

## Meeting December 4, 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. President Ruszkowski asked Borough Manager Lesko to take roll call. Councilpersons present included Barnes, Czekanski, Phillabaum, Barrick, Lasko, Stevenson and Wojnar. Mayor Bailey and Solicitor Istik were present. President Ruszkowski stated that a quorum is present.

A Motion was made by Councilwoman Stevenson to approve the minutes of November 20, 2023 since Council has been provided with a copy. Motion seconded by Councilman Phillabaum. Motion carried 8-0.

**Speakers:** None.

### Public Comment:

- Zach Gergas gave the following report regarding Medic 10:
  - Calls to date is 2461. Last year's total calls were 1950. They are now 511 calls more than they received all of last year. Ran 69 wheelchair van trips in November.
  - Thanked Council for their support.

Council thanked Zach for turning things around at Medic 10 and asked him to thank their staff for sticking by and being committed to Medic 10 during the tough times and the good.

- Paul Harenchar, Mount Pleasant Fire Chief, gave the following report:
  - Thanked Council for working with the fire department through their rough year.
  - The rescue truck is back in service.
  - They are currently running a fundraiser on Facebook.
  - The tower truck is still in Ohio being repaired by Sutphen Towers, Inc. They have found that there are additional parts that needed to be replaced due to the damage from the accident that had occurred. The additional costs for damages, which will be sent to the insurance company will be \$13,326.38. They also sent a quote for the costs to bring the truck up to code and it classify as a 1999/ 2023 truck. That cost is \$76,346.25. The fire department is asking that the Borough pay half of the costs since the Borough is part owner of that truck. This is the cost without the insurance damages. The improvements will increase the ISO rating for the fire department, which helps keep costs of insurance down for the homeowners in the Borough. Fire Chief Harenchar asked if the Borough would sit down with Joe Siska, VFD Treasurer, to get all of this in order as to how it is going to be paid. Council President Ruszkowski stated that he can meet with Borough Manager Lesko. Council agreed that they should also meet with Council President Ruszkowski and Councilwoman Stevenson, chair of the finance committee.
  - Fire Chief Harenchar explained how important it is for the fire department to have a good ISO (Insurance Services Offices) rating. It will reflect on the resident's homeowner's insurance. There are various things that goes into setting this rate, such as training for firemen, hose testing, etc.

Mayor Bailey asked if bunker gear helped with the ISO rating. They have people in gear that is approximately 20 years old, which is not good if they have to go in to a fire. The expectancy is 10 years for the gear. The gear includes the coat and pants. Boots and helmets can be purchased separately. Fire Chief Harenchar stated that it does and the gear now helps protect with fighting cancer, which the old gear does not have. They have 24 guys and the cost is approximately \$4,000.00 per set. The cost would be approximately \$96,000.00. Councilwoman Lasko asked if it can be done in phases. Mr. Harenchar stated he would like to at least get the men that go in to the fires geared up. Ones that drive the truck would not have to have it first. Borough Manager Lesko asked if they were looking for a grant for this. Fire Chief Harenchar stated that they were. Councilwoman Wojnar asked if they have tried for the LIVE Casino fundraiser that they offer on a quarterly basis. Fire Chief Harenchar stated that they are frowned upon by other fire companies when going into their area; however, he said they could give it a try.

### Mayor's Report:

Mayor Bailey gave the following report:

- Was the master of ceremony for the blessing and the lighting of the nativity scene. Thanked Cindy Underwood, Rich Kujawa and the committee for the work that is put into it.
- Attended Safety Committee meeting.
- Attended the Christmas Parade.
- Attended Veterans Park advisory committee meeting.
- The fence at Frick Hospital near the Gateway Rehab was put up.

Mayor Bailey read the Mount Pleasant Police Dept. Report for the month of November 2023:

The Department answered the following calls:

Incidents	130
Criminal Arrests	2
DUI Arrests	1
Parking Tickets Issued (Boro)	16
Traffic & Non-Traffic Citations	11
Assist Other Departments (Police Fire EMS)	6
Accidents Investigated	10
Special Details	0

Income

Parking Tickets	\$83.00
Parking Meters	\$0.00
Fees for Police Reports	\$45.00
Clerk of Courts	\$20.13
District Court	\$713.88
Parking Permit	\$0.00
DUI Task Force Refund	\$0.00
Donations	\$0.00
Total Revenue	\$862.01

**Solicitor's Report: None.**

**Tax Collector's Report: None.**

**Borough Manager's Report:**

Borough Manager Lesko gave the following report:

- Held the safety meeting regarding "Reporting Unsafe Equipment".
- Received the grass cutting / snow removal bids on October 28, 2023. There was only one bid, which was from Silvis Landscaping.
- Attended the Christmas Parade. Helped Jeff McGuinness with the lineup.
- Met with Council President Ruszkowski several times and Zach Gergas, Director of Medic 10.
- Met with Bob Regola regarding the LSA and SLSA Grants and the projects that have been submitted.
- Candlelight ceremony will be at 5:30pm.

