

Meeting January 24, 2022

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 and President Ruszkowski asked for a moment of silence for our deployed troops. President Ruszkowski asked Borough Manager Landy to take roll call. Councilpersons present included Barnes, Phillabaum, Barrick, Lasko, Stevenson and Wojnar. Mayor Bailey was present and Solicitor Istik was present via zoom internet conference call. President Ruszkowski stated that a quorum is present. Councilwoman Czekanski was sworn in at 7:19pm.

A Motion was made by Councilwoman Stevenson to waive approving the minutes of the reorganization minutes and the regular meeting minutes of January 3, 2021 until the edits of the meeting are made. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Lasko. Motion carried 7-0.

Council President Ruszkowski reported that there were three (3) individuals that submitted letters of interest and were interviewed by Council to fill the 2nd ward vacancy.

A Motion was made by Councilman Wojnar to appoint Linda Czekanski to a 2-year term as the 2nd ward Council person. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Lasko. Motion carried 7-0.

Linda Czekanski was sworn in by Mayor Bailey as Council person to fill the 2nd ward vacancy at 7:19pm.

Council President Ruszkowski thanked the other candidates for their interest and stepping up for the Borough.

Public Comment:

- Joe Bauer, President of the Mount Pleasant VFD spoke to Council about the following:
 - Submitted to the Borough office two (2) bids that were received for the required air rigs. The lowest bid was received by Witmer Public Safety Group in the amount of \$131,744.00. The second bid was by Mid-Atlantic Fire & Air in the amount of \$166,282.20. They will purchase the air rigs from Witmer Public Safety Group. There will be 2 air rigs with cameras with infrared for the officers that go into the fire looking victims.
 - Submitted a regional grant application with two (2) other departments in the area for fire hose, deck guns for engine 2, and new gear that is approaching the ten (10) year mark for the firemen. Mr. Bauer stated that you cannot go into a fire with gear that is over ten (10) years old.
 - The pumps on the trucks have been inspected but have not been certified. Fire hoses have not been certified. Fire hoses will have to be inspected and certified on an annual basis. They will be trying to get hoses through the grant along with everything that they need.
 - Sent a fund drive letter out to residents. The drive has brought in approximately \$15,000.00 for the department. This money will help buy some of the things they need. It will not buy the gear that is needed. That cost is approximately \$4,000.00 per man.
 - Looking into insurance costs for the fire department and how to save the Borough money for the insurance.
 - The life of a fire truck is approximately 25 years. The tower truck is approaching that mark with 2 to 3 years left. Mr. Bauer stated it is a great piece of equipment but there are certifications that the truck must pass. Mr. Bauer said that he knows there have been discussion as to whether or not the Borough needs a tower truck. The tower truck benefits the hospital and Harmon House. Mr. Bauer said that it is

also good to fight a house fire from above. There are neighboring fire departments such as Scottsdale and Youngwood that have a tower truck; however, the turnaround time for those trucks to get here could mean life or death. Mr. Bauer said that for a fire you are talking minutes and believes it is a necessary piece of equipment for the Borough. When it comes time to replace it, the cost for a tower truck is approximately 1.1 million dollars. Mr. Bauer said they would look at used and that there are a lot of good used trucks out there; however, until they pay Engine 2 down and finish paying off the rescue truck loan to the Borough they may be able to consider looking. There is \$60,000.00 due on the rescue truck. Engine 2 payment is approximately \$44,000.00/year with payments of \$3,100.00/month. They are looking to renegotiate the loan of Engine 2 so it can be paid off sooner.

