

## **Meeting December 2, 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 Barnes, Czekanski, Wojnar, Phillabaum, Barrick, Stevenson, and Davis. 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 November 18, 2024 since Council has been provided with a copy. Motion seconded by Councilman Phillabaum. Motion carried 8-0.

**Medic 10 Report:** See attached.

**Fire Department Report:** See attached.

**Public Comment:** None.

**Speakers:** None.

**Mayor's Report:** None.

"The Nativity Light Up had a pretty decent crowd for the temperature. We are off and running with the Christmas season."

### **Solicitor's Report:**

Solicitor Mlakar gave the following report:

"We received the deed from the Chamber of Commerce relinquishing their interest in the parking lots that the parking authority gave to the Boro. I'll have Sharon and the President sign it and I will record that this week and then we can proceed to close down the parking authority."

### **Treasurer's Report:**

A Motion was made by Councilwoman Stevenson to approve October 2024 Treasurers Report. Motion seconded by Councilman Phillabaum. Motion carried 8-0.

**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.

A Motion was made by Councilwoman Stevenson to accept the Borough Managers Report. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Wojnar. Motion carried 8-0.

### **President's Report:**

A Motion was made by Councilwoman Stevenson to enter into an Agreement with the Chief of Police for a term of 4 years commencing January 2025 through December 31, 2028. Existing Contract shall be amended as follows:

Paragraph B-3 shall be amended to require 6 months' notice of resignation.

Commencing January 1, 2025 thru December 31  
He shall receive the following compensation:

January 1, 2025 through December 31, 2025 \$75,712.42

January 1, 2026 through December 31, 2026 \$77,983.79

January 1, 2027 through December 31, 2027 \$80,323.30

January 1, 2028 through December 31, 2028 \$82,733.00

Paragraph F-2 Sick Days shall be amended to read as follows:

- a. When the employee is ill and unable to attend to his duties, Employee shall be entitled to sick days as follows:

January 1, 2025 through December 31, 2025 eleven (11) sick days

January 1, 2026 through December 31, 2026 twelve (12) sick days

January 1, 2027 through December 31, 2027 thirteen (13) sick days

January 1, 2028 through December 31, 2028 fourteen (14) sick days

F(b) amended to delete the following language “However, employee may not take more than ten sick days per year to use.”

#### G-Personal Days

(1) Amended as follows:

January 1, 2025 through December 31, 2025 six (6) personal days

January 1, 2026 through December 31, 2026 seven (7) personal days

January 1, 2027 through December 31, 2027 eight (8) personal days

January 1, 2028 through December 31, 2028 nine (9) personal days

And Authorize Solicitor to prepare amendments to contract and any revisions that may be inconsistent herewith. This contract will become effective January 1, 2025. Motion was seconded by Councilman Phillabaum. Motion carried 8-0.

Councilman Barrick: “How many days can you incur for the sick days and will we be responsible for.”

Solicitor Mlakar: “Theres no cap.”

A Motion was made by Councilwoman Stevenson to approve 2025 Council Meeting Schedule and advertise. Motion seconded by Councilman Phillabaum. Motion carried 8-0.

A Motion was made by Councilwoman Stevenson to approve 2025 Holiday Schedule. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Czekanski. Motion carried 8-0.

A Motion was made by Councilwoman Stevenson to allow free meter parking on Main Street from December 3, 2024 through January 2, 2025. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Wojnar. Motion carried 8-0.

#### Property Report:

Councilman Barrick 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 Barrick to approve the property report as submitted by Councilman Barrick. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Stevenson. Motion carried 8-0.

**Streets / Stormwater Report:       None.**

A Motion was made by Councilman Davis to reinstitute parking on South Church Street in accordance with Section 15-401 (appendix 15-III A) including by adding 2 meters, one of which will be handicap parking space taking into consideration safe turning requirements. Motion seconded by Councilman Phillabaum. Motion carried 8-0.

**Parks & Recreation:               None.**

**Public Safety Report:**

Councilman Phillabaum 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 property report as submitted by Councilman Phillabaum. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Wojnar. Motion carried 8-0.

A Motion was made by Councilman Phillabaum to hire Jonathan Bradford as a part-time officer at the part-time rate of \$20.00 per hour pending background check and physical. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Wojnar. Motion carried 8-0.

Councilman Davis: “Where’s Jonathan from?”

Councilman Phillabaum: “He’s worked here in the past. I know most recently he still works with the Deputy Sheriffs. I see him at the Magistrate a lot. He was working with Irwin and now he is back out our way. He was here until 2018 or 2019 I believe. I can speak for his he’s pretty good.”

