COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

CITY OF MONESSEN

CITY OF MONESSEN COUNCIL CHAMBERS

SEPTEMBER 8, 2022

6:30PM

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

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

2. OPENING PRAYER OFFERED BY REVEREND ROBERT HOLMES OF CHRISTIAN LIFE MINISTRIES OF MONESSEN, PENNSYLVANIA. Reverend Holmes not present – Lois Thomas leads the prayer.

3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE. Lead by Ron Mozer.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS SESSION, AUGUST 25, 2022. Review minutes from last meeting – John Nestor approved minutes – Lois Thomas second – 5 to 1 vote

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

The Mayor will offer comments on the developing Policies and potential Official Resolution of the City of Monessen relative to the proper decorum, language, and proper etiquette required of speakers within the Comment Periods on Agenda Items, and the Open Comment Period offered to Citizens on any matter at the conclusion of the meeting session. Ernie Telegraphis questions about invoices. 8th street you are now talking more money, how to pay this, did it go out for bid, need to save money (Mayor Ron Mozer

– it is going to cost more than we expected – not gone out for bid yet – money is out of line usage account not general account) Mornack $80,000 I thought it was $5,000 (Ron Mozer – that is a different repair – CDBG – already been approved – went out for bid – just to award them the job) $13,000 for truck – for new truck (Ron Mozer – to repair our large truck) $127,000 invoice for general fund – what does that entail (Anthony Orzechowski – in the packet – online – on face book) concern about making ends meet (Ron Mozer – tight at the end of the year – November on will be an issue – can get TAN not, DCED help, grants, etc.) Did we hire someone for bookkeeping (Ron Mozer – working on it right now) Settle union contract, by end of year (Ron Mozer – not settled yet – sure hope by the end of the year) Peno said he is not going away, not threating, apologize to women and men if he offended them but Ron Mozer is still a liar and has done nothing for Monessen, again not going away (Ron Mozer – agenda items only – anyone else have anything on agenda items.

6. CORRESPONDENCE Ron Mozer – any correspondences

OLD BUSINESS N/A

7. **REPORT OF THE SOLICITOR OF THE CITY OF MONESSEN** Joseph Dalfonso – city is required to get 9 easements for the USDA project on Albert Drive, Knox and 10th Street – letters have gone out for residence signatures – applicate for tax forgiveness has been completed – the committee is on the agenda latter – the joint committee will have an initial meeting to go over the application and see if any changes have to be made

8. **REPORT OF THE CITY TREASURER** - Gerald Saksun – Garbage fee revenues Current – August $2,810 – year to date $321,346.51

budget $370,000 – delinquent – August $1,348.72 – year to date $72,108.51 – budget $120,000 – Portnoff – August $11,323.91 year to date $21,274.77 – interest and penalties $1,195.36 - housing authority year to date $15,258.75 – budget $0 – 2023 garbage – August $365 – year to date $1,185 – budget $147,834 – city real estate taxes – current – August $17,660.55 – year to date $1,976,274.82 – budget $1,452,449 general $394,229 debt service - $199,052 parks $42,135 library – total budget $2,087,865 – delinquent taxes – by city year to date $5,502.96 – budget $9,000 – by Portnoff - $0 – by Westmoreland year to date $117,227.56 – budget $210,000 – total year to date collected $2,099,005.34 – City real estate distribution as of May 31, 2022 - $1,311,975.76 general fund - $356,101.47 debt service - $179,800.61 parks - $38,059.98 library for a total of $1,885,937.82 – real estate transfer tax – August $10,006.95 – year to date $74,212.80 – budget $70,000 – earned income tax – August $69,521.83 – year to date $420,809.12 - budget $600,000 – mercantile tax – August $2,770.59 – year to date $19,073.69 – budget $29,000 – local services tax – August $16,590.99 – year to date $50,705.95 – budget $75,000 – tax certifications - August $800 – year to date $17,630 – budget $23,000 – municipal lien letters – August $750 – year to date $11,475 – budget $16,000 – line usage account – unsewered payments year to date $12,780 – line usage fee – August $64,098.71 – year to date $552,122.72 – total $564,902.72 – Ron Mozer questioned County Housing money - roll Donald Gregor present – John Nestor present – Anthony Orzechowski present – Lois Thomas present – Ron Mozer present -