- The next planning is the Street Fair. Will be deciding withing the next week or so if it should be a 3-day event.
- The VFD sells a lot of tickets to balance their budget. This is part of the reason they have trouble getting firefighters because they do not want to sell tickets. They will be having a street fair ticket coming out. Mr. Bauer asked Council if any of them could help take a few tickets due to their membership being down by 5 members that it would be greatly appreciated. The VFD is in the process of a new recruiting form.
- The VFD is in the process of filing for a 501(c)(3) so they can file for grant money to get some of the pieces of equipment that they need. They are hoping to have the 501(c)(3) within the next few months.
- Renee Shipley from Republic Services spoke to Council regarding delinquent accounts in the Borough and delayed trash pickup. Ms. Shipley introduced Bill Jenkins, the new General Manager of Republic Services. Ms. Shipley stated that there are approximately 75 residents within the Borough not paying or delinquent for their garbage services. Ms. Shipley stated that they will begin a process that they will not be picking up their trash; and that these people have received several notices and calls. Councilman Wojnar stated that the trash pickup on Eagle Street this past year has been very inconsistent; and, that Republic Services should be more concerned about the people that are paying their bills and not being serviced properly. Ms. Shipley stated that they are fully aware of the problems and that this past year with Covid, staffing and hiring has been a big issue for them and that it has been very difficult. Councilwoman Stevenson asked how does one know what to do with their recycling when it hasn't been picked up. Ms. Shipley stated that they had recycling trucks broke down. Councilwoman Lasko asked if there was a way to update their website with information as to pick up. Mr. Jenkins stated that they are working on the issues; however, they have ten (10) drivers out sick today and have six (6) trucks down. Councilman Barrick stated that they should not be discussing with Council about not picking up the delinquent accounts until they can service the accounts that are paying. Ms. Shipley said that they do update a central information system for when residents call in, the call center should look at that and residents should be given that information. Borough Manager Landy asked if Republic Services does the robocalls. Ms. Shipley stated that they do as long as they have a valid number. Councilwoman Stevenson stated that she did receive a call; however, it did not say when they would be coming other than to have it out. Ms. Shipley stated that they can make it more specific. Councilman Wojnar asked if the Code Enforcement Officer contact the resident that is not having their garbage picked up as an Ordinance violation. Borough Manager Landy stated that it is an Ordinance violation. Borough Manager Landy asked Ms. Shipley when the Borough begins to receive complaints about a neighbor's garbage not being picked up, due to owing a bill, are we to refer them to her. Ms. Shipley asked if there is code enforcement who can get in front of some of these addresses before it gets to that point. Borough Manager Landy stated that the Code Enforcement Officer can give a warning; after the warning period, they would then be cited. Councilman Barrick stated that there is an Ordinance, they will receive a certified letter and it will get most residents attention. The ones that don't respond you take them to the magistrate. Councilwoman Stevenson said that this would be the time of year to start doing this so you aren't doing it in the summer heat. Ms. Shipley stated that by Council being aware of the delinquent non-paying accounts maybe enough that maybe they will be embarrassed and pay. Councilman Wojnar asked Solicitor Istik if the Borough could advertise the names of residents with unpaid bills for garbage collection. Solicitor Istik stated that you could but she doesn't think the Borough should get into the reputation of posting names and addresses of people that don't pay their bills. Councilman Wojnar said that if they are putting their garbage out and not paying for it, he is not sure how to escalate it. Solicitor

Istik said that you should take the list of names and go the code enforcement route. Councilman Phillabaum stated that it would be printed in the paper if you end up having to go to court. Councilman Wojnar asked Ms. Shipley how amicable they are to work with a resident when they say they can't afford it at the time. Ms. Shipley stated they do work with residents; and, that the people on her list are the repeat offender and not first time. Mayor Bailey stated that garbage not picked up does fall under code enforcement. Councilwoman Stevenson asked how other municipalities are helping with this situation. Ms. Shipley stated that other municipalities check to be certain that the information they have is current for the resident. A lot of times the information is not correct or updated. Ms. Shipley also said that they did not want to stop service to residents without Council being aware of it. Councilwoman Stevenson said that the Borough should have the list in the event that someone should call to complain, we would have the list to say that you have not paid your bill. Borough Manager Landy said that he would then advise them to call Republic Services. Ms. Shipley said that would be a great start. Councilman Phillabaum asked what the oldest bill is. Ms. Shipley stated that there is one on Yoder Avenue that has not paid a bill for several years. Councilman Wojnar asked if there is a resident living there. Ms. Shipley said that there is because she called in and said they missed her garbage. Councilman Barrick asked if the company is willing to wipe the slate if the resident is willing to begin paying. Ms. Shipley stated that if they have been billing for several years and they know that the garbage will still be picked up, why would they pay. Mr. Jenkins stated they would work with them if they were willing to be put on a prepay status. Ms. Shipley thanked Council for their support. Council thanked Ms. Shipley and Mr. Jenkins for coming and bringing the issue to their attention.

Speakers: None.

Mayors Report:

Mayor Bailey gave the following report:

- Will be receiving a report from the Police Department for February meeting.
- Went to Magistrate Moore's office to be sworn in.
- Attended the VFW rededication event.
- Went to the funeral home to pay her respects to Al Maida. Mr. Maida was a long-standing citizen of the Borough and member of the fire department for 57 years.
- Attended a DCNR Grant workshop with Borough Manager Landy and Councilman Phillabaum.
- Invited by the Fire Department to perform the Oath of Office for their line officers.
- Met with Police Chief Grippo and Sergeant Ferree of the Police Department.
- Attended a Medic 10 meeting.
- Attended the Mt. Pleasant Library meet-n-greet. Mayor Bailey encouraged everyone to visit the library, become a member and experience some of the wonderful things that they offer.

