

Meeting July 5, 2022

The meeting of Mount Pleasant Borough Council was called to order by President Ruszkowski 7:03pm 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. President Ruszkowski asked Solicitor Istik to take roll call. Councilpersons present included Czekanski, Phillabaum, Barrick, Stevenson and Wojnar. Mayor Bailey and Solicitor Istik were present. President Ruszkowski stated that a quorum is present. Councilwoman Barnes arrived at 7:04pm. Borough Manager Jeff Landy was absent.

A Motion was made by Councilwoman Stevenson to approve the minutes of May 23, 2022 since Council has been provided with a copy. Motion seconded by Councilman Phillabaum. Motion carried 6-0.

Speakers:

- Jim Meredith and Russell Brown of the VFW Post 3368 presented a check to the Mount Pleasant Borough Police Department on behalf of the VFW Post 3368 in the amount of \$2,000.00. Police Chief Grippo accepted the donation on behalf of the Police Department and said that they greatly appreciated their generous donation.
- Mike Liska of 2419 School Street, Mount Pleasant PA spoke to Council regarding the Mount Pleasant Volunteer Fire Department. Mr. Liska stated the following:

“I am the Chief Engineer for the Mount Pleasant Fire Department. Tonight, myself and several members of the fire department would like to discuss the Borough Ordinance requiring the Chief and Assistant Chief to live within the Borough limits. I talked with Mayor Bailey and several other Council members concerning it. They advised me to come to a meeting and discuss and get all of the facts and everything due to misinformation going between the Borough and the Department. I would like to relay some of those facts to avoid confusion.

As of today, we are down to 24 members. Of those 24 members, 8 live outside Borough limits. I know there were some safety concerns about the Chief and Assistant Chief coming out of the Borough to answer calls; however, of the 8 members living out of the Borough, 6 live less than a mile from Borough lines. Until 2022 our elections, a majority of our members were not notified of this Ordinance nor did we discuss it or vote on it at any of our meetings. It was also during your March 21st Council meeting, it was brought to our attention that one of our members voiced a personal opinion on this matter and tonight I have a company vote with every member on our active roster with the exception of the President because he is our deciding vote, I am going to pass it off to whoever wants to see it. The total on the votes was 18 yes to change it, 3 no not to change it, and 1 abstained and our President did not vote because he is the deciding vote and Mr. Bill Harrer has been tied up with his wife who is very sick so I did not bother him with this because there are enough votes there. Also, Councilwoman Stevenson asked why we want to amend the Ordinance on the May 23rd meeting. The Ordinance was not known to our department until the 2020 election and the whole department, and then you asked about why we asked to benefit one person. It is not going to benefit one person. It is going to benefit at least 6 plus the whole department that makes up this department. You also asked about the other officers and you were told that only the Chief and the Assistant Chief are permitted to drive their vehicles to a scene. That is incorrect. The Chief, Assistant, our 5 Captains and 2 Safety Officers are permitted to drive their vehicles to a scene and no member is to pass up a scene if they can stop and render aid. Councilman Wojnar asked about if the vote were to change would there be any repercussions of losing firemen and our members here stated if the Ordinance changes and elections go as predicted, several members will walk away. As you can see there is only 3 votes that don't want it changed. Also, Mayor Bailey you made the statement on the same meeting that there would be 6 members leaving if it changed. I don't know where those 6 members were or who they were. Mayor Bailey asked “do you mean leaving your fire department”? Mr. Liska responded “yes, yes”. Mayor Bailey stated “the only way that she would have known that is

