COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

CITY OF MONESSEN

CITY OF MONESSEN COUNCIL CHAMBERS

MARCH 9, 2023

6:30PM

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

Please Note: An Executive Session of the Mayor and the Council of the City of Monessen was held on Wednesday March 8th, 2023, at 6:30 pm in the City Hall of the City of Monessen at 575 Donner Avenue, Monessen, Pennsylvania 15062 to discuss personnel matters and issues.

1. ROLL CALL OF ALL MEMBERS PRESENT. Roll call by Mike Korposh -Anthony Orzechowski present – John Nestor present – Lois Thomas present – Donald Gregor present – Ron Mozer present. (roll call was not part of the recording – picture showed everyone present)

2. OPENING PRAYER OFFERED BY REV. ROBERT C. HOLMES, PASTOR OF CHRISTIAN LIFE MINISTRIES OF MONESSEN, PA. Opening prayer offered by Rev. Robert C. Holmes.

3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE. Led by Ron Mozer.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS SESSION OF FEBRUARY 23rd, 2023. Motion to approval previous session minutes by Lois Thomas – seconded by Donald Gregor – vote 5 - 0

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

Ernest Telegraphis – motion to add two more people to youth board (Ron Mozer- adding youth to the board) how many (Ron Mozer – this

will be 9 – you can come to the meeting – looking to bring in more to the meetings – how do they accept them (Ron Mozer – we will look at them and then decide – application on website) question about blight – (Ron Mozer – wait and see what they talk about – it's a plan) Pino Cianflone – need to pay for a stenographer to do the minutes – (Ron Mozer – by third class city code it is the responsibility of the city clerk – we are talking about agenda item only) (Joseph Dalfonso- no legal requirement for the city to have a stenographer – in my opinion she is doing her job – she provides a summary of what happens) (Donald Gregor – the recording stays on the website) (Joseph Dalfonso – the recording and the summary are both legal)

6. CORRESPONDENCE

OLD BUSINESS N/A

7. **REPORT OF THE SOLICITOR OF THE CITY OF MONESSEN.** Joseph Dalfonso – I met with Marvin Davis the code enforcement officer – we reviewed the process with the demolitions along with the county – went over a few items to make sure we are running efficiently – we changed a few letters – I have the first set that the city will be taking on for demolition in the future – I worked with the City Administrator on the bid spec for the annex building – working on the EQ tank – there is one issue with a sliver of property that is owned by the city but we have no deed.

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

Gerald Saksun – garbage fee February $120,970 – year-to-date $295,100 – 2023 budget $325,587 – garbage fee delinquent $13,982.86 – year-to-date $21,187.24 – 2023 budget $80,780 – amount collected by Portnoff – included in total above – February $5,092.86 – year-to-date $5,092.86 – penalty and interest Portnoff

February $222.49 – year-to-date $222.49 – 2023 budget $2,145 – garbage collected for next year 2024 February $200 – year-to-date $545 – 2023 budget $1,385 – total garbage February $140,468.21 – year-to-date $322,147.59 – 2023 budget $409,897 – City real estate taxes February $0 – year-to-date $0 – 2023 budget $1,400,947.79 general - $380,191.09 debt service - $40,677.22 library - $191,907.90 parks – total $2,013,724 – delinquent city taxes prior year collected by city $8,673.30 – year-to-date $8,673.30 – 2023 budget $5,503 – city taxes collect by Westmoreland county 2023 budget $167,423 – year-to-date taxes $8,673.30 – city real estate distribution as of February 28, 2023 $6,034.02 general fund - $1,637.52 debt service - $175.20 library - $826.56 parks – total $8,673.30 – real estate transfer tax February $9,605.98 – year-to-date $15,087.77 – 2023 budget $89,333 – earned income tax February $62,090.82 – year-to-date $79,770.58 – 2023 budget $513,898 – mercantile tax February $99.06 – year-to-date $99.06 – 2023 budget $22,579 – local service tax February $13,326.11 – year-to-date $15,667.66 – 2023 budget $53,357 – tax certifications February $2,150 – year-to-date $2,920 – 2023 budget $21,940 – municipal lien letters February $1,575 – year-to-date $2,100 – 2023 budget $14,775 – line usage account – unsewered payment February $324 – year-to-date $324 – line usage fee current $68,198.43 – year-to-date $156,876.68 – total $157,200.68 – motion to accept report by John Nestor – seconded by Lois Thomas – vote 5 - 0

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

Will read for next meeting.

10. **NEW BUSINESS**

Mayor Ron Mozer, Director of Public Affairs

Mayor Mozer welcomes Tom Hardy, Managing Partner of Palo Alto Partners to provide an update and report on Blight Removal and Blight Remediation efforts in the City of Monessen.
Introduced by Ron Mozer -

a. Motion to exonerate all City taxes at 544 Donner Avenue in the City of Monessen and move forward with a further exoneration of School District taxes of the City of Monessen and also County of Westmoreland taxes owed on the property at the upcoming City of Monessen Tax Exoneration Board Meeting.
Motion by Lois Thomas – seconded by John Nestor – vote 5 – 0

b. Motion to pay Court Reporting bills for the Monessen Zoning Hearing Board for Deborah J. DiGioia, Freelance Court Reporter in the amount of $375.00. The bills are attached as Exhibit "1" to this agenda. Motion by Lois Thomas – seconded by John Nestor – vote 5 – 0

c. A motion to increase of the number of Youth Representatives on the Youth and Young Citizens Board from the current two members to four youth members. Motion by Lois Thomas – seconded by John Nestor – vote 5 – 0

d. Motion to approve Payment Request No. 14, Sewer Rehabilitation Project Phase 4, (MON-2021-02) in the amount of $103, 349.78, which includes Payment No. 6 for Reynold's Brothers, Inc. in the amount of $81, 105.18, and an invoice for WEC Consulting Engineers, Invoice #2023-22 (Construction LS Estimate#10 for PennVest in the amount of $22, 244.60. Motion by Lois Thomas – seconded by John Nestor – vote 5 – 0

e. Motion to pay McGrath McCall PC for services rendered on the processing and approval of the Tax Anticipation Note for the

