COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

CITY OF MONESSEN

CITY OF MONESSEN COUNCIL CHAMBERS

APRIL 13, 2023

6:30PM

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

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

2. OPENING PRAYER OFFERED BY COUNCILPERSON LOIS THOMAS, CITY OF MONESSEN. Opening pray by Lois Thomas

3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE. Pledge lead by Ron Mozer

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS SESSION OF MARCH 23rd, 2023. Motion to approve previous session minutes by John Nestor – seconded by Donald Gregor – vote 5 – 0

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

Ernie Telegraphis – the proclamation for Bishop Bass – what is the intention (Ron Mozer – he was promoted from Pastor to Bishop – separate of church and state (Ron Mozer – we start every meeting with a prayer) City Council – safety – big group of 40 kids (Ron Mozer – this portion is for agenda items only – does this have to do with the agenda) tax portion spent on public safety – (Ron Mozer – a large portion – there is a report that give that information in detail – I would suggest you pick on up)

Pino Cianflone – minutes are incorrect – no where are the tapes part of the minutes – written minutes are not legally bound – that needs to be corrected – you must read and remember what you said

6. CORRESPONDENCE

OLD BUSINESS N/A

7. **REPORT OF THE SOLICITOR OF THE CITY OF MONESSEN.** Joseph Dalfonso – May and I met with the Mon Valley Sewage Authority on final property issue on the EQT tank – they will complete the required forms – request approval for 557 Donner Avenue to be out to bid – worked the Mike – Phase 3 sewage project is out for bid – worked with Code Officer Marvin on 3 applications for the Zone and Planning Committee – continue to work on Demo's

8. **REPORT OF THE CITY TREASURER OF THE CITY OF MONESSEN.** City treasure is late – we will get back to this – gave report by Anthony Orzechowski gave his reports – March 2023 – garbage fee March $25,820 – year-to-date 4320,920 – 2023 budget $325,587 = garbage delinquent March $8,042 – year-to-date $29,229.24 – 2023 budget $80,780 – amount collect by Portnoff March $5,092.86 – year-to-date $7,124.86 included in the total above – penalty and interest Portnoff March $1,941.16 – year-to-date $2,163.65 – 2023 budget $2,145 – garbage collect for next year 2024 march $210 – year-to-date $755 – 2023 budget $1,385 – total garbage March $41,106.02 – year-to-date $360,192.75 – 2023 budget $409,897 – city real estate current $336,915.05 – year-to-date $336,915.05 – 2023 budget $1,400,947.79 general fund - $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 year-to-date $8673.30 – 2023 budget $5,503 – collected by Westmoreland County year-to-date $64,607.39 – 2023 budget $167,423 – total

year-to-date taxes $410,195.74 – city real estate tax distribution as of march 31, 2023 $140,340.29 general fund - $65,223.87 debt service - $32,2711.49 parks - $7,629.76 library – real estate transfer tax March $5,307.10 – year-to-date $20,394.87 – 2023 budget $89,333 – earned income tax March $99,429.39 – year-to-date $179,199.97 – 2023 budget $513,898 – mercantile tax March 794.74 – year-to-date $893.80 – 2023 budget $22,579 – local services tax March $3,335.42 – year-to-date $19,003.08 – 2023 budget $533,357 – tax certifications March $3,340 – year-to-date $6,260 – 2023 budget $21,940 – municipal lien letters March $2,775 – year-to-date $4,875 – 2023 budget $14,775 – line usage account unsewered payments March $9,147 – year-to-date $9,271 – line usage fee March $69,650.92 – year-to-date $226,527.60 – total $235,998.60 – motion to accept treasurer's report by John Nestor – seconded by Lois Thomas – vote 5 – 0 (Lois Thomas – when do we get the most money in) (Gerald – by the end of April is the deadline)

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

Controller is sick and not here – report will be given at next meeting

10. NEW BUSINESS

Mayor Ron Mozer, Director of Public Affairs

Proclamation by Mayor Mozer Commemorating the Celebration and Episcopal Elevation honoring Bishop William C. Bass, Sr. on behalf of the Council and all citizens of the City of Monessen.

