsburgh Foundation	Standard Bank 0000358253	12,225.47	41.46	0.00	12,266.93
Medic 10 - 501(c)(3)	Scottdale Bank 19145689	2,460.87	2,389.44	0.00	4,850.31
Medic 10 CD	Standard Bank 371917	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Medic 10 CD	Mid Penn Bank 318039082	20,518.30	0.00	0.00	20,518.30
Medic 10 CD	Mid Penn Bank 318023688	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Medic 10 CD	Mid Penn Bank 318038116	5,593.84	0.00	0.00	5,593.84
Total Medic 10 Fund Balance					466,600.38
WWT Capital Reserve Account	Scottdale Bank - 19123702	911,869.36	3,676.96	0.00	915,546.32
Capital Reserve M. A. Savings Acct	Somerset Trust Co 2004521230	486,397.56	1,520.19	0.00	487,917.75
Scottdale Bank /MidPenn CD WWT Cap.	Scottdale Bank 318015215	201,034.05	0.00	201,034.05	0.00
Scottdale Bank /MidPenn CD WWT Cap.	Scottdale Bank 318016303	0.00	201,034.05	0.00	201,034.05
American National (9/5/2023)	Scottdale Bank - MidPenn	3,048,217.31	0.00	0.00	3,048,217.31
American National (9/5/2023)	Mid Penn Bank - Scottdale Bank	518,594.74	0.00	0.00	518,594.74
Total WWT Balance					5,171,310.17
Total Borough funds					8,739,277.84
Councilwoman Cynthia Stevenson / Secretary Sharon Lesko					

A Motion was made by Councilwoman Lasko to accept the August 2024 Treasurer’s Report. Motion seconded by Councilman Davis. Motion carried 7-0.

Tax Collector’s Report:               None.

**Borough Manager’s Report:**

Borough Manager Lesko stated that everyone has received a copy of her report and asked if anyone has any questions or comments. There were no questions or comments. A copy of the report is attached.

Solicitor Mlakar, “There has been an on-going issue with the Little League Team. The Borough owns the buildings and there was a break. We need the key; they still haven’t given us one. The water authority wants to come in and put a meter and start billing us. I called the President twice, left messages and never heard back. A woman who is not an officer, who runs the concession stand, has been in here giving Sharon grief. I told Sharon to cut the lock and put our padlock on, they can get the key from us. The women had the Little League then cut our lock off that night and put another padlock on. I sent the lease to them; they have an attorney who told them the Borough owns the property and are entitled to access the building. They also have a second door to the stand that they have another lock on, so we need keys for both. They have known for over a year that we need a key. I looked at the March meeting minutes and it was specifically told to

them we need the keys to get in to there. The website doesn't even list the names of the officers or when their meetings are.

A Motion was made by Councilman Phillabaum to accept the Borough Managers Report. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Lasko. Motion carried 7-0.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Wojnar to authorize Solicitor to draft a purchasing procedure for the Borough. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Lasko. Motion carried 7-0.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Lasko to approve Resolution No. 2024-11 approving the Timothy Dorsch Subdivision Plan. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Stevenson. Motion carries 7-0.

**President's Report:** None.

**Property Report:**

- Borough Manager Lesko says, "We submitted the grant for the 3<sup>rd</sup> Ward Fire Station Apron and a Generator through the CDBG Grant.

A Motion was made by Councilwoman Stevenson to approve the Property Report as submitted by Councilman Barrick. Motion seconded by councilwoman Wojnar. Motion carried 7-0.

A Motion was made by Councilwoman Stevenson to approve the proposal from A&M Paint and Home Improvement to install the remaining flooring and a vanity in the Police Station at a cost of \$2,400.00. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Lasko. Motion carried 7-0.

A Motion was made by Councilwoman Stevenson to ratify the Scope of Services Agreement with Hunt Valley Environmental, LLC in developing and implementing a plan to rehabilitate the concrete apron at 3<sup>rd</sup> Ward Fire Station for the CDBG Grant and to authorize the Borough Manager to execute the agreement. Motion seconded by Councilman David. Motion carried 7-0.

