

## **Meeting July 1, 2024**

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 June 3, 2024 since Council has been provided with a copy. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Lasko. Motion carried 9-0.

### **Medic 10 Report:**

- Zach Gergas, Director of Medic 10, gave his monthly report. A copy of the report provided by Mr. Gergas is attached hereto.

### **Fire Department Report:**

Mr. Harenchar spoke gave the following report:

- Thanked everyone that helped and supported the fire department with the Fireman's Street Fair.
- Still have some tickets available that will be going off this week. They are \$5.00 each.
- Have 3 new members with the fire department. Handed out an additional 4 applications at the fair. Member numbers are increasing. They are close to reaching 30 members.
- Will be picking up the tower truck on this Wednesday, June 5, 2024.
- The gentleman from the fireworks company reached out to Mr. Harenchar regarding needing someone to meet him at the cemetery while setting up the fireworks. Mr. Harenchar gave him Joe Bauer's phone number since it is his cemetery, he said he will meet him there and show him where he is to set up. Mr. Harenchar was not sure if he would be back in time from picking up the tower truck to meet with him. Assistant Fire Chief Bruce Gearhart will be sure that the fire trucks will be stationed at the cemetery during the fireworks.

Mr. Harenchar provided a copy of the fire report, which is attached hereto.

Mayor Bailey thanked the fire department for their volunteer hours and congratulated them for celebrating their 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Mayor Bailey stated that she believes that our former Mayor / Fire Chief Jerry Lucia would be very proud at how they are continuing to move forward.

Mr. Harenchar said that KDKA-TV has reached out to them regarding the two (2) antique fire trucks and would like to do a story on it. They are to meet with Bill Hare and Dave Bert on Friday.

### **Public Comment:**

- Jessica Stout of 410 Elgin Watt Way, Youngwood, PA, with Eyes Wide Shut dba I am Human, an official non-profit organization recently started in Westmoreland County, PA spoke to Council regarding child trafficking awareness and child dangers on social media. She would like to be able to set up at events in Mt. Pleasant to bring awareness.

### **Speakers:**

- George Wood with the Mount Pleasant Rotary spoke to Council regarding donating to the Borough a water fountain at the gazebo on Washington Street side in honor of the 100<sup>th</sup>

anniversary. It would include the fountain and installation. Mr. Wood provided a picture of the fountain to Council, which included an area to fill a water bottle along with an area for a pet to drink from. Mr. Wood would also like to purchase and provide 4 signs to the Borough that state Drive Carefully, Protect our Children and asked that the Borough decide where they would be best placed. They thought possibly Ramsay Terrace or near a few parks. The Rotary is also placing peace poles in the community. They are placing one at the high school and at the Coal & Coke Trail They would like the Borough to consider placing one behind the fountain that is going to be installed. The pole ranges 6-foot to 8-foot and they are considering a 6-foot pole. It will be in four (4) languages. They are looking at doing part of the heritage here in Mt. Pleasant which is English, Polish, Italian and Spanish. There would be no cost to the Borough.

Mayor Bailey asked if the Peace signs are something they are doing across the world. Mr. Wood said yes, they are. Councilwoman Stevenson asked what the peace sign is made of. Mr. Wood said he has not seen one; however, he believes that they would be like a fence post, made of hard plastic vinyl. Councilman Davis asked if there is a water connection there. Council President Ruszkowski said yes and that area was originally designed to be a water fountain. Mr. Wood said there is a drain already there. They are applying for a grant. It will not be done this year. It will be next year in the spring. Mr. Wood said once the fountain is installed and completed, the Borough will own it and will be responsible for winterizing, maintenance or any issues. Council agreed that the signs and the poles are good. Mr. Wood said he will get them ordered.

### **Mayor's Report:**

Mayor Bailey gave the following report:

- National Night Out will be on Wednesday, July 24, 2024 from 5:30pm – 8:00pm.
- Party in the Park will be on July 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2024
- The Mount Pleasant Business District Authority will be holding their next food truck event on Monday, June 10, 2024.

Councilman Barrick asked if they are planning to have all of the food trucks on Main Street again. Councilman Phillabaum stated that they are not and it is addressed in his report. Councilman Barrick stated that it was somewhat of a hazard.

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

Solicitor Mlakar gave the following report:

- There is an Ordinance on the agenda amending the Solid Waste Ordinance to allow outdoor fire pits, grills, fire rings, for recreational purposes only. It may have to be revisited if there is a problem with too much smoke.
- Suggested to Jessica Stout, from the public comment, to possibly meet with the Police Chief, contact the Westmoreland County District Attorneys Office and/or with the County Commissioners to discuss her program. Councilwoman Wojnar will speak with them and get back to Ms. Stout.
- Has prepared revisions to the Solicitation, Transient Ordinance that we currently have. It has been circulated by Borough Manager Lesko to Council for their review. Solicitor Mlakar has asked Council to look at it and make comments on it. Mr. Mlakar stated that municipalities can no longer restrict times of solicitation to before 9:00pm. It used to be dusk to dawn. Federal Courts have ruled that it has to go to 9:00pm. We also will need to revisit the permitting ordinance for solicitation fees due to the costs being too expensive. He has done a separate section on transient merchants and a section regarding food trucks. He asked Council to take a close look at it and he recommends that no food trucks be permitted on State Route 31 from a certain point to a certain point. Councilman Phillabaum asked if we have to get permission from PennDOT since we have to get approval for closing the road for parades. Solicitor Mlakar stated that we have received letters from the Police Department and Medic 10 due to the safety hazards that it is

