COUNCIL MEETING AGENDA

CITY OF MONESSEN

CITY OF MONESSEN COUNCIL CHAMBERS

OCTOBER 25, 2023

6:30PM

Meeting called 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 present – Ron Mozer present.
   Motion to make a change to the agenda by Ron Mozer – motion to add f under the section of the mayor. Seconded by John Nestor – vote 5 – 0.

2. OPENING PRAYER OFFERED BY LOIS THOMAS COUNCILPERSON, CITY OF MONESSEN. Opening prayer offered by Lois Thomas.

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

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS SESSION, OCTOBER 12TH, 2023. Motion to approve minutes of previous sessions by John Nestor – seconded by Lois Thomas – vote 5 – 0.

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

Ernie Telegraphis – page 2 who is going to be interactive with PennDOT on the traffic lights – is that you John Nestor (Ron Mozer – the whole council) I'm going to bring this up to your attention – we have many red light and they are all different – they are from 3.1 sections to 4.8 seconds – it can make a big difference if someone is going to tag you for a ticket – I looked on the internet at 30 miles per

hour – 1 second is 44 feet – most of these intersections are around 30 to 40 feet – if you are short changed one second – the cops will write you up for a ticket – I want to bring it to your attention to put uniform seconds on the changing of lights from yellow to red – that's my biggest concern. (Ron Mozer – thank you).

6. CORRESPONDENCE – no correspondence.

OLD BUSINESS N/A

7. **REPORT OF THE SOLICITOR OF THE CITY OF MONESSEN.** Joseph Dalfonso – in regards to the PennDOT agreement on the agenda – that is a master agreement – I believe it is for all the traffic lights in town – every time they make a change they make adjustments to the contract – PennDOT will install these lights and the city of Monessen is responsible for the ongoing maintenance on these lights – update with EQ Tank – the city engineer did take a look at it – they had some minor comments – they were sent back to the authorities engineer – it is about easements and utilities on this – the city needs to have a planning commission meeting to look over the EQ Tank information.

8. **REPORT OF THE CITY TREASURER.** Gerald Saksun – absent – report was given at the last meeting.

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

10. **NEW BUSINESS**

Mayor Ron Mozer, Director of Public Affairs

a. Mayor Mozer's Discussion of items and a status report relative to Actions taken by the City of Monessen during the period of October 12, 2023, to October 25th, 2023, Agenda

matters for the meeting of October 25th, 2023, and any additional issues capable of being addressed by the City of Monessen during this period. Ron Mozer – last Friday we had a meeting the Senator Ward and Congressman Davanzo along with quite a few of the PNG executives in Monessen to discuss the lack of communications between the city and the work being performed on Schoonmaker on behalf of PNG - since that time they have done better – they have provided more information and scheduling – October 23 through 27 – Schoonmaker Phase 1 ADA ramps – Gran Blvd Project mill and pave – Schoonmaker Phase 1 mill and pave – October 30 through November 3 – complete Schoonmaker Phase 1 mill and pave. 4th Street – they are making progress and hopefully we can get this behind us – it has be repeatedly brought to our attention that Evergreen Avenue running through the cemetery needs paving – the estimate provided by our city engineer comes to $67,844.69 – we can likely find funds from CDBG to accomplish this if that is what everybody wants to do – we will have hearings to move funds around and pave it in early spring or summer – there may be some other sources such as the Feds with their transportation initiatives that we can pursue that may or may not have funds for that paving job – we have been in constant communications via internet meeting with our DCTA (HUD program where they assign two people to work with us) they assigned PFM, and LISC consultants – PFM is the financial consultant and has been providing economic forecast for the city – that is their primary goal – the forecast is not real rosy – this forecast shows a deficient of $192,658 at the end of the year if nothing changes – anything can happen – it will take every penny we have in every account that we have legal access to just to survive this year – just to be clear – last year after a very

