1-23-2025 City Council Meeting Minutes

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SUMMARY KEYWORDS

City council meeting, public comment, financial transparency, storm sewer projects, blight reduction, economic development, safety concerns, Redevelopment Authority, garbage fees, public works, police department, fire department, boat launch, Army Corps of Engineers, community engagement.

SPEAKERS

Gerry Saksun, Karen Cosner, Mike Korposh, Linda Lacy, Lois Thomas, Speaker 1, Rich Hall, Speaker 2, Joseph Dalfonso, Pino Cianflone, All, Dave Leska, Speaker 3, Mayor Ron Mozer, Earnie Telegraphis, Ron Mozer

Ron Mozer 00:00
Is now 6:30 I'd like to call this city council meeting of January the 23rd to order. Could I have a roll call please?

Mike Korposh:
Council person Mozer here, Councilman Nestor, council person Thomas here, Council Member Orzechowski, Mayor Mozer, present. Mayor we know three present, two absent. The note of quorum.

Ron Mozer:
Thank you, Pastor Hall is not here. Would you mind leaving us in prayer?

Lois Thomas 00:28
We bow our heads for a moment of prayer, Heavenly Father, we just want to just thank You, Lord for this day, for just watching over us and keeping us and even bringing us to this council meeting, bind us all together on one accord, as we come together, just to continue to try to move the city forward, granting us wisdom, knowledge and understanding in all things, let us learn how to work together peacefully for the good of the city. Bless us and keep us Lord in Jesus name, we pray amen.

All 00:51
Amen. I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America and to the republic for which it stands, one nation under God indivisible with liberty and justice for all,

Mayor Ron Mozer 01:11
we're going to forgo the minutes of the previous session. They're not prepared at this point, we'll have them, hopefully this next meeting. We have at this time, like to invite public comment on agenda items only.

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Earnie Telegraphis 01:31
On this telegraph This is a very important meeting. You got all these transfer of funds and the financial council member in here. So I don't know how you guys are transparent and working with the public. I got no clue. But this is what I'm kind of like, this number C on page two, about motion for storm war, phase three, change order. This change order, is that going to increase what we are scheduled to make these payments?

Mayor Ron Mozer 02:11
No, the work session completely detailed that that is a part of the it doesn't change the cost of the investment at all.

Earnie Telegraphis 02:17
Okay, now, but the other one?

Mayor Ron Mozer 02:19
Same thing's true there.

Earnie Telegraphis 02:21
So all of these all the way on page two, there's no extra cost.

Mayor Ron Mozer 02:25
There's no extra cost.

Earnie Telegraphis 02:26
You sure about that?

Mayor Ron Mozer 02:27
I'm sure about that.

Ron Mozer 02:28

Earnie Telegraphis 02:37
Okay, now, I see you got all these appointees. You still don't have any appointee for the Civic Commission, the civic center

Mayor Ron Mozer 02:46
we're working on that we're still interviewing on that.

Earnie Telegraphis 02:50
What's going on down at the Civic Center? If there's no

Mayor Ron Mozer 02:53
We're currently managing that ourselves.

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Earnie Telegraphis 02:55
Who's we?

Mayor Ron Mozer 02:56
Mike,

Earnie Telegraphis 02:57
everything on Mike,

Mayor Ron Mozer 02:58
everything on Mike.

Earnie Telegraphis 03:00
He's got a lot more work to do as administrator. You started with civic centers. Now, how's that new girl working out?

Mayor Ron Mozer 03:12
So far Very good.

Earnie Telegraphis 03:13
Okay, well, you said that with the other previous two. So far, so good. And then they disappear four months later. Hopefully that didn't happen again. Well, what are you picking out? As far as like your criteria?

Mayor Ron Mozer 03:24
We have a very stringent criteria. Sometimes you make a mistake, though.

Earnie Telegraphis 03:27
Well, one big criteria you guys always neglect is 90% of all the employees here don't live in Monessen. So when you guys give these people jobs, we don't get their city tax or their property tax. That's really shooting, that's in the butt, and nobody addresses that.

Mayor Ron Mozer 03:51
Any other comments on agenda items,

Ron Mozer 03:53
I don't know if I need a mike. My name is Rich Hall. I live on Dennis Avenue. First of all, I want to commend your street department. I've been over here six years and well, maybe seven, but they're out day and night, not just in the winter. They had an electronics collection or something done at the burro building, and I dropped something off there, and the guys couldn't have been nicer come help take it out of the car at the whole bit. So accolades to them, thank you. And not just snow removal, I'm talking street repairs, everything so they do great job. Garbage, okay we really need to keep the waters on the

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agenda if there's public comment. It's at the end of the meeting, you're welcome to talk about any subject you want.

Rich Hall 05:03
Okay, well, because that's the only that's any two items I really have, and I'm not, I don't want to dwell on the garbage. I just wanted to bring something,

Mayor Ron Mozer 05:12
and I appreciate that we all make plenty of time for you at the end of the meeting. Okay, thank you. Any other comments on agenda items. At this time, we have some correspondence that needs to be read. Would you read that for us? Please excuse me, solicitor with correspondences first. Okay. The correspondence is from the Monessen Redevelopment Authority. 575, Donner Avenue, Monessen, Pa 15062, it's dated January 22 2025, and it's addressed to Ron Mozer, Mayor city of Monessen, dear, Mayor Mozer, I'm writing this letter on behalf of the Monessen Redevelopment Authority to express our concerns about safety and security at our regularly scheduled meetings. You attend our meetings and have witnessed first hand outburst accusations negativity and profanity and veiled threats that have occurred. You have also witnessed members being called insulting names and invited to go outside to fight the rules of conduct that we implemented have helped some, but still have not completely solved the problem. It is time to solve this problem. Our main concern is Pino Cianflone but there are others who don't abide by the established rules. His bombastic, out of control behavior at our meetings makes the board feel threatened and unsafe. Also, some new information that has been revealed to us makes this issue a matter of utmost concern. Accordingly to deal with our concerns, we are asking number one, that you assign a police officer to attend our meetings to maintain order and ensure the safety and security of the RDA and attendees, this is very critical to the RDA achieving their mission, that the front door be locked during the RDA meetings to prevent unauthorized access to the building, that more attention be given to safety and security at the Monessen city building, that the city of Monessen develop a safety and security program, including procedures that ensure that guns are not carried into meetings. I've agreed to work with the RDA, but I should not have to worry about my safety and security while attending meetings. A joint resolution from the RDA will be sent to you under separate cover. Finally, my family is very concerned about my safety, and several of my church members have also expressed their worry. We will wait a response from you sincerely. William C bass, senior Chairman Redevelopment Authority, thank you. At this time, I'd like to ask our solicitor for his report. Thank you.

Joseph Dalfonso 08:04
Mayor. Good evening, everybody. First, just an update for the USDA project. The initial term the project was supposed to be completed at the end of March, therefore the financing will have to be extended. Cities working with their bond council to accomplish that. The first of the two USDA loans will kick in at the end of March. The PNC financing will be extended, it looks like for a period of 30 months. And that's there's just some of the projects left that has to be finished, and you're dealing with 100 year old lines and have to still continue, there will be an ordinance, or ordinances in front of city council before the first February meeting. It can be then adopted at your council meeting. Keep everybody updated, just waiting on PNC Bank to say how they want to facilitate the closing of the extension. Second, I did have a conversation with the representative from Guardian fire alarm. Initially, it was a five year period for the

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service agreement with automatic five year renewals. They were okay with reducing the automatic renewals to one year periods with a 30 day cancellation clause at the end of any term. Also on tonight's agenda, there is a tractor rental from Groff up in Harmony did take a look at that make sure the city has the appropriate insurance requirements and what their obligations with the equipment are under the contract. Finally, I did work with the mayor and CFS bank to finalize the tax anticipation note the city closed on that a week ago. Yes. Fund. It's already in the general fund, so no hiccups with that. That's all I have this evening. Thank you.