creating by food trucks being on S.R. 31. Solicitor Mlakar stated that he has seen the photos, videos, people crossing the street anywhere, walking into traffic and it can be a hazard since S.R. 31 is a heavily traveled highway. He went on to say that when you get two (2) trucks passing and the way the food trucks are parked it is very tight squeeze or they have to wait until one truck passes and creates a hazard situation. Solicitor Mlakar stated that these are only recommendations and he has also created regulations and restrictions. It can be on private property, parks with the Borough’s permission. Solicitor Mlakar stated that no food trucks be permitted on S. R. 31 especially since the Borough has been put on notice from the police and Medic 10 that it is a hazard. Councilman Phillabaum stated that there was also a gentleman that was assaulted at the food truck event that was held by the Business District Authority and Medic 10 had trouble getting to the gentleman in a timely matter due to the traffic and then had to block one lane of S. R. 31 to get aid to the gentleman which created a traffic backup and another hazard. With this Ordinance it would prevent these issues and you would not need an emergency plan. Solicitor Mlakar stated it is a long Ordinance and that he kept a lot of things that are in the existing Ordinance that he isn’t really sure why they are there. It looks like every time an issue came up, they just added something to it. Solicitor Mlakar stated he could meet with the ordinance committee to review and if any changes are necessary.

- The Westmoreland County Chamber of Commerce has agreed to relinquish their rights to the parking lots owned by the Mt. Pleasant Parking Authority. Les has prepared a Resolution for the Parking Authority to dissolve. Councilman Phillabaum stated that he is on the Parking Authority and will get in touch with everyone and hold the meeting to begin the termination. Deeds are prepared.

Treasurer’s Report:

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

Mt. Pleasant Borough Treasurer's Report		May-24			
		Prev Bal	Deposits	Disbursements	Balance 2024
General Fund Checking	Scottdale Bank 19069335	1,036,049.15	451,472.66	137,506.53	1,350,015.28
General Fund Budgetary Reserve	Standard Bank 321615	1,056,991.11	24,791.35	0.00	1,081,782.46
**Police	48,591.82				
**Streets	148,604.25				
**Contingency Fund	386,620.26				
**Infrastructure	206,588.62				
**Workers					
Compensation	50,000.00				
**BOMP Gas Wells	26,773.10				
** Frick Park Gas					
Well	29,106.70				
**Levins	0.00				
**Fire	23,400.00				
**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	34,682.08	1,168.12	0.00	35,850.20
Escrow Account	Scottdale Bank 19069343	4,630.46	17.54	0.00	4,648.00
Liquid Fuels / Scottdale Bank	Scottdale Bank 19123645	193,818.79	701.25	10,778.30	183,741.74
Monument CD	Standard Bank 446635	7,382.80	0.00	0.00	7,382.80
Payroll Fund	Scottdale Bank 19069350	3,415.41	63,812.42	63,647.71	3,580.12
Veterans Park Fund	Somerset Trust Co 2003058309	25,918.36	2.34	0.00	25,920.70
Veterans Military Banners Fund	Somerset Trust Co 2004522337	2,476.68	0.23	0.00	2,476.91
Storm Water Retrofit Phase II	Scottdale Bank 19069368	1,284.86	4.87	0.00	1,289.73
ARPA Covid-19 (American Resuce Plan Act)	Scottdale Bank 19123652	261,662.95	991.16	0.00	262,654.11

Standard Bank CD	Standard Bank 432243	215,254.60	0.00	0.00	215,254.60
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
<b>Total General Fund Balance</b>					<b>3,282,367.53</b>
Medic 10 Checking	Scottdale Bank 19069533	415,745.82	104,466.41	176,299.31	343,912.92
Medic 10 Savings	Scottdale Bank 19069723	59,770.52	226.41	0.00	59,996.93
Medic 10 Pittsburgh Foundation	Standard Bank 0000358253	12,144.37	41.11	0.00	12,185.48
Medic 10 - 501(c)(3)	Scottdale Bank 19145689	2,443.23	9.25	0.00	2,452.48
Medic 10 CD	Standard Bank 371917	19,458.71	0.00	0.00	19,458.71
Medic 10 CD	Mid Penn Bank 318023688	5,325.42	0.00	0.00	5,325.42
<b>Total Medic 10 Fund Balance</b>					<b>443,331.94</b>
WWT Capital Reserve Account	Scottdale Bank - 19123702	905,330.82	3,429.34	0.00	908,760.16
Capital Reserve M. A. Savings Acct	Somerset Trust Co 2004521230	483,419.95	1,510.89	0.00	484,930.84
Scottdale Bank /MidPenn CD	Scottdale Bank 318015215	201,508.38	0.00	0.00	201,508.38
WWT Cap. Resv	Scottdale Bank - 318015215	201,508.38	0.00	0.00	201,508.38
American National (9/5/2023)	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>					<b>5,162,011.43</b>
<b>Total Borough funds</b>					<b>8,887,710.90</b>
Councilwoman Cynthia Stevenson / Secretary Sharon Lesko					

A Motion was made by Councilman Phillabaum to accept the May 2024 Treasurer’s Report. Motion seconded by Councilman Davis. Motion carried 9-0.

**Tax Collector’s Report:**           **None.**

**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 Barrick. Motion carried 9-0.

Borough Manager Lesko reported that there will be a closure the week of July 8, 2024 on North Church Street for the repair of a sink hole. There will be detour signs in place. Solicitor Mlakar stated although it is a state road, the Department of Transportation takes the position that if there is anything that causes a sink hole underneath, that it is the municipality’s responsibility. The pipe will be replaced the whole way across the roadway.