Read by Ron Mozer – Whereas, Bishop Bass was consecrated by Bishop James Foster, Bishop J Drew Sheard, Presiding Bishop of the Church of God in Christ the General Board and the General Assembly and; Whereas, Bishop Bass is exceptionally passionate and understanding for all that come into his presence and; Whereas, Bishop Bass cam about his passion for the Lord

following in the footsteps of his well respected father who took the time to raise a great family and; Whereas, Bishop Bass continues to administer comfort to other and transforms their life while maintaining a very busy schedule and; Whereas, Bishop Bass shares in the love of our Lord for the city in which he lives and; Whereas, Bishop Bass brought a food bank to support families in need and; Now therefore, I, do declare April 15th 2023 a celebratory day of Bishop Bass with this proclamation and a day of worship. In witness whereof, I do hereby set my hand and cause the seal of my office to be affixed, this 15th day of April in the year of 2023. Ron Mozer; Mayor, City of Monessen

a. Mayor Mozer's Update of Issues for the weeks of March 23rd, 2023, to April 13th, 2023.

b. Discussion of the Housing and Urban Development's Distressed Communities Technical Assistance Program and the recent activities of their LISC, Local Communities Support Corporation and PFM Financial Services in these areas. Ron Mozer – this assistance is provided by HUD – provided us with a preliminary assessment – she will be here at the next meeting – read the report – the city is shrinking 1 ½% for the past 15 to 20 years – our population is getting older – young people are not staying in the town – we have one of the lower unemployment rates of 6.2% - budget – how the city runs – where we get our money, revenue – declining population – getting older – doe does city revenue decline – cost are going up – labor – inflation – the is a crossover point of no return – we need to bring the city back to life – PFM helps with financial assessment – LISC gives technical assistance for redevelopment – read the report and have question for her when she is here

ii. Discussion of ongoing Demolition activities in the City of Monessen relative to ARP, CDBG and CFA funding efforts. Ron Mozer – a lot of demo going on in the city – ARP – county money $10.4 million through the county – some being spent here in Monessen – CDBG – areas where we can not get the county to demo – CFA – they took care of 500 Donner Avenue and 540 Donner Avenue – other took care of Old Mon Valley Independent building – there are different ways we are paying for all these demos – we are working with over 20 properties and 300 more to go with ARP – we now have 26 more scheduled for July – we have to get permission – we can not just tear them down – the code officer and the solicitor have been working together – they do a title search – notify lean holders – if nothing happens then we can demo the property – we are doing about 10 properties per week – it takes about 90 days to get through this process – we have 4 homes schedule to be torn down with CDBG money – we learned that CFA does not over soft costs (engineer cost) they will only pay up to 10% - 500 Donner cost were much higher due to high challenges – we are working with Kim Ward – she is giving us State ARP money to help cover those costs

iii. Allocation of CDBG funds within the City, and why they are vital to the success of the City. Ron Mozer – in September we have a CDBG meeting open to the public – we advertise the meeting in the newspaper – not many people showed up – Delmar Hepple was here and asked for radios for the fire department – we put that in the budget – we held a second meeting – it was advertised – not one showed up – the council voted on the budget for the money and we approved a resolution for spending the money – we can change this but it we will not have access to the money for another 8 months – I am asking that

you come forth and let us know how to spend the money – I hope we have so many ideas, the council will have to vote on which one – come to the meeting with your ideas - $50,000 for radios – bought a few with ARP money – will be back next years – they will need more – we have to make this a public thing – we advertise

iv. Discussion of Patch Management and the ideas and discussions to possibly move forward with this road maintenance technology. Ron Mozer – guy here last time – patch holes on 70 – it has held up to several years – we can not use CDBG money, only new roads – maybe use ARP money to fix road – be here on Tuesday – we will take him around to see the bad roads – concrete, pavement, brick road – come in and convince us that he can fix these roads – come in and show us by examples – do a few and let us check it out – we will look at that but be cautious

v. Discussion of the implementation of the Phase 3 Sewage project in the City of Monessen. Ron Mozer – we are in the process for Phase 3 – bids are going out – Phase 3 is connecting all the lines in the neighborhoods – this is what the $27 is going towards – Phase 4 is the main pipes

