City Council 2-27-2025

Mon, Mar 03, 2025 7:07AM • 1:07:04

SUMMARY KEYWORDS

City Council meeting, roll call, prayer, ordinances, sewage project, USDA loan, garbage fees, city taxes, peace pole, Rotary Club, boat launch, redevelopment authority, public comment, financial report, action items.

SPEAKERS

Councilwoman Karen Cosner, Controller Rosalie Nicksich, Councilman Orzechowski, Donna, Pastor Pipp, Joseph Dalfonso, All, Lois Thomas, Gerry Saksun, Mayor Ron Mozer, Mike Korposh, Speaker 2, Pino Cianflone, Councilwoman Lois Thomas, Speaker 1, Earnie Telegraphis, Linda Lacy, Councilman Orzechowski

Mayor Ron Mozer 00:00
Is now 630 I'd like to call this city council meeting of February 27 to order. Could I have a roll call please?

Mike Korposh 00:06
Council person Cosner Here, Councilman Lester, council person Thomas here, Councilman Orzechowski here, Mayor Mozer present. Mayor we know four members present, one absent. We know have a quorum.

Mayor Ron Mozer 00:19
Thank you. At this time, I'd like to invite Pastor John Pipp to the lead us in prayer. Here's your microphone you can use. This works much better.

Pastor Pipp 00:33
You as we, as you, prepare yourself in this prayer, looking upwards and looking inwards, I wanted to share with you, because what I wouldn't want you to think that I'm an outsider, because quite honestly, in early 70s, I was called into the ministry of pasturing and preaching at the Presbyterian church up there on Sixth Street. And since then, I was opportunity, or I had an opportunity, to share with the football team. And now I'll make this relevant in just a moment, if you bear with me, I know this is just a little bit out of order. Forgive me for that. But I want to give significance to what we're praying, what we're doing, what we're submitting ourselves to. Being the chaplain for the Monessen Greyhound football team that particular year we were going to one more game. We were going to Pittsburgh for the playoffs. And after the prayer, one of the players said, we don't need any chump prayers. And sure enough, the game started. It played in the last minute of the football game, the opposing team had the ball. I'm sorry that the Monessen and greyhounds had the ball, and we were on the seven yard line, and the fellow that said that we don't need any chomp prayer was carrying the ball, and he fumbled,

and they lost the game. And so I'm asking you, and if you would saying the prayer, whether audibly or within yourself, even if you consider yourself not a believer, but a person who says that when the rain falls, it causes the grass to grow on the good grass, or the wheat grass, but to identify with the purpose for being here, and the recognition that in and of ourself, we can do little, but Together, we can do a lot, but in the presence and power of Almighty God, we can do great and with that, I would ask you to join your hearts in prayer with me

Sovereign LORD God over all the earth, we join with all the governing bodies of this great nation in asking for your guidance in all the affairs of this nation and the Monessen government. We respond now to your invitation to call in our times of need upon you, yes, in good times and not so good times in peace, conflicts, wars, both within and without, in triumph or troubles in plenty or in need, in surety or uncertainties, and commit ourselves in all of our ways without wavering, determined and trusting, seeking your Best for this time, our times, the now times and in all of our seasons. With steadfast confidence, we commit our trust in You from the desert to the promised place until your determined plans are complete. For a testimony for others who keep their trust in you, Sovereign Lord, we pray that you would less guide and establish your way for Monessen, its leaders and its citizens, that you would guide and help each of us, both our elected officials and those who speak for the silent majorities, help us to come to the application of your resources that others will come to the application of your sovereign working as a city in the valley and to the top of the hill for Your glory and our building. Amen. Thank you.

All 04:53
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 05:17
I believe the minutes of the previous January, 13 and 23rd have been circulated. If somebody can make a motion, we'll get those approved.

Councilwoman Lois Thomas 05:24
I'd like to make a motion for the approval minutes of the previous sessions of January, 23 and the work session meeting of February 13, 2025

Mayor Ron Mozer 05:34
Is there a second? Second? Any questions? Call the roll.

Mike Korposh 05:38
Council person Cosner, yes. Council person, Thomas Yes. Council person Orzechowski, yes. Mayor Mozer, yes.

Mayor Ron Mozer 05:45
At this time, I'd like to invite public comment directed to myself on agenda items, only

Earnie Telegraphis 05:56

Ernest Telegraphis is 29 Rex, Boulevard, um. Okay, I'd like to know how much money we got in the account now,Tony,

Councilman Orzechowski 06:10
I'll give you that report when it's my turn.

Earnie Telegraphis 06:12
Okay, because you got, like, over a quarter of a million dollars you're laying out here on page, 470 some.

Councilman Orzechowski 06:22
No, no, it's $80,000 and there was payroll,

Earnie Telegraphis 06:27
yeah, and then you got the $74,000 $55,080 and $1000.

Mayor Ron Mozer 06:35
They're not all from the general fund.

Earnie Telegraphis 06:36
Oh, they're not going to detail, because I always if this is for the mayor or for Mr. Mozer. Can you distinguish what is a non electoral debt versus the other one page two talking about the ordinances A and B

Joseph Dalfonso 07:04
yeah, these are the ordinances for the sewage project we discussed this two weeks ago.

Non electoral debt means that the residents of Monessen have not voted for that. These are for the USDA loan. Ordinance 1275, I believe it is that is to repay a portion of the PNC interim financing to kick in the USDA loan number one, the second ordinance is for an extension of the PNC interim financing to finish, to finish the project.

Earnie Telegraphis 07:35
Okay, well,

Joseph Dalfonso 07:36
Then we have two seven and a half million dollars. We do so first, to them, the first seven and a half million dollars for the USDA, that's the first ordinance on the agenda, but you're refinancing,

Mayor Ron Mozer 07:49
Essentially Yes, then after the project's done, the second USDA loan will kick in, and the city will go through the similar process, okay, but a and b is going to happen some there's two separate ordinances. Yes, A goes first and then B later, one right after the other.

Earnie Telegraphis 08:12
You cleared it up? Okay?

Mayor Ron Mozer 08:13
Thank you. Does anybody have any correspondence that you'd like to read this time? I'd like to ask the Solicitor for his report.

