Mount Pleasant - 2019 Year in Review

The City started out the year swearing in Bedford Smith as a new Commissioner and appointing Bill White as Mayor and Delores Blankenship as Vice Mayor. Work started on several projects here including: Big Tire Garage Studio on Stonebrooke Lane, Safe Storage on Cross Bridges Road, Fuel Total Systems in Cherry Glen, Maury County Court House on Bluegrass and Smelter Service headquarters on North Main Street. Athena-SCE Gaskets out on Sam Watkins is almost complete as well. Soon, you will see a second Spec Building being built by a partnership of: Maury County, Maury County Industrial Development Board, Mount Pleasant Power System, TVA and the City of Mount Pleasant.

Aside from new Commercial facilities there have been new homes built and new apartments such as the Clark School apartments which are already full.

The Spin Classes- Rhythm Ryders- has been a very successful work out program for the Recreation Department and with the New Year we know classes will be full again soon! The Scout Hut at Howard Field is undergoing a huge facelift right now. Bathrooms have been added at Gardenia Park and Howard Field. The Dog Park has been a big success! The Splash Pad project continues to move forward in the design phase and should open in 2020.

Engineers are busy preparing drawings for the large sewer rehabilitation projects underway. They are also working on the Downtown Rehabilitation project. Shovels will hit the ground in 2020 to see the beginning of these projects.

The local retail operators have been pleased with downtown activities. The City always wants to work with these stores to help draw people in and assure their success. New businesses on 2019 include: Pearly Henry, Mount Pleasant Marketplace, The Perk Spot, Kinzer Pharmacy and JJ Ashley’s.

Our Police and Fire Departments continue to do great work to keep all of us safe. These departments stay very well trained and are always finding new ways to stay ahead on learning and moving to the next level. The Fire Personnel and Police Officers are respected and love being involved in the community.

A new Historic Zoning Board was created and they have held several meetings to get starting on Design Guidelines and the Historic Overlay. The City Commission also created a Communication Committee. We hope this committee can help spread the word on all the projects the City is involved in. It is very hard to get accurate, up-to-date information out to the community in a timely fashion.

In 2019 we had several great events such as: Plein Aire Art event, Thunder Over Maury, Mid-South Barbeque Festival and Maury’s Mayberry. We look forward to having several fun events for all in 2020 and continue with all the positive programs the City of Mount Pleasant has going on! HAPPY NEW YEAR!!
November is the fifth month of the fiscal year. We have begun collecting property taxes; however, the largest payments are generally close to calendar year end. This is generally when we receive payments made by mortgage companies for taxpayers who pay their taxes by escrow in their monthly mortgage payments.

The auditors will present their audit at the meeting on December 17, 2019. After it has been accepted by the Board, it will be available on our website once the State has approved it.

Total revenues are at 33.40% of budgeted amounts. Total expenditures are at 36.45% of budgeted amounts, which is 5.22% less than budget projections at this time of the year.

Cash in checking and certificates of deposit in the general fund total $1,313,320. The Gas Fund has operating checking balances totaling $1,709,057. Total gas fund cash balances, including customer deposits, total $4,250,146. The water operating account is $1,225,949. The savings and certificates of deposit balances, including customer deposit and loan fund, total $6,187,538.
PARKS & RECREATION

THOMAS KENNEY

Parks & Recreation Year End Report

Teen Center – Center is open for youth grades 7-12, Monday – Friday from 3pm – 5pm. We follow the school schedule most of the time. Updates can be found on our Facebook page.

Gardenia Park – Gardenia park has had some updates this past year. In early 2019, we added a restroom facility. In the Summer of 2019, William Craig from our local Boy Scout Troop 154 did his eagle project and installed a GaGa Ball pit. The rules are posted and how to play on the side of the pit. Come out and have some fun! We have also installed a new double post swing set for the kids. Thanks to the Mount Pleasant downtown merchants as a community sponsor in getting this great new piece for Gardenia Park.

