

# COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

**APRIL 13, 2021**

**7:00 PM**

1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call All present in person.
3. Pledge of Allegiance
4. Approval of Minutes from the March 9, 2021 meeting Seconded by Councilman Gregor 5 -0
5. Ron Mozer request time to speak about State of the City
6. Open the floor for public comments on agenda items only (3 minutes)
7. **Correspondence:**
  - A. **Monessen** “Community Cleanup Day” **Volunteers are needed**  
Saturday, April 17, 2021 (8:00 to noon)  
Rain Date: Saturday, April 24, 2021 (8:00 to noon)
  - B. “**Monessen** Second Electronics Recycling Day” April 17, 2021 (8:00 to noon)  
Drop off items at the City Garage.
  - C. **Westmoreland Cleanways Recycling** has scheduled for Household Hazardous Waste collection. (Saturday, April 17, 2021 (9:00am – 1:00pm) (pre-registration required for the event) (412-567-6566)
  - D. Amendment No.1 to the Agreement for Engineering Services by and between the City of Monessen and WEC, Inc. is approved by the USDA.  
Reply to Mr. Mozer’s question, at the Work Session, regarding the Resident Project Representative.

- E. On behalf of Governor Tom Wolf, I am pleased to inform you that the Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED) has approved a grant in the amount of \$313,907 for the City of Monessen. These funds are provided through the Department's 2020 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program. Secretary Dennis Davin.
- F. On behalf of Governor Tom Wolf, it is my pleasure to inform you that the Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED) has approved a grant in the amount of \$36,450. These funds are provided through the Department of strategic Management Planning Program. Secretary Dennis Davin.
- G. Based on public documents from the US Senate, the City of Monessen is expected to receive roughly \$715,000. from the American Rescue Plan, as passed by Congress and signed by the President.
- H. The next "Farmers to Families" distribution will be held on Friday, April 23 at the Herman Mihalich Boat Launch. (9:00 to noon)
- I. Monessen Environmental Advisory Board Minutes – February 10, 2021
- J. Monessen Shade Tree Commission Minutes – February 10, 2021
- K. Monessen Shade Tree Commission Minutes – March10, 2021

8. **Old Business:** N/A

9. **City Treasurer:** Gerald Saksun

- A. Treasurer's Report for the month ending March 2021 Motin by Mayor Shorraw seconded by Councilman Gregor 5-0

10. **City Controller:** Rosalie Nicksich

- A. Controller's Report for the month ending March 2021

**11. New Business**

**Mayor Shorraw: Public Affairs**

- A. Resolution 10 Of 2021 of the City Council of the City of Monessen, Westmoreland County, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania to adopt an amendment to the Official Sewage Facilities Plan. (The binder is on the counter

for public review through April 30, 2021. This resolution will be voted on at the May 11 council meeting.

- B. Motion to adopt Resolution 11 of 2021 a Resolution of the City Council of the City of Monessen approving the program modifications to the FFY 2017 & FFY 2018 Community Development Block Grant Program. Seconded by Councilman Gregor 5 - 0
- C. Motion to adopt Resolution 12 of 2021 an Agreement entered by and between the Housing Alliance of Pennsylvania (Consultant) and the City of Monessen (Client). Seconded by Councilman Coles 5 - 0

Grant received for \$36,450. from Department of Community and Economic Development. (DCED)

- D. Motion to adopt Resolution 13 of 2021, a Resolution of the City of Monessen, Westmoreland County, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, establishing amounts for fees relating to permits, licenses, inspections, and other various matters. Seconded by Councilman Coles 5 - 0
- E. Motion to approve Ordinance 1232 (final reading) 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 by Councilman Gregor 5 -0
- F. Motion to approve Ordinance 1233 (final reading) 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 Coles 5 - 0
- G. Ordinance 1234 (first reading) an ordinance of the City of Monessen, Westmoreland County, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, permitting the operation of mobile food vehicles in certain locations within the City of Monessen, establishing rules, regulations, and operating procedures for

mobile food vehicle; establishing permitting, enforcement, and inspection procedures, fees, violations, and penalties for mobile food vehicles; and providing for an effective date. Seconded by Councilman Gregor 5 -0

