

Meeting February 21, 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 affected by the East Palestine train derailment. President Ruszkowski asked Assistant Borough Manager Sharon Lesko to take roll call. Councilpersons present included Barnes, Czekanski, Cholock, Phillabaum, Barrick, Lasko, Stevenson and Wojnar. Mayor Bailey and Solicitor Istik were present. President Ruszkowski stated that a quorum is present. Councilman Cholock left at 8:46pm.

A Motion was made by Councilwoman Stevenson to approve the minutes of February 6, 2023 since Council has been provided with a copy. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Lasko. Motion carried 9-0.

Speakers:

- Dan Busatto of Century Insurance spoke to Council regarding the upcoming Workers Comp and Municipal Liability Insurance. Mr. Busatto suggested the Borough separate the Fire Department and the Borough workers comp to save the Borough approximately \$10,000.00. The Workers Comp for the fire department would be through State Workers Insurance Fund (SWIF) and the Borough would be through Encova. The estimated cost would be \$56,531.00. We received a quote from Higbee Insurance for the Workers Comp and Municipal Liability Insurance in the amount of \$66,675.00.

Public Comment:

- Zach Gergas, Director of Medic 10 gave the following report on Medic 10:
 - They are currently at 370 calls for the year;
 - They will be holding a fundraiser at Applebees.
 - Live Casino has approved them for a fundraiser.

Mayor's Report:

Mayor Bailey gave the following report:

- Attended a Police Department meeting along with Council President Ruszkowski and Councilman Phillabaum.
- Met with local resident Ms. Myrna Cohen who has contacts in the Jewish community in the Pittsburgh area regarding finding a “new home” for some of the religious items that are in the synagogue.
- Attended the safety meeting this morning. Topic was footwear for the occupational athlete. The street department and police department do have allowances to purchase the proper footwear for their job.
- Attended the BDA meeting earlier this evening. They will be holding the 5k breast cancer walk/run on October 21, 2023. They will also be holding the Farmers Market. It will be held on every other Wednesday beginning June 21, 2023 through September 27, 2023 from 4:00pm to 7:00pm in the parking lot behind the former Grille 31 restaurant. They are looking into doing flowers on Main Street however they do not want to use the pots that have to be picked up at the end of the season. They want to do something that is more permanent.
- Receive a request for a handicap parking space from a resident of 10 N. Diamond Street, Mt. Pleasant PA. Mayor Bailey stated that she reached out to PennDOT since there was a question raised that N. Diamond Street was a PennDOT road and wasn't sure if we could put up a handicap sign. The gentleman from PennDOT did state that even though it is a state route, it is the option of the municipality if they want to put a handicap parking space there. Councilman Cholock stated that he will need a signed document from his

doctor. Mayor Bailey will reach out to the gentleman and ask him to have his doctor submit the document. Mayor Bailey stated that there are regular parking spaces at this location. The gentleman is also aware of the cost of \$125.00. Councilman Cholock stated that Police Chief Grippo should be involved with the issuance of the handicap parking space. Mayor Bailey stated that she did speak with Police Chief Grippo regarding the handicap parking space and that she will run it by him again.

Solicitor's Report: None.

Treasurer's Report:

Councilwoman Stevenson read the following Treasurer's Report for the month of January 2023

