

# COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

**AUGUST 11, 2020**

**7:00PM.**

1. Call to order
2. Roll Call
3. Pledge of Allegiance
4. Approval of minutes from the July 14, 2020 meeting. Motion made by Mayor Shorraw seconded by Councilman Gregor. 5 -- 0
5. Open the floor for public comment on agenda items only.
6. Correspondence:

Letter sent to Te'querre Turner for her Grand Opening at 404 Donner Avenue. I gave approval to use the empty lot next her business for activities.

Letter was sent to Superintendent Spazak, requesting the Monessen School District to exonerate the school taxes, for the same properties that City Council exonerated at the July 14 council meeting.

A Proclamation Declaring a Public health State of Emergency in the City of Monessen, Pursuant to Their Authority under the Third Class City. Mo

## 7) Old Business:

A. Motion to approve a request from Shirley Beneccio to hold, Public Square Rosary on Saturday, October 10, 2020 at 12:00 noon. The rally is to be held at Monessen City Park, lower level walking track. This is the 11<sup>th</sup> year at the park. (Social distancing will be observed at the rally.) Motion made by Mayor Shorraw seconded by Councilman Gregor. With a signed waiver 5 -- 0

B. Motion to promote David Yuhasz from Lieutenant to Captain. Motion made by Mayor Shorraw seconded by Councilman Coles 5 -- 0

C. Motion to promote Aaron Thompson from Patrol Officer to Lieutenant. 5 -- 0

8) City Treasurer: Gerald Saksun

Treasurer's report for the month ending July 2020. Motion by Mayor Shorraw seconded by Councilman Gregor 5 -- 0

9) City Controller: Vacant

Controller's report for the month ending July 2020

10) New Business:

### **Mayor Matt Shorraw: Public Affairs**

A. Motion to approve An Ordinance No. 7-2020 of the City of Monessen, Westmoreland, Pennsylvania, amending Ordinance 5-2018 to make the failure to trim trees and vegetation affecting public rights of way a quality of life violation; repealing inconsistent ordinances; and providing an effective date. Motion by Mayor Shorraw seconded by Councilman Gregor 5 -- 0

B. Motion to approve Ordinance No. 6-2020 confirming current on-street parking restrictions, prohibitions, and regulations for portions of Fourth Street; repealing inconsistent ordinances; and providing for an effective date. Motion by Mayor Shorraw seconded by Councilman Gregor 5 -- 0

C. First reading of Ordinance No. 8-2020 an ordinance of the City of Monessen amending Ordinance No. 2018 to include boring or disturbance beneath any street or public alleyway; repealing inconsistent ordinances; and providing for

an effective date. Motion by Mayor Shorraw seconded by Councilman Gregor 5 -- 0

- D. First reading of Ordinance No. 9-2020 an ordinance of the Council for the City of Monessen, Westmoreland County, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, establishing compensation on a per-meeting basis; repealing Ordinance No. 1-2019 of the City of Monessen. Recinded By councilman Coles.
  
- E. First reading of Ordinance No. 10-2020 an ordinance of the City of Monessen, Westmoreland County, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, amending certain sections of the City Code by requiring all purchases of any building, property or structure within the City of Monessen know to have one or more City Code violation(s) to bring that building, property, structure, or code into compliance with the City Code within 12 months of the date of purchase in accordance with PA Act No. 2016-133; requiring the purchaser of real property to make reasonable attempts to abate nuisance ordinance violations relating to maintenance, health, quality of life, or safety within twelve (12) months of the date of purchase; authorizing the issuance of temporary access certificates, temporary use and occupancy certificates in accordance with PA Act No. 2016-133; authorizing the imposition of penalties for failure to do so, while preserving all remedies to the recovery, prevention, abatement or restraint of code violations under other statues and ordinances, and providing for an effective date. Motion by Mayor Shorraw seconded by Councilman Gregor 5 - 0
  
- F. Motion to approve Resolution No. 9-2020 of the City Council of the City of Monessen to request a Blight Remediation Program Grant from the Commonwealth Financing Authority and authorizing the Mayor and City Administrator to execute all documents related thereto. Motion by Mayor Shorraw seconded by Councilman Gregor 3 – 2 No Councilman Orzechowski and Councilwoman Thomas.

- G. Motion to approve Resolution No. 10-2020 a resolution of the City Council of the City of Monessen approving and authorizing the submission of the FY 2020 CDBG-CV application. Motion by Mayor Shorraw seconded by Councilman Gregor 5 -- 0
  
- H. Motion to approve the appointment of Dawn McKechnie, to the Library Board for the period August 11, 2020 to December 31, 2020. Mayor Shorraw second Councilman Orzechowski seconded 5 -- 0.
  
