

Meeting February 6, 2023

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 and prayers for those needing physical healing and the Police Officer that was killed today in McKeesport, PA. President Ruszkowski asked Solicitor Istik to take roll call. Councilpersons present included Barnes, Czekanski, Cholock, Barrick, Stevenson and Wojnar. Mayor Bailey was present. Solicitor Istik was absent. President Ruszkowski stated that a quorum is present. Councilman Phillabaum attended via phone.

A Motion was made by Councilwoman Stevenson to approve the minutes of January 23, 2023 since Council has been provided with a copy. Motion seconded by Councilman Cholock. Motion carried 7-0.

Speakers:

- Renee Shipley of Republic Services spoke to Council regarding updating their payment policy and stopping services for delinquent accounts. Ms. Shipley discussed the protocol before stopping services.

Councilman Cholock asked how many residents are there that are seriously delinquent. Ms. Shipley stated that at the current time there are between 100 – 150 residents. Councilman Cholock asked about if a neighbor would have their garbage services suspended and it continues to pile up what happens then. Ms. Shipley stated that she would hope that the Borough Code Enforcement Officer would begin reinforcing the Ordinance policy with a notice and citations. Ms. Shipley stated that she is hoping by sending the letter that it will curtail some of the suspensions before it even happens. Council President Ruszkowski stated that when she and Borough Secretary Sharon Lesko met with Ms. Shipley, it was also stated that the landlord would be notified. Councilman Cholock asked why it would be on the landlord. Councilman Barrick stated that they are the property owner and that the property owner is responsible for any code violations and that it falls back to the land owner. Councilwoman Czekanski stated that this is correct and that this has happened to her as a land owner with tenants. Ms. Shipley stated that there is an option to set up a payment plan and if there is an effort being made, they will work with them and not stop their service. Councilman Barrick and Councilwoman Stevenson agree that the Borough should back this by having Code Enforcement notify property owners of the Ordinance violation and citing them if it is not taken care of. Ms. Shipley stated that they have never stopped service in the Borough before. Councilwoman Stevenson stated that she is in favor of Republic Services doing what they need to do to run their business effectively. Councilwoman Wojnar and Councilwoman Czekanski agreed. Solicitor Istik asked Ms. Shipley if she can copy the Code Enforcement Officer when service is stopped so he may begin notifying and/or citing the people that still have garbage that is not being picked up. This way he is aware and there isn't a disconnect. Ms. Shipley will see that Sharon and the Code Officer both have a listing so if they get a call that someone's garbage has not been picked up, they will know if they are on the list or not. Every resident will get the initial information letter. Ms. Shipley thanked the Borough for their support.

Public Comment: None.

Mayor's Report:

Mayor Bailey gave the following report:

- Attended the ribbon cutting at Cookie Sensations by Jen on Friday January 27, 2023 at the Diamond Mini Mall. Councilwoman Wojnar, Councilwoman Barnes and Councilman Phillabaum attended also.
- Received a calendar of events for February from Heidi Leeper, Director of the Mount Pleasant Library. They issued 24 new library cards, had 1812 patron visits to the library in February, which is 343 more than in January 2022. They circulated 1,544 items which is not including eBooks, which once they receive the report it could increase 350-500

more. Added 72 new items to their collection; had 97 hours of computer usage on public computers; and 927 hours of wi-fi usage which equals 38.6 days. The numbers are important for their library subsidies.

- Would like everyone to contact the local Senator to urge them to vote for passing the Radar Bill which allows local municipalities to use radar guns.

Mayor Bailey read the Mount Pleasant Police Dept. Report for the Month of January 2023:

The Department answered the following calls:

Incidents	123
Criminal Arrests	3
DUI Arrests	0
Parking Tickets Issued (Boro)	5
Traffic & Non-Traffic Citations	6
Assist Other Departments (Police, Fire, EMS)	1
Accidents Investigated	7
Special Details	0

Income

Parking Meters	\$79.65
Parking Tickets	\$120.00
Fees for Police Reports	\$45.00
Clerk of Courts	\$113.36
District Court	\$340.70
Ordinance Fines	\$0.00
Fingerprinting	\$0.00
Restitution to Police Dept	\$295.83
Total Revenue	\$994.54

Solicitor’s Report:

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

Tax Collector’s Report: None

Borough Manager’s Report:

Council President Ruszkowski gave the following report:

- Had some issues with the snow cleaning on the sidewalks. Will be meeting with Eric from E&H Landscaping to be sure we are on the same page and they are aware of the contract guidelines.
- Met with Susan and Renee from Republic Services regarding delinquent accounts.
- Will be renting the last office space on the second floor to Melissa “Missy” Kaylor dba “Soul Element”. She will be moving in on February 14, 2023.
- Still having sewage issues on the 1st floor at the police station.
- Jeff McGuinness met with Ron Smith, electrician, regarding the timer and lights at the basketball court. There are lights burned out at the court. Jeff M. suggested installing LED lighting which you would almost never have to worry about burning out. The button is bad on the timer and will need replaced. Jeff McGuinness is going to get quotes for LED lights along with cost to fix the lighting that is already there to compare the costs. Mr. Smith would do the replacements for appx. \$300.00. The Borough would purchase the materials.

- The furnace on the 3rd floor lobby area to the door of the chambers was out of service today. The Uber Co come and got it running. The inducer was not working and with some tough love he got it running. Unsure of how long it will continue. The inducer will need replaced. There was a detection of aldehyde, which he was not certain if it was from the inducer trying to run or if the heat exchanger is an issue.
 - Received a quote for the inducer. It will cost \$798.00 plus labor. Labor is \$95 first hour and \$80 every hour after.
 - We also asked for a quote on the cost of a new roof unit. They advised that our unit is approximately 25 to 30 years old.
- Street Department heat is not working. It will need an Ignition Control Module. Also discussed cleaning the burners. Jeff M. said he does not ever remember it being cleaned.
 - Received the quote for the Ignition Control Module. It will cost \$588.00 plus labor (same as above). They will let us know about the cost for the cleaning of the burners.

