

## Meeting January 13, 2025

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. President Ruszkowski asked Borough Manager Lesko to take roll call. Councilpersons present included Barrick, Lasko, Stevenson, Davis, Barnes, Czekanski, Wojnar and Phillabaum. Mayor Bailey was present. Solicitor Mlakar and Solicitor Leechalk were present. President Ruszkowski stated that a quorum is present.

A Motion was made by Councilwoman Stevenson to approve the regular meeting minutes of December 2, 2024 since Council has been provided with a copy. Motion seconded by Councilman Davis. Motion carried 9-0.

### **Public Comment:**

George Kershey, 19 West Vine Street, spoke on the struggles he has been facing and how much he loves the town. He would like to volunteer here in the community.

Dave Wiltout, 598 Front Street, spoke on Kennedy Avenue water issues. He wanted to know what Council had planned to improve it. He mentioned there is already an existing catch basin down there.

### **Speakers:**

Tony Vecchio, Pres. of the BDA. "We are looking currently for new board members. Greg Wilson and Susan stepped down. Our meetings are the first Wednesday at 6 p.m. July it will be the second Wednesday. Danielle has left the BDA this year. We hired a new company to help us this year. They are going to be promoting the businesses through social media. They will be redoing our website as well. We will be putting a calendar of events on our website. Currently the events we have are as follows; The Munchie Mondays, Flower Pots will continue, Christmas in July, 5K Breast Cancer Run. This year I was able to not increase the taxes this year I was able to reduce our expenses by \$6,950.00. Alexanders Pizzas open on Mondays for their buffet" Councilman Phillabaum will be meeting with him with further questions and ideas.

Solicitor Mlakar, "BDA was created by the Borough and they get to appoint the members of the board. We have not seen any vacancy or appointments. We would like a list of how many vacancies you have so the Borough can make the appointments. We would like your whole membership list of the Board Members with their year of appointment and when their term expires."

**Medic 10 Report:** See attached.

**Fire Department Report:** See attached.

We are starting to plan our Street Fair. If anyone knows any vendors who would be interested, please reach out to the Fire Dept.

**Mayor's Report:** None.

### **Solicitor's Report:**

Solicitor Mlakar gave the following report:

- I delivered the final contract for the Police Chief to Borough Manager Lesko.
- The Little League was sent a lease from me a while ago. The attorney and League have still said nothing back. We have to receive the keys.  
Councilman Phillabaum said he will be speaking to them.
- We filed the motion to sale the property on Main Street. I received the order today the hearing is set for March 21<sup>st</sup> at 10 A.M. Court Room 2. I will be advertising it in the paper.
- Borough Code on Vacancy's Section 902 says annually at the January meeting or soon thereafter you are to appoint a member to the Vacancy Board. We will need to do that this year.

- Consider hiring a company called General Code to come in and completely recodify your ordinances.

Treasurer’s Report:

Councilwoman Stevenson gave the following Treasurer’s Report for the month of November 2024:

Mt. Pleasant Borough Treasurer's Report		Nov-24			
		Prev Bal	Deposits	Disbursements	Balance 2024
General Fund Checking	Scottdale Bank 19069335	1,044,516.02	122,065.51	137,860.38	1,028,721.15
General Fund Budgetary Reserve	Standard Bank 321615	1,099,658.79	4,338.37	0.00	1,103,997.16
**Police	48,591.82				
**Streets	148,604.25				
**Contingency Fund	411,354.19				
**Infrastructure	206,588.62				
**Workers					
Compensation	50,000.00				
**BOMP Gas Wells	27,520.53				
** Frick Park Gas Well	30,631.39				
**Levins	0.00				
**Fire	43,400.00				
**K-9	13,828.76				
**Medic 10	100,000.00				
**Marcellus Impact Fee					
Act 13	23,477.60				
Police Parking Tickets & Meters	Scottdale Bank 1026616	37,560.55	133.10	0.00	37,693.65
Escrow Account	Scottdale Bank 19069343	53,466.82	189.46	0.00	53,656.28
Liquid Fuels / Scottdale Bank	Scottdale Bank 19123645	186,878.73	662.22	0.00	187,540.95
Monument CD	Standard Bank 446635	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Monument CD	Mid Penn Bank 318039101	7,759.16	0.00	0.00	7,759.16
Payroll Fund	Scottdale Bank 19069350	3,717.92	47,396.92	47,380.84	3,734.00
Veterans Park Fund	Somerset Trust Co 2003058309	26,535.25	452.40	0.00	26,987.65
Veterans Military Banners Fund	Somerset Trust Co 2004522337	2,428.01	600.22	175.00	2,853.23
Storm Water Retrofit Phase II	Scottdale Bank 19069368	1,314.02	4.66	0.00	1,318.68
ARPA Covid-19 (American Resuce Plan Act)	Scottdale Bank 19123652	267,601.35	948.26	0.00	268,549.61
Standard Bank CD	Standard Bank 432243	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Scottdale Bank /MidPenn CD	Mid Penn Bank 318039102	233,991.26	0.00	0.00	233,991.26
Scottdale Bank /MidPenn CD	Scottdale Bank 318012650	53,527.71	0.00	0.00	53,527.71
Standard Bank CD (200yr Anniversary)	Standard Bank 6677418044	54,243.17	0.00	0.00	54,243.17
Total General Fund Balance					3,064,573.66
Medic 10 Checking	Scottdale Bank 19069533	389,742.40	64,231.98	11,883.75	442,090.63
Medic 10 Savings	Scottdale Bank 19069723	61,127.01	216.61	0.00	61,343.62
Medic 10 Pittsburgh Foundation	Standard Bank 0000358253	12,386.84	36.83	0.00	12,423.67
Medic 10 - 501(c)(3)	Scottdale Bank 19145689	2,474.37	8.77	0.00	2,483.14
Medic 10 CD	Standard Bank 371917	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Medic 10 CD	Mid Penn Bank 318039082	20,518.30	0.00	0.00	20,518.30
Medic 10 CD	Mid Penn Bank 318023688	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