rough start – we received reimbursement from the engineering from the USDA, payoff of the Health Center, money from the paving of 4th Street and Reed – I an very confident that we will get though the end of the year but it's next year that really scares me – we have to change something – which brings us to the fire department – this year's budget included $20,000 each to the two fire stations - we already distributed to them $5,000 of this money – we will do our best to fulfill the commitment and we still have 2 months to find the money and make good on it – we are working hard at it – the city administrator and I made a trip to the Greensburg office of Senator Ward – we met with her and her staff – Congressman Davanzo was there also – the purpose of the trip was to promote a concept whereby the state would help us finance a $3.4 million loan for the express purpose of fully funding our MMO – right now our MMO is approximately $440,000 every year – if we were to fully fund it with a loan at a reasonable interest rate over 20 years, it would yield a payment of $200,000 to $220,000 or less – that is about what we receive from the state every year – that would save us $4 million over the next 20 years and help get us through the next few years baring no radical inflation trends driving costs up – those are some of the things we have been working on since last council meeting.

b. Discussion of Penn DOT policies relative to Traffic signals in the City of Monessen, and the duties, responsibilities, and obligations of the City of Monessen for the utilization, maintenance of upkeep of these facilities and infrastructure. Joseph Dalfonso discussed this during his part of the meeting.

c. Discussion on submission and outreach relative to grant applications and proper procedures as set forth by the Solicitor of the City of Monessen. Ron Mozer – no motion right now but

the city administrator and I have been working on some grants that could help the city – when they come to reality, we will bring them to the council's attention before we act upon them – sewer projects – road projects – tennis courts – all different kinds of projects.

d. Motion to add two Speed Signs placed on Spring Street to curb speeding, with additional Children at Play or related safety signs to continue to alert drivers on Spring Street to lessen speed. Motion by Lois Thomas - seconded by John Nestor (Ron Mozer – just informed a few minutes ago that the streets department already have the signs in place – they were being proactive) – vote 5 – 0.

e. Motion to approve the hiring of Clinton Shawley to a position within the Streets and Parks Department of the City of Monessen at a starting salary of $21.00 per hour to begin on or about November 1st, 2023. Motion by Lois Thomas - seconded by John Nestor - (Donald Gregor – yes – where is Mr. Shawley from) (Lois Thomas – he lives in Monessen) (Donald Gregor – where in Monessen) (Lois Thomas – 21 Arch Street in Monessen) (Donald Gregor – I was reached out by an individual, actually 2 of them that applied for the position also – they are scheduled for the interview next week – it that true) (Lois Thomas – 7 were scheduled – this is the list we got) (Donald Gregor – did we interview them all) (Lois Thomas – yes we did – each got a half hour – these were the names that we handed to us) (Donald Gregor – can I see that – were they all interviewed) (Lois Thomas – all 7 – we even had to move time around because one could not come earlier) (Donald Gregor – I would like to see a resume on this person instead of just his name) (Ron Mozer – it's in the package) (Donald Gregor – I would have liked to see it before the

meeting) (Lois Thomas – he was interviewed last time – were you not at the interviews last time – I thought you were and you had to leave) (Donald Gregor – no – I would like to see a resume) (Lois Thomas handed Donald Gregor the resume) (Ron Mozer – I would like to point out – on the 7 people we interviewed on Monday – I would not hesitate to hire any of them – he was the cream of the crop) (Lois Thomas – the same thing happened last time – we are blessed to have such great applicants – the one we are putting up today was one of the two last time we did interviews – he was so interested in the position he came every week to see when we were hiring – all the applicants were excellent - for public works) (Donald Gregor – not real comfortable with this) vote 4 – 1 Donald Gregor voted no.

f. Motion to appoint Ginny Monaghan to fill the position on the Library Board vacated by Mark Galper ending on 12/41/2024. 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 $58,595.91. 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 Recreational Account in the amount of $190.13. 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 Parks Fund in the amount of $1,352.28. 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 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 pay the following invoices from the Liquid Fuels account in the amount of $6,106.71. All invoices are attached to this Agenda as Attachment "E". 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 $926.10. All invoices are attached to this Agenda as Attachment "F". Motion by Anthony Orzechowski – seconded by John Nestor – vote 5 – 0.

i. Motion to transfer $67,759.88 from the General Account to the Payroll Account. Motion by Anthony Orzechowski – seconded by John Nestor – vote 5 – 0.

j. Motion to pay $8,768.03 to the Retired Employee Health Care Account for the month of October 2023. Motion by Anthony Orzechowski – seconded by John Nestor – vote 5 – 0.