- H. Ordinance 1235 (first reading) an ordinance of the City of Monessen, Westmoreland County, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, establishing regulations for the installation and maintenance of fire alarms and other certain alarm systems; establishing penalties for false alarms; and providing for an effective date. Seconded by Councilman Coles 5 - 0
- I. Ordinance 1236 (first reading) an ordinance of the City of Monessen, Westmoreland County, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, requiring the identification of and registration of the owners, landlords, individual sellers of real property, optionors, lessors, agents, and tenants of any unit or property occupied by anyone other than the property owner in the City; providing for definitions; re-establishing a fee and requisite information and providing for a penalty for the violation thereof; requiring the obtaining of a license for all rental units in the City; providing for the suspension and revocation of licenses; requiring the payment of licensing fees; imposing liability and providing penalties for violations thereof; governing the occupancy of real property or separately secured portions thereof within the City of Monessen; providing penalties for the violation thereof; and repealing Ordinance 6 of 2001 (Ordinance 1045), Ordinance 1 of 2003 (Ordinance 1059), Ordinance 6 of 2012 (Ordinance 1172); Ordinance 3 of 2014 (Ordinance 1158), Ordinance 7 of 2016 (Ordinance 1202), and all provisions of existing ordinances and amendments in conflict therewith; and providing for an effective date. Seconded by Councilman Gregor 5 -0
- J. Ordinance 1237 (first reading) an ordinance of the City of Monessen, Westmoreland County, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, amending Ordinance 11 of 2020 (Ordinance 1222), regarding requirements for the registration of vacant, abandoned, and foreclosed real property within the City of Monessen; providing for an effective date. Seconded by Councilman Gregor 5 -0
- K. Motion to approve the Mon Valley Opioid Coalition (MVOC) request to hold the annual National Night Out (NNO) in Monessen City Park on Saturday, October 16, 2021 from 2:00 – 5:00 pm. Seconded by Councilman Gregor 5 -0

- L. Motion to approve the placement of two (2) little free libraries at 9<sup>th</sup> Street Park and City Park, by Monessen Community Development Corporation (MCDC), at no cost to the City. Seconded by Councilman Coles 5 - 0
- M. Motion to approve the Release and Right of Entry Agreement between the Redevelopment Authority of the County of Westmoreland and the City of Monessen. Tax Map Id. 20-02-06-0-802 523 Sixth St, Monessen  
Seconded by Councilman Gregor 5 -0
- N. Motion to approve the Release and Right of Entry Agreement between the Redevelopment Authority of the County of Westmoreland and the City of Monessen. Tax Map Id. 20-02-07-0-287 500-502 Third St, Monessen  
Seconded by Councilman Gregor 5 -0
- O. Motion to approve the Release and Right of Entry Agreement between the Redevelopment Authority of the County of Westmoreland and the City of Monessen. Tax Map Id. 20-02-07-0-288 504-506 Third St, Monessen  
Seconded by Councilwoman Lois Thomas 5 - 0
- P. Motion to approve the Release and Right of Entry Agreement between the Redevelopment Authority of the County of Westmoreland and the City of Monessen. Tax Map Id. 20-02-08-0-155 533 Ontario St, Monessen Seconded by Councilwoman Lois Thomas 5 - 0
- Q. Motion to approve Quitclaim Deed by and between the City of Monessen and the Redevelopment Authority of the City of Monessen for the Parcel Id. No. 20-02-06-0-553 known as 908 Locust Avenue. Seconded by Councilman Gregor 5 -0
- R. Motion to approve Quitclaim Deed by and between the City of Monessen and the Redevelopment Authority of the City of Monessen for the Parcel Id. No. 20-02-07-0-440 known as 221 Aliquippa Avenue. Seconded by Councilwoman Lois Thomas 5 - 0
- S. Motion to approve Quitclaim Deed by and between the City of Monessen and the Redevelopment Authority of the City of Monessen for the Parcel Id. No. 20-02-07-0-155 known as 408 Motheral Avenue and Parcel Id. No. 20-02-07-0-156 known as 404 Motheral Avenue. Seconded by Councilman Coles 5 - 0
- T. Motion to approve Quitclaim Deed by and between the City of Monessen and the Redevelopment Authority and the City of Monessen for the Parcel Id. No.

