

# MONESSEN

## "Building a Future On Truth"

Volume 1, Issue 1

October 2020

*The first of a quarterly newsletter to keep the citizens of Monessen informed about their community*

**Mayor**  
**Matt Shorraw**  
*Public Affairs*

**Councilman**  
**Gil Coles**  
*Accounts and Finances*

**Councilman**  
**Donald Gregor**  
*Department Public Safety*

**Councilwoman**  
**Lois Thomas**  
*Department of Streets*

**Councilman**  
**Anthony Orchewcowski**  
*Department of Parks*

**Gerald Saksun**  
*City Treasurer*

**Rosalie Nicksich**  
*City Controller*

**Tim Witt**  
*City Solicitor*

**John J. Harhai**  
*City Administrator*

**Cheryl Gordon**  
*City Clerk*

**Chief James B. Smith**  
*Chief of Police*

**Delmar Hepple**  
*Municipal Fire Chief*

### **Mayor Shorraw, Public Affairs**

As your Mayor, and the head of Public Affairs, I am excited for you to receive the first edition of this newsletter, which will inform all residents of the accomplishments of this administration. In the last 9 months, we have gotten many things accomplished in the city - much of it is visible throughout our neighborhoods. All of our employees are working tirelessly to improve the city and the lives of its residents. I am very grateful for their work, and am hopeful for all of the things we can accomplish moving forward."

### **Department of Accounts and Finances** **Councilman Gil Coles**

We started January 7, 2020 with a \$656,000 deficit from 2019. Many creditors were calling for their money. Numerous banks turned down our requests for a \$500,000 Tax Anticipation Note (TAN) Loan. Rumors were being spread that this administration would not make one payroll and the City would go into bankruptcy. The "Nay Sayers" were immediately proven wrong. The City has made every payroll through October 15 and will continue to make payroll through this year end and beyond. Our plans indicate that it will take three years to pay off the 2019 debt of \$656,000. We will succeed and flourish.

We currently have \$798,000 in our General Fund and \$427,606 in our Debt Service Fund. Our cash flow is strong, which will permit us to continue to pay all 2020 invoices on time.

Council has hired a City Clerk and a Code Enforcement Officer. These two professionals, with years of experience, have already made major improvements to the City's overall performance and will continue to do so moving forward.

Council is currently in negotiations with the Police Union contract.

Council also is currently reevaluating the Health Care contract.

## Department of Public Safety

1. Working to finalize plans for the DEP state mandated EQ tank on Parente Blvd.
2. Updated the antique computer system to Windows 10, making all departments able to maintain accurate records and share important information.
3. Police Accountability and Internal Affairs Board is to provide an enforcement mechanism for the City's Police Accountability and Internal Affairs Policy
4. Repurposed a vehicle to be used by the Code Enforcement Officer.



New professional Code Enforcement Officer, Todd Carter with 22 years of experience is trained and certified in 14 major areas and will continue his education for additional certifications. All necessary permits and inspections are and will be done by Todd keeping 100% of revenues in Monessen.

## Department of Streets

1. Completed an emergency repair for a sewer collapse near the river
2. Completed the repair and paving of Grand Blvd. from Marion to Alberts Alley.
3. Painted traffic lines on main roads and bus routes throughout the City.
4. Worked with the Water Authority to have water lines replaced and roads paved at Overhill Drive, Monessen Blvd. and Division Street at NO cost to the City.
5. Cleaned sidewalks throughout the City, including Eastgate from Ontario to Tyrol.
6. Approved a new Downtown parking Ordinance to eliminate parking meters
7. A new Street Sweeper is one of the purchases helping to put Monessen back in compliance with Department of Environmental Protection, now we have the opportunity to receive grant money from Clean Ways.



## Department of Parks

Mayor Shorraw personally took leadership on the restoration of Shawnee Park . The "Public Works Department" crew assisted him by replacing the boards on the benches and replacing the chains and seats on the swings. The dugouts were upgraded with new benches and racks for the young ladies to store their equipment.



Volunteerism came to the City's aid. The International Union of Painters and Allied Trades (IUPAT) District Council 57 volunteered to refinish the metals and paint all playground equipment. A Great "THANK YOU" to all those who participated.

Columbus Park field house and concession stand had numerous repairs done, to bring the facilities back to like new.

Ninth Street Park will no doubt see improvements coming in 2021. A grant has been submitted for monies to initially upgrade the basketball area in Phase I.

City Park had a complete renovation in lighting. Energy saving LED lighting was installed for visibility and safety. Also for safety, 1,800 feet of wiring has been placed underground in conduit. This will eliminate down wires from storms that pass through.

Awarded a KABOOM grant of \$ 15,000. to install a playground at the Herman Mihalich Boat Launch at the Pavilion Area.

## Police Department

In the past 9 months:

1. Sponsored Unity in the Community at 9th Street Part.
2. Purchased and installed entirely new and secure computer system for the Department.
3. Purchased new Duty Weapons .
4. Received training on the "Stop the Bleed Program", First Aid and AED.
5. Purchased new portable radios for the entire department'
6. Officers participated in numerous on line trainings ranging from dealing with mental health patients, suicidal subjects, computer crimes, fraud, mandatory reporting for child sexual assault and dealing with PTSD.

### City Phone Number 724-684-9000

Extention 1 .....	Mayor Shorraw
Extention 3 .....	City Clerk
Extention 5 .....	Garbage
Extention 7 .....	City Administrator
Police Desk .....	724-684-4620

Extention 2 .....	City Treasurer
Extention 4 .....	City Code Officer
Extention 6 .....	All Others
City Garage .....	724-684-7810

**City of Monessen**  
**557 Donner Avenue**  
**Monessen, PA 15062**

***For \$100 you can help sponsor the December newsletter.  
If you are interested call 724-684-9000***

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## **Monessen Parks Restoration Group, Inc.**

Your help enables us to contribute to the maintenance and improvements to our parks for the enjoyment of our community.

Checks should be made payable & mailed to:

**MONESSEN PARKS RESTORATION GROUP, INC.**  
**PO BOX 15**  
**MONESSEN, PA 15062**

☐ \$5    ☐ \$10    ☐ \$20    ☐ Other Amount \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Thank you for caring about the Monessen parks,

The Park Group

Dr. Martin Dudas, Ron Vivio, Delmar Hepple, Bill Manus, Larry Masci