

COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

MAY 12, 2020

7:00 pm.

1. CALL TO ORDER
2. ROLL CALL
3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
4. Mayor Shorraw made a motion to approve of minutes from April 14 & April 27, 2020 meetings. Second by Don Gregor. 5 -- 0
5. OPEN THE FLOOR FOR PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS ONLY

6. CORRESPONDENCE:

Proclamation declaring the week of April 19 through April 25, 2020 "Love Your Library Week"

Proclamation declaring May 3, 2020 "Bells Across Pennsylvania" Day.

Letter from Eric J. Manko, Principal of Monessen Middle/high School

Letter of retirement received from Lt. Brian M. Vitale. Police Dept.

Letter of resignation received from Marvin Davis Code Enforcement Dept.

7. OLD BUSINESS:

8. CITY TREASURER: Gerald Saksun

Motion made by Mayor and second by Gil Coles to accept the Treasurer's report for the month ending April 2020. 5 -- 0

9. CITY CONTROLLER: Kevin Parker

Controller's report for the month ending April 2020

10. NEW BUSINESS

Mayor Matt Shorraw: Public affairs

- A. Motion to accept the retirement of Lt. Brian M. Vitale effective June 22, 2020. A special thanks to Brian, for all your years of service to all the residents of Monessen. Seconded by Anthony Orzechowski. 5 -- 0
- B. Motion to accept the resignation of Marvin Davis effective May 15, 2020. A special thanks to Marvin for his dedicated service to all the residents in Monessen. Seconded by Don Gregor. 5 -- 0
- C. Motion to authorize the City Administrator to advertise for the part-time position of Code Officer. Seconded by Don Gregor 5 -- 0.
- D. Motion to authorize the City Administrator to advertise for the City Clerk position. Tabled.
- E. Motion to approve all part-time employees to an hourly rate of \$9.50 beginning June 1, 2020. Union approval received. Seconded by Gil Coles. 5 -- 0.
- F. Motion to approve a committee of (4) to interview applicants for positions with the city. Lois Thomas, Gerald Saksun, John Harhai and Matt Shorraw. Seconded by Don Gregor 5 -- 0.
- G. Motion to approve a request by Ron Chromulak, Commander, Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 1190 to attach name plates to pavilions in City Park. The names are of fallen servicemen. Seconded by Anthony Orzechowski. 5 -- 0

- H. Motion to approve repainting the curbs yellow, at the following locations due to lack of visibility when a vehicle is trying to enter traffic on
Schoonmaker Avenue & Fourth Street
Schoonmaker Avenue & Oneida Street
Seconded by Don Gregor. 5 – 0.

Also, this will require movement of one handicap parking space back towards First Street. The placard will be moved to the second post and the curb will be painted blue accordingly.

- I. Motion to approve Resolution 4-2020 of the City Council of the City of Monessen to implement certain property tax relief provisions of Act 15 of 2020 to extend the discount period for real property taxes and to waive any fees or penalties associated with the late payment of real property taxes. Seconded by Anthony Orzechowski. 5 – 0.
- J. Motion to approve Resolution 5-2020 of the City of Monessen Authorizing the Housing Consortium Cooperation Agreement with the County of Westmoreland. Seconded by Don Gregor. 5 -- 0
- K. Motion for approval for a fee to be set for a Conditional Use application. The application fee is to be \$450. (high mast signs of variable heights).
Seconded by Lois Thomas. 5 - 0.
- L. Second Reading – Motion for approval of Ordinance No. 1-2020 approving collection procedures and adopting interest and schedule of attorney fees and charges to be added to the amount collected as part of unpaid municipal claims for delinquent accounts. Seconded by Don Gregor. 5 - 0
- M. First Reading - Ordinance No. 2-2020 an ordinance of the council for the City of Monessen, Westmoreland County, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania,

repealing Ordinance No. 1-2019 of the City of Monessen. Seconded by Don Gregor. 3 Don, Gil and Matt.—2 Lois and Tony.

