

## Meeting January 3, 2022

The meeting of Mount Pleasant Borough Council was called to order by President Ruszkowski 7:20pm in Council Chambers at 1 Etze Avenue, Mount Pleasant, PA 15666. The Pledge of Allegiance was said and there was a moment of silence for Mayor Gerald “Jerry” Lucia who passed away on December 17, 2021 and for our deployed troops. President Ruszkowski asked Borough Manager Landy to take roll call. Councilpersons present included Barnes, Bailey, Cholock, Phillabaum, Barrick, Lasko, Stevenson and Wojnar. Solicitor Istik was present. President Ruszkowski stated that a quorum is present.

A Motion was made by Councilwoman Stevenson to approve the minutes of December 6, 2021 since Council has been provided with a copy. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Bailey. Motion carried 9-0.

### Public Comment:

- Joseph Bauer, President of the Mount Pleasant Volunteer Fire Department, of N. Geary Street, Mount Pleasant, PA spoke to Council regarding the status of the Fire Department and the loss of members. Mr. Bauer stated that they had a grief counselor come in, there were stand-by units that come in and the donations and support from the community has been incredible due to the loss of Mayor / Fire Chief Gerald “Jerry” Lucia. Mr. Bauer said that it will be hard for the fire department to move on since Jerry has been there for 46 years. The Fire Department has let the Officers, such as Assistant Chief and Captains, step up and take over some of the duties. Mr. Bauer said that the average number of responders on a call is 8 to 9 firefighters and that the fire department is not in jeopardy. The Fire Department is updating rules and regulations along with bylaw changes that need brought up to date and will hope to increase membership by doing so. Mr. Bauer stated that by the beginning of summer there should be some changes. Mr. Bauer also reported that he and Jerry had been working on a recruitment pamphlet and he will continue to work on it. Mr. Bauer stated that fundraising is the number 1 reason that people do not join the fire department. Mr. Bauer thanked Councilman Cholock from the Public Safety Committee for the meetings he held with the fire department. Mr. Bauer stated that either himself or Ryan Brown, Assistant Fire Chief, will attend at least one meeting a month to give an update on the fire department. Mr. Bauer said that he runs the financial end of the fire department and Mr. Brown runs the fire calls and equipment. Mr. Bauer stated that Randy Klimchock is working to obtain a 501(c)(3) for the Fire Department. Once they have that they will be able to file for grants. Mr. Bauer stated that their biggest hurdle coming up are air rigs that are now ten (10) years old. The cost of the air rigs is approximately \$4,000.00 a man to outfit.
- Ryan Brown, Assistant Fire Chief of Mount Pleasant Volunteer Fire Department, spoke to Council regarding the Fire Department. Mr. Brown said that it is going to be hard to adapt and overcome the loss of a great man, Jerry, but they are going to do it and they are all going to stick together and get through it with Council. Mr. Brown will give reports once a month to Council. They do have a lot of outdated equipment that is going to need updated. Moving forward they will get a list together and present it to Council to see what they can work together on to protect the Borough.

Council thanked the Fire Department for sticking together during these difficult times and for all that they do.

### Speakers:

- Chuck Zelenak of CZ Surveying spoke to Council regarding the Pologruto Subdivision. The plan has been reviewed by Les Mlakar, Solicitor for the Mount Pleasant Borough Planning Commission. A portion of the property is in the Borough and a portion is in the Township of Mount Pleasant. Mr. Pologruto is consolidating his property.

A Motion was made by Councilman Cholock to approve the Pologruto Subdivision Plan. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Stevenson. Motion carried 9-0.

**Mayor’s Report:**

A Motion was made by Councilman Wojnar to appoint a mayor to fill a vacancy. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Stevenson. Motion carried 9-0.

Council President Ruszkowski called for nominations for Mayor to fill the vacancy. Councilwoman Stevenson nominated Diane Bailey. Councilman Wojnar nominated Richard “Rico” Cholock.

