

Meeting September 6, 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 Borough Manager Landy to take roll call. Councilpersons present included Barnes, Czekanski, Phillabaum, Barrick, Lasko, and Stevenson. Mayor Bailey was present. President Ruszkowski stated that a quorum is present. Solicitor Istik was present via phone until 8:55pm.

A Motion was made by Councilwoman Stevenson to approve the minutes of August 22, 2022 since Council has been provided with a copy. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Lasko. Motion carried 7-0.

Speakers:

- Daynelle Sanner of the Mount Pleasant Business District spoke to Council about holding a 5k run/walk on Saturday, October 22, 2022 called the Breast Saturday Ever. Opening ceremony will be at 9:00am and the race will begin at 9:30am. The event will not only draw runners and walkers but it will bring shoppers into town and support the local businesses along with raising awareness and funds for Breast Cancer research. They will have various activities to bring people in to shop including the 5k color run/walk. Ms. Sanner is requesting approval from Council for the event, which she must receive before getting approval from PennDOT for the closure of the state roads.
 - The first request is to utilize the gazebo area for opening ceremony and guest speakers.
 - The second request is close the road, South Diamond Street, in front of the gazebo, which is the start and finish of the race; and,
 - The third request is to close Main Street from the end of Cooks Way to the top of Braddock Road Avenue.

Borough Manager Landy stated that Police Chief Grippo will have to approve the route and Council makes the final approval. Police Chief Grippo stated that there are certain streets that he cannot approve. Borough Manager Landy suggested to Ms. Sanner to speak with Police Chief Grippo tomorrow to go over the route and get it approved. Ms. Sanner has asked all stores to participate and decorate pink for the event.

A Motion was made by Councilwoman Stevenson to amend the agenda for the purpose of approving road closures for the Breast Saturday Ever 5k run/walk. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Lasko. Motion carried 7-0.

A Motion was made by Councilwoman Stevenson to approve the request of the Business District Authority Breast Saturday Ever 5k run/walk pending approval of the route by Police Chief Grippo. Motion seconded by Councilman Barrick. Motion carried 7-0.

Ms. Sanner believes that the event should conclude by approximately 11:00am. The course is approximately 3.224 miles.

Public Comment:

- Mark Kraisinger, Fire Chief of the Mount Pleasant Volunteer Fire Department, spoke to Council regarding rescue tools that they had previously discussed with Council about purchasing partially with a grant and the Borough paying the remaining balance. They are not going to be able to do that now. They lost a State Grant due to items not being forward to the state on time to receive the grant. They would like to table this issue until a future date due to having to return the grant money to the state. They have a deadline of when the state grant money needs to be returned and that if you don't get it back by the deadline you are banned from applying for future state grants. Council President Ruszkowski asked if they had missed the deadline by one (1) day. Mr. Kraisinger said it was by one (1) day and that these are issues that he inherited.

Councilwoman Barnes asked what the soonest is that they can apply for the grant again. Mr. Kraisinger stated that the grant opens in September to apply for next year so they have to get that money back to the state quickly so they don't lose that opportunity.

- Julie Schrader of 245 Thomas Street, Mount Pleasant, introduced herself to Council as the new Children's Services Coordinator for the Mount Pleasant Public Library. Ms. Schrader asked for utilization of the parking lot for an event that they are planning called Touch-A-Truck, which involves the Fire Department, Police Department, Ambulance service, and local first responders where children can explore the trucks, vehicles and equipment that they use. It is to bring the community together. Tentative date is Saturday, October 1, 2022 from 1:00pm to 3:00pm. October is Fire Prevention Month. The first half hour will be a silent half hour to include children with sensory issues. They will be utilizing the whole parking lot. They also would like to hold a story walk in Frick Park. A story walk is where they deconstruct a book and put the pages throughout the park. The book will be fall related and they will read a page and move forward and read another. Once at the end of the walk they will have completed the book. The library will put up all the signs for the book and would like to have it up for approximately 2 weeks. They can go for a walk with their family and read a book at the same time. There is also a scavenger hunt that goes along with it, such as finding an acorn or a red leaf, something related to what is going on in the book. Borough Manager Landy asked how it will affect the schedule for fall softball. Councilwoman Lasko stated that she loves this idea and she does not have the schedule for fall softball yet. Councilwoman Stevenson stated that it should not matter about softball if it is going to be signs posted around the trail. Solicitor Istik stated that the library should provide a certificate of insurance listing the Borough as additional insured. Solicitor Istik stated that she would only need it for the touch-a-truck event. Councilwoman Lasko stated that she will notify the Softball league of the events that will be going on and that the parking lot will not be available October 1, 2022. Ms. Schrader said that they will walk the trail every morning to make certain that the book pages are still in tact and that everything is where it is supposed to be and being taken care of.

