

December 7, 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 the anniversary of Pearl Harbor Day and our deployed troops. President Caruso asked Borough Manager Landy to take roll call. Councilpersons present included Barnes, Bailey, Phillabaum, Smetak, 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 November 23, 2020 since Council has been provided with a copy. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Bailey. Motion carried 7-0.

Public Comment:

Joe Zelenak, Commander of VFW of Mount Pleasant VFW and Jim Meredith, officer at VFW, spoke to Council regarding the difficult times this year for the Mount Pleasant Volunteer Fire Department. Mr. Zelenak stated that the VFW will be donating \$5,000.00 to the Mount Pleasant Volunteer Fire Department. Mayor Lucia, Council and Borough Manager Landy thanked Mr. Zelenak for the wonderful donation.

Speakers: None.

Mayor's Report:

Mayor Lucia wished all the residents our of great town a safe and wonderful holiday season.

Mayor Lucia gave the following report:

- There is a heating problem at the Synagogue. Councilman Smetak stated that a furnace was to be installed. Councilwoman Bailey stated that Mr. Harenchar has spoken with her on election day and said that there was a problem with the heating and that there was a fellow fireman who worked in the heating and air conditioning business that could replace the heat exchanger plus put in air conditioning and duct work for approximately \$1,000.00. Councilwoman Bailey asked Mr. Harenchar to have the gentleman write up the proposal and submit it to the Borough. Councilwoman Bailey reported that she has checked back with them and has not yet received the proposal. Mayor Lucia stated that he will follow up with the gentleman to get a written proposal.
- The Veterans Food Bank was held at Central Fire Station today.
- Overall things are going well with the Fire Department and the Police Department and that there have been no complaints. Mayor Lucia reported that he never hears complaints off the street about the police. Councilman Cholock also stated he also has not received any complaints about our Police Department. Mayor Lucia stated that they are being more visible and are doing their job.

Solicitor's Report: None.

Tax Collector's Report:

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

Property Taxes	\$ 5,846.29
Supplemental Taxes	\$ 0.00
Per Capita Taxes	\$ 475.00
Total Collected	\$ 6,321.29

The Tax Office has sent out 595 delinquent reminders for property and per capita taxes today. All taxes are due at the office by December 31, 2020. Mail-in payments are encouraged due to the recent rise in the number of Covid-19 cases.

Borough Manager's Report:

Borough Manager gave the following report:

- There is a grant available through Westmoreland County for Fire Departments that is due on December 14, 2020. Mayor Lucia stated that Tim Bauer has been working on it but he will remind him of the upcoming date.
- The Borough has received confirmation from Westmoreland County that they will receive the \$30,000.00 Grant that was applied for. Borough Manager Landy will need to go to Greensburg tomorrow to sign the documents and pick up the check.
- The Borough has received final confirmation of the CDBG Grant in the amount of \$70,000.00 for the replacement of the fire department apron on S. Church Street. Borough Manager Landy will also take care of the paperwork tomorrow when he goes to Greensburg.
- Received a phone call from Robert Levin today. As of today, Levin's will be taking over the Mount Pleasant store. It may take a few weeks to get the store ready.
- Delivered the retired police cruiser to Westmoreland County Community College.
- Purchased a 2012 Dump Truck from East Huntingdon Township. It is in the Borough's possession now and was used in the last snow storm.
- Had a zoom meeting with Medic 10 and Allegheny Health Network. Borough Manager Landy stated that he feels we do not have the leverage with them that we used to have. Allegheny Health Network does not seem willing to help. Everything will be on the Borough to make sure Medic 10 does a good job watching their money. Councilman Cholock reported that Medic 10 has been awarded a \$15,000.00 grant for lost revenue from the State.
- Had Christmas light up night. Santa was at the gazebo waving as cars passed by. Borough Manager Landy said that he does not feel it was a success. There were a few cars passed by, it was cold and the Steelers were playing.
- Carol and Coke Yancosky decorated the Christmas tree in the lobby and Sharon Lesko decorated the Christmas tree in Council Chambers. The tree in Chambers was donated by Councilwoman Bailey.
- Everyone has received a final report of Profit and Loss. Berkheimer sent a lost revenue report as of November 2020. It is at \$17,000. Some of the \$30,000.00 grant will be used towards that lost revenue.
- Borough Manager Landy proposed going back to an abbreviated work schedule due to the rising numbers with COVID-19.
- K2 Engineering sent their proposal for the upcoming year. Borough Manager Landy suggested reviewing it and possibly checking other companies.