if one of your firemen would have said it, so I am not sure who told me that". Mr. Liska continued "ok, well there is only 3 no votes. Also, it was stated that we checked with other departments about their Ordinance or their restrictions, you didn't get all of the information on that either. These are just neighboring departments that we assist and nobody else; Bullsken, all of their line officers are permitted to live outside of their Township, except for the Chief, which according to Kyle Quinn they are trying to change that. They want to leave it open to any active member. Youngwood has no restrictions. They have 1 Assistant Chief that lives in New Stanton and 1 Assistant Chief that lives in Hempfield Township. New Stanton itself has no restrictions. The Chief lives in Hempfield Township. Trauger has no restrictions there. The Chief lives in Chestnut Ridge. Mutual has no restrictions. Their Chief lives in Norvelt. Calumet has no restrictions. They have an Assistant Chief that lives on Liberty Street. Norvelt with no restrictions, their Assistant Chief lives on Maruca Drive. Scottsdale has no restrictions. Their Chief and both Assistant Chiefs live outside the Borough; and Saltlick does require all their officers to live within the Township as an elected officer. They can appoint one out of the Township, which they have. They have one officer that they appointed that does not live in the Township; and, East Huntingdon is a 2-mile radius and they have an officer living out of the Township. So just to give you an idea, everybody out there sees need for a change. The other thing I have is, if you want this, I can give it to you and you can look over it. The wish of the department is to change the Ordinance to let our great fire department grow and prosper for the future. I would like to thank you for your time and consideration on this matter.

Councilwoman Stevenson asked "what is the driving force behind wanting to change this".

Mr. Liska responded "we have several qualified people outside of the Borough within that one (1) mile radius that are highly qualified to handle those positions. We are only asking to change the one (1) position as of now. Council President Ruszkowski said "let's back up. You say as of now". Mr. Liska said "well that is all the department is asking for is just the Assistant Chief". Council President Ruszkowski asked "you're not going to come back in 6 months or a year and say now change it for". Mr. Liska said "It will be the wish of them. I don't know. I'm just telling you what I was asking for and what the members had signed".

Councilman Phillabaum said "you are saying that we have qualified people outside, so do we have people qualified within the Borough"? Mr. Liska responded "we have some, yes. They just want to give it an option for everybody because you have guys that live within that mile that dedicate their heart and soul to this department and you're restricting them. That is why we took a vote to show the majority of our membership is asking for this".

Councilman Barrick asked "your one-mile radius does that include School Street"? Mr. Liska replied "I am actually 4/10th of a mile". Councilman Barrick continued "ok, so one mile, where does it cover? Does it cover out towards the high school?" Mr. Liska asked "are you doing air miles or driven miles?" Councilman Barrick said "I would do a radius. Put a pin, circle around". Mr. Liska replied "I cannot answer that. Maybe our EMA Director could answer that because I am not 100% positive of that. I mean from the Borough line one mile". Mr. Barrick said "no, I would go from the fire station". Someone stated "it's only a one-mile square Borough". Councilman Barrick said "yes, one square mile, its weird the way the lines are cut". Councilwoman Stevenson said "it is not a circle". Councilman Barrick said "I mean, I don't have a preference. I understand I am always running back and forth to the high school". Mr. Liska responded "we only have one (1) member that lives by the high school and he is here tonight. We have one (1) member that lives behind the bakery, I live on School Street. We have two (2) members that live in the trailer court on Low Street. We have one (1) member on Low Street that is supposed to get out at our next meeting. He has his signature on there; but, as of tonight he is still a member of our department. We have one (1) that lives in Scottsdale, which he says he doesn't care what you do because he is too far away. He could never run for that position because it is just

too far for him. As far as the radius, I mean in the past we have had line officers at the high school leave there and come into the Borough with lights and siren to come so I don't understand where the safety thing is where that was brought up before. It's a judgement call really". Councilman Barrick said "yes, it is the person driving the vehicles responsibility". Mr. Liska said "right and we would hope that the people in those positions would". Councilman Barrick finished by saying "be responsible". Mr. Liska said "yes".

Solicitor Istik said "can I ask that question as to why no one down there knew that this Ordinance was enacted. How is it just now in 2022 are we realizing that this is an Ordinance. Is it because Jerry was the Chief for so long that these vacancies weren't down there"? Mr. Liska responded "the elections of 2022, I ran against Jerry as Chief. Nobody knew of the Ordinance. I was told the next day that there was an Ordinance so I checked into and I questioned Jerry about it. Jerry said that Ordinance only stated the Chief, not Assistant Chief and I showed it to him and I said it has both on there and he told me that it was not put in that way, I don't know, I wasn't a part of that. It was back in 2010, so like I said, a majority of our members knew nothing of this Ordinance. We were kind of waiting because I did speak with Jerry and he did say that he was going to make changes and unfortunately that never happened so now we're where we are now a year and a half later.

