



# STATE OF THE CITY

MOUNT PLEASANT, TENNESSEE

Departmental Reports - January 2024

## DOWNTOWNS MATTER

There are over 25,000 incorporated communities in America. Many are prospering, but many others are not. How is it that some small cities and towns can prosper, while many others are suffering disinvestment, loss of identity and even abandonment?

Why are some communities able to maintain their historic character and quality of life in the face of a rapidly changing world, while others have lost the very features that once gave them distinction and appeal? How can communities, both big and small, grow without losing their heart and soul?

From coast to coast, communities are struggling to answer these questions.

After working in hundreds of communities in all regions of the country, I have come to some conclusions about why some communities succeed and others fail. Main Street communities have found ways to retain their small town values, historic character, scenic beauty and sense of community, yet sustain a prosperous economy. And they've done it without accepting the kind of cookie-cutter development that has turned many communities into faceless places that young people flee, tourists avoid and which no longer instill a sense of pride in residents.

It's clear, for instance, that successful communities involve a broad cross-section of residents in determining and planning for the future. They also capitalize on their distinctive assets-their architecture, history, natural surroundings, and home grown businesses rather than trying to adopt a new and different identity. Most successful communities also utilize a variety of private-sector and market incentives to influence new development, instead of relying solely on government regulations.

See Full article by Edward McMahon at:

<https://svenaofsky.files.wordpress.com/2016/01/article-downtowns-matter.pdf>

### Upcoming Events

1/06/24 - 9 AM  
*Commission Special  
Called Meeting*

1/09/24 - 6 PM  
*Planning Commission  
Meeting*

1/10/24 - 5:30 PM  
*Recreation Commission  
Meeting*

1/13/24 - 6 PM  
*Commission  
Study Session*

1/16/24 - 6 PM  
*Commission Meeting*

Join the City's  
Text Notification  
Program to  
Receive Important  
Alerts &  
Announcements



**TEXT: MPCITY**  
**TO: (931) 340-7700**



Community and City Volunteers helped with the Santa Trolley program in December. This program allows for families in need to make sure they have a good Christmas and also get what they need. Thank you for this program.



Mayor  
Bill White  
(931) 379-3762

Vice Mayor  
Jacqueline Grandberry  
(931) 334-1691

Commissioner  
Willie Alderson  
(931) 398-8383

Commissioner  
Mike Davis  
(931) 698-6581

Commissioner  
Pam Johnston  
(931) 334-8014

# PARKS & RECREATION

ALYSHIA BUSBY

The end of the year is always busy around the center. From Parties for all our clubs and even some families, to our yearly Santa Trolley event. 70 families were helped this year with Christmas. Giving back to our town is something special. Santa made an appearance with two of his helpers to see the little ones who came to pick up gifts.

Santa made his way back to the Center for breakfast a couple of weekends later. Kids lined up, letters in hand, cameras flashing, and babies crying. Families sitting down to have pancakes as they waited their turn for pictures. What a turn out to first annual Breakfast with Santa, but be ready for next year.



As the holidays roll through we here at the Community Center and at Parks and Recreation hope you all had a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New year and may 2024 be the best year of your lives!