Joe Dalfonso 08:32
Thank you, Mayor.

Good evening, everybody. We just briefly touched on the two ordinances on tonight's agenda. We talked about those at the workshop meeting a couple weeks ago. Anthony Ditka the city's bond council from Dinsmore Shoal is here tonight in case Council has any questions. He also has the very important documents that council needs to sign off on tonight to effectuate the closing of the two separate borrowings still touching on the sewage projects, we're making progress on the easements. I have two or four necessary through properties up on Rostraver and Grand Boulevard did have a pretty good conversation with Cleveland cliffs, their easements progressing through their real estate department. Hope to get back to me soon. Also talked to the individual who owns Westmoreland Realty, the warehouse that sits right behind the satellite sewage treatment facility should be receiving that easement here shortly, and we're still waiting on the railroad to review the engineering plans for the crossing applications. So that's all I have this evening.

Mayor Ron Mozer
Thank you. This time, I'd like to ask our city treasurer for his report. Thank you, mayor,

Gerry Saksun 09:52
Mayor, Council and citizens of Monessen. It's My Report for January, garbage fees, revenue. Garbage fees, current. We received in January $345,960.50 that is also the amount budgeted. Amount is $400,000 the garbage fee delinquent January received $23,409.91 that is also the year date amount, and that is also the including that is the amount collected by Portnoff, which was $6,048.41 the budget amount was 75,000 garbage fees, delinquent penalties and interest from Port North January, $693.70 that is also the year to date, amount, budget, amount, 2500 garbage fees collected for next year 2025, January nine, $81 that is also the year to date, amount, budget. The amount was $140,000 total collection of garbage fees for January, $371,045.18 that's also the year-to-date amount, budget amount for 2025 is $617,500 City Real Estate Taxes, revenue we did not clean. Receive any for the month of January. Budget amount is 1,487,000 city taxes prior years collected by the city January received 30,000 $186 that is also the year-to-date amount. The budget amount for 2025 was $10,000 delinquent city taxes collected by Westmoreland County; we received nothing in January. The budget amount is $250,000 total year to date, taxes, year to date, 30,000 $186,000 $186,000 30,000 $186 a budget amount, $1,747,000 distribution is as follows, general fund year to date, $21,001 and one cents. Budget Amount, $1,034,505.90 million, $34,505.90 debt service. Year to date, $5,699.29 budget amount, $280,745.60 library, $609.78 year to date, $30,037.40 parks, year to date, $2,876.81 year to budget amount, it's $141,711.10 year to date. Total, just taxes, distribution, 30,000 $186.89 total. Budget.

Amount, $1,487,000 miscellaneous income, real estate transfer tax. January, we received $12,723.37 that's also the year-to-date amount, budget, amount of $60,000 earned income tax, January received $22,780.05 that's also the year to date. Amount, budgeted. The amount is $651,046 mercantile tax, January received $154.21 that's also the year to date. Amount, budget, amount, $20,000 local service tax, January received $3,807.61 that's also the year to date, amount budget, amount 72,000 tax certifications, January received $1,640 and also the year to date, amount budget, amount $20,000 municipal lien letters. January received $1,275, that is also the year to date. Amount, budget, amount, $12,000 line usage account, unsecured payments. January received $25, it's also the year to date, amount, line usage fees. January received $83,402.17. It's also the year to date amount, total amount collected in line and line usage fees for is $83,427.17 mayor, that concludes my report for the month of January.

Mayor Ron Mozer 14:38
Could we have a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report?

Councilman Orzechowski 14:47
Make a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report as reported.

Mayor Ron Mozer 14:52
Is there a second? Second, any questions? Call the roll.

Mike Korposh 14:57
Council person Cosner, yes. Council person Thomas. Yes. Councilman Orzechowski, yes. Mayor Mozer, yes.

Mayor Ron Mozer
At this time I'd like to ask our City Controller for her report.

Controlller Rosalie Nicksich 15:08
Thank you, Mayor, the controller's report as of January 2025, the general fund, shoulder rate, Federal Savings Bank, checking account, the bank reconciliation as of January 31, 2025, the beginning bank balance as of December 31 2024. Were $491,246.06 deposits made $90,630.55 expenses $328,220 $328,220.220.97 the ending balance was $253,655.64outstanding checks. $42,677.07 there were no outstanding deposits. Reconciliation balance to the bank statement is $210,978.57 that concludes my report, Mayor.

Mayor Ron Mozer 16:23
Thank you. At this time, I'm really saddened to announce that our brother, manner, friend and fellow employee of the city of Monessen, Marvin Davis has lost a battle with cancer and joined his sister in heaven early this morning, it is with those of us here on Earth who will miss him dearly, and our deepest sympathy goes out to his widow, Mary, while we do not yet have the details regarding the service, they will be held at the church where Marvin was served as Deacon, the Gate of Heaven, Church of God in Christ.

In Monessen, overnight, a sinkhole opened up on the 1100 block of Knox, Our engineer is in the process of obtaining quotes to have it has to determine what it's going to cost to get it excavated and repaired. Yesterday, I met with PNG. They agreed to reimburse the city for the reconstruction of Pacific Boulevard in Columbus. PNG will also reconstruct half of the leads using the concrete replacement that they damaged.

Today, we're going to be a change approving change order five, which allows us to do the pipe inspection in the lines around Marion and Montraver, both of which will be paid for by PNG or ABC. Now if we add the ninth of both upper and lower that we're approving today using CDBG funds. We have an agreement to fix them, we also have an agreement to fix the part of Reed that was damaged during Phase four. Altogether, that's seven roads that are going to be repaired here in the very near future.

At this time, I'd asked, oh, we did hold an executive session on Tuesday, not on the agenda here for purposes of employment. Employee, at this time, I'd like to ask Lois to read my motions, if she would please,

Council Woman Thomas 18:30
And I too just ask that we just continue to keep the family of Marvin Davis in prayer. This is a difficult time when you lose someone that you love so much. Marvin was a good friend and just a great employee of the city, Monessen, and so just continue to keep them in prayer.

