

January 4, 2021

The meeting of Mount Pleasant Borough Council was called to order by President Caruso 7:00pm in Council Chambers at 1 Etze Avenue, Mount Pleasant, PA 15666. The Pledge of Allegiance was said and President Caruso asked for a moment of silence for the anniversary of Pearl Harbor Day and our deployed troops. President Caruso asked Borough Manager Landy to take roll call. Councilpersons present included Barnes, Bailey, Cholock, Phillabaum, Smetak, Lasko, Ruszkowski and Wojnar. Mayor Lucia and Solicitor Istik were present. President Caruso stated that a quorum is present.

A Motion was made by Councilwoman Ruszkowski to approve the minutes of December 7, 2020 since Council has been provided with a copy. Motion seconded by Councilman Cholock. Motion carried 9-0.

Public Comment: None.

Speakers: None.

Mayor's Report:

Mayor Lucia gave the following report:

- 2020 is behind us. We lost our K-9 Officer Gerro.
- Full-time Officer Joseph VanOrd has started.
- Mayor Lucia stated that he had no complaints from citizens and wishes all a Happy and Safe New Year.

Solicitor's Report:

Solicitor Istik gave the following report:

- Received a tax appeal for 2 tax parcels for Charles and Martha Vorrum. The first parcel was appraised in 2019 at \$38,500 and reduced after an appeal to \$34,000. They are asking for 2020 assessment at \$23,610; and, for 2021 an assessment of \$21,480.00. The second property is a second lot and was appraised in 2019 at \$12,900.00 and reduced to \$10,030.00. 2020 they proposed an assessment of \$8,060 and in 2021 \$7,330.00. Solicitor Istik believes the first property is home and second is a parcel since she only has the tax map numbers. Solicitor Istik will leave them with the Borough Manager and he can have Secretary, Sharon Lesko, look up the locations of the property.

Treasurer's Report:

Borough Manager Landy read the following Treasurer's Report for the month of November 2020:

Mt. Pleasant Borough Treasurer's Report		Nov-20			Balance
		Prev Bal	Deposits	Disbursements	2020
General Fund Checking	Scottdale Bank 19069335	1,012,382.78	3,111,652.98	3,129,930.29	994,105.47
**Town Clock	619.92				
**Holiday Lighting	1812.51				
General Fund Budgetary Reserve	Standard Bank 321615	771,541.81	589.13	0.00	772,130.94
**Police	47,619.03				
**Streets	147,131.00				
**Contingency Fund	288,115.31				
**Infrastructure	171,588.62				
**BOMP Gas Wells	22,462.69				

** Frick Park Gas					
Well		23,929.00			
**Levins		970.06			
**Fire		35,000.00			
**K-9		13,828.76			
**Marcellus Impact					
Fee Act 13		21,486.47			
Police Parking Tickets & Meters	Scottdale Bank 1026616	24,499.45	1,520.71	572.08	25,448.08
Escrow Account	Scottdale Bank 19069343	8,376.09	2.85	0.00	8,378.94
Liquid Fuels PLGIT	PLGIT 56980126	143,522.39	1.20	0.00	143,523.59
Monument CD	Standard Bank 446635	7,286.68	0.00	0.00	7,286.68
Payroll Fund	Scottdale Bank 19069350	943.52	52,152.58	52,151.71	944.39
Veterans Park Fund	Somerset Trust Co 2003058309	22,245.14	1.82	0.00	22,246.96
Storm Water Retrofit Phase II	Scottdale Bank 19069368	1,216.43	0.41	0.00	1,216.84
Turn Back Account	Scottdale Bank 19069384	62,860.60	21.36	0.00	62,881.96
Standard Bank CD	Standard Bank	208,875.95	0.00	0.00	208,875.95
Standard Bank CD	Standard Bank 410571	52,120.89	0.00	0.00	52,120.89
Scottdale Bank /MidPenn CD	Scottdale Bank 318007294	50,983.85	0.00	0.00	50,983.85
Total General Fund Balance					2,350,144.54
Medic 10 Checking	Scottdale Bank 19069533	44,059.91	24,270.49	2,280.43	66,049.97
Medic 10 Savings	Scottdale Bank 19069723	123,749.60	1,042.36	0.00	124,791.96
Medic 10 Money Market	Scottdale Bank 19069376	5,990.43	2.04	0.00	5,992.47
Medic 10 Pittsburgh Foundation	Standard Bank 0000358253	7,546.94	0.00	0.00	7,546.94
Medic 10 CD	Standard Bank 371917	18,992.22	0.00	0.00	18,992.22
Medic 10 CD	Standard Bank 410053	5,199.37	0.00	0.00	5,199.37
Total Medic 10 Fund Balance					228,572.93
WWT Operational Acct	Standard Bank 0010175932	1,326,293.68	21,124.57	10,058.83	1,337,359.42
WWT Savings	Standard Bank 0050021008	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
WWT Budgetary Reserve	Standard Bank 0000287245	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
**Contingency		0.00			
**Infrastructure		0.00			
WWT Bio-Tower	Standard Bank 10127923	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Capital Reserve M. A. Account	Somerset Trust Co 2004129745	69,587.64	880,436.80	22.63	950,001.81
Oceanview Annuity CD	Scottdale Bank - MidPenn	0.00	3,000,000.00	0.00	3,000,000.00
Standard Bank CD (Partial MAWC)	Standard Bank 446593	1,500,000.00	2,764.17	1,502,764.17	0.00
Scottdale Bank /MidPenn CD (MAWC Final)	Scottdale Bank 318011768	1,500,000.00	1,263.70	1,501,263.70	0.00
Total WWT Balance					5,287,361.23
Total Borough funds					7,866,078.70