Medic 10 CD	Mid Penn Bank 318038116	5,593.84	0.00	0.00	5,593.84
<b>Total Medic 10 Fund Balance</b>					544,453.20
WWT Capital Reserve Account	Scottdale Bank - 19123702	925,877.18	3,280.90	0.00	929,158.08
Capital Reserve M. A. Savings Acct	Somerset Trust Co 2004521230	492,438.08	1,473.28	0.00	493,911.36
Scottdale Bank /MidPenn CD WWT Cap. Resv	Scottdale Bank 318015215	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Scottdale Bank /MidPenn CD WWT Cap. Resv	Scottdale Bank 318016303	201,034.05	0.00	0.00	201,034.05
American National (9/5/2023)	Scottdale Bank - MidPenn	3,048,217.31	0.00	0.00	3,048,217.31
American National (9/5/2023)	Mid Penn Bank - Scottdale Bank	518,594.74	0.00	0.00	518,594.74
<b>Total WWT Balance</b>					5,190,915.54
<b>Total Borough funds</b>					<b>8,799,942.40</b>
Councilwoman Cynthia Stevenson / Secretary Sharon Lesko					

A Motion was made by Councilwoman Stevenson to approve November 2024 Treasurers Report. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Lasko. Motion carried 9-0.

**Tax Collector’s Report:**

November: Property Taxes = \$3,016.13 Per Capita = \$560.00 Total = \$3,576.13  
 December: Property Taxes = \$4,378.47 Per Capita = \$874.50 Total = \$5,252.97

Collection for the 2024 taxes has ended. 2025 taxes will be mailed on March 1<sup>st</sup>.

**Borough Manager’s Report:**

Borough Manager Lesko stated that everyone has received a copy of her report and asked if anyone has any questions or comments. There were no questions or comments. A copy of the report is attached.

A Motion was made by Councilwoman Lasko to accept the Borough Managers Report. Motion seconded by Councilman Phillabaum. Motion carried 9-0.

**President’s Report:**

Councilwoman Ruszkowski stated that everyone has received a copy of her report and asked if anyone has any questions or comments. There were no questions or comments. A copy of the report is attached.

A Motion was made by Councilwoman Lasko to accept the Presidents Report. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Stevenson. Motion carried 9-0.

A Motion was made by Councilwoman Wojnar to approve Borough Manager Lesko to reside outside the limits of the Borough. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Czekanski.

Council President Ruszkowski asked for a roll call vote. Council President Ruszkowski asked Borough Manager to take a roll call vote to approve Borough Manager Lesko to reside outside the limits of the Borough:

Councilman Barrick	Yes
Councilwoman Lasko	Yes
Councilwoman Stevenson	Yes
Councilman Davis	Yes
Councilwoman Barnes	Yes
Councilwoman Czekanski	Yes
Councilwoman Wojnar	Yes
Councilman Phillabaum	Yes
Council President Ruszkowski	Yes

Vote passed 9-0.

A Motion was made by Councilman Phillabaum to appoint Michael Ruszkowski as Chairman of the Vacancy Board. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Wojnar.

Council President Ruszkowski asked for a roll call vote. Council President Ruszkowski asked Borough Manager to take a roll call vote to appoint Michael Ruszkowski as Chairman of the Vacancy Board:

Councilwoman Lasko	Yes
Councilwoman Stevenson	Yes
Councilman Davis	Yes
Councilwoman Barnes	Yes
Councilwoman Czekanski	Yes
Councilwoman Wojnar	Yes
Councilman Phillabaum	Yes
Councilman Barrick	Yes
Council President Ruszkowski	Abstained

Vote passed 8-0 1-abstained.

A Motion was made by Councilman Phillabaum for Executive Session regarding legal matter. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Barnes. Motion carried 9-0.

Council President Ruszkowski stated that the executive session was held from 7:46pm to 8:08pm

A motion was made by Councilman Phillabaum to reconvene. Motion seconded by Councilman Barrick. Motion carried 9-0.

Council President Ruszkowski stated that there will be new committees picked within the next coming weeks, so be looking for that.

#### **Property Report:**

Councilman Barrick stated that everyone has received a copy of his report and asked if anyone has any questions or comments. There were no questions or comments. A copy of the report is attached.

A Motion was made by Councilman Barrick to approve the property report as submitted by Councilman Barrick. Motion seconded by Councilman Phillabaum. Motion carried 9-0.

