

Meeting October 21, 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 Barrick, Lasko, Stevenson, Davis, Barnes, Czekanski, Wojnar, and Phillabaum. Mayor Bailey was present. Solicitor Mlakar and Solicitor Leechalk were not present. President Ruszkowski stated that a quorum is present.

A Motion was made by Councilwoman Stevenson to approve the regular meeting minutes of October 7, 2024 since Council has been provided with a copy. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Lasko. Motion carried 9-0.

Medic 10 Report: None.

Fire Department Report: None.

Public Comment: Cherri Rogers – Running for PA House Representative (Invited by Diana Lasko)

“I’m running Ms. Cherri Rogers and I’m the one that hopes to be your next representative to the Pennsylvania State House of Representatives. Just a little background about myself, I would love to stand up here and do like the speech, but I just don’t think that’s appropriate for this room. I think it’s more important that you get to know that I live right across the hill in Scottdale, and I was born in a union household. My husband is a union member and I myself is a union member, but it took me over 30 years of nursing and 4 years as a school nurse, so that’s how I became a union member. So, I’m pretty enthusiastic about knowing that that kind of up ringing allows me to know what it’s like to work hard, and nobody gets anything without working hard. I think that is a big advantage of what I can bring to the table. Besides being a nurse for over 30 years, I have a Masters Degree in Nursing and in the next few weeks I will have my final for my Doctorate Degree in Education. It has been a long road because I went back for my Bachelors Degree as an adult. So, as an adult I worked full time to finish that on my Masters and then on to my Doctorate. So, I do all of this while still working, I’m actually still working as a school nurse, so I do work all day and I do my best to do my writing at night. Of course, I’m door knocking or forming a team to door knock, but I actually starting into this whole politics idea, I ran for Borough Council in Scottdale. If you remember there was a story on Channel 11 that the candidates tied, well that was me, I had to go to the court house, pull out a marble from the bottle, I lost my marble that day. But, with my Doctorate Degree that’s what I wanted to do, I actually I wanted to work for a Legislature so I could bring my education and my knowledge and my expertise to the table. To do some kind of good work. So, my friend, you know were leaving the court house and she says well why don’t you run for the seat against Eric Davanzo? I started laughing and said I just lost one please. So, I thought about it when I got home and discussed this with my husband because you know he’s been carrying the load since I’ve been going back to school, and I said I think I want to do this. He said so tell me one thing, you just lost an election, you just lost your marble, right? I’m like yeah. He says have you lost the rest of them? Yes, I have. But, looking at all of it, I mean I took all of that what I have learned when I ran for council about what we need as neighbors and you can just leave your party train at the door, because when it comes down to whether it’s in a room like this or even when I’m in Harrisburg. When I’m in Harrisburg I was thinking positive. It still matters what goes on here. I have talked to people from both sides of the isle. I have put myself in the uncomfortable situations where you don’t usually find someone of the Democratic Party that would be willing to you know kind of go into, but if I can’t do that now, I am not going to that then. So, I’m going to continue to work together and I want to continue to hear from everybody no matter what party you belong to because it matters what happens here in our neighborhood and that’s where we have to do first. I need to do the work for everybody.”

Council President Ruszkowski, “I don’t want to stop you but there’s a 3-minute limit.”

Cherri Rogers: “Oh no, you’re good. Oh okay. Usually, I don’t go over 3 minutes I don’t like to. But yes, thank you and I am really excited because when I can get into this job, I will be your alli. I want to know what you need please. Please tell me.”

Councilwoman Lasko, “Full disclosure, I invited Cherri here tonight. I didn’t know if anybody knew that. We have always, this Borough Council has always had a close working relationship with our State Representatives and I feel that that’s important. So, I wanted Council to have the opportunity to meet Cherri and if you had any questions for her, I just wanted you all to have that opportunity.”

Cherri Rogers, “And if you don’t mind if I just sort of sit in the back and take notes of kind of what’s going on in the neighborhood and then if you have any questions afterward.”

Speakers: **None.**

Mayor’s Report: **None.**

Solicitor’s Report: **None.**

Treasurer’s Report:

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

Mt. Pleasant Borough Treasurer’s Report		Sep-24				
		Prev Bal	Deposits	Disbursements	Balance 2024	Balance 2023
General Fund Checking	Scottdale Bank 19069335	1,094,307.88	126,408.61	102,140.89	1,118,575.60	1,514,633.16
General Fund Budgetary Reserve	Standard Bank 321615	1,092,706.35	3,586.08	0.00	1,096,292.43	1,016,383.27
**Police	48,591.82					
**Streets	148,604.25					
**Contingency Fund	404,717.44					
**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	37,197.64	221.17	0.00	37,418.81	30,835.44
Escrow Account	Scottdale Bank 19069343	53,064.05	201.00	0.00	53,265.05	4,495.23
Liquid Fuels / Scottdale Bank	Scottdale Bank 19123645	185,470.96	702.55	0.00	186,173.51	60,741.56
Monument CD	Standard Bank 446635	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	7,382.80
Monument CD	Mid Penn Bank 318039101	7,759.16	0.00	0.00	7,759.16	
Payroll Fund	Scottdale Bank 19069350	3,660.06	50,917.56	50,882.58	3,695.04	2,913.28
Veterans Park Fund	Somerset Trust Co 2003058309	26,530.39	2.39	0.00	26,532.78	25,401.92
Veterans Military Banners Fund	Somerset Trust Co 2004522337	2,777.52	0.25		2,777.77	1,874.94
Storm Water Retrofit Phase II	Scottdale Bank 19069368	1,304.12	4.94	0.00	1,309.06	1,247.35
ARPA Covid-19 (American Resuce Plan)	Scottdale Bank 19123652	265,585.50	1,006.02	0.00	266,591.52	452,691.58
Standard Bank CD	Standard Bank 432243	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	215,254.60
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	53,527.71
Standard Bank CD (200yr Anniversary)	Standard Bank 6677418044	54,243.17	0.00	0.00	54,243.17	54,243.17
Total General Fund Balance					3,142,152.87	3,441,626.01
Medic 10 Checking	Scottdale Bank 19069533	372,120.95	84,806.86	76,965.46	379,962.35	232,970.59
Medic 10 Savings	Scottdale Bank 19069723	60,666.54	229.80	0.00	60,896.34	58,025.06
Medic 10 Pittsburgh Foundation	Standard Bank 0000358253	12,308.53	40.39	0.00	12,348.92	10,816.93
Medic 10 - 501(c)(3)	Scottdale Bank 19145689	4,868.09	18.44	0.00	4,886.53	250.97
Medic 10 CD	Standard Bank 371917	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	19,458.71
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	5,269.88
Medic 10 CD	Mid Penn Bank 318038116	5,593.84	0.00	0.00	5,593.84	
Total Medic 10 Fund Balance					484,206.28	326,792.14
WWT Capital Reserve Account	Scottdale Bank - 19123702	918,902.49	3,480.75	0.00	922,383.24	887,833.16
Capital Reserve M. A. Savings Acct	Somerset Trust Co 2004521230	489,442.69	1,477.69	0.00	490,920.38	471,722.27
Scottdale Bank /MidPenn CD WWT Cap.	Scottdale Bank 318015215	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	201,508.38
Scottdale Bank /MidPenn CD WWT Cap.	Scottdale Bank 318016303	201,034.05	0.00	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	3,088,600.02
American National (9/5/2023)	Mid Penn Bank - Scottdale Bank	518,594.74	0.00	0.00	518,594.74	514,605.11
Total WWT Balance					5,181,149.72	5,164,268.94
Total Borough funds					8,807,508.87	8,932,687.09
Councilwoman Cynthia Stevenson / Secretary Sharon Lesko						

A Motion was made by Councilwoman Lasko to accept the September 2024 Treasurer’s Report. Motion seconded by Councilman Phillabaum. Motion carried 9-0.

Tax Collector’s Report: **None.**

Borough Manager's Report:

- “The Headless Horseman” will be coming to the Halloween Parade this year.
- Trick or Treat will be on Sunday October 27, 2024 from 2-4 P.M.
- The Halloween Parade will be held on Wednesday October 30, 2024 at 7 P.M.
- Solicitor Mlakar and the Borough Manager Lesko have been working on the new grass cutting bid packet for 2025.
- Electrical Bids for Veterans Park and Gazebo came in on Friday.

President's Report: None.

Property Report:

- Councilman Barrick asked if the Borough would be willing to cut the rain gardens at Auction Pittsburgh Property. Councilwoman Stevenson was against this due to this being private property so it has nothing to do with the Borough.

A Motion was made by Councilman Barrick to approve the hire real estate appraiser Gary L. Ciarimboli and approve the proposal of \$650.00 to appraise the Borough property located at 213 W. Main Street, Tax Map No. 21-02-03-0-248. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Stevenson. Motion carried 9-0.

A Motion was made by Councilman Barrick to accept the bid proposal from JB Mechanical, Inc. in the amount of \$37,963.00 for the Veterans Park / Gazebo Electrical Project. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Wojnar. Motion carried 9-0.

- Councilman Barrick announced this was our second time bidding this and Friday Borough Manager Lesko opened the bids and JB Mechanical came in at the lowest bid.

Streets / Stormwater Report:

- Street Department has begun putting up the playground equipment.

Parks & Recreation:

A Motion was made by Councilwoman Lasko to advertise for bids for Grass Cutting/Snow Removal from December 7, 2024 to December 7, 2025. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Stevenson. Motion carried 9-0.

- Councilwoman Lasko asked if the fireworks had been moved to a new location for the Glass Festival. Councilman Phillabaum responded that he walked around and took pictures showing there was no debris or complaints. The move was a success.

