COUNCIL MEETING AGENDA

CITY OF MONESSEN

CITY OF MONESSEN COUNCIL CHAMBERS

May 25, 2023

6:30PM

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

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

2. OPENING PRAYER OFFERED BY BISHOP WILLIAM C. BASS, OF THE GATE OF HEAVEN CHURCH OF GOD IN CHRIST OF MONESSEN, PENNSYLVANIA. Opening prayer offered by Bishop William C. Bass

3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE. Pledge of allegiance lead by Ron Mozer

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS SESSION OF MAY 11TH, 2023. Motion to approve minutes from previous session by John Nestor – seconded by Anthony Orzechowski – vote 4 – 0

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

Ernie Telegraphis – councilman Tony – we already paid the TAN note – on page 5 letter "k" what is that about (Anthony Orzechowski – that is the Farmer's Loan – Debt Service) do we have more than one insurance policy – I see we are paying for health insurance and then pay EHD for insurance (Ron Mozer – one is health insurance and the other one is liability insurance) can't one company do both so we can save money (Anthony Orzechowski – we are with EHD)

6. CORRESPONDENCE

OLD BUSINESS N/A

7. **REPORT OF THE SOLICITOR OF THE CITY OF MONESSEN.** Joseph Dalfonso – we had a city council demo hearing prior to this meeting – there is a motion on the agenda for those properties – I worked with W.E.C. on finalizing the bids for Phase 3A and 3B – touched base with the sewage authority on the subdivision of the property for the EQ tank on Parente

8. **REPORT OF THE CITY TREASURER OF THE CITY OF MONESSEN.** Gerald Saksun **–** report given at first meeting of the month – not present

9. **REPORT OF THE CITY CONTROLLER OF THE CITY OF MONESSEN.** Rosalie Nicksich – report given at first meeting of the month

10. **NEW BUSINESS**

Mayor Ron Mozer, Director of Public Affairs

Special Presentation and update by Mayor Mozer on the initial test and protype application by Patch Management, Inc. of their product on Nash Street in the City of Monessen as per the approval provided at the May 11th, 2023 meeting of the City of Monessen Council. Patch Management came into town today – I have pictures – hard to see because of the sun – they brought a truck with an arm – when they came to a pothole, they would blow the debris out of the hole – high pressure on this arm – they sprayed an emulsion on the surface – tacking agent – then they added a mixture of stone and emulsion – looked like road tar – topped it off with small pebble rock – when they blow the debris, they raised the arm high to get a wider area cleaned – Nash and 3rd Street Extension is where they started applying the patch – filled in the hole – there was a concrete slab – uneven pavement – they had a roller that another gentleman would run – roll over and pack

down good – 5 minutes you could drive over it – no tar marks – from the bottom of Nash we went up the road to the corner – extremely bad area – huge missing pieces of pavement and cold patch – it did a great job – should we continue we may want the streets crew to spray the weeds before – trim the curb for all the growth – run the street sweeper – actually looks really good – if you get an opportunity – take a look at it – he ran out of material at that point – I will say he attracted attention – neighbors came out – they liked what he was doing

Special Presentation concerning Grand Plaza and some possibilities for keeping it on the tax roll. Ron Mozer – they would like to discuss what their plans are for Grand Plaza – it will require a zoning variance – that has nothing to do with the city council, but they wanted us to know their intentions for the property

Tim Matta – represent Primso LLC – Patsy – he is involved in the redevelopment of Libby's – we are currently working with the Fireman's Association to acquire the building – the building is in need of repairs, roof bad – so is the parking lot – it is currently B2 zoning district – we have filed for the allowance to legally permit this into a climate controlled storage – reliable tax flow – will pay city the back taxes – this is a longer project – start before winter – we just wanted to bring this to your attention – we know how rumors start - it won't hurt traffic or add any additional noise – we believe it will be an economic shot to the city – we are looking forward to working with the city

a. **Mayor Mozer's Update of Issues for the weeks of May 11th, 2023, to May 25th, 2023.** Ron Mozer – approximately 25% of the city's budget goes to fire and police MMO's – both are underfunded – this year we are to pay $422,266 for police and $18,873 for fire – we currently have 21 officers and 2 fireman drawing from these funds – there is $4.9 million in the police

fund and $213,000 in the fireman's fund – the police is funded at 72% and 67% level for the fireman – they do an audit on the system every two years – the last one was done in 2021 – between they used budget numbers – they are doing one now – the number I have given you are based on the 2021 numbers – we will get a more complete answers later in the year

As you recall – we have installed a people counter in the civic center – this is for general information – between April 30th and May 6th we had 32 visitor – May 7th through May 13th 143 visitors - May 14th through May 20th 39 visitors – May 21st through May 24th 37 visitors – I have asked for a report from Julian but I have not received it yet – we receive $200 for rent from the MCDC - $250 from the fitness center – the lady in charge of the child's basketball still owes money – if it is not paid by the end of the week – I will have our solicitor write her a letter

We are part of the WCCAS – zero cost to the city – allows us to control our CDBG money ourselves – we can take advantage of the HOME program – allows you to build homes – anyone can belong, but you must pay 25% of the cost – since we belong to the consortium and they have an abundance of money, we do not have to pay the 25%

Opioid crisis – 110,000 people died last year – they figure without the reversal medication it would have been 500,000 – this means Monessen should have had 2.3 people die last year and we had 5 – there is work to be done to save lives – we were receiving a quarterly report but it was on the entire country not just Monessen

I was in contact with the sewage line contractor – they told me the roads would be repaved in 2 weeks – 2 months later and

they are not paved – the bids have got out for the paving – 9th Street and Delaware – working with the engineers
Monday is Memorial Day – it is time for us to remember those who lost their lives – hope people remember that - nationally at 3 o'clock in the afternoon on Monday – spend just a moment thinking about all the people, friends, family that gave their life, so you have the right for freedom
I talked about Patch Management – don't everyone go up there and inundate the neighborhood – they don't need everyone in the neighborhood – a few people need to take a look

b. **Ratify a motion to place a stop sign at the location on 3rd Street where one existed several years ago, midway on an unmade access road and encourage the newspaper to notify citizens.** Motion by Lois Thomas - seconded by John Nestor – vote 4 – 0
c. **Motion to establish a crosswalk in the area of 3rd and Schoonmaker in the City of Monessen, between the Library and "His Place".** Motion by – seconded by John Nestor (John Nestor – put a sign to yield to pedestrians) (Anthony Orzechowski – may need to look at that) (Ron Mozer – I would like to amend the motion to add a sign to yield to pedestrians) – seconded by John Nestor – (Anthony Orzechowski – if we do that will be have to put a sign up everywhere to yield to pedestrians) (Joseph Dalfonso – I think this is different because it is in the middle of the street not on the end) (Ron Mozer - busy area with a lot of pedestrians) (Anthony Orzechowski – not sure how to vote at this point) Anthony Orzechowski made a motion to table this motion – seconded by John Nestor – vote 4 - 0

d. Motion to accept the retirement notice of City of Monessen employee, Steve Beck, with his last day of employment effective December 29th, 2023. Retirement Correspondence Exhibit "1". Motion by Lois Thomas – seconded by John Nestor – vote 4 - 0

e. Motion to appoint Micaiah Martin and Seryna Mendez to the Monessen Youth and Young Citizens Board for a two-year term commencing immediately. Motion by Lois Thomas – seconded by John Nestor – vote 4 - 0

f. Motion to approve a Handicapped Sign for residents at 1210 Graham Avenue in the City of Monessen contingent on appropriate decumentation. Motion by Ron Mozer – seconded by John Nestor – vote 4 – 0

g. Motion to approve The Monessen Youth and Young Citizens Board submission of a correspondence requesting support and attendance of the Mayor and Council, and utilization of the Herman Mihalich Boat Launch and Pavilion for the second annual Juneteenth Celebration sponsored by the Monessen Youth and Young Citizens Board on Friday June 16th from 2 pm to 6pm. Please see Exhibit "2". Motion by Ron Mozer – seconded by Lois Thomas – no park rental fee because they are a board of the city – vote 4 – 0 (Joseph Dalfonso – same as the fireworks the mayor put on last year) (Anthony Orzechowski – confusing)

h. Motion to declare the following properties as a public nuisance in the City of Monessen, and order their demolition as part of the County ARPA Demolition Project:

20-02-03-0-375 known as 402 McKee Avenue

20-02-03-0-250 known as 441 McKee Avenue

20-02-03-0-350 known as 478 McKee Avenue

20-02-03-0-361 known as 454 McKee Avenue

20-02-07-0-147 known as 438 Motheral Avenue

20-02-07-0-117 known as 413 Motheral Avenue

20-02-03-0-253 known as 429 McKee Avenue

20-02-07-0-189 known as 450 Clarendon Avenue

20-02-07-0-191 known as 442 Clarendon Avenue

20-02-07-0-233 known as 400 Chestnut Street

20-02-07-0-196 known as 422 Clarendon Avenue

20-02-07-0-237 known as 420 Chestnut Street

20-02-07-0-236 known as 412-418 Chestnut Street

Motion by Lois Thomas – seconded by John Nestor – vote 4 – 0

Councilman Anthony Orzechowski, Director of Accounts and Finance

a. Motion to pay the following invoices from the General Fund in the amount of $33,908.34. All invoices are attached to this Agenda as Attachment "A". Motion by Anthony Orzechowski – seconded by John Nestor – vote 4 – 0

b. Motion to pay the following invoices from the Parks Fund in the amount of $2,590.65. All invoices are attached to this Agenda as "Attachment "B". Motion by Anthony Orzechowski – seconded by John Nestor – vote 4 - 0

c. Motion to pay the following invoices from the Liquid Fuels account in the amount of $23,544.68. All invoices are attached to this agenda as Attachment "C". Motion by Anthony Orzechowski – seconded by John Nestor – vote 4 - 0

d. Motion to pay the following invoices from the Recreation Board Fund in the amount of $87.00. All invoices are attached to this agenda as Attachment "D". Motion by Anthony Orzechowski – seconded by John Nestor – vote 4- 0

e. Motion to pay the following invoices from the Grant Fund in the amount of $5,405.90. All invoices are attached to this agenda as Attachment "E". Motion by Anthony Orzechowski – seconded by John Nestor – vote 4 - 0

h. Motion to approve the transfer of $71,563.34 from the General Fund to the Payroll Account to cover the payroll expenses. Motion by Anthony Orzechowski – seconded by John Nestor – vote 4 – 0

i. Motion to transfer $8,502.48 from the General Fund to pay the City of Monessen Retired Employee Health Care Benefits for the month of May 2023. Motion by Anthony Orzechowski – seconded by John Nestor – vote 4 – 0

j. Motion to pay the Public Officials Liability Insurance Policy for the City of Monessen to Engle-Hambright and Davies, Inc. in the amount of $17,691.00 for the effective period of 05/01/2023 to 07/01/2024. Please see "Exhibit 3". Motion by Anthony Orzechowski – seconded by John Nestor – vote 4 – 0

k. Motion to pay 2 invoices to Farmer's National Bank for Loan # 100313189 in the amount of $54,972.76 and Loan # 100314148 in the amount of $37,487.95 for Municipal/Business Loan Interest Payments for former Bond Obligations of the City of Monessen to be paid out of the Debt Services Account. Please see Exhibit "4". Motion by Anthony Orzechowski – seconded by John Nestor – vote 4 – 0

The following is the account balances as of today: American Rescue $261,352.70 – debt service $817,641.10 – fire escrow $20,640.92 – general in Community Bank $17,072.70 – line usage $623,875.34 – liquid fuels $242,720.06 – payroll $7,932.13 – recreation $1,513 – grant $51,133.69 – refuse $285,668.48 – park $85,495.22 – healthcare $3,670.84 – general $970,204.31 – total in the bank $3,322,279.57.

Councilman Lois Thomas Director of Streets and Public Improvements

Streets and Public Improvement Report for month ending April 30, 2023. Lois Thomas – picked up downtown garbage twice a week – cold patched – fixed 4 catch basins and a manhole – answered 45 PA One Calls – put up and straightened signs throughout the city – repaired boat launch ramp that was vandalized – took off salt spreaders and started repairs on the trucks from winter use – helped parks as needed – boat ramp will be in before Memorial Day weathering permitted – cut all city lots

Councilman John Nestor, Director of Public Safety

Police and Public Safety Report for month ending April 30, 2023. John Nestor – police department receipts for the month of April 2023 – parking fines and forfeits $25 – miscellaneous collection, copies of police accident reports $255 – meter bags $36 – total miscellaneous collection $291 – court receipts from district justice office – vehicle code fines collected $1,656.26 – crime code fines collected $497.94 – city ordinance fines collected - $171.45 – code enforcement collected $50.07 – total receipts from district justice office $2,375.72 - total receipts collected $2,691.72 – citations from the police 98 – year-to-date 410

Code activity report April 2023 – habitation permit 16 – correction letters 23 – animal complaints 14 – misc. complaints 29 – health inspections 2 – office meetings with residents 8 – citations issued 6 – hearing 2

Monessen Municipal Fire Chief Report – vehicle accident 1 – carbon monoxide leak 2 – tree down calls 2 – wires down calls 4 – natural gas leaks 2 – medical assists 1 – automatic fire alarms 6 – brush fire 1 – illegal burn 1 – smoke scare 1 – calls outside the city structure fire Washington Township 1 – automatic fire alarm North Belle Vernon 1 – total calls 24 – total firefighters 316 – firefighters per call 13.16 – total man hours 320

No report from Mon Valley EMS – national EMS week – time to honor and thank all of our workers – I would like to thank our service men and women that were not able to come back and the ones that are here at the meeting

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

Parks and Public Property Report for the month ending April 30, 2023. Donald Gregor absent – Ron Mozer read report - clean the civic center – picked up litter – planted 10 trees in city park by the walking track with the help of the shade tree commission - had the water turned on at the ball fields – cut all city park and ball fields – helped the streets department as needed

11. OPEN FLOOR FOR PUBLIC COMMENT ON ANY ITEM. Ernie Telegraphis – I have 3 items – I liked how the last meeting was conducted – they talked and we were able to ask questions – are we are just going to give them this land (Ron Mozer – they are

purchasing it from the Firemen) the biggest problem is the school is running our of control (Ron Mozer – this is not the place to talk about the school – I go to every school board meeting – you should go there) all they do is raise taxes every two years (Ron Mozer – there are things going into place – this is not a school board meeting – we handle the city not the school – do you have a suggestion to make a law) (Anthony Orzechowski – Ernie you should run for the school board – everyone is running unopposed) I an independent – I can run – they only have one mentality – what is one person going to do (John Nestor – we work things out – run for the school board – change things) it is just a kangaroo court – when you get the youth together to do things – unforeseen problems – big fights – police should be there when there is presence of the youth – they should pay for the police (Ron Mozer – this is a city board – thanks for your suggestions) (Lois Thomas – the police will drive by) when there is a crowd, there needs to be police present – 2 months ago – Easter Sunday – big fight – they were not disciplined (Joseph Dalfonso – you made your point)

Lil Hurst – President and CEO of Greater Monessen Organization – we do events – asking for the use of the city park and the walking area for several dates through the summer – we will have vendors – food trucks – permission for use of the park, bleachers, we are doing this for the kids – we want to work with other organizations (Ron Mozer – I don't see a problem – its open to the public – food permits) (Anthony Orzechowski – we have to build inside the community – work with your group – utilize the amphitheater – have movies in the park – I checked into the cost to rent movies – I personally love Halloween – this could benefit everyone – I mentioned to the mayor I would like to spearhead a small portion

of the ARP money $20,000 to get a good projector – have movies on a screen) we have a popcorn machine – the Hope church just donated a huge hot dog roller (Anthony Orzechowski – swank.com rents movies for organizations for $450 for one sitting – my question to the public, can we generate enough people to make it worth it – we have a huge amphitheater wasting away – public has to help and get behind us – we pay $450 if there are 6 people or 200 people) we are working with a carnival – someone who just joined, his brother is with a radio station and they would put together a car cruise – people from Monessen that no longer live here would like to help (Anthony Orzechowski – we had a car cruise before and even though something else was going on we had like 65 cars – I would like to talk with you after the meeting)

Ed Lefevre – the gentleman who did the special presentation – he was looking at the council and had his back to us – I still don't know what does he want it for (Ron Mozer – Control Climate Storage) how does that help employment – it helps taxes – earlier you talked about 5 or so experts coming in to talk about Monessen (Ron Mozer – they are coming in August) Schoonmaker and Donner – terrible odor – what does the developers think about that (Ron Mozer – ask them in August) can we get some non-polluting type of business in Monessen – I wouldn't open a store – downtown is very unattractive – how do they view the town (Ron Mozer – the are going to interview people – they want to know what you want – then they will give us a plan – give suggestions – talk to them not us) people travel outside of Monessen for work – we need something here for them – can you be a solicitor for more than one community (Joseph Dalfonso – I am for 4 – yes you can)

Pino Cianflone – what is this (pointing to the screen for the Patch Management machine) (Ron Mozer – watch the demo today – go see the road) It is not better than the one I showed you – you are full of bologna – it can be done in any weather – they are not cutting a square (Ron Mozer – they never said they would cut a square) yes they did – go and watch the tape – they give you no warranty (Ron Mozer – 90 day warranty – go take a look at it) when it comes winter time what is going to happen (Ron Mozer – we are just looking at it – there are many different ways – this is just one way we are looking at) (Anthony Orzechowski – this is not the same as you are talking about – the one your are talking about lays so many inches of asphalt – before you pave it , they mill it, they have a roller and roll it) I saw how it was done – I was there for four hours (Ron Mozer – that is how we are doing 3rd Street – not with this machine – we are completely paving 3rd Street) they guarantee it through the whole damn winter (Ron Mozer – we are looking into all kinds of solutions) 2nd you have a guy retiring in December – when will you hire someone to replace this person, wait until January (Ron Mozer – we already have some people – we interviewed – we advertised for the last position – they are still interested) will you advertise (Ron Mozer – council will have to make a decision) don't wait for the last minute – how many workers in the streets department (Delmar Hepple – 5) I come from Charleroi into Monessen – the new paved road – rocks along the side for the retaining wall – sidewalk suck to 9th Street – grass high – not their fault – they don't have enough people – the stones they put in are growing trees – what are you going to do about that – what are you going to do about that – my point – come from Donora side – looks good – they have the people they need – 5 people is not enough to do all the work – you can have

all they money – spend $450 to see a movie – if you don't spend the money for the city – what are you going to do besides $50,000 for that guy – you heard what I said – we pay $50,000 there – the rest of the people get the shaft – when they retire and we don't hire, we don't – expect the place to look good – take a ride down Rostraver – want to see something terrible – take a ride – tell me the police department – flat tires – tractor trailer – only one car can get through - that's fine – it's not fine – you tell me the good stuff you do – it sucks (Ron Mozer – anything else) I just wish you would resign

12. ADJOURNMENT. Motion to adjourn meeting by John Nestor at 7:54 pm – seconded by Anthony Orzechowski – vote 4 – 0