Mayor Ron Mozer 10:08
This time I'd like to invite the treasurer for his report.

Gerry Saksun 10:13
Mayor, Council and citizens of medicine, my report from the year ending 2024 garbage fees revenues. In December, we collected $2,730 year to date, we collected $350,005.14 the budget amount was $350,000 garbage fees delinquent. December, we collected $10,897.39 this includes $9,347.39 collected by port north. Year to date, we collected $59,99 and one cents. This includes $28,813.30 collected by portnoff. Budget amount was $75,000 penalties and interest collected from portnof for December, 17 cents. Year to date, $1,072.68 budget amount was $2,500 garbage fees collected for 2025 Thank you, mayor, December, we collected $13,622 year to date, $14,382 budget amount $150,000 total income for December, $27,249.56 $1,249.56 year to date, $425,450.83 budget amount was $577,500 City Real Estate Taxes current for December, we collected $17,050.26 year to date, $1,974,942.01 budget amount, $160,000 $1,600,00 city taxes prior collected by The city. We received nothing December. Here to date, $22,044.74 budget amount, $7,000 total collected. Year to date, $1,996,986.75 delinquent city taxes collected by Westmoreland County, December will receive $74,449.52 $4,449.52 year to date, $315,623.81 budget amount, 160,000 Total. Year to date, taxes collected, $2,000,312 and $2,312,000 $610.50 dollars, $610.56 budget amount, $1,767,000 distributions as follows, general fund year to date, $1,389,303.72 budget amount, 1 million, 113,000 $120 depth service. Year to date, $377,031.12 year to date, three our budget amount, $302,080 library fund. Year to date, $40,339.13 budget amount, 32,320 parks. Year to date, $190,312.78 budget amount, $152,480 year to date, total distribution, $1,996,986.75 budget amount, $1,600,000 miscellaneous income, real estate, transfer tax, December received $3,020.04 year to date, $59,341.98 budget amount, $89,333 $89,333 earned income tax. December, we received $77,535.88 year to date, $760,279.37 budget amount, $682,048 dollars, mercantile tax. December, $946.34 here today, $20,983.22 budget amount, $23,425 local service tax. December, $7520.7 Five cents. Year to date, $71,898.04 budget amount, $71,072 tax certification letters, December, $790 year to date, $22,500 budget amount, $20,000 municipal lien letters, December $750 year to date, $14,850 budget amount, $17,500 line usage account, unsecured payments for December $598 year to date, $12,631 line usage fee. December, $73,675.20 year to date, $905,264.99 budget, about not their year to date, total, $917,895.99 mayor, that concludes my report. Also, if anybody's interested in a copy of this report, can see me after the meeting.

Mayor Ron Mozer 16:09
Motion for to accept the Treasury report as read,

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Lois Thomas 16:12
mayor. I like to make a motion to accept the Treasury report as read, for a city treasurer for garbage fees and city real estate taxes collected for the month of December, 2024

Mayor Ron Mozer 16:21
Is there a second?

Karen Cosner 16:23
Second?

Mayor Ron Mozer 16:25
Any questions? Call the roll please.

Mike Korposh 16:27
Council person Cosner, yes. Council person Thomas, yes. Mayor Mozer, yes.

Mayor Ron Mozer 16:35
Do we have a controllers report available?

Mike Korposh
Yeah, there's one in the packet. I believe.

Ron Mozer 16:51
Would you mind

Mike Korposh 16:53
the controllers report for December 2024 on the general fund of CFS bank checking account and the bank reconciliation. As of December 2024 the beginning bank balance. As of November 29 2024 was $568,000 or $531.78 we had deposits of $490,227.81 and expenses of $567,513.53 the ending balance as of December 31 2024, was $491,246.06we had outstanding checks of $44,412.02 and outstanding deposits were at zero. The reconciled balance to the bank statement is $446,834.0 that is the controllers report.

Mayor Ron Mozer 17:55
Thank you. At this time, I want to take the opportunity to give a State of the City address as your mayor it is both an honor and privilege to come before you today to deliver this year's State of the City address, This is an opportunity to reflect on our progress, acknowledges challenges we face, and look forward to the future with determination and hope. Our city has made significant strides in addressing long standing infrastructure issues. I'm proud to report that Monessen has advanced two major storm sewer projects that will grace greatly enhance the resilience and reliability of our water management system long into the future. First is the construction of a $2.2 million loan million project that was loaned through the PennDOT started in 2023 for phase four storm storm sewer project. I'm pleased to announce that we completed the critical work in 2024 and we are currently working on closing out the project. These upgrades significantly improved that our store and storm water infrastructure, reducing

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the chance of failure and ensuring better protection for properties across the city. Additionally, we worked on Phase Three storm sewer project, supported with by an incredible $15 million investment made through the USDA. This transformation project will further modernize our infrastructure, ensuring Monessen is well prepared to meet future environmental and public safety challenges, the focus of additional work, funded through a $4.5 million USDA grant, will be from the CSX Railroad tracks to the river. This includes 125 year old storm drain pipes, giving them another 100 year none, another 100 years of life as they run underneath the tracks all the way to the river, ensuring comprehensive improvements in this critical area. We continue to address the issue of Blight through our partnership with Westmoreland County Land Bank, the Canada art fund as administered by Westmoreland County Land Bank Redevelopment Authority has demolished over 125 properties with the codePro System. The land bank has acquired and demolished 42 projects through the judicial project process, while Monessen has submitted over 127 applications for the for the demolition through the local legal action. All told, there are 163 properties that have been demolished or in the process of being released for demolishment. We will continue to work with our county commissioners who are committed in supporting Monessen as we submit additional blighted properties for demolition. This work is essential for creating a city we can all be proud of. Economic Development remains a cornerstone of a vision for man essence future, with the help of a $75,000 LSA grant. We're focused on initiatives to attract businesses, promoting entrepreneurship and revitalize our local economy. These funds will be instrumental in creating new opportunities for growth and prosperity within our community. Simultaneously, we're embarking upon an initive through DCED sponsored neighborhood Partnership Program, commonly called the NPP, with the assistance of Westmoreland County Community Development Program, this is expected to bring approximately $3 million of cash to spark development efforts, providing significant boost to our city's economy revitalization. These funds will enable us to access access critical needs and seize opportunities for growth and transformation. In addition to the LSA grant, we're working closely with the Department of Community and Economic Development DCED through the Strategic Management Planning Program, STMP. The financial health of the city is based upon rebuilding our tax base supported by DCED. Our application includes the completing of an economic analysis of our state of our current and forecast condition. In collaboration with re-imagine Westmoreland County, we are exploring innovative ways to work more effectively with surrounding municipalities to create regional approach to development and shared resources. Through this process, we will bring new opportunities to cities that include cooperation with nearby communities. We are excited to announce the Music in the Park Initiative, a series of concerts scheduled for the summer of 2025 this series will feature big names including Billy Price and will be held on June, 29 June, July, 30, August, 24 and August, 24 excuse me, September, 21 held at the amphitheater in city park. We expect this initiative to grow as we seek sponsors and explore potential sites for permanent indoor facility to house such events, eliminating the risk of weather disruptions. This effort is another step in enhancing our city's cultural and economic vitality. We also continue to work with various nonprofits and for profit organizations to evaluate potential projects, including apartment complexes, senior gated city, senior citizen gated community. These projects aim to diversify housing options and improve the quality of life for residents in manesin while improving our tax base. Our commitment to enhancing the quality of life for Monessen residents includes investments in our streets and public places. This year, through the Community Development Block Grant CDBG program, we completed the paving of Third Street. Projects like this not only include improved mobility, but they also reflect the dedication of maintaining and upgrading the city's essential infrastructure. We have also applied for state LSA monies to provide