**President’s Report:**

Council President Ruszkowski offered condolences to Councilwoman Wojnar of the passing of her father.

Council President Ruszkowski stated that she had received a call from Daynelle Sanner of the Mount Pleasant Business District Authority. They will also be using the Key Bank Parking Lot. Somerset Trust could not accommodate them with the use of their parking lot due to business hours and the bank still being open. She asked if it would be possible to close off a section of Mullin Avenue off of Main Street for the use of parking food trucks. It will be the length of the Somerset Bank parking lot. Mayor Bailey stated that they would like to keep the food trucks as close to Main Street as possible to help bring business to the businesses that are located on Main

Street. Council President Ruszkowski stated that Daynelle from the BDA said that will only be placing 2 trucks on Mullin Avenue. Jeff McGuinness from the street department stated that the trucks will have to be parked on the side closest to the bank due to the sensors in the street for the traffic light.

A Motion was made by Councilwoman Wojnar to accept closing Mullin Avenue on July 8<sup>th</sup>, 2024 from 3:00pm to 8:00pm for the food truck event. Motion seconded by Councilman Davis. Motion carried 9-0.

Councilman Phillabaum touched on the safety aspect of the food truck event. There was a truck that had generator that hung out onto Main Street and that he had received three (3) separate complaints from 3 individuals that had to drive out around it, there were people walking out into traffic, along it an altercation where a gentleman that was assaulted where the Police and Medic 10 had trouble getting to the gentleman in a timely matter due to the traffic and then had to block one lane of S. R. 31 to get aid to the gentleman which caused congestion, created a traffic backup and another hazard. Councilman Phillabaum stated that this is why they had to be moved off of Main Street and that it is a good idea and concept; however, we have to keep the town safe. Solicitor Mlakar stated that there is enough in the Ordinance to cover this.

### **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 submitted by himself. Motion seconded by Councilman Phillbaum. Motion carried 9-0.

Councilwoman Stevenson reported that the window trim and baseboards have been installed.

Councilman Barrick reported that he listed several items on his report that they will need to consider. The first is the gazebo. We tried to bid it out twice and the stained glass is completed.

Council president Ruszkowski spoke to the gentleman that has the stained-glass windows. He has some contacts and he will reach out to them about making the brackets and track for the windows at the Gazebo.

Councilman Barrick reported that he would like to see some work done at Central fire station. Also looking at the apron at Third Ward fire station. We didn't use any CDBG Grant funds last year we would have to apply. He does not know how that works or what the process is. Is it something we get Gibson Thomas to do or someone else to do? Mayor Bailey has done it in the past. Solicitor Mlakar stated that you have to be certain that you qualify. Councilman Barrick feels that it should fall under the community. Mayor Bailey stated that the area did not qualify and what it should be and what it is are two different things but we can look into it again.

Councilman Davis Stated that there are other grants out there for the fire department. Councilwoman Wojnar asked in order to do that wouldn't you have to be a 501c3. Councilman Davis stated that is probably so for some of them. Councilman Barrick said that the fire department building is our responsibility. His report is to address some refurb work in central fire station. Borough Manager Lesko asked if there were not previous discussions about the possibility of ash under there. Councilman Barrick stated that we didn't know what was underneath there and if we use federal funds, we do environmental, if they are our funds it all gets wasted and we have to waste it on our property. We would have to determine if it is clean fill or dirty dirt.

Councilman Barrick stated that the salt building is in bad shape. The wood is rotting and he would like to put a bunch of contracts out with different quotes. Get plans together so we can put money to it. When grants become available, we can apply for them. Councilwoman Stevenson asked if he means bids? Councilman Barrick stated request for quotes. Borough Manager Lesko stated that she had discussed the salt building with Jeff McGuinness and that when the next LSA grant or SLISA grant opened that this would be something to apply for with one of those grants.

Council President Ruszkowski asked Fire Department President Rich Pologruto to speak about these issues. Mr. Pologruto stated that he would like to see something done at the third ward

fire station apron. The rear end of the truck is dragging when they pull in or out of there. He asked if they can put some fill in there until we decide what we need to do and they would be fine with that. Mr. Pologruto stated that they have been approved with the 501(c)(3) and are waiting for the paperwork to come back. Their attorney Kim Hauser has all of the information.

Solicitor Mlakar stated that the municipality is not a 501(c)(3) and do not qualify for a lot of grants; however, the way the Borough's code is set up, the fire department could actually make the application for grants with guidance from the Borough. Most grant applications require you to be a 501(c)(3). Council President Ruszkowski asked that if you look at the priority for the fire department it would be the apron at 3<sup>rd</sup> ward station? Mr. Pologruto replied "yes". Mayor Bailey asked if the street department could get some hot mix and fill the ruts in at the 3<sup>rd</sup> ward fire station enough to get them through a few months and it may need to be repaired a few times. Councilman Barrick said that it could be cut out and possibly pour some concrete. Council President Ruszkowski stated that will be the priority.