Scout Hut – Driving down 1st Ave, on Howard Field, you will notice the Scout Hut is under remodel and repair. This has been a long-awaited project and we are moving forward with this historic project.

Arrow Mines Park – Driving over to Arrow Mines Road, you will notice that Arrow Mines Park has had many updates this year. Swings have been installed, basketball goal updated and a painted tire park installed. Thanks to Staci Jo Hildner and Erik Hildner that have dedicated countless hours in helping renovate this park. The Civitan Club of Mount Pleasant has also donated a picnic shelter for all to use.

Splash Pad – The long-anticipated Splash Pad for the City is on its way! We have been working hard with our community partners and our local High School to, hopefully, get this done by Summer of 2020. This will be located next to the Community Center. Driving by, you will see numerous stakes and marking, as we move forward with the design plan.
The Mount Pleasant Police Department participated in “No Shave” November again this year. The “No Shave” November is a campaign to bring awareness to men’s health. In order to include our female officers in this campaign, we have allowed them to wear any color fingernail polish for the month of November. To carry on the spirit of “No Shave”, the officers must donate $25.00 to keep the beards and colored fingernail polish during December. Those donations will be used for the gifts that Santa Claus will give to the police officers who will deliver to the elderly widows/widowers again this year.

We still have Cancer Awareness T Shirts available for anyone wanting to purchase one. The Mount Pleasant Police & Fire Department partnered again this year in their efforts to raise awareness and funds for the fight against Cancer. So, if you have not gotten your 2019 Mount Pleasant Police & Fire T Shirts, swing by the police department and pick up one today. Adult sizes are $20.00 and Youth sizes are $10.00 each.

The Police Department filled the last vacant police officer position this month. Mr. Jesse Lovett joined our department starting on midnight shift on November 29, 2019. Mr. Lovett has served as a police officer for over eleven (11) years. He has extensive training in various areas of law enforcement and will be a great asset to the Police Department.
The Mount Pleasant Fire Department responded to a total of sixty-seven (67) calls for service. Calls for service included: three (3) fires; thirty-six (36) emergency medical responses; twenty-one (21) public service and good intent calls; and seven (7) false alarms. Additionally, the department issued four (4) burn permits in the city.

Fire prevention activities included fourteen (14) smoke alarm install in various structures throughout the city. The department’s fire engine and ladder truck were fire pump tested, they both passed and are compliant with National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) standards. Also, all fire department full-time personnel completed annual physicals at Fast Pace, this also complies with NFPA standards for annual medical evaluations.

Firefighters Deon Hardison and Josh Kelley started fire officer training presented by TFACA. This class will last for four weeks, after successful completion they both will be eligible for the fire officer certification exam. Each shift completed fire brigade training at Solvay throughout the month. This training consisted of integrating fire department personnel and Solvay employees during medical, fire, and hazardous material related emergencies.

The training ended with a full-scale simulated emergency on December 9, 2019. Maury County Office of Emergency Management, Columbia Fire and Rescue, Columbia Emergency Management, and Maury Regional EMS, Vanderbilt Life fight, and Maury County 911 all participated. Thanks to everyone for a successful event!
PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

The Mount Pleasant Planning Commission met for our regular November session. Items on the agenda are as follows:

Site Plan Review Request – Fritts’s Auto Sales, 7939 New Lawrenceburg Hwy., requested a site plan review pertaining to further development of the property to accommodate the construction of a 3,500-sf service building for business purposes. The site plan was reviewed by the commission and was approved as presented.

Site Plan Review Request – Acts Family Church, 188 S. Cross Bridges Rd., appeared before the commission requesting a site plan review for the development of a church and parking facility. The site plan was reviewed and discussed, receiving approval from the commission.

BOARD OF ZONING AND APPEALS

The Board of Zoning Appeals met to review below stated item in November. Items on the agenda are as follows:

Mr. Shane Miller, owner of 109 N. Cherry St., appeared before the board to request a side yard setback variance for the installation of a detached open carport on said property. The board discussed and reviewed Mr. Miller’s request. Conditional approval was granted with stipulations set by the board as follows: The owner would submit a certified letter to the planning office stating his agreement that the structure would be moved if utility work had to be performed in the easement of said property, a signed statement from the neighboring property indicating an agreement with the board’s ruling, and that gutters would be installed on the carport to alleviate water shedding onto adjacent property.