A Motion was made by Councilman Barrick to amend the agenda to permit the Mt. Pleasant Library to utilize the parking lot next to the library on October 1, 2022 for their Touch-a-Truck event and to utilize Frick Park for the story book walk. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Stevenson. Motion carried 7-0.

A Motion was made by Councilman Barrick to permit the Mt. Pleasant Library to utilize the parking lot next to the library on October 1, 2022 for their Touch-a-Truck event and to utilize Frick Park for the children's story book walk from October 9, 2022 through October 22, 2022. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Czekanski. Motion carried 7-0.

- Robert Karfelt of 114 S. Depot Street, Mt. Pleasant, PA spoke to Council regarding the following matters:
 1. an update on the Bridgeport Street (former Levin) property.
 - Solicitor Istik stated the following:
 - She spoke with Mr. Karfelt on the phone today and informed him that she was going to bring their conversation to Council to discuss because there are several issues with the subdivision of this property. The first issue is once she reviewed the deed, it has two (2) parcels of land on it. The subdivision is with regard to parcel 1, which contains several plats of land for a total of 7.116 acres. She would like to view the property and see why the deed shows 2 parcels and if there is a discrepancy. The second issue is there are utility lines including gas lines and a gas well on the property. If the property is divided into equal acres, you will then need to do an easement or a right-of-way for all of the utility lines on every acre of land and placed on each separate deed depending on who bids on the property and how much acreage is there, which in itself may be a mess. Solicitor Istik continued by saying when she spoke with Mr. Karfelt, he stated that he has a map that indicates where some of the utility lines are. There should be a PA One Call done to see exactly where the utility lines are

located. They will have to be noted in the subdivision. Solicitor Istik stated she was to meet with Borough Manager Landy today at the property; however, she had some unforeseen problem come up and it has been rescheduled to Friday at 1:00pm if anyone would like to attend.

No Parking This Side signage on the right side heading south on South Depot Street before his house. There are no signs after the first few signs. Mr. Karfelt was unaware that it was no parking on that side the whole way down the street since there are no signs. Borough Manager Landy stated that the Ordinance Book lists the streets where parking is prohibited and if there was a sign and it was removed by someone the Ordinance still lists the streets. Mayor Bailey stated she does not see in the Ordinance Book where there is parking on one side only on South Depot Street. Mr. Karfelt requested that if it is no parking to one side that signs be placed the rest of the way down the street.

2. Requests a stop sign in the alleyway that goes past his garage. Borough Manager Landy stated that he is wondering if there wasn't one there originally and someone took it out. They will need to check into that and if that was the case, they will put one back in. Council President Ruszkowski stated that she knows that the alleyway was a one-way street at one time. Borough Manager Landy asked why it would change. Council President Ruszkowski stated that the sign was obviously removed. Councilman Phillabaum will check with Jeff McGuinness and Mario Fontanazza to see if there was a stop sign there previously and do what needs to be done to getting a stop sign there.

Mayor's Report:

Mayor Bailey gave the following report:

- Attended the August Veterans Park Advisory Committee.
- Attended a meeting with Medic 10 and Speclin regarding 3rd party billing. Speclin staff explained the billing, provided financial reports, there were a few problems and Mr. Gergas was going to look into the issues and have them corrected. Council President Ruszkowski, Borough Manager Landy and 2 gentlemen from Medic 10 was in attendance.
- Spoke with the Municipal Authority of Westmoreland County (MAWC) regarding the fire hydrants. MAWC is responsible for maintaining and checking the pressure of the fire hydrants. Any shrubbery, weeds, trees growing around the hydrants fall on the municipality. MAWC suggested that if the municipality has residents that have fire hydrants on their property and have them blocked by shrubbery, landscaping or weeds that we send letters to the residents notifying them that they need to clear them so the fire department can get to the fire hydrants. They also suggested that we use our street department to clear the fire hydrants. Council President Ruszkowski gave Mayor Bailey an Ordinance that states fire hydrants must be kept free and clear of any debris of any kind. Mayor Bailey read a copy of the Ordinance. Councilman Barrick asked if something could be put in the paper or on the website or facebook making residents aware before sending letters. Borough Manager Landy asked if we know what fire hydrants need addressed and that there are a few scenarios that could be used; 1. Sending the Code Enforcement Officer around and have him send letters, which Mr. Landy agrees with Councilman Barrick that sometimes that is not the best way to handle it initially. If the Code Officer does handle it then he will need a list of all the fire hydrants and where they are at and that would be a long process. 2. The police could do it; and 3. The people that know hydrants the best are the people who use the hydrants. Borough Manager Landy stated he would like to see the fire department take that initiative and that they have a better idea of what needs to be done and what doesn't.

Mayor Bailey stated that the Municipal Authority of Westmoreland County said that if we need a list of hydrants or anything to reach out to them and that they will email a list. Councilwoman Lasko agrees that the fire department should take care of the hydrant

issues. Mayor Bailey stated that MAWC has a schedule and comes through and tests the hydrants every 12 to 18 months. She is uncertain if they test them all or a section of them.

Councilwoman Czekanski said that there is an issue on Joseph Street with parking. It is in the Ordinance Book that there is no parking on the street and that she could not get through the street and had to turn around. Council President Ruskowski stated that she had to also turn around. Councilman Phillabaum asked if he should notify the street department to install No Parking signs. Councilwoman Czekanski stated that they should address all of the streets in the Ordinance Book if they are going to do one, they would need to do all. Borough Manager Landy stated that if an ambulance or fire truck could not get through, that would be a big problem. Councilman Barrick stated that each councilperson should take a copy of the Ordinance and list of streets and walk it and make citizens aware of it and that they can't park on the street.

- Received a letter from the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) promoting Constitution Week, September 17-23, 2022. They will have a proclamation signature for that week and will be holding a meeting to kick off the Constitution Week.

Solicitor's Report:

Solicitor Istik gave the following report:

- Close to finalizing the Police Contract.
- Will meet at the Bridgeport Street Property on Friday at 1:00pm

Tax Collector's Report: None.

Borough Manager's Report:

Borough Manager Landy gave the following report:

- Will be working on a grant between \$30,000.00 to \$50,000.00. The grant is from the casinos. According to Bob Regola, to be approved, it has to be a unique project. Councilwoman Lasko suggested the hillside at Frick Park.
- Met with Councilwoman Barnes and Jim Meredith regarding the proposed Veterans Banners.
- Need to decide on the Auditors.
- Met with Councilwoman Stevenson and Chip Purcell of Enviro21 regarding the garbage contract.
- Attended a meeting with Medic 10 and Speclin regarding Speclin 3rd party billing.
- Presented the 2023 Minimum Municipal Obligation (MMO).

President's Report:

Council President Ruskowski read a resignation letter from Councilman James Wojnar effective September 6, 2022.

A Motion was made by Councilwoman Stevenson to amend the agenda to accept the resignation letter from Councilman James Wojnar. Motion seconded by Councilman Phillabaum. Motion carried 7-0.

A Motion was made by Councilwoman Stevenson to accept the resignation letter from Councilman James Wojnar. Motion seconded by Councilman Phillabaum. Motion carried 7-0.

Borough Manger Landy stated that Councilman Wojnar was great to work with and took everything passionately that he did here.

A Motion was made by Councilwoman Stevenson to amend the agenda to advertise for the 1st Ward Councilperson. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Lasko. Motion carried 7-0.

A Motion was made by Councilwoman Stevenson to advertise to advertise for a 1st Ward Councilperson. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Lasko.

A Motion was made by Councilwoman Lasko to approve Councilman Ken Phillabaum to be appointed to the Board on the Coal & Coke Trail. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Stevenson. Motion carried 7-0.

A Motion was made by Councilwoman Lasko to hold an executive session regarding personnel and contracts. Motion seconded by Councilman Phillabaum. Motion carried 7-0.