PNG has torn up Schoonmaker and Donner – what to expect – these are not city road, they are Penn Dot roads – they are going to mill one lane and repave the one lane – not much we can do about it – thye will not pave from curb to curb (John Nestor – 4th Street was not properly sealed – we can keep on them to make sure they make all the necessary repairs – Marvin will have to keep after them)

(Lois Thomas – what are they going to do with the Mon Valley Independent building) (Ron Mozer – they must come back and

patch the side of the church – that material is on back order – they will not fix the hole in the ground and reseed)

(Lois Thomas – patch group – do they have before and after pictures) (Ron Mozer – they have video on YouTube – on interstate 70 at Arnold exit – big truck – it has held up – he must convince us that he is going to do a good job.)

c. Motion to approve the Advertisement and Request for Sealed Quotes and accompanying Proposals for the City of Monessen for Fire Station Portable Radios for the Monessen Volunteer Firefighters. The Request for Proposal and Advertisement is included within the meeting packets as Exhibit "1". Motion by Lois Thomas – seconded by John Nestor – (Donald Gregor – specifications from municipal chief) (Ron Mozer – yes) vote 5 - 0

d. Motion to approve Sub-Division plan to separate two Single Family Residential Dwellings in the name of Sharon Konwinski with properties located at 419 Oneida Street and 7 Dakota Alley in the City of Monessen. Motion by Lois Thomas – seconded by John Nestor (Donald Gregor – what is this about) (Ron Mozer – make two different properties) vote 5 - 0

e. Motion to approve Sub-Division plan to separate properties in the Kelly and McHugh plan, Lot #134 in the Ester E. Johnson Plan of Lots #4 P.B.V.7 p.241 situate in the City of Monessen. Motion by Lois Thomas – seconded by John Nestor (Ron Mozer – does not have a proper id at this time) vote 5 - 0

f. Motion to approve Sub-Division plan to combine properties in the Smith Novotine plan, to be combined with Parcel 20-01-05-0-002 to form a single 3.13 acre lot located in the City of

Monessen. Motion by Lois Thomas – seconded by John Nestor (Ron Mozer – Abby Woods Plan) vote 5 – 0

g. Motion to approve the Request for Sealed Bids and Advertisements for the Sale of the property located at 557 Donner Avenue, Monessen, Pennsylvania, 15062, and for the approval of the appropriate advertising procedures to effectuate this transaction. The Request for Sealed Bids, and Advertising Request is included within the meeting packets as Exhibit "2". Motion by Lois Thomas – seconded by John Nestor – vote 5 - 0

h. Motion to pay the invoice for professional services of A&J On-Lot Services as Sewer Enforcement Officers for the City of Monessen, in the amount of $635.00. This invoice and related items are attached to the meeting agenda materials as "Exhibit 3". Motion by Lois Thomas – seconded by John Nestor – vote 5 - 0

i. Motion to pay the Fire Escrow Insurance balance for Joseph Perry relative to Claim No. 38-41VO-19W, in the amount of $29,108.56. This is the total escrow payment of $29,263.56 less the final inspection fee to K-2 Engineering, Inc. in the amount of