HISTORIC ZONING COMMISSION

The Historic Zoning Commission met for their regular meeting in December to discuss the Proposed Downtown Historical Overlay.

BUILDING AND CODES

The Building and Codes Department issued ten (10) building permits for the month of November with a revenue of $2,021.00.

1) 19-C-070 - Window Signage Installation
2) 19-C-071 - Freestanding Signage Installation
3) 19-C-072 - Freestanding Signage Installation
4) 19-C-073 - Single-Family Renovation
5) 19-C-074 - Single-Family Renovation
6) 19-C-075 - 160 SF Accessory Structure
7) 19-C-076 - Signage Installation
8) 19-C-077 - Bath Addition - Remodel
9) 19-C-078 - Single-Family Construction
10) 19-C-079 - Commercial Demolition

Middle Tennessee Code’s Officials Association is a reputable organization comprised of multiple jurisdictions that was established to provide continuing education opportunities to all involved in the Code industry. I have been a proud member of this organization since 2008. In 2017 I was honored to receive the Code Official of the Year designation. Annually we have a meeting that is held at Cumberland University in Lebanon at Baird’s Cathedral. It is an exciting event in which we celebrate those who tirelessly fulfill their individual duties to their perspective jurisdictions. At this year’s meeting, I was again honored by receiving a nomination to take the position of 2nd Vice President of the Board for the organization. I was awarded this position and look forward to serving the members of the industry as well as representing the City of Mount Pleasant.

Building or Permit Questions ??
Contact Robert (931) 379-7717 EXT 116
CODE ENFORCEMENT

There were five (5) code violations recorded for the month of November. Property violations are being addressed, and compliance is being met. There are three remediation steps available for correcting the violations.

1. Communication and correction by the owner of said property. (most desirable)
2. Correcting the violations through the court system when they do not meet standards set forth in the Municipal Code and the International Property Maintenance Code. (less desirable)
3. Making the corrections through the abatement procedure set forth in our Municipal Code, and charging the owner for the work. (least desirable)

The intent of property maintenance is to ensure public health, safety and welfare as they are affected by the continued occupancy and maintenance of structures and premises. Failed required maintenance on structures lead to further dilapidation causing safety concerns for the general public. Nuisance violations such as; overgrown grass, loose garbage on property, and inoperable vehicles are causes of concern due to unsightliness and unsanitary conditions. The responsibility to maintain property falls to the owner and occupant. When compliance is not met, we are required to address these issues through one of the compliance methods stated above.

424 WILLIAM SPRINGS RD.

Site work is almost complete at 424 William Springs Rd. This development will include the expansion of the existing buildings by adding an addition tying the two structures together for office space and a manufacturing plant for the production of metal gaskets involving CNC machining. Athena-SCE, Inc. will bring more employment opportunities to the City of Mount Pleasant.

188 S. CROSS BRIDGES RD.

Acts Family Church is preparing to break ground at their new location, 188 S. Cross Bridges Rd. They have received approval to move forward with the construction of a 4,800-sf facility to accommodate the growing church. This will prove to be an asset to our community.
The City of Mount Pleasant employs 74 Full-time and 17 part-time employees. The City had one (1) workers comp claim and one (2) property damage claims for the month of November.

We are happy to present the following employees whose employment anniversaries were in November.

Wally Grimes (Community Services) 27 years
Terry Roberts (Community Services) 26 years
Steve Renfro (Community Services) 13 years
Todd Stewart (Fire Dept.) 12 years
Jack Burgett (Police Dept.) 12 years
Charles Boshers (Community Services) 12 years
Dakoda Runions (Public Works) 2 years
Scott Beach (Police Dept.) 2 years

New Hires for November: Jesse Lovett-Police Dept.