

**August 5, 2019**

The meeting of Mount Pleasant Borough Council was called to order by President Caruso 7:00pm in Council Chambers at 1 Etze Avenue, Mount Pleasant, PA 15666. The Pledge of Allegiance was said and President Caruso asked for a moment of silence for our deployed troops. President Caruso asked Borough Manager Landy to take roll call. Councilpersons present included Bailey, Cholock, Phillabaum, Lasko, and Ruszkowski. Mayor Lucia and Solicitor Istik were present. President Caruso stated that a quorum is present. Councilman Smetak arrived at 7:03pm. Councilwoman Barnes arrived at 7:06pm.

A Motion was made by Councilwoman Ruszkowski to approve the minutes of July 22, 2019 since Council has been provided with a copy. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Bailey. Motion carried 8-0.

**Public Comment:**

Pastor Paul Sarver of First United Church of Christ, Main Street, Mount Pleasant spoke to Council regarding a variance request for a 20” x 69” LED digital sign that was gifted to them. Solicitor Istik stated that the Borough cannot issue a variance; and, that they would have to file a variance request with the Zoning Hearing Board.

**Speakers: None.**

**Mayor’s Report:**

Mayor Lucia presented a proclamation to John Chearney and Len Dulik of the American Legion celebrating 100 years of American Legion.

Mayor Lucia gave the following report:

- The Police Department has been extremely busy the last few weeks with an abundance of calls.

**Solicitor’s Report:**

Solicitor Istik gave the following report:

- Spoke to Attorney Markovich regarding a paper alley off of Michael Lane.
- Sent annual letter to McClure & Wolf regarding any pending litigation.
- Submitted Permits for the Bridgeport Property on January 3, 2019, Environmental Covenants. A Request was sent for additional exhibits which were sent on March 8, 2019.

**Tax Collector’s Report:**

Tax Collector, Carol Yancosky, read the following report for the month of July 2019:

Property Taxes	\$7,776.11
Supplemental Taxes	\$ 0.00
Per Capita Taxes	\$ 0.00
Total Collected	\$7,776.11

Mrs. Yancosky reported that the fall school property taxes along with the school and borough per capita taxes were mailed this past Wednesday.

**Borough Manager’s Report:**

Borough Manager gave the following report:

- The Borough received two (2) bids today for the renovations of the Frick Park Basketball Court Project.
- Spoke with Halie Chatfield of Westmoreland County Land Bank and a representative from Paschek and Associates regarding a property analysis that was performed for the Bridgeport Street Property of the best. The recommendation was “flex businesses”, which is building a building that offered different size spaces available for office space. Councilwoman Bailey asked if the Borough could receive Fair Market Value on the property that Mr. Karfelt is utilizing in exchange for the upkeep since it is no longer considered brown space. Borough Manager Landy stated that is correct. Councilman Caruso asked if any selling of any portion of the property would have to be advertised for bids. Solicitor Istik stated she believes that you would have to advertise for bids.
- Held several meetings with Waste Water Treatment.
- Mayor Lucia and Borough Manager Landy had a meeting with Ramsay School regarding the buses and students walking. They are looking at an additional 250 – 300 students. Borough Manager Landy stated that the bus plan will remain the same on Eagle Street. A majority of the buses will be in the rear of the school. Councilwoman Lasko asked if they will be blocking the alley like they have done in previous years. Mayor Lucia stated that the bus company said they would not be using the alley. Mayor Lucia stated that the school district has hired a new bus company. Borough Manager Landy reported that they briefly discussed students that walk to school; and, it is his understanding that the School Police will assist the crossing guards.
- Rocky Anderson from the Street Department got hurt outside of work. He has been released for light duty work and has returned back to work.
- Will be conducting interviews for the Public Works Department.
- Armstrong will be installing a new phone system in the Borough Office and the Police Station.
- There is a spring under the ground on a property located at 353 W. Main Street. It could not be removed from running into the sewage system. Borough Manager Landy contacted PennDOT to ask if it could be tied into the stormwater lines on Main Street. PennDOT stated that it could not be tied into their stormwater lines. Councilwoman Bailey stated she believed the Borough owned the stormwater lines. Borough Manager Landy stated that PennDOT put the stormwater lines in on Main Street at their cost; however, there is a law that municipalities are responsible and have to maintain the underground lines. Councilwoman Bailey stated she does not understand why the line cannot be tied into the underground stormwater line if the Borough is responsible for maintaining it. Borough Manager Landy said that they can follow up with PennDOT regarding the issue.
- Borough Manager Landy requested that the committees for waste water treatment and stormwater get together and meet due to big issues coming up with both. The County has passed the new stormwater plan and it should be reviewed to decide if the Borough would like to adopt it or adopt parts of it.
- There will be a ribbon cutting at the Smith Insurance Agency – Allstate at the Diamond Mini Mall on August 8, 2019 at 12:30.
- Mike Koehler completed the required testing of the gas well lines for Kriebel.
- Would like the Code Officer to follow up with properties that he has put on notice.
- Borough Manager Landy asked all of Council to please review the Profit & Loss Budget vs. Actual Report.
- Received 3 Tax Assessment Appeals. Borough Manager Landy stated in the past we have not done anything with these; however, we are receiving more and more of them.