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upgraded tools and machinery that promise to help improve our roads. I'm proud to announce for the third consecutive year, our administration ended the physical year with money in the bank. This achievement reflects our commitment to prudent financial management and our focus of delivering essential services while being responsible stewards of taxpayer dollars. None of our progress would be meaningful without addressing the needs of our most valuable, vulnerable residents. We own a debt of gratitude to Westmoreland County Community Action for their tireless efforts to combat homelessness, provide food for families in need, and deliver a host of valuable services that uplift our community. Their partnership is a testament to what we can achieve when we work together to ensure that no one in Monessen is left behind. As we look ahead, we have accomplished much. There's still a lot of work to do in the coming months, my administration will focus on expanding the Economic Development Initiative to attract new businesses and create jobs, strengthening partnership with county, state and federal organizations to maximize resources for our residents, ensuring transparency and financial responsibility in every project we undertake. In closing, Monessen is a city with a proud history and unwavering spirit and. Together, we're laying the foundation for a brighter and more prosperous future. I'm deeply grateful for the hard work and dedication of our city employees, community partners, and most importantly, you, the residents of Monessen. Thank you for all your trust and commitment, your belief in what we can achieve together. The state of our city is strong, and with continued support, it will only get stronger. Thank you, and may Monessen continue to thrive.

Ron Mozer 25:29
At this time, I'd like to ask Lois to read the rest of my motions, if she would please.

Lois Thomas 25:33
Good evening. Everyone like to make a motion to approve contract with Guardian services for installation and monitoring fire and emergency alarm system at the city of Monessen police and fire station at an initial cost of $8048.24 and a monthly monitoring service fee and testing inspection fee of $127.47 cent. The initial term of the service agreement is five years, with an automatic renewal period of one year with a 30 day notice to terminate at the end of a term.

Mayor Ron Mozer 26:06
Is there a second?

Karen Cosner 26:07
Second?

Mayor Ron Mozer 26:08
Any questions? Please call the roll.

Mike Korposh 26:11
Council person Cosner, yes. Council person Thomas Yes. Mayor Mozer, Yes. Motion passed.

Lois Thomas 26:16
Motion to pay sewer, storm water, phase 3c change order number three, which includes the additional storm segments add on parenting, Fifth Street and Third Street, where the pipe changes from round to

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Oval to square to mushroom shape. This $1,717,148 change order is an extension of phase 3c and is based on calculated material and labor using the bid pricing previously provided this change order has been reviewed and approved by the USDA.

Mayor Ron Mozer 26:45
Is there a second?

Karen Cosner 26:46
Second?

Mayor Ron Mozer 26:47
Are there any questions I'd like to explain to everybody real quick we did in the phase three project with with some money, we've got the grant fund that kicks in, and this money is coming out of the grant fund, but this will complete the the the phase 3c change order. Could I have a roll call please?

Mike Korposh 27:06
Council person Cosner, yes. Council person Thomas Yes. Mayor Mozer, Yes.

Lois Thomas 27:12
Motion to pay sewer, storm water, phase 3c change order number two, described as replacement of 53 inch by 41 inch CMP arch with 60 inch TP, CCP lining, Parente, CMP and brick arch pipes in amount of $148,386.26

Mayor Ron Mozer 27:30
Is there a second?

Karen Cosner 27:31
Second?

Mayor Ron Mozer 27:32
Just for clarification purposes, this is all the work that was done up around BARTs call the roll please.

Mike Korposh 27:38
Council person Cosner, yes. Council person, Thomas Yes. Mayor Mozer, Yes.

Lois Thomas 27:44
Motion to pay WC amendment number eight, which includes elimination of a manhole on Third Street and the design of the great required on the Grand Boulevard, storm water collection. Covert just Bill totaling $25,814

Mayor Ron Mozer 27:58
is there a second? Any questions this is more to continue to wind up the engineering for those projects that we just discussed. Call the roll please.

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Karen Cosner 27:59
Second?

Mike Korposh 28:09
Council person Cosner, yes. Council person Thomas yes.

Lois Thomas 28:14
Motion to refund and repay overages remitted to the city of Monessen refuge authority for fines and penalties on account of 20. Dash 02, dash one, zero, dash zero, dash 259, for refuse fees on vacant properties in the amount of $60

Mayor Ron Mozer 28:30
Is there a second?

Karen Cosner 28:31
Second?

Mayor Ron Mozer 28:32
Any questions? Call the roll.

Mike Korposh 28:34
Council person Cosner, yes. Council person Thomas Yes. Mayor Mozer, yes,

Lois Thomas 28:39
motion to appoint Dennis Wentz to the Mon Valley sewage authority for a five year term commencing on January 23 2025,

Mayor Ron Mozer 28:48
is there a second?

Karen Cosner 28:48
Second?

Mayor Ron Mozer 28:49
Any questions? Call the roll.

Mike Korposh 28:51
Council person Cosner, yes. Council person Thomas Yes, Mayor Mozer, yes.

Lois Thomas 28:56
Motion to appoint John Mandarin to the Mon Valley refuge authority for a five year term commencing on january 23 2025 Is

Mayor Ron Mozer 29:04

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there a second?

Karen Cosner 29:05
Second?

Mayor Ron Mozer 29:06
Any questions? Call the roll.

Mike Korposh 29:08
Council person Cosner, yes. Council person Thomas Yes. Mayor Mozer Yes.

Lois Thomas 29:13
Motion to appoint Joe Bozer to the Monessen Public Library Board of Trustees for a three year term commencing on January 23 2025

Mayor Ron Mozer 29:22
Is there a second

Karen Cosner 29:23
second?

Mayor Ron Mozer 29:23
Any questions, call the roll

Mike Korposh 29:25
council person Cosner, yes. Council person Thomas Yes. Mayor motion, yes,

Lois Thomas 29:30
motion to appoint Virginia Monahan to the Monessen Public Library Board of Trustees for a three year term commencing on January 23 2025

Mayor Ron Mozer 29:38
Is there a second

Karen Cosner 29:39
second?

Mayor Ron Mozer 29:39
Any questions, call the roll. Council person Costner, yes. Council person Thomas, yes. Mayor Mozer, yes,

Lois Thomas 29:46
motion to appoint Don McKechnie to the Monessen Public Library Board of Trustees for a three year term commencing on January 23 2025

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Mayor Ron Mozer 29:54
Is there a second?

Karen Cosner 29:55
Second?

Mayor Ron Mozer 29:56
Any questions? Call the roll.

Mike Korposh 29:58
Council person Cosner, yes. Council person Thomas, yes. Mayor Mozer, Yes

Lois Thomas 30:03
Motion to point Phillip Mandarino to the city of Monessen Redevelopment Authority for a term of five years, commencing on January 23 2025

Mayor Ron Mozer 30:11
Is there a second?

Karen Cosner 30:11
Second?

Mayor Ron Mozer 30:12
Any questions? Call the roll.

