COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

CITY OF MONESSEN

CITY OF MONESSEN COUNCIL CHAMBERS

OCTOBER 13, 2022

6:30PM

Meeting call to order by Mayor Ron Mozer at 6:30pm

An Executive Session of the City Council of the City of Monessen was held on October 5, 2022, at 6:00 pm in the Office of the Mayor, City Hall, Second Floor to discuss personnel matters of the City of Monessen. Mayor Mozer, Councilperson Thomas, and Councilman Orzechowski attended the meeting. Read by Mayor Ron Mozer

1. ROLL CALL OF ALL MEMBERS PRESENT. By City Administrator Mike Korposh – Lois Thomas present – Anthony Orzechowski present – John Nestor present – Donald Gregor – not present (will be late) – Ron Mozer present – 4 to 1

2. OPENING PRAYER OFFERED BY COUNCILPERSON LOIS THOMAS MEMBER OF MONESSEN COUNCIL, MONESSEN PENNSYLVANIA. Offered by Councilperson Lois Thomas

3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE. Lead by Mayor Ron Mozer

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS SESSION, SEPTEMBER 22, 2022. Motion to accept minutes by Lois Thomas – send by John Nestor – vote 4 - 0

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

Ernie Telegraphis – compliment the Mayor on stopping AlumiSource – the Blight – we are depending on government funds to get out of

debt (Councilperson Donald Gregor arrived) you went out preaching to the preachers – they are having their own problems keeping their people – what not go out and seek entrepreneurs and business owners to build up the city – you keep re-electing the same people, Ed Lee – at the conference you attended, you promised suggestions – you are putting in people who are not productive – nothing solid – now we have two people missing in our office – we are like a plane with two engines going down (Lois Thomas – with the economy people are leaving their positions – need to get affordable wages – need money to line, pay bills and feed kids – we must establish a union contract first - when you have a union you just can't hire someone and pay them what you want to)

Pino Cianflone – can you better explain letter H on the agenda (Ron Mozer – 5th street contract was awarded on October 2nd – I believe all the paperwork is in – the County is handling it – they should be on site next week to start demolition – either October 16th or November 16th the bid for the Old Mon Valley Independent building an 20 to 30 homes is going out – Brian Lawrence is handling the list and we do not have a complete list yet)

6. CORRESPONDENCE - Tony Vitalle – Shawnee is complete – not will be working on Delaware – have some landscaping at the park – should be done next week – have not heard anything on Phase 3 yet – 9th street road will be fixed and reopened when complete – Alaska Alley make a hand right thru the wall – these are big pipes – bad pipes – we are working on the pipes that would possibly break – combination sewers – 90% of the pipes left are smaller pipes – we are increasing some pipes from 36" to 72" – we can not do anything about the slope but we can increase the size – if the EQ Tank is used properly it should help make a difference – when you come down Reed Avenue to the "T" in the road there is a 70' manhole – can't

backfill – it is know as a water source – stream – they encased the stream – Maple Avenue – a guy walked it – he did not take pictures but he said it follows a creek bed – it is not a pipe, it is steps – the Styrene concern is being addressed and being reviewed – the contractor must handle it – we are replace pipe from 12th street to 906 – if they want to add housing up there, the contractor must provide utilities

OLD BUSINESS N/A

7. **REPORT OF THE SOLICITOR OF THE CITY OF MONESSEN** By Joseph Dalfonso – Resolution for 1st year home owners will amend the law to rectify the problem of them receiving their taxes – repeal Ordinance 1248 – establishing a payment plan for garbage bills – we will look at taking payments on city tax at a later date – Recreation board ordinance – they no longer want to deal with the rentals of the civic center – all the other rentals are handled through the treasurer's office – Julian report to the City Administrator – they only want to provide the rules and regulations – met with the Redevelopment, Code Enforcement on the Demo review process – County Landbank acquired properties at a judicial sale – about 280 total properties in Monessen to be demolished – some by the Landbank and others by the City – County will do all title searches

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

By Treasurer Gerald Saksun – Current garbage $2,520 – year-to-date $323,866.51 – budget $370,000 – Delinquent garbage $6,753.56 – year-to-date $78,862.07 – budget $120,000 – Interest & penalty $17,447.47 – year-to-date $38,722.24 – budget $1,313.30 – Housing Authority garbage year-to-date $15,258.75 – 2023 garbage $200 – year-to-date $1,385 – budget 147,834

