

Meeting December 6, 2021

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 for our deployed troops. President Ruszkowski asked Borough Manager Landy to take roll call. Councilpersons present included Barnes, Bailey, Cholock, Phillabaum, Smetak, Lasko, Stevenson and Wojnar. Mayor Lucia and Solicitor Istik were present. President Ruszkowski stated that a quorum is present. Councilman Smetak left at 7:23pm.

A Motion was made by Councilwoman Stevenson to approve the minutes of November 22, 2021 since Council has been provided with a copy. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Bailey. Motion carried 9-0.

Public Comment: None.

Speakers: None.

Mayor's Report:

Mayor Lucia wished everyone a happy holiday and be safe.

Solicitor's Report: None.

Tax Collector's Report:

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

Property Taxes	\$2,121.37
Supplemental Taxes	\$ 0.00
Per Capita Taxes	<u>\$ 475.00</u>
Total Collected	\$2,596.37

Borough Manager's Report:

Borough Manager Landy gave the following report:

- Attended a hearing regarding a juvenile and damages of a bench at Veteran's Park. There was a witness that stated that many people ride bikes and scooters at Veteran's Park. The judge asked if we had an Ordinance against that and we do not. Therefore, the judge ruled against the Borough. The judge fined the juvenile \$25.00. Borough Officer Price testified that he witnessed the actual event. The prosecutor suggested the Borough file civil charges. Borough Manager Landy stated we can also turn it in to the insurance. Council agrees that civil charges should be filed.
- Christmas parade had a nice turn out. Mayor Lucia rode in the parade. President Council Ruszkowski and Councilman Phillabaum helped out a lot; and, Councilwoman Stevenson helped at the cabins with the historical society. Councilwoman Stevenson stated that they gave out 100 hotdogs and that they chose not have the fire for roasting marshmallows this year due to it being very windy.
- Everyone has received the Profit and Loss Budget vs. Actual.
- The annuity in the amount of \$3,000,000.00 that was opened through Oceanview earned an interest amount of \$88,499.99 in one year. The interest will be put in to the general fund. The stipulation was that you had to wait one full year before the interest could be transferred. Beginning next year, the interest will be distributed to the Borough in quarterly payments. Councilman Smetak stated that unless the Borough is in need of the money, it would be wiser to take it at the end of the year instead of quarterly payments due to compound interest. Borough Manager Landy stated that the paperwork has not been completed and it can be selected as an annual payment.

- There will be a 2022 DCNR Grant Workshop for Recreation and Conservation Projects on January 18, 2022 held at the Twin Lakes Activity Center, 219 Twin Lakes Road, Latrobe, PA 15650 from 9:00am to 12:00pm. Hosted by: Westmoreland County Parks & Recreation Alliance. Registration Fee is: \$10.00. Checks are made payable to WCPRA.
- Prepared letters to send to Great Wolf Resorts, Inc and Splash Lagoon regarding the Levin / Bridgeport Street property. Councilwoman Barnes stated she would like to take a trip to Erie to meet with representatives of Splash Lagoon and show them that the Borough is serious about having them here.
- Candlelight Procession will be held on Sunday, December 12, 2021 at 5:30pm starting at the Fire Station at 100 S. Church Street. Procession will walk down Washington Street to College Avenue to Main Street. The program will be held inside for the first time at the United Methodist Church of Mount Pleasant (Town Clock Church). They will be having their bell choir and church choir.

President's Report:

Council President Ruszkowski wished everyone a Merry Christmas and a healthy and happy New Year.

Council President Ruszkowski asked if anyone needed an executive session. No executive session was held.

Property Report: None.

Councilman Smetak thanked everyone for allowing him to serve on Council for the past 2 ½ years. Councilman Smetak said that it was an honor to serve with the other council members and get to know them and that he would be interested in the future if a seat became available. Councilman Smetak stated he didn't run this year due to him relocating within the next 12 – 24 months and with his family and his business beginning to take off, these circumstances prevented him from running and feels he could not have served on Council giving it the attention that believes it needed. Mayor Lucia stated that Councilman Smetak was on top of anything that needed attention and that it was a pleasure to have him on Council. Borough Manager Landy stated that Councilman Smetak did his best and they couldn't ask for more from a council person. Council all agreed that it was a pleasure to work with and have him on council and thanked him for all he has done.

Stormwater/ MS4 Report: None.

Streets Report:

Councilwoman Bailey reminded Council if they have any streets that they feel are in need of paving for next years project to please let her know. Councilwoman Bailey thanked the Street Department for putting up all of the Christmas decorations. Councilman Wojnar stated that he drove through town around 10:15pm and the town looked beautiful. Councilwoman Bailey stated she is pleased with it.

Parks & Recreation: None.

Councilwoman Lasko wished everyone a joyful holiday season and a blessed New Year.

Public Safety Report:

A Motion was made by Councilman to transfer \$25,000.00, retroactive October 25, 2021, and transfer \$50,000.00, from Medic 10 Savings to Medic 10 Checking to cover expenses through December 31, 2021. Motion seconded by Councilman Phillabaum. Motion carried 9-0.