$155.00. This invoice and related items are attached to the meeting agenda materials as "Exhibit 4". Motion by Lois Thomas – seconded by John Nestor – vote 5 - 0

j. Motion to authorize Urban Designs to begin the process required to combine the 2021 CDBG allocation for the 10th Street Repaving project, with the 2022 CDBG allocation for the 3rd Street Paving project. Motion by Lois Thomas – seconded by John Nestor – (Lois Thomas – pending what we can do) (Ron Mozer – this will combine to be able to do it) vote 5 – 0

k. Motion to approve the updated Body Cam Policy for the City of Monessen Police Department, which upon approval of Council will be submitted to the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency for review. The updated document is attached to this Agenda as "Exhibit "5". 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 $39,300.95. 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 $1,029.09. 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 $888.74. 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 account in the amount of $34,106.97. 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 $59,901.00. All invoices are attached to this Agenda as "Attachment "E". Motion by Anthony Orzechowski – seconded by John Nestor – vote 5 - 0

f. Motion to pay the following Liquid Fuel invoices from the General Fund account in the amount of $22,776.40 These invoice payments will be refunded from the Liquid Fuels account to the General Fund account when funds become available. All invoices are attached to this Agenda as "Attachment "F". Motion by Anthony Orzechowski – seconded by John Nestor – vote 5 - 0

g. Motion to approve the transfer of $77,315.33 from the General Fund to the Payroll Account to cover the payroll expenses. Motion by Anthony Orzechowski – seconded by John Nestor – vote 5 - 0

h. Motion to approve a transfer from the General Account to the Healthcare account in the amount of $3,000.00. Motion by Anthony Orzechowski – seconded by John Nestor – vote 5 – 0

Account balances – American Rescue $272,566.66 – debt service $649,102.91 – fire escrow $49,610.00 – refuse $369,909.43 – grant $42,305.64 – general at community bank $19,702.03 – healthcare $4,909.31 – park $37,542.42 – payroll $6,226.56 – recreation $1,927.91 – line usage $609,896.05 – liquid fuels $3,179.54 – general $295,200.05

Councilman Lois Thomas Director of Streets and Public Improvements

Streets and Public Improvement Report for month ending March 31st, 2023. Lois Thomas – defer report t next meeting – spring community cleanout 22nd on Saturday – meet at 9th street park – Salvation Army will provide food for the cleanup workers again

Special Commendation Note to the Fire Companies of the City of Monessen from Monessen resident, John Silvers. Read by Lois Thomas – thank you firemen for all your help

Councilman John Nestor, Director of Public Safety

Police and Public Safety Report for month ending March 31st, 2023. John Nestor – defer my report to next council meeting

Working with code enforcement officer and city administrator on some issues

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

Parks and Public Property Report for the month ending March 31st, 2023. Donald Gregor - defer to next council meeting

Rodents are coming into Hilltop Fire Station through threshold – is someone coming out to give estimate to make repair

11. OPEN FLOOR FOR PUBLIC COMMENT ON ANY ITEM.

Ernie Telegraphis – reflect – concepts – we pay taxes to the city – they pay for sanitation, streets, water, garbage and public safety (police, firemen and ambulance) – fire department outshines the others –how much on public safety (Ron Mozer – 24% on public safety – 23% on retire police officer for a total of 47%) – Easter Sunday there were 40 kids together – police was attacked – they place $50,00 bond on one person – get the ring leader - our local

road – how much property taxes do we spend on our local roads (Ron Mozer - $0 – we have other obligations – parks, debt service – that is one of the problems) save the money you are spending on tearing down building (Ron Mozer – we spent $0 on demo) (Donald Gregor – Ernie what is you plan) you get a commission to market the city (Ron Mozer – go out and do it) we don't have a chamber of commerce (Donald Gregor - do out and start one) they won't listen to me – I am not back by the city council – you just dela with these groups and all they want is a cut – what is going on with the ambulance services (Ron Mozer – we are running statistics – they are doing a good job) are they solvent (Donald Gregor – go ask them – they are non-profit – you can ask them) I will ask them and bring the information back to the next meeting – we need to focus on prosperity (Ron Mozer – we are trying – guy out taking pictures at 500 Donner – I asked him what he was doing – he works for Sheetz – looking at the area – there is only so much we can do – police the area – clean up – make great parks) the dollar value is going down – we need to bring up the economy

