COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

CITY OF MONESSEN

CITY OF MONESSEN COUNCIL CHAMBERS

JANUARY 26, 2023

6:30PM

Meeting call to order by Anthony Orzechowski at 6:30 pm.

An Executive Session of the City Council of the City of Monessen was held on January 26th, at 5:30 pm in the Office of the Mayor, City Hall, Second Floor to discuss personnel matters of the City of Monessen.

Executive Session Announced by Anthony Orzechowski

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

2. OPENING PRAYER OFFERED BY THE REVEREND JOHN CUSTER, ORCHARD CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP CHURCH, MONESSEN PENNSYLVANIA. Opening prayer offered by REVEREND JOHN CUSTER

3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE. Lead by Anthony Orzechowski.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS SESSION OF JANUARY 12TH, 2022. Motion to accept previous minutes by Anthony Orzechowski – seconded by John Nestor – vote 5 - 0

5. OPEN FLOOR FOR PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS ONLY. Ernie Telegraphis – I see we are hiring two new police officers – what

does that do to our budget? (Anthony Orzechowski – their salary was already projected In the budget) what is going on with the treasury clerk (Anthony Orzechowski – we were discussing that in the executive session – we are in the process – decision very soon) do you have a comparison of tax revenue collected for 2020, 2021 and 2022 – does it stay the same or is it different (Anthony Orzechowski – we collect about 92% of taxes – the budget shows all the numbers – it depends on the % of taxes collected – some are uncollectable) (Gerald Saksun – I did a report a while back for 10 to 12 years – maximum collected was 96% and the minimum was 90% - varies each year) (Anthony Orzechowski – totals are on the budget sheet)

6. CORRESPONDENCE

OLD BUSINESS N/A

7. **REPORT OF THE SOLICITOR OF THE CITY OF MONESSEN.** Joseph Dalfonso – two contracts for city clerk and city administrator – will expire at end of next year – working with line usage payback – motion for appraisal of annex building – assist code enforcement officers with property issues

8. **REPORT OF THE CITY TREASURER OF THE CITY OF MONESSEN. The Report of the Treasurer of the City of Monessen was provided at the Council Meeting of January 12th, 2023.** Gerald Saksun – report was given last meeting – explanation

9. **REPORT OF THE CITY CONTROLLER OF THE CITY OF MONESSEN** – controller's report will be given at next meeting.

10. **NEW BUSINESS**

Ron Mozer – sent 110 letters to try to reform a new Chamber of Commerce, March 6th at 1pm – thank everyone who attended the Summit last week.

Mayor Ron Mozer, Director of Public Affairs

a. **Motion to hire Alex Byers as a full-time Police Officer reporting to Chief Yuhasz at a rate of $60,566.94 per year according to the Teamsters Local Union 205 Agreement representing the Police Department Employees.** Motion by Anthony Orzechowski – seconded by Donald Gregor – vote 5 – 0

b. Motion to hire Ronald Naylor as a full-time police officer reporting to Chief Yuhasz at a rate of $60,566.94 per year according to the Teamsters Local Union 205 Agreement representing the Police Department Employees. Motion by Anthony Orzechowski – seconded by John Nestor – vote 5 - 0

c. Motion to hire David Winkler as a part time police officer reporting to Chief Yuhasz at a rate of $21.00 per hour according to the Teamsters Local Union 205 Agreement representing the Police Department Employees. Motion by Anthony Orzechowski – seconded by Donald Gregor – vote 5 – 0

Swearing in of officer present.

d. Motion to approve Notice to Proceed 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 contingent on the receipt of all bonding, insurance and contracting documents and approval of the Engineer. See as "Exhibit 1" Motion by Anthony Orzechowski – seconded by John Nestor – vote 5 – 0

e. As 2023 marks the 125th Year of Existence of the City of Monessen, there are several events scheduled throughout the year to Celebrate Monessen. A Motion for each of the following reserves the associated park at no cost and allows food vendors with the appropriate licensing, a safe food certificate from the City, and insurance which will indemnify the City with copies to be on file at City Hall no less than 2 days before each event.

