

# COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

OCTOBER 11, 2021

7:00 PM

1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call
3. Pledge of Allegiance
4. Approval of Minutes from the September 14, 2021, meeting Councilman Gregor 5 - 0
5. Monessen Volunteer Fire Dept, Steve Gaydos request to speak to council No show.
6. Residents wishing to address council regarding S 14<sup>th</sup> Street.
7. Open the floor for comments on agenda items only (3 minutes)
8. Correspondence:
  - A. Citation for Officer Alan Hritz for commendable actions
  - B. Youth and Young Citizens Board minutes from Sept. 16, 2021, meeting
  - C. Recreation Board minutes from August 23, 2021, meeting
  - D. Reminder, the Halloween Parade is scheduled for Thursday, October 21, 2021, at 7:00 pm, in Downtown Monessen. Parade line up at 6:30 pm. (Eastgate- Wendell Ramey Lane)
  - E. Reminder, Monessen Trick or Treat will be held on Saturday, October 30, 2021, from 1:00 to 3:00pm.
  - F. Reminder, Monessen Trunk or Treat will be held on Saturday, October 30, 2021, from 4:00 to 6:00 pm. at the City Park Walking Track.
9. Old Business:
10. City Treasurer: Gerald Saksun Rosalie Nicksich in absence of Treasurer Saksun.
  - A. Treasurer's Report for the month ending September 2021 Mayor Shorraw Seconded Councilman Gregor 5 - 0
11. City Controller: Rosalie Nicksich

A. Controller's Report for the month ending September 2021

12. New Business:

**Mayor Matthew Shorraw: Public Affairs**

- A. Motion to approve Resolution 27 of 2021 a resolution of the City of Monessen, Westmoreland County, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, approving and authorizing the submission of the FY 2021 CDBG Application. Seconded Councilman Gregor 5 - 0
- B. Motion to approve Resolution 28 of 2021 a resolution of the City of Monessen, Westmoreland County, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, approving the Fair Housing Resolution for the City of Monessen. Councilman Coles 5 - 0
- C. Motion to approve Resolution 29 of 2021 a resolution of the City of Monessen, Westmoreland County, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, a statement of goals in compliance with the national program for minority and women business enterprises, executive order 11625. Councilman Coles 5 - 0
- D. Motion to approve Resolution 30 of 2021 a resolution of the City of Monessen authorizing and approving the transfer of funds received by the City of Monessen under the American Rescue Plan (ARP) State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (SLFRF) to a separate account; amending the 2021 Budget of the City of Monessen to add and reflect such revenue; authorizing the expenditure of (SLFRF) for emergency and first responder communication equipment, revenue replacement, legal and other consultation expenses, and administrative expenses; authorizing the transfer and use of interest earned on (SLFRF) to the General Fund; authorizing the preparation and filing of necessary reports; acknowledging the use of (SLFRF); and authorizing related actions. Seconded Councilman Gregor 5 - 0
- E. Motion to approve Ordinance 1249 (final reading) an ordinance of the City of Monessen, Westmoreland County, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, defining public nuisances for structures and properties; providing for the reporting and investigation of public nuisances;

providing for summary abatement and abatement by prior notice of public nuisance; providing for statements of cost, administrative fees, and civil penalties for abatement of public abatement nuisances; enabling liens and establishing owner personal liability; providing procedures for notice and appeal of public nuisance actions and statements of cost; repealing all inconsistent ordinances; and providing for an effective date. Councilman Coles 5 - 0

- F. Motion to approve Ordinance 1250 (final reading) an ordinance of the City of Monessen, Westmoreland County, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, adopting the provisions of the neighborhood blight reclamation and revitalization ACT 90; providing for permit denial and asset attachment; and providing for an effective date. Seconded Councilman Gregor 5 - 0
- G. Motion to approve Ordinance 1251 (final reading) an ordinance of the City of Monessen, Westmoreland County, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, amending Chapter 172 of the codified ordinances of the City of Monessen, pertaining to the Uniform Construction Code; establishing a Building Code and Property Maintenance Board of Appeals; establishing procedures for accepting, processing, and deliberating on such appeals; and providing for an effective date. Seconded Councilman Gregor 5 - 0
- H. Motion to approve the Blight Plan Proposal from Westmoreland County Planning, which will further build on the 2019 Blight Inventory Project, as well as the City's new comprehensive plan. Tabled
- I. Motion to relocate the plaque honoring Anthony Madison, from Pavilion 3 of City Park and relocating the plaque to the River Launch Pavilion, at the request of the family. Seconded Councilman Gregor 5 - 0
- J. Motion to accept Façade Grant Program applications (8) Applicants for the following Downtown businesses:
  - Evans Graphics                      Chateau Lounge                      Donner Flats
  - Steel Plate                              Mon Valley iPhone repair      AJ's Ceramics
  - East North machine LLC                      Greater Monessen Historical Society