9. **REPORT OF THE CITY CONTROLLER** – controller not present

10. **NEW BUSINESS**

A Presentation will be made by Anthony Vitale of WEC Engineers, Inc. on all Engineering, Blight Removal, Sewer and Water Issues, Mihalich Park issues, and any additional matters currently encountered by the City of Monessen and the Office of the City Engineer. – Tony Vitale – Phase 3 send paperwork for review and approval to USDA for plans and permits – should be able to advertise in the fall and award the job in January – total 20 million dollar job –

Phase 4 – Penn Vest – cross Moffiet to Highland Manor to Parente – grouting manholes not – cross 906 in two weeks –

Back to Phase 3 – 9th Street from October thru the end of the year – dig holes during the day and place plates for evenings – notidy EMS, fire department, police, and buses –

8th Street – original contractor was to insert 15" pipe into 18" pipe – still floods – biggest concern is steps being connected to wall – manhole at 6th Street is 5' deep with storm drains – would have to put in a full trench – other option to move steps, telephone pole, set new manhole – highway occupancy permit – dangerous project – chain excavator off hill (Ron Mozer – estimated and approved $137,000 at last meeting – looks like it will be another $20,000 but we will vote on that next meeting – comes out of line usage – talked with Todd Collie – can authorize up to $5,000 for emergencies – update on timing with USDA – still looking into – do we wait and allow debris from overflow to go all over the road until it is approved or do we fix out of line usage money and make the problem go away – we can fix the hot spots first) – project will not be approximately $157,000 (comments from audience – problem with Marion and Arlington – will this be fixed) – (Tony Vitale –

not part of this phase – bad shape since 2007 – Leeds, Montraver, behind Joseph's Nursery – the project is repairing everything that bring the sewage down – not working on the line that go across) - (comment from audience – Cemetery Road – will it be blacktopped) (Tony Vitale – not part of this project)

Ron Mozer on Mihalich Park – boat launch problems – conducted an investigation – 7 barges stacked on each other – water is rusting the barges – major faults – showed pictures of the barges filled with sediment now – someone could walk on barges – major holes – they will eventually fail – not sure when – recommendations for now installed 4' fence with no trespassing signs – can't get to benches up river – weld pipes on barges to cover holes – in contact with Coast Guard and Army Corp of Engineering – not heard anything back yet –

Ron Mozer on county money – Westmoreland County has 540 blighted properties – 284 are in Monessen – start with 5th Street hotel – September 21st goes out for bid – 174 blighted properties are in the lower corridor by downtown – 20 are owned by city or redevelopment authority – remaining are owned by residents – county will conduct title searches – out solicitor will send out letters to the owners and go through the process to clear the properties – the county must obligate these fund by 2028 – we want Monessen to be first in line

Ron Mozer latest issue was on 6th Street – old newspaper building – owned by Guy Simpson – he has agreed to demolish building and rebuild – we will make sure he goes through with his plans

Ron Mozer – many concrete roads in city – they are eroding under – void under the concrete my only have rebar holding them to the curbs – remedy to cut holes in concrete and fill with concrete – make sure no lines are in void so if they need replaced in the future, they can be – want to do this right – afraid kids will fall in holes and get hurt – where

did all this debris under the roads go – did it get swept away into the storm drains – where is it – where did it go

Donald Gregor ask Tony Vitale on the boat launch – estimate to rebuild – Tony had no idea – estimate to remove – (Tony Vitale $250,000 – dig trench for machine to sit on, blow torch, tear apart barges - should wait until we hear from Coast Guard and Army Corp of Engineering) was originally built in 1950 as a loading dock for a trucking company to unload and load his trucks – extremely expensive not matter what we do – (John Nestor – can we remove benches) I was down there – the benches are leaning now - if we remove benches they may give way while we are removing them – (Ron Mozer – it is our property – barges are in Rostraver – whole park is in Rostraver - the property line goes through the existing pavilion – lets wait on the Coast Guard and Army Corp of Engineers) are we going to replace the 4' plastic fence with a better quality 6' fence – I can see where someone is going over the fence now

