COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

CITY OF MONESSEN

CITY OF MONESSEN COUNCIL CHAMBERS

AUGUST 24, 2023

6:30PM

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

AN EXECUTIVE SESSION WAS HELD BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MONESSEN ON TUESDAY AUGUST 22ND, 2023 TO DISCUSS PERSONNEL MATTERS.

Ron Mozer announced there was an executive session.

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 COUNCILPERSON LOIS THOMAS, MEMBER OF THE CITY OF MONESSEN COUNCIL, MONESSEN, PENNSYLVANIA.** Opening prayer offered by Lois Thomas.
3. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE.** Pledge of Allegiance led by Ron Mozer. Changes to the agenda as follows: Additions to the Anthony Orzechowski's portion of agenda – item "g" for transfer of $66,890.98 to payroll from general account – item "h" for motion to add $4,500 to healthcare account from general account – item "I" motion to pay $8,597.31 for retiree healthcare from general account and change item "e" amount to $2,736.04. (Donald Gregor entered meeting and is now present – motion to acknowledge by John Nestor – seconded by Lois Thomas)

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS SESSION OF AUGUST 10, 2023. Motion to approve minutes of previous session by Lois Thomas – seconded by John Nestor – vote 5 – 0.

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

Ernie Telegraphis – page 2 what does it mean about the audit – last two lines – provide a basis for their audit and options and conclusions (Ron Mozer – they will explain when they do the audit)

6. CORRESPONDENCE - none

OLD BUSINESS N/A

7. REPORT OF THE SOLICITOR OF THE CITY OF MONESSEN. Joseph Dalfonso – last meeting council voted to give property to the redevelopment authority – the deed was processed – I am working with engineers on easements on 4 properties along the river – one from sewage authority last week already complete.

8. REPORT OF THE CITY TREASURER OF THE CITY OF MONESSEN. Gerald Saksun – not present - report given at the last meeting.

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

10. NEW BUSINESS

Mayor Ron Mozer, Director of Public Affairs

Cypher and Cypher, Accountants, Auditors and Advisors will be making a presentation on the Annual Financial and Audit Report of the City of Monessen for Fiscal Year 2022, providing all audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for their audit options and conclusions.

Steve Cypher – See Attached Auditor's Presentation from Cypher & Cypher dated August 24, 2023.

a. Mayor Mozer's Update of Issues for the weeks of August 10th, 2023, to August 24th, 2023. Ron Mozer – late Friday afternoon we found out the contractor for project 3 would be in town – Monday they were closing Third Street – with Ninth Street was already closed – Tuesday afternoon we called a meeting with all EMS companies and Mon Valley Transit – we have a lot of work going on – they should finish Ninth Street next week – it will be repaved – they will still be working on McKee – this work does not come without pain – this is a lot of sewer work – the $27/month you are paying is now getting spent – pay attention to detour signs – check website and newspaper for any updates – I went to Harrisburg and met with Senator Cassey – many federal agencies were there to present their programs – there is $289 billion in recovery act money available across the entire country – if you can reduce pollution and increase efficiency in our home, there are programs out there for everyone – example if you replace your current water heater with a tankless water heater you can get money for doing that – 30% tax credit. (Pino Cianflone – your 3 minutes are up) I get as much time as I like.

b. Notice of Knights of Columbus Monessen Council #954 in conjunction with Epiphany Ladies of Epiphany of our Lord Parish of a spaghetti dinner to be held on September 17, 2023, at their Council Hall located at 1295 Grand Boulevard, Monessen, PA 15062 from 11:00 am to 5:00 pm. Spaghetti dinner announced by Ron Mozer.

c. Motion to approve Reynold's Payment Application No. 9, Sewer Rehabilitation Project Phase 4, (MON-2021-02) in the

amount of $115,720.04 for stored materials and a 10% reduction for retainage. Payment Invoices and materials are attached to this Agenda as "Exhibit 1". Motion was read by Ron Mozer - Motion by John Nestor - seconded by Lois Thomas – vote 5 – 0.

d. Motion to approve Reynold's Brothers Payment Application No. 10, Sewer Rehabilitation Project Phase 4, (MON-2021-02) in the amount of $31,623.33 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 the approval of consent of the County of Westmoreland Repository to facilitate the sale of a property at

648 Knox Avenue in the City of Monessen, Property ID # 20-02-06-0-213 to Adam Lee Lynn. "Exhibit "3". Motion by Lois Thomas – seconded by John Nestor – vote 5 – 0.

f. Motion to approve the closing of Third Street from the Alley area in and around the His Place Coffee, Community, and more coffee Shop to Schoonmaker Avenue on Saturday September 30th from 9:30 am to 1 pm for a one-year anniversary block party. Motion by Lois Thomas – seconded by John Nestor (2nd anniversary) – 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 $78,819.52. 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 $11,551.71. All invoices are attached

to this agenda as Attachment "B". Motion by Anthony Orzechowski – seconded by John Nestor – vote 5 – 0.

