COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

CITY OF MONESSEN

CITY OF MONESSEN COUNCIL CHAMBERS

JANUARY 12, 2023

6:30PM

Meeting called to order by Ron Mozer at 6:30 pm

An Executive Session of the City Council of the City of Monessen was held on January 12th, at 5:30 pm in the Office of the Mayor, City Hall, Second Floor to discuss personnel matters of the City of Monessen.

Ron Mozer – we held an executive session before the meeting on personnel matters and organization matters within the city of Monessen.

1. ROLL CALL OF ALL MEMBERS PRESENT. Roll call by Michael Korposh – Lois Thomas present – John Nestor present – Anthony Orzechowski present – Donald Gregor present – Ron Mozer present.

2. OPENING PRAYER OFFERED BY COUNCILPERSON LOIS THOMAS MEMBER OF MONESSEN COUNCIL, MONESSEN PENNSYLVANIA. Lois Thomas with opening prayer

3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE. Lead by Ron Mozer

Motion to amend the agenda to add the following motions under the Director's of Accounts and Finance section. These requests occurred for the January 3rd Payroll allocation matters and require passage by Council at the January 12th Council Session. Letters g. h. i. and j. Ron Mozer read the motions**.** Motion by Ron Mozer – seconded by John Nestor – vote 5 – 0

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS SESSION OF DECEMBER 22ND, 2022. Motion by John Nestor – seconded by Donald Gregor – vote 5 - 0

5. OPEN FLOOR FOR PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS ONLY. Ernie Telegraphis – motion "g" is this the same contractors – how did you pick those people (Ron Mozer – they were the load bid – paid from the balance from 500 Donner Avenue – the state is picking up the tab – the company never did work for the City again) before we get the TAN note, how much money do we have (Anthony Orzechowski – I will give that information when I do my report)

Chris Lataglia – motion "f" – I live on that block; we are concerned about the that issue but also people traveling the wrong way – it will need to be enforced – at least two dozen cars going wrong way (John Nestor – Chief agreed to watch that area) sign at Spruce

Pino Cianflone – approved the minutes – did you guys read them – reason we have not been transparent – it has not been posted on website – you are making appointments – they are on more than one committee (Ron Mozer – it has been updated and we will advertise)

6. CORRESPONDENCE - None

OLD BUSINESS N/A

7. **REPORT OF THE SOLICITOR OF THE CITY OF MONESSEN.** Joseph Dalfonso – finalized documents for TAN Note -

8. **REPORT OF THE CITY TREASURER OF THE CITY OF MONESSEN** Gerald Saksun – Garbage fee revenue – Current $8,505.00 – year-to-

date $342,041.51 – budget $370,000 – Delinquent $3,252.80 – year-to-date $87,648 – budget $120,000 – Portnoff $1,285.34 - year-to-date $44,890.71 – interest & penalty $1,874.18 – Housing Authority year-to-date $15,258.75 – Total budget $490,000 – Garbage collected for 2023 $65,025 – year-to-date $156,460 – budget $146,834 – City real estate taxes revenue – current $42,217.03 – year-to-date $2,047,255.19 – budget $1,452,440 General Fund - $394,229 Debt Service - $199,052 Parks - $42,135 Library – Delinquent City taxes – City prior year-to-date $5,502.96 – budget $9000 – Westmoreland County year-to-date $167,423.55 – budget $210,000 – year-to-date taxes $2,220,181.70 – City real estate tax distribution - $1,544,496.60 General Fund - $419,213.14 Debt Service - $211,666.60 Parks - $44,805.36 Library – total $2,220,181.70

Real estate transfer tax $5,187.79 – year-to-date $100,291.76 – budget $70,000 – Earned Income Tax $93,957.31 – year-to-date $670,378.03 – budget $600,000 – Mercantile Tax - $732.93 – year-to-date $24,105.14 – budget $29,000 – Local Service Tax $201.54 – year-to-date $73,458.77 – budget $75,000 – Tax Certifications $2,110 – year-to-date $25,550 – budget $23,000 – Municipal Lien Letters $1,275 – year-to-date $17,175 – budget $16,000 – Line Usage Account – unsewered payment year-to-date $13,104 – line usage fee $68,097.33 – year-to-date $844,578.34 – total $857,682.34 – Motion to approve by John Nestor – seconded by Lois Thomas – vote 5 - 0