A Motion was made by Councilwoman Stevenson to approve the Scope of Services Agreement with Ulery Architect at a cost of \$1,950.00 in developing and implementing a plan to rehabilitate the Street Department Salt Shed for LSA (Local Share Assessment) Grant and to authorize the Borough Manager to execute the agreement. Motion seconded by Councilman Davis. Motion carried 7-0.

A Motion was made by Councilwoman Stevenson to approve the Scope of Services Agreement with Ulery Architect as a cost of \$9,750.00 in developing and implementing a plan to oversee the bidding and replacement of the Medic 10 roof due to storm damages and to authorize the Borough Manager to execute the agreement. Motion seconded by Councilman Davis. Motion carried 7-0.

A Motion was made by Councilwoman Stevenson to approve the Scope of Services Agreement with Ulery Architect as a cost of \$1,950.00 regarding Central Fire Station and to authorize the Borough Manager to execute the agreement. Motion seconded by Councilman Davis. Motion carried 7-0.

**Streets / Stormwater Report:**

Council President Ruszkowski stated that everyone has received a copy of her report and asked if anyone has any questions or comments. There were no questions or comments. A copy of the report is attached.

A Motion was made by Councilman Phillabaum to approve the street department/stormwater report submitted by Council President Ruszkowski. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Stevenson. Motion carried 7-0.

A motion was made by Councilman Phillabaum to accept the MS4 Pollutant Reduction Agreement at a cost of \$11,500.00 with Gibson Thomas Engineering and authorize the Borough

Manager to execute the Agreement. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Wojnar. Motion carried 7-0.

A Motion was made by Councilman Phillabaum to approve the additional cost of \$800.00 for the installation of a hydraulic pump from J&L Truck & Body, LLC on the 2019 Ford dump truck to assist with lifting the bed when salting. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Wojnar. Motion carried 7-0.

### **Parks & Recreation:**

A Motion was made by Councilwoman Lasko to approve the Parks & Recreation report submitted by Councilwoman Lasko. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Stevenson. Motion carried 7-0.

### **Public Safety Report:**

Councilman Phillabaum stated that everyone has received a copy of his report and asked if anyone has any questions or comments. There were no questions or comments. A copy of the report is attached.

A Motion was made by Councilman Phillabaum to approve the public safety report that he submitted. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Wojnar. Motion carried 7-0.

A motion was made by Councilman Phillabaum to enter into a 5yr agreement to purchase 2 Taser units, includes software, taser cartridges and updates over the 5yr period at a total cost of \$9,750.00 or by monthly payment of \$162.42 for 5 yrs. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Wojnar. Motion carried 7-0.

### **Veterans Park:**

Councilwoman Barnes stated that everyone has received a copy of her report and asked if anyone has any questions or comments. There were no questions or comments. A copy of the report is attached.

A Motion was made by Councilwoman Barnes to approve the Veterans Park report as submitted by Councilwoman Barnes. Motion seconded by Councilman Phillabaum. Motion carried 7-0.

- There will be a meeting soon to talk about the upcoming Veterans Event. We will be figuring out what we will do if it happens to rain that day.

A Motion was made by Councilwoman Barnes to approve proposal from Mt. Pleasant Mine Service for the fabrication of an aluminum handrail in the amount of \$805.00 to be installed by Hudec Contracting at no cost to the Borough. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Lasko. Motion carried 7-0.

