

Meeting November 4, 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 present. President Ruszkowski stated that a quorum is present.

A Motion was made by Councilman Phillabaum to approve the regular meeting minutes of October 21, 2024 since Council has been provided with a copy. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Lasko. Motion carried 9-0.

Medic 10 Report: Attached Attached.

Fire Department Report: None.

Public Comment: Neil Como, 212 College Avenue. He started by mentioning the float in the parade.

Solicitor Mlakar: He wanted to remind everyone the float was in a parade that was sponsored by the Volunteer Fire Department. The Borough has no control over them, they are a separate entity on their own. To be sure there was no problem, Mlakar had Chief of Police contact the Attorney General's Office of PA and the Assistant Attorney General informed him he saw no hate crime. You need to voice your opinion to the fire department.

Theresa Duchess, 195 Wynfield Drive. She also commented on the float.

Solicitor Mlakar: Once again reminded everyone that this was not sponsored by the Borough.

Theresa Duchess: She was asked to be here for the 15-minute parking on church street. Is that enforceable by anyone. It causes problems for the businesses when people park there all day.

Councilman Phillabaum said he had conversations about that.

Solicitor Mlakar said we can address that with the chief.

Theresa Duchess: She mentioned a domestic incident that is not something to be discussed at a meeting.

Speakers: None.

A Motion was made by Councilwoman Phillabaum for Executive Session regarding real-estate. Motion seconded by Councilman Davis. Motion carried 9-0.

Start Time: 7:11 End Time: 7:40

Mayor's Report: Police Report See Attached

Solicitor's Report: None.

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.

A Motion was made by Councilwoman Lasko to accept the Borough Managers Report. Motion seconded by Councilman Davis. Motion carried 9-0.

President's Report: None.

Property Report:

A Motion was made by Councilman Barrick to authorize Solicitor to prepare a petition to the Court of Common Pleas of Westmoreland County for the purpose of seeking approval for the sale of Tax Map No. 21-02-03-0-248 located of East Main Street in the Borough of Mt. Pleasant, and any proceeds derived from the sale will be placed in the Parks and Recreational Fund. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Lasko. Motion carried 9-0.

- Medic 10 roof is advertised. Ulery Architect is taking care of that.
- Electrical bids came in and the low bid seems good.

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 Councilman Davis. Motion carried 9-0.

Parks & Recreation:

Councilwoman Lasko did not have a report, but wanted to thank Senator Ward and Representative Davanzo for helping get the SLSA Grant, as well as Sharon for all her hard work.

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 9-0.

Veterans Park:

- Mr. Sandzimier did put 1812 on the Dough Boy.
- We do have 9 banners still coming.
- Anyone who would be interested in helping clean the banners please reach out.

Ordinances: None.

A Motion was made by Councilman Davis to advertise Ordinance No. 668 Adding Chapter 14 – Municipal Claims. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Czekanski. Motion carried 9-0.

A Motion was made by Councilman Davis to advertise Ordinance No. 669 amending Chapter 5 – Code Enforcement and repealing Chapter 25 - Trees. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Lasko. Motion carried 9-0.

Human Resources: None.

A Motion was made by Councilwoman Czekanski to negotiate a revised contract with Chief of Police. Motion seconded by Councilman Phillabaum. Motion carried 9-0.

Events Report: None.

- We had a meeting for the 100th Anniversary of the Dough Boy.

Finance / Grants Report: None.

A Motion was made by Councilwoman Stevenson to advertise the 2025 Budgets for General Fund, Liquid Fuels, and Medic 10. Motion seconded by Councilman Davis. Motion carried 9-0.

A Motion was made by Councilman Barrick to authorize the Solicitor to prepare Ordinance increasing tax millage to 2 mil and to advertise Ordinance. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Stevenson. Motion carried 9-0.

New Business: None.

Reading of Communications:

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 Councilman Davis. Motion carried 9-0.

Meeting Adjourned 8:07pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kenzie Whipkey
Borough Secretary

BOROUGH OF MOUNT PLEASANT

Susan Ruszkowski, Council President

**November 4, 2024
Committee Reports**

BOROUGH MANAGER REPORT

- Would like to thank Senator Kim Ward and Representative Eric Davanzo for their support with the SLISA Grant for the Frick Park Hillside Project and for the Street Sweeper. The grants total approximately \$593,000.00
- Met with Events Committee regarding the Doughboy Anniversary
- Met with Finance Committee regarding the Fire Department Budget
- Met with Bob Regola regarding award of the Frick Park Hillside Grant and the Street Sweeper Grant and proposed SLISA Grant of salt shed, streambank stabilization and pollution reduction
- Various phone conversations w/Solicitor Mlakar regarding Borough issues
- Met w/Police Chief Grippo Re Handicap Parking issues and other parking issues
- Fielded many calls and email regarding Halloween Parade

STREETS / STORMWATER

We put park equipment in at Medic10 park and Satcho

We fixed the rope lights and the street lights on Main Street

We put a new stop sign and pole in at the intersection of North Silver street and North Diamond Street

We patched pot holes on our streets

We burned our big pile of brush that we had in our compost area

We are in the middle of cleaning up our compost area

We put the leave truck together and started picking up leaves on Monday and Friday

We fixed a drain at the corner of college ave and Washington Street

We cut grass at the parks and properties at the beginning of the month

We put garbage cans at the gazebo and put barricades out for the breast cancer awareness run

We put barricades out for the Halloween parade and picked them back up

PUBLIC SAFETY

Here is my monthly report for 11/4/24 meeting

Police Chief George Grippo and I in the very near future plan on going thru town and side streets to follow up on suggestions brought to us from residents and other council members in regards to parking. During this process, we will review the parking ordinance and make suggestions based on our findings.

Police Chief Grippo and I followed up on a parking issue on Cherry Ave involving orange cones left on the street from a resident. The resident was informed they are not permitted to obstruct parking or traffic with the cones. The issue appears to be resolved.

Have received multiple inquiries about handicapped parking in areas where there is no handicapped parking provided. Multiple businesses have expressed a need for a spot on Church Street. Have had discussions with my committee on this matter. From my observation, it would serve the businesses on that part of church street to have at least one handicapped parking spot.

Meet with Zach Gergas of Medic 10 about preparation for the upcoming Presidential Election that will be held at Medic 10 for the first time and follow up on Medic 10. Zach is doing a wonderful job with Medic 10 and deserves all the praise he receives.

Somerset County PSAB report from

10/17/24

Dawn Lamuth gave a presentation on behalf of Go Laurel Highlands America 250. This presentation was similar to the presentation Dawn gave at the September Westmoreland County PSAB meeting.

PSAB is encouraging Boroughs to participate in the Junior Council Person Program. This was a topic pushed heavily at the fall conference.

Here are notes I took from Boroughs that submitted a report

Boswell - made mention signage used on State Roads/Routes can be obtained from PennDOT at no cost. Also mentioned they are trying to take the fall festival they recently started to the next level. Encouraged them to reach out to the Glass Festival here in Mount Pleasant for pointers and or assistance.

Meyersdale - is celebrating 150 years. Part of this celebration will feature a time capsule the community will put together. Events committee could consider doing something similar.

Shanksville - mentioned the Veteran's banner project. At the Veteran's Wall Committee meeting, Councilwoman Patience Barnes and I proposed holding an event before the banners go up where we offer all families of those pictured on banners to stop in town on a date to be determined later where the families can get pictures with the banners. Donations raised from this event could be used to assist with future projects and upkeep of Veteran's Park.

Somerset - Similar to most boroughs, reported they still have vacant spots on their Police Force open. When this topic came up, most Boroughs with a Police force shared the same issue. It was mentioned also that Friedens Fire Company and Somerset merged. Cost and participation was the driving force behind this merger.

Windber - EMS merging with Conemaugh / Winder/ Scalp consolidating. This will help with coverage in these areas.

On behalf of Mount Pleasant, I reported upcoming events we have coming up. Some of which have passed since. Welcoming all of the participants in the meeting to come down and join us. Noted that we will be including honoring the Doughboy Statue at the center of town turns 100 on November 11, 2024.

Boroughs were encouraged to look into Pennvest loans for Pipe/Water Projects.

House Bill 2265 passed earlier that day. The cap went up on what Mayors and Council can be paid. Council would have to vote on this for it to increase, which wouldn't go into effect until the next council took office.

