

COUNCIL MEETING AGENDA  
CITY OF MONESSEN  
CITY OF MONESSEN COUNCIL CHAMBERS  
MARCH 10, 2022  
6:30PM

1. OPENING

Announcement to the Public: An Executive session may be held prior to this meeting at 6:00 pm to discuss personnel and litigation issues if required. At present no session has been requested or scheduled by any member of the City of Monessen Council.

Mayor Mozer noted that there was no executive session held.

2. ROLL CALL OF ALL MEMBERS PRESENT

Present: Mayor Mozer

Councilman Orzechowski

Councilman Nestor

Councilman Gregor

Councilwoman Thomas

Solicitor Joseph Dalfonso

City Treasure Gerry Saksun

City Controller Rosalie Nicksich

City Administrator Mike Korposh

Police Chief Dave Yuhasz

3. OPENING PRAYER OFFERED BY PASTOR TIM BURGAN, LEAD PASTOR, CHRISTIAN CENTER CHURCH, ROSTRAVER, PENNSYLVANIA

4. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS SESSIONS, February 10, 2022, February 16, 2022, and February 24, 2022

Motion to accept made by Councilman Gregor

Seconded by Councilman Nestor

6. OPEN FLOOR FOR PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS

Ernie Telegraphis asked about more than one building that was scheduled to be torn down. The Mayor explained that this is an ongoing project with CDBG to tear down 10 homes. It is a matter of some of the houses are owned by the City of Monessen, some are owned by citizens who want them demolished and 3 or 4 of the homes are unknown. Mr. Telegraphis also asked about where the money to tear down 500 Donner was coming from. The Mayor explained that there is the transfer of the grant from renovation to demolition. Bids will be due by March 23<sup>rd</sup> and awarded on March 24<sup>th</sup>. The Mayor explained that he (the city) has been open and transparent about this and all environmental requirements have been met.

7. CORRESPONDENCE

Reading of a Condolence Resolution on the death of former Councilman and Mayor of Monessen, James Sepesky, and requesting a moment of silence.

8. OLD BUSINESS N/A

9. REPORT OF THE SOLICITOR OF THE CITY OF MONESSEN

Solicitors Report for the City of Monessen ending February 28, 2022.

Ordinance for LGUDA loan in relation to the loan and the packet to be sent to DCED.

500 Donner- Worked with Tony Vitale and the WC engineers to finalize the specifications for the demolition.

There was a very productive meeting in relation to the tax forgiveness program with a path forward to revamp it.

10. REPORT OF THE CITY TREASURER

Treasurer's Report for the month ending February 28, 2022

City treasurer Saksun also noted that anyone interested in the Deputy City administration position can submit an application.

No Questions.

Motion to approve the report made by Councilman Nestor

Seconded by Councilman Gregor.

Unanimous - YES

11. REPORT OF THE CITY CONTROLLER

Controller's Report for the month ending February 28, 2022

Question by Councilman Nestor if there was a CDGB report available.

Response: No

## 12. NEW BUSINESS

Mayor Ron Mozer, Director of Public Affairs

a. Mayor Mozer Discussion of Department of Agriculture/LGUDA Penn Vest Water and Sewer Issues and recent Actions Taken and Agreements currently in place and moving forward.

Mayor Mozer commented that the project was out for bid and the bid package (a massive document) was available to view at City Hall. This is the phase four of the project (2.4 million dollars). The project involves the sewer line that comes down 9<sup>th</sup> St, 3<sup>rd</sup> St. and Delaware Ave. These are the worst lines.

b. Mayor Mozer Discussion of Economic Development Activities in the City and Blight Removal and Revitalization Efforts within the City of Monessen.

In relation to the revitalization efforts, the Mayor was adamant that community involvement in development is the only way to proceed. It must be a group effort in deciding what businesses etc should replace those structures torn down.

City Administrator Korposh noted the coordination efforts that have come into play and the cooperation among groups to share data information and their goals for the future. The mayor and council has been very forthright in indicating they want to work this way.

At this time the mayor made a note as a tribute to Amila Scatterie who will be turning 100 years old on April 13<sup>th</sup>. She was born in 1922 and is a lifelong Monessen resident.

c. Motion by Mayor Mozer to authorize the collection of bids for the demolition and removal of the structure located at 500 Donner Avenue in the City of Monessen, and the development, coordination and finalization of all appropriate and necessary procedures and legal processes to finalize the transaction.

The mayor extended his appreciation to County Hauling in helping with the city's efforts to clean up the town. They sent a dumpster to a house (no charge) and told the mayor that if the city gets any money from legal fees they can discuss a nominal charge then.

The mayor also mentioned procedures and policies that need to be implemented/enforced for property owners in relation to maintain of their property.

Motion to approve the collection of bids for 500 Donner Ave made by Councilwoman Thomas.

Seconded by Councilman Gregor

No Questions.

Unanimous - YES

Councilman Anthony Orzechowski, Director of Accounts and Finance

a. Motion to approve second reading and enactment of Ordinance Number 1259, an Ordinance increasing the Indebtedness of the City of Monessen, Westmoreland County, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, by the issuance of a guaranteed revenue note in the maximum principal amount of \$2,370,000.00 for the purposes of rehabilitating sewage lines.

No Questions.

Motion to approve made by Councilman Orzechowski.