- Councilwoman Barnes, "I spoke with Council President Ruszkowski this morning and was telling her, I know I get accused of not liking the Glass Festival, but I love the Glass Festival and I hope it stays for years to come. I did ask her if there was a possibility the committee could give something back to Mt. Pleasant Borough. I get asked by many people all the time you tell me Mt. Pleasant does not own the Glass Festival, well then where does the money go. I tell the ask the committee. It's a good thing I like the Glass Festival I want it to continue. One of the possibilities that came up was since they use Washington Street, repave the street because it needs repaved. I do not know how much it would cost.  
Councilwoman Wojnar responded, "You are welcome to come to a Glass Festival meeting and we can explain to you the financials and we really spend a lot of money back on the bands. Borough Manager said, "Toys for kids, and breast cancer awareness."  
Councilwoman Barnes says, "Yes you spend six figures back on them."  
Council President Ruszkowski responds, "Look we have done things for the parks, park play equipment, gave money for the truck at the street department, we have a list, but you are welcomed to come to any meeting. We are always looking for volunteers to help on the committee.  
Councilwoman Wojnar, "You become a voting member to say what we do with the funds."

Councilwoman Barnes, “I will let the people asking know that. That’s good.”

Council President Ruszkowski, “As of 2016, that is when the Borough severed ties with the Glass Festival, so here it is not a Borough issue. The people asking please come to a meeting or reach out to us.”

Councilwoman Wojnar, “There are less than 10 people on the committee and they do a lot.”

Councilman Phillabaum, “I talked to people who helped with the tear down and they were there still tearing down after midnight. These people asking questions are welcomed to come and help.”

Mayor Bailey, “Well you know that’s not going to happen, but I want to make a suggestion. Maybe the Glass Festival Committee can publish a list of what they give back to the community.”

Councilwoman Wojnar, “This is all business that will be discussed at a Glass Festival Meeting and we invite everyone to come.”

Councilwoman Barnes, “They are not coming, but what I’m saying is important.

Councilwoman Stevenson, “That is a double-edged sword though. You publish a list and people start asking well why didn’t I get any money, why didn’t you donate to me?”

“Here’s the problem, we are not the Glass Festival Committee.”

Councilwoman Barnes, “You guys do a fantastic job.”

**Ordinances:** None.

Councilman Davis stated that everyone has received a copy of his report and asked if anyone has any questions or comments. There were no questions or comments. A copy of the report is attached.

A Motion was made by Councilman Davis to approve Ordinance No. 666 repealing and replacing Chapter 13 – Permits, Licenses, and General Requirements for Businesses in the Borough of Mount Pleasant. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Stevenson. Motion carried 7-0.

**Human Resources:** None.

#### **Events Report:**

- I attended the September 11<sup>th</sup> event and it was well attended. I would like to recommend doing it again next year.
- I also attended the Glass Festival, much better year than last year.
- We will be having a meeting about the Veteran’s Day Parade and the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Doughboy on October 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2024 at 6:00 P.M.

A Motion was made by Councilwoman Wojnar to approve the Events report as submitted by Councilwoman Wojnar. Motion carried 7-0.

#### **Finance / Grants Report:**

Councilwoman Stevenson stated that everyone has received a copy of her report, and asked if anyone has any questions or comments. There were no questions or comments. A copy of her report is attached.

A Motion was made by Councilwoman Stevenson to approve the Finance report that she submitted. Motion seconded by Councilman Davis. Motion carried 7-0.

**New Business:** None.

#### **Reading of Communications:**

Borough Manager Lesko read the following communications:

- Westmoreland County Borough Association Dinner Meeting October 24, 2024.



- Go Laurel Highlands, November 8<sup>th</sup>, 2024, they are hosting at the Westmoreland Community College, there America's 250<sup>th</sup> Summit. \$20 a person.

**Discussion and Payment of Bills:**

A Motion was made by Councilwoman Stevenson to pay all authorized and approved bills. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Lasko. Motion carried 7-0.

**Mayor/Council Comment: None.**

**Miscellaneous and Adjournment:**

A Motion was made by Councilwoman Lasko to adjourn the meeting. Motion seconded by Councilman Phillabaum. Motion carried 7-0.