Mike Korposh 30:14
Council person Cosner, yes. Council person Thomas, yes. Mayor Mozer, yes

Lois Thomas 30:19
And I excuse if I don't say this name, right, I've never seen it before. But motion to appoint Hunter Strangroom to the city of Monessen police accountability and internal affairs board for a five year term commencing on January 23 2025

Mayor Ron Mozer 30:33
Is there a second?

Karen Cosner 30:34
Second?

Mayor Ron Mozer 30:35
Any questions? Call the roll.

Mike Korposh 30:37

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Council person Cosner, yes. Council person Thomas, Yes. Mayor Mozer, Yes

Lois Thomas 30:41
Motion to approve agreement with Rob tractor for the rental of deer model, 444PS-10W444PATRLX22550, while our high lift is being repaired. Value of this agreement is $2,080 per week.

Mayor Ron Mozer 31:00
Is there a second?

Karen Cosner 31:01
Second?

Mayor Ron Mozer 31:02
Any questions? Call the roll.

Mike Korposh 31:04
Council person Cosner, yes. Council person Thomas, yes. Mayor Yes.

Mayor Ron Mozer 31:12
At this time, I'm going to go ahead and read Tony's motions, because he's not here tonight, motion to pay the following invoices from the general fund in the amount of $127,216.51 all invoices are attached to this agenda as Attachment A Is there a second?

Karen Cosner 31:30
Second?

Mayor Ron Mozer 31:30
Any questions? Call the roll.

Mike Korposh 31:32
Council person Costner, yes. Council person Thomas, yes. Mayor Mozer, Yes.

Mayor Ron Mozer 31:38
Motion to pay the following invoices from the recreation account in the amount of $519.71 all invoices are attached to this agenda as attachment B. Do I have a second?

Lois Thomas 31:50
Second,

Mayor Ron Mozer 31:51
any questions? Call the roll.

Mike Korposh 31:53

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Council person Cosner, yes. Council person Thomas, yes. Mayor Mozer, Yes.

Mayor Ron Mozer 31:58
Motion to pay the following invoices from the line usage fund in the amount of $64.96 all invoices are attached to this agenda as attachment C. Could I have a second?

Lois Thomas 32:07
Second

Mayor Ron Mozer 32:08
any questions? Call the roll.

Mike Korposh 32:10
Council person Cosner, yes. Council person Thomas, yes. Mayor Yes,

Mayor Ron Mozer 32:16
motion to pay the following invoices from the parks fund in the amount of $298 and 70 cents, all invoices are attached to this agenda as Attachment D. Could I have a second?

Lois Thomas 32:27
Second

Mayor Ron Mozer 32:28
any questions? Call the roll.

Mike Korposh 32:29
Council person Cosner, yes. Council person Thomas, yes. Mayor Mozer, yes,

Mayor Ron Mozer 32:34
motion to approve the transfer of $89,329.36 from the general fund to the payroll account for payroll expenses. Could I have a second

Lois Thomas 32:43
second,

Mike Korposh 32:44
any questions? Call the roll. Council person Costner, yes. Council person Thomas, yes. Mayor Mozer, yes,

Mayor Ron Mozer 32:51
motion to transfer $2,100 from the general fund to the Health Care Fund. Could I have a second

Lois Thomas 32:57
second,

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Mayor Ron Mozer 32:58
any questions? Call the roll.

Mike Korposh 33:00
Council person Cosner, yes. Council person Thomas Yes. Mayor Mozer Yes In the spirit of our accounts and director of accounts and finance, the line usage currently has $840,857.74 The liquid fuels has $2,962.85 the Rec fund has $1,987.25 the Grant fund has $119,942.35 the Payroll account has $1,003.83 the Health Care accounts has $4,612.78 the American Rescue Plan has $45,340.65 the General Fund has 245,000 zero and $43.09 the tan note has $500,282.60 two the garbage fund has $113,564.46 the fire escrow has $22,060.08 that completes the director of accounts and Finance Report. This time, I'd like to invite council woman lost for her report.

Lois Thomas 34:23
I just want to thank Rich Hall for the accommodation for the Streets Department. I too just can't commend them or not or thank them enough for the job that they do. And for those who are concerned about the one day where it seemed like the roads weren't done as well, that was not their fault. That's just a backup in all the salt that's being delivered to all the cities, but they are out there, as you can see, non stop. And I just can't thank them enough for trying to keep our roads safe and our residents safe. But let me just do our Yes, I agree. Yeah, I agree. I mean, they are out there non stop. You know, in the middle of night, you can hear them out there in the morning, all night long, continuously, and never. Complaint that I've heard from them, so they're risking their lives being out there on those roads. I thank them for that, but our Streets Department report for December 2024 empty garbage twice a week downtown, and this is for December, marked 32 pa one, calls cold, patched several streets, put up and straightened signs. They ran a street sweeper. Weather permitting, as we know, that was in December. Had to salt the streets twice this month. That was in December, because I'm sure they've done almost every day in the month of January, just about had electricity issues for 12 days of the City Garage. So we send our apologies to anyone reported a complaint by phone or email. We did not reply. They got truck eight back from repair. Also reminded all citizens when it snows, we saw and claw all hills and main streets on the routes first, side streets are done second and alleys are last. Thanks for your understanding and patience. And once again, Rodney Freeman would also like to thank Mark, who's here tonight, for his 35 years of hard work and dedication to the city as well of all of us who are present here, Mark, we'd just like to thank you very much. Thank you very much. But we didn't chance to have him here.

Speaker 1 36:12
We were going to have a proclamation for him at our work session this next time too. We are with the next Yep, we will next meeting,

Lois Thomas 36:23
That's my report, Mayor. Thank you.

Speaker 1 36:26
John Nestor is not here. Would you like to read his report? Give it to Karen then.

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Karen Cosner 36:35
Thanks Ernie. Police Department receipts for the year, 2024, parking meter receipts, zero parking fines and forfeits. $140 parking permits, zero miscellaneous collection, copies of police accident reports. $1,695 Charleroi prisoners, $350 Washington Township prisoners, none. North Bell Vernon prisoners, zero. West Newton prisoners, zero. Restitution, $272.35 meter bags, $36 total miscellaneous collection, $2,353.35 court receipts from District Justice Office, Vehicle Code fines collected $7,964.51 crimes Code fines collected $4,455.64 city ordinance collected $2,131.57 code enforcement collected $1,233.59 total receipts from District Justice Office. $15,785.31 total receipts collected for year 2024, $18,278.67 $1,278.66 David, you lost chief,

Mike Korposh 38:06
and we also have a code activity report for December. We had habitation permits, 15 correction letters, 11 animal complaints, two miscellaneous complaints, 14 health inspections, one office meetings with residents, three citations issued, three hearings. We had one building permits, one and there were no zoning permits. In addition, there were numerous complaints of grass, noise, abandoned vehicles and homes. The Code report. Here's a fire fire

Karen Cosner 38:45
report, municipal fire chief report, November, 2024, vehicle accidents, four vehicle accidents with entrapment, one, medical assist, four, automatic fire alarms, 10, carbon monoxide, one, wires down, one landing zone, zero natural gas, nine, tree down, one stove fire, two structure fire. One calls outside the city. Accident, vehicle, accident with bell Vernon, one structure fire, Charleroi, one structure fire, Washington Township one, structure, file fire, Carroll township one, automatic fire alarm, North Bell Ron total calls, 39 total firefighters, 279 firefighters per call, 7.15 total man hours, 286 you.