Current City real estate taxes $7,357.41 - year-to-date $1,983,632.23 – budget $1m452,449 to general - $394,229 to debt service - $199,052 to parks - $42,135 to library for a total budget of $2,087,865 – Delinquent City taxes prior year collected by City $5,502.86 year-to-date – budget $9,000 – collected by Westmoreland $117,227.56 year-to-date – budget $210,000 – total taxes year-to-date $2,106,362.75 – distribution as of September 30, 2022 - $1,465,317.07 general - $397,721.94 debt service - $200,815.37 parks - $42,508.37 library for a total of $2,106,362.75

Real estate transfer tax $7,020.35 – year-to-date $81,233.15 – budget $70,000 – Earned income tax - $57,993.18 – year-to-date $478,802.30 – budget $600,000 – mercantile tax $2,072.20 – year-to-date $21,145.89 – budget $29,000 – Local service tax $1,419.02 – year-to-date $52,124.97 – budget $75,000 – Tax certifications $970 – year-to-date $18,600 – budget $23,000 – Municipal lien letters $825 – year-to-date $12,300 – budget $16,000

Line usage Unsewered year-to-date $12,780 – Line usage fee $69,712.91 – year-to-date $621,835.66 – total $634,615.66

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

By Controller Rosalie Nicksich – Bank reconciliation as of August 31, 2022 – Beginning bank balance as of July 31, 2022, $1,058,022.67 – Deposits $170,929.66 – Expenses $400,060.48 – Ending balance as of August 31, 2022, $828,891.85 – Outstanding checks $47,967.45 – Outstanding deposits $0 – Reconcile balance to bank statement $780,924.40

Bank reconciliation as of September 30, 2022 – Beginning bank balance as of August 31, 2022, $828,891.85 – Deposits $765,597.61 – Expenses

$785,811.34 – Ending balances as of September 30, 2022, $808,678.12 – Outstanding checks $277,410.46 – Outstanding Deposits $0 – Reconcile balance to bank statement $531,267.66

10. **NEW BUSINESS**

Mayor Ron Mozer, Director of Public Affairs

a. Motion to approve Sewer Rehabilitation Project Phase 4 (Penn Vest) 9th Street Delaware and Shawnee Park, Payment Request #7 in the amount of $23,493.22 to WEC Engineers, Inc. for professional services rendered on the project. Motion by Lois Thomas – second by John Nestor – vote 5 – 0

b. Motion to approve a Handicapped Street Sign for Lonnie Atwell at 945 Athalia Avenue, to notify both drivers and pedestrians of an autistic and sound challenged child at this residence for safety and awareness purposes. Motion by Lois Thomas – second by John Nestor – vote 5 - 0

c. Motion for approval of Sewer Rehabilitation Project Phase 4 (MON-2021-02) to be submitted to PennVest by WEC Engineering, Inc. in the amount of $19,612.90 for Project Estimation and Planning, and Payment Application Number 2. for Reynolds Brothers, Inc. in the amount of $98,857.74 that will be submitted under separate cover for a total amount of $117,770.64 for approval to Penn Vest under Payment Request Number 6. Motion by Lois Thomas – second by John Nestor – vote 5 – 0

d. Motion to approve the celebration of Halloween Trunk or Treat activities in the City of Monessen from 2:00 pm to 4:00 pm on Saturday October 29th at the Monessen City Park Walking Track. Motion by Lois Thomas - seconded by John Nestor – vote 5 - 0

e. Motion of first meeting to rescind Ordinance 1248 of 2021 and advertise. Repeal Ordinance is attached to this Agenda as Exhibit "1" Motion by Lois Thomas - seconded by John Nestor – vote 4 – 1, no by Donald Gregor

f. Motion to establish garbage fees for 2023 at $210.00 due by February 28, 2023. For those residents that pay by January 31, 2023, will be charged a discount rate of $190.00. For those residents that pay after February 28, 2023, will pay $220.00 until August 31st, 2023, at which time the billings will be turned over to a collection bureau. Those that desire may pay a $70.00 payment by the end of December 2022, January 2023, and February 2023. Motion by Lois Thomas – seconded by John Nestor – (Don Gregor – will we change the billing – printed on the bills) vote – 5 - 0

g. Motion to transfer Property and Lot Number 20-02-06-0-359 to the Redevelopment Authority for subsequent sale to Chris Bantlis at the standard $500.00 price. As a very irregularly shaped lot, the property has no room for a structure, but does offer the opportunity to expand the yard for the resident's upkeep and maintenance. Motion by Lois Thomas - seconded by John Nestor – vote 5 – 0

h. Discussion on all blight removal, condemnation, and emergency demolition projects currently underway in the City of Monessen, and updates on all planning and comprehensive strategies for additional efforts currently under development.