President's Report:

Council President Ruszkowski gave the following report:

- Everyone should have received a copy of the Budget from the Business District Authority

A Motion was made by Councilman Cholock to approve the Business District Authority .07 flat assessment rate and proposed budget. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Stevenson. Motion carried 7-0.

A Motion was made by Councilman Cholock to hold an executive session. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Czekanski. Motion carried 7-0.

A Motion was made by Councilman Cholock to reconvene. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Czekanski. Motion carried 7-0.

President Ruszkowski stated that the executive session was held from 7:26pm to 8:38pm to discuss personnel issues.

Property Report:

Councilman Barrick gave the following report:

- Heaters are not working at Central Fire Station in the garage. Spoke with Jim Kostyo of Kostyo Heating and Air. He will meet with Jeff McGuinness at the fire station to look at the issue and give a quote.
- Meeting with Shawn Ulery of Ulery Architect at the gazebo on Wednesday, February 8, 2023 at 6:00pm regarding the gazebo project. Will also be meeting with the electrical engineer at 6:30pm regarding the lighting at the gazebo and looking at the circuit box and lighting at the Veterans Wall so they can get a bid together to be able to advertise.
- Councilman Barrick asked where we are with the subdivision for the Bridgeport Street property and that the last he had heard anything was in early January and they were to be adding easements to the plans. Council Barrick offered to make the PA One calls but has not heard anything since. Solicitor Istik stated that she will send an email to Mr. McMillen and copy Councilman Barrick on it.

Streets / Stormwater Report:

Councilman Phillabaum gave the following report:

- Working on compiling a list of streets for the 2023 paving project.
- Jeff McGuinness received a request from Yinzer Farms asking the if the Borough would use the vactor truck for them at their business to empty some tanks and they would pay the costs and wages. It would take approximately 3 hours. Councilman Phillabaum would suggest payment on day of work if they do it. Councilman Barrick asked what they will be vaccing? Councilman Phillabaum stated he was not certain what it was other than tanks. Council does not believe they should do this and that they need additional information on what is in the tanks.
- Jeff McGuinness would like to attend the 2023 Municipal Road Maintenance & Safety Symposium from April 23 -25, 2023 that PennDOT will be holding in Hershey, PA. Council agreed that he would be able to attend.
- Having some flooding issues on North Geary Extension. Mayor Bailey has reached out to the Municipal Authority of Westmoreland County regarding the issue.
- Would like to hold the community yard sale on a Saturday and Sunday instead of a Friday and Saturday.
- Been working on the Dog Park Committee and has approximately 12 people that are interested.

Parks & Recreation:

Council President Ruszkowski gave the following report:

- Councilwoman Lasko has not received any further information from the Little League yet.
- Waiting on the quotes for the lights and the timer at the Basketball Courts.

Councilman Phillabaum stated that the Little League has the insurance but they are still working on the schedule.

Public Safety Report:

A Motion was made by Councilman Cholock to approve the 2023 – 2025 Agreement with Sable Kennels for animal control at a cost of \$125.00 per month. (Note: this is a cost increase of \$25.00 per month). Motion seconded by Councilwoman Czekanski. Motion failed 0-7.

A Motion was made by Councilman Cholock to hire Jon Stevenson as a part-time Police Officer at the part-time training rate of \$16.50 per hour then to the part-time rate of \$20.50 per hour pending physical and background check. Motion seconded by Councilman Barrick. Motion carried 7-0.

Veterans Park:

Councilwoman Barnes gave the following report:

- They have received 7 more Military banners applications bringing the total to 17. Councilwoman Barnes spoke with members of the advisory board and they have agreed to reduce the cost of the banners from \$225.00 to \$200.00. The applications will be corrected to say \$200.00. The 17 people that have paid will be getting a refund of \$25.00. The cost was reduced due to them being able to use brackets that the Borough currently has on hand.

Ordinances:

A Motion was made by Councilwoman Wojnar to advertise Ordinance Number 664 Prohibited Parking Ordinance. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Stevenson. Motion carried 6-1. Councilman Cholock opposed.

Human Resources: None.

Finance / Grants Report: None.

New Business: None.

Reading of Communications:

- Westmoreland Conservation District will be holding its annual Municipal Roundtable on Friday, February 24, 2023 from 11:30am to 3:30pm at the J. Roy Houston Conservation Center on Donohoe Road, Greensburg, PA. Cost is \$15.00 per person.
- Westmoreland Conservation District will be holding a seminar “After the Storms” on Tuesday, April 4, 2023 at the Westmoreland Conservation District Barn on Donohoe Road, Greensburg PA.

Discussion and Payment of Bills:

A Motion was made by Councilman Stevenson to pay all authorized and approved bills. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Czekanski. Motion carried 7-0.

Public Comment:

- Zachary Gergas, Director of Medic 10 gave the following report for Medic 10:
 - Will be attending the meetings as long as they are not called out.
 - As of today, Medic 10 has had 271 runs since January 2023.
 - Working on several grants.
 - Will be having 3 new employees starting this month with possible 2 or 3 additional applicants. They are waiting for paperwork and clearances.

Miscellaneous and Adjournment:

A Motion was made by Councilman Barrick to adjourn the meeting. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Czekanski. Motion carried 7-0.

Meeting Adjourned 9:44pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Sharon Lesko
Assistant Borough Manager

BOROUGH OF MOUNT PLEASANT

Susan Ruszkowski, Council President

Motions from Meeting of February 6, 2023

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