**Meeting Adjourned 8:39pm.**

Respectfully Submitted,

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Kenzie Whipkey  
Borough Secretary

BOROUGH OF MOUNT PLEASANT

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Susan Ruszkowski, Council President

**October 7, 2024  
Committee Reports**

Committee Reports  
October 7, 2024

**Mayors Report:** No report submitted.

**Presidents Report:** No report submitted.

**BOROUGH MANAGER REPORT**

Met with Solicitor Mlakar, Solicitor Hewitt, Len Dellera, Mt. Pleasant Township and East Huntingdon Township regarding possible joint agreement for Code Officer / Zoning Officer

Met with Mayor Diane Bailey, Council President Ruszkowski and Joe Zelenak regarding the 9/11 ceremony.

Meeting with Mayor Bailey, Council President Ruszkowski, and Council Vice President Phillabaum with the Fire Department and Police Department

Attended Safety Meeting with Mayor Bailey, Street Department, VFD, Police Department and Medic 10. Topic: When you least expect it... Lessons Learned

Met w/Justin Snyder of Tremco Products Re: Salesman

Meet w/Daynelle Sanner of Mt. Pleasant BDA and Police Chief George Grippo regarding changing route for Breast Cancer Run/Walk.

Phone conversations w/Solicitor Mlakar Re: ECHO Housing Program; Proposals regarding the 3<sup>rd</sup> Ward Fire Station, Central Fire Station and Street Department Salt Building.

Meeting with Little League regarding Lease Agreement, keys to buildings and water line break.

Discussions with Dee Ankney re: 21 Cooks Way – Occupancy Permit Requirements.  
Discussions with Josh Bukovac, K2 Engineering RE: 21 Cooks Way

Discussions with Mike Barrick regarding grant for 3<sup>rd</sup> Ward Fire Station.

**PROPERTY REPORT:**

Several items came up in September. The Borough is moving on an LSA Grant application. To better plan for the value requested in the grant the Borough had Ulery Architecture to assist in developing a cost estimate for the grant application. UA visited two properties in the Borough. They looked at the Salt Shed at the Borough Street Crew Maintenance Yard. UA will develop an estimate for the grant application. improvements include building siding, lighting, garage doors and openers, gutter and downspouts.

Ulery Architecture was asked to look at the Medic 10 building. They were asked to provide a price to the Borough to assist with the roof replacement project. They would detail plans, assist in bidding the project and provide a cost estimate and also inspect the roof replacement project.

UA also visited the central fire station to help put together a list of items for repairs and improvements with the building. This list will come back to the Borough. The Property Committee will need to work with the Fireman building Committee to develop a priority list.

The Borough Manager was working with a roofing contractor to have the repairs completed on the Central Fire Station. An Estimate was provided to the borough to replace the roof of the central fire station. Due to the price the project, we will need to get three (3) telephone quotes.

The Borough contracted with Hunt Valley Environmental for assistance with a CDBG Grant application for fire station apron replacement at the Washington and Center Avenue fire station. Also in the application was the replacement of the emergency generator. The Borough had HVE assist with the development of the CDBG grant. The Application required plans and estimates. which had to be submitted by September 30, 2024. The grant application was completed and submitted by the Borough Manager.

Submitted by Mike Barrick, Chairman

#### **STREETS / STORMWATER REPORT:**

We cut tree down and weed whacked at the property beside McLoy dentistry

We put up banners, got barricades and detour signs, blocked streets off in preparation for the glass festival.

Painted curbs at Penn Park area, Center Ave, Washington St and Hitchman St, and around the Ramsey school and Visitation church

We got our trucks inspected

#### **PARKS & RECREATION REPORT:**

Streets department in October will begin installing the new equipment at Medic 10, Jack Bobbs, and Satcho Parks purchased earlier this year.

When Streets Department begins paving next year, they will pave a parking area at Satcho Park.