Garage door at the Central Fire Station's opener failed so it is to be replaced.

A Motion was made by Councilman Barrick to ratify emergency payment to Kostyo Heating and Air for repair of the furnace at the 3<sup>rd</sup> Ward Fire Station in the amount of \$4350.00. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Wojnar. Motion carried 9-0.

#### **Streets / Stormwater Report:**

President Ruszkowski stated that everyone has received a copy of her report and asked if anyone has any questions or comments. There were no questions or comments. A copy of the report is attached.

A Motion was made by Councilman Phillabaum to approve the streets/stormwater report as submitted by President Ruszkowski. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Lasko. Motion carried 9-0.

Borough Manager Lesko stated, "I just wanted to let you know the street dept guys have been out plowing around the clock as well as working their regular shift. Just remember alleys are always done last."

**Parks & Recreation:**                **None.**

Councilwoman Lasko wanted to thank Councilman Phillabaum for going ahead and handling the Little League situation.

#### **Public Safety Report:**

A Motion was made by Councilman Phillabaum to authorize Officer Tim Ferree to attend Firearms Instruction Course on March 17<sup>th</sup> thru the 21<sup>st</sup> in Washington PA at a cost of \$1200.00. Certification is valid for 5 years. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Czekanski. Motion carried 9-0.

Councilman Barrick stated, “When it snows it is the home owner’s responsibility to shovel and salt their sidewalks.”

**Veterans Park: None.**

Our meetings will begin again in March.

**Ordinances: None.**

Councilman Davis states, “The folks from the Church are here and I ask if Sharon or Susan could explain to them what is going on with the Ordinance for obtaining signs.”

Solicitor Mlakar, “The recommendation is that we contract with Westmoreland County Planning to develop a total revamp of our entire Ordinance including the addressing of signage. As I explained to you before Mr. Davis, that under the existing Ordinance they can file an application to the Zoning Hearing Board requesting a variance and let the Zoning Hearing Board make the determination.”

A Motion was made by Councilman Davis to authorize Solicitor to draft an Ordinance and advertise for the dissolving and terminating of the Mt. Pleasant Parking Authority. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Lasko.

Council President Ruszkowski asked for a roll call vote. Council President Ruszkowski asked Borough Manager to take a roll call vote to authorize Solicitor to draft an Ordinance and advertise for the dissolving and terminating of the Mt. Pleasant Parking Authority:

Councilwoman Stevenson	Yes
Councilman Davis	Yes
Councilwoman Barnes	Yes
Councilwoman Czekanski	Yes
Councilwoman Wojnar	Yes
Councilman Phillabaum	Yes
Councilman Barrick	Yes
Councilwoman Lasko	Yes
Council President Ruszkowski	Yes

Vote passed 9-0.

**Human Resources:**

Councilwoman Czekanski stated that everyone has received a copy of her report and asked if anyone has any questions or comments. There were no questions or comments. A copy of the report is attached.

A Motion was made by Councilwoman Czekanski to approve the Human Resources report as submitted by Councilwoman Czekanski. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Wojnar. Motion carried 9-0.

**Events Report:**

The library will be having a fundraiser at Yinzer Valleys Farms on March 1<sup>st</sup>. They will have gift card and purse bash raffle.

You can sign up for the library newspaper on social media.

**Finance / Grants Report:**

Councilwoman Stevenson stated that everyone has received a copy of her report and asked if anyone has any questions or comments. There were no questions or comments. A copy of the report is attached.

A Motion was made by Councilwoman Stevenson to approve the finance report as submitted by Councilwoman Stevenson. Motion seconded by Councilman Barrick. Motion carried 9-0.

A Motion was made by Councilwoman Stevenson to approve the execution of the contract between the Borough of Mount Pleasant and Police Chief through the years January 1, 2025 through December 31, 2028. Motion seconded by Councilman Phillabaum.

Council President Ruszkowski asked for a roll call vote. Council President Ruszkowski asked Borough Manager to take a roll call vote to approve the execution of the contract between the Borough of Mount Pleasant and Police Chief through the years January 1, 2025 through December 31, 2028:

Councilman Davis	Yes
Councilwoman Barnes	Yes
Councilwoman Czekanski	Yes
Councilwoman Wojnar	Yes
Councilman Phillabaum	Yes
Councilman Barrick	Yes
Councilwoman Lasko	Yes
Councilwoman Stevenson	Yes
Council President Ruszkowski	Yes

Vote passed 9-0.

A Motion was made by Councilwoman Stevenson to authorize Borough Manager Lesko to contact Westmoreland County Planning to provide a contract for updates to the Zoning Ordinance. Motion seconded by Councilman Barrick.

Council President Ruszkowski asked for a roll call vote. Council President Ruszkowski asked Borough Manager to take a roll call vote to authorize Borough Manager Lesko to contact Westmoreland County Planning to provide a contract for updates to the Zoning Ordinance:

Councilwoman Barnes	Yes
Councilwoman Czekanski	Yes
Councilwoman Wojnar	Yes
Councilman Phillabaum	Yes
Councilman Barrick	Yes
Councilwoman Lasko	Yes
Councilwoman Stevenson	Yes
Councilman Davis	Yes
Council President Ruszkowski	Yes

Vote passed 9-0.

