

**October 5, 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, Bailey, Phillabaum, Smetak, Lasko, Ruszkowski and Wojnar. Mayor Lucia is present. President Caruso stated that a quorum is present. Solicitor Istik arrived at 7:24pm.

A Motion was made by Councilwoman Ruszkowski to approve the minutes of September 8, 2020 since Council has been provided with a copy. Motion seconded by Councilman Phillabaum. Motion carried 8-0.

**Public Comment:**

- Joe Zelenak – Commander of VFW – Mt. Pleasant spoke to Council regarding improvements at Veterans Park. They would like to add 3x3 signs on the back side of the wall facing the parking lot of the 6 different branches of military. Signs will be ordered through StukUp Graphics. They believe the signs will last approximately 5 years. Mr. Zelenak stated that with using J-channels to hold the signs that they can easily be replaced when they begin to deteriorate. The VFW will cover the cost of the hardware. The Borough will cover the cost of the signs. Mr. Zelenak also announced that the VFW will be paying for a sound system to be used at Veterans Park.

**Speakers:**

- Dan Busatto of Century Insurance spoke to Council regarding employees group life and disability insurance. After contacting all of his brokers, Mutual of Omaha has a package that is offering the same as what the Borough has now with a cost savings of approximately \$2,700.00 per year. The insurance will also provide travel assist and an EAP (employee assistance program). The EAP will assist with substance abuse, legal services and counseling.

**Mayor’s Report:**

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

The Department answered the following calls:

Incidents	120
Criminal Arrests	5
DUI Arrests	3
Parking Tickets Issued Boro	83
Traffic & Non-Traffic Citations	20
Assist Other Departments	11
Accidents Investigated	5

Income

Parking Meters	\$0.00
Parking Tickets	\$440.00
Parking Permits	\$0.00
Fence Permits	\$0.00
Clerk of Courts	\$695.48
Restitution to Police Department	\$0.00
Fees for Police Reports	\$130.00
District Court	\$426.83
Task Force Refund	\$0.00
Total Revenue	\$1,727.31

Mayor Lucia gave the following report:

- The Volunteer Fire Department will be holding the Halloween Parade.

Councilwoman Lasko asked what we will do to encourage social distancing and masks. Mayor Lucia stated that they will run an article in the paper along with having the police announce as they drive down through Main Street.

- Police have been doing some ticketing, meters, yellow lines, parking permits, etc.
- Mayor Lucia gave a few reminders for residents 1) check their smoke detectors; 2) winter will be coming and remember that there is an ordinance that snow must be removed from the sidewalks and cannot be thrown in the streets; and, 3) have your furnaces checked.

**Solicitor’s Report:**

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

A Motion was made by Councilwoman Ruszkowski to hold an Executive Session. Motion seconded by Councilman Phillabaum. Motion carried 8-0.

A Motion was made by Councilwoman Bailey to reconvene. Motion seconded by Councilman Phillabaum. Motion carried 8-0.

Council President Caruso announced that the Executive Session was held from 7:49pm – 9:03pm to discuss legal and personnel issues.

**Treasurer’s Report:**

Borough Manager Landy read the following Treasurer’s Report for the month of August 2020:

<b>Mt. Pleasant Borough Treasurer's Report</b>		<b>Aug-20</b>			<b>Balance</b>
		<b>Prev Bal</b>	<b>Deposits</b>	<b>Disbursements</b>	<b>2020</b>
General Fund Checking	Scottdale Bank 19069335	988,727.90	300,975.63	294,308.56	995,394.97
**Town Clock	619.92				
**Holiday Lighting	1812.51				
General Fund Budgetary Reserve	Standard Bank 321615	801,170.68	126.18	30,000.00	771,296.86
**Police	47,619.03				
**Streets	147,131.00				
**Contingency Fund	287,749.83				
**Infrastructure	171,588.62				
**BOMP Gas Wells	22,311.99				
**Frick Park Gas Well	23,611.10				
**Levins	970.06				
**Fire	35,000.00				
**K-9	13,828.76				
**Marcellus Impact Fee Act					
13	21,486.47				
Police Parking Tickets & Meters	Scottdale Bank 1026616	23,768.65	1,196.89	572.08	24,393.46
Escrow Account	Scottdale Bank 19069343	8,366.35	3.55	0.00	8,369.90
Liquid Fuels PLGIT	PLGIT 56980126	270,735.27	4.59	127,220.15	143,519.71
Monument CD	Standard Bank 446635	7,286.68	0.00	0.00	7,286.68
Payroll Fund	Scottdale Bank 19069350	972.13	47,586.14	47,804.21	754.06
Veterans Park Fund	Somerset Trust Co 2003058309	21,794.96	0.00	0.00	21,794.96
Storm Water Retrofit Phase II	Scottdale Bank 19069368	1,215.01	0.52	0.00	1,215.53
Turn Back Account	Scottdale Bank 19069384	240,191.40	92.63	171,029.64	69,254.39
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	1,500,000.00	0.00	0.00	1,500,000.00
<b>Total General Fund Balance</b>					<b>3,855,261.21</b>
Medic 10 Checking	Scottdale Bank 19069533	80,616.80	29,592.60	42,858.17	67,351.23
Medic 10 Savings	Scottdale Bank 19069723	120,606.91	1,051.61	0.00	121,658.52
Medic 10 Money Market	Scottdale Bank 19069376	5,983.46	2.54	0.00	5,986.00
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>					<b>226,730.66</b>
WWT Operational Acct	Standard Bank 0010175932	764,937.86	46,874.01	48,752.09	763,059.78
WWT Savings	Standard Bank 0050021008	183,977.78	29.69	0.00	184,007.47
WWT Budgetary Reserve	Standard Bank 0000287245	141,298.64	22.80	0.00	141,321.44
**Contingency	113,851.62				
**Infrastructure	27,469.82				
WWT Bio-Tower	Standard Bank 10127923	246,877.70	1,156.83	0.00	248,034.53
<b>Total WWT Balance</b>					<b>1,336,423.22</b>
<b>Total Borough funds</b>					<b>5,418,415.09</b>

Councilwoman Susan Ruskowski / Secretary  
Sharon Lesko

A Motion was made by Councilwoman Bailey to accept the Treasurer's Report as read. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Lasko. Motion carried 8-0.

### Tax Collector's Report:

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

Property Taxes	\$ 1,844.70
Supplemental Taxes	\$ .00
Per Capita Taxes	\$ 1,896.30
Total Collected	\$ 3,741.00

### Borough Manager's Report:

Borough Manager gave the following report:

- Public Works employee, Rick Mognet, will be getting quotes on sandblasting and powder coating on the gazebo.
- Public Works is looking into creating the baskets for the lamp posts for the holiday lighting. Borough Manager Landy stated that the wreaths that the Borough is using now are in need of repair, so either the wreaths be repaired or they have to come up with another idea.
- Met with Police Chief Grippo and 2 companies to review the surveillance cameras that we currently have and to give a bid to bring the cameras back in working order and also add 1 additional at Frick Park.
- Met with Brian Lawrence with the Redevelopment Authority. Mr. Lawrence took the place of April Kopas.
- Met with police department regarding new vests. Vests are good for approximately 3 – 5 years. Theirs are expired. They are looking for a grant to cover the costs of the vests. Borough Manager Landy stated that the Borough is responsible for getting vests for the fulltime police officers.

- A bench was dedicated at Penn Park for Robert Beck and Donna Beck. People can sponsor benches at Penn Park. Money will be used for maintenance at the park.
- Met with Finance Committee and Parks and Recreation Committee regarding budget issues.
- Attended a Business District Authority meeting and Library meeting.
- Borough Manager Landy and Mayor Lucia met with Senator Pat Stefano. Mr. Stefano just wanted to reach out to the Borough to see how things were going.
- Held the 9/11 Ceremony. Had a nice turnout.
- Borough Manager Landy has reminded everyone that they have received a profit and loss budget vs. actual.
- Received a report from Berkheimer. To date the Borough is down approximately \$14,000.00 as of August 2020.
- The Volunteer Fire Department will receive \$19,081.16 from the Volunteer Fire Relief Association.
- There will be a private sale on October 27, 2020 at 10:00am at the Tax Claim Bureau for property located at 12 N. Church Street, Mt. Pleasant, PA.
- Met with Redevelopment Authority about purchasing properties through the land bank. It is not an easy process. A judicial sale must be held first; and, those take approximately 3 – 5 years before a parcel gets to this stage.
- The Westmoreland County Community College has sent a letter requesting the Borough to donate the white 2007 Crown Vic Police car for training at their academy.