Submitted by Diana Lasko, Chairwoman

#### **Veterans Park Committee:**

**Ordinance Committee:** No report submitted.

#### **PUBLIC SAFETY REPORT:**

On 9/5/24 along with Council President Susan, Mayor Bailey, we met with both the Police Department and Fire Department officers. The meeting went well. Personnel was discussed as well as general issues both departments are facing.

Jackie McCall from the elections bureau followed up with Sharon, Zach Gergas, and Medic 10. The elections bureau has successfully moved the Third Ward elections to Medic 10. This will provide better parking and ADA accommodations for the residents of Third Ward when they go to vote.

On 9/26/24 Attended the WCBA meeting in Greensburg. Go Laurel Highlands America 250 handed out literature. A brief presentation was given. On November 8 from 9-3 at the Westmoreland County Community College another presentation will be held by this committee which I plan on attending. Dawn from the committee will be giving a similar presentation at the October Somerset PSAB that I will be attending also. Mount Pleasant is promoting heavily from this organization. Jim Pillsbury of Westmoreland Conservation District was the featured speaker. Jim is always very informative. Anytime Mr. Pillsbury is giving a presentation, it is always worth attending. The 2025 Spring/Summer conference will be held in Hershey from June 1st-4th. The next Westmoreland County PSAB meeting is 10/24/24 will be held at Hoss's in Greensburg. Somerset PSAB next meeting will be held at Rizzo's in Windber on 10/17/24 for any other member of council that maybe interested in attending, please let me know soon so we can get you registered. As the Borough Rep, Westmoreland County 1st Vice President & Somerset County 2nd Vice President, I do plan on attending the summer/spring conference. Encourage any other interested member of council to do the same.

On 9/29/24 the fire work operator unfortunately dealt with harassment from local residents. Upon hearing this, I responded to the scene. Informed the operator to call 911 if this occurs again and we will do our best going forward to make sure they can operate in peace. Any resident attempting to block or harass them in the future will be prosecuted to the fullest.

While at the Somerset County Boroughs Association I will follow up with potential speakers for the 2025 9/11 event held at the gazebo. This year's event went very well. Received nothing but compliments from all those that attended. Was honored to be the Master of Ceremony for the event. All those that participated handled themselves well and did a fantastic job.

As a member of the Glass Festival Committee as well as Council, along with other members that hold dual positions like myself I mentioned we should consider offering up parking spaces in the parking lots the borough recently taken over from the Parking Authority that dissolved. The "PNC" lot as well as the "Levin's lot" would be ideal to give parking to residents that live on Washington street that face difficulties during the weekend.

Submitted by Kenneth Phillabaum, Chairman

**Human Resources Committee:     None.**

**Events Committee:   None.**

**Finance Committee:**

Treasurer's Report for July1 - 31, 2024  
Total Borough funds = \$ 8,739,277.84

Cynthia Stevenson, Chairwoman

Mount Pleasant Borough Council Meeting (10/7/2024)  
Medic 10 Report

Call Volume Statistics

<b>Total Calls - 216</b>	<b>Wheelchair Van Trips - 105</b>	<b>Missed Calls - 12</b>
Transports - 161		
Refusals - 16		
Standbys - 16		
Cancelled - 15		
Lift Assists - 8		

**Sport Standbys (September) - 37**  
**Total Incidents (September) - 358**

2024 (Year to Date)	2023	Difference
Total Calls - 2,110	Total Calls - 1,982	128
Wheelchair Van Trips - 672	Wheelchair Van Trips - 239	433
<b>Total Incidents - 2,782</b>	<b>Total Incidents - 2,221</b>	<b>561</b>

Community Events

Medical Standby / First Aid (Glass Festival) - 9/27 thru 9/29  
Trunk or Treat (Harmon House) - 10/24 6PM to 8PM  
Toy Drive 11/1 - 12/9  
Jam a Van Toy Drive (Helltown Brewery) 11/17 11AM to 5PM

Grants / Donations

Approved by Live! Casino for a Drop Box Drive or Bingo Night for monetary donation <sup>Jan 27<sup>th</sup>, 2025</sup>  
Received \$6,400 as donation for broken/outdated stretchers  
2024-2025 OSFC Grant submitted for \$15,000 (LUCAS Device)