20-02-06-0-555 known as 709 Ninth Street. Seconded by Councilman Gregor 5  
-0

- U. Proposal to purchase parcels of land for the purpose of beautification. I am currently the owner of the following properties 470 Donner Avenue, 1017 Knox Avenue and 533 Sixth Street.

I have a vision for a beautiful greenhouse to be located at this location soon. My priority will be keeping the properties clean and bring it up to the standards of code. I have the full support of my neighbors and all who border these properties. I would appreciate a vote of confidence from city council. I look forward to getting started on making this small part of the city, greater than it has ever been. (council discussion)

Motion to approve the sale of the following (7) properties to Kareem Strauhgn through the Redevelopment Authority of the City of Monessen on Quitclaim Deeds. (All properties are vacant lots).

20-02-06-0-164 1004-1006 Knox Avenue

20-02-06-0-165 1000-1002 Knox Avenue

20-02-06-0-166 513 Tenth Street

20-02-06-0-171 525 Tenth Street

20-02-06-0-175 508-510 Tenth Street

20-02-06-0-176 512-514 Tenth Street

20-02-06-0-189 516 Tenth Street

Seconded by Councilwoman Lois Thomas 5 - 0

- V. Motion to approve the boundary line adjustment plan (Proposed Property Swap) prepared by CZ Surveys and Land Development, LLC, for Jorge Frezzel relating to Parcels Id. No. 20-02-07-0-098 and 20-02-07-0-099 dated 4/5/21, to authorize the submission of such plan to the City and County Planning Commissions for approval; to authorize the recording of such approved plan; to accept the adjustment of the boundary lines as shown therein; and to authorize and approve the Mayor, City Administrator, and City Clerk to take such steps as may be necessary to effectuate such action. Councilman Gregor 5 -0

- W. Motion to approve the request of Mon Valley Paws formerly (Puppy-Up Monessen) to use the City Park Walking Track for a food truck festival on Saturday, June 5, 2021. Councilman Gregor 5 -0
- X. Motion to approve the Municipal Fire Chief request to purchase for the following item: (93ea) Drager 4500psi/45min SCBA Cylinders Blue \$691.00ea. Total \$64,263.00 (America Rescue Plan) Councilman Gregor 5 -0
- Y. Motion to approve a contract by and between the Teamsters Local Union No. 205 and the City of Monessen. The contract period is January 1, 2021 to December 31, 2025. Seconded by Councilman Coles 5 - 0
- Z. Motion to hire (2) Full-Time Police Officers. Zachery Powell & Justin Woodard Councilman Gregor 5 -0
- AA. Motion to hire (1) Part-Time Police Officer. Brittan Laird Seconded by Councilman Coles 5 - 0
- BB. Motion to accept the resignation of Marlon B. Wheeler - Recreation Board Seconded by Councilman Coles 5 - 0.
- CC. Motion to accept the resignation of Brandy Smith - Recreation Board. Seconded by Councilman Coles 5 - 0
- DD. Motion to accept the resignation of Edward Lea – Recreation Board Seconded by Councilman Coles 5 - 0
- EE. Motion to accept the resignation of Apryl Kadish – Library Board Seconded by Councilman Coles 5 - 0
- FF. Motion to appoint Dawn McKechnie to the Library Board. Dawn will fill the vacant seat. Councilman Gregor 5 -0
- GG. Motion to appoint Joseph Brandsma to the Youth and Young Citizens Board. Seconded by Councilman Coles 5 - 0
- HH. Motion to appoint Joshua Lindsey as at-large community member to the Monessen Blight Property Review Board. The staggered terms will be determined by the appointee drawing a number at random. Councilman Gregor 5 -0
- II. Motion to appoint Karla Spangler to a vacant seat on the Monessen Recreation Board. Term duration to be determined by drawing a number at random. Councilman Gregor 3-2 Councilwoman Thomas Councilman Orzechowski No

