

# WEDDINGS

## THE MAYOR WILL NOT BE OFFICIATING WEDDINGS DURING 2011

Under no circumstances does the Vice Mayor have the authority to officiate a marriage ceremony.

### Questions?

Please contact the City Manager's office at (989) 779-5323 or via e-mail at [apritchard@mt-pleasant.org](mailto:apritchard@mt-pleasant.org)

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Under Michigan law the Mayor of a municipality has the authority to officiate at a marriage ceremony conducted within Isabella County. This service is offered by the Mayor of Mount Pleasant under the following conditions:

1. The Mayor's availability is the sole determining factor in responding to a request to officiate at a marriage ceremony. Please note that the Mayor is elected at the first City Commission meeting each year, and each Mayor is free to establish his or her own calendar of availability.
2. The ceremony must take place within Isabella County. The location should be reviewed with the City Manager's staff to confirm that this requirement is satisfied.
3. City Commission resolution requires that the Mayor charge \$30 to officiate at a marriage ceremony. The fee for a rehearsal is \$10. **These fees must be paid prior to the day of the ceremony**. Payment may be made at City Hall, 320 West Broadway, at the Treasurer's Office. (Checks should be payable to the City of Mount Pleasant.)
4. Ceremonies conducted at City Hall must take place during normal business hours (8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday).
5. The parties to the marriage assume responsibility for all wedding arrangements. This includes but is not limited to determining availability of and possible conflicting activities in a City park if the wedding is scheduled to take place in same.
6. The prospective bride and groom are encouraged to select one of the sample ceremonies provided in this booklet or compose their own vows and convey them to the City Manager's staff no less than ten days before the scheduled date of the ceremony.



City of Mt. Pleasant

Request for Mayor to Act as Wedding Officiant

Wedding Day and Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Time of Wedding: \_\_\_\_\_

Location of Ceremony: \_\_\_\_\_

Bride's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Groom's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Other Contact Person: \_\_\_\_\_

Address (indicate bride or groom): \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number(s) (indicate bride or groom) \_\_\_\_\_

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**Staff Use:**

Send Sample Ceremonies once date confirmed by Mayor? \_\_\_\_\_

To above address? \_\_\_\_\_

Date Confirmed: With Mayor? \_\_\_\_\_ With Bride/Groom/Other Contact? \_\_\_\_\_

Ceremonies Mailed: \_\_\_\_\_ Ceremony selected by Bride and Groom: \_\_\_\_\_

Wedding Regulations mailed with Sample Ceremonies? \_\_\_\_\_

Copy placed in tickler for last business day prior to ceremony? \_\_\_\_\_

Document folder in supply cabinet? \_\_\_\_\_

Payment received? \_\_\_\_\_

Additional Notes: \_\_\_\_\_

**AFTER THE WEDDING:** Initial and date when Marriage Certificate has been returned by the Mayor, a copy placed in the Wedding Journal, and the original mailed to the appropriate County Clerk. \_\_\_\_\_

# Sample Ceremony One

## Introduction

(Mayor)

We are gathered together here in the presence of these witnesses to join this man and this woman in matrimony, which is an honorable estate, and is not to be entered into unadvisedly or lightly, but reverently and discreetly. If anyone can show just cause why this man and this woman may not lawfully be joined together, let them speak now or hereafter remain silent.

(Mayor to the Bride and Groom)

\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_, I require and charge you both that if either of you know any reason why you may not lawfully be joined together in matrimony, you do now confess. If any persons are joined together otherwise than as prescribed by law, their marriage is not lawful.

## Exchange of Vows

(Mayor to the Groom)

\_\_\_\_\_, will you take this woman to be your wedded wife, to live together in the estate of matrimony? Will you love, honor and keep her, in sickness and in health, and forsaking all others, keep yourself only unto her, as long as you both shall live?

(Groom)

I will.

(Mayor to the Bride)

\_\_\_\_\_, will you take this man to be your wedded husband, to live together in the estate of matrimony? Will you love, honor and keep him, in sickness and in health, and forsaking all others, keep yourself only unto him, so long as you both shall live?

(Bride)

I will.

## Giving and Receiving of Rings

(Mayor to Groom)

\_\_\_\_\_, take \_\_\_\_\_ by the hand and repeat after me. "I, \_\_\_\_\_, take thee \_\_\_\_\_, to be my wedded wife, to have and to hold from this day forward, for better, for worse, for richer, for poorer, in sickness and in health, to love and to cherish, until death do us part."

(Mayor to the Bride)

\_\_\_\_\_, repeat after me. "I, \_\_\_\_\_, take thee \_\_\_\_\_, to be my wedded husband, to have and to hold from this day forward, for better, for worse, for richer, for poorer, in sickness and in health, to love and to cherish, until death do us part."

(Mayor)

For as much as \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ have consented together in wedlock and have witnessed the same before this company, and thereto have given and pledged their troth, each to the other, and have declared the same by joining hands.

