

**September 8, 2020**

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 Barnes, Phillabaum, Smetak, Lasko, and Ruszkowski. Mayor Lucia and Solicitor Istik were present. President Caruso stated that a quorum is present.

A Motion was made by Councilwoman Ruszkowski to approve the minutes of August 3, 2020 since Council has been provided with a copy. Motion seconded by Councilman Cholock. Motion carried 6-0.

**Public Comment:** None.

**Speakers:** Leslie J. Mlakar, Esquire of Hewitt & Leechalk, LLC spoke to Council regarding solicitor for the Mount Pleasant Borough Planning Commission.

A Motion was made by Councilwoman Ruszkowski to hire Leslie J. Mlakar, Esquire with the Law Firm of Hewitt & Leechalk, LLC as solicitor of the Mount Pleasant Borough Planning Commission at the rates set forth in the Borough Fee Schedule. Motion seconded by Councilman Phillabaum. Motion carried 6-0.

**Mayor's Report:**

Mayor Lucia read the Mount Pleasant Police Dept. Report for the month of August 2020:

The Department answered the following calls:

Incidents	128
Criminal Arrests	7
DUI Arrests	1
Parking Tickets Issued Boro	10
Traffic & Non-Traffic Citations	21
Assist Other Departments	8
Accidents Investigated	7

Income

Parking Meters	\$808.28
Parking Tickets	\$0.00
Parking Permits	\$0.00
Fence Permits	\$0.00
Clerk of Courts	\$506.84
Restitution to Police Department	\$0.00
Fees for Police Reports	\$120.00
District Court	\$632.89
Task Force Refund	\$0.00

Total Revenue \$2,128.28

Mayor Lucia gave the following report:

- Today was the first day back to school. Mayor Lucia stated that he believes we need a full-time crossing guard and a part-time crossing guard. Crossing Guards are located at Ramsay School, near the Village Restaurant, N. Church Street, Diamond Street and Medic 10. Medic 10 area will be monitored to see if they are needed there.
- Will be holding the 9/11 Remembrance on Friday, September 11, 2020 at 6:30pm. This will be the 19<sup>th</sup> year.

- Mayor Lucia recognized the Mayor of New Stanton who passed away yesterday, Monday, September 7, 2020.

**Solicitor's Report:**

Solicitor Istik stated that her report will be held during executive session.

**Treasurer's Report:**

Borough Manager Landy read the following Treasurer's Report for the month of July 2020:

<b>Mt. Pleasant Borough Treasurer's Report</b>		<b>Jul-20</b>			<b>Balance</b>
		<b>Prev Bal</b>	<b>Deposits</b>	<b>Disbursements</b>	<b>2020</b>
General Fund Checking	Scottdale Bank 19069335	1,018,660.97	75,258.89	105,191.96	988,727.90
**Town Clock	619.92				
**Holiday Lighting	1812.51				
General Fund Budgetary Reserve	Standard Bank 321615	800,542.70	627.98	0.00	801,170.68
**Police	47,619.03				
**Streets	147,131.00				
**Contingency Fund	287,623.65				
**Infrastructure	171,588.62				
**BOMP Gas Wells	22,311.99				
** Frick Park Gas Well	23,611.10				
**Levins	970.06				
**Fire	65,000.00				
**K-9	13,828.76				
**Marcellus Impact Fee Act 13	21,486.47				
Police Parking Tickets & Meters	Scottdale Bank 1026616	24,339.92	0.81	572.08	23,768.65
Escrow Account	Scottdale Bank 19069343	8,362.55	3.80	0.00	8,366.35
Liquid Fuels PLGIT	PLGIT 56980126	351,845.74	35.39	81,145.86	270,735.27
Monument CD	Standard Bank 446635	7,286.68	0.00	0.00	7,286.68
Holiday Lighting Fund	Standard Bank 050004849	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Payroll Fund	Scottdale Bank 19069350	970.88	48,677.66	48,676.41	972.13
Veterans Park Fund	Somerset Trust Co 2003058309	21,544.96	250.00	0.00	21,794.96
Town Clock Fund	Standard Bank 0010038847	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Storm Water Retrofit Phase II	Scottdale Bank 19069368	1,214.46	0.55	0.00	1,215.01
Turn Back Account	Scottdale Bank 19069384	240,082.21	109.19	0.00	240,191.40
Standard Bank CD	Standard Bank	208,875.95	0.00	0.00	208,875.95
Standard Bank CD	Standard Bank 410571	52,120.89	0.00	0.00	52,120.89
Scottdale Bank /MidPenn CD	Scottdale Bank 318007294	50,983.85	0.00	0.00	50,983.85
Standard Bank CD (Partial MAWC)	Standard Bank 446593	0.00	1,500,000.00	0.00	1,500,000.00
<b>Total General Fund Balance</b>					<b>4,176,209.72</b>
Medic 10 Checking	Scottdale Bank 19069533	82,584.70	33,924.12	35,892.02	80,616.80
Medic 10 Savings	Scottdale Bank 19069723	119,552.08	1,054.83	0.00	120,606.91
Medic 10 Money Market	Scottdale Bank 19069376	5,980.74	2.72	0.00	5,983.46
Medic 10 Pittsburgh Foundation	Standard Bank 0000358253	7,543.32	0.00	0.00	7,543.32
Medic 10 CD	Standard Bank 371917	18,992.22	0.00	0.00	18,992.22
Medic 10 CD	Standard Bank 410053	5,199.37	0.00	0.00	5,199.37

<b>Total Medic 10 Fund Balance</b>					238,942.08
WWT Operational Acct	Standard Bank 0010175932	763,855.51	115,163.24	114,080.89	764,937.86
WWT Savings	Standard Bank 0050021008	183,948.10	29.68	0.00	183,977.78
WWT Budgetary Reserve	Standard Bank 0000287245	141,275.84	22.80	0.00	141,298.64
**Contingency	113,828.82				
**Infrastructure	27,469.82				
WWT Bio-Tower	Standard Bank 10127923	219,714.02	27,163.68	0.00	246,877.70
<b>Total WWT Balance</b>					1,337,091.98
<b>Total Borough funds</b>					<b>5,752,243.78</b>

Councilwoman Susan Ruskowski / Secretary Sharon Lesko

A Motion was made by Councilwoman Lasko to accept the Treasurer’s Report as read. Motion seconded by Councilman Phillabaum. Motion carried 6-0.

Councilwoman Barnes asked what the terms were for the initial deposit that was made for the sale of the sewage plant by the Municipal Authority of Westmoreland County and placed into a CD with Standard Bank. Borough Manager Landy stated that the CD is temporary until the sale of the sewage plant is final. The Borough will get any interest that is gained on the CD; and, it can be closed at anytime without penalty.

**Tax Collector’s Report:**

Borough Manager Landy read the following report for the month of August 2020:

Property Taxes	\$22,967.27
Supplemental Taxes	\$ .00
Per Capita Taxes	<u>\$ 2,136.40</u>
Total Collected	\$25,103.67

Mr. Landy reminded Borough taxpayers that the County and Borough real estate taxes are being collected at a 2% discount until August 31, 2020. The face amount is extended through December 31, 2020.

**Borough Manager’s Report:**

Borough Manager gave the following report:

- Borough Manager Landy and Mayor Lucia will be having a meeting with Senator Pat Stefano on Tuesday, September 15, 2020.
- Met with Councilwoman Lasko regarding the playgrounds. Moved equipment, looking at purchasing equipment and refurbishing equipment. The new equipment is almost at half cost due to no one purchasing equipment this year. They are considering it overstock. They will be purchasing equipment under the parks and recreation budget this year to secure the price that they are offering. There will be two (2) new pieces of equipment. One (1) will be put in Satcho Park and the other in Medic 10 Park. The equipment that was removed from Medic 10 are being relocated to Satcho Park and Willows Park.
- Put up signs about completing the Census. The higher the Census numbers for the Borough, the better the chances are that the Borough will receive funding and grants.
- Attended several Library Board meetings.
- Would like to build a new building at the Street Department due to the additional equipment that we have received from the sale of the sewage plant. The vactor truck cannot be left out during the winter. It needs to be in a tall heated building.

- Armstrong made some donations to the Borough. \$500.00 to the Fire Department; \$500.00 to the Senior Center; and, \$1,500.00 to the Glass Festival. This is the money that they normally would donate to the Mount Pleasant Glass & Ethnic Festival.
- Hired a new cleaning person.
- Spoke at the Rotary luncheon meeting. Gave an update on what the Borough is working on.
- Worked with the Mt. Pleasant Area High School using the basketball courts at Frick Park for practice for the boys' and girls' basketball team before school started. It went well.
- Attended Medic 10 meeting.
- Received a letter from PennDOT with the Estimated Liquid Fuels allocation for 2021, which will be \$122,462.56; and, the Estimated Turnback allocation for 2021 will be \$3,760.00.
- Received bids to equip the dump truck that the Borough acquired from the Waste Water Treatment Plant with snow plow and salt spreader.
- Received 2 Tax Assessment Appeals. Solicitor Istik will review and intervene on behalf of the Borough.

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

A Motion was made by Councilman Phillabaum to approve Resolution No. 2020-07 authorizing Council President Caruso to execute the Municipal Winter Traffic Services 5 Year Agreement with PennDOT dated August 26, 2020. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Lasko. Motion carried 6-0.

A Motion was made by Councilwoman Ruszkowski to approve Resolution No. 2020-08 authorizing Amendment to Fee Schedule for Zoning Permit Application Fee and Pavilion Rental Fees. Motion seconded by Councilman Phillabaum. Motion carried 6-0.

A Motion was made by Councilwoman Ruszkowski to hold an Executive Session regarding legal. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Barnes. Motion carried 6-0.

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

Council President Caruso announced that the Executive Session was held from 7:46pm – 7:55pm to discuss legal issues.

Council President Caruso gave the following report:

- At the last meeting it was discussed that a vehicle would be purchased for Borough use. The discussion included how much to spend, what year of vehicle, and cost of vehicle. Councilwoman Bailey had suggested not buying a brand-new car. Councilman Cholock had made a motion to purchase a vehicle between the years 2015 – 2020 with a budget between \$15,000.00 and \$20,000.00. Councilwoman Barnes asked if President Caruso voted. Council President Caruso stated that he did vote. The Borough purchased a 2015 Kia Sorento LX AWD with 33,000 miles for approximately \$16,000.00 plus tax. A GPS unit has been installed in the vehicle, like all the other Borough vehicles have, which can be monitored if necessary.

Councilwoman Barnes asked what are the guidelines for the use of the vehicle, such as logging mileage and where they are travelling to. Council President Caruso stated that is what the GPS does. Council President Caruso informed Councilwoman Barnes that she could see the GPS tracking if she come to the Borough office. Councilwoman Barnes asked about again about guidelines and should the vehicle remain at the Borough

building at all times, which she believes it should; and, when someone needs to use it, they should come to the Borough building to get it. Council President Caruso stated that he didn't see a problem with Mr. Landy taking the car home since he attends meetings in the evening, such as Medic 10 and the Library. Council President also stated that Borough Manager Landy gets called out in the evenings when other things happen within the Borough, such as when the church tower collapsed on Main Street and flooding. He does not use it for personal use. Council President Caruso stated that Borough Manager Landy is on call 24/7 for the Borough.

Councilwoman Barnes asked if the Borough logo was going to be placed on the vehicle. Council President Caruso said that there were Borough Logo stickers on the rear side windows and the rear back window. Councilwoman Barnes asked why small stickers and not a logo on the side of the car. Councilwoman Lasko asked if the vehicle had a municipal license plate on it that would identify it as a municipal vehicle. Council President Caruso said that it did not have a municipal plate on it at this time; however, the Borough should be receiving one for it. Councilwoman Barnes stated that other municipalities have a municipal plate along with a large decal on the side of the vehicle. Council President Caruso went on to say that he believes that the large decal on the side of the vehicle would be ugly looking on the car. Councilwoman Lasko stated that she believes once the municipal license is on the vehicle that she is fine with that and the small logos in the windows. Councilman Smetak asked Councilwoman Barnes what the concern is with not having the large decals. Councilwoman Barnes stated that people follow Mr. Landy around town to know what he is doing. Councilwoman Barnes said that citizens had asked her about the white police car that Mr. Landy was driving asking as to why he was driving a police car and why the car was being taken home. Councilman Phillabaum stated that the car had been taken out of commission years ago. Ms. Barnes stated that people in town are concerned how the vehicle is being used. Council President Caruso stated that if Councilwoman Barnes get any residents asking her questions or are concerned to have them call him and that he would not mind talking to them. They could also meet with them and have a discussion. Council President Caruso stated he don't give credit to any person that does not come to the Borough meeting and speak in person; and, that he would like to hear it directly from any concerned citizen. Council President Caruso stated he would meet with and answer any questions from concerned citizens. Councilwoman Barnes stated that Council President Caruso does not make all the decisions; and, that decisions are done by Council. Council President Caruso stated that the concerned citizens should come to a meeting so the concerns can be addressed by Council.

Councilwoman Barnes said her question still stands as to where is the accountability. She does not know where Mr. Landy goes. Councilman Smetak stated that with the GPS installed you can get a printed report out showing where the vehicle has been, how fast, how long it was stopped in a certain area. Council President Caruso stated that the GPS is installed in all Borough vehicles. Councilwoman Barnes asked if that would be here if the people come up and wanted to see it. Council President Caruso stated absolutely. Councilwoman Barnes reiterated that she does not agree with the "tiny" sign in the window of the car. Councilwoman Barnes asked how many sets of keys are there for the vehicle. Council President Caruso stated that there are two (2) sets of keys, one is in the Borough building and Borough Manager Landy has the other set. Borough Manager Landy stated that anyone else using the vehicle would have to do a report if they drove the vehicle. Councilwoman Barnes asked why the GPS wouldn't work for anyone else driving it. Borough Manager Landy stated that the GPS only covers where the vehicle goes, not who is driving it; and, he is the one usually driving it. Solicitor Istik asked if there were large decals on the doors of the vehicle would it matter with the GPS tracking at that point. Councilwoman Barnes reiterated it is citizens asking about this. Councilman Phillabaum stated that also he had two (2) people also ask him about Mr. Landy driving the vehicle. After an explanation, one was fine with it; however, the second was not. Borough Manager Landy asked if one of the people was the one who was interested in purchasing the decommissioned police car that was originally being used. Councilwoman Barnes stated that she will ask the citizens to come to the meeting to voice their concerns.