Account balances – American rescue $236,668.02 – grant $53,974.56 – line usage $800,601.74 – recreation $4,310.90 – debt service $1,090,267.87 – liquid fuels $144,326.57 – refuse $68,870.90 – fire escrow $20,993.64 – healthcare $4,777.15 – park $47,651.46 – payroll $4,021.97 – general $414,511.30.

Councilman Lois Thomas Director of Streets and Public Improvements

Streets and Public Improvement Report for the month ending September 30th,2023. Lois Thomas - got garbage twice a week – cold patched several streets – repaired three catch basins and cleaned out several more – reported undermining at the intersection of 9th and Knox – marked 36 PA One Calls – cut city lots – put up signs throughout the city – boarded up abandoned building – helped the parks department as needed.

Councilman John Nestor, Director of Public Safety

Police and Public Safety Report for month ending September 30th, 2023. John Nestor – Monessen Municipal Fire Chief Report September 2023 – vehicle accident 4 – structure fires 1 – medical assistance 2 – automatic fire alarms 7 – dryer fire 1 – landing zone 3 – public service 1 – calls outside the city – training drill Carroll Township 1 – structure fire Charleroi 1 – structure fire Washington Township 1 – total calls 22 – total firefighters 220 – firefighters per call 10 – total manhours 253 – public news and events – the firefighters have installed 10 smoke detectors so far, if you are interested call 724-684-7833 please leave a message – firefighters put in a full week of Fire Prevention in the schools October 8th through 14th – the firefighters did 5 annual fire drills and walk throughs in the month so far.

Code Activity Report for September 2023 – habitation permit 12 – correction letters 21 – animal complaints 9 total – 6 racoons, 2 dogs, 1 rat – miscellaneous complaints 14 – health inspections 2 – office meetings with residents 5 – citations issued 4 – hearing 1 – building permits 11 – zoning permits 3 – miscellaneous complaints were grass, noise, abandoned vehicles and homes.

Police department receipts for the month of September 2023 – miscellaneous collection – copies of police accident reports $165.00 – total miscellaneous collection $165.00 – court receipts from District Justice office – vehicle code fine collected $838.20 – crime code fines collected $587.42 – city ordinance collected $18.56 – code enforcement collected $266.80 – total receipts from District Justice office $1,710.98 – total receipts collected from September 2023 $1,875.98 – total citations for police 106 for September – year-to-date 909.

EMS – 143 calls – 8 fire standby – 1 police standby – 9 refers – 161 total calls – 7.67 response time.

I have been working with Chief Yuhasz – when the police are patrolling at night – they are making a list of the phone poles numbers with the burnt-out lights – I just got a list and I will give the list to Mr. Lombardo at West Penn Power – he is doing some research – we may have some defects in our system and that may be why we have so many lights out in the city of Monessen – I would like to thank the police department for going out at night and writing down the pole numbers - they will be writing down more of the pole numbers where the lights are out.

Message from one of the employees at the Monessen Elementary Center – I can pass the picture along if someone wants to take a look at it – while the picture is being passed – the trash has not

been picked up this month – I will call the school district and see if it has been picked up yet – this is where the kids are playing nearby – there will be more trash added to the photo because the janitors are cleaning now (Ron Mozer – it is a picture of very overloaded dumpsters) it is at the Elementary School at the ramp shared by delivery trucks – the children use that area at recreation time – County Hauling is supposed to be picking it up – it is a school issue but it is also a public safety issue – I thought the council should be aware of it.

