

**COUNCIL MEETING AGENDA**  
**CITY OF MONESSEN**  
**CITY OF MONESSEN COUNCIL CHAMBERS**  
**MAY 12, 2022**  
**6:30PM**

**1. ROLL CALL OF ALL MEMBERS PRESENT**

**Present: Mayor Ron Mozer**

**Councilman Orzechowski**

**Councilman Nestor**

**Councilman Gregor**

**Councilwoman Thomas**

**Solicitor Joseph Dalfonso**

**City Treasurer Saksun**

**City Controller Rosalie Nicksich**

**City Administrator Korposh**

**2. OPENING PRAYER OFFERED BY MONESSEN RESIDENT, PASTOR SILVA, OF THE MT.LEBANON BAPTIST CHURCH OF BROWNSVILLE PENNSYLVANIA.**

**3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS SESSION, APRIL 28, 2022.**

Motion to approve made by Councilman Nestor

Seconded by Councilwoman Thomas

No Questions

Unanimous YES

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

Ernie Telegraphws questioned payments made by the city (ie is it coming from a fixed bank account). Councilman Orzechowski responded that all the information is listed in his report to be given later in the meeting. Also the all the totals are listed and included in the packet handed out at the beginning of the meeting. Mr. Telegraphis also questioned if the city had up to dates on their website. The Mayor responded that it did not but that he would really like to do that but he has not had the chance to do that. Mr. Telegraphis then asked what the precentage of property taxes were collected. The City Treasurer responded that he was unable to give an answer at this time and that the information may be available at the end of the quarter. A gentleman residing at 1320 Rostraver St thanked the city for purchasing a new mower for the streets department. He was told that it had not been purchased yet and it was going to be discussed later in the meeting.

Mark Coleman (Reed Ave) and Parks employee was requesting perhaps the purchase of a commercial mower giving the specifications as to what would fit the needs.

#### **6. CORRESPONDENCE**

There was no correspondence.

OLD BUSINESS N/A

#### **7. REPORT OF THE SOLICITOR OF THE CITY OF MONESSEN**

Solicitors Report for the City of Monessen ending April 30, 2022.

CDBG notification letters went out and property owners have until May 29, 2022 to appeal to court. If no appeals have been filed by the end of the day (5-29-22) those houses will be cleared for demolition.

Tax forgiveness plan – the Solicitor and the Mayor have a meeting with the school district and their solicitor next week to hopefully finalize a few things on their end and still need some input from the county.

Zoning ordinance – talked with the urban design ventures about some comments he had after a legal review – those have been completed. Council needs to get the commission to schedule a meeting so they can go through their process to move this thing along.

People's Gas – an agreement was finalized on the work to be done on McKee Ave. \$192,000 the city will receive in combination with some CDBG monies the city can put out for bid the repair.

#### **8. REPORT OF THE CITY TREASURER**

Treasurer's Report for the month ending April 30, 2022.

Motion to approve made by Councilman Nestor

Seconded by Councilwoman Thomas

No Questions

Unanimous YES

#### **9. REPORT OF THE CITY CONTROLLER**

Controller's Report for the month ending April 30, 2022.

10. **NEW BUSINESS**

**Mayor Ron Mozer, Director of Public Affairs**

a. Motion to set forth the signatory and binding financial powers of the City of Monessen, to be granted to and executed on behalf of the City of Monessen, to Council, Finance Director Anthony Orzechowski, the City Controller of the City of Monessen Rosalie Nicksich, and the Mayor of the City of Monessen, Ron Mozer.

Motion to approve made by Councilwoman Thomas

Seconded by Councilman Nestor

No Questions

Unanimous YES

b. Motion to pay an invoice WEC, Inc. Consulting Engineers for services rendered in the amount of \$54,266.88 for final design engineering services for the City of Monessen Sewer Rehabilitation Project Phase 3.

Motion to approve made by Councilwoman Thomas

Seconded by Councilman Nestor

No Questions

Unanimous YES

Further explanation made by Mayor Mozer that this is part of the USDA fund that the city is doing through PNC Bank for the phase three of the project. The WC will present their invoice to the council the first Monday of the month.

c. Motion to adopt a Resolution Number 6 of 2022 approving the program modifications to the FY 2019, 2020, and 2021 Community Development Block Grant CDBG Programs.

Motion to approve made by Councilwoman Thomas

Seconded by Councilman Nestor

No Questions

Unanimous YES

d. Motion to certify the provision of a local match for State operating Financial Assistance, of the City of Monessen and the Mid Mon Valley Transit Authority (MMVTA) with local funds provided by the City of Monessen in the amount of \$2,719.00 in order to match State in funds pursuant to 74 Pa. C.S. Section 1513 in Fiscal Year 2022-2023 (July 1, 2022- June 30, 2023).

Motion to approve made by Councilwoman Thomas

Seconded by Councilman Nestor

No Questions

Unanimous YES

e. Motion to approve the utilization of The City Park on May 28<sup>th</sup> by city resident Donald Rattay for a Memorial Day Kids and Patriotic Music Festival to be held in honor of our nations and local veterans and their families.

Motion to approve made by Councilwoman Thomas

Seconded by Councilman Nestor

Question: The time of the event? 10Am

Unanimous YES

g. Motion to approve the utilization of the City of Monessen Street and Park's Account or the City of Monessen General Fund Account to receive funds on behalf of the Shade Tree Commission for their upcoming Water Bag tree program within the City of Monessen.

Motion to approve made by Councilman Nestor

Seconded by Councilwoman Thomas

No Questions

Unanimous YES

h. Motion to have the June Teenth Celebration to be held at the Boat Launch in the City of Monessen on June 17<sup>th</sup> 2022, and to waive all fees and costs for the event for the benefit of the community and our younger citizens.

Motion to approve made by Councilman Nestor

Seconded by Councilwoman Thomas

Question – Who is doing the event? Response by Mayor Mozer – Julian

Time of event? 2Pm

Unanimous YES

i. Discussion by Mayor Mozer of the status of the 500 Donner Avenue Demolition project, update on the Phase 4 City of Monessen Sewer Rehabilitation Project, reminder of the Monessen School District parade for graduating seniors to be held on Friday May 27, 2022 at approximately 7:15 pm., and the upcoming receipt of the final payment by the Best Medical Corporation for the purchase of the building at 1 Wendell Ramey Lane in the City of Monessen.

The Mayor commented that the demolition of 500 Donner Ave is almost complete and crews are only working now to clean up the site. They did an outstanding job.

The graduating seniors parade will follow the bus route around the city on Friday May 27.

The Best Medical Corp met every requirement of the mortgage that they did – it is paid and is a done deal.

On Monday (or Tuesday) they had an economic development task force forum which is basically a group of people who have been working with the city for some time. They are all developers or in accounting – some for profit some for non-profit. A good mix of people that are going to lead this city forward. One of the members is Brian Lawrence from accounting who has two hats : one from the redevelopment authority and the land bank.

He is bringing for the monies from the county. This past year the county received 105 million dollars of which 102 million dollars left that is intended for blight remediation in the county. They have until the end of this month to formalize this commitment for the city. What this means to the city is that 45% of the blight will go. This would happen over the next four years (2026). The Mayor mentioned that there will be lots available if residents are interested. There will be “lots to love”.

**Councilman Anthony Orzechowski, Director of Accounts and Finance**

- a. Motion by Councilman Orzechowski to transfer \$58,172.16 from General Fund to the Payroll account. Specific allocations are attached to this Agenda as “Attachment A”.

Motion to approve made by Councilman Orzechowski

Seconded by Councilman Nestor

No Questions

Unanimous YES

- b. Motion by Councilman Orzechowski to transfer reimbursement and reconciliation monies from the USDA/PNC Bank accounts in the total amount of \$443,688.63. The specific transactions of reimbursement are \$176,777.04 to the General Fund, \$263,511.59 to the Line Usage Fund, and \$3,400 .00 to Tim Witt.

Motion to approve made by Councilman Orzechowski

Seconded by Councilman Nestor

No Questions

Unanimous YES

- c. Motion by Councilman Orzechowski to pay invoices from the General Fund Account in the amount of \$265, 426.33. The specific bills and invoices are attached to this Agenda as “Attachment B.”

Motion to approve made by Councilman Orzechowski

Seconded by Councilman Nestor

No Questions

Unanimous YES

Comment made by Councilman Orzechowski that the amount should read \$265,426.23 (23 cents not 33 cents).

- d. Motion by Councilman Orzechowski to pay invoices from the Line Usage Fund in the amount of \$18, 810.74. The specific bills and invoices are attached to this Agenda as “Attachment C.”

Motion to approve made by Councilman Orzechowski

Seconded by Councilman Nestor

No Questions

Unanimous YES

- e. Motion by Councilman Orzechowski to pay invoices from the Liquid Fuels Account in the amount of \$902.80. The specific bills and invoices are attached to this Agenda as “Attachment D.”

Motion to approve made by Councilman Orzechowski

Seconded by Councilman Nestor

No Questions

Unanimous YES



f. Motion by Councilman Orzechowski to pay invoices from the Parks Fund Account in the amount of \$937.84. The specific bills and invoices are attached to this agenda as "Attachment E."  
Motion to approve made by Councilman Orzechowski  
Seconded by Councilwoman Thomas  
No Questions  
Unanimous YES

g. Motion by Councilman Orzechowski to pay invoices from the Recreation Board Account in the amount of \$822.06. The specific bills and invoices are attached to this agenda as "Attachment F".  
Motion to approve made by Councilman Orzechowski  
Seconded by Councilwoman Thomas  
No Questions  
Unanimous YES

h. Discussion and Motion by Councilman Orzechowski to coordinate the purchase a Laser Printer for the utilization of the second floor of City Hall, which includes the Office of the Mayor, the Office of the City Administrator, the Office of the Chief Clerk, the Office of the Assistant Chief Clerk and the Code Administrator's Office.  
The discussion was that the printer would be purchased not leased. Different council members and the City Controller asked questions (how many employees worked on the first/second floor? What would happen when printing pay checks if other jobs were running?) The Mayor commented that several different printers should be looked at. The City Administrator commented the need to look at several bids if that was the case. Councilman Orzechowski welcomed all input for all involved. Council agreed to gather more information before making a decision.

I. Discussion and Motion to remove the services of MEO's rentals and develop a plan to store records and documents currently housed at their facilities to building facilities under the direction of the city of Monessen.

Councilman Orzechowski asked that council consider moving the files to save money. He said there is room in city hall and in the former city hall. He asked if public works crew members could be utilized for the move. It was discussed that this is a busy time for the public works. It was determined that what needed to be done was to see how much volume there was to be moved and an assessment as to how long it would take.

Motion to table the motion was by Councilman Orzechowski  
Seconded by Councilwoman Thomas  
No Questions  
Unanimous YES

### **Councilman Lois Thomas Director of Streets and Public Improvements**

Streets and Public Improvement Report for month ending April 30, 2022

Councilwoman Thomas said she would have the report for the next council meeting on May 26, 2022.

### **Councilman John Nestor, Director of Public Safety**

Police and Public Safety Report for month ending April 30, 2022

Councilman Nestor said that he would have the report for the next council meeting on May 26, 2022.

He said that he would be discussing with council the possibility of raising rates and fines with a quality of life issue for Code Enforcement. He mentioned an issue with rats infestation and the need for traps to be put in locations. Also noted that this is construction season and litter crews are out and remind residents to call 1-800-349-7623 for state road concerns.

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

Parks and Public Property Report for the month ending April 30, 2022.

Councilman Gregor said he will also have his report for the next meeting May 26, 2022.

a. Discussion and Motion to hire cleaning services for the offices and structure at City Hall in the City of Monessen.

Councilman Gregor made a motion to hire Coverall Cleaning at a rate of \$450 monthly for a weekly cleaning service for city hall. Council members debated having them inside city hall along after hours. The Solicitor said there would be a liability issue involved. Councilman Gregor state that Coverall was flexible and would work with the city. There was a question if it was OK to hire an outside contractor for cleaning – would it be a Union issue. The Solicitor said he would talk to the Union. It was then asked if the Police station could be bundled with the cleaning service. Council would like to have this happen and would need to know the fee.

Motion to table made by Councilman Nestor

Seconded by Councilman Gregor

No Quesitons

Unanimous YES

b. Discussion and Motion to purchase Lawn mower and maintenance equipment for the City of Monessen Parks and Public Property operations.

Motion to made purchase from Coulson's made by Councilman Gregor

Seconded by Councilman Nestor

No Questions

Unanimous YES

c. Discussion and Motion to hire a Pest Control specialist relative to drain fly issues in the basement of City Hall.

Motion to hire Wildlife Pest Control made by Councilman Gregor

Seconded by Councilwoman Thomas

Question as to whether the \$175 fee was for one time. It was noted that it was for three treatments. Also questioned if they would be considered for the rat problem within the city.

Unanimous YES

**11. OPEN FLOOR FOR PUBLIC COMMENT ON ANY ITEM.**

**Resident John McGee of Reservoir Avenue spoke of problems/concerns in the 1100 block of McMahan Ave and Reservoir Ave. and also Ohio Alley. Beside there being a rat problem, many blighted properties in this area are leading to a dumping ground, a drug area and there is squatting occurring. Mr. McGee is a third generation resident at the Reservoir**

address and has had to endure this problem for a very long time. The Mayor asked if the city could for now get lumber and board up some of the houses. The rat issue will also be addressed.

Ernie Telegraphis spoke on many issues.

A resident (woman) spoke of her concerns with the house she purchased and is renovating under the tax forgiveness plan. She is concerned that she might be one of those who will end up losing her house even after making repairs to it and doing everything she is suppose to.

## **12.ADJOURNMENT**

**Motion to adjourn at 8:17pm made by Councilman Nestor**

**Seconded by Councilman Gregor**

**Unanimous YES**