Ron Mozer – I talked already about this. County has awarded the contract for the old 5th Street hotel – scheduled within a week or so – not sure what the county has specified in their rules – received phone call trying to be mobilizing equipment – 6th Street

old newspaper building – U-shape building – 1 leg has collapsed into the basement – it is a problem for the church next door – the gas company refuses to prove gas to the church – building must come down soon – putting pressure on the county – a lot going on here - also 544 Donner, by old Citizen's Bank – it is crumbling in the back and on the alley and posing a danger for the kids attending Douglas – we have money left over from the 500 Donner demo and we are requesting the CFA to use that money to remove building – hopefully taken care of last week or this week – rescheduled November 15th – expectation that will be approved – how fast county gets busy on newspaper building – process for going out for bid on newspaper office – should be adding a number of residential houses also – try to include all property and may surround – must still go through the demolition permits -

Motion to forgive fees associated with the demolition permits for those properties being demolished by the Westmoreland County Redevelopment Authority. Motion by Mayor Ron Mozer seconded by John Nestor – Vote 5 - 0

I. Discussion of recent activities at the Civic Center in the City of Monessen, and the desire to streamline policies, rental agreements, fee structures, operational issues, and maintenance and upkeep issues at the facility under the direction of the City of Monessen and Council. Ron Mozer – come up with something that we can all work with – instead of dissolving and restarting the board – had a meeting with the Julian and some of the board - Julian works for the city and answers to the city administrator - Julian will handle renting the civic center and hand the money

into the city treasurer instead of the recreation board – that way we can keep better track of what is going on – we just clean up some inconsistencies

j. Motion to approve Civil Service Testing for the potential of replacing one to two officers on the police force compliment of the City of Monessen. Motion by Lois Thomas – seconded by John Nestor – vote 5 - 0

k. Motion to pay billing statements for Generator maintenance, Repair and Upkeep at the City of Monessen Public Safety Building in the amount to Cummins Sales and Service in the amount of $3,078.71. Motion by Lois Thomas – seconded by John Nestor – Vote 5 - 0

l. Motion to approve submission of a grant application to the Pennsylvania Crime and Delinquency Commission for funding and support related programs at the City of Monessen Police Station. Motion by Lois Thomas – seconded by John Nestor – Vote 5 - 0

Councilman Anthony Orzechowski, Director of Accounts and Finance

Anthony Orzechoswki – Ricky Dick from Castle Blood has put together a Halloween Parade on Thursday 20th at 7pm – starts Weldel Rainey at 6:30

a. Motion to pay the following invoices from the General Fund in the amount of $115,548.50. 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 $347.92 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 $10,048.03. 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 $12,632.46. 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 $67,469.92 from the General Fund to the Payroll Account. Motion by Anthony Orzechowski – seconded by John Nestor – vote 5 – 0

Account balances – general $368,864.75 – fire escrow $18,410.99 – 2023 refuse collection $1,185.00 – healthcare $3,671.81 – parks $8,451.01 – payroll $12,359.16 – American Rescue $420,359.47 – liquid fuels $248.84 – police grant $54.868.31 – debt service $719,258.84 – line usage $555,308.55

f. Motion to appoint Ed Lea to the City of Monessen Zoning and Hearing Board. Motion by Anthony Orzechowski – seconded by John Nestor – vote 4 – 1, no by Donald Gregor

Councilman Lois Thomas Director of Streets and Public Improvements

Streets and Public Improvement Report for month ending September 30, 2022. Lois Thomas - Postpone reports to next meeting on October 27th

Councilman John Nestor, Director of Public Safety

Police and Public Safety Report for month ending September 30th, 2022. John Nestor – postpone reports to next meeting on October 27th

Motion to approve the submission and advertisement of Request for Proposals for the research, creation, update, and alteration for the current security camera apparatus systems within the City of Monessen, and appropriate fees and schedules to achieve the proper implementation of this protection and maintenance function. Motion by John Nestor – seconded by Lois Thomas – Vote 4 – 0, Ron Mozer to abstain

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

Parks and Public Property Report for the month ending September 30th, 2022 – Donald Gregor - defer report to the next meeting