911 towers are up and running after receiving upgrades.

Pat Stefano - reported on Solar Ordinances. Overarching zoning ordinance. Boroughs & Townships are encouraged to include bonding for removal. Don't want to be left high and dry down the road.

Elections for officers was held; I was retained as 2nd Vice President along with Michael Thomas Mayor of Windber as 1st Vice President, and Fredric Rosemeyer President.

The next meeting and the 2025 schedule will be determined later this year.

Westmoreland County PSAB

10/24/24

Councilwoman Patience Barnes and I participated in the Westmoreland County PSAB meeting held on 10/24/24.

Scott Palmquest (Youngwood Borough) was appointed 2nd Vice President. Joining myself (1st Vice President) and Andy Pinskey of Scottsdale who serves as President of Westmoreland County PSAB.

Reported on the Somerset County PSAB meeting as well as events we have going on here in Mount Pleasant.

Natalie Resse of Westmoreland Cleanways and Recycling gave a presentation. Councilwoman Barnes brought back literature from the meeting to share with council. Boroughs are encouraged to sign the declaration to join Keep America Clean. DEP requires 90 days' notice after form is filled out for clean-up days for communities wanting to participate in a community clean-up day or days.

Trafford and Irwin are ahead of the curve on the Junior Council Program. Councilman Wojnar in the past, and current Councilwoman Cindy Wojnar have mentioned this in previous meetings over the years. If we want to participate we should reach out to them.

LSA Grants (State and Casino) were discussed for a good portion of the meeting. Everyone sharing stories of success and falling short from years past. The consensus is to be aggressive, and don't stop!

June 1st-4th, 2025 will be the Spring/Summer conference. Which I plan on attending and encourage other council members to consider doing the same if available.

Next meeting is scheduled for March 27th, 2024. Currently planned to be held at Hoss's.

Council Report

Met with the events committee on 10/23/24 to discuss the 100th anniversary of the Doughboy Statue.

Met with the Coke and Coal Trail Committee on 10/22/24 to discuss the Comedy Night Fundraiser which I assisted with and attended on 11/2/24.

Met on 10/31/24 with the Veteran's wall committee

-discussed holding an event for those interested in having their pictures taken with the Banners featuring family and loved ones.

Looking to meet with Little League to address issues mentioned from previous meetings.

Received complaints about residents not cleaning up after they're Dogs. Encouraging all residents to please do so. We do have an ordinance that addresses this matter.

Want to congratulate the Mount Pleasant Vikings High School Varsity & Junior Football Teams. All 4 teams made the playoffs. The Division II team from the Junior League made the Championship. Finished the season in 2nd Place after coming up short 6-0 in a game that came down to the last few seconds.

Would like to close with thanking Councilman Davis for joining me in support of the Borough as Mayor Bailey spoke on behalf of the Borough in regard to the shocking and disturbing events that took place at the Halloween Parade. Fire Department President Rich Pologruto and Mayor

Diane Bailey represented the Borough well at the press conference and would like to thank them publicly for doing so.

Thank You,
Kenneth L. Phillabaum

Borough of Mount Pleasant Council Report

November 4, 2024

Call Volume Statistics (October 1 - October 31)

Total Calls - 234	Missed Calls - 10
Transports - 170	
Refusals - 10	
Lift Assists - 6	
Standby - 18	
DOA - 1	
Canceled Response - 29	
Wheelchair Van Trips - 105	
Sport Standby - 15	
 Total Incidents - 354	

Year to Date	2023	Difference
Total Calls - 2,344	Total Calls - 2,204	(140)
Wheelchair Van Trips - 777	Wheelchair Van - 283	(494)
Sport Standbys - 63		

Community Events

- Toy Drive - November 1 to December 9
- Jam a Van (Helltown) - November 17 Noon to 5:00 PM

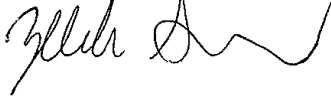
Fundraising

- Bingo at Live! Casino - January 27 2025 Starts at 7:00 PM

Employment

- Two (2) new hires starting
- Two (2) interviews next week

Respectfully Submitted,
Zachary Gergas
Director of Operations
Mount Pleasant Medic 10



Motions from Meeting of November 4, 2024

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