Mayor Bailey stated that she is concerned with number 4 on his report. Councilwoman Wojnar asked if this is a multiyear project. Councilman Barrick stated that probably a decade. Councilwoman Lasko stated that they were told that the building was fine. Councilwoman Stevenson asked who said that the building is falling down. Councilman Barrick stated if you are looking into growth or modernizing things you are going to have more money into remodeling. Council President asked if they were speaking about the synagogue? Councilman Barrick responded yes. Councilwoman Wojnar asked what happens in the meantime if this is a decade long project and you possibly get money to take the synagogue down, where do the firemen go. Councilman Barrick stated that is where you have to kind of limp along and hope you get the money. Councilman Davis said that they would need to have a plan first before it could be torn down because right now, they are using it for office space and things. Councilwoman Wojnar asked if the fire department is sustainable. Will it be there in ten years. Councilman Barrick stated maybe you don't make the building just for the fire department and you make it a community center. You would have to prepare that building for other purposes.

Solicitor Mlakar asked if anyone on Council knows why the borough passed an Ordinance in creating a fire department in 1975. The fire department exists as a separate non-profit corporation but if you look at the Boroughs administrative code, Chapter 1, there is a whole section for the fire department. It is created by the Borough. You cannot have both and Solicitor Mlakar stated he is at a loss as to why that happened.

Fire Department President Rich Pologruto stated that in 1975 that is when the rescue company, rescue 5 and the fire department use to be separate and then they joined. That is when they came together in 1975. Solicitor Mlakar stated that there is a separate ordinance creating Medic 10. Mr. Pologruto stated that is when the split came. Solicitor Mlakar stated it still doesn't make sense as to why the Borough created a fire department and that you can't have 2 different fire departments unless you do like Hempfield does and you bring them under the same umbrella. That wasn't the intent in 1975. Council President Ruszkowski stated that there were 10 members that were unhappy with the fire department, broke away and created Medic 10. Solicitor Mlakar stated that the Borough should get rid of that section in the Code.

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

Council 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 Councilwoman Wojnar to approve the street department/stormwater report submitted by Council President Ruszkowski. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Czekanski. Motion carried 9-0.

A Motion was made by Councilman Davis to authorize the Borough Manager to initial and date the 2024-2025 Exhibit "A" for the Winter Municipal Snow Removal Agreement with PennDOT for an amount of \$10,566.94. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Lasko. Motion carried 9-0.

### **Parks & Recreation:**

Councilwoman Lasko stated that everyone has received a copy of her report and asked if anyone has any questions or comments. A copy of the report is attached.

A Motion was made by Councilwoman Lasko to approve the parks & recreation report she submitted. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Stevenson. Motion carried 9-0.

Councilwoman Lasko reported that the Parks and Recreation Committee will be meeting on July 11<sup>th</sup> at noon with Bob Regola regarding creating a 5year plan for the parks in the Borough.

Mayor Bailey stated that she has had several people asking about pickleball courts.

Councilwoman Lasko stated that it has been discussed as part of the Willows Park plan. Mayor Bailey stated at one time there was discussion of having it at Satcho Park where the basketball court is. Councilwoman Lasko stated that parking is an issue and the basketball court is not legal pickleball court size.

Councilman Barrick asked why there aren't discussions with the school district about the tennis courts since they aren't used and have some sort of cost share. Mayor Bailey stated that we did pay for 10 years for the tennis courts. Councilman Barrick stated that he knows someone on the school board and he will reach out to them.

### **Public Safety Report:**

Councilman Phillabaum 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 Phillabaum to approve the public safety report that he submitted. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Wojnar. Motion carried 9-0.

### **Veterans Park:**

Councilwoman Barnes 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.

Councilwoman Barnes reported the following:

- The painting on the back of Veterans Wall is near completion. There were a couple of corrections that needed to be made. One was on the plane and the other was the space force was in the wrong place and was to go on the last small panel of the wall. He should be finishing up in a few days.
- The weapons display has been dropped. Mr. Zelenak of the VFW suggested that they drop this idea and not worry about it anymore. They will not pursue it any further.
- Would like to look into lighting and security cameras on the backside of the wall where the new painting is.
- Received 12 more orders for Veterans Banners. There are additional spaces left.
- Thanked Council for letting her attend the PSAB Conference in Hershey, PA. One of the topics was to eliminate property taxes for anybody over 65 and have to be a resident of Pennsylvania of 10 years. It is being held up because of funding.

A Motion was made by Councilwoman Barnes to approve the Veterans Park report that was submitted by Councilwoman Barnes. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Wojnar. Motion carried 9-0.

### **Ordinances:**

Councilman Davis 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 Davis to approve the report that he submitted. Motion seconded by Councilman Phillabaum. Motion carried 9-0.

A Motion was made by Councilman Davis to advertise Ordinance No. 665 amending Chapter 20 (Solid Waste) to provide for the use of outdoor fire places, grills, fire pits, stone rings, exclusively for recreational purposes and food preparation and adding appropriations for bonfires. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Lasko. Motion carried 9-0.

Councilman Davis reported that he has been working with Solicitor Mlakar regarding the Sign Ordinance. Solicitor Mlakar stated that the only issue that he has is that we have a free standing sign ordinance and we can amend that but the free standing doesn't allow you to control the size of the sign. The Zoning Ordinance says that all signs are to be measured 5 square feet for every square foot of frontage or width of a building. If you have a 50-foot building, the sign can be 250 square feet but there is no distinction between the different types of signs. Solicitor Mlakar said he and Councilman Davis need to get together and work this out. There are wall signs, store front signs, and size of signs. Councilman Davis needs to get the square footage size of the sign that the church has and get that information to Solicitor Mlakar. Solicitor Mlakar stated that eventually we will need to combine the 2 sign ordinances that we have. It should be in zoning.

