

# COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

MARCH 9, 2021

7:00 PM

1. Call to Order Councilwoman Lois Thomas and Councilman Tony Orzechowski on the phone
2. Roll Call
3. Pledge of Allegiance
4. Approval of Minutes from the February 9, 2021 meeting seconded by Councilman Don Gregor 5 - 0
5. Ted Collins - Street Lighting and Parks lighting savings
6. Open the floor for public comment on agenda items only (3 minutes)Mr Mozer on bank building that City acquired.
7. **Correspondence:**
  - A. Mayor's presentation on the City's Finances
  - B. Letter from Ron Chromulak, Vice Chairman, of the Monessen War Veterans Memorial Trust
  - C. Letters of Commendation for: Lt. Aaron Thompson, Officer Alan Hritz, Hilltop Fire Chief Mike Castner, Downtown Asst. Fire Chief Chuck Kozar, Downtown Captain Jeremiah Quattro, Downtown Fireman John "Bubba" Palmer, and Downtown Fireman Ryan Hess, for their heroic and life-saving actions at the house fire on State Road on the night of February 28<sup>th</sup>. Citation was given to Firefighter Jerald Dankosky for 50 years service in the Monessen Fire service.
  - D. Grandview Cemetery Association
  - E. Notice to the public, Council and the Recreation Board held a meeting on Saturday at 2:00pm

- F. The USDA Project “Farmers to Families” was held at the Herman Mihalich Boat Launch on Friday, March 5, 2021. It was a total success. 1100 boxes of food were distributed to residents of the Mon Valley. The next distribution will be held Friday, March 12, 2021 (9:00am to noon) or whenever the last box is picked up. Thanks to the many community volunteers in addition to Hilltop Firemen.
- G. PMHIC 2020 Plan Year Cross Share Recovery \$78,172.68 This is the fee the City must pay for the cancellation of the (3 year) Health care contract. Last month Mr. Orzechowski reported a figure over \$200,000.
- H. The Cypress Trees, at City Park entrance, are being removed and replaced with Pear Trees. Donations are being accepted for the trees and benches.
- I. The sidewalk opening that appeared at 4th Street & Knox Avenue on Friday, March 5, 2021 will be repaired by the contractor that previously installed the gas line in 2020. No cost to the City of Monessen.
- J. Ed Lea’s complaint against Reanna Merritt of the Recreation Board.
- 8. **Old Business:** n/a
- 9. **City Treasurer:** Gerald Saksun Treasurer’s Report for the month ending February 2021 motion by Mayor Matt Shorraw seconded Councilman Gil Coles 5 - 0
  - A.
- 10. **City Controller:** Rosalie Nicksich
  - A. Controller’s report for the month ending February 2021
- 11. **New Business:**

**Mayor Shorraw: Public Affairs**

- A. Motion to issue a letter of recommendation to Monessen Fire Department Company 81-1 to be delivered to a Tax Assessment Hearing at the Westmoreland County Courthouse, offering the City’s support on Company 81-1 being granted tax exemption on its property located at 1295 Grand Blvd. (Tax Map 20-02-10-0-459) seconded by Councilman Don Gregor 5 - 0
- B. Motion to offer City property tax forgiveness to the Monessen Fire Department Company 81-1 on their property at 1295 Grand Blvd. for the 2021 tax year. (20-02-10-0-459) seconded by Councilman Don Gregor 5 - 0

- C. Motion to remove Wayne Vlasic's name from the Farmers National Bank signature listing, for the City of Monessen seconded by Councilman Don Gregor 5 - 0
- D. Motion to add the names Rosalie Nicksich, Gerald Saksun, and Gilbert Coles to the signature listing for Farmers National Bank, for the City of Monessen. Anthony Orzechowski will remain on the listing. seconded by Councilman Don Gregor 5 - 0
- E. Motion to approve signing a preventive maintenance service contract with Schindler Elevator Corporation for an annual cost of \$4,176.00.  
This will cover the elevator in the building at 575 Donner Avenue. seconded by Councilman Don Gregor 4 – 1 Councilman Tony Orzechowski No
- F. Motion to approve Joseph's Nursey & Garden Center \$13,390. to construct (8) new Planter Boxes on Donner Avenue. These boxes will replace the current rotted boxes. Cost of the total project to the City is \$21,730. Donations received totaled \$6,240. from Orchard Church, Community Bank and Alumisource. (quote received March 4) seconded by Councilman Don Gregor 5 - 0
- G. Motion to adopt Resolution 7 of 2021, a resolution by the City resolves and certifies that it will provide the Mid-Mon Valley Transit Authority (MMVTA) with local funds in the amount of \$5,179.00 to match state funds provided pursuant to 74 PA. C.S. Section 1513 in Fiscal Year 2021-2022 (July 2021 – June 30, 2022. Furthermore, the City of Monessen resolves and certifies that the required amount of local matching funds will be provided no later than the end of the State Fiscal Year – June 30, 2022. Seconded by Councilman Gil Coles 5 - 0
- H. Motion to adopt Resolution 8 of 2021, a resolution of the City of Monessen, Westmoreland County, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, authorizing the execution of agreements regarding the Mid-Mon Valley Transit Authority Bus Shelter Project in the City of Monessen. seconded by Councilman Don Gregor 5 - 0
- I. Motion to approve Resolution 9 of 2021, a resolution of the City of Monessen, Westmoreland County, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, authorizing a grant application to be submitted to the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development for the Keystone Community Grant Program, to establish a downtown Monessen Business Façade Grant Program. seconded by Councilman Don Gregor 5 - 0