e. Motion to pay the following invoices from the Parks Account in the amount of $2,736.04. All invoices are attached to this agenda as Attachment "C". 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 "D". Motion by Anthony Orzechowski – seconded by John Nestor – vote 5 – 0.

g. Motion to transfer $66,890.98 to payroll account from general account. Motion by Anthony Orzechowski – seconded by John Nestor – vote 5 – 0.

h. Motion to add $4,500 to healthcare account from general account. Motion by Anthony Orzechowski – seconded by John Nestor – vote 5 – 0.

I. Motion to pay $8,597.31 for retiree healthcare from general account. Motion by Anthony Orzechowski – seconded by John Nestor – vote 5 – 0.

Account balances – American rescue $242,810.89 – refuse $202,855 – debt service $998,664.77 – payroll $5,453.45 – healthcare $4,391.50 – fire escrow $20,842.28 – line usage $748,619.98 – liquid fuels $178,262.94 – grant $31,698.06 – recreation $3.673.45 – park $52,158.90 – general $742,268.02.

Councilman Lois Thomas Director of Streets and Public Improvements

Streets and Public Improvement Report for month ending July 31st, 2023. Lois Thomas – got garbage twice a week – cold patched several streets – cleaned up washouts after storms – put up signs – answered 30 PA One Calls – cut city lots and trimmed the bushes downtown – helped the parks department as needed.

Councilman John Nestor, Director of Public Safety

Police and Public Safety Report for month ending July 31st, 2023. John Nestor – police department receipts for the month of July 2023 – parking fines and forfeits $25 – miscellaneous collection – copies of police accident reports $210 – total miscellaneous collection $210 – court receipts from District Justice office – vehicle code fines collected $814.85 – crimes code fines collected $499.56 – city ordinance collected $58.30 – total receipts from District Justice office $1,313.71 – total receipts collected for July 2023 $1,608.71.

Code activity report for July 2023 – habitation permits 11 - corrections letters 28 – animal complaints 9 – miscellaneous complaints 31 – health inspections 3 – office meetings with residents 8 – citations issued 5 – hearings 2 – building permits 1 – zoning permits 2.

Monessen Municipal fire Chief Report July 2023 – vehicle accident 3 – structure fires 1 – tree down calls 2 – wires down calls 5 – medical assistance 1 – automatic fire alarms 4 – stove fires 1 – landing zone 2 – flooding 2 – dumpster fire 1 – public safety 1 – calls outside the city – structure fire Washington Township 2 – structure fire Charleroi 1 – automatic fire alarm Charleroi 2 – total calls 28 – total firefighters 289 – firefighters per call 10.32 – total man hours 334.

I would like to thank the young students – wish them the best on their first day of school.

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

Parks and Public Property Report for the month ending July 31st, 2023. Donald Gregor – cleaned the Civic Center – picked up litter, got garbage, cut ballfields, prepared pavilions for events and cut all the city parks – put in a new electric line at the city park walking track – helped the streets department as needed. Has the Code violations at the walking track have been taken care of? (Ron Mozer – they were corrected, and everything is completed) Have you heard anything from Pirate Charities about the batting cages? (Michael Korposh – heard back from them – it is moving along slowly – not there yet – maybe we can get on a call with her) I would also like to talk to you about the tennis court. (Michael Korposh – ok)

11. OPEN FLOOR FOR PUBLIC COMMENT ON ANY ITEM.

Ernie Telegraphis – how much money did the tax payers have to pay for Cypher & Cypher report (Ron Mozer – I don't know how much) did anyone understand what he said – he was to give us audit options – this is a mockery – you are talking like Captain Kangaroo – you offer nothing – you doing nothing – I talked with the county, we will be lucky if the two building that burnt will come down this year – line sewage was done years ago – you had nothing to do with it – I think you need another audit company – they did not offer anything to us – you had a meeting here Tuesday, why did we not know about it (Ron Mozer – everyone was there that should have been there – it was in the paper) you are not getting the public involved – no one was here at the last

public meeting – why (Anthony Orzechowski we paid the audit $7,000 – they were here as many times as needed – you could have asked the auditors questions) we were not allowed - no one understood them (Ron Mozer – I asked if there were any questions) you need to get new auditors.

Ed Lafevre – curious about the line usage fund – I went to the sewage authority – I asked how many residents pay their sewage bill monthly – they denied me the information at first and then they told me to send a right to know – I filled out the right to know - I received a letter from the sewage authority in response – they would not give me any information other than for August 2023 – which was for June usage, they sent out 2,816 bills – that number does not seem like enough based on the population (Ron Mozer – each household only pays $27 – demographics says Monessen has 2. something people per household) I just thought it looked low – if I use the 2,816 and 100% pays there invoice that is $77,000/month - $926,000/year - $37 million for 40 years (Ron Mozer – let me explain – the sewer bills come in 3 month intervals – they are tied to the water bills – if they don't pay the sewage bill, they threaten to shut off their water – the amount varies every time – the money that comes in is half for the project and half to maintain the system and make repairs) who determined it was to be $27 (Ron Mozer – prior administration) you will have $12 million left (Ron Mozer – time is up – bring it up again at the next meeting) (audience complained XXXXXXXXXXX) (Ron Mozer – ok I said for him to go ahead) Mon Valley Sewage takes care of 8 communities – I understand there is maintenance and maintaining personnel – our fee can't stay at $27 – it will have to go up – how much do the businesses pay for sewage (Ron Mozer – everyone pays $27/sewer tap – this money also includes the

work on the EQ Tank) so it won't stay at $27 – you can't say it will be stable (Ron Mozer – the $22 million is less than half the work that needs to be done) (Donald Gregor – yes this amount was set by previous administration – it was recommended by WEC, might be incorrect, that is what they recommended - $5/tank – the amount was recommended) I know damage happens – the line usage may go up – lesson learned this year that you can not borrow from the account and not return it by the end of the year – so don't borrow it any more – what was the sewage cost in prior years (Ron Mozer – all the money is in the line usage account – we have had repairs on the sewers – that big one was up by you) (Donald Gregor – years ago we had the really big one at the mill – do you remember how much that costs $160,000 – it was our line – we have to fix it – the sewage line is owned by the city – we are responsible for them) (Linda Lacey – you mean we had to pay for that) (Donald Gregor – we clean out catch basins – repair catch basin – we now have enough work to keep two people busy every day) (Linda Lacey – looks like everything is falling on this administration – it should have been done 15 years ago) (Donald Gregor – yes it should have been done 15 years ago – it was started a long time ago and it has taken a long time to get things done – now the work is finally being done this year – years ago we had a $5 million loan to repair the sewer lines in park area – when it was completed the loan was turned into a grant – it cost the city nothing for that repair – all the money that was taken from the account is being returned to that account – we have been fixing line for years) local paper won't print my articles in the editorial – they won't publicize my articles – they don't like my wording – I have a different view point.

Pino Cianflone – Anthony we talked about the police department – you were right we had 12 full time policemen and 4 part time policemen – that mean we get two policemen daily and when you are lucky you may get that third guy – why 12 hour shifts (David Yuhasz – the officers voted for the 12 hour shift – they get more time off) a 12 hour shift is costly – they become inefficient – more commit suicide – they abuse their spouses – it is not a productive shift – we still need more police – 2 people/shift does not cover the entire city – who enforces the code enforcement office (John Nestor – me – every type of issue is handled differently – what is the address you are talking about) the mayor has that information – he should have given it to you – we have two sections in Monessen, black section and a white section and mixed – the upper part is taken care of – the lower portion is not – the street department – the only entrance that looks good is city park and boat launch – we do not have enough people to handle what need to be done – is it legal to have a hand made sign that says two way – is it legal (Joseph Dalfonso - one of the construction companies must have made that sign) should the code enforcer handle that (Joseph Dalfonso - a police issue) you have a code enforcer with a helper – come on – nothing is being done (Donald Gregor – code has a lot that goes to the magistrate – they side with the city – they issue a fine – the home owner does nothing – code goes back to court – they ignore us again – we just keep doing it over and over again – go past Lou's house – right next door to him) who enforces (Donald Gregor – the magistrate) why can't we get kids, not during school year, cut grass and stay out of trouble (Joseph Dalfonso – we can be charged with trespassing – we are currently working with the sheriff's office – if they do not pay the fines it is a summary offense – not a high priority to pick

them up – Monessen gets nothing) (Donald Gregor – they get away with it – we lose – they will sue us if we try to do anything) have you seen behind my house – I don't go there because I get someone to cut my grass and shovel my snow – why is the Nehemiah Group's address the church on 3rd Street (Ron Mozer – the chairman uses the address) don't get coffee there – you only promote him – that church is out of Rostraver and pays no taxes (Donald Gregor – I have to leave does anyone else have any more questions for me) (Ron Mozer – can we adjourn)

Ernie Telegraphis – Cyper & Cypher gave us nothing – how do we look for the next 4 months to pay the bills (Anthony Orzechowski – real tight)

12. ADJOURNMENT Motion to adjourn meet at 7:42 by John Nestor – seconded by Anthony Orzechowski – vote 4 – 0.