### **President's Report:**

A Motion was made by Councilman Cholock to close Main Street Route 31 from Braddock Road Avenue to Silver Street on September 28, 2019 from 12:30pm to 4:00pm for the Glass & Ethnic Festival Parade. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Ruskowski. Motion carried 8-0.

A Motion was made to close Diamond Street Route 819 from Main Street Route 31 to S. Spruce Street from 11:00am on September 26, 2019 to 11:00am on September 30, 2019 for the Mount Pleasant Glass & Ethnic Festival. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Ruskowski. Motion carried 8-0.

Councilwoman Barnes asked if Police would be more present at the Glass and Ethnic Festival with all that is happening shootings lately. Councilman Cholock stated that there should be a police officer dedicated just for the event. Mayor Lucia stated that there should be at least two (2) officers on duty for the daylight and evening shift during the festival.

### **Property Report:**

Councilman Smetak gave the following report:

- Has a call into Bakers Waterproofing to be sure it is permitted to dry-locking the area on the 1<sup>st</sup> floor so it does not void the warranty. He has not received a call back from them. He will try contacting them on Wednesday if he does not hear back from them.
- A resident reached out to Councilman Smetak from 129 Center Avenue. She is trying to sell her house and has had several people interested however the comments she receives back is that the neighbor's backyard is a "train wreck". There is a non-functioning pool with stagnant water also. Mr. Smetak stated he went to the residence; however, he was greeted with a very aggressive german shepherd. Mayor Lucia stated that the Code Enforcement Officer should be notified of this issue.
- Councilman Smetak discussed painting and repairing the gazebo. Councilman Cholock and Councilman Smetak volunteered to paint the gazebo. Borough Manager Landy asked that when they are doing any repairs or renovations to the gazebo to look at it and see if it is worth installing a sound system in it. Councilwoman Bailey asked if there will be a light show on the gazebo this year; and, if not can they remove the pole above the gazebo.

### **Waste Water Treatment Report:**

A Motion was made to approve an Agreement with CWM Environmental, Inc. to haul digester sludge while sludge pump is being replaced at a cost of \$3,840.00 retroactive to July 31, 2019. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Bailey. Motion carried 8-0.

Councilman Smetak asked if they know when the sludge pump will be fixed. Councilman Phillabaum stated that they are waiting on bids.

Councilman Phillabaum reported that the waste water treatment committee met and discussed ways to resolve the issue at the Quarry Street pump station. The cost to resolve the Quarry Street pump station issue will be approximately \$175,000.00. Councilman Phillabaum stated that Borough Manager Landy come up with a solution to pay for it. Borough Manager Landy stated that they will use monies from the budgetary reserve along with the savings account from waste water treatment; and, the remaining balance, approximately \$50,000.00, will be borrowed from the Borough with an interest rate at a quarter of a point higher and it will be paid off in three (3) years or less. Borough Manager Landy stated you cannot borrow from the bio-tower account. It is specifically for the bio-tower. Councilwoman Bailey stated that they will leave \$100,000 in

budgetary reserve and in the savings account and any additional will be borrowed through the Borough.

### **Streets Report:**

A Motion was made by Councilwoman Bailey to execute the Winter Municipal Snow Removal Agreement with PennDOT for the 2019/2020 winter snow removal for an amount of \$11,163.08. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Barnes. Motion carried 8-0.

Councilwoman Bailey gave the following report:

- The Borough received no bids for the paving project. Dawood Engineering Co. reached out to paving companies. Many were interested; however, most reported that they were already booked for the season. A few stated if it went out to bid, they would be happy to bid; but, would only be able to do the side streets this year, the milling and overlay projects this fall. There was no definite. There were several that would be interested in bidding for next year. Councilwoman Bailey stated that she does have a contractor that will do a “scratch coat” on South Church Street and Eagle Street to get us through the winter this year. Councilwoman Bailey said that the contractor stated that he could do it in October; however, with the size of the job, there may be a chance that he could do it sooner.

### **Storm Water Management Report:**

Councilman Cholock gave the following report:

- Councilman Cholock and Councilman Smetak met with engineer, Chuck Zelenak of CZ Surveying, regarding the Braddock Road Avenue, Lincoln Way, water issue and if there was a way to resolve the problem. Councilman Cholock received a proposal from CZ Survey in the amount of \$4,880.00 for suggestions. Councilman Cholock said that he does not believe that it is feasible to pay the \$4,880.00 for suggestions.
- Councilman Cholock asked that the Code Officers be sent to Greenwood Apartments as a follow-up to the violations that were issued. Borough Manager Landy suggested having Gibson-Thomas Engineering Company look into it since we are MS4 permitted through PA DEP. Councilwoman Bailey stated that since we are MS4 permitted that Borough residents must follow the MS4 guidelines.

### **Stormwater:**

A Motion was made by Councilman Cholock to permit Mark Cypher, Code Enforcement Officer, to cite Greenwood Apartments for the inadequate management of accelerated stormwater runoff with their retention pond, thereby creating a nuisance, pursuant to the Stormwater Management Act. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Bailey. Motion carried 8-0.