### **Human Resources:**

A Motion was made by Councilwoman Czekanski to hold an executive session regarding personnel. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Lasko. Motion carried 9-0.

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

Solicitor Mlakar stated that executive session was held to discuss discipline of an existing part-time Borough Police Officer and a contract with the Borough Manager from 8:24pm to 8:59pm.

A Motion was made by Councilwoman Czekanski to terminate part-time police officer Mark Price effective immediately. Motion seconded by Councilman Phillabaum. Motion carried 9-0.

A Motion was made by Councilwoman Czekanski to approve contract for our current Borough Manager Sharon Lesko at salary of \$70,000.00 per year retro-effective to 6-1-2024 ending 12-31-2025. Motion seconded by Councilman Phillabaum. Motion carried 9-0.

Solicitor Mlakar stated regarding the police officer, if anyone asks, Council is not allowed to discuss the reason for the termination.

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 her report is attached.

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

### **Events Report:**

Councilwoman Wojnar 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 her report is attached.

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

### **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 her report is attached.



A Motion was made by Councilwoman Stevenson to approve the Finance report that she submitted. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Lasko. Motion carried 9-0.

**New Business:**

- Councilwoman Stevenson asked Mayor Bailey to please have the police department enforce the fireworks regulations.
- Councilwoman Stevenson stated that there are 2 gentlemen from the historical society that would like to scan old documents such as minute books and ordinances. She will be with them while they are doing this. Solicitor Mlakar stated that someone must be with them to watch over them. Councilwoman Stevenson stated that they will give the Borough a copy of what they scan. Council agreed that they can do this.
- Borough Manager Lesko stated that Honeybee's Photography is moving in to 8 South Church Street and she would like to paint the outside of the building. Council has received a copy of the painting that she would like to have done. Council agreed that she can paint the side of the building.

**Reading of Communications:**

Borough Manager Lesko read the following communications:

- There will be a ribbon cutting ceremony for Independence Health OB/GYN on Sunday, July 21, 2024 from 1:00pm to 4:00pm. Ribbon cutting will be at 2:00pm.

**Discussion and Payment of Bills:**

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

**Mayor/Council Comment: None.**

**Miscellaneous and Adjournment:**

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

**Meeting Adjourned 9:07pm.**

Respectfully Submitted,

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Sharon Lesko  
Borough Manager

BOROUGH OF MOUNT PLEASANT

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Susan Ruszkowski, Council President

**July 1, 2024  
Committee Reports**

**July 1, 2024  
Committee Reports**

**Mayors Report:** No report submitted.

**Presidents Report:** No report submitted.

**Borough Manager's Report:**

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

Met with Police Chief Grippo regarding personnel; right-to-know request; black dodge Durango has gone out for upfitting. Should be back by middle of July.

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

Met with Sargeant Tim Ferree regarding personnel matters.

Met with Councilman Davis regarding Fire Pit Ordinance and Sign Ordinance information.

Met with Mark Cypher, Code Officer, regarding various property issues.

Met w/Jeff McGuinness regarding keeping up to date of various street department matters and the sink hole on North Church Street.

Met w/David Foley of PennDOT regarding sink hole on North Church Street. Phone conversation with Jeff McGuinness during my meeting with PennDOT.

Met with entire Street Department team and Susan Ruszkowski, Chair of Street Department regarding a plan for repairing sink hole on North Church Street. Street Department will be closing a section of North Church Street the week of July 8, 2024 to repair the sink hole. Street department will post detour signs. PennDOT is going to put up digital boards near the roundabouts to detour truck traffic onto S.R. 819.

Many conversations with Solicitor Mlakar regarding various issues: Fire Pit Ordinance; Solicitation / Transient / Food Truck Ordinance; Parking Authority Dissolution; Mt. Pleasant Cemetery complaints; right-to-know request re: police report; sink hole on North Church St.

Responses to Right to Know Requests.

Advertised for electrical bids for veteran's park/gazebo area. No bids were received.

Advertise RFP's for MS4 GIS Mapping; due:

Met with Kimmel Schaefer of Schaefer Fireworks along with Jeff McGuinness, Joe Bauer with Visitation Church and Fire Chief Paul Harenchar at the site to make sure everyone is satisfied with where the fireworks will be set off. They will be set off on the top road at the Visitation Cemetery. Visitation Church has given approval and the Borough has submitted all requested documents to Joe Bauer to give to the church.

Continue preparing for July 3<sup>rd</sup> Party in the Park. The VFW, Aunt Dee Dee's and Vinny's Meatballs & Ravioli, and Seth the Balloon Guy have been confirmed. Schaefer Fireworks will provide the fireworks for July 3<sup>rd</sup> Party in the Park. Somerset Trust will be sponsoring a portion of the fireworks again this year. Thank you to Somerset Trust. Met w/China Palludio of Somerset Trust to receive check for sponsorship of July 3<sup>rd</sup> fireworks.

The summer food program has begun. It is being held at Frick Park from June 17 through August 9, 2024 from 11:30am to 12:30pm (excludes June 28, July 4 and July 5).

Met with MidPenn Bank renewed two (2) CD's that were with MidPenn Bank. They were renewed at a rate of 5.35%

Moved three (3) CD's that had termed with Dollar Bank to Mid Penn Bank. Rates at Dollar Bank were 2.25%, Mid Penn rates were 5.35%.

Attended the Ribbon Cutting Ceremony for Somerset Trust on June 11, 2024.

Attended the National Night Out Meeting on July 21, 2024. National Night Out will be on July 24, 2024 from 5:30pm to 8:00pm.