Councilwoman Stevenson asked "are you saying that Jerry wrote down that change". Mr. Liska responded "Jerry told me that he would change the Assistant Chief. As sure as I am standing here, that's a fact. He didn't say nothing about Chief that is why we are not here for that now; it is just Assistant Chief". Councilman Barrick said "so you are saying that the Assistant Chief and all of your line officers can live outside the Borough"? Mr. Liska responded "no, the Assistant Chief and any line officer below that can live in that one-mile radius. The Chief should still live in the Borough. I spoke with Mayor Bailey on it. I can see the point on it where they should live in the Borough but we have multiple line officers that are now retired and are in this Borough all day long. So, the issue where she stated that the Police Department, because I questioned Mr. Grippo, there is an Ordinance with an exception and she told me that the Police station is manned 24 hours a day, but we have line officers that are in this Borough 24 hours a day".

Council President Ruszkowski said "I know you have a couple more people that you asked to be put on the agenda as speakers. Is that in reference to the same topic"? Mr. Liska stated "it's going to be different scenarios but they are going to go under public comment. After I spoke with Jeff Landy, he said not to put them on the agenda and put them on comments so we are not dragging everything out". Council President Ruszkowski stated "public comment will be three (3) minutes, so we can do that when we are under public comment. Are you done with your". Mr. Liska replied "I am done with mine if you have no more questions". Council President Ruszkowski continued "Ok, I just want to make sure that you received the letter that I had signed saying that Borough Council had received your correspondence dated May 19, 2022 regarding the above captioned matter, which was the Assist Chief living outside of Borough lines. Mount Pleasant Borough Council has declined to revisit and/or revise the Ordinance pertaining to the Assistant Fire Chief living one (1) mile from Borough lines. As such, the Ordinance, as currently written, will remain in full force and effect. Thank you for your attention to this matter. Did your department receive a copy of that letter"?

Mr. Liska responded "There was a letter read at our meeting; but, as of three (3) days after the meeting it was not in the minutes, because I went down and looked for it. I do not know where that letter is at right now". Council President Ruszkowski stated "Then I ask you to come forward and I will give you a copy of that letter". Mr. Liska asked "Can I ask another question"? Council President Ruszkowski replied "sure". Mr. Liska asked "Is there a reason why Council was not going to revisit this again because it was asked that there was only a 11 to 4 vote, not everybody got to vote and now we have a full vote with full support why are you not letting the wishes of our department"? Council President Ruszkowski

stated “pertaining to that date of that letter, we have decided not to revisit that. It’s up to Council if they would want to discuss that after what we hear tonight”.

Councilman Wojnar stated “After what I have heard I would like to discuss it”. Solicitor Istik asked “Do we want to wait until the other public comment”? Councilman Wojnar said “yes, I definitely want to discuss it”.

Mr. Liska asked “anything else”? Council President Ruszkowski “No, we are good, thank you”. Mr. Liska replied “thank you”.

Public Comment:

- William Kristoff of 221 Shupe Street, Mt. Pleasant, PA spoke to Council regarding the Mount Pleasant Volunteer Fire Department. Mr. Kristoff stated the following:

“My only thing is, and I talked to Mayor Bailey, there’s probably nobody here when Chief Lucia put that into an Ordinance. What had happened is, not to throw any shade, he was afraid somebody was going to run against him who lived out of the Borough so he come up and had that put in. Nobody setting here was around at that time. Again, we never knew any of that. Neither do any of you guys. When we found out about it, we opted to try and make a change. If these seven (7) or eight (8) members are good enough to be in the fire department living outside of the Borough, most of them which Chief Lucia is the one who brought them on to us and had them sign up instead of going to Norvelt or Kecksburg or where ever they are living, then they should be able to, if they want to run for a position, they have that right to run as long as they’re qualified for it; and, it was just something where it was done last minute backdoor, hey you can’t run against me cause you’re mad at me. It’s been that way for twelve (12) years. So, when we came up and asked about changing it, for people to say you’re not going to work with it, it would be nice if the Borough would work with our fire department and try to move forward instead of pulling apart since we are going to be here. A lot of things changed with Jerry leaving, left a big void for the fire department and the Borough so that was my only reason coming is to support, if our guys feel that it’s good enough then I hope that you guys feel that it is good enough too”.