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

Rosalie Nicksich – no comment

10. **NEW BUSINESS**

Presentation by Cypher and Cypher, CPA's, Accountants, Auditors and Advisors on the Applicability and Potential Consequences of Past Practices of Line Usage and General Fund Allocation Matters within the City of Monessen. Discussion of Potential Responses by Council to the Issues Presented will be Offered following the Cypher and Cypher Report. Steve from Cyper & Cyper reports – when we discussed 2021 audit report – follow-up was to take a look at the line usage fund – in 2014 $95,339 was borrowed in 2014 from the line usage account - $64,599 in 2015, $80,000 in 2016 and $209,000 in 2021 – we went through all the minutes and these transfers were never approved by council – we traced amounts to general ledgers for each fund – we reviewed cancelled checks if applicable and/or available – determine if any expenses that were paid from general account that should have been paid from line usage – 2019, 2020 and 2021 the wages and repairs were not properly allocated to the line usage fund – make a revision to procedures as part of their audit in a total of $96,953.45 – from here on in the monies should be allocated for wages and sewage repairs - monies should be transferred with the approval of the council – council should decide how long it takes to pay back – this is not an end project – we will continue to make adjustments if we find more – you will have an opportunity to make any future adjustments (Ron Mozer - council's information – last year $45,000 to $42,000 can reduce the amount to about $300,000 – came from line usage fee – residents paid that in good faith – a crisis occurred in January 2022 for payroll – worked with DCED – borrowed that money through a motion and we paid it back as soon as we could – we did it properly - we have a $22 Million project going on now – 1.25% interest in 40 years – we must maintain the system – we develop an agreement – pay back at same rate as we did

the loan – works out about $800/month – we would do quarterly or annually – this council will have to pay that – no one can go to jail – we need to step up and do the right thing - $352,000 we must have to pay back – looking forward to the 2022 audit)

Mayor Ron Mozer, Director of Public Affairs

a. Resolution to accept the Tax Anticipation TAN note for the City of Monessen in the amount of $500,000.00 from CFS Bank. See as Exhibit "1". Motion by Lois Thomas – seconded by Donald Gregor – vote 5 - 0

b. Motion to initiate the process of moving all banking and financial accounts from our current banking institution, Community Bank, to CFS Bank of Charleroi, PA. Motion by Lois Thomas – seconded by John Nestor – vote 5 - 0

c. Motion to establish new signatories for the CFS Bank accounts as Mayor Ron Mozer, Councilman Anthony Orzechowski, and City Controller Rosalie Nicksich. Motion by Lois Thomas – seconded by John Nestor – vote 5 - 0

d. Motion to approve Sewer Rehabilitation Project Phase 3 (USDA) 9th Street Delaware and Shawnee Park, Payment Request #5, Invoice #12 in the amount of $45,436.94 to WEC Engineers,

Inc. for professional services and Final Design rendered on the project. See as Attached Exhibit "2". Motion by Lois Thomas – seconded by John Nestor – vote 5 - 0

e. Motion for approval of Sewer Rehabilitation Project Phase 4, 9th Street, Delaware Avenue and Shawnee Park, to be submitted to PennVest by WEC Engineering, Inc. in the amount of

$19,785.78 for Construction Management and Operation. See as Attached Exhibit "3". Motion by Lois Thomas – seconded by John Nestor – vote 5 - 0

f. Motion and Discussion to approve a Stop Sign, or a 15 MPH Limit Speed Sign or a Slow Children Sign in and around the area of 1198 Graham Avenue as traffic has increased to higher levels within this residential area. Motion by Lois Thomas – seconded by John Nestor – (Ron Mozer – what is the best way to slow people down) (Chief David Yuhasz – speed bump – where can officers sit – painting of lines and arrows on Montraver) (Ron Mozer – we can get some lines painted) (John Nestor – children at play sign) (Donald Gregor – check for one way sign) **Motion to install necessary signage**. Motion by Lois Thomas – seconded by John Nestor - vote 5 – 0