Solicitor Istik stated that there will be an interview process held and to be fair to each candidate, one will wait out in the hall while the other is being interviewed. Solicitor Istik stated she will record the questions that are asked to the first candidate so the same questions can be asked to the other candidate. Solicitor Istik said that since Diane Bailey was nominated first, they would begin her. Councilman Cholock was asked to step outside. Interviews were conducted.

Solicitor Istik stated that there needed to be a second for the nominations.

A Motion was made by Councilwoman Stevenson to nominate Diane Bailey as the Mayor of Mount Pleasant Borough. Motion seconded by Councilman Phillabaum.

Council President Ruszkowski called for a roll call vote for the nomination of Diane Bailey as the Mayor of Mount Pleasant Borough:

|                        | <u>Diane Bailey</u> |
|------------------------|---------------------|
| Councilwoman Barnes    | No                  |
| Councilman Bailey      | Yes                 |
| Councilman Cholock     | No                  |
| Councilman Phillabaum  | Yes                 |
| Councilman Barrick     | Yes                 |
| Councilwoman Lasko     | Yes                 |
| Councilwoman Stevenson | Yes                 |
| Councilman Wojnar      | No                  |

The vote was 5 Yes and 3 No for the nomination of Councilwoman Diane Bailey for Council Mayor. Councilwoman Bailey was nominated and elected as Mayor by a 5 to 3 vote.

A Motion was made by Councilwoman Stevenson to approve Resolution No. 2022-03 appointing Diane E. Bailey as Mayor. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Lasko. Motion carried 8-1 with Councilman Cholock voted no.

**Solicitor’s Report:**

Solicitor Istik gave the following report:

- Prepared a draft Ordinance regarding Veteran’s Park.
- She has been provided with 2 tax appeals.
- Remainder of report will be in executive session.

**Treasurer’s Report:**

Borough Manager Landy read the following Treasurer’s Report for the month of November 2021:

| <b>Mt. Pleasant Borough Treasurer's Report</b> |                            | <b>Nov-21</b>   |                 |                      | <b>Balance</b> |
|--|----------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|----------------------|----------------|
|  |                            | <b>Prev Bal</b> | <b>Deposits</b> | <b>Disbursements</b> | <b>2021</b>    |
| General Fund Checking                          | Scottdale Bank<br>19069335 | 908,063.65      | 108,631.18      | 104,334.15           | 912,360.68     |
| **Town Clock                                   | 619.92                     |                 |                 |                      |                |
| **Holiday Lighting                             | 1812.51                    |                 |                 |                      |                |
| General Fund Budgetary Reserve                 | Standard<br>Bank 321615    | 1,022,622.86    | 159.71          | 0.00                 | 1,022,782.57   |
| **Police                                       | 52,619.03                  |                 |                 |                      |                |
| **Streets                                      | 147,131.00                 |                 |                 |                      |                |

|  |                                    |              |           |           |                     |
|--|------------------------------------|--------------|-----------|-----------|---------------------|
| **Contingency Fund                       | 310,398.18                         |              |           |           |                     |
| **Infrastructure                         | 181,588.62                         |              |           |           |                     |
| **BOMP Gas Wells                         | 22,958.04                          |              |           |           |                     |
| ** Frick Park Gas Well                   | 20,911.28                          |              |           |           |                     |
| **Levins                                 | 970.06                             |              |           |           |                     |
| **Fire                                   | 48,900.00                          |              |           |           |                     |
| **K-9                                    | 13,828.76                          |              |           |           |                     |
| **Medic 10                               | 200,000.00                         |              |           |           |                     |
| **Marcellus Impact Fee                   |                                    |              |           |           |                     |
| Act 13                                   | 23,477.60                          |              |           |           |                     |
| Police Parking Tickets & Meters          | Scottdale Bank<br>1026616          | 27,433.34    | 1,057.88  | 572.08    | 27,919.14           |
| Escrow Account                           | Scottdale Bank<br>19069343         | 4,400.97     | 0.99      | 0.00      | 4,401.96            |
| Liquid Fuels PLGIT                       | PLGIT<br>56980126                  | 0.00         | 0.00      | 0.00      | 0.00                |
| Liquid Fuels / Scottdale Bank            | Scottdale Bank<br>19123645         | 119,455.36   | 41.89     | 0.00      | 119,497.25          |
| Monument CD                              | Standard Bank<br>446635            | 7,382.80     | 0.00      | 0.00      | 7,382.80            |
| Payroll Fund                             | Scottdale Bank<br>19069350         | 2,780.80     | 44,691.50 | 44,690.48 | 2,781.82            |
| Veterans Park Fund                       | Somerset Trust<br>Co<br>2003058309 | 23,763.36    | 601.19    | 0.00      | 24,364.55           |
| Storm Water Retrofit Phase II            | Scottdale Bank<br>19069368         | 1,221.21     | 0.27      | 0.00      | 1,221.48            |
| Turn Back Account                        | Scottdale Bank<br>19069384         | 24,843.37    | 5.58      | 0.00      | 24,848.95           |
| ARPA Covid-19 (American Resuce Plan Act) | Scottdale Bank<br>19123652         | 221,178.06   | 77.56     | 0.00      | 221,255.62          |
| Standard Bank CD                         | Standard Bank<br>432243            | 215,254.60   | 0.00      | 0.00      | 215,254.60          |
| Standard Bank CD                         | Standard Bank<br>410571            | 0.00         | 0.00      | 0.00      | 0.00                |
| Scottdale/MidPenn CD (200yr Anniversary) | Scottdale Bank<br>318007294        | 52,396.87    | 0.00      | 0.00      | 52,396.87           |
| Scottdale Bank /MidPenn CD               | Scottdale Bank<br>318012650        | 53,527.71    | 0.00      | 0.00      | 53,527.71           |
| <b>Total General Fund Balance</b>        |                                    |              |           |           | <b>2,689,996.00</b> |
| Medic 10 Checking                        | Scottdale Bank<br>19069533         | 107,184.21   | 26,803.11 | 87,613.97 | 46,373.35           |
| Medic 10 Savings                         | Scottdale Bank<br>19069723         | 111,261.47   | 1,023.71  | 11,482.00 | 100,803.18          |
| Medic 10 Money Market                    | Scottdale Bank<br>19069376         | 6,014.05     | 1.35      | 0.00      | 6,015.40            |
| Medic 10 Pittsburgh Foundation           | Standard Bank<br>0000358253        | 8,474.88     | 0.00      | 0.00      | 8,474.88            |
| Medic 10 CD                              | Standard Bank<br>371917            | 19,458.71    | 0.00      | 0.00      | 19,458.71           |
| Medic 10 CD                              | Standard Bank<br>410053            | 5,269.88     | 0.00      | 0.00      | 5,269.88            |
| <b>Total Medic 10 Fund Balance</b>       |                                    |              |           |           | <b>186,395.40</b>   |
| WWT Capital Reserve Account              | Standard Bank<br>0010175932        | 0.00         | 0.00      | 0.00      | 0.00                |
| WWT Capital Reserve Account              | Scottdale Bank<br>- 19123702       | 917,952.92   | 204.94    | 13,423.26 | 904,734.60          |
| Capital Reserve M. A. Account            | Somerset Trust<br>Co 2004129745    | 457,837.54   | 22.58     | 0.00      | 457,860.12          |
| Oceanview Annuity CD                     | Scottdale Bank -<br>MidPenn        | 3,007,516.44 | 0.00      | 0.00      | 3,007,516.44        |
| Standard Bank CD WWT Cap.Resv            | Standard Bank<br>464569            | 200,000.00   | 0.00      | 0.00      | 200,000.00          |
| Athene Annuity CD (created Jan. 2021)    | Somerset Trust                     | 505,313.09   | 0.00      | 0.00      | 505,313.09          |
| Standard Bank CD (Partial MAWC)          | Standard Bank<br>446593            | 0.00         | 0.00      | 0.00      | 0.00                |
| Scottdale Bank /MidPenn CD (MAWC Final)  | Scottdale Bank<br>318011768        | 0.00         | 0.00      | 0.00      | 0.00                |
| <b>Total WWT Balance</b>                 |                                    |              |           |           | <b>5,075,424.25</b> |
| <b>Total Borough funds</b>               |                                    |              |           |           | <b>7,951,815.65</b> |

Councilwoman Diane Bailey / Secretary  
Sharon Lesko

A Motion was made by Councilwoman Stevenson to accept the November 2021 Treasurer's Report as read. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Lasko. Motion carried 8-0.

Councilwoman Barnes asked Council to consider a day for the community to show that the people of the Borough are appreciated. Councilwoman Stevenson stated that some of those things that the Borough does to show the community that they are appreciated is by purchasing a new fire truck. Councilman Wojnar said that they are also rewarded by not raising taxes.

### **Tax Collector's Report:**

Tax Collector Carol Yancosky read the following report for the month of December 2021:

|                    |                  |
|--------------------|------------------|
| Property Taxes     | \$7,085.23       |
| Supplemental Taxes | \$ 0.00          |
| Per Capita Taxes   | <u>\$ 737.00</u> |
| Total Collected    | \$7,822.23       |

### **Borough Manager's Report:**

Borough Manager Landy gave the following report:

- Welcomed Mike Barrick as the new councilman for 3<sup>rd</sup> ward.
- Borough Manager Landy stated that he agrees with Council and all of the sentiments about unity and working together. Borough Manager Landy said that it is what Council does as oppose to what they talk about and that they gave many examples of what Mayor Lucia did, not just the talk, he actually went and did the things he said he was going to do. Therefore, he will be asking many times what would Jerry do.
- Will be preparing a list of goals that Council should consider for 2022. There is also a list of projects from 2021 that was not completed. Borough Manager Landy said that he will try and formulate the goals for the next meeting. Councilman Wojnar requested to have the list before the next meeting so they have time to review them and bring thoughts about them.
- Received a call from Robert Karfelt of South Depot Street regarding parking issues on the street and that parking is permitted only on one side of the street due to it being a narrow street. Councilman Cholock reported that he notified the Police Department of the parking complaint and that he went there himself; and, that at that time there was no cars parked on the wrong side of the street at that time. Borough Manager said that there are a few solutions. The Police can ticket if someone is parked on the wrong side of the street or the Borough can do permit parking like they did on College Avenue. Councilman Wojnar asked about the possibility of towing after so many citations are issued.

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

A Motion was made by Councilman Wojnar to hold an executive session. Motion seconded by Councilman Phillabaum. Motion carried 8-0.

A Motion was made by Councilwoman Stevenson to reconvene. Motion seconded by Councilman Phillabaum. Motion carried 8-0.

Council President Ruszkowski stated that the Executive Session was held from 8:40pm – 9:25pm to discuss personnel and legal issues.

A Motion was made by Councilman Phillabaum to reappoint Leo Wisniewski to the Mount Pleasant Borough Parking Authority for a term of five (5) years expiring December 31, 2026. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Stevenson. Motion carried 8-0.

**Property Report:**

Borough Manager Landy reported that the specs are prepared and ready for the gazebo renovation project and will be handed out.

**Stormwater/ MS4 Report: None.**

**Streets Report:**

Mayor Bailey reported that she has a list of streets for paving that she will be giving to the Council person that will be in charge of streets.

Solicitor Istik stated that once Council President Ruszkowski reorganizes the committees; and, once that is completed Mayor Bailey can meet with them and lead them in the direction that she was going with the street department.

Councilman Cholock asked if we need to advertise for a 2<sup>nd</sup> ward Council person. Solicitor Istik stated that we do need to advertise.

**Parks & Recreation:**

Mayor Bailey stated that she spoke with the Street Department and they have told her that the small playset at Jack Bobb's Park is about on its last leg and that Paul was trying to repair it the best he could. Councilman Phillabaum agreed and stated that it has been in bad shape. Councilwoman Lasko asked if the piece should be removed. Borough Manager Landy stated he will take a look at it.

**Public Safety Report:**

A Motion was made by Councilman Cholock to approve splitting the cost for the purchase of approximately 20 air tanks with the Volunteer Fire Department not to exceed \$65,500.00.

Mayor Bailey reported that she and Borough Manager Landy discussed where the monies for this would come from and the money in budgetary reserve that is earmarked for the fire department only has \$48,900.00 which leaves a short fall of \$16,600.00. The fire department pays a loan payment to the Borough in the amount of \$20,000.00 in April. Mayor Bailey suggested the Borough front the money until they make the payment and at that point reimburse the Borough the short fall amount of \$16,600.00. Councilman Phillabaum stated that these air rigs are a requirement that the fire department must have. Councilman Phillabaum reported that he and Councilman Cholock have reached out to other fire departments regarding this requirement. Mayor Bailey stated that she spoke with Joe Bauer, President of the Fire Department and asked if he received bids for the air rigs and he stated that they have. Mr. Bauer stated that they spoke with two (2) different companies and although one was a little cheaper the quality was not up to par due to the mask fogging and they decided on the better unit. Mayor Bailey stated that it has not been paid yet but it has been ordered and they can have them in a couple weeks if the Borough approves the request. Councilman Cholock stated that the air rigs they have now expire in April; however, they ordered now due to being afraid that they would not receive them in a timely manner. Councilman Cholock also said that the reason they need 20 air rigs is because that every seat in the truck has to be equipped with an air tank whether someone is sitting in that seat or not. Councilwoman Lasko asked if there may be an issue of them not receiving them. Mayor Bailey stated that Mr. Bauer said that the air rigs are sitting at the supplier's facility waiting for notification that the funds are available and they can be sent. Councilman Wojnar stated that Mr. Bauer mentioned applying for grants and asked if that window is too tight to receive a grant for the air rigs. Councilman Cholock stated that it was too tight of a time frame and that they are still waiting for their 501(c)(3) before they can apply for any grants.

Solicitor Istik asked if the \$65,500.00 is the half of the Borough's share. Councilman Cholock stated that it is and that the total cost is \$131,000.00. Solicitor Istik asked how the bidding process was handled. Councilman Cholock was uncertain. Mayor Bailey stated that when she spoke with Mr. Bauer and asked if he received bids, Mr. Bauer stated yes and that they spoke with two (2) different companies. Solicitor Istik stated that she is not against this; however, when you are talking about the high amount of money that they need, they should be bid out and as Borough Council, they should ask to see the bids to be sure it is being done properly.

Councilman Cholock stated that he was given one (1) bid that the fire department received. Councilman Barrick requested that we receive three (3) comparable bids with the same specifications on it. Councilwoman Stevenson that since the air rigs are readily available, we should request the bids. Councilman Cholock made Council aware that if something does happen that the air rigs do get held up and are not here by April, our firemen cannot go into a burning building.

Councilman Barrick asked if the Fire Department has \$131,000.00 in their account that they can purchase the air rigs; and, then come back and ask the Borough. Mayor Bailey stated that Mr. Bauer stated that this would almost clean out their relief association fund and leave them with close to a zero balance. Solicitor Istik suggested tabling the motion until the January 24, 2022, meeting and that Council should ask for proof of the bidding process and provide a copy of the bids since this is a large sum of money that has been requested and that there are guidelines that the Borough must follow as far as spending monies. Mayor Bailey stated again that during her conversation with Mr. Bauer stated that they could have purchased them, but it would have cleaned out their relief association account. Councilwoman Stevenson stated that they should clean out their relief association account, purchase them and then the Borough can decide on reimbursing a share of the cost. Councilman Barrick stated that if the Fire Department can have three (3) bids by the meeting on January 24, 2022, at that point Council could decide. Councilman Cholock stated that the fire department believes that the money in the Borough's Budgetary Reserve Account earmarked for the Fire Department is their money since they pay the Borough. Borough Manager Landy stated that this is incorrect. The money that they pay to the Borough is owed by them to the Borough from a loan. Borough Manager Landy stated that he sets the money aside for their needs and Council must still approve any requests the fire department has.

The Motion failed due to lack of a second.

#### **Veterans Park:**

Councilwoman Barnes gave the following report:

- The digital wall went down. Mayor Bailey sent Rocky Anderson from the Street Department to reboot the system.
- Will be speaking with Mr. Dunn regarding the map for the digital wall.

#### **Human Resources / Ordinances:**

Councilman Wojnar gave the following report:

- Solicitor Istik is drafting an Ordinance regarding Veteran's Park and the gazebo prohibiting skateboards, bikes, scooters, etc.

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

A Motion was made by Councilwoman Lasko to approve Resolution No. 2022-01 setting the 2022 Quarterly Contribution for Non-Uniform Pension at \$3.65 per hour. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Stevenson. Motion carried 8-0.

A Motion was made by Councilwoman Lasko to approve Resolution No. 2022-02 waiving the required Police Pension member contributions for calendar year 2022 only. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Stevenson. Motion carried 8-0.

#### **New Business:**

A Motion was made by Councilwoman Stevenson to amend the agenda to advertise for a 2<sup>nd</sup> Ward Councilperson. Motion seconded by Councilman Phillabaum. Motion carried 8-0.

A Motion was made by Councilwoman Stevenson to advertise for a 2<sup>nd</sup> Ward Councilperson to fill a vacancy. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Lasko. Motion carried 8-0.

**Reading of Communications:**

- Received numerous condolences and cards regarding the loss of Mayor Lucia.
- Received a thank you card from Michael Ruszkowski family regarding the loss of his mother, Mary Ruszkowski.

**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 8-0.

**Public Comment: None.**

**Miscellaneous and Adjournment:**

A Motion was made by Councilwoman Stevenson to adjourn the meeting. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Lasko. Motion carried 8-0.

**Meeting Adjourned 9:49pm.**

Respectfully Submitted,

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Jeffrey A. Landy,  
Borough Manager

BOROUGH OF MOUNT PLEASANT

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Susan Ruszkowski, Council President

### Motions from Meeting of January 3, 2022

A Motion was made by Councilwoman Stevenson to approve the minutes of December 6, 2021 since Council has been provided with a copy. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Bailey. Motion carried 9-0.

A Motion was made by Councilman Cholock to approve the Pologruto Subdivision Plan. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Stevenson. Motion carried 9-0.

A Motion was made by Councilman Wojnar to appoint a mayor to fill a vacancy. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Stevenson. Motion carried 9-0.

A Motion was made by Councilwoman Stevenson to nominate Diane Bailey as the Mayor of Mount Pleasant Borough. Motion seconded by Councilman Phillabaum.

Council President Ruszkowski called for a roll call vote for the nomination of Diane Bailey as the Mayor of Mount Pleasant Borough:

|                        | <u>Diane Bailey</u> |
|------------------------|---------------------|
| Councilwoman Barnes    | No                  |
| Councilman Bailey      | Yes                 |
| Councilman Cholock     | No                  |
| Councilman Phillabaum  | Yes                 |
| Councilman Barrick     | Yes                 |
| Councilwoman Lasko     | Yes                 |
| Councilwoman Stevenson | Yes                 |
| Councilman Wojnar      | No                  |

The vote was 5 Yes and 3 No for the nomination of Councilwoman Diane Bailey for Council Mayor. Councilwoman Bailey was nominated and elected as Mayor by a 5 to 3 vote.

A Motion was made by Councilwoman Stevenson to approve Resolution No. 2022-03 appointing Diane E. Bailey as Mayor. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Lasko. Motion carried 7-1 with Councilman Cholock voted no.

A Motion was made by Councilwoman Stevenson to accept the November 2021 Treasurer's Report as read. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Lasko. Motion carried 8-0.

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

A Motion was made by Councilwoman Stevenson to adjourn the meeting. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Lasko. Motion carried 8-0.