Is Chief Yuhasz here – did we take care of the alarm system – real issue – need fixed – tragedy if prisoner was there and the alarm does not go off – get someone – please move on that (Mike Korposh – I will check tomorrow) the tennis courts looks terrible – can we clean up the area – weeds have not been cut all year (Lois Thomas – I will talk with Rodney) we have a beautiful park and it is an eye sore (Anthony Orzechowski – I was working with Dick's – donate equipment – at the Smithton warehouse – Don if you can get a bid to resurface we could use ARP monies – it is not raised just weed through the cracks) I don't mine check on that (Linda Lacey – dirt hill is still there) we are going to use that for fill on the

demo houses – we will put it on the agenda in the spring (Lois Thomas – the batting cages) we have some bids – this will be in the spring

11. OPEN FLOOR FOR PUBLIC COMMENT ON ANY ITEM.

Pino Cianflone – stop sign on Montraver – any answers on the one way sign (Donald Gregor – I watched traffic go straight through) – They need to learn how to read – newspaper that is here – I asked the editor to look at this situation – no you will wait until someone is killed – put a DO NOT ENTER – WRONG WAY (John Nestor – maybe we can patrol the area more) it is the people who live there – easier for them – it's a drug house – on the 7th by the Exxon station I was someone going one way, the wrong way – police need to go to the places where they are breaking the laws (John Nestor – stop sign on Donner Avenue – PennDot will not move the sign – we can paint a white line that says stop – 5th and Donner on the 5th street side) (Ron Mozer – the state refuses to put back the red light – we asked to have it removed – they constantly review the traffic patterns and may make changes) (Donald Gregor – 3rd street is also a problem – with the fire trucks almost took out a car – they come too far down – big trucks and buses) (Ron Mozer – no right turn on red coming down 3rd street) (Joseph Dalfonso – can put a line on 3rd street – someone needs to call PennDot and the people who handle the light maintenance to see where the line should be) (Mike Korposh – I will make the call) You want Monessen to be beautiful – garbage cars and vehicles – who is handling that (Ron Mozer – Pidich handles the cars for us now – he has no place to put any more – he had to quit picking them up – Bajanowski is in the process of moving to Monessen – he will local – he has a state form – initiated by the police – he tows the car – send the form to the state – the state send a letter

to the owner, 30 days to settle and get your car back – tow company gets the title and can scrap the car – I already talked with Yuhasz on this.) (Joseph Dalfonso – must have a fenced secure area – liability issues) My family and or I have lived on Montraver for years – junk cars everywhere – you have 60 days to get this going – blacktop is cheaper now until Thanksgiving – pot holes everywhere – hit one every day – Parente Blvd – we need to hire more people at the garage – they need help – who was appointed to the tax forgiveness board) (Ron Mozer – Marvin Davis, Mike Korposh and Ron Mozer) we had to hire an assistant for Marvin why are we taking him away from his job for this (Ron Mozer – only a few hours a month in the evening – the last administration started the blighted property program – we only for back taxes – get them back on the tax role) how about the people who pay their taxes on time, what do they get (Ron Mozer – 3rd street to Schoonmaker will be repaved with CDBG money – Parente will cost several thousand dollars – we have to find another way to get money to do it – all the same problem – we only have so much money to spend) ask Monongahela and Belle Vernon, go see how they get money – you are asking the school to forgive taxes, they have no library, no books – these games get you nowhere – Sunshine Act – took to court and won – don't have right to restrict people – not doing your job – Chief you are here at the meeting, do you get paid to be here (Chief Yuhasz – no) (Ron Mozer – the only objection I have is the obscenities – I would like to apologize to you and the citizens) I don't accept your apology because I don't think you mean it (Anthony Orzechowski – I have a task for you Pino for the refuse authority – I asked for financials and bills – I never received anything) they are sending you a letter – you just want to spend all the money on foolish

things – you say you can do it yourself – go do it (Anthony Orzechowski – I am looking for administrative costs – Do I have to write a Right To Know, I will) come to meetings and ask the questions – it right upstair by your office (Ron More – when is the next meeting) 1st Tuesday in November at 6pm – I think the woman does a good job – not sure about the attorney – we put you in office and we can take you out (Anthony Orzechowski – you did not answer my question – I just want the information) I'll do it for you (Anthony Orzechowski – thank you)

12. ADJOURNMENT - Adjournment by John Nestor at 8:17pm – seconded by Anthony Orzechowski – vote 5 – 0