Councilwoman Susan Ruszkowski / Secretary
Sharon Lesko

A Motion was made by Councilman Wojnar to accept the Treasurer's Report as read. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Bailey. Motion carried 9-0.

Tax Collector's Report:

Borough Manager Landy read the following report for the month of December 2020:

Property Taxes	\$ 8,754.46
Supplemental Taxes	\$ 15.93

Per Capita Taxes	\$ 814.00
Total Collected	\$ 9,584.39

Borough Manager's Report:

Borough Manager gave the following report:

- Purchased a \$500,000.00 annuity through Somerset Trust with an interest rate of 1.45% for 3 years.
- Gazebo Refurbishment and Chambers upgrade monies are sitting in the Capital funds at Somerset Trust.
- Moved \$200,000.00 into Medic 10 from The Waste Water Treatment Capital Reserve account at Standard Bank and purchased a \$200,000.00 CD for 18months at 5% interest. The monies for the music on Main Street, digital sign, public restrooms and the building addition for the Street Department is still sitting in the WWT Capital Reserve Account.
- Met with Mike Barrick and Jim from Jacobs Creek Watershed Association regarding the Cook's Way Project. There is a grant available in the amount of \$150,000.00. The grant will not pay for benches and light poles. Borough Manager Landy stated that there is a way to get sponsors for those. The waterway from Main Street to what used to be Cooks is where the project will take place. The project has to be completed this year. The last invoice must be paid by June 30, 2021 so the project will move quickly.
- Held the employee Christmas party. Employees thanked Council for the party along with the Covid Bonus.
- Attended the Shop with a Cop at Walmart with Councilman Phillabaum. Officer Olivia Harschell represented the Borough.
- Spent time at Veterans Park by the gazebo area. There is a tree on the corner that is a hazard and should be removed and replaced.
- The Borough Planning Commission Ordinance has not been updated since 1950's. Our Planning Commission Solicitor, Les Mlakar, said that he would update it based on other municipal ordinances that he has done. Borough Manager Landy stated that since he is going to be the solicitor for the planning commission he should be the person to update it.
- Gibson Thomas Engineering Co Inc. is the company we use for the MS4. They also sent a fee schedule for their services. It should be reviewed. Councilwoman Wojnar remembers switching to Gibson Thomas Engineering when the Borough first had stormwater issues and they were extremely helpful. Borough Manager Landy stated that we have used several engineers in the past. Councilman Wojnar stated that he believes that Gibson Thomas Engineering Co has been consistent with providing what is needed.
- PSAB has new requirements for phone bids and sealed bids. The minimum purchase amount that requires advertisement for sealed bids will increase from \$21,000.00 to \$21,300.00. In addition, the minimum purchase amount for telephone quotes will increase from \$11,300.00 to \$11,500.00.
- Borough Manager Landy reminded Council that the Borough employees will continue to work the abbreviated schedule through the month of January.

President's Report:

Council President reported that they will continue to meet once a month until further notice. The next meeting will be on February 1, 2021.

Council President Caruso read a letter from the Mount Pleasant Parking Authority requesting Council to reappoint Joe Horrell to the Parking Authority.

A Motion was made by Councilman Phillabaum to reappoint Joe Horrell to the Mount Pleasant Borough Parking Authority for a term of five (5) years expiring on 12/31/2025. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Bailey. Motion carried 9-0.

Council President handed out new Council Committees. Council President Caruso stated he will be contacting each committee chair personally to discuss the past year and upcoming things for the committees.

Property Report:

Councilman Smetak gave the following report:

- On December 12, 2020, Borough Manager Landy, Councilwoman Barnes, Councilwoman Bailey, Councilman Phillabaum, Councilwoman Ruszkowski and Councilman Smetak went to Ligonier to look at their gazebo and get ideas. Got some great ideas; however, the Borough does not have the budget that Ligonier had. Did like the benches, lighting, landscaping and stone work would serve well at our gazebo. Councilman Smetak would like to meet with Council at the Borough Gazebo before the next Council meeting to get their ideas together. One idea was to stone the skirt and Councilman Smetak will bring samples for that. Councilman Smetak will be sending out an email with a date and time to meet at the gazebo. Borough Manager Landy gave Councilman Smetak a proposal from K&R Racing for the sandblasting and powder coating.

Council President Caruso asked if we heard any information on the fire department apron. Borough Manager Landy stated that we have been awarded the grant from CDBG. Councilwoman Bailey stated that we will need to get the bid package together. Borough Manager Landy stated that we did have an engineer draw up the specs and we will have that engineer put the final bid package together.

Stormwater/ MS4 Report:

Borough Manager Landy is going to schedule an appointment with Gibson Thomas Engineering to meet with Councilman Phillabaum and anyone on the committee if they would like.

Streets Report:

Councilwoman Bailey gave the following report:

- Street Department did an awesome job during the last snowfall. Councilman Wojnar and Councilman Cholock both reached out to the street department to let them know that they did a great job.
- Had a few issues with some of the trucks. There was a transmission leak on the red truck that was purchased from East Huntingdon Township. Potoka repaired it and it was back in service quickly. There was a plow issue on the gold truck. Levendowski come to the site, assessed it as a broken wire and repaired it. Had an issue with the white truck and the new plow that is on it. It was an issue of not having the right part when the plow was initially installed.
- Councilman Wojnar stated that his wife works in Greensburg and that she said with this snowfall, the best roads that she has seen was our Borough roads. Councilwoman Bailey said that she would gladly let the guys know and to keep up the good work.

Parks & Recreation: **None.**

Public Safety Report:

Councilman Cholock read the Fire Report for 2020:

Total Calls – 386
In Town – 90
Out of Town – 296
10-45's – 118
Entrapment Calls – 7
Fires – 102
Hazardous Calls – 32
AFA's – 95
Public Service Calls – 33
Stand By's – 9
Drills – 9
Collapse – 1
Turnpike Calls – 28
Total Members Answering – 6,588
Avg. Member Per Call – 17
Boro Fire Loss – \$30,000.00

Councilman Cholock gave the following report:

- Medic 10 was able to receive two (2) grants. One from the state and an additional one from the County.
- K-9 Officer Gerro had to be put down. He was 12years old. Councilman Cholock was with Police Chief Grippo and the trainer when he was put down. They would like to hold a ceremony for him once the Covid crisis slows down. Councilwoman Barnes asked if the Borough would be getting another police dog. Councilman Cholock said that it has not been discussed and is a little too soon. There are a lot of parameters to having a dog. There would need to be a vehicle along with an officer that would dedicate all of their time, day and night, to training and being with the dog.

Veterans Park Report:

Councilwoman Barnes gave the following report:

- Would like to see that the tree gets cut down at the gazebo and not wait. Councilwoman Bailey stated that she will talk to Rocky Anderson about cutting the tree and hauling it out.
- Councilwoman Barnes will be contacting Industry Weapons about installing the part that is sitting in the office since the new screen has been installed.

Human Resources/Ordinances Report:

Councilman Wojnar gave the following report:

- Was working with Solicitor Istik before the holidays discussing various Ordinances.
- Councilman Wojnar reiterated the great job that the street department did during the heavy snowfall.

Finance / Grants Report:

A Motion was made by Councilwoman Ruszkowski to approve Resolution No. 2021-01 setting the Quarterly Contribution for Non-Uniform Pension at \$3.55 per hour. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Bailey. Motion carried 9-0.

A Motion was made by Councilwoman Ruszkowski to approve Resolution No. 2021-02 waiving the required Police Pension member contributions for calendar year 2021 only. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Barnes. Motion carried 9-0.

New Business:

- Councilman Wojnar extended thoughts and prayers on behalf of Council to the family of State Representative Mike Reese.
- Borough Manager Landy also extended the thoughts and prayers to Councilwoman Barnes and her family on the loss of her mother, Lucille.
- Councilwoman Barnes asked why Veterans Park was changed from Veterans Park to Veterans Wall. Council President Caruso stated that it was not typed correctly.

Reading of Communications:

- Received a thank you note from Cheryl and Matt Petro regarding the passing of his brother, Steve Petro.

Discussion and Payment of Bills:

A Motion was made by Councilwoman Bailey to pay all authorized and approved bills. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Lasko. Motion carried 9-0.

Public Comment: None.

Miscellaneous and Adjournment:

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

Meeting Adjourned 7:47.

Respectfully Submitted

Jeffrey A. Landy,
Borough Manager

BOROUGH OF MOUNT PLEASANT

John H. Caruso, Jr., Council President

Motions from Meeting of January 4, 2021

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