- JJ. Motion to appoint Mark Panicucci to a vacant seat on the Monessen Recreation Board. Term duration to be determined by drawing a number at random. Seconded by Councilman Coles 3 - 2 Councilwoman Thomas and Councilman Orzechowski No
- KK. Motion to appoint Raynelle Mays to a vacant seat on the Monessen Recreation Board. Term duration to be determined by drawing a number at random. Seconded by Councilman Coles 3 - 2 Councilwoman Thomas and Councilman Orzechowski No
- LL. Motion to advertise for the two new vacant positions on the Monessen Recreation Board. Seconded by Councilman Gregor 4 – 1 Councilman Orzechowski No
- MM. Motion to advertise for the vacant positions on the Monessen Youth and Young Citizens Board. Seconded by Councilman Coles 5 - 0
- NN. Motion to approve a portion of an unnamed street between River Street and Second Street, from Donner Avenue to its Northern Terminus, the honorary name, “Josh Gibson Way”, and to purchase a sign stating such. Gibson hit the second-longest home run of his career out of Page Park and is a member of the National Baseball Hall of Fame. Seconded by Councilman Coles 5 - 0
- OO. Motion to approve a portion of Eighth Street, from Donner Avenue to its Northern Terminus, the honorary name. “H. Dallas McCabe Way” and to purchase a sign stating such. Dallas McCabe was responsible for laying out the original plan of streets for Monessen in 1897. This intersection was the location of Monessen’s first municipal office. Seconded by Councilman Gregor 5 - 0
- PP. Motion to approve a portion of Ninth Street, from Donner Avenue to its Northern Terminus, the honorary name, “Fred Feldman Way” and to purchase a sign stating such. Mr. Feldman was responsible for decades of successful youth programming across the City of Monessen. This stretch of road runs next to the Civic Center. Seconded by Councilman Gregor 5 - 0
- QQ. Police Report for the month ending March.



**Councilwoman Lois Thomas: Department of Streets**

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

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

- A. Parks Report for the month ending March

**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)  
(5) cameras were installed at the Civic Center. (Police Station will monitor)
- F. Motion to nominate Michael Singel to be the City's emergency management coordinator and to authorize the City Administrator and City Clerk to prepare and submit to the Commonwealth such necessary paperwork to approve and ratify his appointment. Seconded by Mayor Shorraw 5 - 0
- G. Informational discussion on ACT 47 and the effects it has on municipalities.
- H. Discussion on the hiring of a Part-Time Civic Center Director

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

- A. Motion to approve payment of invoices – General Fund \$231,174.23  
seconded by Mayor Shorraw 5 – 0
- B. Motion to approve payment of invoices - Line Usage \$ 63,056.26  
seconded by Mayor Shorraw 5 – 0
- C. Motion to approve payment of invoices - Liquid Fuels \$ 15,507.57  
seconded by Mayor Shorraw 5 – 0

D. Motion to approve payment of invoices - Park \$ 3,251.59  
seconded by Mayor Shorraw 5 – 0

E. Motion to approve payment of invoices - Recreation \$ 1,283.37  
seconded by Mayor Shorraw 5 – 0

F. Large Dollar Account balances, for the month ending March

1. General Fund \$288,235.73

2. Line Usage \$144,708.48

3. Health Care \$ 16,378.93

4. Park & Recreation \$ 11,050.61

5. Liquid Fuels \$ 8,225.60

RR. Open floor for public comment on any item (3 minutes)

SS. Adjournment: 9:55