Speaker 1 39:44
Six because the police fall under me, I'd like to commend them. Last year, they received 7991 calls, resulting in 754 arrest. That's very significant. The. Yes, I think that pretty much concludes it.

Mayor Ron Mozer 40:11
This time I'd like to call on Councilwoman Karen Cosner for her report, please.

Karen Cosner 40:16
Okay, the Parks Department report for December 2024 picked up litter, limbs and leaves in the park, cleaned the civic center as needed, repaired lights in the police station, assisted the Streets Department as needed. And also I see Mark in I want to thank you. When Mark told me that he was retiring, my first thought was he was pulling a joke on me. I can't believe it. I felt I felt taken aback, but I appreciate all you've done for me in the short year I've been with you. I appreciate it aided you every time, and I wish you a long retirement, long and healthy. Yes, I'd like a motion to approve the following dates for some events that we have planned for the city in the upcoming months, so you can put them on your calendar. And if you want to call me and sign up for any of these, I'll take your advanced registrations. Monessen clean update for Saturday, April 26 Monessen clean update, Saturday, September 27 and last year, we had one community flea market, which was held down on the lot

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across from the historical society. And the Redevelopment Authority gave me permission, and the city did two to host several more, and they're on the third Saturday of the following months, Saturday, April, 19, May, 17, June, 21 July, 19, August, 16 and September, 20. And we're also making plans with high mark to have a free farmer's market like Charlotte Ray did last September, sometime in July and August, and the dates, we have not set the dates yet, but that's something that's upcoming, and we're hope, hoping that it'll be a success. And that's that's all I have.

Mayor Ron Mozer 42:14
Would you like to second that motion?

Lois Thomas 42:17
Second?

Mayor Ron Mozer 42:19
Any questions? Could I call the roll please?

Mike Korposh 42:21
Council person Cosner, yes. Council person Thomas, yes, your mayor Yes.

Mayor Ron Mozer 42:28
At this time, I'd like to open the floor for public comment. Directed it to the mayor on any items related to business ordinances or statues, resolutions for daily work product and the attention of the city of Monessen. Do? Yeah,

Earnie Telegraphis 42:43
okay, Mayor, I don't know where to begin here. Okay, first of all, let me start from the last one. We have no industry, we have no comrades, and we're going to put these bizarre shacks, these tent cities, to bring in who? Who's going to bring in tiny 10 cities? It looked terrible. Okay? And I don't know how many people attended. They're lucky. They had 50 or 80 people there, and they're all related to each other. You didn't bring in people from out of town, and you didn't even bring in people who got wealth. I didn't see anybody with any wealth down there, really? That's right. Okay. The number two, I want to know this. Why are we reading Bishop Bass letter about some sort of insecurity here? And I could ask the police chief or anybody here? Well, you guys were threatened with a gang, or is it physical harm that

Mayor Ron Mozer 43:46
that was written by the that was written by somebody else that was not us? Okay,

Earnie Telegraphis 43:50
but why did you read it? You make it seem like we're hostile,

Mayor Ron Mozer 43:55
written to the city, and we're obligated to read it

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Earnie Telegraphis 43:58
They don't obligate that what we do in their meeting? Its a bishop, yeah, a bishop. Bishop wants to, if he really wants perfect security, tell him to move to China. You can't even make a comment. Everybody. Just praise his mouth. Okay, so anyway, I yeah, this is the other big thing here. Why are you giving yourself appliques, or whatever you call them, patting yourself on the back whenever there were three items you left out, our roads are a disaster. Wait till March, COVID. This is going to be a moon landing. Okay? Even though I'm not taking any I'm not blaming the city crew. They work hard for what they got, very limited resources. Not talking about them. I'm talking about what you guys are not directing resources.

Mayor Ron Mozer 44:56
You listen to what I said. I said we made application for equipment,

Earnie Telegraphis 44:58
an application. Roads application is not the same for years, not just your administration, the last four administrations, they don't allow no amount of money for road repairs. That's for learning you guys should have and that's part of the reason why we pay property tax to fix the roads. 95% of Monessen people own cars, and we're not addressing it.

Mayor Ron Mozer 45:23
It's being addressed. Move on, okay,

Earnie Telegraphis 45:27
Daniel, but a crime. There's a big drug bar from here, and you don't even bring it up. So where we're going to applaud here, there's a big who's getting arrested for drug bust.

Chief Yuhauz 45:42
There's been numerous. There's seven, there was 794, arrests last year.

Earnie Telegraphis 45:46
There wasn't all drugs, no, okay, but a lot of more. There's a lot of drugs going on in the city. I understand, okay, you understand, but nobody's addressing it. We've got a police very active. They need resources. You guys are not giving resources to where it should count. But what we do, we're buying equipment. We're buying cosmetics to make the city look good. Meanwhile, we got no industry. Well, you got no industry. You got no comments. If you got no comments, you got no tax base. Now, I don't know if you guys were aware, and I have it here printed out, these trailer park homes up they made a list. It was in last Wednesday's paper, and the people that honor that they're begging to apply are x cards. Homeless people, mentally disturbed people, and go down a list. How is that going to bring manes up from the bottom? No, okay. Where do you get that from? The paper? You guys go read. You sitting on each other. You talking in Berlin. Sit among each other, bullshit each other. You think that's reality, yeah. How many copies sure

Speaker 1 47:22

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you have misread this. The intent of what they're asking this. They're not saying that that's what they're soliciting for. They're saying that they are will work with people that have these issues to resolve these issues.

Earnie Telegraphis 47:34
Money and you're productive, they pay taxes, and people don't pay taxes.

Speaker 1 47:38
All these people, you have to have income over here, and if you have an income, you're paying taxes. Listen,

Earnie Telegraphis 47:43
you're part of the new world agenda where we're going to make America a Third World, third world nation. Bottom up in this town,

Mayor Ron Mozer 47:51
you can't read. But go ahead and go the next

Earnie Telegraphis 47:53
I'm going to give you. You guys tell me what it says,

Dave Leska 47:58
says you have to have a job.

Earnie Telegraphis 48:00
How they're going to have a job. Those people there don't even get a job. None of them, they double speak. That's how they when they pass bullshit in our country, double speak. Okay, the other big thing is this, I it okay. Now you have Guardian protection. You guys going to pay for the public safety building? Yep, okay. Why not the library? Why is the library paying their own protection services? It's part of the government, city government. You guys on it. You pay for the civic center. So why not the library? The

Speaker 1 48:50
only thing we do at the Civic Center is a lock and key. The only thing is the library is lock and key. They

Earnie Telegraphis 48:55
don't have any security data. They have

Mayor Ron Mozer 48:57
something I don't know what, who's

Earnie Telegraphis 48:59

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paying for it? Okay? You guys are paying for it. So why do you keep double speaking here? Double speak the garbage trying to make ends meet. They got a payroll which is bigger than the civic center or from anybody else, and you're letting them pay for their security.

Mayor Ron Mozer 49:17
I don't know that they do. I think

Earnie Telegraphis 49:18
I was just with Dave today. Anyway, all right, I don't know where to go. There's so many holes in their presentations. If you guys don't got a clue, the paper doesn't justify it, doesn't spell out.

Speaker 1 49:33
Got a great suggestion for you addressing this? Why don't you put out the petitions and run for office next time? And maybe

Earnie Telegraphis 49:39
I am. I hope the people are bright enough to see that I will make a difference. Okay, yeah, and there's another big thing, you guys did not get three bids.

Mayor Ron Mozer 49:50
We do on virtually everything that we can do.