Met with Susan Ruszkowski, Ken Phillabaum and Daynelle Sanner and Greg Wilson of the Mt. Pleasant Business District Authority regarding the Food Truck Event. The police department and Medic 10 have stated that there is a public safety issue and have requested that it not be held on Main Street. The Borough has offered to let them hold it in the parking lots behind Levins along with have the businesses still be able to hold sidewalk sale and vendors that do not have trucks be on Main Street. They are going to check with the banks on Main Street about parking the trucks in their lots so they can keep it near Main Street and the businesses.

Met with Councilwoman Stevenson to review the Treasurers Report

Received extension of LSA Grant received for police vehicle.

Sharon Lesko, Borough Manager

### **Property Committee:**

I have no immediate concerns for the property report.

We have several items we need to prepare for.

1. We need to come up with a plan for the gazebo. The stained glass windows are completed. We need to decide if we will be doing anything with the pillars and with lighting.
2. The electrical for the wall and the general electric for the gazebo Park site should have been advertised not sure of the results.
3. I would like to propose we higher Ulery Architecture to help with modernizing the central fire station. New paint in the meeting room. Possible floors updating bathrooms, plumbing and electrical safety updates.
4. The Property committee would also like to consider the borough addressing the synagogue. Consider demo and looking into the construction of a community room and offices. This may be something we need to RFP as it will be an expensive design.
5. The salt building at the borough yard needs addressed. We may need to consider a remodel and interior work additionally gutters and possibly the construction of stormwater Best management practices to help with MS4. I suggest we coordinate with Ulery Architecture to develop a cost estimate.
6. The borough need to move forward with Sediment Reduction planning to meet requirements of MS4 permit. There are several projects listed in the PRP. We need to Give Gibson Thomas the ability to coordinate with DEP and we need to come up with an action plan to get the required sediment reductions to conditions of the permit.
7. The proposal of additional work in the chambers will need to proceed. Window frames, and trim need completed. Cindy S has been coordinating this with the carpenter.

Mike Barrick, Chairman

**Streets/Stormwater Committee:**

- Patched Holes
- Blacktopped N. Geary Mullin
- Mowed/Trimmed Properties
- Trimmed all Shrubs/Bushes Properties (Levins, Boro, Veterans Park)
- Painted Lines, Stop Bars
- Painted Curbs at Main and College
- Put Playground Equipment at Satcho Park
- Helped Fire Dept with Barriers, Barrels, Garbage Picked up
- Decorated gazebo for July 3<sup>rd</sup>. Put up signing for July 3<sup>rd</sup>.
- Phone call with Penn Dept. on the sinking hole on N. Church due to collapsed pipe.
- Developed a detour plan for construction.
- Meeting with the managers and crew for a game plan on construction.

Susan Ruszkowski, Chairwoman

**Parks and Recreation Committee:**

The street department installed the 2 spring rides at Satcho Park.

Will be picking another piece of playground equipment to replace the one that was damaged at Frick Park.

Diana Lasko, Chairwoman

**Veterans Park Committee:** No report submitted.

**Public Safety Committee:**

Fire Chief Paul Haranchar informed me he would like to move forward with having a smoke house for training fireman at the Mount Pleasant Streets Department property. The nearest training facility is Smithton.

Meet with Zack Gergas from Medic 10 about purchasing a quad(ATV) to assist with emergencies on the Coke and Coal Trail. 80-300 people a day on average use the trail. Zack also mentioned having some training with his staff and other emergency agencies in the area on the site of the trail. That topic will be discussed at the next Coke and Coal trail. As a committee member, I will follow up with having it on the agenda with the rest of the committee. The ATV could also assist in the Community and nearby communities such as Bear Rocks that Medic 10 cover.

Council President Susan, Borough Manager Sharon, and I meet with the BDA about the safety of the Food Truck Event. Zack Gergas of Medic 10 and Tim Ferree of the Mount Pleasant Borough Police submitted letters about the safety of having the Trucks on Main Street. We encouraged them to continue the event with safer measures factored in. Received many complaints about people walking in front of traffic. Which is noted happens regardless of food trucks being on main street or any street any where for that matter. The Food trucks limit the view and time to react to individuals crossing the street. Main Street is congested as is. The food trucks increased the congestion. Received 3 separate complaints to me directly about one food truck that had a generator out on the road. Unfortunately, there was an emergency that required Medic 10's & the Police to respond. Medic 10 faced issues addressing the emergency. Would like to see the event continue, just under safer conditions factored in. The 3 of us (Sharon, Susan, & I) encouraged the BDA to continue the event and to make the event all day as it would include the businesses that are open during regular business hours. The parking lots owned by the Borough were offered and encouraged to be used for future events.

At the Coke and Coal Trail meeting it was mentioned the new property owner is mowing the part of the trail that runs along their property since they took over. Which is greatly appreciated.

The Committee is requesting help from the Borough to have the rest of the area maintained from time to time. The trail does bring people to town, especially during the warmer months.

Attended the Library meeting. Encouraged them to reach out to Scottdale to see if there is any interest in participating in the Halloween event that the Scottdale Library is planning on the trail. The trail connects the communities, this could be another good positive connection for all parties involved.

After briefly talking to Councilwoman Cindy Wojnar the chair of the events committee, I will mention at the next Coke and Coal Trail Meeting on July 9th, we should explore holding an event of some sorts on each of the trail to attract more people to the trail and each community along the trail. Similar to what could come of the Halloween event that Scottdale is considering.