**Veterans Park: None.**

“I got a lot of really good feedback with the past celebration. Especially the Historical Society’s background of the Dough Boy and the wall it was really nice.”

**Ordinances: None.**

A Motion was made by Councilman Davis to adopt Ordinance No. 668 Adding Chapter 14 – Municipal Claims. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Stevenson. Motion carried 8-0.

A Motion was made by Councilman Davis to adopt Ordinance No. 669 amending Chapter 5 – Code Enforcement and repealing Chapter 25 – Trees. Motion seconded by Czekanski. Motion carried 8-0.

A Motion was made by Councilman Davis to table the Motion to authorize Solicitor to prepare Ordinance to repeal Chapter 1, Part 5, Fire Department. Motion seconded by Councilman Barrick. Motion carried 6-0. Council President Ruszkowski and Councilwoman Stevenson were a No.

A Motion was made by Councilman Davis to table the Motion to authorize Solicitor to meet with Fire Department attorney to draft a proposed recognition ordinance. Motion seconded by Councilman Barrick. Motion carried 6-0. Council President Ruszkowski and Councilwoman Stevenson were a No.

**Human Resources: None.**

**Events Report:               None.**

**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 the report is attached.

A Motion was made by Councilwoman Stevenson to approve the finance report as submitted by Councilwoman Stevenson. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Wojnar. Motion carried 8-0.

A Motion was made by Councilwoman Stevenson to adopt the 2025 Budget for General Fund. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Czekanski. Motion carried 8-0.

A Motion was made by Councilwoman Stevenson to adopt the 2025 Budget for Liquid Fuels and Medic 10. Motion seconded by Councilman Davis. Motion carried 8-0.

A Motion was made by Councilwoman Stevenson to approve Resolution No. 2024-13 transferring funds in the amount of \$9,494.00 from Budgetary Reserve Account to General Fund line item 392.01. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Wojnar. Motion carried 8-0.

A Motion to adopt Ordinance No. 2024-670 increasing tax mileage to 19.5. Motion seconded by Councilman Barrick. Motion carried 8-0.

Councilman Barrick, "I would just like to have it clear so the public understands what the mileage rate increase is 2. The average per household was brought up and discussed at the November meeting. It would be around a max of \$30 and a min of \$12. Depending on your home size. Those number can be found on the County Tax Website."

A Motion to authorize Borough Manager Lesko to pay all invoices through December 31, 2024. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Wojnar. Motion carried 8-0.

**New Business:**

Councilwoman Czekanski mention the following events:

- The VFW is having a speaker come for Suicide Prevention on December 10 at 5:00 P.M. at the VFW.
- The VFW is also having a Blood Drive on December 27 at 2:00 P.M.

**Reading of Communications:**       **None.**

**Discussion and Payment of Bills:**

A Motion was made by Councilwoman Stevenson to pay all authorized and approved bills. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Wojnar. Motion carried 8-0.

**Mayor/Council Comment:**

Councilman Phillabaum, "In my report I mention we just passed to increase taxes and what not, we have only been giving the library \$5,000. I know I brought this up 2 weeks ago they are cutting it pretty close and they provide a good service to the community and they work hard. I think we should be giving them the full \$7,500 if not more. I just wanted to put that in and go to bat for them because they deserve it. So, there's my two cents."

Councilman Davis, "I agree with Ken."

Council President Ruszkowski, "If this year you abstained, that form needs to be filled out by the end of the year."

**Miscellaneous and Adjournment:**

A Motion was made by Councilman Phillabaum to adjourn the meeting. Motion seconded by Councilman Davis. Motion carried 8-0.

**Meeting Adjourned 7:25 pm.**

Respectfully Submitted,

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Kenzie Whipkey  
Borough Secretary

BOROUGH OF MOUNT PLEASANT

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Susan Ruszkowski, Council President

## **Motions from Meeting of December 2, 2024**

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November meeting. It would be around a max of \$30 and a min of \$12. Depending on your home size. Those number can be found on the County Tax Website.”

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**Borough of Mount Pleasant  
Council Meeting 12/2/2024  
Mount Pleasant Medic 10 Report**

**Call Volume Logistics**

Total Calls - 215	Missed Calls- 11
Transports - 166	Missed Calls YTD - 105
Refusals - 13	Avg. 9 calls/month
Canceled - 12	
Lift Assist - 11	
Standbys - 10	
D.O.A. - 3	
Wheelchair Van Trips - 75	

**Total Incidents - 290**

2024	2023	Difference
Total Calls - 2,559	2,439	120
Wheelchair Van Trips - 852	352	500
Total Incidents - 3,411	2,791	620

**Staffing**

Shawn Santore - Paramedic (Casual)  
Michael Puskarich - EMT (Casual)  
Mara Ritzel - EMT (Casual)

**Property**

Furnace replaced on 11/19 (Kostyo)

**Subscriptions**

Mailed out today (12/2/2024)

**Toy Drive**

Ending this weekend, did fantastic!

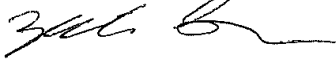
**Fundraising**

Bingo at Live! Casino on 1/27/2025 at 7 PM

**Equipment**

New Ambulance being delivered end of this month  
LUCAS Device ordered. \$15,000 from PA OSFC Grant / \$5,000 from VFW

Zachary Gergas  
Director of Operations  
Mount Pleasant Medic 10



<b>FIRE REPORT</b>	
TOTAL CALLS-- NOVEMBER	50
IN TOWN	20
OUT OF TOWN	30
10-45'S	19
ENTRAPMENT	1
PHYSICAL RESCUE	
VEHICLE / PED	
FIRES	16
AFA'S	7
HAZARDOUS CALLS	3
AMBULANCE ASSIST	2
STANDBY'S	1
LANDING ZONES	2
DRILLS	
PUBLIC SERVICE CALLS	
TURNPIKE CALLS	6
TOTAL MEMBERS ANSWERING	614
AVG. MEMBER PER CALL	12
TOTAL CALLS 2023 AT THIS TIME	496
CALLS SO FAR THIS YEAR	533
<b>WE ARE 37 CALLS AHEAD OF LAST YEAR</b>	

**December 2, 2024  
Committee Reports**

**Borough Manager Report:**

Held Safety Meeting – Topic: Driving in Bad Weather

Held Managers Meeting w/Police Chief Grippo and Jeff McGuinness – Preparing for winter roads and call-outs.

Discussions w/Solicitor and Councilman Phillabaum Re: Parking on South Church Street

Discussions w/Solicitor re: Budget Ordinance, Tax Ordinance, Right to Know Request, Ordinance Part 1, Section 5, National Church Residences of Mount Pleasant Tax Records,

Discussions w/Dakota Bocan of Gibson-Thomas Engineering Re: Finalizing SLISA Grant for MS4 Project.

Discussions w/Greg Asbee Re: Medic 10 Roof Replacement, Notify Insurance Co. of bid.

Meeting w/Council President Ruszkowski Re: Ordinances, Christmas Parade, Street Department – Christmas Decorations, various topics.

Reviewed, Finalized and Submitted the SLISA Grant for the MS4 Project.

**Property Committee Report:**

No New Activity for the November. Just the following

The contractor for the electrical work coordinated with the borough. We are planning on them moving forward with the project.

The roof Contract for the Medic 10 building was let and we had 4 bids and 2 were qualified bidders. Ulery Architecture assisted with the bid. they will be assisting us with inspection and payments.

LSA Grant was written by Gibson Thomas with our input. This grant was submitted by the borough it needed to be submitted by 11/30. The grants funding focused on improvements to the salt shed and maintenance yard, Mapping the Borough storm water system to meet the MS4 requirements and partial planning of streambank stabilization project to meet the MS4 load reduction for the community.

Mike Barrick,  
Committee Chair

**Public Safety Committee Report:**

Met with Solicitor Les & Borough Manager Sharon multiple times over the parking concerns on Church Street.

Police Chief Grippo and I will continue to look into other parking concerns reported to us that are similar to the issue on Church Street and bring recommendations to council.

Had conversations with Les (Solicitor), Safety Committee, Councilman Davis (Active Fireman) as well as residents and other members of the department addressing the Ordinance involving the Chief requirements.

**Council Report**

Attended the Library Board meeting for the month of November. Budget was discussed. Our ordinance calls for giving the library up to \$7500. For over the last 10 years council has been contributing \$5000. It would help the library out if we contributed the full amount. Library is no

different than anything else in the world facing rising costs. Every little bit helps, they provide a good service to the community.

Attended the Veterans Day Parade & 100th anniversary of the Doughboy Statue. The event and presentation were a success.

Attended Light Up night for the Nativity Scene on 12/1/24. Another great turnout for that event.

Picking up the treat bags donated by Somerset Trust Company, located on Main Street in Mount Pleasant that will be given out by Santa Claus at the end of the Christmas Parade on 12/4/24.

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year

Thank You,  
Kenneth L. Phillabaum

### **Finance Committee**

Treasurer's Report for October 2024  
Total Borough funds = \$8,751,202.88

Cynthia Stevenson, Chair