Staffing

New Hires  
    Michael Puskarich (EMT)  
    Shawn Santore (Paramedic)

Respectfully Submitted  
Zachary Gergas,  
Director of Operations



Fire Report – October 7, 2024 meeting

FIRE REPORT	
TOTAL CALLS-- SEPTEMBER	41
IN TOWN	9
OUT OF TOWN	32
10-45'S	15
ENTRAPMENT	2
PHYSICAL RESCUE	2
VEHICLE / PED	2
FIRES	12
AFA'S	6
HAZARDOUS CALLS	3
AMBULANCE ASSIST	1
STANDBY'S	
LANDING ZONES	
DRILLS	
PUBLIC SERVICE CALLS	
TURNPIKE CALLS	1
TOTAL MEMBERS ANSWERING	378
AVG. MEMBER PER CALL	9
TOTAL CALLS 2023 AT THIS TIME	349
CALLS SO FAR THIS YEAR	442
WE ARE 45 CALLS AHEAD OF LAST YEAR	

Veterans Park Advisory Committee Meeting  
September 27, 2024

Agenda:

1. Old Business
2. Landscaping
3. Sandymire

Meeting:

1. Old Business:

A. Lights on the mural:

Mayor Bailey contacted Mr. Krystiniak about putting up solar lights. He consented and suggested we put them up high. Commander Joe Zelenak will visit Louie to find out about solar lights. She will check with Susan Ryzhoucki about using the bucket truck to put the lights up.

B. Veterans Day Events:

Joe will contact Cindy Wojnar about the next meeting and how the Veterans Day Program will move smoothly.

Patience will invite Mr. Malik Sunford (Artist) to come and make remarks.

C. Lights at Veterans Wall:

The final conclusion is that we would be best to focus on the current "in ground" lights and get / replace them with the best quality light. Joe gave the number for David Trout who does this type of lights. His number is 412-601-1416.

D. Railing:

This is on the agenda for approval at October's meeting. Borough council received a copy of the bid and seemed favorable to this being done. The cost is \$805.00.

2. Landscaping:

Patience pointed out that landscaping needs to be done at Veterans Park. Old plants need to be pulled up and new ones put in with new mulch.

3. Sandjimer:

Mr. Sandjimer is ready to engrave the "end date" for the war of 1812 on the base of the Dougherty statue. He will need the help of the Streets Department to control traffic.



### **Motions from Meeting of October 7, 2024**

A Motion was made by Councilwoman Stevenson to approve the regular meeting minutes of September 3, 2024 since Council has been provided with a copy. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Lasko. Motion carried 7-0.

A Motion was made by Councilman Phillabaum for Executive Session regarding personnel and real-estate. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Wojnar. Motion carried 7-0.  
Start Time: 7:37 End Time: 7:58

A Motion was made by Councilman Phillabaum to reconvene. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Wojnar. Motion carried 7-0.

A Motion was made by Councilwoman Lasko to accept the August 2024 Treasurer's Report. Motion seconded by Councilman Davis. Motion carried 7-0.

A Motion was made by Councilman Phillabaum to accept the Borough Managers Report. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Lasko. Motion carried 7-0.

A Motion was made by Councilwoman Wojnar to authorize Solicitor to draft a purchasing procedure for the Borough. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Lasko. Motion carried 7-0.

A Motion was made by Councilwoman Lasko to approve Resolution No. 2024-11 approving the Timothy Dorsch Subdivision Plan. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Stevenson. Motion carries 7-0.

A Motion was made by Councilwoman Stevenson to approve the Property Report as submitted by Councilman Barrick. Motion seconded by councilwoman Wojnar. Motion carried 7-0.

A Motion was made by Councilwoman Stevenson to approve the proposal from A&M Paint and Home Improvement to install the remaining flooring and a vanity in the Police Station at a cost of \$2,400.00. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Lasko. Motion carried 7-0.