Now, by the authority vested in me by the laws of the State of Michigan and the office of Mayor, I now pronounce you husband and wife and extend to you my best wishes for a successful and happy married life together.

Ladies and gentlemen, may I present Mr. and Mrs. \_\_\_\_\_.

## Sample Ceremony Two

### Explanation of Marriage

You are about to enter into a union which is most serious. It is most serious because it will bind you together for life in a relationship so close and intimate that it will profoundly influence your whole future. That future, with its hopes and disappointments, its successes and its failures, its pleasures and its pains, its joys and its sorrows, is hidden from your eyes. You know that these elements are mingled in every life, and are to be expected in your own. And so, not knowing what is before you, you take each other for better or for worse, for richer or poorer, in sickness and in health.

Truly, then, these words are most serious. It is a beautiful tribute to your loving faith in each other that, recognizing their importance, you are nevertheless so willing and ready to pronounce them. And because the words involve such solemn obligations, it is most fitting that you rest the security of your wedded life upon the great principle of self-sacrifice. And so you begin your married life by the voluntary and complete surrender of your individual lives in the interest of that deeper and wider life which you two have in common. Henceforth, you will belong entirely to each other; you will be one in mind, one in heart and one in affection.

No greater blessing can come to your married life than pure matrimonial love, loyal and true to the end. May then this love with which you join your hands and hearts today never fail, but grow deeper and stronger as the years go on. And if true love and unselfish spirit of sacrifice guide your every action, you can expect the greatest measure of earthly happiness that may be allotted to each of you.

### Exchange of Vows

(Mayor to the Groom)

Do you, \_\_\_\_\_, take this woman \_\_\_\_\_, to be your lawful wedded wife?

(Groom)

I, \_\_\_\_\_, take thee, \_\_\_\_\_, for my lawful wife, to love, honor and keep you as a faithful husband is bound to do, in health and in sickness, in prosperity and adversity, and forsaking all others, keep myself only unto you.

(Mayor to the Bride)

Do you, \_\_\_\_\_, take this man \_\_\_\_\_, to be your lawful wedded husband?

(Bride)

I, \_\_\_\_\_, take thee, \_\_\_\_\_, for my lawful husband, to love, honor and keep you as a faithful wife is bound to do, in health and in sickness, in prosperity and adversity, and forsaking all others, keep myself only unto you.

### **Giving and Receiving of Rings**

(Groom)

With this ring I thee wed, and pledge my faith.

(Bride)

With this ring I thee wed, and pledge my faith.

### **Conclusion**

(Mayor)

For as much as \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ have consented to live together in wedlock, and having declared their intentions before these witnesses and no legal impediments having been shown, by the authority vested in me by the laws of the State of Michigan and the office of Mayor, I now pronounce you husband and wife.

## Sample Ceremony Three

### Welcome

*(Mayor)*

We have gathered together here at this time to share in the joy and love of \_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_. Each of you has given something of yourself to help them become what they are, and each of you will have opportunities to give more to them to nurture their new relationship. May the love and affection that has brought them to this point continue to be a blessing to them. Please join in the celebration of this special event.

### Explanation of Marriage and Declaration of Consents

*(Mayor)*

The marriage contract is the most cherished contract in our society because it forms the basis for our social structure. This solemn agreement between \_\_\_ and \_\_\_ has permanent legal standing, and we are serving as witnesses to it. By means of this ceremony, \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ will become united in a special new way. To this moment they bring the fullness of their hearts to share with one another; they bring the dreams which bind them together in spirit; they bring their individuality, which will be preserved, but out of which will emerge their life together.

*(Mayor to the Bride)*

\_\_\_\_\_, will you have this man to be your husband, to live together with him in the covenant of marriage? Will you love him, comfort him, honor and keep him, in sickness and in health, and, forsaking all others, be faithful to him as long as you both shall live?

*(Bride)*

I will.

*(Mayor to the Groom)*

\_\_\_\_\_, will you have this woman to be your wife, to live together with her in the covenant of marriage? Will you love her, comfort her, honor and keep her, in sickness and in health, and, forsaking all others, be faithful to her as long as you both shall live?

*(Groom)*

I will.

## Giving and Receiving of Rings

*(Mayor)*

Each of you brings now a symbol of your love for each other.  
*(presentation of rings by the attendants)*

These rings shall forevermore be a symbol of the love you have declared and the vows you have exchanged. The unbroken circles of these rings represent the special faithfulness that you have pledged to each other.

*(Bride, after placing the ring on the Groom's finger:)*

\_\_\_\_\_, I give you this ring as a symbol of my vow, and with all that I am, and all that I have, I honor you.

*(Groom, after placing the ring on the Bride's finger:)*

\_\_\_\_\_, I give you this ring as a symbol of my vow, and with all that I am, and all that I have, I honor you.

