

MUNICIPAL BUILDING
MONESSEN, PA

JUNE 7, 2004

OPENING:

Minutes of the May 19, 2004 Monessen City Council meeting that was postponed until June 7, 2004. Mayor DeLuca called the meeting to order at 7:00 P.M. in Council Chambers of the Municipal Building.

ROLL CALL:

The following members were present:

Dale Simpson
Anthony Petaccia
George Zboyovsky (Late)
Mary Jo Smith
Mayor John DeLuca

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

All present stood and pledged allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Councilman Simpson made a motion, second by Councilman Petaccia, to approve the minutes of the April 21, 2004 meeting as presented. Motion passed unanimously.

Councilman Petaccia made a motion, second by Councilwoman Smith to approve the minutes of the April 29, 2004 meeting as presented. Motion passed by the following vote:

YEAS:

Anthony Petaccia
Mary Jo Smith
Dale Simpson

YEAS: THREE

NAYS:

Mayor John DeLuca

NAYS: ONE

Councilman Petaccia made a motion, second by Councilman Simpson, to approve the minutes of the May 3, 2004 Planning Meeting. Motion passed unanimously.

Councilman Simpson made a motion, second by Councilman Petaccia, to approve the minutes of the May 8, 2004 Special Meeting as presented. Motion passed unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS:

There was no public comment.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Anthony Petaccia - Department of Accounts & Finance

No Report

George Zbovovsky - Department of Streets & Public Improvements

No Report

Dale Simpson - Department of Parks and Public Properties

Bill 1 of 2004

Councilman Simpson read a summary of Bill 1 of 2004 as follows: An Ordinance of the City of Monessen Establishing Responsibility for Contractors, Vendors and Any and All Persons, Firms, Corporations Doing Business Within the City Establishing a Provision to Obtain Any Taxes, Fees or Sums Due from Said Contractor or Vendor to the City of Monessen; Establishing a Provision to Offset Sums Owed by the City to the Vendor in the Event of a Financial Liability by the Contractor or Vendor, Providing for Notice to Said Contractor or Vendor and Establishing Criteria for Eliminating a Contractor or Vendor Who Fails or Refuses to Comply With the Terms Set Forth in the Ordinance.

Councilman Simpson made a motion to adopt Bill 1 of 2004 and Councilman Petaccia made a second to the motion. Motion passed by the following vote:

YEAS:

NAYS:

Anthony Petaccia
Mary Jo Smith
Dale Simpson
Mayor John DeLuca

YEAS: FOUR

NAYS: NONE

Mary Jo Smith - Department of Public Safety

Bill 2 of 2004

Councilwoman Smith made a motion to adopt Bill 2 of 2004 a summary of which follows: Ordinance No. 4 of 1999 as Amended Providing an Occupancy Term for Quarters Used for Students in Established Student Residential Suites, Quarters or Other Buildings or Portion of Buildings Used Exclusively for Student Housing. Councilman Simpson made a second to the motion. Motion passed by the following vote:

YEAS:

NAYS:

Dale Simpson
Anthony Petaccia
Mary Jo Smith
Mayor John DeLuca

YEAS: FOUR

NAYS: NONE

Bill 3 of 2004

Councilwoman Smith made a motion to adopt Bill 3 of 2004 a summary of which follows: An Ordinance of the City of Monessen Amending Ordinance No. 7 of 2002, Establishing the Requirements for a Contractor's License; Establishing Fees for the License and Permit; and Setting Fines and Penalties for Any Infractions Thereof. Councilman Simpson made a second to the motion. Motion passed as follows:

YEAS:

NAYS:

Mary Jo Smith
Dale Simpson
Mayor John DeLuca

Anthony Petaccia

YEAS: THREE

NAYS: ONE

W.E.C. Engineers, Inc.