Council President Caruso asked once they are cited what happens next. Councilman Cholock stated that the Ordinance states they can be fined up to \$1,000.00 per day. Councilman Phillabaum asked how do you scale the fine per day. Solicitor Istik stated that it would be on a gradual scale and the more they are cited the higher the fine and it can be left up to the Code Enforcement Officer. Solicitor Istik stated the first step would be to give them a 30-day notice asking them to prove that the retention pond is working and the citation would be withdrawn.

Borough Manager Landy asked what happens if the Engineer they hire comes back and states in their opinion everything is working. Councilman Cholock stated he would show residents that are getting flooded below that the engineering report come back that everything is working properly. Borough Manager Landy reminded Council that there has been no flooding this year and to keep in mind that the flooding is determined on the amount of rain, how hard and how quickly the rain falls.

**Parks & Recreation:**

A Motion was made by Councilwoman Lasko to authorize the Mount Pleasant Area Junior Football League program for the use of the Willow Park recreational fields along with the use of the for the leagues football team and cheerleading squad practices from July 2019 through November 2019 pending certificate of insurance. Motion seconded by Councilman Phillabaum. Motion carried 8-0.

A Motion was made by Councilwoman Lasko to approve bid and award contract to Ansell Tree Service of Scottdale, PA for the removal of dead trees and stumps, clean up and removal of all debris and wood unless wood is otherwise claimed at Frick Park and Jack Bobb's Park, for a total cost of \$1,800.00. Motion seconded by Councilman Phillabaum. Motion carried 8-0.

A Motion was made by Councilwoman Lasko to accept the bid from Expert Paving for the Frick Park Basketball Court Renovation Project for a total cost of \$48,200. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Barnes. Motion carried 8-0.

**Public Safety Report:**

Councilwoman Ruszkowski read the following Fire Report for the month of June 2019:

Total Calls - 54  
10-45's - 27  
Entrapment Calls - 1  
Fires - 10  
Public Service Calls - 6  
AFA's – 10  
Turnpike Calls – 7  
Boat Call – 1  
Total Members Answering - 876  
Avg. Member Per Call - 16  
Total Staff Hours – 444

Councilwoman Ruszkowski read the following Fire Report for the month of July 2019:

Total Calls - 48  
10-45's - 17  
Fires - 5  
Public Service Calls - 9  
AFA's – 15  
Stand By's – 1  
Drills – 1  
Turnpike Calls – 5  
Total Members Answering - 677  
Avg. Member Per Call - 14  
Total Staff Hours – 338

Councilwoman Ruszkowski stated that there were previous discussions of possibly hiring another full-time police officer. Councilman Ruszkowski said she would like for the Public Safety Committee; the Mayor and the Police Chief have a meeting to discuss it more fully.

A Motion was made by Councilwoman Ruszkowski to accept the resignation of Trevor Ely, part-time Police Officer, effective July 29, 2019. Motion seconded by Councilman Cholock. Motion carried 8-0.

Borough Manager Landy reported that the insurance money for damages to the ambulance was received today.

**Veterans Park Report:**

Councilwoman Barnes asked Jim Meredith to give the report on Veterans Park:

Mr. Meredith reported that there was a meeting was on July 27, 2019. They requested the water be shut off the fountain at Veteran’s Park so it had time to dry. On July 29, 2019 four (4) people from the VFW primed, painted, put 2 coats of antiskid on it; and, fixed cracks.

Councilwoman Barnes stated that the granite is in; and, she will let everyone know when it is scheduled to be installed. Ms. Barnes also reported that they are going to determine a date when they can have a dedication.

**Human Resources / Ordinances Report:                   None.**

**Finance & Grants Report:**

Councilwoman Bailey reported that she received a letter from the County regarding CDBG Grants and applications must be submitted by September 30, 2019.

**New Business:                   None.**

**Reading of Communications:**

Borough Manager Landy read the following communications:

- Westmoreland Conservation District will be holding its 2019 Awards Reception will be held on Thursday, September 12, 2019 at the J. Roy Houston Conservation Center, 218 Donohoe Road, Greensburg, PA from 6:00pm – 8:00pm. RSVP by Friday, August 30, 2019.
- The Mount Pleasant Library will be holding several events throughout the month.
- The Mount Pleasant Library has hired Brian Dawson as the new Director. Brian was in charge of libraries for the state.
- Pa Rural Water will be holding a training class on August 21, 2019 in Blairsville, PA from 8:00am – 3:30pm. Registration: 7:30am.
- CareerTrack will hold a Creative Leadership training on September 25, 2019 in Greensburg, PA
- The Union Mission is holding its 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Fall Bingo Fundraiser on Sunday, September 22, 2019 at the West Point Fire Hall. Doors open 11:45am – Lunch at noon and Bingo starts at 1:30pm.

**Discussion and Payment of Bills:**

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

**Public Comment:           None.**

**Miscellaneous and Adjournment:**

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

**Meeting Adjourned 9:10 pm**

### **Motions from Meeting of August 5, 2019**

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