Mayor, I like to make a motion for the second reading and passage of ordinance 1275 authorizing incurring a non-electoral debt by the issuance of a guaranteed revenue obligation bond in a principal amount of $7,595,000 pursuant to the USDA loan conditions to accomplish the permanent financing of the improvements to the city's sewer system facilities, including, but not limited to centrifugal concrete lining the approximately 13,000 feet of large brick trunk sewer lines on Third Street, Sixth Street, Ninth Street and 12th Street renewed 8000 feet of eight inch to 24 inch pipe with cast in place pipe and replace 105 manholes.

Mayor Ron Mozer 19:25
Is there a second? Second? Any questions? Call the roll.

Mike Korposh 19:29
Council person Cosner Yes. Council person Thomas Yes. Council Member Orzechowski, yes. Mayor Mozer Yes.

Speaker 1 19:36
Motion for the second reading and passage of ordinance 1276 authorizing incurring a non-electoral debt by the issuance of a guaranteed revenue net revenue note in a principal amount of $7,595,000 pursuant to the PNC loan agreement to extend interim financing for phase three of the city wide sewage rehabilitation project.

Mayor Ron Mozer 19:57

Is there a second? Second is. Any questions, call the roll. Council person Cosner, yes. Council person Thomas Yes. Council man Orzechowski, yes. Mayor Mozer, Yes.

Speaker 1 20:09
Motion to approve the 2025, rate schedule for WEC real basic rehabilitation project, phase three, amendment number seven, amendment to owner engineer agreement, exhibit K.

Mayor Ron Mozer 20:20
Is there a second? Second? Any questions? Call the roll.

Mike Korposh 20:25
Council person Cosner, yes. Council person Thomas Yes. Councilman Orzechowski, yes. Mayor Mozer, yes.

Mayor Ron Mozer 20:34
There's a section here for comments from me. Again, I really don't have anything other than to say thank Council for going through this, just so everybody understands, we borrowed $15 million from PNC Bank as an interim loan. That's because USDA does not pay for construction. They pay for completed projects. We completed one. There were two, seven and a half million-dollar loans for a total of 15 million. They matched what we did just now is we paid off seven and a half million dollars on that. We extended the rest of the seven half million dollars for another 90 days. This, excuse me, 30 months. 30 months. 30 months. How some ever? What we also approved was a change order. This change order will get the project completed by October, if the engineer is correct, for this year, and we will be entirely on the USDA loan process, which is a 30-year loan at 1.125% interest, yes. So, this is, this is a very big milestone in my mind. Thank you. Everybody. Continue, please. Oh, I've got a proclamation here.

This proclamation is honoring Mark Coleman for 35 years of outstanding service to the City of Monessen,

Whereas the strength of the community lies in the dedication of hard work of citizens, the city of Monessen has been privileged to benefit from the outstanding service commitment of Mark Coleman. And whereas for 35 years, Mark Coleman has exemplified the highest standards of professionalism, integrity and dedication while serving in the Public Works Department of the city of Monessen and,

Whereas Mark Coleman has consistently, performed his duties with excellence, bringing a wealth of experience knowledge to his role and ensure that the operations of Public Works aligns seamlessly with the needs and expectations of the community, and

whereas his efforts have contributed to the maintenance and improvement of the City's infrastructure, handling enhancing the quality of life for all residents and ensuring the safety and sustainability of our city's essential services. And

Whereas the city of Monessen recognizes the deep respect and admiration Mark Coleman has earned from his colleagues, city leaders, residents alike, and acknowledge the lasting impact of his contributions to our community.

Now therefore I Ron Mozer, Mayor of the City of Monessen, on behalf of the City Council and the citizens of Monessen, do hereby proclaim February 27, 2025, as Mark Coleman day in the city of Monessen, and extend our benefit, Our heartfelt gratitude Mark Coleman, for his 35 years of exceptional service.

We wish him continued success and happiness in all his future endeavors. And witnesses hereof, I have set my hand and caused the seal of the city of Manasseh to be affixed to this 27th day, February, 2025 Thank you, Mark,

Mark Coleman 23:54
Thank you, sir. Great to leave

Congratulations.

Council woman Thomas 24:20
Before I go, I just want to just comment on Mark, just working with Mark, and seeing work, Mark would come to work with a great attitude. And not only that, when he did his job, he always did it well, but only that, too, he would work overtime and just have, he would act as if he was doing that job for himself. I remember seeing him down Ninth Street Park, and they were installing some equipment down there, and he was there on a Saturday, and, I mean, he was there in the morning when I went walking, and when I went back down, he was still down there and still had a good attitude, a smile on his face. So, Mark, I just thank you, and I hope that our present employees and those to come have the same type of attitude and diligence in doing their job as you do. So, thank you very much.

Councilwoman Lois Thomas 24:57
Applause. So we're going to continue with our motions, a motion to approve any additional WC charges, which include change order number five and related to items four needs and requirements for charges and allocations.

Mayor Ron Mozer 25:12
Is there a second? Second? Any questions? Call the roll. Council person Cosner, yes. Council person Thomas Yes. Councilor Orzechowski, yes. Mayor Mozer, yes.

Speaker 1 25:23
We'd like to make a motion to reinstate the police Pension Board. It's membership and purpose names and additional information to be provided by Chief Yuhasz for approval by the council.

Mayor Ron Mozer 25:33
Is there a second? Second, any questions? Call the roll.

Mike Korposh 25:37
Council person Cosner, yes. Council person Thomas, yes. Councilman Orzechowski, yes, their motion, yes,

Lois Thomas 25:44
motion to approve insurance claim to the city of Monessen Volunteer Relief Association Number One, and checking the amount of $10,041.70

Mayor Ron Mozer 25:53
Is there a second? Second? Any questions? Call the roll.

Mike Korposh 25:57
Council person Cosner, yes. Council person, Thomas, yes. Councilman Orzechowski, yes. Mayor Mozer, Yes.

Speaker 1 26:04
Motion to permit all participating individuals within the prime pay system to utilize an email address to email their bills and EOBs to the prime pay entity, rather than being forwarded to the city Monessen for the resulting processing and upload facts to complete the service at a cost of $1 per month, per for enrollment, excuse me, per enrollee, for a total cost of $85 per month, with the one-time $380 change order fee.