Council President Ruszkowski said “Our solicitor has a question”. Solicitor Istik said “I have a question. You had said if they’re qualified then they should be able to run, who makes that determination”? Mr. Kristoff replied “The fire department. Jerry had been around for thirty (30) years. Of course, he was qualified to run for the Fire Chief position”. Solicitor Istik replied “sure”. Mr. Kristoff continued “We have guys now that maybe have four (4) years in the fire department that want to run for these positions. Are they qualified? Maybe not. Then you have guys that live outside of the area that have twenty (20) years of service. Being around for twenty (20) years, I think you get a little more knowledge of what’s going on to make decisions on a call than to have a guy with four (4) or five (5) years who wants to run for that position. Our bylaws changed too, where at one point you needed five (5) years to run for Chief or Assistant Chief and to run for a Captain or Lieutenant you needed three (3) years. A couple of years ago they tried to change it to where you needed ten (10) years to run for Captain or Lieutenant and it was basically to move one person or another. We didn’t do anything that would better the whole department; it was an individual why we’re going to change things”. Solicitor Istik asked “Are there still those limitations in your by-laws meaning that you have to have five (5) years before you can run for Chief or Assistant Chief? That’s still in your by-laws”? Mr. Kristoff responded “Yes, Chief and Assistant Chief are five (5) years and the motion ended up failing, so it went back to Captain or Lieutenant you need three (3) years”. Solicitor Istik replied “ok, Thank you”. Mr. Kristoff replied “thank you”.

Councilwoman Stevenson said she would like to say something and continued by saying “Don’t you think we ought to clarify that they Mayor, when Jerry was the Mayor, the Mayor does not just create Ordinances. In 2010, Susan and I were both here. The Mayor doesn’t just invent Ordinances. Everyone knows that Jerry

had a lot of influence on everything that happened in town; but, to say that he just came up here and put that in the Ordinance is one hundred percent (100%) inaccurate. It would have of necessity been discussed and voted on by everyone who was on Council at that time”.

- Bruce Gearhart of 221 South Church Street, Mt. Pleasant Borough spoke to Council regarding the Mount Pleasant Volunteer Fire Department. Mr. Gearhart stated the following:

“My credentials, I have been an active firefighter with Mount Pleasant for over 45 years. This Ordinance has created a lot of problems and I will get back to years ago, there was 65 guys in the fire department and they all lived in the Borough. These days we are down to 24, and like they said most of them, a few of them live out of town. I want to give you a scenario on one gentleman who I think very highly of, he lives out of the Borough, he’s been a firefighter I’m going to say for at least 8 or 9 years, has attended every training session that we have had, he is now in the process of going back and getting more training so he can teach the younger firemen what we do. My opinion is it will be an awful shame that this gentleman spends all of his time giving to the Borough, where he doesn’t live, not to be able to run for an office if he so desires. I don’t think that’s right. You know years ago maybe this was a perfect Ordinance, right now I don’t believe it is. So, it is up to you guys what you want to do and what your outcome will be but for the better of the fire department I think we should change it but that’s just my opinion. Thank you for your time and consideration”.

Mayor Bailey said “I have a question. Is there an Ordinance on our books that governs where the firemen have to live way back when they all had to live in the Borough? Does anybody know if we had an Ordinance like that”? Council President Ruszkowski stated “I don’t think it says that they have to live in the Borough”. Mr. Gearhart responded “probably not. The charter at that time said that they had to have 65 active members and it stated that you had to be in the Borough limits”. Mayor Bailey stated “so that was something that the fire department had”. Mr. Gearhart said “right. That was something that we did years ago”.

Mr. Gearhart continued by saying “I have a question I’d like to ask this and I know what the answer is going to be but I am going to use Medic 10 as an example. Now, Medic 10 is a paid outfit. At one time they were volunteers. What would happen right now if Medic 10 went back to volunteering. How many guys that work there live in the Borough? I would guarantee you that if you looked into it that you may have one or two if that. Just something to think about”.