President's Report:

Council President reported that this has been a good year and everyone worked well together.

Property Report:

Councilman Smetak reminded everyone that this Sunday he will be going to Ligonier to look at their gazebo for ideas and opinions. Council is invited and they will meet in Ligonier at 11:00am.

Stormwater Report:

A Motion was made by Councilman Phillabaum to advertise the Storm Water Management and Land Disturbance Ordinance No. 658. Motion seconded by Councilman Cholock. Motion carried 7-0.

A Motion was made by Councilman Phillabaum to adopt the pending Storm Water Management and Land Disturbance Ordinance No. 658. Motion seconded by Councilman Cholock. Motion carried 7-0.

Streets Report:

A Motion was made by Councilwoman Bailey to amend the agenda to advertise for bids for the 2021 Paving Project. Motion seconded by Councilman Cholock. Motion carried 7-0.

A Motion was made by Councilwoman Bailey to advertise for bids for the approved streets from the November 23, 2020 meeting which included a portion of Kennedy Avenue; North Geary Street; Warden Street; Quarry Street; Silver Street; intersection of Vine Street and St. Clair Street; Cherry Avenue; Hitchman Street; Vine Street Hill; Washington Street; and, all of James Way; Mt. Joy Alley; Satcho Park parking pad, plus an overlay for only the northside of Washington Street from Diamond Street to College Avenue. Motion seconded by Councilman Cholock. Motion carried 7-0.

A Motion was made by Councilwoman Bailey to amend the agenda to reimburse Linda Macaluso for the trees and lights that were damaged this summer during the paving project. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Ruszkowski. Motion carried 6-0. Councilman Cholock opposed.

Borough Manager Landy stated that the paving company said that when they come in, trees are already trimmed. Residents were not notified that the trees must be trimmed to 13 ½ ft high. Borough Manager Landy said that it was the Borough’s short sidedness and the company not reminding us that the trees would need to be cut, so the trees were damaged and the contracting company was not aware. Borough Manager Landy said that this was not the only trees that were damaged.

A Motion was made by Councilwoman Bailey to reimburse Linda Macaluso of 127 S. Church Street, Mount Pleasant, in the amount of \$482.00 for two (2) trees and lights that were damaged by Liberoni Construction this summer of 2020 during the paving project on South Church Street. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Ruszkowski. Motion carried 6-0. Councilman Cholock opposed.

Councilwoman Bailey stated that she believes that the Borough Ordinance does state that trees must be cut to 13 ft or 13 ½ ft.

Councilwoman Bailey reported that all of the turnback projects have been completed and that she has contacted Rick Skovensky from PennDot and once we receive our final bill, they can come in and close out the project.

Parks & Recreation: None.

Public Safety Report:

Councilman Cholock reported that he had spoke with the Board for Medic 10 along with the Mayor regarding bonuses for Medic 10. Councilman Cholock would like to see the employees receive a bonus. It has been a rough year; however, they have been dealing with the Covid-19 coronavirus since March on a day-to-day basis and taking it home with their families. The Board for Medic 10 has agreed to the bonuses. Mayor Lucia stated that Medic 10 is already at 42 calls and it is only December 7, 2020.

A Motion was made by Councilman Cholock to amend the agenda to give Medic 10 employees a bonus. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Bailey. Motion carried 7-0.

A Motion was made by Councilman Cholock to give Medic 10 employees, based off of their employment, a bonus. The total bonus overall not to exceed \$3500.00. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Bailey. Motion carried 7-0.

Mayor Lucia reported that Medic 10 received a donation of two (2) sanitation sprayers that will sanitize the station and vehicles.

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

Total Calls – 42
10-45's – 10
Entrapment Calls – 1
Fires – 14
Hazardous Calls – 10
AFA's – 6
Public Service Calls – 1
Stand By's – 1
Drills – 1
Turnpike Calls – 5
Total Members Answering - 646
Avg. Member Per Call – 15

Veterans Park Report:

Councilwoman Barnes gave the following report:

- Tried contacting Christian with Industry Weapons. He did not answer and she did not receive a call back. Councilwoman Barnes will try again tomorrow. Borough Manager Landy asked if Greg from Industry Weapons contacted her. Borough Manager Landy spoke with Greg. Greg was unaware that the screen had been installed; and, he will have Christian reach out about installing the other part.

Human Resources/Ordinances Report:

A Motion was made by Councilwoman Ruszkowski to approve the modified work schedule due to the rising numbers with Covid-19 Coronavirus. Motion seconded by Councilman Phillabaum. Motion carried 7-0.