Mayor Ron Mozer 26:30
Is there a second? Second? Any questions? Call the roll.

Mike Korposh 26:34
Council person Cosner, yes. Council person Thomas Yes. Councilman Orzechowski, yes. Mayor Mozer, Yes.

Speaker 1 26:42
Motion to approve Certa Site , fire and safety, service agreement, terms and conditions, billing information is attached to this agenda.

Mayor Ron Mozer 26:49
Is there a second? Second? Any questions? Call the roll.

Mike Korposh 26:53
Council person Cosner, yes. Council person Thomas Yes. Councilman Orzechowski, yes, Mayor Mozer, yes.

Mayor Ron Mozer 27:00
This next motion, we're going to make a slight change in it on the second line where it says, and the FY 2023 clearance and demolition fund will be scratched out.

Council Woman Thomas 27:10
Motion to transfer unspent CDBG funds for the fiscal year 2022 activities for Third Street and allocated to the fiscal year 2023 Street activity, totaling $22,432.45 cent as discussed and present in the public hearing on October 7.

Mayor Ron Mozer 27:28
Is there a second? Second? Any questions? Call the roll.

Mike Korposh 27:31
Council person Cosner, yes. Council person Thomas Yes. Councilman Orzechowski, yes. Mayor Mozer, Yes.

Council Woman Thomas 27:39
Motion to transfer unspent CDBG funds for the fiscal year 2023 clearance and demolition fund in an amount of $25,000 and transfer it to the fiscal year 2023 Upper and Lower Ninth Street paving project.

Mayor Ron Mozer 27:52
Is there a second? Second? Any questions? Call the roll.

Mike Korposh 27:56
Council person Cosner Yes. Council person Thomas Yes. Councilman Orzechowski, yes. Mayor Mozer, Yes.

Council Woman Thomas 28:03
Motion to accept environmental review for activity project that is categorically excluded subject to Section 58 point 58.5 specifically addressing the proposed project to pave the upper and lower portions of Ninth Street.

Mayor Ron Mozer 28:17
Is there a second? Second? Any questions? Call the roll.

Mike Korposh
Council person Cosner, yes. Council person Thomas, yes. Councilman Orzechowski, yes. Mayor Mozer, yes,

Council Woman Thomas 28:28
motion to permit WC to obtain sealed bids on Upper and Lower Ninth Street restoration, contingent, DCED, approval.

Mayor Ron Mozer 28:35
Is there a second? Second, any questions? Call the roll.

Mike Korposh 28:39

Council person Cosner, yes. Council person Thomas, yes. Councilman Orzechowski, yes. Mayor Mozer, yes.

Mayor Ron Mozer 28:46
At this time I'd like to invite Councilman Orzechowski to give us his report.

Councilman Orzechowski 28:52
Thank you, Mayor make a motion to pay the following invoices from the general fund in the amount of $80,988.07 all invoices are attached to this agenda is attachment A.

Mayor Ron Mozer 29:02
Is there a second? Second? Any questions? Call the roll.

Mike Korposh 29:07
Council person Cosner, yes. Council person Thomas, yes. Councilor Cosby, yes. Mayor Mozer, Yes.

Councilman Orzechowski 29:13
Motion to pay the following invoices, invoices from the refuge account the amount of $55,750.26 all invoices are attached as agendas. Attachment B,

Mayor Ron Mozer 29:23
Is there a second? Any questions? Call the roll.

Mike Korposh 29:26
Council person Cosner, yes. Council person Thomas Yes. Councilman Orzechowski, yes. Mayor Mozer, yes.

Councilman Orzechowski 29:32
Make a motion to pay the following invoices from the line, usage account, amount of $323.10 all invoices are attached as agendas. Attachment C,

Mayor Ron Mozer 29:41
is there a second? Second? Any questions? Call the roll.

Mike Korposh 29:45
Council person Cosner Yes. Council person Thomas, yes. Councilman Orzechowski, yes. Mayor Mozer yes.

Councilman Orzechowski 29:52
Make a motion to approve the transfer of $74,224.41 from the general fund to the payroll account for payroll

Mayor Ron Mozer 30:00
Is there a second? Any questions, call the roll.

Mike Korposh 30:03
Council person Cosner, yes. Council person Thomas, yes. Council man Orzechowski, yes. Mayor Mozer, yes

Councilman Orzechowski 30:09
make a Motion to transfer to $2,700 from the general fund to the Health Care Fund.

Mayor Ron Mozer 30:14
Is there a second, any questions, call the roll.

Mike Korposh 30:18
Council person Cosner, yes. Council person Thomas, yes. Councilman Orzechowski, yes. Mayor Mozer Yes

Councilman Orzechowski 30:26
make a motion to transfer $75,000 from the tan account to the general account.

Mayor Ron Mozer 30:30
Is there a second? Second, any questions? Call the roll.

Mike Korposh
Council person Cosner Yes. Council person Thomas, yes. Councilman Orzechowski, yes. Mayor Mozer, yes.

Councilman Orzechowski 30:43
The following balances are on all the accounts. Grant fund, $132,127.95 payroll is $17,432.07 healthcare is $5,964.56 American rescue is $45,479.85 the general fund is $542.55 the tan Note is $401,253.72 refuge fund is 4470 $5,277.55 fire Escrow is $22,127.56 debt service is $765,125 line usage is $801,862.25 liquid fuels is $1,558.85 parks is $33,097.60 and the rec fund is $304.21 and Mayor, that's my report. Thank you.

Mayor Ron Mozer 31:52
At This time, I'd like to ask council person Lois Thomas for her report.

Lois Thomas 31:58
Streets Department Report for January 2025 picked up garbage twice a week throughout town. Clean the civic center mark pa one calls salted and plowed streets and alleys as needed.