It also came up during this meeting to ask the Solicitor about the ordinance addressing financial contribution of the Borough to the Library. The Library is currently receiving \$5000 a year. The Library was receiving \$7500 at one point. There is some confusion from my understanding on the guidelines to receive the full amount. If this could be looked into, it would greatly be appreciated.

Attended Somerset County PSAB on 6/20/24 at the Meyersdale Elks.

Presentations from Somerset County Redevelopment Authority & Community Organizations Active in Disasters were very informative. Anyone interested in slides or literature I received I will gladly pass along a copy. Staffing was discussed. Like Westmoreland County, more than a few Boroughs are short on staffing of part and full time Police Officers. Somerset County Commissioner Irv Kimmel Jr. encouraged all boroughs to reach out to the state to get as much assistance as we can in connecting all the trails in the area to the Gap Trail (Great Allegheny Passage). The "GAP" has been a good boost to Connellsville and can be for all communities that have access to the trail.

Many great events going on over the next few months in all those communities, I informed the Association of all the events we have going on over the next few months here in Mount Pleasant and encouraged them to come down.

Addressed a person representing a window company that was soliciting door to door. Informed them that a permit is required to solicit in Mount Pleasant Borough. The individual was respectful and left town after I informed them. At this point, I reached out to the Police to inform them to be on the look out in case the person come back. If anyone reading this sees anyone soliciting in the borough that is not displaying credentials and permission, please call 911 to report them.

Attended the 2024 PSAB Conference in Hershey from June 2-5. Participated in the Resolutions and Policy voting at the start and end of the conference as part of the Resolutions Committee. Stopped at several vendor booths set up the first 2 days. Took information from an engineering & construction company that is very successful at executing projects. Example, if you need a new garage for the Street Department. Not only will they design & build it, but they will chase the money on your behalf from the State or wherever else they may be able to get the money from. There were several others I visited that I obtained literature from that I have since passed along. Attended several seminars and sessions ranging from social media, emergency services, public works management, crisis management, Case Studies in Code Enforcement, Right to Know Act, The Ethics Act, Working with Penn Dot, and a session focused on Communities over 4,000. Some notes taken from these sessions; Fire Department Session with the State Fire Chief was very informative. He made suggestions that it's good for the Fire Department to be out and about and interact. It's fair to say they are doing that. After attending the Street Fair, every Fireman I saw was visible and interacting with members of the community. One particular gentleman spoke about how in the part of the state he lives in, every year the neighboring Fire Departments do a fishing derby with youths in the area. This has helped increase the number of Junior Fireman. This is a suggestion I passed along to the Fire Chief. Greenlick Dam as an example would be a good location. Another event that a community mentioned that I would like to see done here in Mount Pleasant is Cones w/Cops. Once a month an officer or two will stop at a local place that sells ice cream where kids are invited to join the officers for ice cream. It was described as a "get to know" each other event. This is worth exploring during the warm months. Going digital with parking meters was pushed. It is cheaper in the long run and easier to maintain once put in as opposed to relying on the meters we are using now. This would cut back on the man hours between the street department and police invested in maintaining the meters.

Topics such as I mentioned are covered and discussed in our local PSAB meetings. The next Westmoreland County PSAB meeting is in September. The next PSAB meeting in Somerset is at Rizzo's in Windber. As a member of both executive boards, I highly encourage everyone to participate as often as you can.

Kenneth L. Phillabaum, Chairman

### **Ordinance Committee:**

At this time, we have the fire pit ordinance to discuss and we also have the sign ordinances to discuss. Working on a few other things with Les and making great progress! I also suggest that we talk about looking into a company that can take a look at our ordinances and go through and find duplicates as we are finding out of ordinances that have repeats or contradictions to themselves from over the years.

Andy Davis, Chairman

### **Human Resources Committee:**

HR committee met with Solicitor Mlakar and Solicitor Leechalk to discuss the borough managers contract.

We will be discussing manager contract and salary.

Linda Czekanski, Chairwoman

### **Events Committee:**

Nothing to report this meeting.

Cindy Wojnar, Chairwoman

### **Finance Committee:**

Treasurer's Report for May 1 – 31, 2024

Total Borough funds = \$ 8,887,710.90

Cynthia Stevenson, Chairwoman

# Veterans Park Advisory Committee Meeting

June 27, 2024

## Agenda:

1. Old Business
2. Lights at Mural
3. Banners
4. Lighting at Wall

## Meeting:

### 1. Old Business:

#### A. Railing:

We are having difficulty finding someone to put a railing at Veterans Park steps. Joe will ask Jamey Kunkel about doing the work. Mayor Bailey mentioned Handyman Joe as a possible resource.

#### B. Artist:

Mr. Lunsford is almost finished with the mural on the back of Veterans Wall. There was a slight set back. The plane painted for the Air Force turned out to be a German plane. It has been repainted. We would like a P47 War Hawk plane.

#### C. Digital Wall:

We wonder how soon the cameras will be installed. Mayor Bailey stated that the police are working with the company to get them installed.

#### D. Weapons Display:

Commander Joe Zelenak stated that council did not agree to put a military weapon at Veterans Park. Since it will not happen, he asked the committee to agree to not pursue this any further. We did agree.

E. Engraving:

Patience contacted Sandjimir engraving for a price to engrave the end date for the War of 1812. He will give us a price soon.

F. Landscaping:

Patience contacted Sharon, Borough Manager, as to who does the landscaping at Veterans Park. She indicated that the Streets Department does it and she will contact them to assess the need for upgrading.