Councilman Cholock read the following Fire Report for the month of November 2021:

Total Calls - 26
 10-45's - 13
 Entrapments - 2

Fires - 10
AFA's - 13
Public Service Calls – 2
Standby's – 1
Hazardous Calls – 2
Turnpike Calls – 2
Total Members Answering – 504
Avg. Member Per Call – 12

Councilman Cholock suggested that he believes that they need to further look into the LED digital lighting, especially for anyone that are non-profit organizations, fire department, ambulance service, churches or have a 501(c)(3). Councilman Wojnar stated that was the first question he had asked as to whether or not they could limit signs to just that and Solicitor Istik stated that you could not. Council President Ruskowski stated that she and Borough Manager Landy reached out to someone else to see how they were handling it. Council President Ruskowski stated that they will bring it up in January to see if there is something that can be worked out for these organizations. Borough Manager Landy stated anything that was Borough related. Solicitor Istik stated she will believe that they will have an issue for anyone that is not on Borough property and wants to come in and put a sign and that you are excluding them. Solicitor Istik stated Councilman Wojnar asked if it could be limited to 501(c)(3) it would be the same thing that if you give them authorization and you have someone that runs a bar, they will come and state that you are excluding them because they are not a 501(c)(3). Borough Manager Landy stated this would only be for Borough property. Solicitor Istik stated that it is still the same. If the Borough puts a sign up and someone wanted a sign for their business, they could file a suit stating that the Borough can put up digital signs; however, they are excluding private property and they are paying for their own sign. Borough is paying for the sign through taxpayer money and the individual is paying for it with their own money, how can the Borough exclude them from doing it.

Councilwoman Lasko asked if you could do an Ordinance that states you can advertise non-profit organizations only. Solicitor Istik stated that the argument is freedom of speech at that point other than something that could cause a riot, which is not protected speech. Solicitor Istik stated that it will be very hard to limit what is on there, you would have the same argument that you are letting one and not another. Councilwoman Bailey suggested holding off on this discussion until January.

Veterans Park Report:

Councilwoman Barnes gave the following report:

- The digital wall is working.
- Will follow up with Spectrio in January to see if they have finished the information for the digital wall.
- Would like Mayor Lucia and anyone else from Council that would like to go to Erie to meet with representatives at Splash Lagoon. Councilwoman Barnes believes it will make a good impression that they are serious.

Human Resources/Ordinances Report:

Councilman Wojnar stated that he would like to go on record that he is not against the digital signs for Borough use; however, he does not want his name on something that could possibly open a pandoras box for questionable advertising. Councilman Wojnar stated that he will be contacting Solicitor Istik regarding an Ordinance to prohibit scooters and bike riding at Veteran's Park.

Finance / Grants Report:

A Motion was made by Councilwoman Bailey to authorize Borough Manager Landy to pay all invoices through January 3, 2022. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Lasko. Motion carried 9-0.

Council President Ruszkowski asked that the \$100,000.00 transfer to Medic 10 will be next year for their budget. Councilman Cholock stated that is correct. Borough Manager Landy asked where the \$100,000.00 is being transferred from. Councilwoman Bailey stated that it was voted to come from General Fund Budgetary Reserve Medic 10 line.

New Business: None.

Reading of Communications:

- Received a thank you card from the Mount Pleasant Public Library for the \$5,000.00 donation to the library.
- Mount Pleasant Business District will be holding their holiday open house tomorrow, December 7, 2021 from 5:00pm to 7:00pm at 445 W. Main Street, Mount Pleasant, PA.

Discussion and Payment of Bills:

A Motion was made by Councilwoman Bailey to pay all authorized and approved bills. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Lasko. Motion carried 8-0.

Public Comment: None.

Councilwoman Bailey stated that she attended the DAR Festival of Lights and it was a beautiful display and that the women there did a great job.

Councilman Cholock stated that he was invited to Greensburg's Ministry of Life Light Up Night last week and participated as a wise man for 2 hours in the live nativity scene. Councilman Cholock stated that they had music, had hot chocolate and gave away things. Councilman Cholock suggested that the Borough should think about doing something like this next year but only for 1 hour.

Mayor Lucia thanked Borough Manager Landy and Secretary, Sharon Lesko for all of the work that they do and keeping things rolling smoothly at the Borough.

Council President Ruszkowski reported that Borough Manager Landy has an employee party scheduled for the employees. He will be taking them to lunch at Leo's Pub on North Diamond Street on December 15, 2021. Councilman Cholock stated he would also like to attend the employee luncheon.

Councilman Cholock thanked Mayor Lucia for everything that he does for the Borough.

Miscellaneous and Adjournment:

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

Meeting Adjourned 7:36PM.

Respectfully Submitted

Jeffrey A. Landy,
Borough Manager

BOROUGH OF MOUNT PLEASANT

Susan Ruszkowski, Council President

Motions from Meeting of December 6, 2021

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