f. Motion to reserve the City Park on May 20th, 2023, for Armed Services Day and Veterans Celebrations at the City Park. Motion by Anthony Orzechowski – seconded by John Nestor – vote 5 - 0

g. Motion to reserve the City Park on July 29th, 2023, for the NAACP Heritage Festival and for the Mayor's Fireworks Extravaganza. Motion by Anthony Orzechowski – seconded by John Nestor – vote 5 - 0

h. Motion to reserve the City Park for the MCDC Celebrate 125 Celebration on August 19, 2023. Motion by Anthony Orzechowski – seconded by Donald Gregor - vote 5 -0

i. Motion to Reserve the City Park Walking Track Area for the annual Mon Valley PAWS event on September 9, 2023. Motion by Anthony Orzechowski – seconded by Donald Gregor – vote 5 – 0

j. Motion to approve advertising for 1 adult and 2 youth positions on the Recreation Board of the City of Monessen. Motion by Anthony Orzechowski – seconded by John Nestor – vote 5 - 0

k. Motion to appoint Mark Panicucci for another term on the

Monessen Recreation Board running from 1/1/2023 to

12/31/2026. Motion by Anthony Orzechowski – seconded by John Nestor – vote 5 - 0

l. Motion to hire Armand Ferrara of Ferrara Appraisals to perform work and services for appraisal, building inspection, mold and related issues and inspection, and overall building review and examination to be fully prepared to offer the structure at 557 Donner Avenue in the City of Monessen for sale as soon as is possible over the next few days. The City Administrator will also assist in attending appointments of the vendors and opening the structure for access to keep costs down. The Total cost off the inspection, examination and report is $1995.00. See as Exhibit "2" Motion by Anthony Orzechowski – seconded by John Nestor – vote 5 - 0

m. Motion to Advertise for sealed bids for the purchase of the structure at 557 Donner Avenue following the completion of the examination, inspection, and report on the subject. Motion by Anthony Orzechowski – seconded by John Nestor – vote 5 - 0

n. Motion to approve the advertising of a position within the Monessen Streets Department for upcoming interview and consideration. Motion by Anthony Orzechowski – seconded by Donald Gregor – vote 5 – 0

o. Motion to advertise the following open board and authority positions:

Environmental Advisory Board (2 positions, 5-year term)
Human Relations Commission (2 positions, 5-year term)
Monessen Planning Commission (2 positions, 4-year term)

Monessen Shade Tree Commission (1 position, 5-year term)

Mon Valley Refuse Authority (1 position, 5-year term)
Police Accountability and Internal Affairs (2 positions, 5-year term) Motion by Anthony Orzechowski – seconded by John Nestor – vote 5 – 0

p. Motion to satisfy CDBG liens in the amount of $14,910 for property 20-02-03-0-129 known as 220 Donner St. Motion by Anthony Orzechowski to table – seconded by Donald Gregor – vote 5 – 0

q. Motion to approve the Employment Agreement for the 2023 calendar year of the City Clerk, of the City of Monessen, Cheryl Gordon, in the amount of $47,000.00. Motion by Anthony Orzechowski – seconded by John Nestor – vote 5 - 0

r. Motion to approve the Employment Agreement for the 2023 calendar year of the City Administrator of the City of Monessen, Michael J. Korposh in the amount of $60,000.00. Motion by Anthony Orzechowski – seconded by John Nestor – vote 5 - 0

s. Motion to hire Glenn A. Shipley at a rate of $12.00 per hour as required to serve as Prisoner Watch at the Police Station facility. Motion by Anthony Orzechowski – seconded by John Nestor – vote 5 - 0

t. Motion to hire A and J On Lot Services as the Sewer Enforcement Officers for the City of Monessen, based upon their fee schedule materials attached as "Exhibit "3" to this Motion. Motion by Anthony Orzechowski – seconded by John Nestor –

(Joseph Dalfonso – this is required by city code, under DEP) 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 $54,575.41 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 $179.99. 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 $330.00. 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 Grants Fund in the amount of $456.20. All invoices are attached to this Agenda as "Attachment "D". Motion by Anthony Orzechowski – seconded by John Nestor – vote 5 - 0

e. Motion to transfer $3200.00 from the General Fund to the Health Care Account. Motion by Anthony Orzechowski – seconded by John Nestor – vote 5 - 0

f. Motion to approve the transfer of $65,998.85 from the General Fund to the Payroll Account to cover the payroll expenses for January 19, 2023. Motion by Anthony Orzechowski

– seconded by John Nestor – vote 5 – 0

g. Motion to transfer funds from the General Account to the Line Usage account for the 2018 balance year for a refund to the Line Usage account in the amount of $7,833.62. The Balance due to the Line Usage Account from the General Fund after this transaction would be $344,150.93. Motion by Anthony Orzechowski – seconded by John Nestor – vote 5 - 0

h. Motion to transfer funds from the General Fund to the Line Usage Account for the 2022 balance year for a refund to the Line Usage Account in the amount of $42,555.78. The Balance due to the Line Usage Account after this transaction is $301,595.15. Motion by Anthony Orzechowski – seconded by John Nestor – vote 5 – 0