g. Motion to approve Contract Notice of Award by Greenman-Pedersen, Inc. to Advanced Builders, Inc. for demolition of the property at 544 Donner Avenue in the City of Monessen for the amount of $78,400.00 See as Attached Exhibit "4". Motion by Lois Thomas – seconded by John Nestor – vote 5 - 0

h. Motion to approve the appointment of John Golomb to a position to the Monessen Public Library Board of Trustees for a three-year term. Motion by Lois Thomas – seconded by John Nestor – vote 5 – 0

i. Motion to approve the appointment of Ernie Telegraphis to a position to the Monessen Public Library Board of Trustees for a three-year term. Motion by Lois Thomas – seconded by John Nestor – vote 5 – 0

Councilman Anthony Orzechowski, Director of Accounts and Finance

a. Motion to pay the following invoices from the General Fund in the amount of $58,047.51 All invoices are attached to this Agenda as Attachment "A". Motion by Anthony Orzechowski – seconded by John Nestor – vote – 5 - 0

b. Motion to pay the following invoices from the Recreational Account in the amount of $730.67. All invoices are attached to this Agenda as Attachment "B." Motion by Anthony Orzechowski – seconded by John Nestor – vote – 5 - 0

c. Motion to pay the following invoices from the Parks Fund in the amount of $2,219.77. All invoices are attached to this Agenda as "Attachment "C". Motion by Anthony Orzechowski – seconded by John Nestor – vote – 5 - 0

d. Motion to pay the following invoices from the Line Usage Fund in the amount of $6,850.00. All invoices are attached to this Agenda as "Attachment "D". Motion by Anthony Orzechowski – seconded by John Nestor – vote – 5 - 0

e. Motion to pay the following invoices from the Grant Fund in the amount of $1,978.97. All invoices are attached to this Agenda as Attachment "E". Motion by Anthony Orzechowski – seconded by John Nestor – vote – 5 - 0

f. Motion to pay the following Invoice from the Refuse Fund in the amount of $48,517.24. All invoices are attached to this Agenda as Attachment "F". Motion by Anthony Orzechowski – seconded by John Nestor – vote – 5 - 0

g. Motion to transfer $61,557.63 from the General Fund to the Payroll Account. Motion by Anthony Orzechowski – seconded by John Nestor – vote – 5 - 0

h. Motion to transfer $35,722.07 from the American Rescue Plan Fund to the General Fund, for the purposes of lost revenue for assistance in the payment of police salaries and related expenditures. Motion by Anthony Orzechowski – seconded by John Nestor – vote – 5 - 0

i. Motion to transfer $3,000.00 from the General Fund to the Healthcare Account. Motion by Anthony Orzechowski – seconded by John Nestor – vote – 5 - 0

j. Motion to transfer $48,517.24 from the Refuse Fund to the General Fund to allow for the payment of invoices prior to the moving of accounts to a new financial lender. Motion by Anthony Orzechowski – seconded by John Nestor – vote – 5 - 0

Account Balances payroll $9,118.72 – general $125,116.16 – healthcare $5,039.57 – liquid fuels $248.84 – debt service $388,237.85 – line usage $580,897.37 – fire escrow $17,303.92 – grant $91,807.19 – park $9,620.28 – recreation $3,015.44 – American rescue $303,901.73 – refuse $169,269.58

Councilman Lois Thomas Director of Streets and Public Improvements

Streets and Public Improvement Report for month ending December 31st, 2022. Lois Thomas will give report on next meeting

Councilman John Nestor, Director of Public Safety

Police and Public Safety Report for month ending December 31st, 2022. John Nestor will give report on next meeting – Refuse Authority next meeting is February 2nd in Belle Vernon about issues with County Hauling

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

Parks and Public Property Report for the month ending December 31st, 2022. Donald Gregor will give report on next meeting

a. **Discussion by Councilman Gregor to resurface the Tennis courts at City Park utilizing American Recovery Act funds with the anticipated costs based upon the extent of the project and appropriate submitted bids in the amount of between $3,000.00 to $12,000.00.** Donald Gregor – **make a motion to advertise for resurfacing tennis courts –** seconded by John Nestor – vote 5 – 0

   Ron Mozer and Mike Korposh have been meeting with Julian – the basketball response is 150 kids – 20 coaches – I am very pleased with the direction of the Civic Center

   Donald Gregor – rumors about Ambulance Service – lost Allegheny Health System backing
   Ron Mozer – called the Ambulance Service and they were just there talking with her – no changes right now – when you call 911, they go through a list of who they need to call – someone

will still be taking care of Monessen

Donald Gregor – where are they being funded now – how are they going to pay these people – can they make payrolls – our number one concern is our people
Ron Mozer – keep tabs on what is going on – nothing is changing now – not sure about the future
Delmar Hepple – they should have dual response – extra help will come unless they have an issue in their area
Ron Mozer – I will reach out and report back – we need hard numbers too

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

Pino Cianflone – received the mailing from the Refuse Authority – there are two numbers on there – that is who they need to call (Donald Gregor – do we give them the phone numbers) (John Nestor – we are handling it and I let them know they can call the numbers listed on the form – health issue – County Hauling is not to be leaving trash) call the phone number on the green pamphlet – direct everyone to those numbers – offer the job to someone – Holly is leaving but will help until the job is filled - like to see the minutes posted on the website – what are you doing to the film – be transparent – what is the Nehemiah of Monessen (Ron Mozer – a group churches of very first meeting)

Ernie Telegraphis – only one person showed up – are you advertising – only two missing people (Ron Mozer – already been advertised)

Linda Lacey – you can not control the trash left on the ground – rodent gets into it – it's not the workers job (John Nestor – County

Hauling lets us know when they can not pick up the garbage) we should be able to secure our own trash – bins with flip bins so they just pick them up – Tyrol Blvd. they lose trash – they does not just happen because they just switched (Ron Mozer – Waste Management bid $1million more than County Hauling – you have to go to low bidder – different agreement – people will have to understand you would have to pay more to get them back – we have one of the lowest garbage in the area) if they call city hall then you should give them the numbers they can call – they need to secure their garbage

Ed Lefever – full time administrator – found a description of his duties – to appoint at-well – serves as the chief appointed official – preparing annual budget – manage expenditures – check an balance system with the city and administrator and finance person – does the city administrator with the council member controlling finance (Ron Mozer – absolutely) when it comes to city finances – city administrator and council member for finances – are they discussing what is going on and what need to be paid (Ron Mozer – Tony is CFO – they need to work together – I am president and I make sure of that) Past administration worked together – does the new administration work together (Ron Mozer – yes) first council meeting the mayor said we had $1.6 million in the bank (Ron Mozer – included a lot of other things – we ended this year without touching the garbage fund or anything else – begging for tan note – we had a positive balance at the end of the month – some of the money can not be used to run the city) why do we need a TAN not is we have all this money (Anthony Orzechowski – we have 12 different account – some accounts we cannot touch – Donald Gregor is correct – we can not

touch some of that money – I supplemented money from

American Rescue to help pay police salaries – the police grant can only be used to upgrade their equipment – my goal is to give a mill back to the tax payers) American Flag means a lot to me, I served for 6 years – lost friends in Vietnam – police station has light and so does city park but does the City Hall – Memorial coming into the City does not have a light – American Flag should be on the left)

Pino Cianflone - how do you want to give back 1 mill to the taxpayers – see the reports – take in the money now and it still looks like crap (Anthony Orzechowski – Mayor's job is to promote for people to live here and for businesses – my job is to make sure your dollars are spent properly) we lost Salvation Army – not think that group is there to help us – Charleroi got a police grant for a vehicle) (Michael Korposh – grant through the police) apply for a grant to make Monessen better (Ron Mozer – DCED through STAMP program – made application to HUD, we have two people assigned to us) no check and balance with Redevelopment Authority – what does that group do – we give them the property and they give it to their friends and they make money – now have 3 ex-mayors on that board – one term mayors – we are here for life – we live here – what else are we going to do (Ron Mozer – I wake up every day working on that)

12. ADJOURNMENT Motion to adjourn meeting at 8:07 pm – seconded by Donald Gregor – vote 5 – 0