COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

CITY OF MONESSEN

CITY OF MONESSEN COUNCIL CHAMBERS

JUNE 22, 2023

6:30PM

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

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

2. OPENING PRAYER OFFERED BY COUNCILPERSON LOIS THOMAS, MEMBER OF THE CITY OF MONESSEN COUNCIL, MONESSEN, PENNSYLVANIA. Opening prayer by Ron Mozer.

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

Ron Mozer – change to agenda – add approval of summer feeding program between the a and b on my part of the agenda. Motion made to change the agenda by John Nestor – seconded by Donald Gregor – vote 4 – 0.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS SESSION OF JUNE 8, 2023. Motion to accept minutes of previous session by John Nestor (Donald Gregor – it should say fire escrow account) seconded by Anthony Orzechowski – vote 4 – 0.

5. OPEN FLOOR FOR PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS ONLY. Ernie Telegraphis – I have questions for John Nestor – there are 4 different invoices for CertaSite – who negotiated these invoices (John Nestor – the mayor looked over the contracts and I looked over them yesterday to make any changes and this is what we came

up with) that is over $2,000 (Ron Mozer - $2,400) did you try to get a discount (Ron Mozer – this is ½ the price of anyone else that we were able to talk to) the next questions is for the CFO about the next month's audit report (Anthony Orzechowski - I won't be here)

Julian Naphier – since the mayor put the summer feeding on the agenda – I would like to add an open gym for the kids – I have been having them and I just found out I could not have them because they were not approved by the council – I had kids there last week and I was not able to let them in because it was not approved by council – I have 2 kids here with me tonight that come to the open gym regularly – they would like to tell you why it is important to have the open gym – (child 1 - I like to go down to the gym because it is a safe place to go play with my friends) (child 2 - I also like going down the civic center because it gets me away from the violence – it gives me something to do – it gives me a safe place to play basketball – we won't have to be outside in the cold weather) we don't charge anything – we only have to turn on the lights which does not cost much – we have donated drinks – I coordinate the whole thing along with Monessen Communities That Care – everyone has their clearances – I supply the basketballs myself – I have community members that chaperone – I wasn't aware all the programs I do have to be approved by council – I average between 20 and 30 kids for each open gym night – to stop them would be a downfall – I wrote a letter to council asking for approval – I would like it added along with the approval of the summer feeding program – we do this on a weekly basis – usually from 6 – 8 pm – I am open to any questions (Ron Mozer – I am not opposed to anything you said – we used to have a recreation board that would oversee these things – they have not been meeting regularly – I don't know if it requires action by the council other than we giving you permission to do that) (John Nestor

– the city should hold the clearances on any of the people involved) (Ron Mozer – will someone always be supervising) it will always be me – I have my clearance or I could not do what I do (Donald Gregor – do we have to put this up as a motion) (Joseph Dalfonso – no, just go through the city administrator and make sure council is aware of what is going on) (Donald Gregor – I don't have a problem with it – we should just get it done)

Linda Lacey – I have a question for Julian – when did they stop you from doing this event (Julian Naphier – this past Thursday) (Donald Gregor – who told you that you could not do it) (Julian Naphier – I have meetings with Cheryl, Ron and Mike – they said we could not have it unless the council approves it first) (Donald Gregor – just make sure you let the city administrator and council know before it is scheduled) (Anthony Orzechowski – usually this would have gone through the Recreation Board) (Donald Gregor – I was not aware they were not having regular meetings) (Julian Naphier – they are but they have nothing to do with the day to day things at the Civic Center – I report directly to the city administrator) (Ron Mozer – there is still a big direct disconnect) (anonymous - what good is a recreation board if they are not going to do anything – they need to help these kids around here – don't stop them from going down there and playing basketball) (Julian Naphier – I make posters – I hang them on the door – I put it on Facebook) (Donald Gregor – can you get a calendar to us so we can see it) (John Nestor – everyone must have clearances to work with the kids) (Anthony Orzechowski - in 2020 or 2021 there were individuals running the recreation board – they all resigned - the last mayor put who he wanted on there) (John Nestor – how long are they in office) (Ron Mozer – we are addressing this issue now – as long as someone is at the civic center when these kids are there)

6. CORRESPONDENCE

OLD BUSINESS N/A

7. REPORT OF THE SOLICITOR OF THE CITY OF MONESSEN. Joseph Dalfonso – I am workings with WEC engineers and the contractors for Phase 3A and 3B projects – all the contracts are in order – the mayor will update the progress of them momentarily – I will have more demolitions for the meeting in July.

8. REPORT OF THE CITY TREASURER OF THE CITY OF MONESSEN. Treasurer Gerald Saksun was not present but gave his report at the last meeting.

9. REPORT OF THE CITY CONTROLLER OF THE CITY OF MONESSEN. Rosalie Nicksich – gave her report at the last meeting.

10. NEW BUSINESS

Mayor Ron Mozer, Director of Public Affairs

a. **Mayor Mozer's Update of Issues for the weeks of June 8, 2023, to June 22, 2023.** Ron Mozer – two most exciting projects that have taken 15 years to get going – this is what the residents are paying $27/month for – Phase 4 – PennVest – 9th Street, Delaware and Shawnee - $2.2 million project – it will be winding down in the next few months – yes, they will fix Delaware and where it crosses Route 906 by Eastgate and 9th Street – they are doing massive work on Knox and 9th – when they are finished they will pave the roads – I have been working with the sewage authority to build an EQ Tank on Parente to direct the flow from the city park area – Phase 3 – USDA – it is not out of order – it just makes sense how it is being done – Phase 3A is key lining of 8" to 24" tubes in pipe line - $1.6 million project to be completed September 8, 2024 –

Phase 3B is for 36" to 83" pipe – concrete to line the pipe - $2.6 million project to be completed at the same time as Phase 3A – Phase 3C has not been awarded yet – it is to cover from manhole to manhole in neighborhoods – they are waiting on federal permitting – this is very important to the city – when get the final ok, we have the right to move forward – at tonight's meeting – we have the SunShine Act – we post the agenda on the internet, it is on the door, we provide handouts, it is on Facebook – we are live right now – we give you this information so you can give us your input on agenda items – at the beginning you can express your ideas before we vote on it – the comments at the end are designed for you to give us items to vote on next meeting – now at the town hall meetings you can talk about other things – bottom line is other communities in the area make you hand in your comments in writing 24 hours in advance of the meeting – they only allow 3 minutes to address the council – I do not want to go to that – but I will not accept derogatory comments about people or their appearance.

b. **Approve the Summer Feeding Program at the Monessen Civic Center 861 Donner Avenue – Ages 18 and under are welcome – June 19th through August 11th – Monday through Thursday – breakfast 10 am until 11 am – lunch 12 pm until 1 pm – program included – mobile market available June 26th, July 17th, and July 31st from 12 pm to 1 pm – for questions contact Chrissy @ 724-243-0944.** Motion by Ron Mozer – seconded by Donald Gregor (Donald Gregor – what is a mobile market) (Mike Korposh – they hand out food) the civic center needs a lot of work to the kitchen – since we are now using the kitchen

for the public – we can now present this to CDBG to get funds to get the kitchen upgraded – I believe – vote 4 – 0.

c. **Motion to approve the Tax Exoneration request of property located at 640 Delaware Street, as approved by the City of Monessen Tax Exoneration Board, Property ID No. 20-02-08-0-428 in the amount of $438.08. See Attachment as Exhibit "1".** Motion by Ron Mozer – seconded by Donald Gregor – vote 4 – 0.

d. Motion to approve the Tax Exoneration request of property located at 648 Delaware Street, as approved by the City of Monessen Tax Exoneration Board, Property ID No. 20-02-08-0-429 in the amount of $1,096.86. See Attached as Exhibit "2". Motion by Ron Mozer – seconded by John Nestor – vote 4 – 0.

e. Discussion and Motion for proper placement of the sign designating Monessen as a Tree USA community within either the City Park or in a location designated by Council. Michael Korposh – I received this information by shade tree committee – they received two signs – one will be displayed here at city hall – they have another big sign to be put at one of the parks (Donald Gregor – does the shade tree committee have a preference) they are leaving it up to you – the size is 20 x 12 – laminate – we will need help from the streets crew to install thee sign) (Donald Gregor - maybe we can put it by the memorial where they planted trees – it needs to be where it would be most visible – the war memorial) (John Nestor – yes its need to be where everyone can see it) (Donald Gregor – it may not be big enough to see from there – maybe it is better at the city park) (John Nestor – maybe Madison Park – we are doing other work up there) (Donald Gregor – more people will see it at city park) (Ron Mozer – more people will see it along walking track at the park) Motion to place

sign along the walking track at the park by Ron Mozer – seconded by Donald Gregor – vote 4 – 0.

f. Motion to approve construction of a Book Carousel at the City Park Walking track at a cost incurred by a Monessen resident for citizens to exchange books during their visits to the Park. This initiative is an action item and suggestion by our Monessen Shade Tree Commission. Motion by Ron Mozer – seconded by – 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 $33,585.76. 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 Liquid Fuels account in the amount of $12,256.55. All invoices are attached to this agenda as Attachment "B". 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 $110.31. All invoices are attached to this agenda as Attachment "C". 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 $3,960.83. All invoices are attached to this agenda as Attachment "D". Motion by Anthony Orzechowski – seconded by John Nestor – vote 4 – 0.

f. Motion to transfer $4,000.00 from the General Account to the Health Care Account. Motion by Anthony Orzechowski – seconded by John Nestor – vote 4 – 0.

g. Motion to approve the transfer of $74,015.50 from the General Fund to the Payroll Account to cover the payroll expenses. Motion by Anthony Orzechowski – seconded by John Nestor – vote 4 – 0.

h. Motion to transfer $8,597.41 from the General Account to the Retired Employees Health Care Account for the June 2023 period. Motion by Anthony Orzechowski – seconded by John Nestor – vote 4 – 0.

Account balances – fire escrow $20,715.19 – American Rescue $247,241.85 – recreation $2,724.80 – debt service $937.,477.18 – healthcare $4,380.05 – grant $47,906.86 – liquid fuels $218,343.85 – park $75,881.34 – general $737,142.35 – general Community Bank $13,922.60 – payroll $10,687.91 – refuse $241,390.34 – line usage $645,331.60.

Councilman Lois Thomas Director of Streets and Public Improvements

Streets and Public Improvement Report for month ending May 31st, 2023.

Councilman John Nestor, Director of Public Safety

Police and Public Safety Report for month ending May 31st, 2023. John Nestor – police department receipts for the month of May 2023 – miscellaneous collection – copies of police accident reports $90.00 – restitution $100.92 – total miscellaneous $190.92 – court receipts from district justice office – vehicle code fines collected $571.88 – crime code fines collected $485.23 – city

ordinance collected $2.65 – code enforcement collected $20.95 – total receipts from district justice office $1,080.71 – total receipts collected for May 2023 $1,271.63 – citations for the month of May 141 – total year-to-date 551.

code activity report May 2023 – habitation permits 11 – correction letters 28 – animal complaints 9 – miscellaneous complaints 42 – health inspections 4 – office meetings with residents 6 – citation issued 12 – hearings 3 – building permits 3 – zoning permits 5 – complaints grass, noise, abandoned vehicles, and homes.

Monessen municipal fire chief report – vehicle accident 1 – carbon monoxide leak 1 – tree down calls 1 – wires down calls 1 – brush fire 2 – landing zone 1 – electrical fire 3 – calls outside the city structure fire Washington Township 1 – landing zone Charleroi 1 – trees down Rostraver Township 1 – structure fire Charleroi 2 – automatic fire alarm Washington Township 1 – total calls 24 – total fire fighters 295 – fire fighters per call 12.29 – total man hours 430.

Mon Valley EMS report – emergency calls 100 – fire standby 10 – referrals 7 – total incidents 117 – 7.3 responding time.

a. Motion to accept quote from CertaSite, Fire Safety and Life Safety Services, to service 23 fire extinguishers for the City of Monessen in the amount of $312.08. See attached as Exhibit "3". Motion by John Nestor – seconded by Donald Gregor – vote 4 – 0.

b. Motion to accept CertaSite, Fire Safety and Life Safety Services, to inspect and service up to 10 sensors in the fire alarm system at City Hall in the amount of $515.06. See attached as

Exhibit "4". Motion by John Nestor – seconded by Donald Gregor – vote 4 – 0.

c. Motion to accept CertaSite quote to replace dialer on the fire alarm at City Hall in the amount of $793.00. See attached as Exhibit "5". Motion by John Nestor – seconded by Donald Gregor – vote 4 – 0.

d. Motion to accept CertaSite quote to provide service agreement and provide notification services for appropriate alarms emanating from City Hall in the amount of $1,141.56. See attached as Exhibit "6". Motion by John Nestor – seconded by Donald Gregor – (Joseph Dalfonso – contract says 12 months, but paragraph 1 says 5 years) (Ron Mozer – I will address that) vote 4 – 0.

e. Motion to accept CertaSite, Fire Safety and Life Safety Services quote to provide a service agreement and fire alarm systems for the City of Monessen Annex building contingent upon the pricing not to exceed the total amount to be billed for the same services at the City of Monessen City Hall location listed above in motions b, c, and d. Motion by John Nestor – seconded by Donald Gregor – (Joseph Dalfonso – it will be the same with 5 year contract) (Anthony Orzechowski – is this by the month – what happens if we sell the building – will it transfer to the new owner) (Donald Gregor – this is just for a quote – we can ask for that) (Ron Mozer – that is a good question) vote 4 – 0.

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

Parks and Public Property Report for the month ending May 31st, 2023. Donald Gregor – cleaned the civic center – picked up litter,

garbage cans at all the parks – planted flowers at Eastgate Island – mowed the parks and ballfields to prepare for events – trimmed bushes at the library – helped the streets department as needed.

a. Motion to offer a Lease Agreement to Any Kind of Wear, Danielle Volker for a 4-month lease for the City Annex Building. Any Kind of Wear will provide Insurance indemnifying the City from all liability at the site and will be responsible for all utilities at the site. See attached as Exhibit "7". Motion by Donald Gregor – seconded by John Nestor – vote 4 – 0.

b. Motion to approve the purchase of a bench by Dorothy Urbanowicz, on behalf and in memory of her husband, Coach Charles, "Chuck" Urbanowicz to be installed at the City Park (walking track) in the City of Monessen. It would commemorate his over 55 years of coaching Youth Football in the City of Monessen, and his lifelong dedication, support, and devotion to the City of Monessen. See Attached as Exhibit "8". Motion by Donald Gregor – seconded by John Nestor – (Donald Gregor – I think this is a nice thing to honor him – he did a lot with the kids of Monessen) - vote 4 – 0.

11. OPEN FLOOR FOR PUBLIC COMMENT ON ANY ITEM.

Ernie Telegraphis – you want to frame the forum for the questions by the public – you want formalize conduct – we paid $6,000 for a small demo on Nash Street – I looked at it, it won't last – what is the next plan – the pot holes are getting worse (Ron Mozer – I was up there and visited with two of the people, one was a code officer for California and the other worked on the streets – they both understand the issue – they could not believe 6 tons only went that far – they are not entirely convinced that is the answer – so where do we go from here – we are looking at alternatives –

we would do them on Nash also so we can compare apples to apples) what other kind of alternatives – (Ron Mozer – this is what I am thinking – we will have to run this by council at a future meeting – we need to get the streets department involved with hot patch not cold patch – this will take some time – it will not happen now) ok this seamstress – what is happening with her inventory (Ron Mozer – we just accepted a 4 month lease) who is responsible if something happens to the building (Ron Mozer – she is) I went to the school board meeting – why was there no one from the city making a stand – no one was there at the meeting – you sent no letter – the budget over the past 12 years was increased 4 times – no one is taking an interest (Ron Mozer – I am always at the meetings) you weren't at this one (Ron Mozer – I was not – I had another meeting to attend) why didn't you send Mike – no one stands up for the tax papers who voted for you – you keep saying they are giving us potential options for all these vacant properties – no banks – no private sector – at the town hall meeting – it was like romper room – what would you like – like sitting on Santa's lap – no money – no private interest – government does not produce wealth or finance your services – lastly the 2 buildings that burnt – what is going on with them (Ron Mozer – the were turned over to the county for demolition) it was not in the newspaper – why did you not tell people (Ron Mozer – it was not sent out for bid - the people that gave the presentations take care of that) they give you options – nothing is etched in stone.

Dorothy Urbanowicz – thanks to the council for allowing the bench in my husband's name (Ron Mozer – thank you for the donation).

Linda Lacey – I am a resident of Monessen – I grew up here – I come to the council meetings twice a month and the redevelopment meeting – last Tuesday at the redevelopment meeting a derogative statement was made to me by Lou Mavrakis– I will handle that later - I ask questions – I was labeled as disruptive - you want to limit public comments by your comments at the beginning – I will continue to ask questions – I don't want to be labeled - you are not letting the citizen know what you are doing until it's done.

Pino Clianflone – I went to the same meeting – people who came were the same – they said they were going to build five new homes on Motheral – they still have not applied for the money – they still need to get money – they claim they are building homes for $100,000 – who can afford that – you gave this man a raise for $15/hour – he won't be able to afford that home – who are you going to help – white or black – who can afford it – people on welfare won't even be able to pay for the taxes on the property – they need to be more realistic – who can afford that – at the meeting here Brian Lawrence, CEO for the LandBank for the county and the other guy Phil – they talked about $200,000 homes – they did a good job on the presentation – the Nehemiah group is only looking for a free hand out – they don't pay taxes – I have been here for 61 years – I have never seen those people – they are not even from Monessen – the meeting she went to; in my opinion, they treated her like crap – she has a name – they called the meeting to executive session (Donald Gregor – was the executive session on the agenda) (Ron Mozer – no) (Donald Gregor – what was it for) the reason for the executive session was that we were asking questions – we were next to the office upstairs – the mayor was the chief of police – he escorted us

outside because it does not have a door – we need to get him out of office – we need someone who knows Monessen – we need a young guy in his 50s – this guy has 3 mayors telling him what to do – if you don't believe me, come in the morning and see their cars parked out here- he know nothing about Monessen – he is from out of town – we pay him $55,000 per year and he does nothing – we pay that kid $15/hour – you call that fair – the parking garage you said can be fixed for $1.2 million – why don't you go get a free estimate from Lone Pine – they do that work – get a free estimate – he is willing to give it to the Redevelopment Authority so they can sell it – this guy from Roscoe – he wants the property on the left and on the right of the garage to take it – are we giving it away, selling it – they talk about rebuilding Monessen – we are giving it to people from out of town who don't pay taxes – I don't need to come to the city council meeting to pray – I go to church to pray – I don't need him to pray and then screw me in the ass later – I don't need that BS – I just want you to know that you are not a good person – you are not a good mayor – you are not the mayor making the decisions and the guy on the right we pay $55,000 – give it that guy.

Ron Mozer – I just want everyone to know "His Place" is adding a robotic center upstairs for those kids who like that – we also have the Civic Center (Ernie Telegraphis – why are you always promoting him) I am just saying he is making opportunities for the kids (Ernie Telegraphis – why just promote him) I will promote anyone who is doing something for the city.

Ed Lefever – maybe I fell asleep – Mr. Orzechowski – the grant fund – what is the balance – is this the federal fund (Anthony Orzechowski – this is the police fund – DEA money $47,906.86 – this is money from drug busts or DEA work – we used to have an

officer on the DEA force – does that clear that up) yes – what is the difference between the general account and the general fund (Anthony Orzechowski – we pay the payroll, healthcare, insurances – all money comes into the city and goes in different accounts – the general account is where we pay day to day bills) the article in the paper – the townhall meeting – two people from Westmoreland County – when I was working with two drug companies, they said the exact same thing – there is no difference from government and private firms – that talked about all these stores they were going to put in Monessen – that's impossible – Ernie is right – the private sector has to be contracted to improve Monessen – putting in work for the people in Monessen – with all the government fund tearing down homes and businesses – that's fine – but it must be two sided – the private sector has to be involved – local government and private industry together – I would like to make a remark about the coke plant – I did not know how coke was made – this morning I talked with a young guy who worked in the mill, coke plant – I asked him what is the flame coming out of the plant – is that gas – he said it would be blue if it was gas – it is a by-product of coke production – I asked him about the steam – he said it has particles from the production of coke – we need to revitalize this town – we need to get rid of the coke plant – the odor is in the streets – I come to Foodland – terrific odor – I would not want to open an ice cream shop and have people come and smell that – I wrote a letter to the EPA – I am waiting on their response – a lady living on the top of Donora hill can not put her dog out – in the evening the smell goes clear up to city park – that industry is detrimental to Monessen – it is not attractive – I don't know how some redevelopers can suggest

anything with that monster along the river – are they violating the clean air act – I'm going to find out about that.

Pino Clianflone – there were 18 people present out of 42 people at the meeting, I didn't count you said there were 42, who don't belong to Monessen – they are only here for the freebees – you need to tell your neighbors to come to the city council meeting – I have been here since 1961 – I don't need nobody from New Mexico to tell us what to do.

12. ADJOURNMENT - Motion to adjourn the meeting by Donald Gregor at 7:45pm – seconded by John Nestor – vote 4 – 0.