Councilman Lois Thomas Director of Streets and Public Improvements

Streets and Public Improvement Report for month ending December 31st, 2022. Lois Thomas asked Donald Gregor to read report – answered 25 PA One calls – emptied garbage cans downtown – cold patched several roads – put up signs and straightened signs – came out for 3 call outs for snow and water breaks

Councilman John Nestor, Director of Public Safety

Police and Public Safety Report for month ending December 31st, 2022. John Nestor – police department receipts for December 2022 - parking permits $120 – miscellaneous collections - copies of police accident reports $180 – total miscellaneous $180 – Court receipts – vehicle code fines collected

- $529.79 - crime code fines collected $305.61 – code enforcement collected $69.08 – total receipts for district justice office $904.48 – total receipts collected for December 2022 - $1,204.48

Magistrate receipts – vehicle code $639.54 – crime code $291.34 – code enforcement $124.50 – total $1,055.38

Code activity report December 2022 – habitation permits 10 – correction letters 18 – animal complaints 8 – misc. complaints 18 – health inspections 1 – building permits 2 – office meetings with residents 7 – zoning permits 1 – meetings with residents 8

Police department receipts for year 2022 – parking fines and forfeits $300 – parking permits $6,310 – miscellaneous collection – copies of police accident reports $2,295 – Washington Township prisoners $175 – meter bags $18 – total miscellaneous $2,488 – court receipts from district justice office – vehicle code fines collected $8,712.42 – crime code fines collected $4,481.28 – city ordinance collected $314.99 – code enforcement collected $600.50 – total receipts from district justice office $14,109.19 – total receipts collected year 2022 $23,207.19

Monessen Fire Chief Report – automatic fire alarm 6 – public service 1 – residential flowing 3 – wires down 6 – natural gas leak 1 – vehicle accident 3 – ems assist 2 – carbon monoxide 1 –

vehicle fire 1 – dumpster fire 1 – brush fire 1 – elevator rescue 1 – illegal burn 1 – smoke in structure 4 – structure fire Charleroi 3 – total calls 35 – total responding 475 – average responding per call 13.57 – total manhours 469 (Donald Gregor – no ambulance report?) have not received one in months

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

Parks and Public Property Report for the month ending December 31st, 2022. Donald Gregor – helped cleaned the civic center – fixed picnic tables – picked up leaves weather permitting – helped the streets department as needed**.**

a. **Discussion and potential Motion 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 and Option 1 @ approximately $30,000.00, Option 2 @approximately $60,000.00, Option 3 @$55,000.00 to $65,000.00 See Exhibit "3".**

Option #1 – perform large crack repairs with special epoxy, install band-aid – similar to PetroMat over cracks and place acrylic leveling compound to fill-in low spots on court – reset posts and install new nets – install new acrylic pain to entire court area – acrylic paint would need to be reapplied in 5 – 7 years at a additional expense – approximately $30,000

Option #2 – perform large carack repairs with special epoxy, install band-aid similar to PetroMat over cracks and place asphalt leveling course over entire court – reset posts and install new nets

– install new acrylic paint to entire court area – acrylic paint would need to be reapplied in 5 – 7 years at an additional expense – approximately $60,000

Option #3 – place sports-tile over the entire surface of the existing court – no asphalt repair required – reset posts and install new

netting – according to the Vasco representative, the sport-tile

surface results in slower play versus the traditional acrylic surface but is comparable for normal or average recreational play – surface is maintenance free and has a warranty of 15 years with a life expectancy of 30+ years – approximately $4-5/square foot @ $55,000 - $65,000

(Anthony Orzechowski – can we look at a grant to help with the costs) I am sure we can – we can look into it – I would go with Option #2 – I would like to table with motion for now.

b. **Discussion and Motion by Councilman Gregor through Julie Thieser to purchase a swing and frame in memory of her parents, lifelong residents, John and Dorothy Novakovich. She was looking for approval for Joseph's Nursery to install the swing and frame at the City Park Walking Track.** Motion by Donald Gregor – seconded by John Nestor – vote 5 – 0

Anthony Orzechowski – account balances – fire escrow $49,367.48 – payroll $8,583.49 – grant $88,872.02 – American rescue $271,188.07 – refuse $227,636.72 – park $8,891.58 – debt service $502,288.56 – healthcare $5,483.87 – recreation $3,060.45 – line usage $619,884.66 – liquid fuels $248.84 – general $68,916.86 – this doe not include the TAN note