A Motion was made by Councilwoman Stevenson to authorize the Borough Manager to execute the necessary documents and approve the purchase of a Dulevo D3 Diesel Street Sweeper for the street department from Bortek Industries, Inc. of North Huntingdon, PA in the amount of \$217,335.00 with the grant money received as approved by the 2023 SLSA (Statewide Local Share Account) Grant Contract on 12/16/2024. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Wojnar. Motion carried 9-0.

A Motion was made by Councilwoman Stevenson to approve Resolution 2025-01 setting the 2025 Quarterly Contribution for Non-Uniform Pension at \$3.95 per hour. Motion seconded by Councilman Barrick. Motion carried 9-0.

A Motion was made by Councilwoman Stevenson to approve Resolution 2025-02 waiving the required Police Pension member contributions for calendar year 2025 only. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Lasko. Motion carried 9-0.

A Motion was made by Councilwoman Stevenson to approve Resolution 2025-03 establishing Standard Business Mileage Reimbursement Rate for the year 2025 @ .70/mile. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Lasko. Motion carried 9-0.

**Old Business:**

Councilman Davis, “So, when do I ask if we should be getting a 3<sup>rd</sup> opinion on what this ordinance is.”

President Ruszkowski, “You’re asking the Borough if we are going to pay for a 3<sup>rd</sup> opinion?”

Councilman Davis, “I believe we should.”

President Ruszkowski, “I think you should be asking your fire department.”

Solicitor Mlakar, “He can make the motion now.”

A Motion was made by Councilman Davis to hire Solicitor for the Borough for 3<sup>rd</sup> opinion regarding VFD. Motion seconded by Councilman Phillabaum.

Council President Ruszkowski asked for a roll call vote. Council President Ruszkowski asked Borough Manager to take a roll call vote to hire Solicitor for the Borough for 3<sup>rd</sup> opinion regarding VFD:

Councilwoman Czekanski	No
Councilwoman Wojnar	No
Councilman Phillabaum	Yes
Councilman Barrick	No
Councilwoman Lasko	No
Councilwoman Stevenson	No
Councilman Davis	Yes
Councilwoman Barnes	No
Council President Ruszkowski	No

Vote passed 7-2.

Councilman Davis, “Due to the fact that Deanna had a different opinion towards the Fire Department on how they should conduct themselves and now Les says that that Ordinance that we currently have that I believe is completely acknowledging the Fire Department as our fire service is invalid and again Mr. Mlakar no disrespect to you.”

Solicitor Mlakar, “I did not say that. You’re misquoting me. I said that you could not control that by your department. I didn’t say that you could not create a Fire Department. You could create a Fire Department but it has to be paid. That’s what I said. So do not misquote me.”

**Citizen Comment:**

President of the Fire Department Richard Pologruto addressed the firemen sitting in the audience.

“I do not know where we are going with this stuff. This is totally crazy. You want to spend more money that we don’t have. You know what our budget is, why are we doing this? What’s going on? You guys don’t want who we have? If you don’t let just give it up. You made the comment at the Board of Directors meeting, let’s work together. This is not working together. I’m just telling you.”

A Motion was made by Councilman Barrick to remove from table the Motion to authorize Solicitor to prepare Ordinance to repeal Chapter 1, Part 5, Fire Department. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Stevenson.

Council President Ruszkowski asked for a roll call vote. Council President Ruszkowski asked Borough Manager to remove from table the Motion to authorize Solicitor to prepare Ordinance to repeal Chapter 1, Part 5, Fire Department:

Councilwoman Wojnar	Yes
Councilman Barrick	Yes

Councilwoman Lasko	Yes
Councilwoman Stevenson	Yes
Councilman Davis	No
Councilwoman Barnes	Yes
Councilwoman Czekanski	Yes
Councilman Phillabaum	No
Council President Ruszkowski	Yes

Vote passed 7-2.

A Motion was made by Councilman Barrick to authorize Solicitor to prepare Ordinance to repeal Chapter 1, Part 5, Fire Department. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Stevenson.

Council President Ruszkowski asked for a roll call vote. Council President Ruszkowski asked Borough Manager to authorize Solicitor to prepare Ordinance to repeal Chapter 1, Part 5, Fire Department:

Councilman Phillabaum	No
Councilman Barrick	Yes
Councilwoman Lasko	Yes
Councilwoman Stevenson	Yes
Councilman Davis	No
Councilwoman Barnes	Yes
Councilwoman Czekanski	Yes
Councilwoman Wojnar	Yes
Council President Ruszkowski	Yes

Vote passed 7-2.

A Motion was made by Councilman Barrick to remove from table the Motion to authorize Solicitor to meet with Fire Department attorney to draft a proposed recognition ordinance. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Stevenson.

Council President Ruszkowski asked for a roll call vote. Council President Ruszkowski asked Borough Manager to remove from table the Motion to authorize Solicitor to meet with Fire Department attorney to draft a proposed recognition ordinance:

Councilman Barrick	Yes
Councilwoman Lasko	Yes
Councilwoman Stevenson	Yes
Councilman Davis	No
Councilwoman Barnes	Yes
Councilwoman Czekanski	Yes
Councilwoman Wojnar	Yes
Councilman Phillabaum	Yes
Council President Ruszkowski	Yes

Vote passed 8-1.

