

COUNCIL MEETING AGENDA
CITY OF MONESSEN
CITY OF MONESSEN COUNCIL CHAMBERS

April 28, 2022

6:30PM

There will be a City of Monessen Public Hearing scheduled for April 28, 2022 at 6:00 pm in the City of Monessen Council Chambers to discuss the demolition of certain properties in the City of Monessen, as advertised in the Mon Valley Independent on April 16, 2022. The Notice is attached to this Council Meeting Agenda for April 28th , 2022.

1. ROLL CALL OF ALL MEMBERS PRESENT

Present: Mayor Mozer

Councilman Nestor

Councilman Gregor

Councilwoman Thomas

Solicitor Dalfonso

City Controller Nicksich

City Administrator Korposh

Absent City Treasurer Saksun

2. OPENING PRAYER OFFERED BY COUNCILPERSON LOIS THOMAS, MEMBER OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MONESSEN.

3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS SESSION, April 14, 2022.

Motion to approve minutes made by Councilman Nestor

Seconded by Councilwoman Thomas

No Questions

Unanimous Yes

5. OPEN FLOOR FOR PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS ONLY.

Resident Ernie Telegraphis questioned the amount of what was the current balance of the city bank account. Councilman

Orzechowski responded that this would be addressed in his report to be given later in the meeting.

Mr. Telegraphis then posed a question to Mayor Mozer concerning the \$7500 service fee for the blight plan (Item h on the agenda). Mayor Mozer gave a brief answer noting that for the \$7500 the city will get millions of dollars in return and the subject would be fully addressed later in the meeting.

Mr. Telegraphis also asked what the plans were for 500 Donner Ave. The Mayor responded that that was part of the comprehensive plan and it would be discussed later. He also mentioned that the building was city owned.

6. CORRESPONDENCE

OLD BUSINESS N/A

7. REPORT OF THE SOLICITOR OF THE CITY OF MONESSEN

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

The Solicitor first made note of the tax forgiveness program of which the revised program has been completed. It was sent over to the school district the day before and was also sent to the tax plan bureau.

The second item was the chief of police contract on the agenda.

Lastly was the PennVest loan for phase four for the sewer project closed that afternoon and will be getting up to speed in the next few weeks.

8. REPORT OF THE CITY TREASURER

Treasurer's Report for the month ending April 28, 2022.

The city treasurer noted that the March 31, 2022 report was given at the April 14th meeting so no other report was available.

9. REPORT OF THE CITY CONTROLLER

Controller's Report for the month ending April 28, 2022.

The city treasurer in absence of the city control noted that the March 31st, 2022 report was given at the April 14th meeting and that no other report was available.

10. NEW BUSINESS

Mayor Ron Mozer, Director of Public Affairs

- a. Mayor Mozer recognizes Councilman John Nestor to introduce new resident Reggie Jones to the residents of Monessen to discuss his interest in Juvenile and Community Interest and Youth Outreach programs within the City of Monessen.

Reggie Jones provided to council and all the journey of his life up to coming to Monessen. He is from the state of California coming to Monessen (not for the weather) but for the cost of living and the wonderful people. Mr. Jones spoke of his felony charge for possession of marijuana for sales and his decided for the sake of his children to turn his life around and be a role model for them. He got a Masters degree in Education in pursuit of a career went to Philadelphia and then Monessen. He would like to help the city in partaking his experiences with the youth in town to guide them in finding fulfillment in their lives.

- b. Mayor Mozer presents a proclamation making May Motorcycle Awareness Month in the City of Monessen.

The mayor is a motorcycle rider and presented the proclamation for motorcycle safety and awareness to the forefront.

- c. Mayor Mozer and Solicitor Dalfonso will provide a presentation on the creation of the proposed Tax Exoneration Plans and Legislation development efforts which have occurred over the past few weeks.

The mayor began by mention that the past administration “was brilliant” for coming up with the idea. The problem was with the implementation of it. There is a handout available concerning the revision to the tax exoneration program tax forgiveness program. In the previous program it only addressed the city’s part in the plan. The school district and county must be part of the plan for it to work. The Solicitor mentioned safeguards that would be implemented where for example those purchasing property would have to sign an affidavit of non-collusion to show that they are not related from a familial relationship or a business relationship with the current owner of the property. That loopholes would be closed so that someone cannot evade paying their delinquent real estate taxes. There would also be an affidavit of non-displacement if somebody’s giving their property to an applicant who wants to rehab it, the city must be certain that that person giving up the property is not going to have no home. An ordinance will be created to address all of this. Also a board will be created in relation to this.

- d. Mayor Mozer offers a Resolution No.4 of 2022, of the City of Monessen Approving a Modification to the FFY 2020-CV Program, and deleting the budget line item for Housing

Assistance within the CDBG budget in the amount of \$48,037.00 and adding a new budget line item for repairs to the Civic Center HVAC Improvements in the amount of \$48,037.00.