Borough Manager Landy read the following MS4 Program statement:

As part of the Pennsylvania DEP'S MS4 Program (SMALL MUNICIPAL SEPARATE STORM SEWER SYSTEMS), the Borough of Mount Pleasant would like to remind everyone that our storm sewer inlets and drainage swales discharge directly to Jacobs Creek. We are striving to educate the public about the drainage systems and the problems with allowing various items to enter our streams and waterways. Shupe Run and Jacobs Creek bring many benefits to our community. We ask your assistance in educating our community about inappropriate practices that will damage one of our most precious resources.

Mr. Landy said that the Pennsylvania DEP is asking everyone on Council, as part of the plan, to educate the public.

- The County has provided a Stormwater Management Ordinance, a comprehensive program, that must be adopted by the end of this year. Gibson Thomas Engineering Co., Inc. will work on the Ordinance and provide information that is required in it for a cost of approximately \$500.00. We also have to have some legal information that needs added to it.
- Westmoreland County has a CARES Grant Program for municipalities that is now open and must be filed by October 15, 2020.
- Mount Pleasant Business District Authority is holding a window decorating contest, deadline Monday, October 5, 2020 at 5pm.
- We no longer have Skowronek Landscaping doing our snow removal. Our Public Works department will be handling snow removal. The Borough will need a snow blower. Mr.

Mognet, public works employee, has found a used snow blower that has been used one time. It is a Craftsman 12.5hp, 2 stage, electric start, 24" for \$300.00.

- Scottdale Builders, LLC supplied specs for a new building at the Street Department.
- PSAB will be offering free Fall Conference Online Learning Experience. It will be held October 19 – 22, 2020.
- Gathering proposals from banks for the best interest rate for the additional 1.5million from the sale of the sewage plant. As of right now, Standard Bank and Scottdale Bank & Trust, a division of MidPenn Bank, are the 2 closest proposals. If all goes well, it looks like the PennVest loan will be closed and out of our hands October 14, 2020, which means the sale will be complete. The Borough should have final payment from MAWC by October 16, 2020. Borough Manager Landy reported that Standard Bank is offering in the area of .65 - .7 and Scottdale Bank & Trust is around .8. That offer is only a short term holding. Once a decision has been made on how what to do with the money beginning with next year's budget, the interest quotes were in the area of 2.65 and 2.5.
- Had a liquid fuels audit, which come back with no findings.
- We are in the process of having a pension audit for 2016 – 2017 – 2018 and 2019.

Councilwoman Barnes asked about the property maintenance on Howard Street. Mayor Lucia stated that we can contact the Code Enforcement Officer look at it and send a letter to the owner.

Councilwoman Barnes stated that she has received an anonymous letter regarding people not paying for trash. Councilwoman Barnes stated that she contacted Republic Services and they are not aware unless someone contacts them. Borough Manager Landy stated that if we know who it is, that the garbage company can be contacted and bill the appropriate person.

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

A Motion was made by Councilwoman Bailey to approve Marquis Smith to fill the vacancy on the Business District Authority. Motion seconded by Councilman Wojnar. Motion carried 8-0.

A Motion was made by Councilwoman Ruszkowski to approve Val Tressler to decorate the gazebo and grass area pink for Breast Cancer Awareness for the month of October 2020. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Lasko. Motion carried 8-0.

A Motion was made by Councilwoman Bailey to purchase a Sears Craftsman snowblower for the Public Works Department in the amount of \$300.00 from line item 430.08. Motion seconded by Councilman Wojnar. Motion carried 8-0.

#### **Property Report:**

Council President Caruso reported that he will be meeting with Councilwoman Bailey and Councilman Smetak at 1:00pm on Wednesday, October 7, 2020 at the Street Department regarding the specs for the new building at the Street Department.

#### **Stormwater Report:**

A Motion was made by Councilman Phillabaum to approve Gibson-Thomas Engineering Co., Inc. to draft the new Stormwater Ordinance for the Borough from the County's model Ordinance at an estimated cost of \$500.00. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Bailey. Motion carried 8-0.