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

Parks and Public Property Report for the month ending September 30th, 2023. Donald Gregor – cut all the city parks – cut the ballfields and prepared for the events – picked up litter and got garbage in the parks – helped the streets department as needed.

I have a couple of questions about the Evergreen situation – you said something about using the CDBG money on that – there are no addresses on that street – Mr. Solicitor would we be able to use CDBG money (Jospeh Dalfonso – good question – you will have to talk with Mr. Hagland on that – legitimate question) (Rosalie Nicksich – I did contact Walt and that is not eligible for CDBG funds) you said you talked with the engineer and he gave you a quote for how much (Ron Mozer - $67,844.69 more or less) I have a proposal from El Grande Industries for $24,420) (Ron Mozer – sound a lot better than our engineering estimate) did you see the estimate – would you like to read it (Ron Mozer – sure – it sounds good to me) the only problem if you don't get a grant you will not be able to fix the road – WEC is saying that amount

because they would do a lot more work on it than the other proposal estimate – that road has been a wreck – I have work at Grandview since 1983 – it was in terrible condition back then – it has done nothing but degrade more – I had hoped to use the ARP money of $30,000 that has been ear marked for the tennis courts however it has been brought to my attention by the mayor – we will need every penny in that account to make payroll through the end of the year – we do have an issue there – as far as the money for the fire department – I hope we find it because they were depending on it for repairs and purchases – money does not grow on trees for them or the city so I hope we do find it – please look into that particular estimate from El Grande.

11. OPEN FLOOR FOR PUBLIC COMMENT ON ITEMS RELATING TO THE BUSINESS, RESPONSIBILITY, STATUTES, CODES AND ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF MONESSEN.

Pino Cianflone – question about two weeks ago at the meeting we had – I should be able to ask it (Ron Mozer – is it relating to the business, responsibility, statues, codes and ordinances of the city) you want to shut us down (Ron Mozer – I don't want to shut you down – please ask it – don't expect to get thru it if it not something we have control over) two question – viaduct – what are you guys going to do with it – if it caves in it will divide the upper city and the lower city – I know you guys don't care about the low income people, but I do – the second question I have in reference to what you said - I would like to reply to Mrs. Thomas from last week when she told us that God told her to run for office – I see your signs up – people like me votes for you not God – did God picked you up and took you to the court house and the judge voted on you coming into council (Ron Mozer – this is – it is politics and has nothing to do with city council) no I am giving my

time (Ron Mozer – that is politics and we don't need to go there) what are you going to do about the streets in Monessen – you know the sewage plan – what are you going to do about Parente Blvd, Grand Blvd, Rostraver – do you have any interest (Ron Mozer – do you not understand what part that we have no money – that we are going to be short $190,000 this year – it takes money) do you understand you have been here to two years and have not gotten anything done (Ron Mozer – grants – right because I am not getting support) why – I mean you have 5 people (Ron Mozer – do you have any other questions) you have 5 people in your Nehemiah group (Ron Mozer – you are getting off the subject – you can talk about roads but you can not talk about that) give me an answer on this – I believe the redevelopment authority (Ron Mozer – that is an authority – we have no control over the redevelopment authority) it is not politics – it take all – between you guys and the redevelopment authority it make 12 – you are the dirty twelve – I know (Ron Mozer – I think you are finished – stay on subject) you are going to put together that mickey mouse project – you know as well as I do – you ain't done a damned thing for the parking lot – so you can sit there and tell me you are trying to keep us from speaking – let me tell you something – the dirty dozen – I just told you who they are – and you are the dirty dozen (Ron Mozer – that's fine – anything else) I'm going to do my damned best to get you out of office (Ron Mozer – that's fine – but anything political does not need to be discussed here) I pay taxes but you let some asshole talk to you (Ron Mozer – clean up the language – sit down) you tell me – you are full of shit (Ron Mozer – sit down – sit down).