And just a reminder, in event of snow, hills and Main Streets are taken care of. First, side roads second after they are caught up on the hills and the main streets, alleys are last. They were low on salt at the beginning of the snow falls, as most of you know, but now they have a full stock in their shed, but unfortunately, they're down to three working plow trucks that have five routes to maintain. So they ask

the citizens to bear with them while the other two trucks are being looked at and repaired. That is my report, Mayor. Thank you.

Mayor Ron Mozer 32:38
Councilman John Nestors, Director of Public Safety. I guess we'll hold off on his report until he the next session. This time I'd like to ask the council person, Karen for her report.

Councilwoman Karen Cosner 32:49
All right, this is the parks Report for January 2025, cleaning the civic center, help the Streets Department as needed, and they are waiting for a new hire. So that is my report, and I can talk about a few things on the agenda. I would just like to make everybody aware of the council too. And you probably know that we're planning to apply for another grant through the Westmoreland County local arts grant, if you do May 25 and that'll that grant will go towards the four concerts that we have planned this summer, so hopefully we get it. But I wanted to do it if anybody has any questions about the grant, we applied for the one two through PNC a few weeks ago, and essentially, it's the same one. There's no match involved. It's just submitted the application and hope that they like what we've written in them. The total for you, put down an amount that you want, and then they have a certain percentage that they award you if you qualify. And we it's due May 20 March, 25 and I think we'll know by June whether we get that grant. Well, we the cost of the project is a little over $16,000 for all four what I do is I'll include the budget in the grant that I send them, so they'll know exactly what why we're asking for the amount of money that we are. So, we're hoping, with all these little grants, what comes enough together and with our donations, that will be good to go. Anybody on council have any questions about that particular grant?

One thing I do it's not on the agenda, but I wanted to make you all aware, but we had received with grateful appreciation. The Ocean Conservancy recognizes the city of Monessen for our cleanup efforts. I know there's some people in the audience who come out to the cleanups and everything, so I thought that I was really surprised to get it in the mail. So, we'll frame it, put it someplace. So just wanted to make you aware of it, if you were part of that and helped. Thank you.

And also, we've been working on a policy manual. For the civic center, we're going to hire two part-time people. So, we thought from the very beginning, they need to know how to operate the civic center. So given we've met on this council, do anybody have any questions about the policy manual? I know I've sent it to you. It's known, if anybody in the audience wants to read it, it's up in my office. You're welcome to do that.

Mayor Ron Mozer 35:27
You want to make a motion?

Councilwoman Karen Cosner 35:28
I sure do, motion to approve the city of Monessen, civic, civic center, use and reservation policy manual.

Mayor Ron Mozer 35:37

Is there a second? Second? Any questions? Call the roll.

Mike Korposh 35:42
Council person Thomas Yes. Councilman Orzechowski, yes. Council person Cosner, yes. Mayor Mozer, yes.

Councilwoman Karen Cosner 35:51
Okay. At this time, we have a presentation by Donna Vesley and Brian man if you're going to participate, but at least I want to enter. I want to introduce you. And they are from the newly organized Rotary Club, the Mon Yough Rotary Club. And what's that? River Valley. River Valley. Okay, there was a nice article in the paper. It was yesterday, so you could, if you get the paper, take gander and read it all about it. But Donna had contacted me, I don't know, a month and a half ago now, about putting up a peace pole in sit in the city park. And I had never heard of a peace pole before, so she had sent me some information about it, and I believe it's in honor of Stephanie Orchick, who Brian gave me this article, and it was in the December Mon Valley report. And Stephanie graduated, I believe, in 1972 from in essence. And she is currently the president of Rotary International, and she's a female. She the first or second female in that office. So that's amazing. So, I think we've talked about this at our work session, and do you want to come up and really talk about it? Because you know far more than I consider. I never heard of a peace poll before.

Mayor Ron Mozer 37:20
Please take a mic.

Councilwoman Karen Cosner 37:22
Sure, bring it up.

Donna Vesley 37:23
I have a very loud voice well, so as Karen said, and I don't even know if it's on, because with is it on? I was going to say with my hearing aids, I can't tell, but tell Stephanie contacted me and said that they were making a peace poll in her honor as being the Rotary International President. And she said to me, would you kind of initiate and ask if we can put the peace pole in the Monessen Park, because that's where I want it to be, because that's where I grew up and so the peace pole, and I don't know, Brian, you're pretty familiar with the Peace pole, and Rotary's initiative. Rotary is not the only one that does a peace poll, but basically it is to kind of acknowledge peace in different languages, especially the language of the community where it's going to be. So, this is not going to be the one the peace pole that we will have, because they are going to redo it, but may peace prevail on Earth. Will be done in Russian, which is Stephanie is Karpo Russian, which is part of the Slavic community. Here it will also be in Greek, because of the population here, as well as Italian and, of course, English. So the whole idea of it is that it is put in a place where you can easily see it and just reflect on why we're here and peace, and even if you're having a terrible day, go past the peace pole and just kind of keep in mind what we're all here for, and it's peace. So that's kind of one of Roy's initiatives, if you will. So you can see she's a big Steeler fan. So, when they did this, they made sure that they put a reference to the Steelers as well. So, we're asking on her behalf if we can put this in the park. And our hope is that on Earth Month, that we will debt. Indicated because she will be here. She travels the world, and she's

hardly ever home, but she's going to be here for the Orthodox Easter, which is in April. And so we thought we'd love to have a great dedication, really, a big PR presentation of she's going to be here also. So, we are asking if we can have permission to do that in the park in her honor. And I know she's proud to be resident of Monessen, obviously, and so this is where she would like it to be. Thank you.

Mayor Ron Mozer 40:34
You are a local resident. Where in the park specifically would you like to see this?