- I. Motion to approve the appointment of Rosalie Nicksich as Controller for the period of August 11, 2020 to December 31, 2021. Motion by Mayor Shorraw seconded by Councilman Coles 3 – 2 No Councilman Orzechowski and Councilwoman Thomas.
  
- J. Motion to approve the appointments of Alan Duncan, Karen Cosner, Robert Stark and Raynelle Mays to the Police Accountability Board. Seconded by Councilwoman Thomas 5 -- 0
  
- K. Motion to approve the part time pay, for “Prisoner Watch Personnel” \$12.00 per hour. Currently \$9.50 per hour. (only one contact person on the call list is available) (A policeman at time and a half is \$45.00 x 2 hrs. minimum) Motion by Mayor Shorraw seconded by Councilman Gregor 5 -- 0
  
- L. Motion to advertise for a part time position as “Prisoner Watch Personnel”. Must be over 18 years of age. Motion by Mayor Shorraw seconded by Councilman Gregor 5 -- 0

M. Police Report for the month of July

**Councilwoman Lois Thomas: Department of Streets**

A. Street Report for the month of July

**Councilman Anthony Orzechowski: Department of Parks & Public Properties**

- A. Parks & Recreation Report for the month of July

**Councilman Don Gregor: Department of Public Safety**

- A. Code Enforcement Office Financial Report
- B. Code Enforcement Activity Report
- C. Fire Department Report
- D. Motion to approve the proposal from Atkins Remodeling for the restoration of the interior ceiling and walls at Fire Station (81-2) (Hilltop) in the amount of \$6,870. The interior damage was the direct result of the roof not being repaired in the past 5-6 years. Seconded by Mayor Shorraw 5 -- 0
- E. Motion to approve replacement of equipment that was also damaged as a direct result of the roof not being repaired. The estimated amount \$11,322. The total interior loss amount is \$18,192.00.  
Ps: The new roof cost \$10,000. If the roof was repaired 5-6 years ago, it would have cost approx. \$8,000. and there wouldn't have been \$18,192. of internal damage. The City lost a total of \$20,192. because no action was taken by the previous council. (Insurance coverage?) Seconded by Mayor Shorraw 5 –0
- F. The repurposed vehicles utilized by the Code Enforcement Department and the Municipal Fire Department are available for use 24 hours a day within the City limits, for emergencies. The Municipal Fire Department vehicle will be permitted to leave the City limits, whenever a Mutual Aid call is received. (First responders save lives and we must support the first responders.)
- G. An emergency call was received for electrical lines, down at City Park. I made the necessary contacts to temporarily fix the dangerous situation. The lines were down because of a storm that passed through the park. Storms have been an annual event. The City electrician, Krise Electric made the necessary fix that day, for the events in the park to continue. We have given an order to

Krise Electric to make all the necessary corrections, so that no one is in danger in the future. (One) 200amp service will be split into (two) 100amp services. The wiring will be placed underground in conduit. All (HPS) High Pressure Sodium Lamps will be removed and replaced with LED lamps. The new lighting installation of 18 fixtures will improve the general safety in the park and the energy savings will continue for the future. The total cost will be \$13,300.

H. EMS Report

**Councilman Gilbert Coles: Department of Accounts & Finance**

- A. Motion to approve transfer of funds from General Fund to Park Fund & Health Care \$111,909. Seconded by Mayor Shorraw 5 - 0
- B. Motion to approve payment of invoices from General Fund \$268,954.61  
Seconded by Mayor Shorraw 5 - 0
  - a. Motion to approve payment of invoices for Parks \$116,536.28  
Seconded by Mayor Shorraw 5 - 0
- C. Motion to approve payment of invoices for Recreation \$424.56 Seconded by Mayor Shorraw 5 - 0
- D. Motion to approve payment of invoices for Line Usage \$23,693.56 Seconded by Mayor Shorraw 5 - 0
- E. All invoices due for payment in 2020 are current
- F. Large Account balances end of July
  - General Fund \$771,521.
  - Liquid Fuels \$119,208.
  - Parks & Rec \$148,689.
  - Line Usage 43.000

Open floor for public comment on any items you wish

Ernie Telegraphis, Nancy Horvath , Mark Santo Colombo, Captain Twaite.

Adjournment: