COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

CITY OF MONESSEN

CITY OF MONESSEN COUNCIL CHAMBERS

JULY 20TH, 2023

6:30PM

Meeting call 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, MEMBER OF THE CITY OF MONESSEN COUNCIL, MONESSEN, PENNSYLVANIA. Opening prayer by Lois Thomas.

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

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS SESSION OF JULY 6TH, 2023. Motion to approve minutes of previous session by John Nestor – seconded by Lois Thomas – vote 5 – 0.

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

Kevin Iacovangelo – I am the owner of Right Byte Computer Center – since 1992 I have worked for the city – 6 months ago I sent the city an invoice – it has still not been paid – I have asked nicely – I have been working with Mr. Korposh and just last week had a meeting with him and the mayor – they told me it would be paid today – I am here because it is not on the agenda – when I asked why it was not paid – I was told Tony does not like me – I will call you a liar if you disagree – I have others that heard you say that too – I put it on my credit card for years because the city does not have a credit card – I

understand they now have one - I'm collecting interest on my credit card – I paid it so I would not – please pay my invoice – Tony does not like me is a terrible way to run a city (Donald Gregor – why was this invoice not paid) (Anthony Orzechowski – he never had a contract – it was never brought up to the council and approved) (Donald Gregor – we approved them in the past – it went through last year – Christmas Eve we had a problem and he came out an fixed it) (Anthony Orzechowski – there was no contract – there was an issue with the account in his name and he has the password) Deneen has the password for the site – I had to call Deneen to get the password (Donald Gregor – all this time Tony and no attempt by you to ask what the invoice is for – this is ridiculous) since 1992 I have dealt with her (Rosalie Nicksich) Mrs. Monessen – through her and every administration in the past – you need to listen to her – I told you before it is $100/hour and you never asked me for a contract – you signed a contract for $9,000/month forever for a program for the police department – that would have been $138,000 over the last 4 years – I got you out of that because that was not for a little police station – I worked with the chief at the time, Chief Smith to get you out of that contract (Ron Mozer – your minutes are up – you have gone even longer – you made your point) (John Nestor – I want to apologize) (Ron Mozer – it will be approved next meeting – we must follow the Sunshine Law and it was not on the agenda) (Donald Gregor – he is right about the Sunshine Law) (John Nestor – we want to make sure this does not happen again) (Ron Mozer – there is a requisition system in place now – it was not in place when this happened)

Ernie Telegraphis – (Donald Gregor – it is on agenda item) yes it is – Lion's Club is asking to waive the fee to do their fry at the boat launch – doing this loading zone – the crosswalks – you are giving

away the store and can't pay your bill – the library has 9 things wrong there – they have asked you since you own the building to pay for their insurance – you need to get realistic – what is ailing Monessen – you waive some people and others you charge – what is the free pass (John Nestor – non-profit) ok you can be non-profit and have $100,000 in your checking account – that does not make sense – there needs to be guidelines (Ron Mozer – there are clear guidelines)

Pino Cianflone – I'm your favorite – you mentioned the Sunshine Law earlier (Ron Mozer – in Pennsylvania you have to give 24 hour notice for an item to be on the agenda – can not put anything on without advertising) you can talk when I'm done – why don't you make a motion to pay that bill (Donald Gregor – it is against the law – certain things can be added at the beginning of the meeting – I know the Sunshine Law – I got sued by 3 individuals and I believe one was you – it is very disturbing that it wasn't paid – it got paid last year – I believe there is a personality conflict – I will make sure it gets paid next meeting even if I have to make the motion to pay it) (Lois Thomas – we can tell Mike after the meeting to put a motion to pay it on the next meeting) we are tax payers – just pay your damn bills.

6. CORRESPONDENCE - none

OLD BUSINESS N/A

7. REPORT OF THE SOLICITOR OF THE CITY OF MONESSEN. Joseph Dalfonso – the demo hearing on July 6th – we notified the owners about the demos – 648 Reed Avenue wants to transfer the property to the City – you can see the motion on the agenda tonight – I have been working with the engineers on easements over four properties along the river for the sewage project.

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

Gerald Saksun – garbage fees and city RE taxes collected for the month of June 2023 – garbage fee – June $2,900 – year-to-date $335,094 – 2023 budget $325,587 – June delinquent $2,498.42 – year-to-date $39,035.43 – 2023 budget $80,780 – amount collected by Portnoff June $1,510.60 – year-to-date $11,692.24 (included in the total above) penalty and interest Portnoff June $52.18 – year-to-date $2,384.92 – 2023 budget $2,145 – garbage collected for next year 2023 June $210 – year-to-date $985 – 2023 budget $1,385 – total garbage collected June $5,660.60 – year-to-date $277,499.35 – 2023 budget $409,897 – city real estate taxes revenue – June $120,984.01 – year-to-date $1,897,761.36 – 2023 budget $2,013,724 – city taxes prior year collected by city year-to-date $8,673.30 – 2023 budget $5,503 – subtotal year-to-date $1,906,434.66 – delinquent city taxes collected by Westmoreland Tax claim Bureau (quarterly) year-to-date $98,032.63 – 2023 budget $167,423 – total year-to-date taxes $2,004,467.29 – city real estate tax distribution as of June 30, 2023 – general year-to-date $1,326,306.59 – 2023 budget $1,400,947.79 – debt service year-to-date $359,934.88 – 2023 budget $380,191.09 – library year-to-date $39,161.32 – 2023 budget $40,677.22 – parks year-to-date $181,031.87 – 2023 budget $191,907.90 – total year-to-date $1,906,434.66 – 2023 budget $2,013,724 – real estate transfer tax June $5,214.56 – year-to-date $32,682.30 – 2023 budget $89,333 – earned income tax June $75,194.10 – year-to-date $367,274.04 – 2023 budget $513,898 – mercantile tax June $798.75 – year-to-date $17,377.69 – 2023 budget $22,579 – local services tax June $5,060.84 – year-to-date $40,672.21 – 2023 budget $53,357 – tax certifications June $2,490 – year-to-date $14,120 – 2023 budget $21,940 – municipal lien letters June $1,500 – year-to-date $9,750 – 2023 budget $14,775 – line

usage account unsewered payments June $75 – year-to-date $10,593 – line usage fee June $67,621.57 – year-to-date $442,050.94 – total line usage year-to-date $452,643.94

Motion to accept treasurer's report by John Nestor – seconded by Lois Thomas – vote 5 – 0.

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

Rosalie Nicksich – general fund CFS bank checking account bank reconciliation as of June 30, 2023 – beginning bank balance as of May 31, 2023, $1,106,074.17 – deposits $213,139.78 – expenses $477,149.51 – ending balance as of June 30, 2023, $842,064.41 – outstanding checks $382.84 – outstanding deposits $39,185.03 – reconcile balance to bank statement $880,866.61.

NEW BUSINESS

Mayor Ron Mozer, Director of Public Affairs

a. Mayor Mozer's Update of Issues for the weeks of July 6th, 2023, to July 20th, 2023. Ron Mozer – the Redevelopment Authority had a meeting – they are discussing the construction of a pavilion in partnership with the city between 2nd and 6th Street – to have different events – LSA (money from the casinos) – the allocations have gone out for this year and Monessen has received none – the reason being it was the application was due on March 15th last year – I was just in office for 3 months – I was working with DCED about Act 47 – I was just trying to keep the city alive – we had just hire Mike Korposh full time – it is open again and the application is due by September 30th – we will be applying this year – I have one thing in mind and would like to get other ideas – I would like to eliminate the flooding at the end of Donner by Rite Aid – the inside pipe company that is working on

6th, 9th and 12th Street – the inspections are at work – this is Phase 3A – on July 27th the statue that was constructed on McKee and 6th Street – you will be able to meet the artist – an unveiling of the project – we are working with Portnoff on delinquent garbage bills – the properties bought by the Landbank and the ones that the liens were forgiven are being taken off the list – there is no advantage in leaving them on – we won't collect any additional money for them – the important thing is to remove from the refuse pickup list – the parks have been working at the city park walking track – you will notice two big boxes – they are installing a new power distribution system – the audit will not be given tonight – they are waiting on the report from the actuaries from Mockenhaupt – they cannot complete the audit without it – they are telling me two weeks to complete – they should be here on August 10th unless something unforeseen happens then it will be August 24th – DCTA (financial group) – the Profit and Loss is $3 million this year which is down by .7% from last year – expenses are up by 6.4% - net income down by 27% - we must live on this money from now until the end of the year – I believe we will be fine – we will celebrate the Monessen 125 year event that I have been backing - It will be held on July 29th – it starts from 8 am to 10 am with a fishing contest – Heritage Days is involved and will take over shortly after 10 am – they have activities and food truck – at 5 pm we will line up on Wendell Ramey Way for the parade – totally different from other parades – we will go up Donner until 3rd Street and onto Schoonmaker and back to the boat launch – we will make a big "U" – there will be quite a few people involved.

b. Motion to approve Agreement of Sale and General Warranty Deed for property at 681 Reed Avenue, Monessen, Pennsylvania 15062 between Melvin Hall an individual residing at 681 Reed

Avenue, Monessen, Pennsylvania 15062 and the City of Monessen, a municipal corporation organized and existing under the Laws of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. Materials are attached to this Agenda as "Exhibit "1". Motion by Lois Thomas – seconded by John Nestor – vote 5 – 0.

c. Motion to approve the request of the Monessen Lions Club to waive the rental fee for the Mihalich Boat Launch for their annual Steak Fry to be held on August 10th as a nonprofit organization. Motion by Lois Thomas – seconded by John Nestor – vote 5 – 0.

d. Motion to present Payment Request #16 to PennVest for payment to Reynolds Brothers Construction for services performed on Sewer Rehabilitation Project Phase 4, Contract MON-2021-02 in the amount of $119,339.17. Payment Invoices and Materials are attached to this Agenda as Exhibit "2". Motion by Lois Thomas – seconded by John Nestor – vote 5 – 0.

e. Motion to ratify changes to the FFY 2021 CDBG program activities from a public hearing held on July 12th, 2023, in the Monessen Municipal Building at 5:30 pm, which would delete the line item for spending for the 10th Street Improvement Project in the amount of $72,000 and add a line item for spending to the Third Street Improvement project in the amount of $72,000. Information on this Resolution and related activities are attached to this Agenda as Exhibit "3". Motion by Lois Thomas – seconded by John Nestor – vote 5 – 0.

f. Motion to permit a Family reunion and temporary tent at a lot owned by the City of Monessen at 423 10th Street contingent on the approval of an appropriate Waiver Document to be initiated for the temporary utilization of the property on the date of the

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

g. Motion to approve loading zone restrictions, occupying what is now 3 parking spots from the new telephone pole by the west end of the Dunn-Rite Siding & Soffit Co. building going back towards library. Petition and related documents attached as "Exhibit "4". 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 $61,485.31. 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 Liquid Fuels account in the amount of $11,559.61. All invoices are attached to this agenda as Attachment "B". 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 $424.21. All invoices are attached to this agenda as Attachment "C". 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 $13,319.56. All invoices are attached to this agenda as Attachment "D". Motion by Anthony Orzechowski – seconded by John Nestor – vote 5 – 0.

f. Motion to pay the following invoices from the Parks Account in the amount of $893.08. 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 ARP Fund in the amount of $6,000.00. All invoices are attached to this agenda as Attachment "F". Motion by Anthony Orzechowski – seconded by John Nestor – vote 5 – 0.

g. 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 "G". Motion by Anthony Orzechowski – seconded by John Nestor – vote 5 – 0.

h. Motion to pay the following invoices from the Line Usage Fund in the amount of $1,890.00. all invoices are attached to this agenda as Attachment "H". Motion by Anthony Orzechowski – seconded by John Nestor – vote 5 – 0.

i. Motion to approve the transfer of $71,176.94 from the General Fund to the Payroll Account to cover the payroll expenses. Motion by Anthony Orzechowski – seconded by John Nestor – vote 5 – 0.

j. Motion to move $3,000.00 from the General Fund to the Healthcare fund. Motion by Anthony Orzechowski – seconded by John Nestor – vote 5 – 0.

Account balances – debt service $963,312.36 – line usage $737,245.74 – recreation $2,467.91 – fire escrow $20,777.60 – grant $31,566.03 – liquid fuels $192,065.23 – refuse $199,638.57 – ARP $242,018.67 – healthcare $5,088.13 – park $51,431.66 – payroll $3,729.52 – general $759,233.89.

Councilman Lois Thomas Director of Streets and Public Improvements

Streets and Public Improvement Report for month ending June 30th, 2023. Lois Thomas – picked up garbage downtown twice a week – cold patch several streets throughout the city – cleaned out catch basins – answered 50 PA One Calls – cut city lots and prepared for the 4th of July – cleared fallen trees from 3rd Street – removed all the meter heads from town except the meters marked permit parking – painted handicap curbs – helped the parks departments as needed – answered complaints and emails.

Library – people counter for June was 1,810 people – 84 people used the computers for 140 hours – 105 people used the Wi-Fi for 1,234 hours – Sarah has been hired to fill the position.

Councilman John Nestor, Director of Public Safety

Police and Public Safety Report for month ending June 30th, 2023. John Nestor – police department receipts for the month of June – miscellaneous collection copies of police accident report $150.00 – total miscellaneous collection $150 – court receipts from District Justice office – vehicle code fines collected $1,150.58 – crime code fines collected $922.08 – city ordinance collected $90.39 – total receipts from District Justice office $2,163.05 – total receipts collected for June $2,313.05 – total citations June 110 – year-to-date 661.

Monessen Municipal Fire Chief Report June 2023 – carbon monoxide leak 1 – tree down calls 1 – wires down calls 3 – natural gas leaks 1 – medical assist 3 – automatic fire alarms 7 – brush fire 1 – landing zone 1 – vehicle fire 1 – stove fire-animal rescue 1 – public service 1 – search detail – illegal burn 1 – calls outside the city – structure fire Rostraver Township 1 – structure fire Charleroi

1 – total calls 25 – total firefighters 279 – firefighters per call 11.26 – total man hours 347.