Public Safety Report:

A Motion was made by Councilman Phillabaum to approve the 2024-2025 Westmoreland Co Transit Agreement in the amount of \$1,785.00. Motion seconded by Councilman Davis. Motion carried 9-0.

Mayor Bailey states, “I got an email from one of our handicap residents who had paid for their handicap spot, they have their placard from their doctor, and the spot is marked with a sign and the curb is painted. Of course, someone else with a placard is parking there. I know this was brought to this council before to try and find a solution that people who pay for those spots actually are the ones who get to use them. So, I’m just asking if there is something that can be done.

Councilman Davis asked, “Where is this at?”

Mayor Bailey, “This complaint is on Diamond Street. This most recent one. I think it is the neighbor.”

Councilwoman Stevenson asked, “Has anyone tried asking the neighbors if they could get their own handicap parking spot?”

Councilman Phillabaum, “So, what we need to do look into is if we can get another handicap parking spot down that way, and the other person needs to pay for it?”

Mayor Bailey, “True, but I don’t know who the other person is, I just got the email the other day.”

Councilman Barrick, “Maybe we should make it an annual fee and they get a number, and that number gets put on their sign. This way when they die the sign and the permit goes away.”

Councilwoman Stevenson, “This would require a whole ordinance change.”

Borough Manager Lesko, “So who’s responsible for keeping track of all of the signs and the collection of fees?”

Mayor Bailey, “I believe that that’s a police job. They are the ones who are going to get the calls and the ones who will have to see if the numbers match the sign.”

Councilman Phillabaum, “So, we’ll start with Les and then I’ll report back at the next meeting.”

Veterans Park:

- We have 9 new banners that will be getting put up. If the street department can get those up when they come in.
- We need help cleaning them, we have a lot of them. If you know of anyone who would be willing to help, please give us a call.
- Meeting with the events committee on October 23, 2024 to talk about Veterans Day.

Ordinances: None.

A Motion was made by Councilman Davis to approve Solicitor Mlakar to prepare an Ordinance regarding Municipal Claims. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Wojnar. Motion carried 9-0.

A Motion was made by Councilman Davis to approve Solicitor Mlakar to prepare an Ordinance amending Chapter 5 – Code Enforcement and repealing Chapter 25 – Trees. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Stevenson. Motion carried 9-0.

Human Resources: None.

Events Report: None.

Finance / Grants Report:

New Business: None.

Reading of Communications:

Borough Manager Lesko read the following communications:

- The Mount Pleasant Area Wrestling Parents Club requested a sponsor, which we do not do.

Discussion and Payment of Bills:

A Motion was made by Councilwoman Stevenson to pay all authorized and approved bills. Motion seconded by Councilman Davis. Motion carried 9-0.

Mayor/Council Comment: None.

Miscellaneous and Adjournment:

A Motion was made by Councilman Phillabaum to adjourn the meeting. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Wojnar. Motion carried 9-0.

Meeting Adjourned 7:41pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kenzie Whipkey
Borough Secretary

BOROUGH OF MOUNT PLEASANT

Susan Ruszkowski, Council President

Motions from Meeting of October 21, 2024

A Motion was made by Councilwoman Stevenson to approve the regular meeting minutes of October 7, 2024 since Council has been provided with a copy. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Lasko. Motion carried 9-0.

A Motion was made by Councilwoman Lasko to accept the September 2024 Treasurer's Report. Motion seconded by Councilman Phillabaum. Motion carried 9-0.

A Motion was made by Councilman Barrick to approve the hire real estate appraiser Gary L. Ciarimboli and approve the proposal of \$650.00 to appraise the Borough property located at 213 W. Main Street, Tax Map No. 21-02-03-0-248. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Stevenson. Motion carried 9-0.

A Motion was made by Councilman Barrick to accept the bid proposal from JB Mechanical, Inc. in the amount of \$37,963.00 for the Veterans Park / Gazebo Electrical Project. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Wojnar. Motion carried 9-0.

A Motion was made by Councilwoman Lasko to advertise for bids for Grass Cutting/Snow Removal from December 7, 2024 to December 7, 2025. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Stevenson. Motion carried 9-0.

A Motion was made by Councilman Phillabaum to approve the 2024-2025 Westmoreland Co Transit Agreement in the amount of \$1,785.00. Motion seconded by Councilman Davis. Motion carried 9-0.

A Motion was made by Councilman Davis to approve Solicitor Mlakar to prepare an Ordinance regarding Municipal Claims. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Wojnar. Motion carried 9-0.

A Motion was made by Councilman Davis to approve Solicitor Mlakar to prepare an Ordinance amending Chapter 5 – Code Enforcement and repealing Chapter 25 – Trees. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Stevenson. Motion carried 9-0.

A Motion was made by Councilwoman Stevenson to pay all authorized and approved bills. Motion seconded by Councilman Davis. Motion carried 9-0.

A Motion was made by Councilman Phillabaum to adjourn the meeting. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Wojnar. Motion carried 9-0.