**Property Report:**

Councilman Smetak reported that they are looking to receive bids for a new building at the Street Department to accommodate the additional vehicles and items acquired from the sale of the sewage plant. Borough Manager Landy stated that they need to receive specs for the building before it can be put it for a bid; and, anything over \$19,500.00 has to be sealed bids.

**Stormwater Report:**

Councilman Phillabaum reported that he is looking into a few webinars that will be coming up.

**Streets Report:**

A Motion was made by Councilman Smetak to accept the bid from R&L Supply, LLC in the amount of \$9,975.00 for the complete installation of a snow plow for the 2003 Ford F450 Dump Truck that was acquired from the waste water treatment plant. Motion seconded by Councilman Phillabaum. Motion carried 6-0.

**Parks & Recreation:**

Councilwoman Lasko gave the following report:

- Added the fence at Frick Park.
- Done some maintenance at all of the parks, including painting and fixing swings.
- Will be planting some trees at Jack Bobs Park and Satcho.
- Councilwoman Lasko stated that the swing set that is at the street department is only pieces and not a complete set.
- The are refurbishing some pieces that were removed from some of the parks and will be put back in the parks once they are refurbished.
- Equipment removed from Medic 10 Park is being installed at Willows Park.
- Purchasing 2 new pieces of playground equipment. One will go to Medic 10 Park and the other will go to Satcho Park.

Councilman Smetak asked about shade cloths at the parks. Borough Manager Landy stated that they are looking into shade cloths. Councilwoman Lasko stated that shade cloths are nice but they are no substitute for a tree. Borough Manager Landy stated that they will check with the Conservation District to see what they recommend as far as trees before they check with the local nurseries.

Mayor Lucia stated that they should look into a small pavilion for Satcho Park so parents can sit out of the sun and let their children run and play. Borough Manager Landy stated that they have been looking at 14 x 20 pavilions for Satcho Park.

**Public Safety Report:**

A Motion was made by Councilman Phillabaum to hire Danielle Standovich as a fulltime Crossing Guard at the rate of \$11.00 per hour pending physical and background check. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Lasko. Motion carried 6-0.

Mayor Lucia read the following Fire Report for the month of August 2020:

Total Calls – 37  
10-45's – 9  
Entrapments – 2  
Fires – 10  
AFA's – 13  
Public Service Calls – 5  
Drills – 0  
Turnpike Calls – 2  
Total Members Answering - 610  
Avg. Member Per Call - 16

**Veterans Park Report:**

A Motion to approve spending \$210.00 for StukUp Graphics to provide six signs for the six branches of military to be mounted on the back of Veterans Wall was tabled until they receive what the signs would look like and how they will be mounted.

Councilwoman Barnes contacted the three (3) bidders to include in their bid for the sound system at the Gazebo any future expansion, such as adding speakers to Main Street, to be included in the bid for any upgrades and updates.

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

**Finance / Grants Report:**

Councilwoman Ruszkowski reported that they will be soon starting to work on the budget for 2021; and, if anyone has anything that they would like to be included into the budget, now would be the time to get the information to her.

Borough Manager Landy stated that him, Councilwoman Lasko and Councilwoman Bailey will work on a CDBG Grant for next year for the parks. Borough Manager Landy stated that he is figuring it to be close to a \$60,000.00 grant when completed.

**New Business: None.**

**Reading of Communications:**

- PSAB Fall Leadership Conference will be held October 16 – 18, 2020 at the Wyndham Gettysburg. Register by October 2, 2020. Hotel Registration deadline is September 11, 2020 or until sold out.
- Letter from Robert Levin Furniture apologizing that he could not secure the Mount Pleasant Store. There were other locations that he could not secure. Thanked Borough Manager Landy and Mayor Lucia for all of their support.

**Discussion and Payment of Bills:**

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

**Public Comment: None.**

**Miscellaneous and Adjournment:**

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

**Meeting Adjourned 8:30.**

Respectfully Submitted

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Jeffrey A. Landy,  
Borough Manager

BOROUGH OF MOUNT PLEASANT

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John H. Caruso, Jr., Council President



## Motions from Meeting of September 8, 2020

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