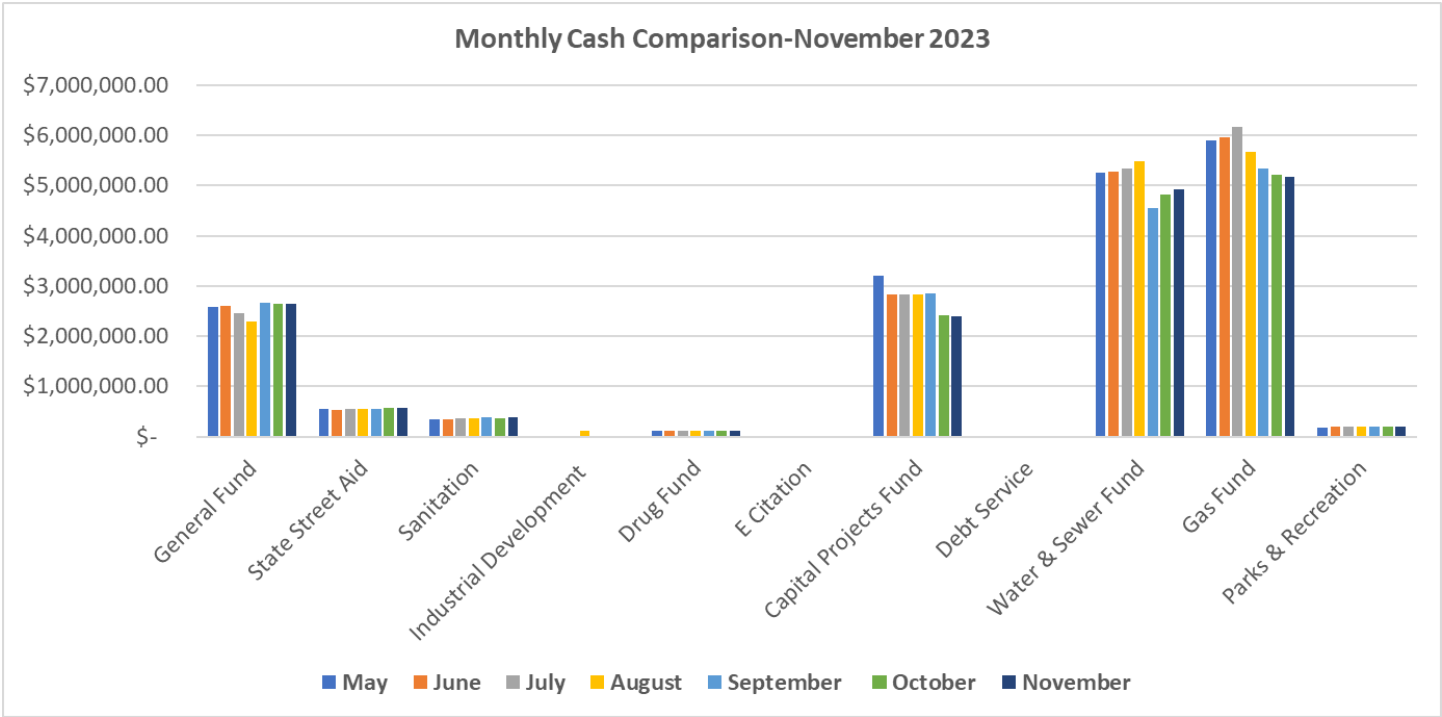
# FINANCE

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## SHIPRAH COX

During the month of November, the finance office continued to collect the property taxes, finishing out the 2022-2023 audit & looked at implementing a new module in local government for fixed assets and capital projects. Employees also attended Utility trainings done by TAUD. (Tennessee Association of Utility Districts)

Cash in checking and certificates of deposit in the general fund total \$2,652,133. The Water Fund has operating funds, including savings and certificates of deposit totaling \$1,433,542.29. The Water/Wastewater construction funds account has a balance of \$2,854,229 customer deposits regular & savings in the amount of \$644,035. The gas fund has operating funds, including savings and certificates of deposit totaling \$4,455,694. The customer deposits in gas total \$709,812.



The City of Mount Pleasant now has an E-Bill Program.

This program will allow our water, wastewater, gas, and sanitation customers to have their monthly bill sent via email, replacing the monthly postcard you receive now.

Visit the city’s website to sign up for this service.

# POLICE DEPARTMENT

MICHAEL HAY

Sergeant/Training Officer Willie Norwood attended a Tennessee Law Enforcement Training Officer's Association conference in November. The conference is mandatory for our training officer to attend as a part of his continued education. The conference provides updates on any new laws and any new additional training required for our police officers. Officer Jesse Lovett attended Narcotics Investigation Conference in Chattanooga.

The officers worked several cases this month, several being domestic related. The holidays bring on many celebrations and family gatherings. Unfortunately, they also bring on stress, depression, and can bring on financial worries to some. Because of these factors, the calls and cases seem to increase during this time. The officers are working an aggravated burglary and a forgery case. We are discovering the forgery case has multiple victims and claims are still coming in. As a result, the forgery case will take more time to determine an exact amount stolen. The suspect has been identified and charges will be forth coming.