Councilwoman Smith made a motion, second by Councilman Petaccia, to pay W.E.C. Engineers, Inc. \$4,642.50 for services rendered during the month of April, 2004. Motion passed as follows:

YEAS:

NAYS:

Mary Jo Smith
Anthony Petaccia

Dale Simpson
Mayor John DeLuca

YEAS: FOUR

NAYS: NONE

Councilwoman Smith made a motion, second by Councilman Simpson, to approve payment to W.E.C. Engineers, Inc. in the amount of \$372.00 for services rendered during the month of April, 2004. Motion passed as follows:

YEAS:

NAYS:

Anthony Petaccia
Mary Jo Smith
Dale Simpson
Mayor John DeLuca

YEAS: FOUR

NAYS: NONE

Urban Design Ventures

Councilwoman Smith made a motion, second by Councilman Petaccia, to approve payment to Urban Design Ventures in the amount of \$1,500 for services rendered during the month of April, 2004. Motion passed by the following vote:

YEAS:

NAYS:

Dale Simpson
Anthony Petaccia
Mary Jo Smith
Mayor John DeLuca

YEAS: FOUR

NAYS: NONE

Housing Rehab Case 00/01 SCP #178

Councilwoman Smith made a motion, second by Councilman Simpson, to approve a Progress Payment of \$10,800.00 for work performed on Housing Rehabilitation Case 00/01 SCP #178. Motion passed by the following vote:

YEAS:

NAYS:

Anthony Petaccia
Mary Jo Smith
Dale Simpson
Mayor John DeLuca

YEAS: FOUR

NAYS: NONE

Timothy M. Maatta - Solicitor

No Report

Frank A. Francia - City Administrator

No Report

John DeLuca - Department of Public Affairs

No Report

NEW BUSINESS:

Anthony Petaccia - Department of Accounts & Finance

Councilman Petaccia made a motion that the June Council meeting scheduled for Wednesday, June 16 be moved to Monday, June 21. Councilwoman Smith made a second to the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

George Zboyovsky - Department of Streets & Public Improvements

No Report

Dale Simpson - Department of Parks & Public Properties

Dale Simpson reported that the overtime paid to the Parks Department employees working on Saturdays and Sundays to get the park ready for park rentals was a lot greater than the money that was budgeted.

Balazia Avenue Extension Project

Councilman Dale Simpson made a motion, second by Councilwoman Smith, to award the Balazia Avenue Extension Project to El Grande Industries, based on their low bid of \$94,079.45. Motion passed as follows:

YEAS:

NAYS:

Anthony Petaccia
Mary Jo Smith
Dale Simpson
Mayor John DeLuca

YEAS: FOUR

NAYS: NONE

Westmoreland Paralegal Services

Councilman Simpson made a motion, second by Councilwoman Smith, to approve payment to Westmoreland Paralegal Services in the amount of \$52.75 for professional services rendered.

Councilman Simpson remarked that this expense is for locating the assessment map for the ballfield that is next to Park Manor.

Motion passed as follows:

YEAS:

NAYS:

Mary Jo Smith
Dale Simpson
Anthony Petaccia
Mayor John DeLuca

YEAS: FOUR

NAYS: NONE

(Let the record show that Councilman Zboyovsky is now in attendance for the meeting.)

Mary Jo Smith - Department of Public Safety

Councilwoman Smith gave the following Code Office Report: Building Permits Issued -14; Citations Issued - 4; Complaints - 35; Correspondence - 36; Demolition Permits Issued - 1; Court Hearings - 5; Health Inspections - 52, 31 have been paid and 21 are not paid yet; Occupancy Inspections - 30; Special Licenses -1; Water Shut offs -12.

Mayor DeLuca asked, "if somebody doesn't have water, they aren't allowed to live in that house, what if they don't have electricity, is that also covered?"

Councilwoman Smith, "I was questioned about that today and I asked Larry and he said, "no electricity, you are not allowed to occupy the house."

Mayor DeLuca, "then you must be aware of what I am aware of concerning the house where the swimming pool came down. And my understanding is that there is no electricity in there. I know that water because it is a health issue, but even though there is no electricity, we cannot issue a permit to these people to go back into the house."

Smith replied, "from my understanding, no. Also, that structure there has to be inspected by HUD because it is a HUD house."

Mayor DeLuca asked, "that pool, was that on the garage that is now torn down? So,

somebody thought that they could put a pool up there and I understand that it is a 16* diameter pool which holds about 40 tons of water. We don't have anything to do with that right?"

Councilwoman Smith, "from my understanding and it is documented in the records, that HUD inspected it after we gave the original Occupancy Permit, HUD inspected it with the pool there."

Mayor DeLuca, "so, when we inspected it, the pool wasn't there, but HUD inspected it and the pool was there and they didn't have a concern that 40 ton of water was sitting on a garage."

Councilwoman Smith, "it is HUD's responsibility, the City is released."

Mayor DeLuca, "I understand that there is no electricity in that house, so we should not allow those people back in the house."

Smith replied, "from my understanding, there are back bills owed to both the Water Company and Electric Company, so they won't turn it back on until it is paid."

Mayor DeLuca, "Larry is on top of that, right?"

Frank Francia added, "my understanding is that they took the meter out because they were getting electric and when they took the meter out someone put jumpers in the meter socket, so I instructed Larry to go up and check that out."

Mayor DeLuca, "are we going to be involved with HUD's new inspection....! mean, we are done, we are not going to issue an Occupancy Permit?"

Councilwoman Smith, "not until everything is brought up to code. The other thing is the landlord already removed everything and built himself a low porch back there, so other than the water and electric, they could move back into the home."

Bill 5 of 2004

Councilwoman Smith read a summary of Bill 5 of 2004 as follows: An Ordinance of the City of Monessen Adopting the Uniform Construction Code, Establishing Provisions for Administration and Enforcement Thereof, Authorizing the Establishment of a Board of Appeals Saving Portions of Relevant Ordinances and Repealing Others Inconsistent Herewith Authorizing Fees for the Administration and Enforcement Thereof.

This is to be advertised to be approved at the June meeting.

Councilwoman Smith commented, "regarding opting in and opting out and we talked about it before. Larry and I went to the original class that they gave and I also went to the Westmoreland Bar Association and all those entities advised us to opt in. We do have the

option to opt out in 180 days if we don't feel that it is working. We also have the option of once Larry gets trained, to, for lack of a better word, rent him out to the other municipalities and that would be an additional income for the City of Monessen."

Mayor DeLuca, "if they so need him. Would we have an option that if we get so busy, if we need somebody, we can rent them to. So we can do this too. It can be a mutual agreement if we get behind."

Councilwoman Smith, "the misunderstanding is that if you opt out, you don't have to conform to the code. Whether we opt in or opt out we must conform to the code."

Frank Francia asked, "say Larry gets sick for a couple of weeks, or goes on vacation, we could use another community?"

Councilwoman Smith, "we would contact a third party that we would negotiate with, but the understanding is, we set the permit fees and the license fees. If we would consult a third party and they would come in, it is their fees that we have to use, not ours. So we would have to negotiate with them to make sure that they stay within our limits."

Councilman Petaccia interrupted, "there was one other thing that I wanted to talk about and I didn't have a chance to talk about it. After Mary Jo is done I would like to talk about the budget for a few minutes."

Storm Water Management Plan of Abby Woods

Councilwoman Smith made a motion to approve the Storm Water Management Plan of Abby Woods Development. Councilman Petaccia made a second to the motion. Motion passed by the following vote:

YEAS:

Mary Jo Smith
Dale Simpson
Anthony Petaccia
Mayor DeLuca

YEAS: FOUR

NAYS:

George Zboyovsky

NAYS: ONE

City Cell Phones

Councilwoman Smith made a motion to cancel all City cell phones effective the end of the billing cycle which I believe is the 20th of this month. Councilman Petaccia made a second to the motion.

Councilman Zboyovsky asked, I know I missed a couple Work Session when this was discussed, do you have any spread sheets of what the costs would have been?"

Councilwoman Smith, "I have all the bills and I have reviewed all the bills and for last year for a one year period we spent over \$7,000 on cell phones and that was before we added Anthony's, Dale's, mine, and Mark's which would add that considerably for this year and we cannot ask our employees to take a cut, which we may have to do, or any type of concessions if we ourselves are not willing to make concessions.

I feel that in the best interest if we start now, most of us have personal cell phones that we could use anyhow. That this would be the first move that we need to do to start to fall within a budget that we can live with."

Councilman Zboyovsky, "I never had a City cell phone, but I believe that a few people as part of doing City business, definitely the City Administrator, Street Superintendent, I mean, that is about it."

Mayor DeLuca, "Larry should have one, I cancelled my cell phone, but I think the City Administrator, the Superintendent of Streets and the Code Officer, especially the Code guy because he goes out sometimes on a Code situation and ends sometimes in a very serious situation. He should have the ability to call the Chief of Police right away or police car.

Frank could also come in here with a new plan, based on everybody keeping their cell phone would cut the cost in half. So, if we get rid of everybody's cell phones but the City Administrator, Street Superintendent and Code Officer, I think it is going to cut it more than half, way more than half.

I would ask that Council give some consideration to those three people keeping their phones. I think there is always a cost of doing business and I don't see where the Superintendent of Streets or City Administrator should have to pay out of their own pocket to do business."

Councilman Zboyovsky, "I think it is a matter of public safety, also, that these three individuals have access to a phone should an emergency arise. Mark is always one of the first ones on the scene and Larry is soon after and Frank."

Mayor DeLuca, "is there any consideration to this?"

Dale Simpson, "well, actually we have a motion on the floor unless Councilwoman Smith is willing to amend her motion."

Councilwoman Smith, "do you have discussion on it?"

Councilman Petaccia, "just so everyone knows, I didn't take a cell phone until January when I switched jobs and took a job with the State because I was on the road and the whole idea was that we had the Nextel capabilities so that we could Nextel each other back and it was supposed to be a cheaper plan. But, I, myself, am going to vote to get rid of the cell phones only because and I am going to talk about this next, the budget does not look good. We need to find ways to find money. I gave up my life insurance, Mary Jo,

Dale and George gave up their life insurance, I don't know about the Mayor, but the bottom line is we are trying to find ways to save money. As Councilwoman Smith said, if we are going to ask the employees to possibly give something up, and as I work on this budget, I am going to let you know over the next month or two what we have to do to keep this City moving forward. There are going to be some tough decisions that are going to be made. I think the least I can do is give up my cell phone. I know we need cell phones, it is the year 2004, but I think that if we are going to have them, we should pay for them.

I don't know that it is up for discussion that we should leave those three cell phones for those people, but, I mean, I am willing to get rid of mine if everybody gets rid of theirs, I will get rid of mine."

Councilwoman Smith, "my motion stands."

Frank Francia, "well, I would like to say one thing, I think myself, the Street Superintendent and the Code Officer should keep theirs. There were two occasions in the past few days that I got a call and kept in contact with Mark, there was a fuel spill up at Bart's Exxon late at night and we were down there, along with Councilman Simpson and also there was a fire and I took a half of Personal Day, there was a fire up at the Columbus Park and Colombo and myself kept in contact and Dale was there. I just think that there is a need for the City to communicate with each other and I think us three should be able to keep theirs. With all due respect to Council."

Councilman Zboyovsky, "I would like to amend the motion by striking all City cell phones to all but three to be used by the City Administrator, Street Superintendent and the Code Enforcement."

Councilman Petaccia, "why can't we vote to get rid of all of them and if we decide as we are making this budget, if we decide that there is money in the budget, then maybe later one we can add the other three."

Councilwoman Smith, "I don't believe that George can amend my motion. I think we have to vote on my motion"

Councilman Zboyovsky, "no, no, Parliamentary procedures is we vote on the amendment first. Right now there is a motion on the amendment and we need a second on it."

Mayor DeLuca asked, "do we have a second on the amendment? You are not going to win this, George."

Councilman Zboyovsky, "just under one last comment. I do believe that we need to cut costs, Anthony, but not at the risk of the public and I believe that this is a public safety issue that these three individuals do need a cell phone. Do need to be in contact with the Police Department and Fire Department."

