COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

CITY OF MONESSEN

CITY OF MONESSEN COUNCIL CHAMBERS

FEBRUARY 22, 2024

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 by phone – John Nester present – Karen Cosner present – Ron Mozer present.

2. OPENING PRAYER OFFERED BY PASTOR JOHN CUSTER AND EVANGELIST CHRIS SHEPPICK, ORCHARD CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP AND THE MONESSEN COMMUNITY OF PASTORS. Opening prayer by Pastor John Custer.

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

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS SESSION OF FEBRUARY 8, 2024. Motion to approve minutes of previous session by John Netor – seconded by Lois Thomas - vote 5 – 0.

5. PUBLIC COMMENT DIRECTED TO MAYOR MOZER ON AGENDA ITEMS ONLY. Ernie Telegraphis – no voice on the video – he talked on agenda issues.

6. CORRESPONDENCE

OLD BUSINESS N/A

7. REPORT OF THE SOLICITOR OF THE CITY OF MONESSEN. Joseph Dalfonso – PA Housing Finance Agency Homeowner Assistance Fund –

city is looking to enter this program – reviewed the agreement and council must vote to approve – Volunteer Fire Fighter Rax Credit – explained the Act 172 process the city must follow to provide for the tax credit – demo hearings – explained that no property owners and interested parties showed up to the hearings, but there were about a dozen residents showed up in support of the demolitions.

8. REPORT OF THE CITY TREASURER OF THE CITY OF MONESSEN.
Gerald Saksun – absent – gave his report at the last meeting.

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

10. NEW BUSINESS

Mayor Ron Mozer, Director of Public Affairs

a. Motion to offer Full Employment to Ryan Bartolomew as a Police Officer in the City of Monessen effective upon his start of shift duties and responsibilities within the Department. Motion by Lois Thomas – seconded by John Nestor – vote 5 – 0.

b. Motion to recognize the promotion of Officer Chris Gray, Officer Brian Mickens, and Officer James Stoken to the rank of Sergeant within the City of Monessen Police Department effective immediately. Motion by Lois Thomas – seconded by John Nestor – vote 5 – 0.

SPECIAL ORDER OF BUSINESS FOR THE SWEARING IN OF OFFICER RYAN BARTOLOMEW AS A NEW POLICE OFFICER WITHIN THE CITY OF MONESSEN, AND THE PROMOTION OF OFFICER CHRIS GRAY, OFFICER BRIAN MICKENS, AND OFFICER JAMES STOKEN TO THE RANK OF SERGEANT WITHIN THE POLICE FORCE OF THE CITY OF MONESSEN BY DISTRICT JUSTICE WAYNE VLASIC.

SPECIAL ORDER OF BUSINESS AND PROCLAMATION BY MAYOR MOZER TO CELEBRATE THE 40 YEAR CAREER AND RETIREMENT OF STEVE BECK WITH THE CITY OF MONESSEN, AND TO WISH HIM GOOD LUCK, GOOD HEALTH, AND A LONG AND WELL-DESERVED RETIREMENT WITH FAMILY AND FRIENDS.

c. Mayor Mozer's Update of Issues within the City of Monessen from February 8, 2024, to February 22, 2024.

d. Motion to permit advertising for the procurement of installation of necessary and appropriate cameras and related equipment within the City of Monessen to assist in law enforcement and public safety activities within the city. Motion by Lois Thomas – seconded by John Nestor – vote 5 – 0.

e. Motion to accept the resignation of Ernest Telegraphis from the Library Board of the City of Monessen to permit him to serve on his recently appointed position on the Planning Commission of the City of Monessen. Motion by Lois Thomas – seconded by John Nestor – vote 5 – 0.

f. Motion to correct and amend the term of office of the previously approved nomination of Tom Salak as a member of the Mon Valley Sewage Authority from a 4-year term to the statutorily required 5-year term of office. Motion by Lois Thomas – seconded by John Nestor – vote 5 – 0.

g. Motion to approve the process of initiating negotiations and the submittal of a proposal to partner with the Pittsburgh Pirates Charities to procure and install a batting cage at the Shawnee Park Baseball and Softball fields contingent on the participation of an appropriate and cost-effective funding grant by the Pirate

Charities for the project. Motion by Lois Thomas – seconded by John Nestor – vote 5 – 0.

h. Motion to approve a Resolution # by the City of Monessen certifying the provision of a Local Match for State operating Financial Assistance in the amount of $2,998.00 for the Mid Mon Valley Transit Authority (MMVTA). For fiscal year 2024-2025, July 1, 2024, to June 30th, 2025. Attached to this Agenda as "Exhibit1". Motion by Lois Thomas – seconded by John Nestor – vote 5 – 0.