Motion to approve made by Councilwoman Thomas

Seconded by Councilman Nestor

No Questions

Unanimous YES

- e. Mayor Mozer presents a Motion to permit the participation of the City of Monessen, and its police, fire departments, EMS, and all other interested citizens and residents in a parade in honor of graduating seniors of the Monessen School District at approximately 7:15 pm on Friday May 27, 2022.

Motion to approve made by Councilwoman Thomas

Seconded by Councilman Nestor

No Questions

Unanimous YES

A comment was made that the parade will take the same path as last year which is the bus route. Also there will be signs hung along the fence at City Park on Grand Blvd.

- f. Mayor Mozer will also provide an update on the 500 Donner project, Blight Removal Efforts in the City of Monessen, and the overall state of the economy in the City of Monessen. The Mayor spoke of the long process to get to the point of demolition of 500 Donner. He also spoke of an “boot camp” he attended recently concerning blight.

- g. Mayor Mozer is requesting a Motion to approve a Handicapped Sign for Denise Zywicki at their residence at 614 Oneida Drive, Monessen, PA 15062.

Motion to approve made by Councilwoman Thomas

Seconded by Councilman Nestor

No Questions

Unanimous YES

- h. Mayor Mozer is requesting a Motion for approval and continuing participation and implementation of a blight plan for the City of Monessen with the County of Westmoreland, and identification of strategies and the writing of a blight plan, and to transition the current blight inventory to a more interactive and public ArcGIS Hub site. The cost for these services will be \$7500.00 to be billed on a monthly basis of \$1500.00 and will be allocated out of the ARP fund budget for payment.

Motion to approve made by Councilwoman Thomas

Seconded by Councilman Nestor

No Questions

Unanimous YES

- i. Mayor Mozer requested a Motion that the property located at 1220 Knox Avenue, Monessen, Pennsylvania, 15062, Tax Map. No. 20-02-06-0-123 be officially declared a public nuisance and be scheduled for demolition.

Motion to approve made by Councilwoman Thomas

Seconded by Councilman Nestor

No Questions

Unanimous YES

- j. Mayor Mozer requested a Motion that the property located at 511 Summit Avenue, Monessen, Pennsylvania, 15062, Tax Map

No. 20-02-07-0-206 be officially declared a public nuisance and be scheduled for demolition.

Motion to approve made by Councilwoman Thomas

Seconded by Councilman Nestor

No Questions

Unanimous YES

- k. Mayor Mozer requested a Motion that the property located at 28 Schoonmaker Avenue, Monessen, Pennsylvania, 15062, Tax Map No. 20-02-04-0-043 be officially declared a public nuisance and be scheduled for demolition.

Motion to approve made by Councilwoman Thomas

Seconded by Councilman Nestor

No Questions

Unanimous YEA

- l. Mayor Mozer requested a Motion that the property located at 109 Elm Street, Monessen, Pennsylvania, 15062, Tax Map No. 20-02-07-0-696 be officially declared a public nuisance and be scheduled for demolition.

Motion to approve made by Councilwoman Thomas

Seconded by Councilman Nestor

No Questions

Unanimous YES

- m. Mayor Mozer requested a Motion that the property located at 217 Parente Boulevard, Monessen, Pennsylvania, 15062, Tax Map No. 20-02-08-0-062 be officially declared a public nuisance and be scheduled for demolition.

Motion to approve made by Councilwoman Thomas

Seconded by Councilman Nestor

No Questions

Unanimous YES

- n. Mayor Mozer requested a motion that the property located at 301 Lenawee Avenue, Monessen, Pennsylvania, 15062, Tax Map No. 20-02-08-0-205 be officially declared a public nuisance and be scheduled for demolition.

Motion to approve made by Councilwoman Thomas
Seconded by Councilman Nestor

No Questions

Unanimous YES

A comment was made by the Mayor that due to an emergency situation the house had already been demolished with the owner signing off on it.

- o. Mayor Mozer requested a Motion to approve the employment contract of City of Monessen Police Chief David Yuhasz for the term of April 28, 2022 to January 12, 2023.

Motion to approve made by Councilwoman Thomas
Seconded by Councilman Nestor

No Questions

Unanimous YES

Councilman Anthony Orzechowski, Director of Accounts and Finance

a. Councilman Orzechowski makes a Motion to move \$5,000.00 from the General fund to the Healthcare Fund.

Motion to approve made by Councilman Orzechowski

Seconded by Councilman Nestor

No Questions

Unanimous YES

b. Councilman Orzechowski makes a Motion to pay the following invoices from the Recreation Board fund in the amount of \$79.99. The specific invoice is outlined as “Attachment B” in the Agenda materials.

Motion to approve made by Councilman Orzechowski

Seconded by Councilwoman Thomas

No Questions

Unanimous YES

c. Councilman Orzechowski makes a Motion to pay invoices from the General Fund in the amount of \$93,110.43 The specific billing invoices are outlined in “Attachment C” of the Agenda materials.

Motion to approve made by Councilman Orzechowski

Seconded by Councilman Nestor

No Questions

Unanimous YES

d. Councilman Orzechowski makes a Motion to pay invoices from the Parks Fund in the amount of \$937.84. The specific billing invoices are outlined as “Attachment D” of the Agenda materials.