A Motion was made by Councilman Barrick to authorize Solicitor to meet with Fire Department attorney to draft a proposed recognition ordinance.

Council President Ruszkowski asked for a roll call vote. Council President Ruszkowski asked Borough Manager to authorize Solicitor to meet with Fire Department attorney to draft a proposed recognition ordinance:

Councilwoman Lasko	Yes
Councilwoman Stevenson	Yes
Councilman Davis	No
Councilwoman Barnes	Yes
Councilwoman Czekanski	Yes
Councilwoman Wojnar	Yes
Councilman Phillabaum	Yes
Councilman Barrick	Yes



Vote passed 8-1.

Councilman Davis, “So, are we going to enforce the current Ordinance, or no? Because we do have to accept new officers, currently the assistant Fire Chief who won the election does live outside the Borough.”

Solicitor Mlakar, “He is the Officer.”

Councilman Davis, “So we are going to ignore the Ordinance that currently exists?”

Solicitor Mlakar, “You just authorized me to draft an Ordinance to repeal it.”

Councilman Davis, “But it hasn’t happened yet. It is still an Ordinance?”

Solicitor Mlakar, “Yes, but again my opinion before has, you cannot tell them what to do.”

Councilman Davis, “Well should he be able to run after this is taken away from the ordinance book? Where it’s at now.”

President Ruszkowski, “Run? He’s already elected.”

Councilman Davis, “He ran. He won. Is he allowed to accept the position when the Ordinance states no?”

Solicitor Mlakar, “We don’t have any control over that. It is the control of the Volunteer Fire Department.”

Councilman Davis, “We do, it’s an Ordinance.”

Solicitor Mlakar, “No! No.”

Councilman Davis, “If I want an Ordinance that says no green doors and we all voted on it, then you can absolutely do that. I don’t understand where you’re coming from dude. I don’t.”

Councilwoman Stevenson, “The rest of us do.”

Solicitor Mlakar, “I think I have tried to explain this to you six times.”

Councilman Davis, “I’m glad you all do. So, if we don’t enforce that, should they just put up their sign?”

Councilwoman Stevenson, “It’s apples and oranges.”

Councilman Davis, “It’s not though, you are saying you’re not going to enforce an Ordinance. It is an Ordinance.”

Solicitor Mlakar, “And Council can elect not to enforce.”

Councilman Davis, “Ok, if we elect not to enforce, then that sets precedents that we are not enforcing Ordinances. Which is insane. You don’t like it, it’s my opinion.”

President Ruszkowski, “Let’s move on guys. We are spinning our wheels.”

**New Business:**

**Reading of Communications:      None.**

Medic 10 will be having their bingo at the Live Casino on January 27, 2025. Doors open at 5 p.m. and bingo starts at 7 p.m.

Councilman Barrick was asking Solicitor Mlakar about the sidewalks.

Solicitor Mlakar, “If a resident doesn’t shovel the sidewalks, they can receive a fine. The Borough can go in and remove the snow and then sue them for the amount the Borough expends and the fine is up to \$1,000.00

Councilman Davis, “That’s a lot. That’s pretty steep there. We shouldn’t enforce it.”

**Discussion and Payment of Bills:**

A Motion was made by Councilman Phillabaum to pay all authorized and approved bills. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Wojnar. Motion carried 9-0.

**Public Comment:**

Joe Bauer, 607 North Geary Street

“You know that Ordinance, I’m like Rich, I’m tired of hearing about it. We had an election; we voted who we wanted in our offices. Some people aren’t happy with it, that’s life. This Council and this Fire Department, it’s like there’s so much friction and it’s got to stop. It really has to stop. If you don’t think I’m talking the truth, look at Los Angeles California. If you look what happened out there and what the Politicians did with that Fire Department. They’re cutting funding and look at that disaster. Don’t think it can’t happen here. We’ve already had situations on fire calls that we didn’t have water. Whatever’s in the past, whoever’s mad at the Fire Department, those differences have to go away and we have to work together and make this Fire Department work. It’s grown. A year ago, we were down to 15 members. We are up to 30 some members. We got young guys and they don’t want to listen to the drama anymore. A lot of us don’t want to listen to the drama anymore. We just need to work together and move forward. All I’m going to say about that Ordinance about the Assistant Chief whatever you’re going to do, in my opinion you have to make parameters about how far they live out of the Borough. We do have people that live miles away from here and are a part of the Fire Department. Do you want a Fire Chief that lives 8 miles away? I mean the guy who go Assistant Chief lives a block out of town. So, it’s not a big deal, but you don’t want people living miles out of your Borough.

Solicitor Mlakar, “Sir, as I said before you can amend your bylaws to say that. The Borough can’t, but the Fire Department can amend its bylaws to do that. That’s the simplest way to do it.”

**Miscellaneous and Adjournment:**

A Motion was made by Councilman Phillabaum to adjourn the meeting. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Lasko. Motion carried 9-0.