## Conclusion

*(Mayor)*

Now that \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ have given themselves to each other by solemn vows, with the joining of hands and the giving and receiving of rings, and with you as witnesses, by the authority vested in me by the laws of the State of Michigan and the office of Mayor, I now pronounce you husband and wife. *(The couple may embrace.)*

May all of us present today remember what we have seen and witnessed. May each of us do everything within our power to support and strengthen \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ as they journey together the road of life.

## Sample Ceremony Four

### Exchange of Vows

*(Mayor to the Groom)*

\_\_\_\_\_, will you have this woman to be your wife, and will you promise your faithfulness to her, in all love and honor, in all duty and service, and in all faith and tenderness, to live with her, and cherish her, according to the bonds of marriage?

*(Groom)*

I will.

*(Mayor to the Bride)*

\_\_\_\_\_, will you have this man to be your husband, and will you promise your faithfulness to him, in all love and honor, in all duty and service, and in all faith and tenderness, to live with him, and cherish him, according to the bonds of marriage?

*(Bride)*

I will.

### Giving and Receiving of Rings

*(Mayor to the Groom)* Repeat after me:

I, \_\_\_\_\_, take you, \_\_\_\_\_, to be my wedded wife; and I promise to be your faithful husband, in plenty and in want, in joy and in sorrow, in sickness and in health, as long as we both shall live. This ring I give to you in token and pledge of our constant faith and abiding love.

*(Mayor to the Bride)* Repeat after me:

I, \_\_\_\_\_, take you, \_\_\_\_\_, to be my wedded husband, and I promise to be your faithful wife, in plenty and in want, in joy and in sorrow, in sickness and in health, as long as we both shall live. This ring I give to you in token and pledge of our constant faith and abiding love.

### Conclusion

*(Mayor)*

By the authority vested in me by the laws of the State of Michigan and the office of Mayor, I now pronounce you husband and wife.

You may embrace.

## Sample Ceremony Five

We are gathered here in the sight of God and the presence of these witnesses to join together this man and this woman in Holy Matrimony, which is an honorable estate and is not to be entered into lightly or inadvisably, but reverently and discreetly.

\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_, have you come here freely and without reservation to give yourself to each other in marriage?

I require and charge you both to remember that love and loyalty alone will prevail as the foundation of a happy and enduring home, which will be full of joy and will abide in peace.

\_\_\_\_\_, will you have this woman \_\_\_\_\_ to be thy wedded wife, to live together in the estate of matrimony? Will you love her, honor her, and keep her in sickness and in health and forsaking all others so long as you both shall live?

\_\_\_\_\_, will you have this man \_\_\_\_\_ to be thy wedded husband, to live together in the estimate of matrimony? Will you love him, honor him, and keep him in sickness and in health and forsaking all others so long as you both shall live?

I, \_\_\_\_\_, take you \_\_\_\_\_, to be my wedded wife, to have and to hold from this day forward, for better, for worse, for richer, for poorer, in sickness and in health, to love and to cherish 'til death do us part.

I, \_\_\_\_\_, take you \_\_\_\_\_, to be my wedded husband, to have and to hold from this day forward, for better, for worse, for richer, for poorer, in sickness and in health, to love and to cherish 'til death do us part.

“In token and in pledge of the vow between us given, I thee wed.”

By the authority vested in me by the laws of the State of Michigan and the office of Mayor, I now pronounce you husband and wife.

## Sample Ceremony Six

We are gathered in the presence of these witnesses to join together this man and this woman in matrimony, which is an honorable estate and is not to be entered into lightly or unadvisedly but reverently and discreetly.

\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_, I require and charge you both that if either of you know of any reason why you may not lawfully be joined together in matrimony you do now confess it; for if you are joined together otherwise than as prescribed by law, your marriage is not lawful.

\_\_\_\_\_, will you have this woman to be your wedded wife, to live together in the estate of matrimony? Will you love, honor and keep her in sickness and in health and forsaking all others keep yourself only unto her so long as you both shall live? (*answer "I will"*)

\_\_\_\_\_, will you have this man to be your wedded husband, to live together in the estate of matrimony? Will you love, honor and keep him in sickness and in health and forsaking all others keep yourself only unto him so long as you both shall live? (*answer "I will" and repeat after me*)

*Join Right Hands.*

I, \_\_\_\_\_, take you, \_\_\_\_\_, to be my wedded wife, to have and to hold from this day forward, for better, for worse, for richer, for poorer, in sickness and in health, to love and to cherish 'til death do us part.

I, \_\_\_\_\_, take you, \_\_\_\_\_, to be my wedded husband, to have and to hold from this day forward, for better, for worse, for richer, for poorer, in sickness and in health, to love and to cherish 'til death do us part.

*Disengage Hands and Bestow Rings. Repeat:*

"In token and in pledge of the vow made between us, with this ring I thee wed."

By the authority vested in me by the laws of the State of Michigan and the office of Mayor, I now pronounce you husband and wife.