## Incident Case Status Totals by Offense

Mount Pleasant Police Department

(11/01/2023 - 11/30/2023)

Offense:	Active:	Active TOT O/A:	Inactive:	Inactive WOF:	Closed Service:	Closed Except.:	Closed Arrest:	Adult Arrest:	Juvenile Arrest:	Adu./Juv. Arrest:	Unfnd.:	Rpted.:	Actual:
	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	2	2
11A - Rape	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
11D - Fondling	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
120 - Robbery	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	1	1
13B - Simple Assault	3	0	1	0	2	0	3	4	1	0	1	10	9
220 - Burglary/Breaking & Entering	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	2	2
23D - Theft From Building	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	2	2
250 - Counterfeiting/Forgery	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
26A - False Pretenses/Swindle/Confidence Game	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
26B - Credit Card/Automated Teller Machine Fraud	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
35A - Drug/Narcotic Violations	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	2	0	0	0	2	2
90J - Trespass of Real Property	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
90Z - All Other Offenses	2	0	0	0	6	0	4	9	0	0	0	12	12
<b>Totals:</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>36</b>



# PLANNING DEPARTMENT

CHRIS BROOKS

The Building and Planning Department issued 4 various types of permits in the month of December as we are getting settled into our new admin office. We would like to thank the IT Department and Brent Cockrell for all their help in getting us moved. We have some exciting things coming in 2024 that we think will benefit our city greatly. We urge everyone who is doing any type of construction work or adding any accessory structures to please contact our office to see if a permit is required. We also encourage everyone who wants to stay in the know about what is going on with our city to attend or live stream our Commission meetings. We look forward to a great 2024 and to serving the people of Mount Pleasant.



After the hard freeze we had last year around Christmas, which killed a lot of trees and shrubs, here a few tips to help your plants survive the weather ahead.

**Mulch** – apply a 2-3” thick layer of shredded bark mulch to the entire root zone of the plant. This offers significant benefits year-round, but is especially welcome in winter for its insulating properties and its ability to conserve moisture even in hard, frozen soil.

**Water** – don’t let your plants go to bed thirsty. Most climates get enough rain in autumn that watering late in the season isn’t necessary, but if precipitation is scarce, a good watering before the ground freezes isn’t a bad idea, especially for shrubs and trees planted that same year.

**Avoid pruning** – In cold climates, pruning is best left until spring. Leaving the plant intact provides extra protection for the lowest and most crucial buds on the plant. Plus, waiting until the buds begin to emerge in spring allows you to make the most educated decisions about how much and where to prune.

**Protect from pests** – Insects aren’t typically a problem in winter, but a whole host of furry friends may visit your garden in winter in search of food. When they do, they can cause quite a lot of damage. Rabbits, mice, and voles typically chew on branches to consume the tender, moist layer just below the bark. This type of damage is usually seen at the base of the plant or at ground level around

the trunk of a young tree, although when it snows, you’ll see damage further up the branches as the snow elevates the animals to new feeding perches. Deer eat plants from the top down, and they often find our garden plants far tastier than what is growing in the woods. They are particularly fond of evergreens like arborvitae, rhododendron, and holly. If you live in areas where these animals are frequent visitors, it’s a good idea to protect your plants. You can create a physical barrier over or around the plant with deer netting, wire mesh (like hardware cloth or chicken wire), or even burlap. You can also apply a liquid repellent; there are many brands available and your local garden center can advise you on which ones have worked best in your area. Liquid repellents usually need to be reapplied a few times during the season to be most effective.