Donna Vesley 40:40
Well, Karen and I, she was kind enough to a couple mornings ago, we looked through the park. There is a, I don't know it's not a pavilion, but it's Pete. Yes, it's a so we thought that putting it right near there might be a nice area. There were some newly planted trees as well, but we went there again today, and that's kind of another thing that I'll mention a little bit later. Why did we go there today again, but we noticed. And Karen, you and I, I don't think it really, we recognize it. But as you go into after, you park your car and you walk and start to walk into the park, on the left-hand side, there's a pole there, kind of a two-by-four. Or I'm not good with that, but it's just there. And if you'll notice, can you show Brian like, I guess what the idea is for when you put this piece pole that is kind of hollow on the bottom. This is like, yeah, so it's really, ideally, you put the pole, you plant the pole in the and in the concrete, and then it's a sleeve that goes over top of it. And so that pole is already there. Now it's six feet, so it's not, you know, quite as tall. And I think this was also designed actually to go into the ground as well. So it may not work, but it was very interesting. Whoops, sorry. It is very interesting that pole there was a pool that already existed. So, it maybe could be for another peace pole that's a little shorter, I don't know, but pardon, yeah, it's very possible we could kind of but, you know, yes, so maybe we can re look at that and just see, hey, because it's right as you go into the path. So, it would be right there. I'll send you a picture. We missed it. Yeah. So that's one thing, another thing. While we were there, you know, Karen mentioned to me I'll some of the benches and things like that are in repair. And there's a bridge that was presented or by, I guess, the Monessen Rotary Club, way back when it went before it was Monessen, but the Monessen rotary club did the bridge. There's also, we think it's the lions put that for Patsy Yes. Martucci, so that roof also needs replacement, and there's a couple of things on it that need a little bit of repair. So, I said at our new rotary club, our focus is on service and service projects, and we want to do what the community needs, not necessarily what we think they need. And so, we would love to also take that on as a new rotary club, and possibly also to partner with some of the other rotary clubs. So, we were there today, actually to measure the roofs, because the roofs need replacement. And if you, especially on the bridge, if you don't replace that soon, there's already a hole there, you're going to, you'll lose the treasures, and that thing is then going to be unsafe. So, we would like to take that on. So that's why we've measured the roofs. We'd like to replace the roofs. We're a new club, so we don't have a whole lot of money. So, we are going to try to reach out to maybe some of the roofing companies in the area, see if they would what kind of cost it would be, or if they would donate it. Because it's not, I think the ones 260 square feet, and the other ones, the bridge is like 110 so we're going to be working on doing that, if that is with, you know, the your approval, and we hope then we'll get enough Rotarians and anyone else who wants to just kind of join in and try to get that repaired so that you can get a little more. Life out of it, and it will be safe.

Mayor Ron Mozer 45:02

So thank you very much, good. Just one other question, is that plastic? Or what's the case? What kind of material is that

Donna Vesley 45:11
PVC!

Mayor Ron Mozer 45:13
So I mean, is the long utility of that expected to last? How long?

Donna Vesley 45:18
Well, they've had some of them up for 12 years, they said, and they're still looking good because they see, he said, The most you might have to do is, if it gets splashed with dirt, you might want to hose it off. But other than that, I guess that the details or what's on there is weatherproof it. And again, I asked about it. He said, we've had them up for more than 12 years, and they're fine. We've not had to do anything because it is a concern. We don't want it to be too much maintenance for the city. We don't, of course, want to take over any maintenance for them from the Rotary Club either. So that was very important to make sure that it was pretty much maintenance free. So, it also has a QR code. You will see they're put on there. So, somebody does want to get information about the peace pole, and where else the peace poles are? They're all over the world. Rotary. In fact, they just dedicated one in Istanbul, Turkey this past weekend, the rotary president, Stephanie was there for that presentation.

Mayor Ron Mozer 46:23
Thank you very much for the presentation.

Donna Vesley 46:24
You're welcome.

Mayor Ron Mozer 46:26
Yes, wait till we get to the end.

Donna 46:29
Well, you can ask it about, go ahead about replacing a roof. Yeah, it's right by the path. Right by the path, yeah, yeah. Today we looked at it. There was a big hole, like I said. And if the water continues, it'll, it'll not.

Mayor Ron Mozer 47:01
We need a motion to approve the placement of the pole.

Councilwoman Karen Cosner 47:06
Well, then I'd like to make a motion to approve the placement of the peace pole in the city park. Well, we're not exactly sure where it's going to be. I mean, in the park. We you know, I want input from people, if they have suggestions, when I do the trees, I'm sure if there's 30, I'll clean it. Ernie, if you were there, you could help me. How's that?

Mayor Ron Mozer 47:35
Is there a second?

Councilwoman Lois Thomas 47:36
Second.

Mayor Ron Mozer 47:38
Any questions? Call the roll.

Mike Korposh 47:40
Council person Cosner, Yes, council person Thomas Yes. Councilman Orzechowski, yes. Mayor Mozer, yes.

Councilwoman Karen Cosner 47:48
Thank you. I'd also like to make a motion to approve the hire of Linda Carson and Curtis Wade to positions at the Civic Center of Monessen at 15 hours per week per employee, subject to the finalization of all employment testing and clearances.

Mayor Ron Mozer 48:05
Is there a second? Second? Any questions? Call the roll.

Mike Korposh 48:10
Council person Cosner, yes. Council person Thomas Yes. Councilman Orzechowski, yes. Mayor Mozer Yes.

Mayor Ron Mozer 48:18
At this time, I'd like to open the floor for public comment directed to myself on any items right in the business ordinances, statues, resolutions for daily work product intent that requires attention to the city of Monessen.

Earnie Telegraphis 48:36
Okay, when Tony gave his speech, he just read it off his paper, and he didn't answer what I wanted to know. That was over $200,000 you paid out today. How much do we have in the bank?

Mayor Ron Mozer 48:58
He did say that, by the way, you didn't say how much total? How much was it? obout 500 bucks.

Councilman Orzechowski 49:05
$542 but we just moved $75,000 into it from the tan, though. We have $400,000 minus 75 so you have 325 that's in the TAN.

Ernie Telegraphis 49:08
So only $500 is left. Well, how are we going to make it? Then we just moved, we still got how much in the kitty we have? Okay. But we're going to have now, what, 75,000 plus $500 right? Yes, and that's all going to go next month.

Mayor Ron Mozer 49:32
But then we'll draw upon the tan.

Councilman Orzechowski 49:34
We'll probably have taxes, and by then, plus, I need to move next month 55,000 from the refuge account to the general account, because the general account paid the garbage in January.