Solicitor's Report:

Solicitor Istik stated that her report will be held in executive session.

Treasurer's Report:

Borough Manager Landy read the following Treasurer's Report for the month of December 2021:

Mt. Pleasant Borough Treasurer's Report

Dec-21

		Prev Bal	Deposits	Disbursements	Balance 2021
General Fund Checking	Scottdale Bank 19069335	912,360.68	179,656.90	100,690.14	991,327.44
**Town Clock	619.92				
**Holiday Lighting	1812.51				
General Fund Budgetary Reserve	Standard Bank 321615	1,022,782.57	165.06	0.00	1,022,947.63
**Police	52,619.03				
**Streets	147,131.00				
**Contingency Fund	310,563.24				
**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 1026616	27,919.14	0.70	572.08	27,347.76
Escrow Account	Scottdale Bank 19069343	4,401.96	0.93	0.00	4,402.89
Liquid Fuels PLGIT	PLGIT 56980126	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Liquid Fuels / Scottdale Bank	Scottdale Bank 19123645	119,497.25	39.65	4,805.77	114,731.13
Monument CD	Standard Bank 446635	7,382.80	0.00	0.00	7,382.80
Payroll Fund	Scottdale Bank 19069350	2,781.82	46,300.44	46,299.44	2,782.82
Veterans Park Fund	Somerset Trust Co 2003058309	24,364.55	151.25	0.00	24,515.80
Storm Water Retrofit Phase II	Scottdale Bank 19069368	1,221.48	0.26	0.00	1,221.74
Turn Back Account	Scottdale Bank 19069384	24,848.95	5.28	0.00	24,854.23
ARPA Covid-19 (American Resuce Plan Act)	Scottdale Bank 19123652	221,255.62	75.17	0.00	221,330.79
Standard Bank CD	Standard Bank 432243	215,254.60	0.00	0.00	215,254.60
Standard Bank CD	Standard Bank 410571	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Scottdale/MidPenn CD (200yr Anniversary)	Scottdale Bank 318007294	52,396.87	0.00	0.00	52,396.87
Scottdale Bank /MidPenn CD	Scottdale Bank 318012650	53,527.71	0.00	0.00	53,527.71
Total General Fund Balance					2,764,024.21
Medic 10 Checking	Scottdale Bank 19069533	46,373.35	77,366.88	83,736.51	40,003.72
Medic 10 Savings	Scottdale Bank 19069723	100,803.18	13.18	50,000.00	50,816.36
Medic 10 Money Market	Scottdale Bank 19069376	6,015.40	1.28	0.00	6,016.68
Medic 10 Pittsburgh Foundation	Standard Bank 0000358253	8,474.88	4.06	0.00	8,478.94
Medic 10 CD	Standard Bank 371917	19,458.71	0.00	0.00	19,458.71
Medic 10 CD	Standard Bank 410053	5,269.88	0.00	0.00	5,269.88
Total Medic 10 Fund Balance					130,044.29
WWT Capital Reserve Account	Standard Bank 0010175932	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
WWT Capital Reserve Account	Scottdale Bank - 19123702	904,734.60	192.10	0.00	904,926.70
Capital Reserve M. A. Account	Somerset Trust Co 2004129745	457,860.12	23.33	0.00	457,883.45

Oceanview Annuity CD	Scottdale Bank - MidPenn	3,007,516.44	0.00	0.00	3,007,516.44
Standard Bank CD	Standard Bank				
WWT Cap.Resv	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 446593	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Scottdale Bank /MidPenn CD (MAWC Final)	Scottdale Bank 318011768	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Total WWT Balance					5,075,639.68
Total Borough funds					7,969,708.18

Council President Susan Ruskowski /
Secretary Sharon Lesko

A Motion was made by Councilwoman Stevenson to accept the December 2021 Treasurer's Report. Motion seconded by Councilman Phillabaum. Motion carried 8-0.