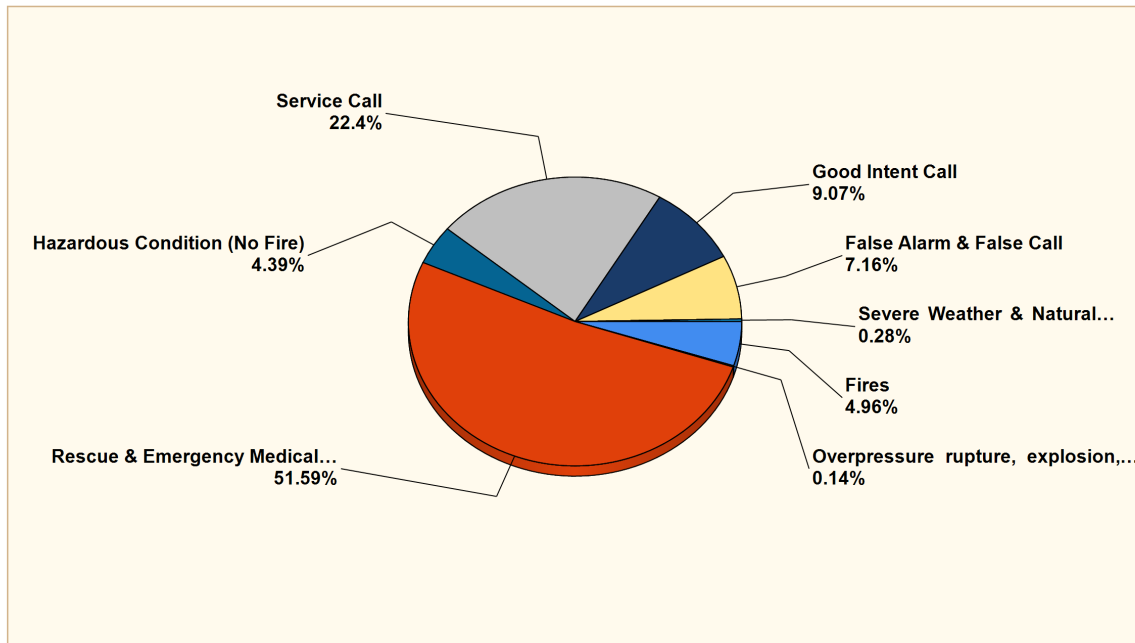


# FIRE DEPARTMENT

## PHILLIP GROOMS

The Mount Pleasant Fire Department (MPFD) provides vital services to the community. From the collective efforts of our firefighters and administrative staff working with city management, other City of Mount Pleasant departments, elected officials, neighboring fire departments, and the citizens of our community, we will continue to ensure that MPFD meets the inevitable challenges that are a part of sustaining a quality municipal fire department. We will continue diligent efforts to train and maintain our personnel to the highest level possible, as well as, to effectively respond to all emergency calls within our community and surrounding areas. Our interest is to keep this community safe.

2023, resulted in seventy-two (72) fires: grass, vehicle, structural, etc. The majority of service provided to the community were 728 emergency medical responses. Also, the department documented 611 public service calls, these calls ranges from fire and life safety inspections, public fire prevention education/presentations, false alarms, and smoke alarm installs.



### Fire Inspection Result for 2023

INSPECTION RESULTS	TOTAL
Correction Notice Issued	16
Passed	86
Passed with Comments	17
Pending	12
Pre-Plan Only	124
Recommendations Made	3
Referred to Code Enforcement	5
Second Correction Notice	4
Third Correction Notice	3
<b>Total of Inspections Completed in Date Range:</b>	<b>270</b>

As the department looks ahead to the year 2024, and to ensure we are meeting the mission of our agency, the department will start a strategic planning process. Hopefully, with input from internal and external stakeholders, ultimately, we will ask the City of Mount Pleasant elected officials to adopt a five-year strategic plan. 2024 will mark the end of the 2020-2025 adopted strategic plan and we are pleased to announce all the planning has become reality over the past few years.

# STREETS

TED HOWELL

Municipal Solid Waste  
209.80 Tons

Aluminum Recycled  
000 Lbs

Bulky Brush Pickup  
Call: (931) 325-5701



Potholes Repaired

Washington Ave  
Locust Street  
Olive Street

# UTILITIES

TED HOWELL

## Wastewater Plant/Lagoons

Plant Nov 2023 - 13.04 MG    Plant Nov 2022 - 10.40 MG  
Rain Nov 2023 - 2.81 inches    Rain Nov 2022 - 2.03 inches

## Lagoons

Upper Lagoon (10%)  
Bottom Lagoon (10%)

## Water Treated / Water Sold

Water Treated Nov 2023 - 38.46 MG  
Water Sold Nov 2023 - 20.79 MG  
Water Treated Nov 2022 - 41.19 MG  
Water Sold Nov 2022 - 21.57 MG

## T vs S

54.05%

52.36%

Tennessee One Calls  
November 2023 - 66



## Utility Distribution System

Water Leaks Repaired (08)  
Water Meter Changes (13)  
Gas Meter Changes (05)

Spray Field - 00 MG

# HUMAN RESOURCES

LAYTOYA ALDERSON

The City of Mount Pleasant employs 75 Full-time and 19 part-time employees. The City had no worker comp claims and one property damage claims for the month of December.

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

Kari Daniels (Building and Codes Department) 12 years  
Derrell Furguson (Community Services Department) 2 years  
Ashley Simpson (Gas Department) 5 years  
Andrew Buffey (Police Department) 1 year  
Christopher McDougal (Police Department) 3 years



## January Birthdays

Manny Longfoot Richard Odom  
Phillip Sutherland Gilbert Marshall  
Tyler McCrory Scott Beach  
Samuel Dickey Jesse Lovett

Thanks to all of our City employees for making Mount Pleasant a better place to live, work, and play.