The roll was called on Councilwoman Smith's motion. Motion passed by the following vote:

YEAS:

Anthony Petaccia
Mary Jo Smith
Dale Simpson

NAYS:

George Zboyovsky
Mayor John DeLuca

YEAS: THREE

NAYS: TWO

Anthony Petaccia - Department of Accounts & Finance (Addition)

Budget

Councilman Petaccia commented, "I do want to comment about the budget because I have more concrete figures. As I mentioned, over the next two months I am going to spell out a plan on what we need to do as far as expenses and revenues to keep the City in line and I am going to add some insight on what cuts we have to make and what we have to do to not raise taxes and keep the City moving forward. There are going to be some tough decisions, but I will have all the numbers down. We are going to have the benefits down, we are going to have some ways to save money and we will see what we can come up with.

The one thing that I do want to mention is if you look at the actual year to date revenue on real estate taxes, we got a little bit over 1.1 million. Now the Director of Accounts and Finances at the time, when we made this budget, the original estimated revenue was 1.4 million. Right there we are at least \$250-280,000 in the hole. That is even before we move forward. I am sure that we are going to get a little bit more taxes in, but like I said, we are already behind the eight ball here. The real estate prior we have \$100,000 down and we have only collected \$45,000 and we will probably only get \$70-80,000 in that category and the Tax Claim Office with the County we have \$100,000 down and we only collected \$15,000. So right there in taxes, you are looking at \$250,000 to maybe \$300,000.

That is why I am saying that we have to find ways to make money and we have to do it quick, because we don't want to wait until the end of the year and then say we are going to do 10-15 different things in one month. We have to have a plan out there on what we are going to do by the time October, November and December rolls around."

Councilwoman Smith asked, "you've reviewed the budget and have gone over this, do we know how much we started off the year, I know that we borrowed in a tax anticipation loan \$300,000 and we paid \$100,000 back already, correct?"

Councilman Petaccia, "we still have to pay \$201,598 and whatever the interest is, we still have to pay that back. And remember the garbage went out early. So, we took some of that money in December and it was used for 2003 and not 2004. So, actually, we are probably, with the tax anticipation note, until we pay that back, plus taxes, we can be anywhere from \$400-500,000 in the hole right now."

Councilwoman Smith, "and we started off, are you saying, \$300,000 in the hole?"

Councilman Petaccia, "I said that we started off at least \$200,000". Because a decision and I will let Bucky talk next. The decision to borrow the \$100,000 was to give us a little bit more room to breathe. There was a chance that we might be able to squeak through, but we didn't want to jeopardize pays, so we went and borrowed the extra \$100,000 and make sure it was there."

"How close are we to paying the \$200,000 that is remaining?" asked Councilwoman Smith.

"If I look at this budget correctly, I just talked to Rosalie 2-3 days ago and we should have that paid back by the next week. She has \$100,000 already allotted to pay that back, it is on the budget here. We need about another \$101,000 and I am sure by the next meeting she is going to have that ready to be paid off."

Frank Rizzuto added, "just to elaborate on Anthony's comment, we collected \$63,998.00 of 2004's garbage which we used to pay 2003's bills, \$64,000 of this year's garbage money was already used to pay last year's bills."

Councilman Petaccia, "and Mr. Rizzuto has a new plan for this year on how to collect garbage at the end of the year and he will explain that to you as we move forward.

We are going to have to do some cutting, and that is the bottom line."

Councilwoman Smith, "and I would suggest we start, so that at the end of the year we are not in a worse predicament that we were when we started this year."

Councilman Petaccia, "and by the next meeting I have already wrote down a lot of the figures. I have what I am going to propose that is the budget and then I want to sit down with everyone, I want it to be a process where everyone is involved. I want everyone's input, I want you to tell me if I overstated something, understated something, but I want to go through every line item and we are going to come up with a figure and then we are going to see exactly where we stand.

And then we have to look at contracts, re-negotiation of contracts and what we are going to give the employees. We have to look at benefits and I want to do this over the next of couple of months so we are not scrambling in November and December."

Councilwoman Smith, "I agree, thank you."

Frank Rizzuto - City Treasurer

City Treasurer, Frank Rizzuto gave the Treasurer's Report for the month ending April, 2004 as follows: Total 2004 Garbage fees collected as of April 30 was \$311,726.14 Total Delinquent Garbage Fees collected as of April 30 was \$27,418.64

Total 2003 Delinquent City Real Estate Taxes collected through April 30 in our office was \$49,694.10

Treasurer Rizzuto remarked, " we have had a lot of success with what we did locally here in regards to the hardship cases and that Portnoff is also having a lot of success.

Total 2004 City Taxes collected as of April 30 was \$1,221,086.83. This represents 73% of the budgeted amount."

Councilwoman Smith made a motion, second by Councilman Petaccia, to accept the Treasurer's Report as read. Motion passed by the following vote:

YEAS:

NAYS:

Dale Simpson
Anthony Petaccia
George Zboyovsky
Mary Jo Smith
Mayor John DeLuca

YEAS: FIVE

NAYS: NONE

Gerald Saksun - Controller

Treasurer Rizzuto read the Controller's Report in the absence of Controller Saksun as follows for the month ending April 30, 2004: Beginning Bank Balance of \$210,130.50; Deposits of \$925,021.92 for a total of \$1,135,152.42. Checks cashed were \$529,870.67 for a Bank Balance of \$605,281.75. Outstanding checks \$3,733.25, ACH Adjustment \$924.12; Deposits in Transit \$104,656.47. Amount reconciled to Balance Sheet is \$705,280.85.

Timothy M. Maatta - Solicitor

No Report

Frank A. Francia - City Administrator

Yard Waste

City Administrator Francia reported, "what we are planning on doing is putting a dumpster in the cage at the City Garage and keep it locked up and when someone has three or four bags of brush that they want to get rid of they can bring it to the City Garage and put it in the dumpster or if they have more than that or they can't make it down to come down and make arrangements, pay the \$15.00 and then the City will go and pick it up.

The problem is, according to Act 101 of 1988, this stuff had to be separated because of the

DEP. Straight grass clippings they will pick up if they are bagged. If there are hedge clippings or weeds from the shrubs, tree clippings that is all considered recyclable and it's gotta go to a compost area. Actually, by law, they are not allowed to dump any of that stuff in the landfill. That is where the problem arises. When Waste Management was collecting the stuff, I don't think that they were aware of the law that they were not supposed to pick it up or they didn't bother to check it out. They were just picking it up. And it has caused a lot of problems in the City. Hopefully, we can get it rectified."

Councilman Simpson, "at the Refuse Authority Meeting it was stated that previously he was picking up, as long as it wasn't a lot of it. So, I think it is important that we get it out because now he is saying that he is not going to pick up any of them."

Mayor DeLuca, "I would hope that there is no one dumping up at the City dump anymore. This is the third fire in four years and this wasn't quite as bad. So you can see why we don't want to dump anymore up there."

Councilman Simpson stated, "I think that we need to give a hand to the firemen, there were a lot of there and they worked very hard to get that fire out."

Mayor DeLuca asked that Mr. Francia contact the newspaper tomorrow regarding what he just reported as the newspaper was not in attendance at the meeting.

John T. DeLuca - Department of Public Affairs

Mayor DeLuca gave the following Police Report for the month ending April 30, 2004: Traffic Arrests -52; Non-traffic Arrest - 35 and Criminal Arrests -30 for a total of 117.

Sub-division Plans of WIDC Phase II Monessen River Front Development

Councilman Zboyovsky made a motion, second by Councilman Simpson, to approve the sub-division plans of WIDC Phase II Monessen River Front Development contingent upon addressing the comments of Roger Francis of W.E.C. Engineers, Inc. Motion passed by the following vote:

YEAS:

NAYS:

Anthony Petaccia
George Zboyovsky
Mary Jo Smith
Dale Simpson
Mayor John DeLuca

YEAS: FIVE

NAYS: NONE

Handicap Parking Sign Requests

Councilwoman Smith made a motion, second by Councilman Zboyovsky, to approve the installation of a handicap parking sign at 1113 Avenue. This request has been approved by Chief Gibson. Motion passed by the following vote:

YEAS:

NAYS:

George Zboyovsky
Mary Jo Smith
Dale Simpson
Anthony Petaccia
Mayor John DeLuca

YEAS: FIVE

NAYS: NONE

Councilman Simpson made a motion, second by Councilman Zboyovsky, to approve the installation of a handicap parking sign at 416 Forest Street. This request has also been approved by Chief Gibson. Motion passed as follows:

YEAS:

NAYS:

Mary Jo Smith
Dale Simpson
Anthony Petaccia
George Zboyovsky
Mayor John DeLuca

YEAS: FIVE

NAYS: NONE

Bill 6 of 2004

Mayor DeLuca read a summary of Bill 6 of 2004 as follows: An ordinance of the City of Monessen establishing authority for the removal of abandoned cars situate within City streets, roads and rights-of-way; establishing a fee for the tower and reimbursing the City for time and expenses incurred.

This is the first reading.

PNC Bank Closing

Mayor DeLuca reported that we are very sorry to hear of PNC Bank closing the Monessen Office.

Frank Rizzuto reported that he talked to an individual from another bank or lending institution and it looks good at this point that they may be moving into the PNC building.

COMMUNICATIONS:

Memorial Day Program

Mayor DeLuca reported that the Memorial Day ceremonies went very well.

Tag Day

Frank Francia reported that the Monessen Baseball League is requesting a Tag Day on July 2, 2004.

PA Cleanways Collection

There will be a tire and refrigerator collection on Saturday, June 12 from 9:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M. across the street.

PAYMENT OF BILLS:

Councilman Petaccia made a motion, second by Councilwoman Smith, to pay General Fund Bills in the amount of \$254,901.87 and Other Funds in the amount of \$90,711.72. Motion passed as follows:

YEAS:

NAYS:

Dale Simpson
Anthony Petaccia
George Zboyovsky
Mary Jo Smith
Mayor John DeLuca

YEAS: FIVE

NAYS: NONE

Councilwoman Smith congratulated Councilman Zboyovsky on being one of the few chosen to go to China and asked for him to tell us a little bit about his trip. She stated, "I think that is an accomplishment that he should be proud of and we should be proud."

Councilman Zboyovsky remarked, "it was an eye opener. We arrived at the airport with military all around us. It was pretty much open to all of us. In fact, they treated us like celebrity. They had welcome signs everywhere.

Mary Jo asked, "can I ask you why you were chosen and what was the criteria?"

Councilman Zboyovsky asked, "they were looking for facility leaders to lead a bunch of honor society engineering students across the country. Just my engineering background

and then the one individual from the organization said my Masters Degree in International Affairs which finally gets put to use. That was also a key point.

There is so much development going on over there, it is unbelievable. Every city that we visited they were building high rises, apartment complexes upon mini complexes. And they call it the new socialism because there is a lot of private companies over there, corporations. They are not completely away from socialism.

Their students were just like American students, they seem to study a lot more and they take a lot more course work, however, the key difference as far as engineering goes, in America we are still required to take philosophy, English, writing courses and so forth. When they enter college say they take Soil Engineering, that is all the courses they take. And once they start, they cannot switch majors at all.

We met with a lot of professional engineers and professors and they actually envy the American education system. They wished that their system was set up that way. However, I guess back whenever we didn't have this relationship with China, they took after the German education system for engineering.

The highlight for me was the visit to the three gorges dam, the largest dam in the world. It actually has a ship elevator to raise the ships up, quicker than going through the five sets of locks that they have."

ADJOURNMENT:

Councilwoman Smith made a motion, second by Councilman Petaccia, to adjourn the meeting. Motion passed as follows:

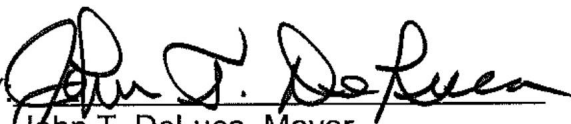
YEAS:

George Zboyovsky
Mary Jo Smith
Dale Simpson
Anthony Petaccia
Mayor John DeLuca

NAYS:

YEAS: FIVE

NAYS: NONE

BY: 
John T. DeLuca, Mayor

ATTEST:


Frank A. Francia, City Clerk