Earnie Telegraphis 49:53
I don't see it. I don't see it written down with the name and the don't publish to the people we know you got the three bids because you tell her. Yes. So we're like little five kids, whatever the kindergarten teacher tells us, that's a proof,

Mayor Ron Mozer 50:05
yeah, there's no obligation for us to do that.

Earnie Telegraphis 50:08
Well, you do because you owe the taxpayers money that you're spending next okay, this is for you. Citizen Dalfonso, where are we with the easement when they're going to hit us with a shock price for trying to repair the sewer underneath the railroad tracks?

Joseph Dalfonso 50:29
You have any idea about the railroads still reviewing what was submitted? Okay?

Earnie Telegraphis 50:33
Because I've been asking since June last year, and we just keep pushing it back. I just want to know, because I'm afraid it looks like the big boys get what they want and the little people are going to get it up the rear end whenever taxes come. Now, I think there's one more here, and I'm just trying to it okay, so I'm just going to ask you this last thing. You keep saying you're applying for this, applying for that to

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get money. Where are we? Do we have any more money yet? We've got the $75,000 okay, what are you going to do with that? 75

Mayor Ron Mozer 51:22
$75K invested in trying to attract businesses to the area. I'm going to attract business

Earnie Telegraphis 51:26
By putting some sort of a comprehensive plan. We've got that already done. Okay, so what are you going to do with it? Then put together proposals. And proposals don't make things happen. Realtors to go out and solicit for real estate people don't go out and solicit industry. What are you talking about?

All 51:45
Why don't you help us?

Earnie Telegraphis 51:47
I will. If anybody here talks to me, you guys, I haven't told you this, I'm willing to put in my paper just $50 you guys pay 450, $800 and it comes out real small print, and nobody reads the print I'll give you a third page anyway. The big thing is this, if you guys know solicit industry, we're not going to get Monessen up and running. That's all I'm going to know. Alright, and if you don't bring people in to talk to us who are from the private sector, not the public. I don't want to hear baloney from the politicians. We're not going to do anything here, and each year we keep shrinking our tax base. Well, what does that mean? They keep expanding their expenses. That means more and more taxes will be on our backs, and we're going to accept that. I don't want to accept too much. Thank you. Does

Mayor Ron Mozer 52:45
Anybody else have any comments you'd like to make? Roger, name and address? Please.

Rich Hall 53:00
Rich Hall, 1220 Dennis Avenue, I went back to 2020 paid my garbage was 195 with a $20 discount. We paid 175 if it was paid by the end of January. 202 exact same thing. 2022 exact same thing. 2023 big increase, 8% $210 $20 discount, 192,024 the same 2025 17% increase. $246 and my bill says minus $20 discount. I should be paying 226 I come down to pay it's 236 but nobody can give me an answer.

Mayor Ron Mozer 54:01
It's a misprint.

Rich Hall 54:03
So what's the real bill? $236

Mayor Ron Mozer 54:07
which was approved during this council meeting.

Rich Hall 54:10

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So we only get a $10 discount. Only a $10 discount. Interesting. Okay, that's what. I needed clarification. Thank you.

Pino Cianflone 54:31
Hello. My name is Pina Cianifone, as you heard the man read the letter that was me. I'm not shy about what I have to say. I don't threaten anybody. I'm too old to threaten. Back in my days, I didn't threat, I did took action, too old, so I don't threaten, threaten anybody. But let me tell you something I want you to know about, the Redevelopment Authority for I asked seven months. Ago, and the mayor attended. I told them to put cameras on top, just like they do here, so people can see what's going on. The meeting used to last 10 minutes. It was longer for the say they pledge allegiance in the prayer, and the meeting was over. I question that. So this past we didn't have no agenda for I've been going there for almost, I say four years, no agenda until the last three months. In other words, they never told you what they talk about. Okay, so this past meeting that I went it was interesting. They talked about that someone at the meeting said the meetings were too short. I was meeting. I said that. So the man, the guy who's in charge of the meeting, whatever he's a bishop of some kind, he went on and spoke for 35 minutes straight about how smart he is and how much education he has. He went on for 35 minutes. I timed him, and there was a girl here from Monessen. Her last name was Lee. I think her first name was gay. She gave us a business card, and she was actually there to promote her job herself. So after the preacher got done talking about how great he is, he also said how great the rest of the guys are at that means the ex chairman, couple other guys in busy so the girl came over, started the mayor was there. The girl started talking about what she was doing. You know, she writes grant. So she she gave her a nice speech for, I say, good half hour. So after the meeting, or prior to the meeting, I told Linda, you watch. She's going to ask for questions. She's going to say anybody has any question, because that's normal. And then as soon as that we get involved in that, they're going to tell Shut up. And that's exactly what happened. She asked the question. My question to her was, Ruth, I'm glad to see a young lady from Monessen trying to help Monessen now. So my question to her was, what do you think Monessen needs? That's my question to her. And she started to but they shut her up. And then five seconds after that, I said, you know, we're not in Korea. We're not in the Vietnam. War is over. All the wars are over, pretty much, but we still place division to the flag. That's my country. This is my country. I served on the damn flag, and I don't need no asshole tell me at any given time that I can't speak. Okay, they're full of shit.

Mayor Ron Mozer 58:11
Let's watch your language.

Pino Cianflone 58:12
But I can tell you I want to continue to speak when they're right, they're right, when they're wrong, they're wrong, and at this time, they're wrong again. So they went into a special section, meaning we all had to leave so they could do their business. They left the girl there, and I talked to her today. I called her today, and she says, You know what, your question was, fair? What's wrong with asking a young girl to say you're from Monessen. What do you think Monessen needs? Not from an old man. This is my town. I came to this country, to this town. I want to see this town grow, but I don't need no asshole telling me that I can't speak for no reason. Okay, but I'm glad to hear tonight that they finally got a young man like Mr. Mandarino on a redevelopment authority. I just hope that you do what's in your

mind and what's right for the city of Monessen, for the young kids your age, not for the old guys like me. We pay our taxes, do our duty, and move on. And when I have something to say, I'll say, that's all I have to say. So whatever letter he wrote, I want you to note that I wrote them a letter the redevelopment authority under the Sunshine Law, or the right to know law that I want to know what they were doing, they're supposed to answer to you within 30 days. They didn't. So I got from Steve Topani. He asked if I give him additional time. I said, Yeah, no problem. So he got an extra 10 days. He he says, Give me 10-20, days, and I'll answer some of your questions. And I can't. I said, that's fine. Meantime, I asked him the same question on November the fourth, I gave him to sign up for the same damn thing. I want to know what what is that they're doing behind the scene. So this point to answer within 30 days. So I asked Mike Korposh tonight of the development meeting, what's my answer? He said, I know what you're talking about. I thought that was Dalfonso, because he plays a real dumb game, but he knows what's going on. It took him two and a half months to reply today. 30 days they're supposed to answer. We did so from November 4 until today, I got my letters on around three o'clock by an email.

Joseph Dalfonso 1:01:02
No, you got it from December, and within the 30 day period

Pino Cianflone 1:01:06
you replied to the answer today. You were supposed to come back to me, and I got the damn letter. So don't be yes, what did you send me? Why did you save me? Why did you send me the Why did you send me that letter? The response? You haven't given me any paper that I asked. And you you said, because you don't have the staff

Speaker 2 1:01:26
for what you said, you're looking for 14 years of activity, so it takes some time for us to put

Pino Cianflone 1:01:32
I did. And yeah, today, and she told you on December. You told me today, December. Why did you send me today? December 9, takes 30 days, not two and a half months. You could argue about it, but you didn't. You know you were right. I have the letter, yeah. Why did you send me an email

Mike Korposh 1:01:52
to basically go over what we're doing in the process

Pino Cianflone 1:01:56
yesterday? I didn't know you. Didn't know anything you saw. I don't know what you're talking about. I gotta check with our two they checked it. Okay, here's your let me finish. I got one. One more question. Okay, they can tell you what they want. To tell you how open they are. This is what I like to see when I came to this country in 1961 okay, I lived on top of the steps rush. You know the up on top of Third Street step, the very first house that was my grandfather, okay, Felix Galera and I moved there. That's where we lived. We paid rent. We moved up for Duke from there to do this. And I had it downtown. I looked at downtown, there was stores all over the place, all kind of action going on. Okay, so all I've been saying for the last four, eight years that I've been coming to this damn meeting, okay, eight years,

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I like to see a downtown grow something to go in downtown, and they keep tearing building down, and they keep telling you how they're going to bring jobs in. I don't know what you gotta have a dime down, damn it. You want to get money in this time. Get this deal plant to give you some additional cash. They got the money going to ask you go in there and you ask for your son. I'm about to get a job. That's all you did. Okay? That's the only thing he does. So he comes back to this type of BS, but I got one more for you. I was waiting for Tony Orzechowski to be here. Okay, but he said, on last monthly meeting, I asked the question about he, why did he give 5% increase to Dalfonso, the attorney law firm? And he explained to me that they never went over the budget, and he's absolutely no I was wrong when I told him, You know, I was picking on him, really, but I was wrong. He didn't do a dance anymore. This guy puts in 5% into his budget, so he cashed it in. But I was doing the same thing you did. What are you talking about? They put in five they you never got you five. You got a 5% increase every year. You get here you went over. Never went over the budget.

Joseph Dalfonso 1:04:23
I don't even think I got close to the budget number. You never went over the budget. I don't, I don't think I ever gotten to the budget number.

Pino Cianflone 1:04:30
no but he give you 5% in the budget. That's what they budgeted for,

Joseph Dalfonso 1:04:34
but that's what the city budgeted for. Yeah, I don't think I ever got, got to that number,

Pino Cianflone 1:04:40
but you got pretty damn good so he's right. He I was wrong. He was right. He never went over the button.

Joseph Dalfonso 1:04:48
I accept your apology. He never went over the button.

Pino Cianflone 1:04:52
But then I get this newspaper Ted that said, Okay, there's a guy named. Ted, right? He always speaks, please mark up,

Speaker 1 1:05:09
turn around and face the council. Please turn around face to counsel, please. I didn't hear turn around and face the council. Please.

Pino Cianflone 1:05:18
You got it man, Yes, I got a better thing to look down there.

Mayor Ron Mozer 1:05:22
But the whole point is address the council,

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Pino Cianflone 1:05:25
right? So I can tell you. But anyway, Ed the fever asked the question last month, because we went over the budget, according to what they talked about, 25,000 bucks. Okay? And my question was, you know, why you giving him an increase? And he was right when he says, We never win about the whatever we put in the budget. And then when I read it, he was right. And I wanted to tell him, he was right, we're never over the budget. But he did give him 25% increase. Okay, so number two, that, that part that I was giving with Ted being asked, why don't you put Ed? Why don't you put some money aside so we can fix some of the road to pigeon? He says, We can do that. We don't have enough money. We don't have the money to put in there. So then somebody drops, I don't buy a fake newspaper, okay? But somebody drops me. And then one of these fake newspapers from town, and I think that the writer is here, right here, and I don't know how he wrote it. He said something that the mayor was right and Tony was right, meaning the mayor told Tony, by the way, we have close to $400,000 or $375,000 in saving, you know. And I said, Oh, and that's how the writer wrote that they were both right. The attorney was under budget for the year, and the mayor said that they had $375,000 in the bank, which no one ever said we did, because that's what Ed was asking save some money so we could do something as a road but I think might be wrong, but you gotta prove it to me, these people has been balanced their budget on not paying bills. When it comes at the end of the year, they take where they don't pay, they move it over, and then come June. And if you have any question to ask, what's more in engineering, because last year, they had to wait until May or June before they got 400 grand. But this is how they balance their budget. It's my opinion. And I'm not a discriminate guy that live in Monessen. I'm not. I'm a happy guy. Any other time, it's just, when I come to Monessen, my hometown, never looked this terrible, never looked this bad. The rose i be able to dry, okay, you know? And then on the other part,

Mayor Ron Mozer 1:08:18
you're just grandstanding at this point. No, you're just grand. You're just grandstanding at this point. This is what they do. Good. You're just grandstanding at this point.

Pino Cianflone 1:08:25
The redevelopment authority does not allow you to speak at their meeting. They want you to put it in writing, and then they'll give you an answer maybe 30 days later.

Ron Mozer 1:08:35
And that's going to happen here if you continue just to grandstand. And that's all you're doing right now. You've talked about the Redevelopment Authority. You didn't address anything to the council. You've been talking for quite a few minutes. You haven't addressed the council. You have this. The purpose of this is to address Council. No Councilman I need here, but you do have three that are, yeah,

Pino Cianflone 1:08:53
no, I think I told everything that I needed to tell you,

Mayor Ron Mozer 1:08:57
Okay, within five,

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Pino Cianflone 1:08:59
but at the end of the day, you know, we're not from out of this country. We're not out from out of state. You're just grandstanding. There's nothing people do stand together. But trust me, what I'm saying you guys need to wake up. You need to come every damn meeting and speak your mind, not a bunch of bullshit that they feed you.

Mayor Ron Mozer 1:09:18
Thank you. Anybody else? Yes, state, your name, address.

Dave Leska 1:09:41
Dave Leska, I'd like to state address

Mayor Ron Mozer 1:09:44
Please. Pardon me your address. Please.

Dave Leska 1:09:46
500 Delaware. Okay, thank you. I'm going to address the launch rack situation. Are you aware what's going on?

Mayor Ron Mozer 1:09:53
Absolutely

Dave Leska 1:09:54
Okay. Well, are you going to do anything about we're trying our best because we have group. Groups that can help out, get manpower, equipment, whatever, come, make a proposal. Great. Let's do it. I've been working hard. I've been working hard to try to figure out ways to do this. We have the river rats tournament circuit. They have access to machinery. Also, I just read the paper that that Webster got a grant from the Corps of Engineers.

Speaker 1 1:10:31
Yeah, you know, that's very interesting thing. We need to go after something I have, I went to the Army Corps of Engineers. It's interesting that that the removal of the dam in Elizabeth has been in under consideration for 30 years. For 30 years, they've known that they're going to reduce the level. They've gone to Elizabeth, they've gone to Ross River, they've gone to Rincon, they've gone to the homestead, they've gone to all these different places along the river. And they said the river is going to change levels. We're going to continue to support the fishermen, the boating, the recreational aspects of this.

Mayor Ron Mozer 1:11:06
And I go to the meeting, I say, How come you haven't come to Monessen? They say, Monessen has no boat launch. I say, What do you mean? We own a boat launch. The boat launch is in Rostraver. We own the property, and it belongs to Monessen, but it actually is in Rostraver. So when they would go to Rostraver, Rostraver never said, we got a boat launch in Monessen. They said, We got a boat launch in Elizabeth. We got a boat launch here and there. I said, Well, you got a boat problem here. We've reduced the level in Monessen. We've got problems with our barges that are rusting. We got problems

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with the level the river and everything else that is affecting us. And they said, Sorry, we ran out of money. Well, that's what they told me. They said that they had budgeted all their money, that they had some billion plus dollars, and there was nothing left from the probably the best facility on whole rivers.

Dave Leska 1:11:59
Yeah, absolutely I don't disagree, WE go the best boat launches you can use on this whole pool. This is the only ramp.

Mayor Ron Mozer 1:12:09
It has a place to park your trailers and everything else.

Dave Leska 1:12:12
I understand there's a ramp that you can actually use, but my buddy busted an axle this week on it duck hunting, so that it's not usable either anymore, and this is not your problem, as much as it is the Army Corps engineers. Army Corps engineers are going to cost this valley a lot of money, because these boaters that put in here last summer, that was here last summer, had to go to up, had to walk through, bring their trailers, load their boats, because your ramp isn't big enough for a 25 foot boat. So they had to go to but so now those people aren't going to come back and put the money back into this valley here, because they're not going to come to this ramp if I got to put a boat in.

Mayor Ron Mozer 1:12:56
You know what the sad part of that whole thing is? The Army Corps of Engineers claims that it's adding the $100 million in the economy to this the Mon river communities. Well maybe, but this is the Mon Valley

Speaker 3 1:13:10
Webster river Township.

Mayor Ron Mozer 1:13:13
But they went and they worked with them for 30 years. They worked with all these people. They did not come to Monessen and work with us.

Dave Leska 1:13:20
There's no parking. There's no that. That ramp hasn't been usable for 20 years. I agree they're sinking money into it, and it's going to

Mayor Ron Mozer 1:13:28
it's worthless. I understand that.

Dave Leska 1:13:31
It really, honestly,

Mayor Ron Mozer 1:13:36

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but it is because it's our boat launch now our property and the Boat and Fishing Commission will pay 50% of whatever it takes to fix that thing. They have a grant process, but we gotta come up with the other 50%

Earnie Telegraphis 1:13:52
Well, let me ask jump in here and let them pay it off.

Joseph Dalfonso 1:13:56
Grant politics. Is it 50% cash, or is it 50% also labor material.

Dave Leska 1:14:03
They want me to write them a bill, and you guys won't have to pay nothing, and they'll, they'll pay it all, and they're 50%

Mayor Ron Mozer 1:14:11
I am very willing to work with you guys, and we'll support that 100% because the boat launch is important to the city of and I will work with you any way I possibly can

Dave Leska 1:14:21
Rescue river rescue. God bless them. People that go pick bodies up and out. It's a win win for everyone.

Mayor Ron Mozer 1:14:28
I don't disagree you. I'm sold. I understand what you're saying, and I will work with you. Come talk to me. Let's sit with we'll make some phone calls. We'll try to figure it out. When can we do this? I'm here from seven o'clock in the morning to seven o'clock in the evening. Just about every day.

Dave Leska 1:14:46
It needs to be done. You can't let the summer go by. I understand come by Monday, tomorrow's pretty well booked. Actually, 10 inches lower. I think it's more than 10 inches. So they take a lock. I think it's like two or three feet, if it, if it goes down 10 inches, your Ram's done, I understand. Well, 10 inch more, 10 Mills, 10 more inches, and we're done. But it's down about three feet from what it was. Oh, yeah, it's definitely down feet.

Mayor Ron Mozer 1:15:15
But I'm saying your last pad, as far as I know it this is, this is the level that it's supposed to be at from this point going forward.

Dave Leska 1:15:26
Not a big job, because the ramp does go down a good way. You know, just not enough.

Mayor Ron Mozer 1:15:34

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Well, we can work on that. There are considerations that this city has to be responsible. You have to have insurance. There's all different kinds of things that we need to work through. But if you've got solutions, I will listen to you absolutely, absolutely

Dave Leska 1:15:52
you can't dump stuff. I understand well,

Joseph Dalfonso 1:15:54
I will help you get to do this,

Dave Leska 1:15:57
but you're the solicitor I am. Can you write a letter to the Army Corps of Engineers and saying that there's both damage done, and the city of Monessen doesn't want to uphold, to pay the damage, because you guys created this. And the people, if this is a sad part of this whole thing, like you said, it's 30 years so the people that actually engineered this aren't even alive. Now, that's right,

Mayor Ron Mozer 1:16:26
this has been kicked down the road for many years.

Joseph Dalfonso 1:16:28
Here's the kicker. I'm pretty sure that boat ramp was improved with what the locks were going to do in mind during that time,

Dave Leska 1:16:40
I fished this river for 50 years that that ramp, when that ramp was first put in, yeah, as the exact same way it is today,

Joseph Dalfonso 1:16:48
and it there wasn't an improvement project.

Dave Leska 1:16:51
He's been approved a little, but not for this, not for this, the full blown out,

Joseph Dalfonso 1:16:59
but what they were supposed to do where all the money came from, for the communities up to the Charleroi locks. This was a plan that the Army Corps of Engineers had since the mid 90s. I went about eight, eight rounds have been affected, right?

Dave Leska 1:17:12
All of them were shocked, right?

Mayor Ron Mozer 1:17:16
But furthermore, most of the, most of them, other than Monessen, the Army Corps of Engineers went through and dredged the river. They they extended the fish lanes. They marked it better. They tried to

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work with the recreational side of the use of the river in big ways and all the places except for Monessen.

Dave Leska 1:17:39
They did nothing for the faster. Well, that that's good. That's what's going to have to happen then,

Mayor Ron Mozer 1:17:44
well, come on by Monday and we'll sit down. We'll, we'll.

Lois Thomas 1:17:46
So who are all you guys? How did you say the river rats? But are you guys in a group?

Dave Leska 1:17:52
We fish Sunday tournaments, and every other week we have one at Monessen. Thank you guys for that, because it's really nice. It's beautiful. It was the nicest boat launch on the river in the whole western Pennsylvania. Yeah, and it's just a shame this ramp is not up to as far. I mean, you can't just if somebody goes in there blind and dumps their boat too deep, they're going to bust the top.

Mayor Ron Mozer 1:18:18
Come by and see me. We'll get a hold of the Army Corps of Engineers. We'll see if they can offer some solutions for us. If you'll stick around for a minute, I'll go upstairs and get some business cards for you guys.

Lois Thomas 1:18:38
Does anybody else? Thank you.

Mayor Ron Mozer 1:18:41
Thank you. Good luck.

Linda Lacy 1:18:45
Thank you. Linda Lacey, Mabel Avenue, and I just want to make a comment on the letter that Mike Korposh wrote that's

Mayor Ron Mozer 1:18:59
redevelopment No,

Linda Lacy 1:19:00
no, no, because no Go ahead. If it wasn't supposed to, why did you read it to us? Then if we weren't supposed to comment on it, comment on it, alright. You were at the meeting yesterday. Yes, it was not. It was a nice meeting. Nobody threatened anyone. And I'm tired of being calling called the other oh, by the way, besides Pino, I'm the other person, because there's only three of us that attend the Redevelopment Authority meetings. Bishop passes Matt because I corrected him on a statement he made, and I don't appreciate it because he insulted me, and that's all I want to say. And then I want a copy of that letter, because I'm going to print it Okay. Thank you.

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Mayor Ron Mozer 1:19:53
Anybody else have any comments? I'd like to make a motion that we adjourn. Turn at 750 Is there a second? Is there a second? Oh, Second. All in favor of adjournment. Say Aye. Aye, the meeting is adjourned. Thank you. Good night.

Attest:

Linda Matthews / City Clerk

Signed:

Ron Mozer / Mayor

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