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

Council President Ruszkowski stated that the executive session was held from 8:31pm to 8:55pm to discuss personnel and contracts.

Property Report:

Streets / Stormwater Report:

Councilman Phillabaum gave the following report:

- Orchard Avenue should be completed this week with the paving company.
- The line painting on Diamond Street is to be done by a subcontractor through Tresco Paving since they did the paving. It is not through PennDOT. The streets have been marked for painting but it has not been completed yet. The speed control lines have been painted by the Street Department.

Councilwoman Barnes asked if the Borough has an Ordinance regarding spraying for weeds. Mayor Bailey stated that if it is private property, they are permitted to spray their own.

Parks & Recreation:

A Motion was made by Councilwoman Lasko to authorize James “Butch” Gallagher to use Frick Park in 2024, with approximate dates of August 28, 2024 and September 1, 2024, for the traveling Vietnam Wall and the traveling 9-11 Wall and the Borough will leave the lights on all night while it is there. Motion seconded by Councilman Barrick. Motion carried 7-0.

Councilman Phillabaum stated that he has had a few people asking about the tennis courts at Ramsey School. Councilwoman Lasko stated that the tennis courts do not belong to the Borough and that the school district owns them. As a note, Mr. Phillabaum followed up with the school and they will be opening one of the tennis courts.

Councilwoman Barnes stated that they should think about the Bridgeport Street property and use it for tennis courts and possibly a fast pitched softball field.

Public Safety Report:

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

Total Calls – 53
In Town – 11

Out of Town - 42
10-45's - 12
Entrapments - 0
Fires -9
AFA's - 24
Hazardous Calls – 2
Public Service Calls – 3
Ambulance Assistance –2
Standby's – 1
Turnpike Calls – 4
Landing Zones – 0
Drills – 0
Total Members Answering – 618
Avg. Member Per Call – 12

Councilman Phillabaum gave the following report:

- Councilman Phillabaum and Fire Chief Mark Kraisinger will be attending the Business District Authority meeting on Tuesday, September 20, 2022 at 6:15pm regarding the Knox Boxes Ordinance.
- The Fire Department needs a list of Councilpersons that are going to be in the Glass Festival Parade. Borough Manager Landy stated that if you are riding to bring or get your own car.

Veterans Park:

A Motion was made by Councilwoman Barnes to accept the bid from Douglas A Bryner of Scottsdale, PA for repairs on the memorial wall at Veterans Park in the amount of \$4,800.00 to be paid from Veterans Park bank account. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Czekanski. Motion carried 7-0.

A Motion was made by Councilwoman Barnes to accept the bid from Douglas A Bryner of Scottsdale, PA for repainting the memorial wall at Veterans Park in the amount of \$4,200.00 to be paid from the Veterans Park bank account. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Lasko. Motion carried 7-0.

Councilwoman Barnes stated that the parging work will be done on the front and back of wall because there is cracking on both sides of the wall and if something is not done, they will get more water in there. Mr. James Meredith stated that the front cracking is not nearly as bad as the back. Councilwoman Barnes also reported that he will be hand painting it so it does not get paint on the granite.

Councilwoman Barnes gave the following report:

- Will be having a meeting tomorrow regarding the Veterans Banners. They went to Scottsdale to look at the size of their banners that they have. They looked at the banners at the street department which are approximately 5foot. If they went with this size, they would be able to swap out the banners without changing anything. They will need to decide what size they want to go with. They spoke with StukUp Graphics and she will be getting them a quote. The banners would hang for a 3-year period. After that period the family/purchaser would take possession of that banner. They are looking at a cost of approximately \$150.00 per banner.

Ordinances: None

Human Resources: None

Finance / Grants Report: None

New Business: None.

Reading of Communications:

- Received a thank you card from Secretary, Sharon Lesko.
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- Armstrong Cable has been chosen the 2022 Top Independent Cable Operator of the Year by Calebfax Magazine, the broadband and cable TV industry's leading publication.

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 Councilman Barrick. Motion carried 7-0.

Meeting Adjourned 9:32pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jeffrey A. Landy,
Borough Manager

BOROUGH OF MOUNT PLEASANT

Susan Ruszkowski, Council President

Motions from Meeting of September 6, 2022

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