11. OPEN FLOOR FOR PUBLIC COMMENT ON ANY ITEM.

Ernie Telegraphis – when are we having another Summit and it needs to be an economic summit not a group of politicians – we need to talk about virtues of money and discipline – specific increase revenue in city – talk to private sector – being industry – employees – bring money in – not a weekday when people are at

work – How did Monessen step forward? – nothing concrete – the politicians gave they position and life experiences – not concrete – a revival not a summit (Ron Mozer – we are planning another one for next year) (Anthony Orzechowski – Rome was not built in a day) A lot of people think the same as mee abut won't say anything. This meting when very fast tonight – Nestor asked questions – great. Where are we going now with information from Cypher & Cypher - $300,0000. (Anthony Orzechowski – council will come up with a plan – long term – council has not had a chance to discuss) (Donald Gregor – approximately a 40 year plan – approximately $800/month – once finalized – we will vote on it) (Joseph Dalfonso – I said earlier I am working with the mayor and city administration to put a resolution together – should be one of the February meetings.) There are a lot of pot homes – any money set aside to repair them? (Anthony Orzechowski – noting designated yet – we are going to be looking at cold patch verses hot patch – we need to solve the problems with the streets) (Lois Thomas – if you see a problem with a street call it into the office.) (Anthony Orzechowski – we will address them)

Ed Lafever – what would be the cost to repave Parenti from stop sign to stop sign? (Donald Gregor - $1 million per mile) Who do you go to find funds to help pay for this – what department?

(Michael Korposh – 10 year plant with PennDot) American Rescue Funds not even enough to do part of it? (Anthony Orzechowski – Do we need 4 lanes? Remove 2.) (Donald Gregor – you will still have the disposal of the materials – this will cost money) (Anthony Orzechowski – the sewage paid to have one lane fixed – they ripped it up doing repairs – 30 – 40 – 50 years ago) Can the

City Administrator publicize the city's balance sheet like North Belle Vernon and Glassport? (Michael Korposh – that is part of our budget – you can stop by and get one from the city) We lost prime development building on the East end of town – what is happening – ever have jobs for people in Monessen? (Anthony Orzechowski – they paid their responsibility to the city – as long as they pay their taxes, there is nothing we can do) They were to bring 200 jobs to the area – can't we hold him to that – ask him why that fell through? (Anthony Orzechowski – that's why the Mayor is starting up the Chamber of Commerce – the area businesses working together can ask – the Mayor can ask too) Why has it taken so long no Chamber for years (Anthony Orzechowski – it's an old charter – don't know about the Chamber – not a member – don't have a business) Funding for Monessen Ambulance Service – pull resources – not a competition – work together (Joseph Dalfonso – separate business entity – non-profit) over months – when you are borrowing money from line usage, it is legal? (Joseph Dalfonso – yes it is – you can borrow – you must repay – set up a resolution – you can read the sewer section of third class city code - $200,000 in 2021 was not voted on by council – beginning of 2022 we had to borrow money to make payroll – only $8,000 in general account – this administration will put a plan in place) the article on the Economic Summit –

comment for Mayor – vision must be more specific – what industry are you looking into – small businesses won't do it – you can contact private sector to see what can come into Monessen – they offered no plan – once was a clothing manufacturing here – maybe shoes – we need employment (Michael Korposh – we can

meet tomorrow – I can also talk to you about the information we

received from CMU – talk about the Mayor's future plans) (Anthony Orzechowski – this was just a starting point)

Pino Cianflone– ask question at redevelopment meeting – what does redevelopment stand for (Anthony Orzechowski – rebirth birth) anyone talk to congressman (Michael Korposh – his aid was there not him) have to get money from congress and senate – you do not have a market here – at the redevelopment meeting they are talking about the city can't sell the property so give it to use so wee can make the money – totally against you when you are screwing up – this city is supposed to be run by the Mayor not the two ex-mayors – glad we hired two new police – I don't want to work with the you or the Mayor (Michael Korposh – I am will to talk the plans over – can you bee here tomorrow at 10am) I am out of town (Anthony Orzechowski – you need a comprehensive plan – Senator Stefano got that building demolished – emergency – he came through) what did you get from the feds (Michael Korposh – they are working on the bridge) what are we doing for ourselves

Linda Lacey – the Chamber of Commerce is doing nothing. Council willing to put forth an effort. Paying high taxes.

(Donald Gregor - We have no control over them – how many people are here – do the citizens care – people need to show up)

(Anthony Orzechowski - We are trying to change things and make a difference – can we wrap this up – I don't want to be here ally day)

12. ADJOURNMENT motion to adjourn meeting by Anthony Orzechowski at 8:15pm – seconded by John Nestor.

City of Monessen Meeting 1-26-2023