

Meeting September 7, 2021

The meeting of Mount Pleasant Borough Council was called to order by Vice President Cholock 7:00pm in Council Chambers at 1 Etze Avenue, Mount Pleasant, PA 15666. The Pledge of Allegiance was said and Vice President Cholock asked for a moment of silence for our deployed troops. Vice President Cholock asked Borough Manager Landy to take roll call. Councilpersons present included Barnes, Bailey, Phillabaum, Lasko, and Ruszkowski. Mayor Lucia and Solicitor Istik were present. Vice President Cholock stated that a quorum is present.

Mayor Lucia swore in part-time Police Officers Spencer Ramela and Matthew Liska.

Vice President Cholock called for nominations and elections for President of Council. Councilman Phillabaum nominated Councilwoman Ruszkowski. There were no other nominations. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Bailey. Motion carried 6-0. Councilwoman Ruszkowski was elected Council President.

Borough Manager Landy reported that Council President Ruszkowski is the second woman in Mt. Pleasant Borough history to be Council President. The first was Peggy Mullen.

A Motion was made by Councilman Cholock to approve the minutes of August 23, 2021 since Council has been provided with a copy. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Lasko. Motion carried 6-0.

Public Comment:

- Taylor Robbins of Jacobs Creek Watershed Authority spoke to Council regarding the sidewalk project on the southside of Main Street between Hitchman Street and Silver Street. Ms. Robbins is asking Council to execute the landowner agreement so they can move forward with the project. Councilwoman Lasko stated that there is a motion on the agenda to execute the necessary documents.
- Valerie Tressler of 501 Washington Street, Mount Pleasant, PA 15666 spoke to Council requesting permission to decorate the Gazebo pink for Breast Cancer Awareness for the month of October. Decorations would go up starting October 1, 2021 and be taken down October 31, 2021. Ms. Tressler also asked if the fountain could be lit up pink. Ms. Tressler said that anyone is welcome to help decorate. Council agreed that Ms. Tressler could decorate the Gazebo and grass area pink for Breast Cancer Awareness.

Speakers: None.

Mayor's Report:

Mayor Lucia congratulated and presented Nino Barsotti a plaque for 50 years of dedicated service to the food industry. Mr. Barsotti stated that he came to the area in the 1960's. His parents had built a cabin in Bear Rocks. He thanked the Borough, the residents, and the community for all of their support. He stated that his daughter, Elizabeth, is going to take over the business and has been the driving force of the restaurant over the last decade and they will continue to service the Mount Pleasant area.

Mayor Lucia also thanked Mr. Barsotti for the service that he has given to the Borough by being on various Boards and committees. Mr. Barsotti thanked the Borough for the recognition and stated that he has tried to support the community and are very happy to be a part of Mount Pleasant.

Mayor Lucia gave the following report:

- The 9/11 Ceremony will be held Saturday, September 11, 2021 at 7:00pm at the gazebo. Speaker will be Pete Barnhart. He was a first responder at the scene. He is the Chief of Somerset County Hazmat.
- The Glass Festival will be September 24, 25 and 26.

- The new Police Officers that were sworn in this evening will help with the patrols.
- Mayor Lucia asked any resident that sees juveniles that are out after dark and look like they are up to mischief, please contact the Police. They have been having incidents in the Borough.

Solicitor’s Report:

Solicitor Istik stated she will hold her report in Executive Session.

Tax Collector’s Report:

Borough Manager Landy read the following report for the month of August 2021:

Property Taxes	\$2,765.70
Supplemental Taxes	\$ 0.00
Per Capita Taxes	<u>\$2,293.20</u>
Total Collected	\$5,058.90

Borough Manager’s Report:

Borough Manager gave the following report:

- Received 2 quotes for appraisal cost for the Bridgeport Street property. The first quote was from Professional Real Estate Appraisal Services at \$1,500.00; and, the second come in from Provident Real Estate Advisors, LLC at \$1,000.00.
- Met with Wendy Nickerson regarding the new update to the Sunshine Act. The agenda must be posted 24 hours prior to a meeting. No changes can be made to the agenda unless it is de minimis in nature or it is an emergency that has come to light within the last 24 hours.
- Busy Beaver is going to hold their ribbon cutting ceremony on September 18, 2021 at 9:00am.
- Received forms from the County for demolition work. Anyone can apply.
- State Representative Pat Stefano will be holding an event on September 9, 2021 at 5:30pm at the Everson VFW.
- Will be holding a safety meeting. Councilwoman Bailey would like all employees to attend the meeting.
- Borough Manager Landy and Sharon Lesko applied for a grant for body cameras for the Police. It is a matching grant.
- There was an issue with a resident, Jim Rega, who got tar on his stone wall when the tar and chipping was being done by Mt. Pleasant Township. Mr. Rega chose Raimondo Restoration to look at the damage to see if it could be cleaned or needed to be replaced. Borough Manager Landy and Mr. Rega met with the restoration company.
- Met with Scottdale Bank and Trust and Heartland Payroll Co. to see what they could offer for payroll. The Borough currently uses Paychex.
- Borough Manager Landy reminded Council to review the profit and loss budget v. actual.

President’s Report:

Council President Ruszkowski thanked Council for their confidence in her as being President.

A Motion was made by Councilman Cholock to hold an executive session. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Bailey. Motion carried 6-0.

A Motion was made by Councilwoman Barnes to reconvene. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Bailey. Motion carried 6-0.

Council President Ruszkowski stated that the Executive Session was held from 7:25pm – 7:46pm to discuss legal issues.

Property Report:

A Motion was made by Councilwoman Lasko to authorize the President and Vice President to execute the necessary documents for the Jacobs Creek Watershed Association Sidewalk Project on Main Street. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Barnes. Motion carried 6-0.

A Motion was made by Councilwoman Lasko to have an appraisal completed on the Bridgeport Street property by Gary Ciarmboli from Provident Real Estate Advisors, LLC at a cost of \$1,000.00. Motion seconded by Councilman Phillabaum. Motion carried 6-0.

Stormwater/ MS4 Report:

Councilman Phillabaum gave the following report:

- Received a text with photos from a resident regarding a flooding issue near Gary's Garage. Councilman Phillabaum's said it is his understanding that there is a private civil matter between residents regarding the flooding at the location where the photos come from.
- Borough Manager Landy stated that the Borough received an MS4 Annual Report and provided a copy to Councilman Phillabaum to review. Once they have reviewed it, it will need signed and returned to MAWC.

Streets Report:

A Motion was made by Councilwoman Bailey to close Route 31, Main Street from Braddock Road Avenue to Center Avenue on Wednesday, October 27, 2021 from 6:00pm to 8:00pm for the 2021 Halloween Parade. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Lasko. Motion carried 6-0.

A Motion was made by Councilwoman Bailey to pay Raimondo Restoration, Inc. \$2,450.00 for tar removal from alley concrete curb, brick knee wall and stone coping at the property of James Rega 10 N. Church Street due to oil and tar damages from the 2021 tar and chipping project. Motion was not seconded. Motion failed.

Councilman Cholock and Councilwoman Lasko asked who did the tar and chipping. Councilwoman Bailey stated that Mount Pleasant Township had done the tar and chipping. Councilman Cholock asked why the Township would not be responsible for damages if they did the tar and chipping. Councilwoman Bailey stated that it would hold up getting the wall cleaned for Mr. Rega. Councilwoman Bailey said the Township is aware that it happened; however, the Township told our Street Department that it would wash off with a pressure washer. Solicitor Istik advised that if the Borough did not damage the property, she would suggest that the Borough should not pay for the damages. Borough Manager Landy stated that there is a history with the Township. In the past the Borough has asked the Township to do tar and chipping for the Borough. There was an incident where a pole was hit and the Township had to turn it into their insurance and they were not happy about it. Borough Manager Landy stated that this year the Township contacted the Borough and said they were doing tar and chipping and wanted to know if the Borough wanted any streets done. The Borough pays the Township for wages and the oil. The Borough purchased the stone. Borough Manager Landy and Councilwoman Bailey both stated that they were going to put the tar and chipping project out for bid; but they were then contacted by the Township so they decided to let the Township do it. Councilman Cholock

stated the bill should be presented to the Township. Borough Manager Landy does not believe that we should send the bill to the Township. Councilwoman Lasko stated that the recommendation of the Solicitor was to submit the bill to the Township. Borough Manager Landy stated that there is another issue. Mr. Rega has a date that he believes that the wall is going to be cleaned. Councilwoman Bailey stated that Raimondo Restoration did not give a specific date. They said that it would be approximately 1 month until they could get to it. Borough Manager Landy was under the understanding that they were going to do the cleaning in 2 weeks and Mr. Rega was looking forward to it be done. Councilwoman Bailey reported that when they speak to Mr. Rega, they will advise him that it was on the agenda and she made the motion to pay but Council was not happy about paying it since it was not due to the negligence of the Borough and that they wanted the Township to pay for the damages.

Motion was not seconded. Motion failed.

