

COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
CITY OF MONESSEN
CITY OF MONESSEN COUNCIL CHAMBERS
JUNE 8, 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 – Lois Thomas present – Anthony Orzechowski present – John Nestor present – Donald Gregor absent – Ron Mozer present.

2. OPENING PRAYER OFFERED BY REV. ROBERT HOLMES, PASTOR, CHRISTIAN LIFE MINISTRIES OF MONESSEN, PENNSYLVANIA.

Opening prayer by Rev. Robert Holmes.

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

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS SESSION OF MAY 25TH, 2023. Motion to accept minutes of previous session by John Nestor – seconded by Lois Thomas – vote 4 – 0.

5. OPEN FLOOR FOR PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS ONLY. Ernie Telegraphis – the mural for \$7500, what is this (Lois Thomas – already finished – military mural – stop and look).

6. CORRESPONDENCE. Ron Mozer – we have 7 more properties that Landbank is looking to take over. They will be on a future agenda.

OLD BUSINESS N/A

7. REPORT OF THE SOLICITOR OF THE CITY OF MONESSEN. Joseph Dalfonso – notifications to owners of demo properties have been sent – in July there will be 11 more properties – worked with engineers and

contractors on 3A and 3B sewer projects – 3A was approved by the USDA and 3B should be coming next week.

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

Gerald Saksun – garbage fees and city R E taxes collected for the month of May 2023 – current garbage fee \$4,744 – year-to-date \$332,194 – budget amount \$325,587 – May delinquent garbage fee \$3,784.11 – year-to-date \$36,537.01 – budget amount \$80,780 – May amount collected by Portnoff \$1,458.66 – year-to-date \$10,181.64 (included in the total above) – May penalty and interest Portnoff \$75.28 – year-to-date \$2,332.74 – budget amount \$2,145 – May garbage collected for next year 2024 \$20 – year-to-date \$775 – budget amount \$1,385 – May total garbage \$10,082.05 – year-to-date \$382,020.39 – budget amount \$409,897 – May city real estate taxes current - \$702,352.83 – year-to-date \$1,776,777.35 – budget amount \$2,013,724 – May city taxes prior year collected by city \$0 – year-to-date \$8,673.30 – budget amount \$5,503 – subtotal year-to-date \$1,785,450.65 – May delinquent city taxes collected by Westmoreland tax bureau - \$33,425.24 – year-to-date \$98,032.63 – budget amount \$167,423 – total year-to-date taxes \$1,883,483.28 – city real estate tax distribution as of May 31, 2023 – General year-to-date \$1,242,138.01 – budget amount \$1,400,947.79 – debt service year-to-date \$337,093.09 – budget amount \$380,191.09 – library year-to-date \$36,717.46 – budget amount \$40,677.22 – park year-to-date \$169,502.09 – budget amount \$191,907.90 – total year-to-date \$1,785,450.65 – budget amount \$2,013,724 – miscellaneous income - May real estate transfer tax \$5,786.90 – year-to-date \$32,949.55 – budget amount \$89,333 – May earned income tax \$84,340.18 – year-to-date \$293,416.99 – budget amount \$513,898 – May mercantile tax \$14,689.40 – year-to-date \$16,578.94 – budget amount \$22,579 – May local services tax \$13,377.89 – year-to-date

\$36,272.60 – budget amount \$53,357 – May tax certifications \$3,380 – year-to-date \$11,630 – budget amount \$21,940 – May municipal lien letters \$2,175 – year-to-date \$8,250 – budget amount \$14,775 – line usage account – May unsewered payments \$374 – year-to-date \$10,518 – May line usage fee \$60,533.05 – year-to-date \$374,429.37 – total \$384,947.37 – motion to accept collections for May 2023 by John Nestor – seconded by Lois Thomas – vote 5 – 0. (Donald Gregor attended meeting)

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

Rosalie Nicksich – General Fund CFS Bank Checking Account – Bank Reconciliation as of May 31, 2023 – beginning bank balance as of April 30, 2023, \$765,521.64 – deposits \$1,031,880.85 – expenses \$691,328.32 – ending balance as of May 31, 2023, \$1,106,074.17 – outstanding checks \$234,910.34 – outstanding deposits \$0 – reconcile balance to bank statement \$871,163.83.

10. NEW BUSINESS

Mayor Ron Mozer, Director of Public Affairs

a. Mayor Mozer's Update of Issues for the weeks of May 25th, 2023, to June 8, 2023. Ron Mozer – fire at C. Coats and the next building – it was a very intense fire – hats off to the fire chief and all who helped – both building are a total loss – both will be destroyed soon – 3A sewer project – meeting on June 15th – 3B is close – it must go through USDA – hopefully it will be able to be included in June 15th meeting (Joseph Dalfonso – they already reviewed the paperwork – need verification on insurance policy #) Project 4 – 9th Street Park – stone slowed them down – now hit peat moss – should be done soon – paving is very critical – important to the city – Delaware has a base coat – steep road – having issues – working on installing top coat – 906 at the other

end of town – the state is going to use concrete to fill in the crossing – 6th statue in place – top coat was put on courts – you cannot walk on for 24 hours – police are to patrol the area – we want to do something nice up there – Sewer project 3C in the works – may be a couple of weeks to 4 months – this is the big project - \$10 million – line from manhole to manhole – waiting on Core of Engineers – DEP – we advertised the city council meetings at the beginning of the year for July as 1st and 3rd week instead of 2nd and 4th – town hall will now be on 2nd week – this will give the council a little break.

b. Motion by Councilperson Thomas to make final payment for completion of the Mural Project at the Anthony E. Madison Veterans Memorial Park in the total amount of \$7500.00, with payments being remitted to each of the artists, Shane Pilster, @\$3,500.00, Scott Brozovich @ \$3,500.00, and Max Gonzales @ \$500.00. Motion by Lois Thomas – seconded by Donald Gregor – (Donald Gregor – stop by – beautiful job) (Lois Thomas – I want to get them back and take a picture for the papers) vote 5 – 0.

c. Motion for approval of payment for Sewer Rehabilitation Project Phase 3, Payment Requisition and Certificate No. 6 in the amount of \$16, 642.94 to W.E.C., Inc. Consulting Engineers for Bidding Phase activities within the project. Motion by Lois Thomas – seconded by John Nestor – vote 5 – 0.

d. Motion for approval of Sewer Rehabilitation Project Phase 3, Payment Requisition and Certificate No. 7 for bidding phase services to W.E.C. Inc. Consulting Engineers in the amount of \$5,057.03. Motion by Lois Thomas – seconded by John Nestor – vote 5 – 0.

d. Motion to approve the Exoneration of Taxes for a disabled veteran residing at 1 Pioneer Drive in the City of Monessen, Tax Map No. 20-01-13-0-092 effective July 15th, 2023, for the exoneration of 2023 real property taxes on the property.

Motion by Lois Thomas – seconded by John Nestor – vote 5 – 0.

e. Motion to appoint Gary Smith to the Zoning Board for a 3-year term to begin immediately, and end on December 31st, 2025. Motion by Lois Thomas – seconded by Donald Gregor – vote 5 – 0.

f. Motion to approve payment for Mornak Excavation, Inc. for repair of a water line issue at the City Park from the Parks Fund in the amount of \$215.47. Motion by Lois Thomas – seconded by John Nestor – vote 5 – 0.

g. Motion to approve payment for Mornak Excavation, Inc. for repair of a water line break at the City garage from the General Fund in the amount of \$2,175.80. Motion by Lois Thomas – seconded by John Nestor – vote 5 – 0.

h. Motion to approve payment for Mornak Excavation, Inc. for the emergency demolition of the Boost Mobile Building on Donner Avenue, following a recent fire at the structure from the General Fund in the amount of \$4,000.00. Motion by Lois Thomas – seconded by John Nestor – vote 5 – 0.

i. Motion to approve the Tax Exoneration request of a Lot located at 161 Schoonmaker Avenue, Property ID Number 20-02-03-0-163 as recently approved by the City of Monessen Tax Exoneration Board for the period up to 2021, (\$1,342.00) Motion by Lois Thomas – seconded by John Nestor (Donald Gregor – how owns the property) (Ron Mozer – Marinos – I

believe it the property between he and his son's house – they jointly use) vote 5 – 0.

j. Discussion of the proper disposition of Delinquent Garbage Funds collected by the Portnoff Law Associates, Ltd. entity, and the potential redirection of those collected funds into the Refuse Accounts of the City of Monessen. Ron Mozer – would we like to discuss this – this is been originally recommended by the auditors and the solicitor to deposit it into the general fund (Anthony Orzechowski – I would like it to go into the refuse fund) (Donald Gregor – why) (Anthony Orzechowski – because that is where the refuse money should go) (Ron Mozer – when we run out of money to pay the refuse it comes out of the general account anyway) (Donald Gregor – that happens every year)

Councilman Anthony Orzechowski, Director of Accounts and Finance

a. Motion to pay the following invoices from the General Fund in the amount of \$25,211.45. 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 Parks Fund in the amount of \$1,737.43. 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 Liquid Fuels account in the amount of \$1,859.06. 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 Recreation Board Fund in the amount of \$460.08. 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 Line Usage Account in the amount of \$8,945.00. 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 invoices from the Refuse Account in the amount of \$48,517.24. 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 \$73,575.52 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 – American rescue \$254,741.85 – debt service \$898,085.18 – fire escrow \$20,715.19 – grant \$47,906.86 – line usage \$636,946.53 – liquid fuels \$220,202.91 – park \$77,118.77 – payroll \$9,351.97 – recreation \$2,759.98 – refuse \$288,647.58 – general Community Bank \$14,038.20 – general \$860,878.40 – healthcare \$4,931.61.

Councilman Lois Thomas Director of Streets and Public Improvements

Streets and Public Improvement Report for month ending May 31st, 2023. Lois Thomas – deferring the report to the next meeting – I would like to commend the fire department, police – everyone – for keeping everyone safe.

Councilman John Nestor, Director of Public Safety

Police and Public Safety Report for month ending May 31st, 2023.

John Nestor – deferring the report to the next meeting.

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

Parks and Public Property Report for the month ending May 31st, 2023. Donald Gregor – deferring the report to the next meeting.

11. OPEN FLOOR FOR PUBLIC COMMENT ON ANY ITEM.

Ernie Telegraphis – I have 4 issues – can any council person or mayor make a decision without the others – was letting the lady move into the building next door your call only (Donald Gregor – it was a consensus) what happens if she damages something – insurance to cover (Joseph Dalfonso – you are jumping to conclusions) will you do this for everyone in Monessen (Josphe Dalfonso – you are not supposed to support the citizens) where do you draw – I am addressing the council not you - the line under helping specific people not the entire community – biggest water consumer of the county – no council members from here attended the meeting – no one showed up – every other town showed up - no one is working for the tax payers (Donald Gregor – how do you know I was not involved – I was not able to attend the meeting but I was involved – I can't give your specifics - guess what happened) they voted no – a lot of people were there – again on the school – send a letter to the school so they can't keep increasing our taxes (Joseph Dalfonso – they are a different entity – you go to school board meeting – you need to talk to them) I could not go to this one but I will go to the next one –

American Rescue funds, mayor said we are going to know down the buildings – what funds (Ron Mozer – county funds) can American Rescue funds be applied (Anthony Orzechowski – when I received the phone call about an emergency demo – who is going to pay – who owns the building – do they have insurance – are they going to pay – we are going to do what we have to do) (Joseph Dalfonso – what were we going to do – leave the building so it won't fall down) can we use American money (Anthony Orzechowski – yes if we have to – we are going to go after the owner of the building to cover the costs) (Donald Gregor – do you know what a fire account is for – do you know what is involved for that – where does the money go from the insurance) (Joseph Dalfonso – the check goes to the city) will be get the money back (Joseph Dalfonso - you are making accusations)

Ed Lefever – what did you do (Donald Gregor – I called people – I talked to them – they don't want to get involved – I had a lot of information – I passed it around to the people who can do something – these people were making a lame duck decision – people who had a voice stood up and said no – someone wanted us to dissolve the authority – here is my concern – you have an authority doing a good job – I am not in favor of absolving any authority – I am totally against absolving the Charleroi Authority – new people taking over and they will increase the rates) I you were there would you have told them you are against it (Donald Gregor – everyone got a chance to speak – this does not involve just Charleroi – involves everyone) everyone has to have an idea about the authority (Joseph Dalfonso – no one here has said they were for the dissolution of the authority) (Ron Mozer – I do have any authority – city to get money from the borough of Charleroi – you can't build an economy on taxes only – you must bring

businesses and people in – I think they are doing better than anything else that has been offered now – how did the water authority come to be – 1934 took place – Charleroi asset not a Monessen asset – we have no representation on that authority – we have no voice in the authority or the government of Charleroi – we have no say in what they do there – all Charleroi members) (Joseph Dalfonso – in the laws – you have to be a resident or owner of a business in Charleroi) what about the sewage authority (Joseph Dalfonso – that is different – it was started in Monessen – it was joint with Donora) can Monessen ever have a person on the authority (Joseph Dalfonso – not sure if it is a legal possibility – borough has its hands full with the issues right now – they have a board of directors – a public entity – they operate the water)

Pastor Tim Burgan - owner of His Place - crosswalk was not my idea – we have an increase the number of children coming into the coffee shop – increase coming into the library – a lot of traffic coming through – saw a little kid run across the road with the parent chasing behind – it won't make people stop but it will help – traffic coming off of Donner and the alley – getting off bus and coming to the coffee shop – if council could do something, it would be great – if not it's ok – 700 to 1,000 people coming into the coffee shop – this has increased the downtown traffic – it is a safety item (Ernie Telegraphis – parking lot belongs to the Library) (Ron Mozer – it is a city parking lot – parking has not been an issue right now) (John Nestor – would be a great issue to not have enough parking) I talked with the library before we opened and told them if the parking was ever a problem to let me know (Donald Gregor – Ernie how much is a child's life worth) (Ernie Telegraphis – xxxxxxxxxxxxxx) (Donald Gregor – we take care of our

residents especially our children) if there is a problem it's ok not to have the crosswalk – I don't want to put the city out (John Nestor – it was about putting up a yield sign to double the fines if someone gets hurt) (Donald Gregor – I'll pay for the paint) (Anthony Orzechowski – I appreciate you coming before council) it's ok either way – we have people watching for the kids now – we try to do what we can we have people sitting there watching for the kids – we are here to serve the city – not to be a burden (Lois Thomas – crosswalk – paint – nothing compared to saving any life)

Anonymous – talk about a safety issue – basketball hoops are popping up in my neighborhood – 3 or 4 in a few blocks – cars come flying through – today a little girl was not paying attention, I blew my horn and she still never looked – it is a safety issue – I am not trying to take fun away – the streets are for cars – if the city can look into it – the hoops are placed on sidewalk and they are playing on the street (Donald Gregor – my answer would be to send code enforcement and have them remove them) (Joseph Dalfonso – I think we can tell the chief to look out for these items)

12. ADJOURNMENT Motion to adjourn meeting at 7:34 pm by Donald Gregor – seconded by John Nestor – vote 5 – 0.