#### **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 28, 2020 from 6:00pm to 8:00pm for the 2020 Halloween Parade. Motion seconded by Councilman Wojnar. Motion carried 8-0.

A Motion was made by Councilwoman Bailey to close Main Street from Eagle Street to Diamond from 10:30am to 11:30am on Wednesday, November 11, 2020 for the annual Veterans Day Parade and ceremonies. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Lasko. Motion carried 8-0.

A Motion was made by Councilwoman Bailey to close Diamond Street from Main Street to Washington Street on November 11, 2019 from 10:30am to noon for the Veteran's Day Parade and Ceremonies. Motion seconded by Councilman Phillabaum. Motion carried 8-0.

A Motion was made by Councilwoman Bailey to close Route 31 Main Street on December 2, 2020 from Braddock Road Avenue to Diamond Street from 6:00pm to 8:00pm for the 2020 Christmas Parade and Route 819 Diamond Street from Main Street to Washington Street on December 2, 2020 from 6:00pm to 10:00pm. Motion seconded by Councilman Wojnar. Motion carried 8-0.

Councilwoman Bailey gave the following report:

- The Street Department is working on Warden Street; and, is 80% complete. They have set the second catch basin. Tomorrow they will dig across Warden, install the piping, cover it and let it settle a week or so and then come back and patch. The project should be completed within the next 2 weeks.
- Curbing has been filled in on Church Street from the paving project where A. Liberoni Construction left open.
- A new handicap accessible ramp was ripped up by the gas company on the sidewalk on Bridgeport Street and #3 stone placed in it. They have been made aware of it and they will be restoring it to original.
- Have had several complaints about a lot of streets being dug up and needing fixed. The water company has been contacted a few times and they are aware; however, they will not come and patch one or two areas. They wait and come through and patch all of the areas at one time.

Borough Manager Landy asked if Councilwoman Bailey has begun a list for street paving and tar and chipping. Councilwoman Bailey stated she has along with the Street Department, for paving, not tar and chipping. Council President Caruso suggested South Silver Street from Terrace Avenue to Warden Avenue. Councilwoman Ruszkowski suggested the alley between Mullin and St. Clair Street is in bad shape. Mayor Lucia stated that he believes that it is Mt. Joy Street. Borough Manager Landy asked if these would be ready to bid by December. Councilwoman Bailey stated that they would be and the paving project would be by spring or early summer.

### **Parks & Recreation:**

A Motion was made by Councilwoman Lasko to purchase a 3-way seesaw for Medic 10 park from Kid's Tale, Pittsburgh, PA at a cost of \$1,897.00 plus shipping and installation from budget line item 450.16. Motion seconded by Councilman Wojnar. Motion carried 8-0.

A Motion was made by Councilwoman Lasko to purchase a combo sliding board / climber for Satcho Park from Kid's Tale, Pittsburgh, PA at a cost of \$4,748.00 plus shipping and installation from budget line 450.16. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Bailey. Motion carried 8-0.

Councilwoman Barnes asked how soon will the equipment be installed. Borough Manager Landy stated that they will call tomorrow to let them know the motion was made and see if they can get it and put it in this year. The company will hire someone to do the installation. If they cannot get someone to do the installation now, it may have to be pushed to next year. Council President Caruso asked if the company will be installing it. Councilwoman Lasko stated that for safety reasons they are having the company do the installation.

### **Public Safety Report:**

A Motion was made by Councilwoman Ruszkowski to hire Lindsay Baumann as a part-time Crossing Guard, effective hire date of September 14, 2020, at the rate of \$11.00 per hour.

Physical and background check has been completed. Motion seconded by Councilman Phillabaum. Motion carried 8-0.

Councilman Smetak asked where she will be located. Borough Manager Landy stated she will be at Ramsay School. Mayor Lucia reported that the crossing at the Village Restaurant has been eliminated.

### **Veterans Park Report:**

A Motion was made by Councilwoman Barnes 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 pending approval of prototype by Council. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Ruszkowski. Motion carried 8-0.

Councilwoman Barnes gave the following report:

- Councilwoman Barnes and Borough Manager Landy met with Premiere Audio for a demonstration of a sound system for the gazebo. Premiere Audio recommended speakers on the posts of the gazebo instead of up in the dormers. Councilwoman Barnes and Borough Manager Landy had great concern that the speakers could be stolen. Premiere Audio recommended building something that is mounted and the speaker could fit inside and be locked. They also discussed having a system near the Veterans Wall. Mr. Zelenak, Commander of the VFW – Mt. Pleasant informed Council that the VFW was going to pay for a sound system for Veterans Park.
- Received proposals from Premiere Audio of Greensburg, PA and Netcom Solutions of Latrobe, PA for the sound system at the Gazebo. There will be one more proposal coming.

Councilman Wojnar asked if the locked boxes for the speakers would deter the sound from the speakers and asked why putting them up in the dormer wouldn't work. Borough Manager Landy and Councilwoman Barnes both agreed that is where they would have liked to have them; however, both companies said the dormers are too high and the people below will not have the quality of the sound as opposed to them being on the posts of the gazebo. The 3<sup>rd</sup> company stated that they should be able to put them in the dormer. Councilman Wojnar stated that they should do a demonstration to be sure that the sound quality is not lost with them in the dormer. Councilwoman Barnes stated that the bids include a cost so that if the Borough decides to expand the system up Main Street. You would not have to go back and get another bid.

Councilwoman Barnes spoke with Alan Leighliter about painting the steps at Veterans Park. She would like the grooves to be painted and to have them painted the same color as the wall so that it will match. Borough Manager Landy stated he has mixed feeling about the steps being painted. Councilwoman Barnes stated that Mr. Leighliter said that the paint should last approximately 5 years.

Borough Manager Landy reported that he has worked with Industry Weapon for 12 or 13 years and he has never seen them act this way. Borough Manager Landy stated that he cannot get answers from them. Industry Weapon come and gave a presentation told the Borough what they need to do. They want the Borough to order what is needed; however, they won't tell exactly what items, model numbers, etc. needs to be ordered. Borough Manager Landy stated that we are locked with Industry Weapons and that they hold the license for the digital wall software.

### **Human Resources/Ordinances Report:**

A Motion was made by Councilman Wojnar to amend the Agenda to approve the use of the Borough vehicle. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Lasko. Motion carried 8-0.

A Motion was made by Councilman Wojnar to approve the use of the 2015 Kia Sorrento by all Borough personnel and Borough officials. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Bailey. Motion carried 8-0.

**Finance / Grants Report:**

A Motion was made by Councilwoman Ruszkowski to amend the Agenda to make a motion to donate the Borough of Mount Pleasant’s retired police cruiser to Westmoreland County Community College Police Academy. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Bailey. Motion carried 8-0.

A Motion was made by Councilwoman Ruszkowski to donate the Borough of Mount Pleasant’s 2007 Ford Crown Vic to Westmoreland County Community College Police Academy. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Bailey. Motion carried 8-0.

A Motion was made by Councilwoman Ruszkowski to approve Resolution No. 2020-09 to authorize Borough Council and its legal counsel to take all legally required actions to dissolve the MPMA upon closing of MAWC assumption of the MPMA PennVest loan. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Bailey. Motion carried 8-0.

A Motion was made by Councilwoman Ruszkowski to switch life insurance and disability insurance to Mutual of Omaha with Century Insurance. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Bailey. Motion carried 8-0.

**New Business:           None.**

**Reading of Communications:**

- Received thank you card from Bill and Julie for basket of flowers for Florence R. Potoka, wife of former Mayor Potoka.
- Received thank you letter from school district for letting them use the basketball courts.
- Westmoreland County Land Bank has made an offer for a private sale for the property on 12 N. Church Street, Mt. Pleasant PA. The private sale will be held on October 27, 2020 at 10:00am at the Tax Claim Bureau.

**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.**

**Miscellaneous and Adjournment:**

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

**Meeting Adjourned 9:40.**

Respectfully Submitted

\_\_\_\_\_  
Jeffrey A. Landy,  
Borough Manager

BOROUGH OF MOUNT PLEASANT

\_\_\_\_\_  
John H. Caruso, Jr., Council President



### **Motions from Meeting of October 5, 2020**

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