Earnie Telegraphis 49:46
Oh, so you get that money back, we transfer, and we move it. Where should it go? Okay, I just got another question here. You guys in concert with each other. For instance, you. It is Tony, with your figures. The Treasury got his figures, and then he got the controller. The controller, to me, should be the linchpin. It's supposed to be a very important position. So, you guys interact with the controller. No,

Mayor Ron Mozer 50:18
She monitors the spending and makes sure that the bills are paid interacting with you. That's what the function of the controller is. Otherwise, they'd be in cahoots with each other,

Earnie Telegraphis 50:28
Yeah, but they don't talk to each other. So how she's going to do this? I don't know how you could maintain it is a transparency that way.

Mayor Ron Mozer 50:31
She gets all the records so that no personal interaction. It's a very separate function, and it's done that way for a reason, is to prevent collusion.

Earnie Telegraphis 50:54
I just don't know if they two got together. They said, okay, we're going to write us a check together. I'm just saying they should be checking.

Mayor Ron Mozer 51:03
They constantly check. They constantly check each other's balances.

Earnie Telegraphis 51:09
All these years, I never heard the controller said, hold it, I'm not approving this. And the controller can't. Well, we can't. You got a very powerful position there ensures that all dancers pay. Yeah, well, she could say, I don't approve this allocation, that Tony's door,

Councilman Orzechowski 51:26
Then all she doesn't do is sign the check. She's one of the two signers, so I don't sign it, or she doesn't sign it, then it doesn't get done. That's all she must do. That's all if she has a question. Then I'm going to resolve it.

Earnie Telegraphis 51:40
I guess we would ask, it doesn't happen, hasn't happened, but if you'll notice, what they what Jerry and Rosalie, what they report on, is a little bit behind what I give that is actually current and going on right now.

Councilman Orzechowski 52:01
I have to be because I need to give you figures every month, twice a month.

Earnie Telegraphis 52:06
I'm just trying to see how you guys operate. That's all.

Councilman Orzechowski 52:09
But this hasn't changed in all the years or decades. It's the way it's supposed to be for you.

Earnie Telegraphis 52:15
You can't use history like that, because if that's the case, women won't be voting. We still have slavery and all that.

Councilman Orzechowski
Folks. Where did that come from? Well, you just said you guys do all this year, all right?

Earnie Telegraphis
And then I have one last question, what are you guys doing to bring industry comments so we could start building and repairing our streets and bring people into the city

Mayor Ron Mozer 52:45
We're constantly working on that you're welcome to come up and sit down and help me do any part of that. But even as of yesterday, we had a meeting here with re-imagine Westmoreland County,

Earnie Telegraphis 52:55
Okay, but I didn't know about it.

Mayor Ron Mozer 52:57
That was because that's because that was for the Mayors and the city council of the communities of Westmoreland County.

Earnie Telegraphis 53:07

Okay, so you guys are basically up to not relying on grants. This. No, not, okay, this. RVE, what are they brought in so far? Well,

Mayor Ron Mozer 53:17
They brought in the CDBG,

Earnie Telegraphis 53:18
CDBC, is there all the time?

Mayor Ron Mozer 53:20
No, it's not all there all the time. It's there through very meticulous filing for application.

Earnie Telegraphis 53:25
Okay, so they got $307,000 Okay, so they got $31,000 okay, right. Okay, so that left us with, what 200 and what 272 70? How much is that went to the roads?

Mayor Ron Mozer 53:43
No, that's not true at all. First off, what we approved here today was moving money around so we could do the Upper and Lower Ninth Street. That's going to cost us right at about $200,000

Earnie Telegraphis 53:55
Yeah, but that ain't coming from this side.

Mayor Ron Mozer 53:56
Yes, it's coming from CDBG. It's coming from multiple years of CDBG.

Earnie Telegraphis 54:01
So that's 7010 is it coming from them?

Mayor Ron Mozer 54:04
It's coming from CDBG. Absolutely okay. Next year we're planning on doing Knox. Okay, you come to these public meetings, and we explain this every time.

Earnie Telegraphis 54:14
You know it's difficult sometimes to connect. But anyway, one last question. If our SB, or whatever their name is, don't bring in any other grants, and they're just relying on the CDBD fund, are you going to renew their contract June? That's I don't know, because they're not doing anything.

Mayor Ron Mozer 54:38
They're doing everything that urban design did for 8% less.

Earnie Telegraphis 54:44
You mean urban design never brought, never brought in other grants.

Mayor Ron Mozer 54:49
They never did. Never did.

Earnie Telegraphis 54:51
I thought they did. No, well, we still gotta look for somebody that's going to bring other grants.

Mayor Ron Mozer 54:58
We've been, we've been. Are doing grants. We got grants from DCNR. We got grants. We're applying for grants.

Earnie Telegraphis 55:08
If you're doing all their work, then what do we get them for? We could save that after 31,000 Anyway, that's all I got to say. Anybody else?

Linda Lacy 55:22
Linda Lacey, 1624, Maple Avenue. I just have a comment, and then I have a question. The question is Ninth Street, you said you're going to pave from Schoonmaker all the way up Ninth Street to Summit, or is it just going to Knox?

Mayor Ron Mozer 55:42
Just to Knox?

Linda Lacy 55:45
It should go up to Motheral you should though.

Mayor Ron Mozer 55:48
We are going to Knox.

Linda Lacy 55:50
Okay, so you're going to go to Knox. So, there's going to be a new road that goes up between Knox and Ninth Street. But when you make the right turn to go into Ninth Street park that's not going to be paved until, till November. Say that again. I mean, okay, you're paving from Schoonmaker to Knox. Yes. We're going to restore and that intersection, right? And you're going to take down that ridiculous traffic light. We'll worry about that. Yes. Okay, then when you make a right to go to the park to the upper part of Ninth Street, is that included in it?

Mayor Ron Mozer 56:29
Not in this particular phase?