Mt. Pleasant Borough Treasurer's Report		Jan-23			Balance
		Prev Bal	Deposits	Disbursements	2023
General Fund Checking	Scottdale Bank 19069335	970,164.34	38,934.78	125,635.97	883,463.15
General Fund Budgetary Reserve	Standard Bank 321615	985,750.64	4,557.58	0.00	990,308.22
**Police	48,591.82				
**Streets	157,131.00				
**Contingency Fund	337,582.50				
**Infrastructure	206,588.62				
**Workers Compensation	50,000.00				
**BOMP Gas Wells	24,440.94				
** Frick Park Gas Well	25,266.98				
**Levins	0.00				
**Fire	3,400.00				
**K-9	13,828.76				
**Medic 10	100,000.00				
**Marcellus Impact Fee Act 13	23,477.60				
Police Parking Tickets & Meters	Scottdale Bank 1026616	26,875.47	29.22	0.00	26,904.69
Escrow Account	Scottdale Bank 19069343	4,422.19	4.81	0.00	4,427.00
Liquid Fuels / Scottdale Bank	Scottdale Bank 19123645	122,188.02	132.83	0.00	122,320.85
Monument CD	Standard Bank 446635	7,382.80	0.00	0.00	7,382.80
Payroll Fund	Scottdale Bank 19069350	2,487.87	74,074.21	50,151.71	26,410.37
Veterans Park Fund	Somerset Trust Co 2003058309	25,383.33	2.37	0.00	25,385.70
Veterans Military Banners Fund	Somerset Trust Co 2004522337	3,375.42	0.24	1,750.00	1,625.66
Storm Water Retrofit Phase II	Scottdale Bank 19069368	1,227.09	1.33	0.00	1,228.42
ARPA Covid-19 (American Resuce Plan Act)	Scottdale Bank 19123652	445,336.09	484.14	0.00	445,820.23
Standard Bank CD	Standard Bank 432243	215,254.60	0.00	0.00	215,254.60
Scottdale Bank /MidPenn CD	Scottdale Bank 318012650	53,527.71	0.00	0.00	53,527.71
Standard Bank CD (200yr Anniversary)	Standard Bank 6677418044	54,243.17	0.00	0.00	54,243.17
Total General Fund Balance					2,858,302.57
Medic 10 Checking	Scottdale Bank 19069533	118,350.74	68,208.23	50,014.47	136,544.50
Medic 10 Savings	Scottdale Bank 19069723	51,039.18	55.49	0.00	51,094.67
Medic 10 Money Market	Scottdale Bank 19069376	6,043.07	6.57	0.00	6,049.64
Medic 10 Pittsburgh Foundation	Standard Bank 0000358253	9,551.11	27.16	0.00	9,578.27
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					227,995.67
WWT Capital Reserve Account	Scottdale Bank - 19123702	894,210.24	972.12	0.00	895,182.36
Capital Reserve M. A. Savings Acct	Somerset Trust Co 2004521230	460,618.75	1,310.55	0.00	461,929.30
Oceanview Annuity CD	Scottdale Bank - MidPenn	3,088,600.02	0.00	0.00	3,088,600.02
Standard Bank CD WWT Cap.Resv	Standard Bank 464569	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Scottdale Bank /MidPenn CD WWT Cap. Resv	Scottdale Bank 318015215	201,508.38	0.00	0.00	201,508.38
Athene Annuity CD (created Jan. 2021)	Somerset Trust	507,249.99	7,355.12	0.00	514,605.11
Total WWT Balance					5,161,825.17
Total Borough funds					8,248,123.41
Councilwoman Cynthia Stevenson / Secretary Sharon Lesko					

Councilwoman Stevenson reported that we will be combining the Medic 10 Savings account and the Medic 10 Money Market account since they both collect the same amount of interest. Council President Ruszkowski stated that they did discuss this at the Medic 10 meeting and agreed that they should be consolidated. Councilwoman Stevenson stated that the interest rates are up now mentioning the interest received on the Athene Annuity and the Capital Reserve account.

Borough Manager's Report:

Assistant Borough Manager Lesko gave the following report:

- Had several meetings with Zach Gergas, Director of Medic 10
- Met with Council President Ruszkowski several times over the past month and a half
- Met with Jeff McGuinness regarding the lights at the basketball court
- Met with Dan Busatto of Century Insurance – received 2 dividend checks for the VFD insurance totaling \$4884.50 and regarding the workers comp insurance coming up.
- Met with Matt Donovan of AFLAC insurance wanting to offer insurance for employees
- Updated the website with the calendar of events
- Spoke with Jim Koshinsky of DeBlasio & DeBlasio Re: VFD Audit
- Spoke with Ed Opst Re: Borough Audit – Uploaded files for him to begin working on the audit.
- Spoke with Bob Regola regarding the LSA Grant. He is hoping to hear something on or before March 16, 2023.
- Met with Mayor Bailey regarding posting notice on facebook to have residents call 911 and not the police station.
- Registered Councilman Barrick, Councilwoman Barnes and Councilman Phillabaum for the upcoming 2023 Westmoreland Conservation District Municipal Round Table held on February 24, 2023.
- Spoke with Mary Holt of Higbee Insurance regarding the workers comp insurance quote.

- Spoke with Hallie Chatfield of the Westmoreland County Land Bank regarding blighted properties in the Borough. Ms. Chatfield reported that the Borough currently had any properties listed with them.
- Attended the safety meeting this morning. Topic was Footwear for the occupational athlete.
- Met with Councilwoman Stevenson to go over the Treasurers Report
- Had a conference call with Council President Ruszkowski, Councilwoman Stevenson, and Dan Busatto of Century Insurance regarding the workers comp insurance.

President's Report:

Council President Ruszkowski gave the following report:

A Motion was made by Councilman Cholock to hold an executive session. Motion seconded by Councilman Phillabaum. Motion carried 9-0.