Pina Cianflone – parking garage (Lois Thomas – still working on that – been busy on other items) POW flap Muriel (Lois Thomas – part of the new one – getting work up now) about this church – this Nehemiah group you meet at your church coffee shop – you drum up business for your church – I go to my church – that does nothing for my church – you talk about Sheetz – where do you have 7 acres – they don't put up anything without 7 acres (Ron Mozer – I don't have an answer) garbage authority – there is missing one person (Ron Mozer – we have advertised) you just put people where you want them – the authority takes care of the contract – you guys raise the garbage rate (Ron Mozer – we raise

the rate once to cover the cost of the garbage contract) stop sign on 5th street – when are we going to meet with PennDot – this year or not (Ron Mozer – we already met with them – they did not mandate any changes) where do we fall in this discussion about the roads – maybe they bought you a dinner – what do you think about a 90 day warranty (Ron Mozer – I will check with the engineers to see what the warranty on a new road is) you're an engineer – is that a good warranty – 90 days (Ron Mozer – I don't Know) you should know, you can't be that stupid – on the website – there was nothing there to follow – it was all on the east part of the state (Donald Gregor - Did you contact the city mayor? Last year they had 1 truck and this year they are using 2 trucks. Call the mayor of that city) it ain't going to be any cheaper – you did not tell us the number - they may take you to dinner – this is a big cost – how much will they cost (Ron Mozer – we ask him what $175,00 would get us – he said that will give us 175 tons of repairs) (Anthony Orzechowski – keep this in perspective – the task like any town to fix the potholes and the road – cost valve – went to our engineer and the cost estimate for once they finish the sewer project – completely doing the whole road curb to curb $115 million) get a real company and get a cost – go right to the company who does the job (Donald Gregor – how much to do it right) go get a price – 43 to 47 miles of road in the city – (Anthony Orzechowski - we can't do all the road – we want to get the biggest bang for their buck) go get a cost per mile (Anthony Orzechowski – that price changes 3 times per year) (Lois Thomas – we don't have enough to do everything – we are trying to get the worst and the most done – benefit the people)

Ed Lafever – budget for the year – does the city offer a quarterly report (Ron Mozer – every meeting we give you the balance of the

accounts and what invoices we pay) I want to see a quarterly report (Anthony Orzechowski – we do it twice a month) I can't add all that up – why is it so unusual so ask for a quarterly report (Ron Mozer – DCTA is looking to help us with reports – challenge them with the information next meeting) I want to see when the money comes in and when the money goes out

Linda Lacy – CDBG meeting – the problem is the time of the day you are scheduling the meeting – more people would come around 6pm (Ron Mozer – the meeting was at 5:30pm – it was advertised) was it just a small ad and no one saw it (Ron Mozer – it was also on our website) you allocated money for 10th street – you want to move the money over to 3rd street (Ron Mozer – we have been fixing road all along) people need to come – where does the Berkheimer money go (Ron Mozer – into the general account) why can't we use that money to pave roads (Ron Mozer – there is not enough money – we use if for whatever we need it for) can't you let it accumulate (Anthony Orzechowski – refuse bill went into the general fund and was used for whatever it was needed for – code, payroll, whatever – I made a big deal to get a refuse account to pay garbage only – year-to-date budget $409,897 - $362,000 in refuse right now -try to allocate where it should go – does not always work) (Donald Gregor – we still may have to use it in the general account) we have been getting CDBG for a long time – it is never allocated to the right places – Mr. Haglund said long ago it was for low income areas (Ron Mozer – low income is all of Monessen now) don't sugar coat it – our side of town looks the worst

12. ADJOURNMENT - Motion to adjourn meeting by John Nestor at 7:58 pm – seconded by Donald Gregor – vote 5 - 0