Councilwoman Stevenson said “I have a question too. Why one (1) mile? Why not a mile and a half or five miles or ten miles or how you decided that”? Mr. Gearhart responded “We considered that in the distance coming from say a mile to either station. You were cut down on your time. Say you live three (3) or four (4) miles away, by the time you would get to the station the trucks are already gone. Not that they couldn’t stay at the station if we needed more man power but then you’re taking a risk in the winter time of somebody trying to get to the station and causing a problem. Basically, I don’t know if you are familiar with the old cake route that we had, that’s what we decided like down Low Street, Pleasant Heights Trailer Court, Bunker Hill area, out this direction about a mile, no bigger than that. That’s the service area we provide most of the time anyhow.

Mayor Bailey asked “I have another question. You may have already stated this already and I apologize if you did, are you going a mile from Central Station or a mile from the border of the Borough”. Mr. Gearhart responded “We are going a mile from the Borough lines. It is pretty hard to tell if you go from a mile from this station, you’re still going to be in the Borough when you get to the end”. Councilman Barrick stated “A mile from the border line from this end of town will put you like at Walmart and a mile from the East End of town would put you roughly below Lenox. That is just looking at the main routes going out of town”. Mr. Gearhart responded “Yes and that the only reason they did that is we opened

it up is that we can get more guys to join because there are qualified people out there but they don't join. Any other questions"?

Councilwoman Stevenson said "Yes, I have more questions. May I ask". Council President Ruszkowski responded "Yes, please". Councilwoman Stevenson continued "This to me, it has the feel of something that is being done to benefit one (1) particular person or one (1) particular set of ideas or one (1) particular circumstance. How can you reassure us that this is done with high-minded desire to do what's best for the department or the Borough or how could you reassure us that it is not being done, I mean I don't know everything that goes on in the fire department, far from it, but just a little tidbit that I heard is that there were some people who felt a bit coerced into signing this and that there were a lot of peer pressure used to get people to sign"? Mr. Gerhart responded "Well the gentleman that I spoke of earlier with all the training was not one of the gentlemen that started this. I'm saying that because he is more qualified than some of the guys that we have in there right now, so to me, as past President, I was President for I don't know how many years, we try to do things to better not only the fire department, but the Borough, so as far as I'm concerned and the gentlemen that signed that list, if they didn't want to sign the list they didn't have to". Council President Ruszkowski asked "just to be clear on this, you can join the fire department but you don't have to live within the Borough, correct"? Mr. Gearhart replied "Correct". Mayor Bailey responded "but you have to be within one mile distance from the border"? Mr. Gearhart replied "You have to be within that one-mile radius. The only reason that we did that, we didn't want to take guys away from East Huntingdon and we didn't want to take guys away from". Councilwoman Stevenson interrupted and said "but weren't you talking about someone living in Scottdale"? Mr. Gearhart responded "yes". Councilman Barrick said "yes, but he is just a volunteer fireman". Council President Ruszkowski said "that's what we mean, a volunteer fireman, they don't have to live in the Borough". Councilman Barrick stated "but he is not able to be an officer here, which is fair". Councilwoman Stevenson asked Council President Ruszkowski "what were you talking about"? Council President Ruszkowski said "I just wanted to clarify that anybody can join the fire department and they don't have to live in the Borough". Mr. Gearhart responded "That's right. We have applications here, there's a couple of young guys in here, we would be more than happy to sign their application if they wish". Councilman Barrick said "Thanks".

Council President Ruszkowski asked if there was any other public comment.

- Joe Bauer of 607 N. Geary Street, Mt. Pleasant Borough spoke to Council regarding the Mount Pleasant Volunteer Fire Department. Mr. Bauer stated the following:

"To clarify the Ordinance that was put in place in 2010, I was a sitting person on this Council and I was Chairman of Public Safety and everybody on the Council voted unanimously to pass the Ordinance and that's all I'm going to talk about this whole thing because I am not going to talk against my brother firemen. I have a lot of respect for Mike. Mike is a very qualified fireman. I am here tonight to talk about the fire department. First off, I want to thank those who took tickets and sold them for us under our street fair ticket. I appreciate it very much those that helped. Those that came down and helped at the street fair. Diane was in my booth for a while helping sell tickets along with Ken. I greatly appreciate that help at the street fair. With that, we have another ticket coming out here in about a week. It is the \$20,000.00 ticket. \$10.00 you can win \$20,000.00 cash. I paid it off last year. The lady was shaking the whole time I paid her so just imagine that. I'm going to ask once again of Council, if anyone can help sell those tickets, I will have them probably within two (2) weeks. I can come to the work session and ask whoever wants them to give me a call. I will be more than happy to get them to you, even if you just want to buy one.