i. Motion to waive the $300.00 rental fee for the Monessen Civic Center to defray costs for an event to be held on May 18th, 2024, by the Union Baptist Church. The $50.00 Kitchen Cleaning fee deposit will still apply to the event. Attached as "Exhibit "2". Motion by Lois Thomas – seconded by John Nestor – vote 5 – 0.

j. Motion for second reading of an Ordinance No. 1268, of the City of Monessen, County of Westmoreland, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, amending Chapter 340 Streets and Sidewalks, by repealing certain provisions of Article I Openings and Excavations related to Deposits and Bonds and Resurfacing Requirements. Motion by Lois Thomas – seconded by John Nestor – vote 5 – 0.

k. Motion to Exonerate taxes for 207 Lenawee Avenue as recommended by the City of Monessen Tax Forgiveness Board as the property is in compliance with the Tax Forgiveness Program. 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 $113,233.73. 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 $190.09. 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 $19,384.00. 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 Line Usage account in the amount of $1,128.59. 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 invoice from the Grant Fund in the amount of $865.36. All invoices are attached to this Agenda as "Attachment "E". Motion by Anthony Orzechowski – seconded by John Nestor – vote 5 – 0.

f. Motion to approve the transfer of $71,529.05 from the General Fund to the Payroll Account to cover the payroll

expenses. Motion by Anthony Orzechowski – seconded by John Nestor – vote 5 – 0.

g. Motion to pay Retired Worker Health Care Benefits for February 2024 in the amount of $10, 817.13. Motion by Anthony Orzechowski – seconded by John Nestor – vote 5 – 0.

Account balances – ARP $210,240.23 – debt service $847,287.08 – fire escrow $21,317.03 – liquid fuels $2,233.75 – refuse $381,606.26 – payroll $14,839.92 – grant $82,130.41 – healthcare $3,735.96 – line usage $843,535.44 – park $27,695.65 – recreation $4,568.01 – general $48,211.77 – TAN note $350,962.28.

Councilperson Lois Thomas Director of Streets and Public Improvements

Streets and Public Improvement Report for month ending January 31st, 2023. Lois Thomas – picked up garbage twice a week in the downtown area – answered and marked 50 PA One Calls – cold patched several streets in the city – placed 5 signs in the city and repaired other sign issues in the city – removed plate and repaired the sink hole in the alley behind the eagles – cleaned the streets with the sweeper based upon weather conditions – removed the Christmas decorations throughout the city – snow removal of streets as required – reported for overtime duty for snow, ice, water breaks and fires – repaired trucks, equipment and salt spreaders damaged during snow removal – placed new plow blades on the trucks as required – assisted the parks department as required.

Councilman John Nestor, Director of Public Safety

Police and Public Safety Report for month ending January 31st, 2023. John Nestor – police department receipts for the month of January 2024 – parking fines and forfeits $15.00 – miscellaneous collection – copies of police accident reports $285.00 – restitution $33.61 – total miscellaneous collection $318.61 – court receipts for District Justice Office – vehicle code fines collected $489.14 – crime code fines collected $590.14 – city ordinance collected $11.58 – code enforcement collected $37.27 – total receipts from district Justice Office $1,128.13 – total receipts collected for January 2024 $1,461.74.

Code activity report January 2024 – habitation permit 6 – correction letters 14 – animal complaints 2 dogs, 2 rats – miscellaneous complaints 18 (grass, noise, abandoned vehicles and homes) office meetings with residents 4 – citation issued 5 – hearings 1 – building permits 1.

Monessen Municipal Fire Chief Report – January 2024 – vehicle accident 4 – carbon monoxide leak 4 – structure fires 3 – machinery fire 1 – wires down calls 1 – natural gas leaks 1 – medical assistance 1 – automatic fire alarms 2 – stove fire 1 – public service 1 – building collapse 1 -illegal burning 1 – tree down 1 – calls outside the city – structure fire Charleroi 1 – automatic fire alarm Charleroi 1 – total calls 24 – total firefighters per call 8.50 – total manhours 255.

Councilperson Karen Cosner, Director of Parks, and Public Property

Parks and Public Property Report for the month ending January 31st, 2023. Karen Cosner – picked up garbage at the walking tracks and parks – assisted in the clean up of the civic center when possible – removed the old lockers and storage units at city hall –

replaced the overhead lights at fire station #1 – repaired toilets at the city garage and map room – repaired the clock at city hall – cleared sidewalks and steps throughout the city when possible – assisted the street department as required. Kids night out – National Night Out – last year it was at Rostraver Township – Monessen kids had an issue with transportation – back in Monessen – in city park – Thursday July 25th – more access to our children being there – hope all the police and fire department – everyone has been wonderful in the past – more news will be coming about that as the planning continues – I think it is a good idea to have it here. (Ron Mozer – July 25th is also a scheduled city council meeting – we have a lot of time between now and then – my suggestion is to advertise we are going to move that meeting from July 25th to maybe the 24th so city council had the opportunity to participate in the event at the park - I personally would like to do and I assume other council member would as well – we have plenty of time to talk about it – don't want to forget about it.)

Ron Mozer – City of Monessen State of the City Address – Fellow Citizens of Monessen – I stand before you today with immense pride and gratitude as we reflect upon the progress and achievement that have defined our great city over the past year. Together, we have overcome challenges, embraced opportunities, and worked tirelessly to build a brighter future for Monessen. I am proud to relate to you today that the State of the City of Monessen is sound and on a course for expansion and improvement for 2024, as we move ahead to face a wide range of challenges and opportunities in the year ahead. One of our most instrumental and proud achievements over the last 2 Fiscal Years for our Administration has been to being Monessen into Fiscal

Stability and into the black for the first time in over two decades. We are also proud that our commitment to revitalization has been the successful demolition of over 50 properties that were deemed vacant, unsafe, and a blight issue in our community. Through strategic planning and collaborate efforts, we have taken significant strides in enhancing the aesthetics and safety of our neighborhood, reigniting a sense of pride amount our residents. Our dedication to community development is further exemplified by the substantial contributions made to the Civic Center and Anthony Madison, Sr. City Park. These investments aim to create spaces where our community can come together, celebrate, and enjoy the richness of our shared experiences. The Civic Center stands as a symbol of unity, while Anthony Madison City Park continues to be a source of joy and recreation for residents of all ages. This work will continue on for the next few months in 2024. In the realm of infrastructure improvement, I am pleased to report the successful management of the sewer renovation project within the City of Monessen. Not only was this crucial initiative executed with precision and efficiency, but I am delighted to announce that we have accomplished this while coming in between $5 million and $4 million under budget. This financial stewardship reflects our commitment to responsible governance and ensures that taxpayer dollars are spent wisely for the benefit of our community. Moreover, I am excited to share that Westmoreland Community Actin group is working with Monessen and has secured the approval for the construction of five new homes on Motheral Avenue. This initiative not only addresses the growing need for quality housing but also fosters further economic development and community growth. Look for an upcoming press release from Westmoreland Community

Action. Recently, the City agreed to lease the Annex building across from City Hall to the Westmoreland Community Action group, further tightening the relationship. We have survived the challenge to go Act 47 and for the last two years have run a city that for the first time in decades has ended with successive years on a positive note. With inflation and tight economics, the coming year will be met head on with confidence that we are strong and capable of addressing the demands. We understand the importance of development and have demonstrated the ability to survive changes in the process of obtaining rewards. With you help, we can do it again this year. Nobody enjoys the detour signs resulting from all the work due to the demolitions, repair of gas pipelines, and even elimination of failed water pipelines, yet we all understand the need to fix our infrastructure if we are to survive. As we complete this work over the coming year or two, it is very important that we work with our HUD DCTA advisors LISC (Local Initiative Support Corp) and PFM (a financial consulting group). They are both working with us in sport of our initiatives with Community Action, the Nehemiah Community Development Corporation, and business leaders and entrepreneurs of our City as they present plans and ideas for our review and subsequent action to further develop and expand all areas of our community. It's a vision. Don't interrupt me again. (Pino Cianflone – they are from out of town) they are not all from out of town. Quit interrupting me. Do not interrupt me. Do not interrupt me. At this time, I would not like to open the floor for public comments since we have no control. I would like to have a motion to adjourn the meeting. I will defer the public comments to the next meeting (Ernie Telegraphis – this is a dictatorship) no

it is not – no decorum there will not be a public session – meeting ended at 7:15pm.

11. OPEN THE FLOOR FOR PUBLIC COMMENT DIRECTED TO THE MAYOR ON ANY ITEM RELATING TO THE BUSINESS, ORDINANCES, STATUTES, RESOLUTIONS OR DAILY WORK PRODUCT AND ATTENTION OF THE CITY OF MONESSEN.

12. ADJOURNMENT