No E.M.S. report so far.

Code activity report – habitation permit 9 – correction letters 33 – animal complaints 16 – misc. complaints 40 – health inspection 3 – office meetings with residents 5 – citations issued 8 – hearings 3 – building permits 9 – zoning permits 13 – complaints grass, noise, abandoned vehicles and homes.

Two leaflets were sent out – one for donations to fire departments – help if you can – the other one for subscriptions to EMS.

Walking track will be completed in August? (Ron Mozer – on target)

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

Parks and Public Property Report for the month ending June 30th, 2023. Donald Gregor – cleaned the civic center and helped put tables together – picked up litter and got garbage in all the parks – cut all the parks and ballfields and prepared for events – fixed the sink at the Hilltop Fire Station – helped the streets department as needed.

Discussion of interactions with the Pirate Charities, Fields for Kids program for assistance with our proposed Batting Cage Project in the City of Monessen. I am working with Mike Korposh on getting a Grant – they will pay up to $10,000 – would like the city to pay for the concrete pad, last estimate $7,000 – we have a meeting soon.

11. OPEN FLOOR FOR PUBLIC COMMENT ON ANY ITEM.

Pino Cianflone – want to make an apology to Mike – not disbarred – his choice – got information from the State of Pennsylvania (Mike Korposh – thank you) Monessen needs to wise up – the council and the mayor – quit tearing the downtown area down – we are the only town that does not have a downtown – I don't have a problem sell the properties to people but quit giving it to the Redevelopment Authority – we need to build up downtown – it is horrible – the CDBG money needs to be spent on the lower end of Monessen – Reed to 12th Street – we need to cut the grass – we only have a few workers – I know it is late in the year – hire some young kids and have them cut grass and clean up the area (Ron Mozer – your three minutes are up)

Linda Lacey – you took the CDBG money from 10th Street and moved it to 3rd Street – why was it moved – why neglect that other end of town – that is where I live – the sidewalk on McMahon was take out in 2016 or 2017 – it is still not replaced – who is responsible for paving 9th Street after the sewer lines are replaced (Ron Mozer – the contractor is to repave the road from curb to curb) it that why you move the money to 3rd Street (Ron Mozer – no) when are you going to put it back (Ron Mozer – on the next CDBG project) I thought the problem down by Frank's garage had already been taken care of – it was supposed to be taken care of years ago (Ron Mozer – that why I had a meeting with Mon Valley Sewage Authority today)

Nancy Horvath – Charleroi cancelled their Kennywood days – so did some of the other towns – is Monessen still having theirs (Ron Mozer – yes – the MCDC is coordinating that – they will continue to have it) the cost is extremely high (Ron Mozer – that has

nothing to do with the council) overgrown lawns – they get fined but the grass is still high – what can you do next (Ron Mozer – fine them – take them to court – continue to fine them – nothing else)

Brad Bassenger – Westmoreland Conservation district – I work with the county – I have pamphlets to pass out and books on ways to present storm water from causing damage – I know Monessen has a flooding problem – we have a CPA Agreement that is free to the city – I approve all construction permits for everything over 1 acre – I am available to help – I can send pamphlet to whoever handles the permits.

Ed Lefevre – I read the July 5th article on the major sewer rehab project moving along in Monessen – most complicated article I ever read – talks about grants and loans – very confusing – I got out there is $17 million in loans not including the PNC loan – USDA for $15 million and PennVest for $2.3 million – how many years will it take Monessen to pay that back (Ron Mozer – USDA loan is for 40 years at 1.25% interest) how will the city pay that back (Ron Mozer – that will be paid using the line usage money – the $27/month fee) will that line usage fee increase in the future (Ron Mozer – it should not but I don't know – my crystal ball does not go there – it will depend on what the city council at that time decides) what if there are any other major project that need to be done – will the city get another loan on top of that one (Ron Mozer – possible) does 3rd class city code set a dollar amount of debt a city can have (Ron Mozer – I'm sure Joe can answer that question better than me) (Joseph Dalfonso – the is a calculation with an upper limit – it was done by the state – it is called Local Government Unit Debt Act – legislatures passed that law – there is not a hard limit – it is all based on the type of debt) have all of you read the 3rd class city code book – I started to read it - really

boring – anyone completely read it (Ron Mozer – I read it) (Mike Korposh – I wrote some of it)

12. ADJOURNMENT - Motion to adjourn meeting by Donald Gregor at 7:39 pm – seconded by John Nestor – vote 5 – 0.