A Motion was made by Councilwoman Lasko to reconvene. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Wojnar. Motion carried 9-0.

President Ruszkowski stated that the executive session was held from 7:46pm to 8:15pm to discuss personnel issues.

Property Report:

A Motion was made by Councilman Barrick to accept the proposal from Jim Kostyo for the repairs of the furnace, boiler pump and thermostats at Central Fire Station at a cost of \$2,327.00. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Czekanski. Motion carried 9-0.

A Motion was made by Councilman Barrick to advertise the Gazebo Renovations Project once we receive the completed bid package from Ulery Architect. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Lasko. Motion carried 9-0.

Councilman Barrick stated that he is expecting to have the bid package around March 5th or 6th, 2023 and that they had a meeting with Mr. Ulery and Steve who is the electrical engineer, at the gazebo regarding the electric and the renovations. Councilman Barrick along with Jeff McGuinness of the Street Department, Councilwoman Barnes and Jim Meredith from the Veterans Park Committee.

A Motion was made by Councilman Barrick to approve the extended lease agreement through December 31, 2028 with Robert Karfelt and Nicole Karfelt to maintain property located at Tax Map No. 21-02-04-0-072. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Wojnar. Motion carried 9-0.

Councilman Barrick gave the following report:

- Spoke with the Steve, the electrical engineer, regarding including the lighting at Veterans Wall, the fountain and replacing the breakers in the panel box and will give an estimate so everything can be done at one time and put out to bid.
- Will have Jeff McGuinness reach out to Firestone Garage Doors to look at the garage door at the fire department and get a cost on adjusting or fixing it.

Councilman Cholock asked about the bulletproof glass in the door on the 3rd floor and if we can reach out to whomever we got the glass from to see if it is covered by a warranty and replaced due to the scratching and marks through it. Assistant Borough Manager Lesko stated that she looked up information and the glass was installed by Roger Suter and Sons. Councilman Barrick is going to reach out to Mr. Suter and see what he knows about it.

Councilwoman Wojnar asked if Council was still moving forward with having the desks refinished. Councilwoman Stevenson would like to take one side and have them all finished at the same time so when they are brought back the top shell can be disposed of.

Streets / Stormwater Report:

A Motion was made by Councilman Phillabaum to authorize Jeff McGuinness to attend the 2023 Municipal Road Maintenance & Safety Symposium in Hershey, PA from April 23 -25, 2023. Registration (\$79.00), lodging totaling \$403.16, meals, turnpike tolls and fuel. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Stevenson. Motion carried 9-0.

A Motion was made by Councilman Phillabaum to close Smithfield Street from Church Street to Diamond Street from June 22nd to June 24th, 2023 for the Fireman's Fair. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Czekanski. Motion carried 9-0.

A Motion was made by Councilman Phillabaum to close Route 31, Main Street, on Friday, June 23, 2023 from 6:00pm to 8:30pm. for the annual Fireman's Parade. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Lasko. Motion carried 9-0.

Councilman Phillabaum gave the following report:

- Received 2 quotes for a new line painting machine.
- Received 2 quotes to have some body work and paint done to repair some rust on the street department utility truck.
- Everyone received a list of the streets that is being looked at for paving. Councilman Phillabaum asked if Jeff McGuinness needs to measure the streets before Brandon from PennDOT comes or can he just wait for Brandon since he does the measuring also. Mayor Bailey stated that Jeff McGuinness does not have to premeasure but he has to do the ride around with Brandon because Jeff knows where the start and stop is on the streets that are being paved since he and Councilman Phillabaum did the initial ride around and made those decisions.
- The annual Borough yard sale will be held on Saturday May 13, 2023 and Sunday, May 14, 2023. This is Mother's Day weekend.

Parks & Recreation:

Councilwoman Lasko gave the following report:

- Received a quote to replace the lighting and remote switch/timer at Frick Basketball Court to LED lighting. The lights will be \$1,640.00 and \$300.00 for the installation. The remote switch/timer will be approximately \$90.00.

Councilwoman Lasko asked if Jeff McGuinness had any input regarding the infield of Frick Park regarding the runoff, the washing away of the dirt and the ruts it is putting in it. Assistant Borough Manager Lesko stated that Mr. McGuinness said that there isn't anything that he can do with the rain and the runoff. Assistant Borough Manager Lesko said that the girls softball had previously discussed tarping the infield during the winter months. Councilwoman Lasko said that there is not anything that our guys can do to control the loss of the dirt from the runoff. Councilman Barrick stated that they could plant more grass around the edges and foul areas to help keep the dirt from running off. Councilman Barrick stated that there is an inlet behind home plate and runs through the storm drains.