A Motion was made by Councilwoman Stevenson to ratify the Scope of Services Agreement with Hunt Valley Environmental, LLC in developing and implementing a plan to rehabilitate the concrete apron at 3<sup>rd</sup> Ward Fire Station for the CDBG Grant and to authorize the Borough Manager to execute the agreement. Motion seconded by Councilman David. Motion carried 7-0.

A Motion was made by Councilwoman Stevenson to approve the Scope of Services Agreement with Ulery Architect at a cost of \$1,950.00 in developing and implementing a plan to rehabilitate the Street Department Salt Shed for LSA (Local Share Assessment) Grant and to authorize the Borough Manager to execute the agreement. Motion seconded by Councilman Davis. Motion carried 7-0.

A Motion was made by Councilwoman Stevenson to approve the Scope of Services Agreement with Ulery Architect as a cost of \$9,750.00 in developing and implementing a plan to oversee the bidding and replacement of the Medic 10 roof due to storm damages and to authorize the Borough Manager to execute the agreement. Motion seconded by Councilman Davis. Motion carried 7-0.

A Motion was made by Councilwoman Stevenson to approve the Scope of Services Agreement with Ulery Architect as a cost of \$1,950.00 regarding Central Fire Station and to authorize the Borough Manager to execute the agreement. Motion seconded by Councilman Davis. Motion carried 7-0.

A Motion was made by Councilman Phillabaum to approve the street department/stormwater report submitted by Council President Ruszkowski. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Stevenson. Motion carried 7-0.

A Motion was made by Councilman Phillabaum to accept the MS4 Pollutant Reduction Agreement at a cost of \$11,500.00 with Gibson Thomas Engineering and authorize the Borough Manager to execute the Agreement. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Wojnar. Motion carried 7-0.

A Motion was made by Councilman Phillabaum to approve the additional cost of \$800.00 for the installation of a hydraulic pump from J&L Truck & Body, LLC on the 2019 Ford dump truck to assist with lifting the bed when salting. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Wojnar. Motion carried 7-0.

A Motion was made by Councilwoman Lasko to approve the Parks & Recreation report submitted by Councilwoman Lasko. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Stevenson. Motion carried 7-0.

A Motion was made by Councilman Phillabaum to approve the public safety report that he submitted. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Wojnar. Motion carried 7-0.

A Motion was made by Councilman Phillabaum to enter into a 5yr agreement to purchase 2 Taser units, includes software, taser cartridges and updates over the 5yr period at a total cost of \$9,750.00 or by monthly payment of \$162.42 for 5 yrs. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Wojnar. Motion carried 7-0.

A Motion was made by Councilwoman Barnes to approve the Veterans Park report as submitted by Councilwoman Barnes. Motion seconded by Councilman Phillabaum. Motion carried 7-0.

A Motion was made by Councilwoman Barnes to approve proposal from Mt. Pleasant Mine Service for the fabrication of an aluminum handrail in the amount of \$805.00 to be installed by Hudec Contracting at no cost to the Borough. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Lasko. Motion carried 7-0.

A Motion was made by Councilman Davis to approve Ordinance No. 666 repealing and replacing Chapter 13 – Permits, Licenses, and General Requirements for Businesses in the Borough of Mount Pleasant. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Stevenson. Motion carried 7-0.

A Motion was made by Councilwoman Wojnar to approve the Events report as submitted by Councilwoman Wojnar. Motion carried 7-0.

A Motion was made by Councilwoman Stevenson to approve the Finance report that she submitted. Motion seconded by Councilman Davis. Motion carried 7-0.

A Motion was made by Councilwoman Stevenson to pay all authorized and approved bills. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Lasko. Motion carried 7-0.

A Motion was made by Councilwoman Lasko to adjourn the meeting. Motion seconded by Councilman Phillabaum. Motion carried 7-0.