**President's Report:**

Council President Ruszkowski gave the following report:

- Thanked Council for working together and getting things accomplished this year.

- Wished everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

### **Property Report:**

Councilwoman Stevenson gave the following report:

- The lighting has been updated in Council chambers by Alan Leighliter of A&M Painting. They had done the painting along with the lighting.

### **Streets / Stormwater Report:**

Councilman Phillabaum gave the following report:

- Councilman Phillabaum said that today is the last day for leaf pickup. Residents are asked to bag their leaves and contact the street department if they have any that need picked up.

### **Parks & Recreation:**

A Motion was made by Councilwoman Lasko to accept the bid from Silvis Landscaping Service for the 2024 Grass Cutting and Snow Removal Contract from December 7, 2023 through December 7, 2024. Motion seconded by Councilman Phillabaum. Motion carried 8-0.

Councilwoman Wojnar asked if we have decided if we were going to mow the little league area by Willows Park. Borough Manager Lesko stated that there was a separate quote given for that area and that Council will need to decide how they would like to handle it. The cost will be \$260.00 per week/per cut.

### **Public Safety Report:**

Councilman Phillabaum read the following Fire Report for the month of November 2023:

Total Calls – 59  
In Town – 13  
Out of Town - 46  
10-45's - 16  
Entrapments - 3  
Fires - 21  
AFA's - 10  
Hazardous Calls – 3  
Public Service Calls – 0  
Ambulance Assistance – 3  
Standby's – 3  
Turnpike Calls – 3  
Landing Zones – 2  
Drills – 0  
Total Members Answering – 554  
Avg. Member Per Call – 9

Councilman Phillabaum thanked Jeff McGuinness for a job well done in handling last minute things and the lining up of the Christmas Parade.

Councilwoman Czekanski reported that someone on North Geary Street had their Christmas lights cut and people trying to get in houses. Borough Manager Lesko asked if they called 911 to report it and that they should do so.

### **Veterans Park:**

Councilwoman Barnes gave the following report:

- All of the Veteran's banners are down for the winter and have been cleaned and stored away. There are approximately 50 banners.

- Went over all of the different scenes from different branches regarding the painting of the backside of the wall. They will then reach out to the artists to have them submit their paintings and costs and decide who they would like to go with.
- They will have their next meeting in February 2024.
- The digital wall is up and running.
- Someone scratched the glass on the digital wall.
- Met with Mr. Bryner regarding the railing at the digital wall. It was discussed that there will be two railings. He will give a proposal.
- Spoke with Zach Gergas of Medic 10 regarding how to get a grant for Veterans Park.

**Ordinances: None.**

**Human Resources:**

Councilwoman Czekanski gave the following report:

- Will be scheduling a few interviews for the secretary position.

Councilman Phillabaum asked if we have posted the position on Indeed and if not, how did we get these applicants.

Councilwoman Wojnar suggested reposting the ad on Indeed for the secretary position. Councilwoman Czekanski said that she thought that we were reposting the ad. Borough Manager Lesko said that she was not asked to repost the ad and that she had suggested waiting until the first of the year due to the holidays and year end things that were due. We can repost the ad.

**Finance / Grants Report:**

A Motion was made by Councilwoman Stevenson to adopt the 2024 General Fund Budget, 2024 Liquid Fuels Budget and 2024 Medic 10 Budget. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Lasko. Motion carried 8-0.

A Motion was made by Councilwoman Stevenson to execute an electric supply contract with an alternate supplier, rather than stay with the WPP default rate per the recommendation of our broker, Keytex. Motion seconded by Councilman Barrick. Motion carried 8-0.

A Motion was made by Councilwoman Stevenson to approve Resolution No. 2023-07 setting the millage rate at 17.5 mils for 2024. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Lasko. Motion carried 8-0.

A Motion was made by Councilwoman Stevenson to authorize Borough Manager Lesko to pay all invoices through January 2, 2024. Motion seconded by Councilman Phillabaum. Motion carried 8-0.

**New Business: None.**

**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 Councilwoman Lasko. Motion carried 8-0.

**Public Comment: None.**

**Miscellaneous and Adjournment:**

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

**Meeting Adjourned 7:45pm.**

Respectfully Submitted,

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Sharon Lesko  
Borough Manager

BOROUGH OF MOUNT PLEASANT

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Susan Ruszkowski, Council President

### **Motions from Meeting of December 4, 2023**

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