Finance / Grants Report:

A Motion was made by Councilwoman Ruszkowski to approve the 2021 General Fund Budget, 2021 Liquid Fuels Budget and 2021 Medic 10 Budget. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Bailey. Motion carried 7-0.

A Motion was made by Councilwoman Ruszkowski to approve the Westmoreland CARES Grant Agreement and the Westmoreland CARES Municipal Grant Support Program Distribution Plan. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Bailey. Motion carried 7-0.

A Motion was made by Councilwoman Ruszkowski to pay all invoices through January 4, 2021. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Bailey. Motion carried 7-0.

New Business:

- Borough Manager Landy reported that the Council Christmas Party was paid for Solicitor Istik. Councilwoman Barnes brought deserts.

Reading of Communications:

- Received an email regarding the bid process for the Street Department Building Addition. Borough Manager Landy reported that due to the high number the bids were going to be rejected and we will need to have an engineer come in.

Discussion and Payment of Bills:

A Motion was made by Councilwoman Bailey to pay all authorized and approved bills. Motion seconded by Councilman Smetak. Motion carried 7-0.

Public Comment: None.

Miscellaneous and Adjournment:

A Motion was made by Councilman Cholock to adjourn the meeting. Motion seconded by Councilman Phillabaum. Motion carried 7-0.

Meeting Adjourned 7:37.

Respectfully Submitted

Jeffrey A. Landy,
Borough Manager

BOROUGH OF MOUNT PLEASANT

John H. Caruso, Jr., Council President

Motions from Meeting of December 7, 2020

A Motion was made by Councilwoman Ruskowski to approve the minutes of November 23, 2020 since Council has been provided with a copy. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Bailey. Motion carried 7-0.

A Motion was made by Councilman Phillabaum to advertise the Storm Water Management and Land Disturbance Ordinance No. 658. Motion seconded by Councilman Cholock. Motion carried 7-0.

A Motion was made by Councilman Phillabaum to adopt the pending Storm Water Management and Land Disturbance Ordinance No. 658. Motion seconded by Councilman Cholock. Motion carried 7-0.

A Motion was made by Councilwoman Bailey to amend the agenda to advertise for bids for the 2021 Paving Project. Motion seconded by Councilman Cholock. Motion carried 7-0.

A Motion was made by Councilwoman Bailey to advertise for bids for the approved streets from the November 23, 2020 meeting which included a portion of Kennedy Avenue; North Geary Street; Warden Street; Quarry Street; Silver Street; intersection of Vine Street and St. Clair Street; Cherry Avenue; Hitchman Street; Vine Street Hill; Washington Street; and, all of James Way; Mt. Joy Alley; Satcho Park parking pad, plus an overlay for only the northside of Washington Street from Diamond Street to College Avenue. Motion seconded by Councilman Cholock. Motion carried 7-0.

A Motion was made by Councilwoman Bailey to amend the agenda to reimburse Linda Macaluso for the trees and lights that were damaged this summer during the paving project. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Ruskowski. Motion carried 6-0. Councilman Cholock opposed.

A Motion was made by Councilman Cholock to amend the agenda to give Medic 10 employees a bonus. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Bailey. Motion carried 7-0.

A Motion was made by Councilman Cholock to give Medic 10 employees, based off of their employment, a bonus. The total bonus overall not to exceed \$3500.00. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Bailey. Motion carried 7-0.

A Motion was made by Councilwoman Ruskowski to approve the modified work schedule due to the rising numbers with Covid-19 Coronavirus. Motion seconded by Councilman Phillabaum. Motion carried 7-0.

A Motion was made by Councilwoman Ruskowski to approve the 2021 General Fund Budget, 2021 Liquid Fuels Budget and 2021 Medic 10 Budget. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Bailey. Motion carried 7-0.

A Motion was made by Councilwoman Ruskowski to approve the Westmoreland CARES Grant Agreement and the Westmoreland CARES Municipal Grant Support Program Distribution Plan. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Bailey. Motion carried 7-0.

A Motion was made by Councilwoman Ruskowski to pay all invoices through January 4, 2021. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Bailey. Motion carried 7-0.

A Motion was made by Councilwoman Bailey to pay all authorized and approved bills. Motion seconded by Councilman Smetak. Motion carried 7-0.

A Motion was made by Councilman Cholock to adjourn the meeting. Motion seconded by Councilman Phillabaum. Motion carried 7-0.