

MONESSEN CITY COUNCIL MEETING

FEBRUARY 24, 2022

6:30 P.M.

ROLL CALL

Present:

Councilman Orzechowski

Councilman Nestor

Councilman Gregor

Councilwoman Thomas

Mayor Mozer

Also present:

Roselie Nicksich

Gerald Saksum

Solicitor Joseph Dalfonso

Amendment to the agenda:

Item # 7 should read motion for the first reading of Ordinance 1259 and authorization to advertise for the Penn Vest Loan for the sewage project. Also the exoneration of taxes for personal property that was previously in the tax forgiveness program that the wrong parcel number and address were listed.

Motion to amend the agenda made by Mayor Mozer and seconded by Councilman Gregor.

PRAYER: PASTOR JOHN CUSTER, ORCHARD CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Presentation made by Dan Siglovich, President of the Greater Monessen Historical Society on the history of the building at 500 Donner Avenue (Municipal Saving and Trust Company Building)

Mayor Mozer presented Jeff Mills (in reference to an ordinance listed on the agenda) via phone who wanted to present to the city to consider the internal financing associated with the sewer project for the concrete lining on 3rd St, 6th St., 9th St. and 12th St. for new pipe. He spoke listing the details in relation to the project.

Ernie Telegraphis posed questions to Mr. Mills and the mayor. Mr. Telegraphis questioned the mayor about how he was proceeding with the demolishing of 500 Donner Ave. The Mayor spoke outlined what has occurred with his reaching out for assistance and went on with a lengthy discussion. The mayor read a letter from Bernie Fertal about the

challenges he is incurring to his business, The Pasta Shoppe, located across from the Donner building.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS ONLY

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

1. Approval of February 10, 2022 Council Meeting Minutes

The mayor noted that the minutes have not been transcribed in time for this meeting so they were not included in the packet. The motion was unanimously tabled.

CITY TREASURER GERALD SAKSUN

Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer noted that he had no report to present. The last report given was the most current and he would present one at the next meeting.

CITY CONTROLLER ROSALIE NICKSICH

Controller's Report

The Controller noted the same as the Treasurer.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT

The Solicitor spoke of the sewage project and the two loans (Ordinance 1258); financing; the Penn Vest Loan. In addition he spoke of the tax forgiveness program; exoneration of taxes; the partial collapse of 500 Donner Ave; Tony Vitale's interacting with the Dept. of Environmental Protection; the interaction with the DEP; everything the city is doing to make certain that all laws are followed;

OLD BUSINESS

A. MAYOR RON MOZER – PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Monthly Report

MOTIONS:

1. Motion to appoint Cypher & Cypher as our 2021, 2022, 2023 Auditor at the rate of \$25,000, \$26,500, and \$27,750 respectively.

Councilman Gregor had a comment that this is the only bid and “we are pretty much stuck with it” and the history of the company with the city in the past.

Motion made by Councilman Orzechowski; seconded by Councilman Nestor.

Roll called:

Councilman Nestor – YES
Councilman Orzechowski – YES
Councilwoman Thomas – YES
Councilman Gregor – NO
Mayor Mozer - YES

- 2. Motion to appoint Mike Korposh as City Administrator at the rate of \$5,000 per month on a temporary basis for 90 days contingent on Solicitor review of the consulting agreement.**

No Questions.

Motion made by Councilman Nestor: seconded by Councilman Gregor.

Roll called: Unanimous YES

- 3. MOTION to advertise the position of Deputy Treasurer in the local newspaper. Any AFSME union applicant will receive preferential treatment during evaluation of all applicants in accordance with the Collective Bargaining Agreement.**

No Questions.

Motion made by Councilman Nestor: seconded by Councilwoman Thomas.

Roll called: Unanimous YES

- 4. Motion to pay WEC \$65,000 from the line usage fund and in doing so, the USDA interim loan shall pay back the Line Usage account \$65,000 when received by the City.**

No Question but comment made by Solicitor Dalfonso.

Motion made by Councilman Nestor: seconded by Councilwoman Thomas.

Roll Called: Unanimous YES

- 5. Motion to enter into agreement for Asbestos Testing for the 500 Donner Ave. with Ritenour & Sons Construction Co. and authorize up to \$2500.00 as payment.**

No Questions.

Motion made by Councilman Nestor: seconded by Councilman Orzechowski.

Roll called: Unanimous YES

- 6. Motion to Adopt Ordinance No. 1258 (USDA Interim Loan – LGUDA)**

AN ORDINANCE INCREASING THE NONELECTORAL INDEBTEDNESS OF THE CITY OF MONESSEN, COUNTY OF WESTMORELAND,

PENNSYLVANIA, BY THE ISSUANCE OF A GUARANTEED REVENUE NOTE IN THE AMOUNT OF \$15,190,000 FOR CAPITAL PURPOSES, FIXING THE FORM, NUMBER, DATE, INTEREST AND MATURITY THEREOF; MAKING A COVENANT FOR THE PAYMENT OF THE DEBT SERVICE ON THE NOTE; AND AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION, SALE AND DELIVERY THEREOF

No questions. Comment made by Solicitor Dalfonso.

Motion read by Councilwoman Thomas: seconded by Councilman Orzechowski.

Roll called: Unanimous YES

7. First reading of Ordinance No. 1259.

AN ORDINANCE INCREASING THE INDEBTEDNESS OF THE CITY OF MONESSEN, WESTMORELAND COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA BY THE ISSUE OF A GUARANTEED REVENUE NOTE IN THE MAXIMUM PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF \$2,370,000 FOR PURPOSES OF REHABILITATING SEWAGE LINES; FIXING THE FORM, DATES, INTEREST, AND MATURITY THEREOF; MAKING A COVENANT FOR THE PAYMENT OF DEBT SERVICE ON THE NOTE; PROVIDING THE FILING OF THE REQUIRED DOCUMENTATION WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT TO INCUR AND EXCLUDE ADDITIONAL DEBT OF THE GOVERNMENTAL UNIT; PROVIDING FOR THE APPOINTMENT OF A SINKING FUND DEPOSITORY FOR THE NOTE; PROVIDING FOR THE AUTHORIZED SIGNATORIES AND AUTHORIZING EXECUTION, SALE AND DELIVERY THEREOF.

No questions. Comments made by Solicitor Dalfonso and Mayor Mozer

Motion made by Councilwoman Thomas: seconded by Councilman Nestor.

Roll call: Unanimous YES

8. Motion for Monessen City Council to forgive unpaid taxes of \$1,426.71

Tax Map No. 20-02-07-0-173

Property: 415 Clarendon Avenue

Real Estate Tax Lien Certificate dated 12/21/21

The Monessen School District has forgiven these properties of \$2,669.70 in taxes.

The Westmoreland County has forgiven these properties of \$969.20 in taxes

No questions. Comment made by Mayor Mozer.

Motion made by Councilwoman Thomas: seconded by Councilman Orzechowski

Roll call: Unanimous - YES

9. Motion for Monessen City Council to forgive unpaid taxes of \$1,426.71

It was noted by the mayor that this property number should be #20-02-08-0-06 with taxes of \$7624.19. The property is located at 217 Parente Blvd. Certificate dated 12/13/21. The School District has forgiven \$14228.11 and the County has forgiven \$4629.31

Tax Map No: 20-02-07-0-173
Property: 415 Clarendon Avenue
Real Estate Tax line Certificate dated 12/21/21

The Monessen School District has forgiven School taxes of \$2,669.70
Westmoreland County has forgiven County taxes of \$969.20

No questions.

Motion made by Councilwoman Thomas: seconded by Councilman Nestor.

Roll Called: Unanimous - YES

B. DIRECTOR OF ACCOUNTS AND FINANCE: COUNCILMAN ANTHONY ORZECOWSKI

Monthly Report

MOTIONS:

1. Motion to pay bills from the General Fund totaling \$55,186.35.

Badzik Printing Services	\$1609.25
US Municipal Supply	\$1886.77
West Penn Power	\$5000.00 (Partial payment of \$9668.16)
WEX Bank	\$183.72
Dominion Energy Solutions	\$215.38
Flynn Tire	\$1212.64
AFSME Health & Welfare	\$1016.40
Hill International Trucks	\$419.91
Compass Mineral	\$5000.00 (Partial payment of \$14,033.87)
Full Service Network	\$753.06
Link Computer	\$943.49
Selective Insurance	\$11,909.00
UPMC Health	\$26,249.37
Total	\$55,186.35
Balance in General Account	\$11,647.02

TOTAL BALANCE OWED	\$764,398.54
Balance after this payment	\$709,212.19

No Questions.

Motion made by Councilman Orzechowski: seconded by Councilwoman Thomas.

Roll call: Unanimous - YES

C. DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC SAFETY JOHN NESTOR

Monthly Report/Correspondence

MOTIONS:

1. Motion to extend offer of employment to Marvin Davis on a full time basis, at will, with no benefits as Code Officer at a salary of \$40,000.00 per year.

It was noted that this motion was covered at the first meeting.

2. Motion to advertise Civil Service Exam for the Police Department. It was noted that this was already addressed.

D. DIRECTOR OF STREETS AND PUBLIC IMPROVEMENTS LOIS THOMAS

Monthly Report/Correspondence

MOTIONS:

No motions.

E. DIRECTOR OF PARKS AND PUBLIC PROPERTY DON GREGOR

Monthly Report/Correspondence

MOTIONS:

Councilman Gregor had no current report.

F. NEW BUSINESS

- 1. To Study a Cooperation Agreement for the purpose of providing services set forth in the Monessen Blight Plan Proposal including the ArcGIS Hub Site Option. This will cost the City \$7,500 plus approximately \$1,300 per month.**

Before Public comment Councilman Nestor asked Fire Chief Heppel as to if the sirens were working.

PUBLIC COMMENT

**Audience member commented on refuge collection.
Ernie Telegraphis had comments.**

ADJOURNMENT