Councilman Phillabaum asked about putting another piece of playground equipment at Jack Bobbs Park similar to the piece that is now at Frick Park sitting by itself in the outfield since there is only swings and a slide there. The basketball hoops will be put up in the spring. Councilwoman Lasko stated that since the equipment was so expensive to purchase and there

was a history of things getting broken there, they were trying to build things that would last longer.

Councilwoman Barnes asked about putting more trees at Jack Bobbs park. Councilwoman Lasko said that they did plant some there last year and have discussed adding more trees.

Councilwoman Wojnar stated that there is a program since Westmoreland County is celebrating its 250th anniversary that they would like to plant 250 trees and that they could check with Laurel Highlands Visitors Bureau or the Conservation District to see if it is a program that comes with funding.

Council President Ruszkowski reported that people are using the tennis court behind Ramsay Elementary for a dog park and that they are sitting there while their dogs are running around on the court. Councilman Phillabaum stated that he gotten a group of people together that is interested in being on the dog park committee and is going to try and hold a meeting next week with them.

Public Safety Report:

A Motion was made by Councilman Phillabaum to amend the motion approved on February 6, 2023 correcting part-time Police Officer Jon Stevenson hourly rate from \$20.50 to \$20.00 once training is completed. Training rate is correct at \$16.50 per hour. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Stevenson. Motion carried 8-0.

A Motion was made by Councilman Phillabaum to hire Brice Joll as a part-time Police Officer at the part-time training rate of \$16.50 per hour then to the part-time rate of \$20.00 per hour pending physical and background check. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Stevenson. Motion carried 8-0.

A Motion was made by Councilman Phillabaum 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 Stevenson. Motion passed 8-0.

Councilwoman Wojnar asked if there was a letter written regarding the speed control devices for local municipalities. Mayor Bailey stated that she has not completed the letter; it is on her list to complete, she will have it at the next meeting for everyone to review and then she will send it to Kim Wards office.

Zach Gergas, Director of Medic 10, gave the following report on Medic 10:

- He has finished his instructor course for bleeding control and to stop the bleed. Mr. Gergas can give a class if anyone is interested on how to stop a bleed. Mr. Gergas stated that he would do the class at no cost and if someone would want to give a donation they could. AHN has provided the necessary kits to perform the class.
- Tiffany Vargo of Allegheny Health Network is going to help provide Medic 10 more education days and it will be held at Medic 10. They have a Pediatric Volunteer Recognition Program that helps with grants and it lets the community know that Medic 10 is qualified to deal with children. Medic 10 has all of the necessary equipment based on the state licensure check there are a couple of things that they will be able to get from Pittsburgh Hospitals and because they are with Allegheny Health Network they have the child abuse clearances and with the classes that they are going to do for Medic 10 they will be pushed to the advanced level. They will receive stickers indicating such and they will be placed on the ambulances.
- The new ambulance should be hitting the line from the manufacturer on May 1st. It will take approximately 2 weeks to complete the build so we could see it near the end of May or beginning of June. It will be painted and ready to go. Once it is received it will need to be stocked and then taken to Pittsburgh for the state check on it.

Veterans Park:

Councilwoman Barnes gave the following report:

- Would like for her and the Solicitor to contact Spectrio regarding the digital wall.
- The digital wall is currently frozen.
- 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.
- Councilwoman Barnes and Jim Meredith visited the local banks asking them to sponsor the maintenance of the Veterans Banners Program. They have received good responses. Councilwoman Barnes will draft a letter for the banks. Scottdale Bank & Trust (MidPenn Bank) was very positive and ready to give a donation.
- Banners are anticipated to go up around May and be up until just before the Glass Festival banners go up. They will be taken down for the winter.

Councilwoman Czekanski asked if the banks are expecting have their names on the banners. Councilwoman Barnes stated yes, they are.

Ordinances:

- Received a packet from Mayor Bailey regarding the Scottdale Landlord Ordinance. The committee will discuss it and come back with a recommendation. Mayor Bailey suggested that they also discuss it with Police Chief Grippo since it would be the police enforcing.

Human Resources: None.

Finance / Grants Report:

A Motion was made by Councilwoman Stevenson to approve sending Councilman Phillabaum to the 11th Annual PSAB Conference & Exhibition in Hershey, PA, June 4, 2023 to June 7, 2023 at a cost not to exceed \$1,200.00, which includes registration (\$250.00), lodging (\$229.00 + 11% occupancy tax per night), Fuel and turnpike tolls. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Czekanski. Motion carried 8-0.