G. Stones At Wall:

Patience contacted Sharon Lasho and Sandjimir about upgrading the faded stones at Veterans Wall. Sharon stated that if the stones are too faded and worn, they will have to be replaced at a cost to the family. Mr. Sandjimir stated that, if the stone is so worn to where it cannot be read or upgraded, it will need replaced.

2. Lights At Mural:

We need lights on the wall mural. We discussed getting solar lights that would activate at night. We would want to put the lights on the poles there, after getting permission.

3. Banners:

We received twelve new banner orders. They should be here next week. These banners will go on South Diamond Street. Some will go on East Main up to Saruso's station.

4. Lighting at Wall:

Joe Zelnak wanted to know the status of the lighting at the wall. Patience noted that Mike Davlich should have received the bid on the Lajolo, which includes the lighting.



Mount Pleasant Borough Council  
Meeting July 1, 2024  
Medic 10 Monthly Report

**Total Calls - 214**

Transports - 163  
Refusals - 15  
Lift Assists - 14  
DOA - 3  
Standbys - 6  
Canceled - 13

**Missed Calls (June) - 8**  
**Missed Calls (2024) - 60**

**Wheelchair Van - 81**

**June Total Incidents - 295**

**YEAR TO DATE**

<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>Difference</b>
Total Calls - 1,414	Totals Calls - 1,280	134 Ahead
Wheelchair Van - 427	Wheelchair Van - 151	276 Ahead
<b>Total Incidents - 1,841</b>	<b>Total Incidents - 1,431</b>	<b>410 Ahead</b>

**Grants**

Awaiting results for seven (7) grants

**Community Events**

National Night Out (7/24)  
Mt. Caramel Bible School (8/8)

**Fundraising**

Chick-fil-A opportunity (8/31)

**Business Fund Drive**

Numerous returned - \$2,400

Respectfully Submitted,  
Zachary Gergas  
Director of Operations



<b>FIRE REPORT</b>	
TOTAL CALLS-- JUNE	54
IN TOWN	16
OUT OF TOWN	38
10-45'S	14
ENTRAPMENT	3
EXTRICATION	
FIRES	12
AFA'S	20
HAZARDOUS CALLS	4
STANDBY'S	1
AMB. ASSISTS	
LANDING ZONES	
PUBLIC SERVICE	1
DRILLS	
BOAT CALL	
TURNPIKE CALLS	6
TOTAL MEMBERS ANSWERING	553
AVG. MEMBER PER CALL	10
TOTAL CALLS 2023 AT THIS TIME	249
CALLS SO FAR THIS YEAR	297
<b>WE ARE 48 CALLS AHEAD OF LAST YEAR</b>	

## **Motions from Meeting of July 1, 2024**

A Motion was made by Councilwoman Stevenson to approve the regular meeting minutes of June 3, 2024 since Council has been provided with a copy. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Lasko. Motion carried 9-0.

A Motion was made by Councilman Phillabaum to accept the May 2024 Treasurer's Report. Motion seconded by Councilman Davis. Motion carried 9-0.

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

A Motion was made by Councilwoman Wojnar to accept closing Mullin Avenue on July 8<sup>th</sup>, 2024 from 3:00pm to 8:00pm for the food truck event. Motion seconded by Councilman Davis. Motion carried 9-0.

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

A Motion was made by Councilwoman Wojnar to approve the street department/stormwater report submitted by Council President Ruszkowski. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Czekanski. Motion carried 9-0.

A Motion was made by Councilman Davis to authorize the Borough Manager to initial and date the 2024-2025 Exhibit "A" for the Winter Municipal Snow Removal Agreement with PennDOT for an amount of \$10,566.94. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Lasko. Motion carried 9-0.

A Motion was made by Councilwoman Lasko to approve the parks & recreation report she submitted. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Stevenson. Motion carried 9-0.

A Motion was made by Councilman Phillabaum to approve the public safety report that he submitted. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Wojnar. Motion carried 9-0.

A Motion was made by Councilwoman Barnes to approve the Veterans Park report that was submitted by Councilwoman Barnes. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Wojnar. Motion carried 9-0.

A Motion was made by Councilman Davis to approve the report that he submitted. Motion seconded by Councilman Phillabaum. Motion carried 9-0.

A Motion was made by Councilman Davis to advertise Ordinance No. 665 amending Chapter 20 (Solid Waste) to provide for the use of outdoor fire places, grills, fire pits, stone rings, exclusively for recreational purposes and food preparation and adding appropriations for bonfires. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Lasko. Motion carried 9-0.

A Motion was made by Councilwoman Czekanski to hold an executive session regarding personnel. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Lasko. Motion carried 9-0.

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

Solicitor Mlakar stated that executive session was held to discuss discipline of an existing part-time Borough Police Officer and a contract with the Borough Manager from 8:24pm to 8:59pm.

A Motion was made by Councilwoman Czekanski to terminate part-time police officer Mark Price effective immediately. Motion seconded by Councilman Phillabaum. Motion carried 9-0.

A Motion was made by Councilwoman Czekanski to approve contract for our current Borough Manager Sharon Lesko at salary of \$70,000.00 per year retro-effective to 6-1-2024 ending 12-31-2025. Motion seconded by Councilman Phillabaum. Motion carried 9-0.

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

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

A Motion was made by Councilwoman Stevenson to approve the Finance report that she submitted. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Lasko. Motion carried 9-0.

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

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