- N. First Reading – Ordinance No. 3-2020 Fire and Burning Ordinance - An ordinance providing for and regulating the use of fires and burning by the establishment of specific regulations, exceptions, and definitions; providing for enforcement; prescribing penalties for violation; repealing inconsistent ordinances; and providing for an effective date. Seconded by Don Gregor. 5 – 0.
- O. First Reading – Downtown Parking Ordinance 4 -2020 An ordinance confirming current on-street parking restrictions, prohibitions, and regulations for portions of Eastgate Avenue, Rebecca Street, Monongahela Street, Parente Boulevard, First Street, Second Street, Third Street, Fourth Street, Fifth Street, Sixth Street, Seventh Street, Eight Street, Tenth Street, Maronda Way, Donner Avenue, and Schoonmaker Avenue; establishing two-hour parking and eliminating metered parking for portions of Oneida Street, First Street, Second Street, Fifth Street, Sixth Street, Wendell Ramey Lane, Donner Avenue, and Schoonmaker Avenue; confirming current off-street parking restrictions and regulations for various city parking lots; promulgating general parking regulations and restrictions; repealing inconsistent ordinances; and providing for an effective date. Seconded by Lois Thomas. 5 -- 0
- P. Resolution 6 – 2020 Motion to approve Monessen 9th Street Park Rehabilitation – Phase One. Seconded by Gil Coles. 5 -- 0

An Application Submission for Grant Funds was submitted to the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR). This is a matching grant for the city. (explain)

- Q. Police Report

Update on the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) loan to the City of Monessen for the infrastructure of the main sewer lines in the city. The main lines are: Twelfth Street, Ninth Street, Sixth Street, Third Street, and Seneca/Parente. The loan amount will be approximately \$20M at 1.38 % over 30 years. Once the project begins, it will last at least 5 years. The loan amount is the best estimate based on the current engineering reports. When the project gets into full swing it may or may not vary from the current engineering reports. Our sewer lines are over 100 years old and are failing.

Update on the Equalization Tank (EQ TANK). The EQ Tank will be constructed near the city's salt shed on Parente Blvd. The Mon Valley Sewage Authority has agreed to engineer, construct and pay for the tank out of the line usage fees currently paid by the residents.

The tank will consist of the following:

60' diameter, 35' height, 500,000 gallons, above ground and it will contain a lid.

Financially: Bond estimate \$3M, interest estimate 3% over 30 years

There will be no increase for the residents of Monessen.

Councilwoman Lois Thomas: Department of Streets

A. Street Report Motion to approve to advertise for a (pre-owned street sweeper). The ad will read: Lease to own 2017 or newer model with less than 350 hours and less than 5000 miles. Must have regenerative air, 4½ yard capacity hopper (minimum), 2 side brooms, chassis 215hp, sweeper 74hp, six months warrantee (minimum) and be available in 2-3 weeks.
Seconded by Matt. 5 -- 0

B. Sidewalk from Ontario Street to Tyrol Blvd. has been cleared of all weeds, grass and dirt.

- C. Library Report (\$32,000. Collected taxes to the library against their \$50,000 annual allotment)
- D. Redevelopment Authority Report (The city informed the RDA by letter, on April 27, that the RDA will be responsible for maintaining their properties immediately. There are approximately 115 properties, many in the downtown area.

Councilman Anthony Orzechowski: Department of Parks & Public Properties

A. Parks & Recreation Report

(2 new tractors were added to our equipment replacing old equipment in disrepair)

Councilman Don Gregor: Department of Public Safety

- A. Code Office Report
- B. Code Office Financial Report
- C. Fire Report
- D. EMS Report

(2 signs have been posted at each end of the walking track. at City Park, reminding the participants to wear their mask while on the walking track)

Councilman Gil Coles: Department of Accounts & Finance

- A. Motion to approve Transfer of funds from General Fund to Payroll & Healthcare \$113,800. Seconded by Don Gregor 5 -- 0
- B. Motion to approve payment of invoices from General Fund \$262,041.98 Seconded by Don Gregor 5 – 0.

- C. Motion to approve payment of invoices for Parks \$3,731.90.
Seconded by Don Gregor 5 – 0.
- D. Motion to approve payment of invoices for Civic Center \$885.44.
Seconded by Anthony Orzechowski. 5 - 0
- E. Motion to approve payment of invoices for line Usage \$221,282.93.
Seconded by Anthony Orzechowski. 5 – 0.

- F. The following large bills from 2019 are still pending
 - Police Pension \$227,000.
 - Refuse Authority \$138,000.
 - Health Care Insurance \$140,000.

- G. All other invoices for 2020 have been paid

- H. Large account balances end of April
 - General Fund \$951,000.
 - Liquid Fuels \$305,000.
 - Parks & Recreation \$314,000.

OPEN THE FLOOR FOR PUBLIC COMMENT ON ANY ITEMS.

One person commented.

Motion to adjourn made by Matt and seconded by Gil. 5 – 0.

Adjourn at 10:10 PM.