**Meeting Adjourned 8:43 pm.**

Respectfully Submitted,

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Sharon Lesko  
Borough Secretary

BOROUGH OF MOUNT PLEASANT

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Susan Ruszkowski, Council President

## Motions from Meeting of January 13, 2025

A Motion was made by Councilwoman Stevenson to approve the regular meeting minutes of December 2, 2024 since Council has been provided with a copy. Motion seconded by Councilman Davis. Motion carried 9-0.

A Motion was made by Councilwoman Stevenson to approve November 2024 Treasurers Report. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Lasko. Motion carried 9-0.

A Motion was made by Councilwoman Lasko to accept the Borough Managers Report. Motion seconded by Councilman Phillabaum. Motion carried 9-0.

A Motion was made by Councilwoman Lasko to accept the Presidents Report. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Stevenson. Motion carried 9-0.

A Motion was made by Councilwoman Wojnar to approve Borough Manager Lesko to reside outside the limits of the Borough. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Czekanski.

Council President Ruszkowski asked for a roll call vote. Council President Ruszkowski asked Borough Manager to take a roll call vote to approve Borough Manager Lesko to reside outside the limits of the Borough:

Councilman Barrick	Yes
Councilwoman Lasko	Yes
Councilwoman Stevenson	Yes
Councilman Davis	Yes
Councilwoman Barnes	Yes
Councilwoman Czekanski	Yes
Councilwoman Wojnar	Yes
Councilman Phillabaum	Yes
Council President Ruszkowski	Yes

Vote passed 9-0.

A Motion was made by Councilman Phillabaum to appoint Michael Ruszkowski as Chairman of the Vacancy Board. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Wojnar.

Council President Ruszkowski asked for a roll call vote. Council President Ruszkowski asked Borough Manager to take a roll call vote to appoint Michael Ruszkowski as Chairman of the Vacancy Board:

Councilwoman Lasko	Yes
Councilwoman Stevenson	Yes
Councilman Davis	Yes
Councilwoman Barnes	Yes
Councilwoman Czekanski	Yes
Councilwoman Wojnar	Yes
Councilman Phillabaum	Yes
Councilman Barrick	Yes
Council President Ruszkowski	Abstained

Vote passed 8-0 1-abstained.

A Motion was made by Councilman Phillabaum for Executive Session regarding legal matter. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Barnes. Motion carried 9-0.

A Motion was made by Councilman Phillabaum to reconvene. Motion seconded by Councilman Barrick. Motion carried 9-0.

A Motion was made by Councilman Barrick to approve the property report as submitted by Councilman Barrick. Motion seconded by Councilman Phillabaum. Motion carried 9-0.

A Motion was made by Councilman Barrick to ratify emergency payment to Kostyo Heating and Air for repair of the furnace at the 3<sup>rd</sup> Ward Fire Station in the amount of \$4350.00. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Wojnar. Motion carried 9-0.

A Motion was made by Councilman Phillabaum to approve the streets/stormwater report as submitted by President Ruszkowski. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Lasko. Motion carried 9-0.

A Motion was made by Councilman Phillabaum to authorize Officer Tim Ferree to attend Firearms Instruction Course on March 17<sup>th</sup> thru the 21<sup>st</sup> in Washington PA at a cost of \$1200.00. Certification is valid for 5 years. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Czekanski. Motion carried 9-0.

A Motion was made by Councilman Davis to authorize Solicitor to draft an Ordinance and advertise for the dissolving and terminating of the Mt. Pleasant Parking Authority. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Lasko.

Council President Ruszkowski asked for a roll call vote. Council President Ruszkowski asked Borough Manager to take a roll call vote to authorize Solicitor to draft an Ordinance and advertise for the dissolving and terminating of the Mt. Pleasant Parking Authority:

Councilwoman Stevenson	Yes
Councilman Davis	Yes
Councilwoman Barnes	Yes
Councilwoman Czekanski	Yes
Councilwoman Wojnar	Yes
Councilman Phillabaum	Yes
Councilman Barrick	Yes
Councilwoman Lasko	Yes
Council President Ruszkowski	Yes

Vote passed 9-0.

A Motion was made by Councilwoman Czekanski to approve the Human Resources report as submitted by Councilwoman Czekanski. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Wojnar. Motion carried 9-0.

A Motion was made by Councilwoman Stevenson to approve the finance report as submitted by Councilwoman Stevenson. Motion seconded by Councilman Barrick. Motion carried 9-0.

A Motion was made by Councilwoman Stevenson to approve the execution of the contract between the Borough of Mount Pleasant and Police Chief through the years January 1, 2025 through December 31, 2028. Motion seconded by Councilman Phillabaum.

Council President Ruszkowski asked for a roll call vote. Council President Ruszkowski asked Borough Manager to take a roll call vote to approve the execution of the contract between the Borough of Mount Pleasant and Police Chief through the years January 1, 2025 through December 31, 2028:

Councilman Davis	Yes
Councilwoman Barnes	Yes
Councilwoman Czekanski	Yes
Councilwoman Wojnar	Yes
Councilman Phillabaum	Yes
Councilman Barrick	Yes
Councilwoman Lasko	Yes
Councilwoman Stevenson	Yes
Council President Ruszkowski	Yes

Vote passed 9-0.