The other thing that I wanted to bring up to Councils attention, we also having a purse bash coming down on August 14, 2022. There are some tickets left. I don't think that there is a lot of them left. They will go fast as the date gets closer, so if you like purse bashes that's on August 14th. That is a Sunday. If you want that

ticket, it is \$25.00. I will be more than happy to try and get one to you. The last thing, about a week and a half ago, Mr. Nitterright approached me about, it's been longer than that, Mr. Nitterright contacted me on behalf of the Landlords Association. I guess they had a meeting and they are trying to do some things for the Borough, so one of the things that they wanted to do was in conjunction with the fire department. I met with Mr. Nitterright and a lady downstairs, her name is Gerri and I don't know what her last name is. She helps landlords try to do whatever they do. They are trying to do a program where they can get a grant or something, with the help of the fire department, to get smoke detectors trying to get two (2) for each household then we can distribute them through the fire station. They are also working with the Township trying to get them involved in this project. The only thing that I am going to need from Council as this gets closer and it becomes reality, I need a list of the residents of the Borough so when we hand them out, we can cross names off. I don't know if that is possible, like a sewage list or how we are going to be able to do that but I am going to meet with that lady probably in the middle of the week. I have to give her the fire department 401(c). We are still working on the 301(c) and they will try and get them the grant and get the detectors. Years back, Jerry did get the gas company to give out carbon monoxide detectors. We are not going to do that again. She is going to contact the gas company on them. We still have a few in our trucks that we give out on when we have calls for them situations. We are going to try to get the smoke detectors with the landlords help and get those passed out. That's about it".

- Corey Snyder – Emergency Management Coordinator spoke to Council with the following:

“Are you doing the National Night Out this year? Council President Ruszkowski stated “we are”. Councilman Phillabaum asked “What was the date on that”? Mr. Snyder replied “August 2nd because I got the information to order the pamphlets for the Borough and that is why I wanted to make sure we are doing it before I submitted the order. Mayor Bailey stated “As of right now we are doing it. There is a meeting on Monday with the people who organize it. There have been several meetings. There are just some things that they need to iron out and once those are taken care of, it will be a go”. Mr. Snyder responded “okay and just another question. I heard it through another party that Council stated that next year the Emergency Management Coordinator and the Deputy Emergency Management Coordinator will be the Chief and the Assistant Chief, so I don't know if there was any”. Council President Ruszkowski and Mayor Bailey both stated “we didn't talk about that”. Mr. Snyder replied “okay, because I heard that”.

Mayor's Report:

Mayor Bailey gave the following report:

- Firemen held their festival and it was a success again this year.
- Attended the Veterans Park Advisory Committee Meeting.
- Met with Chief Grippo regarding the following:
 - Getting the Civil Service Process in order again so we can have more part-time officers to fill in some of the shifts.
 - About doing some foot patrol at Frick Park.
 - Getting signage to keep the large commercial trucks off of the residential streets so they don't get stuck or lost on some of the smaller side streets.
- July 3rd Party in the Park was another great Mt. Pleasant event. It was a great success. Mayor Bailey thanked everyone that pitched in and helped to make it a great success.

- Mayor Bailey reminded Council that if they get complaints from citizens concerning high grass, bad sidewalks, garbage on their front porch, anything that goes against our Ordinances to please give Sharon in the office a call or if you have Mark Cypher, Code Enforcement, phone number you can give him a call. Sharon will forward all of the information to Mark.

Councilwoman Stevenson asked Mayor Bailey are we or are not intending to enforce laws around fireworks? Mayor Bailey stated she didn't have a discussion with Police Chief Grippo about that; however, she has over the past years called about fireworks going off and they were not more than 150 feet away from a structure, they did respond. Councilwoman Stevenson asked if Mayor Bailey could think of anywhere in the Borough that fireworks could be set off 150 feet away from a structure. Mayor Bailey said no. Councilwoman Stevenson said then any fireworks set off within the Borough would be illegal. Mayor Bailey said residents should call 911 if someone is setting off fireworks near them. Mayor Bailey said that those guidelines are not our Ordinances, they are state law. Mayor Bailey said once again, if there is an issue that she urges people to call 911.