Mayor Ron Mozer, Director of Public Affairs – Ron Mozer – can someone read they motions -

a. Motion to provide a Notice to Proceed to Mornack Excavation Services, for completion of the completion of the 2022CDBG 9th Street Park Improvement Project, (MON)-2022-06 in the amount of $80,496.50. – Motion by Lois Thomas – second by John Nestor – vote 5 – 0

b. Motion to approve a Resolution of the City Council of the City of Monessen, No. 10 of 2022 to authorize the submission of an application to the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development for funding through the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) as authorized under the Housing and Community Development Act [42 USC 5301 and 24

CFR Part 570] and further certifying compliance with the requirements of the program. – Motion by Lois Thomas – second by John Nestor – vote 5 – 0

c. Motion to approve payment to El Grande Industries for work completed on the 2022 CDBG Roadway Rehabilitation Project-Phase 1 (MON-2022-02) (McKee Avenue and Fourth Street) as recommended by W.E.C. Inc, Consulting Engineers in the amount of $128, 160.00. Motion by Lois Thomas – second by John Nestor – vote 5 – 0

d. Motion to approve a Handicapped Parking Space for Christopher M. Palmer at 29 Washington Drive, Monessen, PA 15062. Motion by Lois Thomas – second by John Nestor – vote 5 – 0

e. Motion to approve payment to Hill International, Inc. for payment for repair and inspection of International Truck 6 in the total amount of $13, 485.71. The down payment of $6, 742.85 will be due upon approval this evening to order parts and initiate repairs, and the remaining balance will be paid upon satisfactory completion of the repair and inspection process in the amount of $6, 742.85. Motion to table by Ro Mozer – second by John Nestor – vote 5 – 0

f. Motion to approve the celebration of Halloween and Trick or Treat activities in the City of Monessen from 6 to 8 pm on Saturday October 29th. Motion by Lois Thomas – second by John Nestor – Donald Gregor feels this is too late and too dark – unsafe for the kids – Ron Mozer thinks a person should be in charge of every holiday and everything goes through them – like Lisa Lyons of His Place has Christmas and already has everything together for

that – other need to take any other holiday – the may has July, I want to continue that – Vote 4 – 1 Gregor opposed

g. Motion to form and appoint 3 members to the Tax Exoneration Board under the terms of the recently enacted Ordinance Number 1260, with 3 persons from the current administration employed by the City of Monessen or elected officials as outlined in the Ordinance. Mayor Ron Mozer for an initial (1) year term to the Board, City Administrator Michael Korposh to an initial term of (2) years to the Board, and Code Officer Marvin Davis to an initial (3) year term to the Board. Motion by Lois Thomas – second by John Nestor – Anthony Orzechowski disagrees, thinks someone from the public should be part of the committee, we don't go to those areas, they live there, I don't think it is right for us to tell other what to do (Ron Mozer – elected or appointed – required by school) still not including public – they may have a stake in it – public need a say (Donald Gregor – why do you think the public needs involved) I don't think we should just tell people what to do without their involvement (Joseph Dalfanso – when this was done previously, no one approached the school, after talking with them we came up with the joint committee – they want to be involved in making the initial decision – they want to make recommendations – want this process to be efficient – code enforcement will inspect these properties before hand and then do periodic checks) (Ron Mozer – tax forgiveness application is attached at the end of your paperwork – very different – many requirements) why can we not appoint position not people – Mike is only an interim city administrator – what if he is no longer here (Joseph Dalfanso – these people are elected or appointed – it they leave, we will appoint a replacement) Vote 5 – 0

h. Motion to adopt a Resolution to amend the City Fee Schedule for a simple Subdivision Fee for 1-3 lots in the amount of $250.00. Motion by Lois Thomas – second by John Nestor – Vote 5 – 0

i. Discussion of issues and potentially dangerous barge conditions at the Herman Mihalich Memorial River Launch and Park, and all safety and precautionary activities which have been taken to date, an update report from our WEC Engineering Structural team, and all plans and activities to address the issues and concerns for the future. Discussed earlier by Ron Mozer

j. Discussion on the recent collapse of structures formerly comprising the Mon Valley Independent offices and building on Sixth Street in the City, and all public safety and precautionary actions taken to date and plans for action for the future. Discussed earlier by Ron Mozer

k. Discussion and update on the status of the Sewage Rehabilitation Projects within the City of Monessen, and detail of future scope of work, in addition to a short term and long-term objectives and timetables for the overall effort. Discussed earlier by Tony Vitale

l. Discussion of recent activities relative to the Refuse Authority contract, and all issues pertaining to garbage collection within the City of Monessen. Ron Mozer – I don't believe the agreement with Belle Vernon and Monessen on the refuse did not represent the city very well – two of the three individuals we talked with them - we would pay the invoices – stuck with the contract – we did not sign because of the authority no the contract – anyone wants to talk about it – the end of the meeting

Councilman Anthony Orzechowski, Director of Accounts and Finance

Anthony Orzechowski – planning on bringing back the Halloween parade – talking with someone right now

a. Motion to pay the following invoices from the General Fund in the amount of $127,129.86. All invoices are attached to this Agenda as Attachment "A". Motion by Anthony Orzechowski – second by John Nestor – vote 5 – 0

b. Motion to pay the following invoices from the Recreational Account in the amount of $111.68 All invoices are attached to this Agenda as Attachment "B." Motion by Anthony Orzechowski – second by John Nestor – vote 5 - 0

c. Motion to pay the following invoices from the Parks Fund in the amount of $2273.46 All invoices are attached to this Agenda as "Attachment C". Motion by Anthony Orzechowski – second by John Nestor – vote 5 – 0

d. Motion to pay the following invoices from the Grant Fund in the amount of $5782.10. All invoices are attached to this Agenda as "Attachment D". Motion by Anthony Orzechowski – second by John Nestor – vote 5 – 0

Account balance – fire escrow $18,410.00 – payroll $6,042.91 – line usage $619,977.71 – healthcare $4,007.72 – American Rescue $39,217.81 – grant fund $53,738.42 – debt service $598,854.37 – parks $79,609.39 – liquid fuels $248.84 – recreation $3,561.55 – general fund $771,354.99

Councilman Lois Thomas Director of Streets and Public Improvements

Streets and Public Improvement Report for month ending August 31st, 2022. Lois Thomas – hold off with report on streets until next meeting – hold off with report on library

Councilman John Nestor, Director of Public Safety

Police and Public Safety Report for month ending August 31st, 2022. John Nestor – hold off with reports on public safety until next meeting

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

Parks and Public Property Report for the month ending August 31st, 2022 Donald Gregor – do not have a report at this time

11. **OPEN FLOOR FOR PUBLIC COMMENT ON ANY ITEM.** Ron Mozer opened floor for public comment – Peno – what did the letter say with went with the Refuse agreement (Ron Mozer – I signed an intergovernmental agreement – 3 years we will participate and they we will evaluate it – we may go on our own – big legal process) (Joseph Dalfanso – we are not going to dissolve it - we may get out and go on our own if we can do better) not being transparent – it took you 8 months (Joseph Dalfanso – there was and issue with the process – contract had no terms – we got it resolved – now we signed) (Don Gregor – there were term on the one we received in December 2021 – I will have to find my copy and show it at the next meeting) (Anthony Orzechowski – nothing was filled in) (Ron Mozer – city has committed to 3 years – we will look over the contract for the future – Peno your three minutes are up) you just listen to the three stooges

Nancy Horvath – 1417 Arlington Avenue – did not take my recycling last time – it is due to pick up tomorrow – it is full

(Donald Gregor – call them and they will pick it up – do you have the number) (Ron Mozer – don't forget holiday – may be a day late) (Mike Korposh – I will call in the morning and take care of it for you – just need your address)

12. ADJOURNMENT 8:04 motion (Donald Gregor – wait I have something bothering me – when Peno came up the chief of police started walked over to him – you told him 3 minutes were up – no one shut you down when you came to the meeting last year) (Ron Mozer – they should have, when you start to repeat over and over the same thing, you get shut down) (Donald Gregor – now that is a dictatorship – you were wrong Ron) (Peno – I was drafter – you threatened me, I took down bigger people than you – you are trash)

Adjourn meeting 8:04 – vote 5 – 0