Linda Lacy 56:32
Okay, that's what I needed to know by now. Everybody knows that I called Rostraver Township municipal building because I was very concerned about our boat launch since the sports club came up here a couple weeks ago at our last meeting to discuss how they like our boat dock. Well, our boat dock has been in disrepair ever since 2022 and I think it was put down there in 2012 I'm not sure. But

there's also a problem other than the water level, because those barges have never been replaced. And all of a sudden, on Tuesday, the redevelopment popped in there with their great idea. Well, where were they in 22 2016 and 2012 what are they going to do that the city council can't do? Do they want you to transfer the boat launch to them? Well, why did they have their two cents in it, and why was it a big deal that I called the municipal center to find out who owns it. We own that Dock, and I think you already knew that. Of course I did, but you told us the general public at every meeting when we inquired about it, and it was leased from Ross driver. And that is not true. I

Mayor Ron Mozer 57:59
I never did say that. I said it is in Rostraver.

Linda Lacy 58:02
But I know what's in Rostraver. We lease it. No, you go back to your record.

Mayor Ron Mozer 58:08
We own it.

Linda Lacy 58:09
I never said I hear very well, yeah, that's why I sit up front. So, you go back to your records and your notes, and you'll see that you said that. Okay. The problem is, when we had that flood down there, the Redevelopment Authority didn't call the Corps of Engineers and to go down there and find our dock that floated down there, and we constantly asked him about it, and I thought that was a safety hazard, because that was a question I had for John Nestor, which he's not here. So, my thing is, is the redevelopment going to be in the process of fixing the boat launch, and why did they put their two cents in it? If they're not,

Mayor Ron Mozer 58:55
I can't answer that question.

Linda Lacy 58:56
Well, you were sitting at the same meeting I was. You didn't say anything to them. You try to suppress people who come here, who live here, they can't talk. And another thing, Karen, you asked PNC about, I'm done with you, Mr. Mayor, the next question I have is for Karen. You said you applied for a loan, for PNC, a grant, I'm sorry, a grant. Make sure, in that grant, that you apply money to have two carts, golf carts, to bring the senior citizens from the bottom of that hill up to the amphitheater. And another thing is, the amphitheater is not equipped to handle these big concerts that you plan on doing. There are no dressing rooms, there's no bathrooms up there, and you better hope that there's enough money in there to rent the artists who are coming rent them in Winnebago, a Winnebago a trailer. Yeah. Or take one of the trailers off of, what is it, Motheral, and take it up there and let them use it because when it was built, it wasn't built to have big concerts like you want to put on, and for $750,000 that they put in there. I think it's a shame that it's inadequate. Okay, and another question I have, and thank you for the peace poll, I think that's excellent to have in our park. And like I'm saying, if the Redevelopment Authority, they should, everybody on the redevelopment authority should resign anyway, because

they're not. Nobody is fighting for the residents of Monessen, no one, and if it wasn't for us, you wouldn't even have a town.

Mayor Ron Mozer 1:00:59
Thank you.

Pino Cianflone 1:01:07
My name is Pino 45 Montraver, 1506 first of all, I'd like to say something about Marvin Davis. Unfortunately, he died. Pray for him. My other part is, I want to talk about Marvin Davis because I get emotional. I have known Marvin since he was a kid. I but on a good part, I went to a redeveloping this past week. Said, go all the time. As you know now, the Mayor cares he comes in and sits down with his computer, which he's taping everything, which means to mean that he has everything on that computer that happened the week before, the month before, including this past month. Okay, now, I have never been to a meeting to actually, you can't ask questions. At the end of the meeting, they ask you if you have any questions. And when you ask him a question, the asshole, what is the chairman tells you he might answer next month or the months after that which is a bunch of BS. And then they go into an Executive Session, okay? And it's real weird, they brought a copy in which we got enough problems in Monessen to where the cop could be used somewhere else, not there. There's nothing going on there. Because I asked, over eight months ago, I asked them to hold the meeting down here, because there wouldn't be tape and anybody be able to save but they deny that, because it was my ideal. Understand that, you know, I'm still going to work my ass off to get you out of office because you're not a good mayor for our city, our city is our city, just like Marvin was a ham. So, we're not you're out of town. You have got to go with the rest of the groupies that you are hooked up with. Okay, but something that really pissed me off was this, they tell us to leave the room because they every time that they want to do something, to cancel the meeting after they talk for 20 minutes about lunch and $50 each that they get whenever they go to Greensburg. It's a $15 trip, but they charge 50 so that's fine. But on the way out, they told me and her, it's quartered out. The mayor and a cop, okay, Karen in Mrs. Lee, kept them behind. Well, unfortunately I tripped. Oh no. First, I took a seat because I wanted to sit out. My legs would kill me. Okay? And the mayor says, you know, he had a cop behind, so he was in the top. I like to keep you reminded I knocked your ass right off the ground. Okay, yeah, that's exactly what I'm telling so at the end of the day, you know, they come to me, I got to leave. They have benches there so you could sit down right if you're not allowed to sit down on the bench, it was just outside the meeting, get the damn benches out of there. So, they, they did. Rub me out, and I start walking down cheap ass carpet that they have upstairs, and I fell, yeah, I heard my knee and my elbow, yeah. So, they still, they told me that I had to leave, and then they told me I couldn't leave because I fell, and they called an ambulance on me. You know, I think they need to have the ambulance to check them out. Not me. I know what was wrong with me. I fell. I'm only 77 okay, but they kept caring, and that other girl who has no part to do with redevelopment authority, and we had to leave. Okay, now the cop, which is a young guy, I'm not going to do I think he acted professional. No, I don't think so. No, I think he acted like another asshole. That's all I could tell you, okay, he was going to arrest me. Call the ambulance. There are two different items, but I think I will make it. I make a pledge. Well, I make a motion. If you go, she needs to get a job with the city building so she can clean things up, because that's the only thing she does. She doesn't do a damn thing. She's like the rest of you, though very little all mouth.

Mayor Ron Mozer 1:06:29
Anybody else have any comments? Like to make a motion to adjourn? Oh yeah, there are refreshments over there in honor of Mark Coleman. Feel free to enjoy them. But at the council meeting, I'd like to make a motion to adjourn.
Is there a second All in favor say aye. Committee is adjourned. Thank you.

ATTEST:

Linda Matthews / City Clerk

SIGNED:

Ron Mozer / Mayor