Ernie Telegraphis – can I ask you a question – I think the police chief is more than adequate to be present (Ron Mozer – he is sick)

he is sick – so this is temporary (Ron Mozer – yes he is sick – this is temporary) I thought maybe we were adding more expense – number 2 – what are you people going to do when you people say you are short $100,000 and you can't get any grant money (Ron Mozer – we won't pay bills) do you know which bills you are not going to pay (Ron Mozer – it will be up to council to decide) Tony do you have any idea – I just wanted to know (Ron Mozer – it is up to council – we will wait until we get to that point and we will make that decision) that is like waiting for the water under bridge until it is too late (Ron Mozer - it won't be too late – it will be time to do it) so you don't have a plan B (Ron Mozer – there are several things that could happen but we don't know) one more question – can you tell me between now and New Years - what is you plan to bring somebody here to help us rejuvenate the city – do you have anything going or are we just going to do Halloween, Thanksgiving, Christmas – we just going to have these events (Ron Mozer – I have nothing confirmed) between now and New Years (Ron Mozer – I have no confirmed commitments by anybody) ok.

Donald Gregor – I have one question for Tony – we are looking into a liquid fuels transfer – did you come up with a total on that yet (Anthony Orzechowski – here are some numbers – we have a balance of $412,678.42 – the payroll to the end of the year is about $270,000 baring nothing going wrong – that leaves $142,678.43 – the city's bills every two weeks averages $50,000 – so $100,000 – leaves $42,678.43 – now the big one is our MMO of $212,000 – that leaves us a negative $169,321.57 – in liquid fuels there is $144,000 – I have to leave a cushion – winter coming – we may need salt – I'm thinking $70,000 to $75,000 can be moved over from liquid fuels to the general account which leave us a negative $99,321.57 – what really would be great if we sell the

building next door – it would close the gap down to $20,000 to $30,000 – if we got a minimum of $60,000 for the building – yes the city still owns the building – this will leave us $39,000 short – we can make it up – we can make it up somewhere – as far as the fire department – I budgeted it – I promised it – it maybe not until the 31st – I will take it from the ARP fund if I have to – a promise is a promise – my main concern is pulling $79,000 somewhere) do we have to have that money spent by the end of the year (Anthony Orzechowski – if we do – we will have a big salt order – but again we have a tendency to have things that come up – if I have to take it all the way down – I will take it all the way down – I'm not sure where it has to be – so it has to sit for another month) ok – thank you.

Ernie Telegraphis – last meeting you said we had tons of salts (Anthony Orzechowski – I never said we had salt) somebody did (Donald Gregor – we were told we had 350 ton salt – one big snow and that is gone – Rodney how many miles of roads in Monessen) (Rodney Freeman - 26 miles) (Donald Gregor – these guys take care of downtown not PennDOT – how much did we use last year) (Anthony Orzechowski – we got salt three times – last year was very light – I would say about 400 tons – I think we filled it twice) (Delmar Hepple – what happened to the allotment we have to take) (Anthony Orzechowski – we are contracted for a specific amount – we will probably get it next month – that is a good question – we did not tell them that we do not want it – in the past we got shipments passed our allotment – we have been contracted with a price already)

Pino Cianflone – last meeting she read from a paper about God – I think the meeting was planned for the night – God must have told her the week before so she could prepare.

Ed Lafavre – I want to answer a question that was put to me last meeting – why don't you run for office (Ron Mozer – we are not talking politics here – I'm sorry – we are not going to answer questions from a prior time – if it has to deal with codes or ordinances) on Wednesday of last week Mr. Dalfonso Sr. called me (Ron Mozer – what does this have to do with us) let me ask the question (Ron Mozer – well get to it – get to the point) he called me and spent 10 to 20 minutes on the phone (Ron Mozer – why do I care) he praised this administration – the litany he gave me – mayor I would like to compare yours with his (Ron Mozer – codes, statues or ordinances of Monessen) ok - let me say this – I would run for council but I am too old.

12. ADJOURNMENT. Motion to adjourn meeting at 7:20pm by Lois Thomas – seconded by John Nestor – vote 5 – 0.