Motion to approve made by Councilman Orzechowski

Seconded by Councilman Nestor

No Questions

Unanimous YES

e. Councilman Orzechowski makes a Motion to pay invoices from the Liquid Fuels fund in the amount of \$17, 605.63. The specific billing invoices are outlined as “Attachment E” of the Agenda materials.

Motion to approve made by Councilman Orzechowski

Seconded by Councilwoman Thomas

No Questions

Unanimous YES

Councilman Orzechowski responded to Mr. Telegraphis' question at the beginning of the meeting by stating that the city currently has in the general fund 52981664. 64,000 for payroll and after paying the bills it'll be around 465698 dollars and 70 cents.

Councilperson Lois Thomas Director of Streets and Public Improvements

Streets and Public Improvement Report for month ending April 28, 2022.

The Streets and Public Improvement report was read at the April 14, 2022 meeting.

Councilwoman Thomas thanks all volunteers who helped with the city cleanup. She thanked the Monessen students, teachers, volunteers who show up everytime they are asked, the police, and all involved.

Library report: 817 items were checked out; people counter 1612 patrons who entered the library; reminder that the 2022 budget is available online; the library will resume in-house adult programming on May 14; in-house programming for children has already resumed.

Councilman John Nestor, Director of Public Safety

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

City of Monessen Police receipts for the month of March 2022:

Parking fine and forfeits \$25; parking permits \$550; copies of police accident reports \$45; vehicle code fines collected \$710.59; crimes code fines collected \$617.05; total receipts from District Justice Office \$1328.24; Total receipts collected for March 2022 \$1948.54. Arrests for March 2022 was 72, year to date of total arrests is 212.

Mon Valley EMS for March 2022: Emergency call 155, Fire Standbys 8 and total incidents 163.

Revenue from the Public Safety & Code Enforcement office: plumbing licenses \$300; building permit \$300, mercantile machines \$18,935, chicken permits \$100, street opening permits \$5,600, sign permits \$275, eat and drink license \$75, health inspections \$225, Habitation permits \$700, landlord fees \$9125, yard waste pickup \$100 for a total of \$35,735 of a year to date of \$49,750.

Code activity report for March 2022: habitation permits 11, correction letters 24, animal complaints 2, citations 4, health inspections 2, building permits 2, office meetings with residents 12, zoning permits 2, demo permits 2, and hearings 1.

Monessen Fire Chief report for March 2022: automatic fire alarm 1, structure fire 2, wires, down 3, tree down 2, motor vehicle entrapment 1, vehicle accident 5, EMS assist 10, landing zone 1, natural gas 4, smoke scare 1, electoral fire 2, trash fire 1, total calls 33, total responding 368, average responding per call 11.15 and total man hours 404.

Councilman Nestor makes a Motion to approve a Resolution outlining Emergency Management Coordination issues within the City of Monessen and with the County of Westmoreland for the upcoming year.

Motion to approve made by Councilman Nestor

Seconded by Councilwoman Thomas

No Quesitons

Unanimous YES

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

Public Property Report for the month ending April 28, 2022.

Picked up leaves in the park

Put up the new sign renaming 9th St. park to Anthony E. Madison Sr. Veterans Memorial Park

Cleaned the Civic Center as needed and also did repairs to the door, sink, etc.

Started getting the fields ready for spring sports

Got the port-a-john's delivered to the ball fields and park

The water for the facilities at the ball fields will get turned on in April when the weather breaks

Helped the Street Dept. as needed.

Discussion of Bid Process for repair and restoration of Fire Alarm and related apparatus at the City of Monessen Number One Fire

Company. There are three vendors, Guardian, ADT and Comcast, that are preparing bids for consideration over the next few weeks to present to the City of Monessen.

Councilman Gregor spoke of an incident at the Monessen Police station when the fire alarm went off in the building and the office on duty went to reset it sparked and started smoking. It is now necessary to get bids for repair and restoration.

Discussion of payment activity and recent events relative to the John Deere Tractor repair and related billing issues discussed at the last meeting.

It was discussed that John Deere financial through Murphy's in the amount of \$1105 for the pay of \$606 bill and leaving a remainder of \$494.18.

11. OPEN FLOOR FOR PUBLIC COMMENT ON ANY ITEM.

A resident (Linda) asked about an update with the situation discussed in a previous session about the manhole flooding problem at Frank's Garage. The Mayor said he is hoping that the sewer project will solve it.

Ernie Telegraphis asked about the use of the property at 500 Donner stating rumors that it would become another piece of property for Douglas School.

The Mayor conversed that all prospects for use of 500 Donner is open for discussion.

Resident Chris Paglia updated all on the Anthony Madison Sr. park. Also spoke of potential for city to support marijuana sales.

A resident residing at 1417 Arlington Ave related a problem she had with trash pickup and was told to contact Amy or Marlene at City Hall for help.

Another resident spoke of his concerns with the old Health Center and the money owed to the city.

12.ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment was at 8:30pm

Motion to adjournment made by Councilman Nestor

Seconded by Councilman Gregor.

Unanimous YES