City of Monessen for Budget Year 2023. The legal services for the project were billed at a rate off $1,950.00 and the costs advanced for the UCC-1 financing Statement Fee and UCC Financing statement search were $184.00 for a total of $2,134.00. Motion by Lois Thomas – seconded by John Nestor – vote 5 – 0

f. Motion requested by Chief Yuhasz to reserve the top half of the City Park, including the Ballfield on June 10th, 2023, for a Police and City Employees and Local Government Officials picnic sponsored by the Chief. He would welcome the input and cooperation of all of the City of Monessen employees to assist in the development of activities for the day for fun and enjoyment of all involved. Motion by Lois Thomas – seconded by John Nestor – vote 5 – 0

g. Mayor's Status Report for the weeks of February 24th to March 9th, 2023. Ron Mozer – meeting concerning meeting with consulting – other thing – city council meeting is about making law – comments at the beginning is about making the laws – at the end – something for the future meetings for the laws – Charleroi – have to sign up before you make comments – public comments be clear concise and to the point

Councilman Anthony Orzechowski, Director of Accounts and Finance

a. Motion to pay the following invoices from the General Fund in the amount of $25,414.46. All invoices are attached to this Agenda as Attachment "A". Motion by Anthony Orzechowski – seconded by John Nestor – vot 5 - 0

b. Motion to pay the following invoices from the Recreational Account in the amount of $561.28. 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 $1,326.27. 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 Liquid Fuels Fund in the amount of $2,312.42. 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 $300.00. All invoices are attached to this Agenda as "Attachment "E". Motion by Anthony Orzechowski – seconded by John Nestor – vote 5 - 0

f. Motion to approve the transfer of $65,529.48 from the General Fund to the Payroll Account to cover the payroll expenses. Motion by Anthony Orzechowski – seconded by John Nestor – vote 5 – 0

account balances – recreation $2,017.13 – park $6,344.18 – liquid fuels $3,163.57 – healthcare $2,409.09 – grant $102,154.87 – payroll $13,972.60 – American rescue $271,742.18 – debt service $544,357.03 – fire escrow $49,464.14 – grant $102,454.87 – line usage $626,582.19 – refuse $384,681.53 – general $298,677.59 – general at community bank $23,271.03

Councilman Lois Thomas Director of Streets and Public Improvements Lois Thomas - Defer report to next meeting

Streets and Public Improvement Report for month ending February 28th, 2023.

Councilman John Nestor, Director of Public Safety – John Nestor – Defer report to next meeting

Police and Public Safety Report for month ending February 28th, 2023.

Councilman Donald S. Gregor, Director of Parks, and Public Property – Donald Gregor – Defer report to next meeting

Parks and Public Property Report for the month ending February 28th, 2023.

Continuing discussion by Councilman Gregor on the Batting Cages at Shawnee Park, the Tennis Courts at City Park, and the Alarm system at the Police Station and Monessen Number One Fire facility. Donald Gregor – how much are we looking to spend on a batting cage – put up and takedown - permanent (Ron Mozer – check with the people using it) (Donald Gregor – I will set up a meeting to see what they are actually looking for – wide range for pricing – tennis courts - $50,000 to get court level and playable (Mike Korposh – look into what we would actually like – look for funding – what are we looking to do – programs) (Anthony Orzechowski - $30,000 out of ARP fund) Donald Gregor – get two pickle courts on one courts – fence can be repaired – it can be re-stretched – looking to get some help with that – will need French drain away from the area – rose up about 2 foot above – swell on one side – water needs to be drained – swamp - police stations and fire alarms to ring (Mike Korposh – police and fire need to get

together – get on same page – vendors will attend) I will check with contractors

11. OPEN FLOOR FOR PUBLIC COMMENT ON ANY ITEM.

Pino Cianflone – Monessen and ambulance service and police – what is the relationship (Ron Mozer – we authorize 911 to dispatch an ambulance when needed) can we help them in some way financially to the ambulance service – they are doing better – workforce goes where the money is – it is a business – hires people – puts them on payroll and pay taxes – last 10 months I heard about the ambulance twice – what is the problem with you guys working closely with them (Ron Mozer – can I now answer your question – first we have worked with the board of directors – they are doing well – still have issues – they have never asked for funding – they send letters to you so you can subscribe to them – West Newton and Rostraver will charge us $6 up to $10 per person – it would have to come out of our budget – we have talked with council – Monessen has the right to ask for money – they have not asked for any money from us – they want you to subscribe to their services – it provides revenue to them – EMS has the same requirements as a nurse – tough to get people to work – they choose to go with subscriptions – we are fully behind them) send them a check (Ron Mozer – it is not in the budget at this time) they go where the money is – go to the board – go directly to the chief – talk with them – you guys are not supporting them – go talk with them (Ron Mozer – we have been down there) Monessen school district needs to use Monessen EMS not Rostraver – don't go to board but to the chief (Ron Mozer – we have gone to both) (John Nestor - met with EMS chief and Hepple – met twice – 2 ½ months ago)

12. ADJOURNMENT Motion to adjourn by Donald Gregor at 7:45pm – seconded by John Nestor – vote 5 - 0