Councilwoman Bailey gave the following report:

- The Christmas lights for the decorative lamp posts and ribbons are ordered and should be in within the next few weeks. Councilwoman Bailey is still working on getting Christmas banners. They are costly and will also need the hardware to go with them. The banners will go on the street poles. Councilman Cholock asked what the size is that is needed and how many. Councilwoman Bailey stated they need approximately 30 vinyl banners and the size is 30" x 60".
- Council President Ruszkowski asked Councilwoman Bailey to check with Jeff McGuinness, Street Department, about the fall decorations and that they should be put up after the 9/11 ceremony.

Parks & Recreation:

A Motion was made by Councilwoman Lasko to approve the MPIAA WPISL Girls Softball League the use of Frick Park Ballfield for Fall 2021 season beginning immediately through October 23, 2021 with the exception of September 24, 25, 26 & 27 due to the Mt. Pleasant Glass & Ethnic Festival. Motion seconded by Councilman Cholock. Motion carried 6-0.

Public Safety Report:

A Motion was made by Councilman Phillabaum to approve Ordinance No. 660 establishing the right of first refusal of Medic 10 as the primary ambulance service for the Borough of Mount Pleasant. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Bailey. Motion carried 6-0.

Councilwoman Ruszkowski read the following Fire Report for the month of August 2021:

Total Calls - 51
10-45's - 15
Entrapments - 3
Fires -9
AFA's - 14
Public Service Calls – 9
Standby's – 0
Hazardous Calls – 4
Drills – 0
Turnpike Calls – 4
Total Members Answering – 653
Avg. Member Per Call – 12

Councilman Cholock gave the following report:

- Speclin will be contacting Police Chief Grippo regarding the police car that is to have the equipment removed.

Veterans Park Report:

Councilwoman Barnes gave the following report:

- Tried calling Bella Railings to see if he can do a stainless-steel railing. Left a message to call. Joe Zelenak from the VFW said that he knows of someone that can also give a quote on the railing.
- The motion on the agenda to accept the bid from Bella Railings is being tabled.
- The Digital Wall at Veterans Park is working. Rocky Anderson from the Street Department was able to reboot the system.
- Councilwoman Barnes stated that one of the lights facing the wall has water inside it. They are checking others and they do appear to have moisture in them.

A Motion was made by Councilwoman Barnes to purchase a replacement bench at Veteran's Park in the amount of \$1,400.00 from Shoemaker Monuments due to damages caused by a juvenile. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Bailey. Motion carried 6-0.

Human Resources/Ordinances Report:

Councilwoman Barnes stated that they need to have further discussion regarding electronic digital signs in the Borough. Borough Manager Landy stated that the committee needs to meet and discuss the pros and cons of establishing an Ordinance for electronic digital signs. Solicitor Istik stated that the light has to be a white 100watt incandescent light bulb. Borough Manager Landy asked if the sign at Levin's being red is a valid sign. Councilwoman Lasko said that the Church has is a sign that is a scrolling electronic digital sign and that the Church sign should not be compared to the Levins sign. Councilwoman Bailey stated that it could be compared to the digital sign at Salooms Department Store; however, their sign has been there before the Ordinance was established, it is against the building and is not a distraction to traffic. Councilman Cholock believes that the Ordinance should be looked at and updated. Councilwoman Bailey stated that we should get back to the Church and let them know that the Borough is working on it and don't want to cause them any additional expense. Solicitor Istik stated she will look into the state guidelines and she will send an email out to everyone regarding what the state guidelines are and what we would be able to update the Ordinance to, according to the state guidelines. Solicitor Istik stated that they can advise the church that they can have their sign if they follow the Ordinance guidelines and that the Borough is working on updating the Ordinance.

Finance / Grants Report:

A Motion to move the WWT Capital Reserve account from Standard Bank due to a decreased interest rate from .40% to .015% to Scottdale Bank & Trust (MidPenn Bank) at an interest rate of .40%. Motion seconded by Councilman Phillabaum. Motion carried 6-0.

New Business: **None.**

Reading of Communications:

- Westmoreland Conservation District will be holding its 2021 Awards Reception on 6:00pm – 8:00pm on Wednesday, October 6, 2021.

Discussion and Payment of Bills:

A Motion was made by Councilwoman Bailey to pay all authorized and approved bills. Motion seconded by Councilman Phillabaum. Motion carried 6-0.

Public Comment: None.

Miscellaneous and Adjournment:

A Motion was made by Councilman Cholock to adjourn the meeting. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Bailey. Motion carried 6-0.

Meeting Adjourned 8:49PM.

Respectfully Submitted

Jeffrey A. Landy,
Borough Manager

BOROUGH OF MOUNT PLEASANT

John H. Caruso, Jr., Council President

Motions from Meeting of September 07, 2021

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