Solicitor's Report:

Solicitor Istik gave the following report:

- Spoke with Chief Grippo and revised the Taser Policy that was previously approved and he provided it to his fulltime and parttime officers.
- The 2 employees that we have here have signed their employment agreements.
- Prepared a draft Ordinance this morning amending the Ordinance for prohibited parking, which covers trailers, recreational vehicles, dump trucks, boat trailers, etc. on residential streets unless they are utilizing the vehicle to move things to and from the property. While they are doing that, they can park there, otherwise it has to be moved. Solicitor Istik emailed a copy of the Ordinance to Councilman Wojnar today. Councilman Wojnar stated that he forwarded a copy of the Ordinance to Councilwoman Lasko and Councilwoman Czekanski who is also on the Ordinance Committee.

Tax Collector's Report:

Councilwoman Stevenson read the following report for the month of June 2022:

Property Taxes	\$28,191.69
Supplemental Taxes	\$ 0.00
Per Capita Taxes	\$ 0.00
Total Collected	\$28,191.69

Councilwoman Stevenson notified residents that the opportunity to pay their taxes at face amount for the County and the Borough is now ended and that if you didn't pay today, you will now have to pay the penalty.

Borough Manager's Report:

Council President Ruszkowski gave the following report:

- Demolition of the two (2) houses on Shupe Street will be happening. There is a house on Summit Street and the building by the waterway (former Morris Barron car lot building) are set for demolition.
- Phase I of the Frick Park Hillside Project is done and fenced off.
- Phase II of the Frick Park Hillside Project will be completed under a grant.
- Sidewalk Project will be started July 5th or 6th from Hitchman Street to Silver Street. The project is being done under a stormwater grant.

- 2022 Street Paving Project will begin on July 5, 2022.
- Held a Managers Meeting with Police Chief Grippo, Jeff McGuinness, and Sharon Lesko.

President’s Report:

A Motion was made by Councilman Phillabaum to hold an Executive Session. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Stevenson. Motion carried 7-0.

A Motion was made by Councilwoman Stevenson to reconvene. Motion seconded by Councilman Barrick. Motion carried 7-0.

Council President Ruszkowski stated that the executive session was held from 7:41pm to 8:08pm to discuss personnel.

Council President Ruszkowski gave the following report:

- Council is going to stand by its original decision not to revise the Ordinance at this time.

Mr. Bauer asked if another letter will be sent out. Solicitor Istik asked for a roster so they can get a letter to all the members. Mr. Bauer said he will go down to the fire station and get a copy of the roster.

Council President Ruszkowski addressed Mr. Liska by saying “This Council is going to stand by their original decision not to revise the Ordinance at this time. We have asked for a roster of your department and if you can get that to us that will be greatly appreciated”. Mr. Liska asked “a roster of”? Councilwoman Stevenson said “So that everyone will have a copy of the letter. It won’t be any mistaking about it”.

Mr. Liska asked “What is the reasoning for, we feel we should pick our best qualified person for the job. How does Council decide who that is”?

Council President Ruszkowski stated “We are not deciding. We are just standing by the Ordinance as it written. What you choose to do and to fill those vacancies within your department, that is up to your department to put the best man in or woman”.

Mr. Liskas asked “What happens if we go outside and go against your Ordinance”? Council President Ruszkoski said “pardon me”? Mr. Liska asked “What happens if we put the best man in for it and it goes against your Ordinance”? Solicitor Istik responded “He can’t legally hold that title if it is against the Ordinance. If we have to put it in writing we will; but if something were to happen and your Chief or Assistant Chief would make a determination and something would go wrong and they’re not permitted to be a Chief or an Assistant Chief then we’re not going to be liable for the decisions that you made that are against our Ordinance”. Mr. Liska responded “Okay. So, whoever they decide to put in, they’re fine with that, but you guys won’t be held liable for any issues that happen down there”? Solicitor Istik said “No, we are saying that we will not recognize them as the Chief or an Assistant Chief”. Mr. Liska responded “Okay”.