Seconded by Councilman Nestor

Unanimous – YES

- b. Motion to approve the hire of (Three) 3 Police Officers within the City of Monessen, pending their passage and approval of requisite and required civil service examinations and approvals for the positions on the force.

Councilman Orzechowski asked Police Chief Yuhasz if the 3 officers had passed their exams. The Chief responded that they had passed the written and had not yet taken the oral exam (which is scheduled in a few days).

No Questions

Motion to approve made by Councilman Oozechowski

Seconded by Councilman Nestor

Unanimous – YES

- c. Motion to authorize the purchase of appropriate fuel purchase debit/credit cards from vendors within the City of Monessen to assist police and City employees with the purchase of fuel for vehicles while in the official performance of their duties and responsibilities for the City.

There was a discussion/explanation of the cards not always working and this was an ongoing situation. The mayor explained that the current situation is that there are accounts

set up at the different local stations like a store account where discounts will be given since the city is committing to buy gas from them. The city will be billed at the end of the month.

A motion to approve was made by Councilman Orzechowski and seconded by Councilwoman Thomas.

At that point, Councilman Gregor said that council should table this until they had the solicitor's approval on the agreement.

Councilman Gregor also noted that the need for a system of checks and balances. Chief Yuhasz explained the procedures in place.

The motion was reread stating it was tabled pending modification and the solicitor's approval.

Motion to approve made by Councilman Orzechowski

Seconded by Councilman Gregor

Unanimous - YES

d. Motion to pay bills from the General Fund Account of the City of Monessen in the amount of \$126,049.74. All individual bills and totals to be paid for the individual accounts are attached to the meeting agenda and information packets of the Mayor and Council members as Attachment "A"

There were no questions but a thank you was made by Councilman Orzechowski to all the Monessen residents who paid their real estate tax bills promptly. It really helped.

Motion to approve made by Councilman Orzechowski

Seconded by Councilman Gregor

Unanimous- YES

e. Motion to pay bills from the Recreation Board Account of the City of Monessen in the amount of \$1,107.59. All individual bills and totals to be paid for the individual accounts are attached to meeting agenda and information packets of the Mayor and the Council Members as Attachment "B"

No questions.

Motion to approve made by Councilman Orzechowski

Seconded by Councilwoman Thomas

Unanimous – YES

f. Motion to pay bills from the Parks Account of the City of Monessen in the amount of \$1,649.62. All individual bills and totals to be paid for the individual accounts are attached to the meeting agenda and informational packets of the Mayor and Council members as Attachment "C"

No Questions

Motion to approve made by Councilman Nestor

Seconded by Councilman Nestor

Unanimous - YES

Councilman Lois Thomas Director of Streets and Public Improvements

Councilwoman Thomas stated she would have the report available for the next meeting 3-24-22.

Streets and Public Improvement Report for month ending February 28, 2022



- a. Councilman Thomas also would like to announce Monessen Community Cleanup Day and Recycling Drop Off Event, Saturday April 23<sup>rd</sup> from 9 am to 1 pm. The event will run concurrently at the Monessen City Garage located at 605 Parente Blvd. You must be a resident of Monessen to participate in the recycling event. The rain date for the event is Saturday April 30<sup>th</sup>, 2022.
- b. Councilman Thomas also made a Motion for approval of Council to apply for grants to complete the military mural at the Anthony E. Madison Sr. Veterans Memorial Park.  
No Questions  
Motion to approve made by Councilwoman Thomas  
Seconded by Councilman Orzechowski  
Unanimous - YES

Councilman John Nestor, Director of Public Safety

Police and Public Safety Report for month ending February 28, 2022.

Councilman Nestor noted that he had nothing to report until the next scheduled meeting (3-24-22)

Councilman Donald S. Gregor, Director of Parks and Public Property

Parks and Public Property Report for the month ending February 28<sup>th</sup>, 2022.

- a. Councilman Gregor also offered for discussion a correspondence from Joseph Nursery and Garden Center in the City of Monessen for the installation of memorial benches within the City at 9<sup>th</sup> Street Park and the Boat Launch in the upcoming months. A copy of the correspondence from Kristen Joseph of Joseph's nursery is included in the agenda packet materials as Attachment "D".

13. OPEN FLOOR FOR PUBLIC COMMENT ON ANY ITEM.

At this time the mayor asked Chief Yuhasz to speak about the sale of firearms. Pending the Solicitor's review there will be a public auction site available. There are officer firearms that are uncomfortable to use (barrel too long) and need to be replaced. No money from the city budget will be used to replace them. The mayor thanked Three Lions Amory and Dave Feehan for their help.

The mayor mentioned to Chief Yuhasz that the school administration were very appreciative of his taking the initiative in contacting them to help with the after school traffic situation. The school board had nothing but positive things to say about Chief Yuhasz.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

Edwin Leferve asked about the owner of the Health Center. The mayor commented that the owners have not missed a payment and a \$190,000 payment is due in June.

He next asked about the tax break on the Firemen's property discussed at the former meeting. The mayor said it has not yet been discussed and that he would like to see a business plan for the use of the property.

Lastly he asked about the bottom of State Road where it meets Route 906. There is water runoff that appears to be sewage. Does

it go to the river? It was noted that that is not Monessen property. Rostraver maybe?

John Yuchlick commented about the property at 525 Rostraver St. There was garbage on the property. He was instructed to contact Code Enforcement.

14. ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment was made at 7:38pm

Made by Councilman Gregor

Seconded by Councilman Nestor

Unanimous - YES