A Motion was made by Councilwoman Stevenson to authorize Borough Manager Lesko to contact Westmoreland County Planning to provide a contract for updates to the Zoning Ordinance. Motion seconded by Councilman Barrick.

Council President Ruszkowski asked for a roll call vote. Council President Ruszkowski asked Borough Manager to take a roll call vote to authorize Borough Manager Lesko to contact Westmoreland County Planning to provide a contract for updates to the Zoning Ordinance:

Councilwoman Barnes	Yes
Councilwoman Czekanski	Yes
Councilwoman Wojnar	Yes
Councilman Phillabaum	Yes
Councilman Barrick	Yes
Councilwoman Lasko	Yes
Councilwoman Stevenson	Yes
Councilman Davis	Yes
Council President Ruszkowski	Yes

Vote passed 9-0.

A Motion was made by Councilwoman Stevenson to authorize the Borough Manager to execute the necessary documents and approve the purchase of a Dulevo D3 Diesel Street Sweeper for the street department from Bortek Industries, Inc. of North Huntington, PA in the amount of \$217,335.00 with the grant money received as approved by the 2023 SLSA (Statewide Local Share Account) Grant Contract on 12/16/2024. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Wojnar. Motion carried 9-0.

A Motion was made by Councilwoman Stevenson to approve Resolution 2025-01 setting the 2025 Quarterly Contribution for Non-Uniform Pension at \$3.95 per hour. Motion seconded by Councilman Barrick. Motion carried 9-0.

A Motion was made by Councilwoman Stevenson to approve Resolution 2025-02 waiving the required Police Pension member contributions for calendar year 2025 only. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Lasko. Motion carried 9-0.

A Motion was made by Councilwoman Stevenson to approve Resolution 2025-03 establishing Standard Business Mileage Reimbursement Rate for the year 2025 @ .70/mile. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Lasko. Motion carried 9-0.

A Motion was made by Councilman Davis to hire Solicitor for the Borough for 3<sup>rd</sup> opinion regarding VFD. Motion seconded by Councilman Phillabaum.

Council President Ruszkowski asked for a roll call vote. Council President Ruszkowski asked Borough Manager to take a roll call vote to hire Solicitor for the Borough for 3<sup>rd</sup> opinion regarding VFD:

Councilwoman Czekanski	No
Councilwoman Wojnar	No
Councilman Phillabaum	Yes
Councilman Barrick	No
Councilwoman Lasko	No
Councilwoman Stevenson	No
Councilman Davis	Yes
Councilwoman Barnes	No
Council President Ruszkowski	No

Vote passed 7-2.

A Motion was made by Councilman Barrick to remove from table the Motion to authorize Solicitor to prepare Ordinance to repeal Chapter 1, Part 5, Fire Department. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Stevenson.

Council President Ruszkowski asked for a roll call vote. Council President Ruszkowski asked Borough Manager to remove from table the Motion to authorize Solicitor to prepare Ordinance to repeal Chapter 1, Part 5, Fire Department:

Councilwoman Wojnar	Yes
Councilman Barrick	Yes

Councilwoman Lasko	Yes
Councilwoman Stevenson	Yes
Councilman Davis	No
Councilwoman Barnes	Yes
Councilwoman Czekanski	Yes
Councilman Phillabaum	No
Council President Ruszkowski	Yes

Vote passed 7-2.

A Motion was made by Councilman Barrick to authorize Solicitor to prepare Ordinance to repeal Chapter 1, Part 5, Fire Department. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Stevenson.

Council President Ruszkowski asked for a roll call vote. Council President Ruszkowski asked Borough Manager to authorize Solicitor to prepare Ordinance to repeal Chapter 1, Part 5, Fire Department:

Councilman Phillabaum	No
Councilman Barrick	Yes
Councilwoman Lasko	Yes
Councilwoman Stevenson	Yes
Councilman Davis	No
Councilwoman Barnes	Yes
Councilwoman Czekanski	Yes
Councilwoman Wojnar	Yes
Council President Ruszkowski	Yes

Vote passed 7-2.

A Motion was made by Councilman Barrick to remove from table the Motion to authorize Solicitor to meet with Fire Department attorney to draft a proposed recognition ordinance. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Stevenson.

Council President Ruszkowski asked for a roll call vote. Council President Ruszkowski asked Borough Manager to remove from table the Motion to authorize Solicitor to meet with Fire Department attorney to draft a proposed recognition ordinance:

Councilman Barrick	Yes
Councilwoman Lasko	Yes
Councilwoman Stevenson	Yes
Councilman Davis	No
Councilwoman Barnes	Yes
Councilwoman Czekanski	Yes
Councilwoman Wojnar	Yes
Councilman Phillabaum	Yes
Council President Ruszkowski	Yes

Vote passed 8-1.

A Motion was made by Councilman Barrick to authorize Solicitor to meet with Fire Department attorney to draft a proposed recognition ordinance.