Property Report:

Councilman Barrick gave the following report:

- Met with Ulery Architecture regarding the gazebo renovations and he provided a not to exceed amount. Borough Manager Landy recommended that we speak to a second architect. Councilman Barrick will be contacting a second architect for a quote.
- Will need to find an electrical contractor for the electrical things that need to be improved at the gazebo with the project. Councilman Barrick will work with the architect to see if they can include that information on their plans so when it is bid, it will be one bid.

Council President Ruszkowski reported that there were issues with the breaker box that is near the video wall during the July 3rd event. The breakers kept throwing from 11:30am until

approximately 3:15pm. They run electric cords across the front of the Veterans Wall to a box near Main Street. Councilman Barrick will get with Jeff McGuinness from the Street Department and look into the electrical problem.

Streets / Stormwater Report:

Councilman Phillabaum gave the following report:

- Street paving project has begun today.

Councilman Phillabaum said that he would like to meet with Councilman Barrick regarding stormwater issues off of North Geary Street Extension behind Gary's Garage.

Council President Ruszkowski asked Councilman Phillabaum to thank Jeff McGuinness for coming out and working on the electric at the gazebo on the holiday weekend.

Parks & Recreation:

Councilman Barrick gave the following report:

- They are still working on the Frick Park Hillside Project cleaning it up and is nearly complete. They put fencing up around it.

Councilman Phillabaum reported that the Street Department put new basketball rims up at Jack Bobbs Park.

Public Safety Report:

Councilman Phillabaum read the following Fire Report for the month of June 2022:

Total Calls – 44
In Town – 15
Out of Town - 29
10-45's - 14
Entrapments - 2
Fires -9
AFA's - 12
Hazardous Calls – 1
Public Service Calls – 7
Ambulance Assistance –0
Standby's – 0
Turnpike Calls – 2
Landing Zones – 2
Drills – 0
Total Members Answering – 451
Avg. Member Per Call – 10

Veterans Park:

Councilwoman Barnes gave the following report:

- Had a meeting with the Veterans Park Advisory Committee on Thursday, June 30, 2022.
- Will be contacting four (4) contractors for the work to be done on the other side of the wall.
- Will be creating a subcommittee to start working on putting banners up on Main Street. They will be getting forms ready and figuring out pricing. Mayor Bailey reported that she believes that there are approximately 56 utility poles line Main Street. Councilwoman Barnes stated that they would not be up all year. They talked about at taking them down in the winter and looking at where they could be stored. They discussed storing them in the basement of the VFW.

Council President Ruszkowski asked where the application will come from and who will they get them back to. Councilwoman Barnes stated that the subcommittee will be working on that.

Councilwoman Stevenson asked how will they be paid for. Councilwoman Barnes said that the people will have to provide pictures and that they will pay for them like they do to have a name put on Veterans Wall.

Solicitor Istik asked if the digital wall is working and if there are any issues with it. Councilwoman Barnes said that it is working but you still can't get the digital information other than where one is located on the wall. You cannot get the biography and picture of someone. Councilwoman Barnes said that you cannot get the location of the names that were put on the new wall.

Councilwoman Stevenson asked if the price has been set for the banners. Councilwoman Barnes said it has not. They are currently going through some books and looking at costs.

Human Resources / Ordinances:

Councilman Wojnar gave the following report:

- Received the draft Ordinance for the parking.

Finance / Grants Report: None.

New Business:

- Mount Pleasant Area Band Boosters is looking for sponsors for the 2022-2023 season "Tower of Power".
- Received a thank you letter from the Mt. Pleasant Public Library for adding two (2) additional handicap parking spaces.

Reading of Communications: None.

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 7-0.

Public Comment: None.

Miscellaneous and Adjournment:

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

Meeting Adjourned 8:28pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jeffrey A. Landy,
Borough Manager

BOROUGH OF MOUNT PLEASANT

Susan Ruszkowski, Council President

Motions from Meeting of July 5, 2022

A Motion was made by Councilwoman Stevenson to approve the minutes of May 23, 2022 since Council has been provided with a copy. Motion seconded by Councilman Phillabaum. Motion carried 6-0.

A Motion was made by Councilman Phillabaum to hold an Executive Session. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Stevenson. Motion carried 7-0.

A Motion was made by Councilwoman Stevenson to reconvene. Motion seconded by Councilman Barrick. Motion carried 7-0.

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

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