- Total cost from the grant fund awarded to the City for this project is \$27,141. Applicants will be required to provide an equal match to the funds they receive, as per grant guidelines. Total remaining in grant fund \$25,859. Eligible applicants (Downtown Businesses) may still apply for these remaining funds. Seconded Councilman Gregor 5 - 0
- K. Motion to approve advertising in the local newspaper to sealed bids a 2010 Explorer, that has been deployed for five years. Seconded Councilman Gregor 5 - 0
- L. Motion to approve ratification for the closure of the city building, any effect on affected employees, and with Amazon Studios, and Picrow Streaming Inc. "Sprung". Included is a copy of a \$15,000. check to the City of Monessen for being an excellent partner in this production. Seconded Councilman Gregor 5 - 0
- M. Motion to approve the request letter for recognition of a nonconforming use at 101 Knox Avenue. Robert Lawrence's intention is to open a convenience store at this location. Attached you will find a list of previous store owners that occupied this location. Seconded Councilman Gregor 5 - 0
- N. Motion for forgiveness of taxes \$880.66 to the City of Monessen  
Tax Map No: 20-02-02-0-335  
Property: 685 Reed Avenue  
Real Estate Lien Certificate dated 09/17/21  
Attached is a copy of the Deed and the Development Agreement  
Councilman Coles 5 - 0
- O. Motion for forgiveness of taxes \$7,882.28 to the City of Monessen  
Tax Map No: 20-02-03-0-301  
Property: 158 Schoonmaker Avenue  
Real Estate Lien Certificate dated 09/17/21  
Attached is a copy of the Deed and the Development Agreement  
Seconded Councilman Gregor 5 - 0
- P. Motion for forgiveness of taxes \$3,674.39 to the City of Monessen  
Tax map No: 20-02-02-0-240  
Property: 483 McKee Avenue

Real Estate Lien Certificate dated 09/17/21

Attached is a copy of the Deed and the Development Agreement  
Councilman Coles 5 - 0

Q. Motion for forgiveness of taxes \$5,228.73 to the City of Monessen  
Tax Map No: 20-02-08-0-159

Property: 207 Lenawee Avenue

Real Estate Tax Lien Certificate dated 09/28/21

Attached is a copy of the Deed and the Development Agreement  
Seconded Councilman Gregor 5 - 0

R. Motion to approve a request for a handicap parking space at 424 McKee  
Avenue. Police approved. Seconded Councilman Gregor 5 - 0

S. Motion to approve hiring two certified eligible applicants as part-time  
employees for the Police Department.

1. Mark Shemansky

2. David Doroshkevich

Seconded Councilman Gregor 5 - 0

No Police Report for month ending September 2021

**Councilwoman Lois Thomas: Department of Streets**

A. Streets Report for the month ending September 2021

B. Library Board Report (liaison)

C. Redevelopment Authority Report (liaison)

D. Discussion regarding the stop sign at the intersection of Donner Avenue  
(PA 906 South) & Fifth Street.

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

A. Parks Report for the month ending September 2021

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

A. Code Enforcement Office Financial Report ending September 2021

B. Mon Valley Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Report ending Septembe

C. Fire Department Report ending September 2021

D. Mon Valley Sewage Authority (liaison)

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

- A. Motion to approve payment of invoices – General Fund \$331,398.57  
Mayor Shorraw 5 - 0
  - B. Motion to approve payment of invoices - Line Usage \$ 79,558.31  
Mayor Shorraw 5 - 0
  - C. Motion to approve payment of invoices - Park Fund \$ 11,546.50  
Mayor Shorraw 5 - 0
  - D. Motion to approve payment of invoices - Recreation \$ 363.96  
Mayor Shorraw 5 - 0
  - E. Large Dollar Account balances, for the month ending September
    - 1. Debt Service \$489,560.68
    - 2. General Fund \$263,935.49
    - 3. American Rescue \$173,450.69
    - 4. Parks & Recreation \$ 88,892.18
    - 5. Line Usage \$ 35,781.55
13. Open the floor for public comment on any item (3 minutes)
14. Adjournment: 9:24