Council President Ruszkowski asked for a roll call vote. Council President Ruszkowski asked Borough Manager to authorize Solicitor to meet with Fire Department attorney to draft a proposed recognition ordinance:

Councilwoman Lasko	Yes
Councilwoman Stevenson	Yes
Councilman Davis	No
Councilwoman Barnes	Yes
Councilwoman Czekanski	Yes
Councilwoman Wojnar	Yes
Councilman Phillabaum	Yes



2024 YEARLY FIRE REPORT		December 2024	
TOTAL CALLS	599	TOTAL CALLS	68
IN TOWN	188	IN TOWN	19
OUT OF TOWN	411	OUT OF TOWN	49
10-45'S	180	10-45'S	18
ENTRAPMENT	21	FIRES	15
PHYSICAL RESCUE	2	AFA'S	15
VEH/ PED ACCIDENT	1	HAZARDOUS CALLS	9
FIRES	147	AMB. ASST	3
AFA'S	129	STANDBY'S	3
HAZARDOUS CALLS	59	PUBLIC SERVICE	5
AMB. ASST.	14	TURNPIKE CALLS	3
STANDBY'S	12	TOTAL MEMBERS	782
LANDING ZONES	3	AVG. MEMBER/ CALL	12
PUBLIC SERVICE	44		
DRILLS	2		
BOAT CALLS	1		
TURNPIKE CALLS	46		
TOTAL MEMBERS ANSWERING	6,350		
AVG. MEMBER PER CALL	11		
BORO FIRE LOSS			
2 CALLS	\$125,000.00		
1 FATALITY			
WE WERE 69 CALLS AHEAD OF LAST YEAR			



**~~January 6, 2025 (Cancelled due to weather)~~**  
**January 13, 2025 - Rescheduled**  
**Committee Reports**

**Mayors Report:** No report submitted.

**Presidents Report:**

There is a call-out protocol for snow/ice removal after normal working hours for the street department.

Protocol is as follows:

- After 3:00pm Monday through Friday, Police will call 911 to contact Jeff McGuinness when first sign of potential ice/snow on the roads.
- On Saturday and Sunday, the Police will be responsible for snow call outs for 24hours per day.
- 911 will call Jeff McGuinness. Jeff will call the Street Department crew as needed.
- When and if the Street Department ends a plow/salting shift, the Street Department will report to the Police that shift ended. The Police will need to call 911 again to dispatch if needed later that afternoon/evening/morning.

There has been a policy has been in place for a few years now of who can call/contact our solicitor.

**Borough Manager's Report:**

Meet with Council President Ruszkowski daily regarding day-to-day business and issues.

Met with Zach Gergas various times throughout the month regarding bills, roof specs, subscriptions, and keeping up to date for Medic 10.

Meet w/Police Chief Grippo Re: Amendments to Chief Contract

Will be advertising to hire a secretary

Received proposal from General Code regarding Codification of Ordinances

Received proposal from Westmoreland County Planning & Development regarding Zoning Ordinance Update.

Discussion with Solicitor regarding Fire Department and Medic 10 Lease Agreements; Standard Business Mileage Rate Resolution; Capital Reserve and Budgetary Reserve account; Agenda; Mt. Pleasant Parking Authority Dissolution;

Emails out to Council regarding Act 131 – increase maximum compensation to Council members and Mayor.

Received and signed documents for Street Sweeper Grant / waiting on funds to be sent. Have not received documents for the Frick Park Hillside yet.

Met w/John Weaver RE: Liquid Fuels Review/Audit

Met w/representatives from Republic Services regarding Borough boundary lines.

Meet w/Jeff McGuinness Re: Plowing, salt and reordering

Attended a Meeting w/several municipality Managers and Township to discuss various topics. Topic was salt and the delay of receiving it.

Sharon Lesko, Borough Manager

**Property Committee:**

We had one emergency action. 3rd Ward station requires a new truck bay furnace. Jim Kostyo provided Sharon price around 12/19. The furnace was ordered and it will be installed ASAP.

I asked Jim about the heaters in the Public Works Garage. He will be giving us a price for new replacements for heaters he has been repairing annually. We are not required to buy yet but he is pricing the equipment out for me.

Mike Barrick, Chairman

**Streets/Stormwater Committee:**

Put Christmas banners on poles and decorations up at the fountain, Penn Park, and borough building

Fixed signs and poles that were down on Smithfield Street

Fixed a door on the second floor

Got the salt spreaders on and spinners and made sure they were in working condition

Brought the plows in from outside and made sure they were working properly and oiled them and greased them

Had to call traffic signals company for a crosswalk pole that was hit at the corner of Main Street and North Church Street

Had to check a toilet in the police station because it was to be leaking

Patched some holes on several of our streets

Salted streets several times on Friday, January 3<sup>rd</sup> due to snow squalls

Susan Ruszkowski, Chairwoman

**Parks and Recreation Committee: None**

Diana Lasko, Chairwoman

**Public Safety Committee: None.**

Kenneth Phillabaum, Chairman

**Veterans Park Committee: None.**

Patience Barnes, Chairwoman

**Ordinance Committee: None.**

Andy Davis, Chairman

**Human Resources Committee:**

Kenzie will be leaving the beginning of June.  
We will be placing an ad to hire a secretary.

Linda Czekanski, Chairwoman

**Events Committee: None.**

Cindy Wojnar, Chairwoman

**Finance Committee:**

Treasurer's Report for November 1 - 30, 2024  
Total Borough funds = \$ 8,799,942.40

Cynthia Stevenson, Chairwoman