Borough Manager's Report:

Borough Manager Landy gave the following report:

- Met with the Police Chief Grippo and Jeff McGuinness of the Street Department to coordinate how we are handling callouts for snow storms and plowing.
- Attend the Medic 10 meetings. Transferred Medic 10 money - \$100,000.00 from the Budgetary Reserve – Medic 10 line to Medic 10 checking account.
- Reviewed playground equipment at Jack Bobbs where some is getting damaged due to destruction. Discussed with Councilwoman Lasko about blocking it off with a fence for the winter and plan ahead to replace it either through a grant or replace it with Borough funds.
- Visitation donated candles this year in memory of Jerry for future candlelight procession and a possible candlelight vigil in memory of our late Mayor Jerry Lucia.
- There was a tree that was decorated on both sides of the casket at the funeral home for Jerry. We are going to plant one of the trees at Sacho Park and eventually put a plaque there in honor of Jerry. Sacho Park is the closest park to his home.
- Gave ideas for some new Ordinances such as discharging of sump pumps into the streets causing a freezing issue.
- Received a thank you from the Census for participating.
- Attended the DCNR Grant Seminar. Councilman Barrick will be working on a grant from them.
- Received a year-to-date comparison report from Berkheimer.
- Received updated gas well report.

President's Report:

Council President Ruskowski gave the following report:

- Made some goals for the 2022 year and would like to see Council work together.
- Would like to use the work session meeting as a work session to work on things that need to be put on the agenda for the first meeting of the month so things get handled in a timely manner.
- Asked Committees to touch base with each other in their committees so they know what is going on and keep a line of communication open.

- If anything needs to be communicated with the Solicitor, please send the email as a group rather than having the solicitor receive 3 or 4 emails on the same topic. We have also received a request from PSAB asking that only one person send an email instead of 3 or 4 asking the same questions.

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 Ruskowski stated that the Executive Session was held from 8:29pm – 9:29pm to personnel.

Property / Grants: None.

Streets / Stormwater:

Councilman Phillabaum gave the following report:

- Had a meeting with Borough Manager Landy, Mayor Bailey, Police Chief Grippo and Jeff McGuinness regarding handling snow plowing. Would like to hold another meeting regarding the rotation of street employees for plowing.

Mayor Bailey would like to meet with Councilman Phillabaum regarding a list of streets that she has for paving.

Councilwoman Czekanski stated that there is a lot of water that lays on S. Geary Street.

Parks and Recreation: None.

Public Safety Report:

A Motion was made by Councilman Phillabaum to approve splitting the cost for the purchase of approximately 20 air tanks with the Volunteer Fire Department not to exceed \$65,500.00 from General Fund Budgetary Reserve – Fire Department line in the amount of \$48,900.00 with the remaining balance coming from various accounts. Motion seconded Councilwoman Stevenson. Motion carried 8-0.

Borough Manager Landy stated that the Police Department has lost one of its part-time officers. Police Chief Grippo would like to hire an additional part-time officer. Mayor Bailey stated that when she met with Police Chief Grippo he said that he had already conducted interviews for part-time officers. Councilwoman Ruskowski reported that she had spoken with Police Chief Grippo and informed him that she would like some background information before anyone being hired.

Veterans Park:

Councilwoman Barnes gave the following report:

- The digital wall is still up and running.
- Will be contacting Mr. Dunn with Spectrio regarding the names on the digital wall.

Human Resources / Ordinances:

A Motion was made by Councilman Wojnar to appoint Jeff Landy as the Borough Manager for a two-year period effective January 1, 2022. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Stevenson. Motion carried 8-0.

A Motion was made to advertise Ordinance amending Chapter 16 Parks & Recreation adding Section 16-120 Regulations for Veteran’s Park/Gazebo Parklet, regarding prohibited uses. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Stevenson. Motion carried 8-0.

Finance Report: None.

New Business:

- Gave everyone a copy of the project goals for 2022. Would like everyone to review them so they can begin planning on accomplishing these goals.

Reading of Communications:

- PSAB 110th Annual Conference will be held on May 22 – 25, 2022 at Hershey Lodge.
- PSAB will hold a webinar: Understanding the Sunshine Act & Amendments on Wednesday, February 9, 2022 from Noon to 1:00pm, members cost: \$45.00.
- PSAB will hold a webinar: The Role of an Effective Council President on Wednesday, February 16, 2022 from 5:30pm – 6:30pm, members cost: Free.

Discussion and Payment of Bills:

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

Public Comment: None.

Miscellaneous and Adjournment:

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

Meeting Adjourned 10:01pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jeffrey A. Landy,
Borough Manager

BOROUGH OF MOUNT PLEASANT

Susan Ruszkowski, Council President

Motions from Meeting January 24, 2022

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