- J. First reading of Ordinance 1232, an ordinance of the City of Monessen, Westmoreland County, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, establishing a youth and young citizens board by and for the City of Monessen providing definitions; establishing a board purpose, duties, qualifications, requirements, and procedures; establishing long term goals; and providing for an effective date. Seconded Councilman Gil Coles 5-0
- K. First reading of Ordinance 1233, an ordinance of the City of Monessen, Westmoreland County, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, amending Ordinance 15 of 1971 (Ordinance 708); amending Ordinance 3 of 2018 (Ordinance 1207); establishing duties, procedures, and a purpose for a Recreation Board by and for the City of Monessen; providing terms; regulating membership; repealing inconsistent ordinances; and providing for an effective date. seconded by Councilman Don Gregor 5 - 0
- L. Motion to appoint Mary Jo Smith as at-large community member to the Monessen Blighted Property Review Board. The staggered terms will be determined by the appointee drawing a number at random. Seconded Councilman Gil Coles 5-0
- M. Motion to appoint Frank Lopresti as at-large community member to the Monessen Blighted property Review Board. The staggered terms will be determined by the appointee drawing a number at random. Don Gregor 5 - 0
- N. Motion to appoint Marc Bellora as the Planning Commission Representative to the Monessen Blighted Property Review Board. The staggered term will be determined by the appointee drawing a number at random. Seconded Don Gregor 5 - 0
- O. Motion to appoint Councilman Don Gregor as the City Council Representative to the Monessen Blighted Property Review Board. The staggered term will be determined by the appointee drawing a number at random. Seconded Councilman Gil Coles 5-0
- P. Motion to appoint John Harhai as the Executive Branch, City Government Representative to the Monessen Blighted Property Review Board. The staggered term will be determined by the appointee drawing a number at random. Seconded Don Gregor 5 - 0
- Q. Motion to appoint Michael Kelly as the Redevelopment Authority Representative to the Monessen Blighted Review Board. The staggered term will be determined by the appointee drawing a number at random. Seconded Councilman Gil Coles 5-0

- R. Motion to appoint Darla Holmes to the Human Relations Commission effective 3/9/21 and duration of term to be determined by drawing. Seconded Don Gregor 5 - 0
- S. Motion to appoint Alan Duncan Sr. to the Human Relations Commission effective 3/9/21 and duration of term to be determined by drawing. Seconded Don Gregor 5 - 0
- T. Motion to appoint Matthew Kowasic to the Human Relations Commission effective 3/9/21 and duration of term to be determined by drawing. Seconded Councilman Gil Coles 5-0
- U. Motion to appoint Courtney Moran to the Human Relations Commission effective 3/9/21 and duration of term to be determined by drawing. Seconded Don Gregor 5 - 0
- V. Motion to appoint Julian Naphier to the Human Relations Commission effective 3/9/21 and duration of term to be determined by drawing. Seconded Don Gregor 5 - 0
- W. Police Report for the month ending February.

**Councilwoman Lois Thomas: Department of Streets**

- A. Street Report for the month ending February
- B. Library Board Report (liaison)
- C. Redevelopment Authority Report (liaison)

**Councilman Anthony Orzechowski: Department Parks & Public Property**

- A. Parks Report for the month ending February

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

- A. Code Enforcement Office Financial Report
- B. Code Enforcement Activity Report
- C. Mon Valley Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Report
- D. Fire Department Report
- E. Recreation Board (liaison)

Board Meeting for February was cancelled (lack of quorum)  
Council and Recreation Board held a public meeting Saturday, March 6.

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

- A. Motion to approve payment of invoices – General Fund \$280,238.14 Seconded by Mayor Matt Shorraw. 5 - 0
  - B. Motion to approve payment of invoices - Liquid Fuels \$110,318.29 Seconded by Mayor Matt Shorraw. 5 - 0
  - C. Motion to approve payment of invoices - Line Usage \$ 43,676.50 Seconded by Mayor Matt Shorraw. 5 - 0
  - D. Motion to approve payment of invoices – Parks & Rec \$ 781.06 Seconded by Mayor Matt Shorraw. 5 - 0
  - E. Large Dollar Account balances, for the month ending February
    - 1. General Fund \$166,426.48
    - 2. Line Usage \$ 83,594.67
    - 3. Health care \$ 12,991.68
    - 4. Parks & Recreation \$ 12,695.04
    - 5. Debt Service \$ 12,454.15
12. Open floor for public comment on any item (3 minutes)  
Ron Mozer question budget
14. Adjournment: