

COUNCIL MEETING Minutes
CITY OF MONESSEN
CITY OF MONESSEN COUNCIL CHAMBERS
MAY 26, 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 Gerry Saksun

City Controller Rosalie Nicksick

City Administrator Mike Korposh

2. OPENING PRAYER OFFERED BY PASTOR ROBERT HOLMES OF THE ORCHARD CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP CHURCH OF MONESSEN, PENNSYLVANIA

3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS SESSION, MAY 12TH , 2022.

Motion to approve made by Councilman Nestor

Seconded by Councilman Gregor

No Questions

Unanimous YES

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

Resident Ernie Telegraphis was asked what questions he had and that they would be expounded upon during the course of the meeting.

6. CORRESPONDENCE

There was no correspondence to report.

A Special Presentation on the current status and development of the Sewer Rehabilitation Project Phase 4, for the City of Monessen, County of Westmoreland, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, will be offered by the City Engineer of the City of Monessen, Anthony G. Vitale, President of W.E.C. Inc. Consulting Engineers and Robert A. Nedzesky, Vice President, for the continuing education and benefit of the residents and the general public on the upcoming coordination, implementation and progress of the project effort.

The presentation began with background on the soil rehabilitation project. It began in 2010 with repairing the sewers before they collapsed. Phase 1, the Grand Blvd area, was completed in 2011. Section 1b was complete in 2013. We are in into Phase two which is the design and construction of the equalization tank that is going to be constructed on Parente Blvd. The city has made an agreement with the Mon Valley Sewage Authority for them to design and construct it and maintain it.

Phase 4 was approved on April 29th. Supplies are to arrive late next week to begin the project. They will begin on Moffit St at Shawnee Park down onto Parente Blvd proceeding onto a small section on Delaware St. down to Rt.906. The most difficult part will be the relocation of the pipe on lower Ninth St. During this construction there will probably be a two week time where vehicle traffic will be disrupted and/or detoured. This probably won't occur until August or September.

Phase 3 includes work from Third St, 12th Street replacement of the sewer line on Grand Blvd. There is the need to increase the size of the pipe to alleviate the flooding that happens in that area.

Councilman Nestor raised the question about the problem occurring at Frank's Garage. The response was that they didn't know if it's going to entirely correct the problem but that's something they are still looking at.

OLD BUSINESS N/A

7. REPORT OF THE SOLICITOR OF THE CITY OF MONESSEN

Solicitors Report for the City of Monessen ending May 26, 2022

It was reported that the Mayor and the Solicitor met with the school district superintendent and their solicitor regarding the tax forgiveness program and the meeting went very well. They stated that they will discuss it with the board at their upcoming meeting.

The Mayor and Solicitor are working on getting a meeting with the county representatives to finalized their part in the tax forgiveness program.

There will be a first reading tonight for an amendment of the Quality of Life ordinance that's property maintenance code that the city adopted in 2018. It operates on a ticketing system as opposed to a fine system that's more efficient. The solicitor worked with Councilman Nestor and the code enforcement officer who suggested the fines move from \$25 to \$50 for the initial violation. The second violation within a 12 month period will be \$75. The third offense in a year will be \$100 and each offense after three will be \$150 per violation.

8. REPORT OF THE CITY TREASURER

Treasurer's Report for the month ending May 31, 2022. A report was provided for all City of Monessen financial activities as of April 30, 2022 at the May 12, 2022 Council meeting.

The report was given at the last meeting.

REPORT OF THE CITY CONTROLLER

9. Controller's Report for the month ending May 26, 2022. A report was provided by the Controller for all City of Monessen account activities as of April 30, 2022 at the May 12, 2022 Council meeting.

The report was given at the last meeting.

The Controller asked for clarification on a check she was asked to sign in relation to the purchase of a printer. The mayor, using his personal credit card, purchased the laser printer for the city clerk and a laptop at Staples which is going out of business. The Controller noted that with using a personal credit card the city paid \$47 tax on the purchase.

The mayor noted that he had permission from the CFO of the company to make the purchase since with Staples going out of business the only opportunity presented was but it or it was gone. The mayor said that the bottom line is that the city has about \$1.3 million in the general fund that the city is at burning at a quarter million dollars per month and come this fall the city is going to be in the same predicament that we've been in every single year since the mayor has been attending council meetings. Money is going to be tight. The CFO is being very prudent with expenditures. The laser printer was purchased the cheapest way to get one and the laptop was purchased at one third of the cost. Councilman Gregor voiced that even though the city CFO was consulted, the council should also been notified. The mayor agreed and apologized for the oversight it was done at the spare of the moment.

The controller also mentioned the check she signed was for \$970.32 and the invoice was for the laptop and printer was for \$836.00. The mayor explained that the difference was a petty cash receipt for business cards for Councilman Gregor and Councilwoman Thomas.

Also discussed was getting through the union negotiations in relation to the replacement of Debbie.

10. **NEW BUSINESS**

Mayor Ron Mozer, Director of Public Affairs

a. Motion to supply Handicap Signs for Monessen residents at 4 Crescent Drive in the City of Monessen for a school age and bus transported child at that address.

Motion to approve made by Councilwoman Thomas

Seconded by Councilman Gregor

Councilman Nestor questioned Police Chief Yuhasz as to whether the area was surveyed for the traffic for the mother who called concerning the speeding and not stopping for the bus. There was also a question for the city administrator as the the bus not being a normal bus being up to code with their signs.

Unanimous YES

b. Motion to permit the Mon Valley Emergency Medical Services to host and conduct a Tactical Lifesaver course on May 27, May 28, and May 29, 2022, at City Park, to prepare for lifesaving techniques for active shooter scenarios, bombings and MCI scenarios. The course offers in depth training scenarios that utilize both classroom and field exercises.

Motion to approve made by Councilwoman Thomas

Seconded by Councilman Nestor

Question made by Councilman Gregor that he received a letter from Bill Hess that he would like to use that building, the old city hall some rescue scenarios. It was discussed that it isn't possible because of the condition of the building.

Unanimous YES

c. Discussion by Mayor Mozer of the completion of the project at 500 Donner Avenue in the City of Monessen, progress and development of the Tax Forgiveness Plan for the City of Monessen, and discussion on ongoing efforts relative to Economic Development projects, Blight Removal Efforts and Revitalization plans within the City of Monessen.

d. Motion to allocate a payment from the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021, (ARPA) to Westcom Wireless, 2773 Leechburg Road, Lower Burrell, PA 15068 in the amount of \$26, 086.86 for 9 new radio units, chargers, programming and 2 year extended warranty for utilization by the Monessen Fire Department.

Motion to approve made by Councilwoman Thomas

Seconded by Councilman Nestor

No Questions

Unanimous YES

Councilman Anthony Orzechowski, Director of Accounts and Finance

a. Motion by Councilman Orzechowski to add \$5,000.00 to the Health Care Account to replenish the account.

Motion to approve made by Councilman Orzechowski

Seconded by Councilwoman Thomas

No Questions

Unanimous YES

- b. Motion by Councilman Orzechowski to move the amount of \$7,103.74 from the General Fund account to the Line Usage fund to repay the balance of the \$71,000.00 that was borrowed on January 6th, 2022

Motion to approve made by Councilman Orzechowski

Seconded by Councilman Gregor

No Questions

Unanimous YES

- c. Motion to pay invoices from the General Fund Account of the City of Monessen in the amount of \$278,607.94. All individual bills and totals to be paid for the General Fund Accounts are attached to the meeting agenda and information packets of the Mayor and Council Members as Attachment "A"

Motion to approve made by Councilman Orzechowski

Seconded by Councilwoman Thomas

No Questions

Unanimous YES

- d. Motion to pay invoices from the Liquid Fuels Account of the City of Monessen in the amount of \$13,008.15 All individual bill and totals to be paid from the Liquid Fuels Account are attached to the meeting agenda and information packets of the Mayor and Council members as Attachment "B".

Motion to approve made by Councilman Orzechowski

Seconded by Councilman Nestor

No Questions

Unanimous YES

e. Motion to pay invoices from the Parks Fund Account of the City of Monessen, in the amount of \$2,371.06. All individual bills and totals to be paid from the Parks Fund Account are attached to the meeting agenda and information packets of the Mayor and Council members as Attachment "C".

Motion to approve made by Councilman Orzechowski

Seconded by Councilman Nestor

No Questions

Unanimous YES

f. Motion to pay invoices from the Grant Fund in the amount of \$2,643.80. All individual bills and totals to be paid from the Grant Fund Account are attached to the meeting agenda and information packets of the Mayor and Council members as Attachment "D".

Motion to approve made by Councilman Orzechowski

Seconded by Councilman Nestor

No Questions

Unanimous YES

g. Motion to pay invoices from the Recreational Fund Account of the City of Monessen in the amount of \$79.99. All individual bills and totals to be paid from the Recreational Fund Account are attached to the meeting agenda and information packets of the Mayor and Council as Attachment "E".

Motion to approve made by Councilman Orzechowski

Seconded by Councilman Nestor

No Questions

Unanimous YES

h. Motion to pay invoices from the Line Usage Fund Account of the City of Monessen in the amount of \$6,372.67. All individual bills and totals to be paid from the Line Usage Fund Account are attached to the meeting agenda and information packets as of the Mayor and Council as Attachment "F".

Motion to approve made by Councilman Orzechowski

Seconded by Councilman Nestor

No Questions

Unanimous YES

i. Motion to pay Business Municipal Loan Debt Service Payment to the Farmers National Bank in the amount of \$38,048.90. The invoices for payment are attached to the meeting and information packets of the Mayor and Council as Attachment "G".

Motion to approve made by Councilman Orzechowski

Seconded by Councilwoman Thomas

No Questions

Unanimous YES

j. Motion to pay Business Municipal Loan Debt Service Payment to the Farmers National Bank in the amount of \$58,739.64. The invoices for payment are attached to the meeting and information packets of the Mayor and Council as Attachment "H".

Motion to approve made 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.

Street Dept Report for April 2022

Emptied garbage twice a week downtown.

Cold patched.

Answered about 200 PA One calls.

Cut city lots.

Water turned on at the ball fields.

Took off salt spreaders from the trucks.

Had the street sweeper out all month.

Vactor truck is in the process of being repaired.

Helped the parks as needed.

Currently in contract negotiations.

Library report for April 2022

760 items were checked out by Monessen patrons

656 Monessen items were checked out at the other Systems libraries.

People counter – 1704

Computer usage – 182 users for 164 hours

Wi-Fi usage – Total of 180 users for 2133 hours

E-books – 38 unique users for 128 checkouts.

Summer reading club will begin I mid June

Councilman John Nestor, Director of Public Safety

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

Councilman Nestor offers the first reading of an Ordinance of the City of Monessen, Westmoreland County, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Amending Chapter 300 of the City Code of Ordinances, The Quality of Life Ordinance.

Mon Valley Emergency Services Magistrate Receipts April 2022

Date: May 10, 2022

Vehicle Code \$563.58

Crimes Code \$443.85

Code Enforcement \$106.36

Total \$113.79

Fire Report April 2022

1. Habitation permit 08
2. Correction Letters 21
3. Animal complaints 04

4. Misc. complaints 03
5. Citations 09
6. Inspections (Health) 05
7. Building permits 03
8. Office meetings with residents 12
9. Zoning permits 03
10. Demo permits 02
11. Hearings 04
12. Zoning Hearing Board App. 06

Code Activity Report for April 2022

Municipality EMS Incident Run Report

Month: April

Year: 2022

Emergency Calls 152

Fire Standbys 4

Total Incidents: 156

Magistrates Report for April 2022

Arrests for April 2022

Total 54

Year to date total 266

Police Report for April 2022

Parking permits \$200.00

Miscellaneous Collections:

Copies of Police Accident Reports \$165.00

Total Miscellaneous Collection \$165.00

Court Receipts from District Justice Office:

Vehicle Code Fines Collected \$798.71

Crimes Code Fines Collected \$418.75

City Ordinance Collected \$188.70

Total Receipts from District Justice Office \$1406.16

Total Receipts Collected for April 2022 \$1771.16

Monessen Fire Chief Report Station 81 April 2022

Automatic Fire Alarm 4

Tree Down 2

Natural Gas Leak 1

Vehicle Accident 4

EMS Assist 5

Landing Zone 1

Carbon Monoxide 1

Smoke Scare	1
Structure Fire Charleroi	1
Physical Structure	1
Total Calls	21
Total Responding	270
Avg. Responding per Call	12.85
Total Man Hours	241.50

First Reading Amendment of Chapter 300 of the City Code of Ordinances The Quality of Life Ordinances

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

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

Picked up litter and limbs in City Park

Changed oil and filters in all the tractors

Changed lights in City buildings

Turned water on in all the parks

Cut the Ball fields

Port-a-Johns came in for the parks and amphitheater

Helped the Street Department as needed

There was a discussion on the hiring of a cleaning company for the City Hall and Police Dept. building. Three vendors submitted bids and until it is decided on, a company will fill in and do a one time cleaning during the interim. The solicitor said that a purchase order could be done for the one time cleaning.

11. OPEN FLOOR FOR PUBLIC COMMENT ON ANY ITEM.

Ernie Telegraphis commented on how he felt things were getting backed up and that the city needs to hire the person to do the accounting for the city. The solicitor tried to explain that the Union must agree to any changes. Mr. Telegraphis commented that the city must go looking for an employee. Delmar Hepple thanked everyone for being onboard with the needs of the fire department.

Resident Nancy Horvath, 1917 Arlington spoke positively that her trash has been picked up. She had a very positive experience with the city trash collection agency.

Another resident thanked Police Chief Yuhasz for attending all of the council meetings and addressing problems in the Montraver Plan area.

12. ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn made by Councilman Gregor

Seconded by Councilman Nestor

Unanimous YES