A Motion was made by Councilwoman Stevenson to amend the motion for the purposes of changing the providers name and the cost of the Workers Comp Insurance. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Lasko. Motion carried 8-0.

A Motion was made by Councilwoman Stevenson to permit Council President Ruszkowski to ratify the Worker’s Comp Renewal Proposal with Century Insurance for the year 3/1/2023 to 3/1/2024 in the amount of \$56,531.85. Previous year quote was \$57,035.00. Motion seconded by Councilman Barrick. Motion carried 8-0.

New Business: None.

Reading of Communications:

- Received a letter from Gibson Thomas Engineering that they will be offering drone services.
- PSAB will be offering a webinar Proper Supervision of Municipal Police Departments on Wednesday, March 15, 2023 from noon to 1:30pm at a member cost of \$45.00.

Discussion and Payment of Bills:

A Motion was made by Councilman Stevenson to pay all authorized and approved bills. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Wojnar. 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 9:04pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Sharon Lesko
Assistant Borough Manager

BOROUGH OF MOUNT PLEASANT

Susan Ruskowski, Council President

Motions from Meeting of February 21, 2023

A Motion was made by Councilwoman Stevenson to approve the minutes of February 6, 2023 since Council has been provided with a copy. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Lasko. Motion carried 9-0.

A Motion was made by Councilman Cholock to hold an executive session. Motion seconded by Councilman Phillabaum. Motion carried 9-0.

A Motion was made by Councilwoman Lasko to reconvene. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Wojnar. Motion carried 9-0.

President Ruszkowski stated that the executive session was held from 7:46pm to 8:15pm to discuss personnel issues.

A Motion was made by Councilman Barrick to accept the proposal from Jim Kostyo for the repairs of the furnace, boiler pump and thermostats at Central Fire Station at a cost of \$2,327.00. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Czekanski. Motion carried 9-0.

A Motion was made by Councilman Barrick to advertise the Gazebo Renovations Project once we receive the completed bid package from Ulery Architect. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Lasko. Motion carried 9-0.

A Motion was made by Councilman Barrick to approve the extended lease agreement through December 31, 2028 with Robert Karfelt and Nicole Karfelt to maintain property located at Tax Map No. 21-02-04-0-072. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Wojnar. Motion carried 9-0.

A Motion was made by Councilman Phillabaum to authorize Jeff McGuinness to attend the 2023 Municipal Road Maintenance & Safety Symposium in Hershey, PA from April 23 -25, 2023. Registration (\$79.00), lodging totaling \$403.16, meals, turnpike tolls and fuel. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Stevenson. Motion carried 9-0.

A Motion was made by Councilman Phillabaum to close Smithfield Street from Church Street to Diamond Street from June 22nd to June 24th, 2023 for the Fireman's Fair. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Czekanski. Motion carried 9-0.

A Motion was made by Councilman Phillabaum to close Route 31, Main Street, on Friday, June 23, 2023 from 6:00pm to 8:30pm. for the annual Fireman's Parade. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Lasko. Motion carried 9-0.

A Motion was made by Councilman Phillabaum to amend the motion approved on February 6, 2023 correcting part-time Police Officer Jon Stevenson hourly rate from \$20.50 to \$20.00 once training is completed. Training rate is correct at \$16.50 per hour. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Stevenson. Motion carried 8-0.

A Motion was made by Councilman Phillabaum to hire Brice Joll as a part-time Police Officer at the part-time training rate of \$16.50 per hour then to the part-time rate of \$20.00 per hour pending physical and background check. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Stevenson. Motion carried 8-0.

A Motion was made by Councilman Phillabaum 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 Stevenson. Motion passed 8-0.

A Motion was made by Councilwoman Stevenson to approve sending Councilman Phillabaum to the 11th Annual PSAB Conference & Exhibition in Hershey, PA, June 4, 2023 to June 7, 2023 at a cost not to exceed \$1,200.00, which includes registration (\$250.00), lodging (\$229.00 + 11% occupancy tax per night), Fuel and turnpike tolls. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Czekanski. Motion carried 8-0.

A Motion was made by Councilwoman Stevenson to amend the motion for the purposes of changing the providers name and the cost of the Workers Comp Insurance. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Lasko. Motion carried 8-0.

A Motion was made by Councilwoman Stevenson to permit Council President Ruskowski to ratify the Worker's Comp Renewal Proposal with Century Insurance for the year 3/1/2023 to 3/1/2024 in the amount of \$56,531.85. Previous year quote was \$57,035.00. Motion seconded by Councilman Barrick. Motion carried 8-0.

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

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