October 9, 2025

Mon, Oct 20, 2025 2:43PM • 33:04

SPEAKERS

Mike Korposh, Joseph Dalfonso, Ernie Telegraphis, All, Councilman Orzechowski, Mayor Ron Mozer, Aaron, Pastor Brown, Councilwoman Karen Cosner

Mayor Ron Mozer 00:01
It's now 6:30, plus a minute or two, I'd like to call this City council work session to order. Can I have a roll call please?

Mike Korposh 00:10
Councilman Cosner here, Councilman Nestor, Councilperson Thomas, Councilman Orzechowski, present, Mayor Mozer, present. We know three present, two absences. We note a quorum.

Mayor Ron Mozer 00:23
Also, I like to make a note that we did have a Special session. It's not an executive session but rather we had a special session on October 1, that was not an Executive Session. I think we did have an executive session after the special meeting following dealing with personnel. Oh, we did okay. You're right. I apologize. We did have an executive session to discuss personnel matters at the conclusion of the meeting on October 1. At this time, I'd like to ask, Pastor, would you lead us in prayer?

Pastor Brown 01:11
Please to God be the glory we thank God for the privilege and the opportunity to be here, because we don't have to be here. And when I say we don't have to be here, what I mean is something could have happened and we would not have made it, but by the grace of God, we are here, and I want to give honor to our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, to our Father God, and to our Mayor and to the Council, to all that are here today, we thank God for the privilege. And God is an awesome God. I just want to say, because I like to have a few words, and the few words, it'll be short, and we have to what was laid on my heart today is Jesus told his disciples to love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, thy soul and thy mind, and to love your neighbor as yourself. And sometimes there's a little problem in our society today, but God wants us to know that if we learn to love each other, there's a whole lot more that can get done. And in the translation of the Bible, in the English language that was used the word used love, we put adjectives in front of it to define what kind of love we're talking about. But the Bible, as it talks about it, was translated from a word that means your brotherly love, different affection for a man with his with his wife, or vice versa, but with our neighbor and with our friends. It is the love, the concern, the caring for one another and looking out for one another, and this is what God wants us to do, to care for each other. We're not going to always agree. But remember one thing, if you treat someone the way you would like to be treated yourself, you'll find that the bonding of one another will be better, and you will get a whole lot more. And I went a little bit longer than I wanted to.
Let's bow our heads, Father God, in the name of Jesus Christ, Lord, we thank you. We give you praise, and we give you glory. We magnify you, and we exalt you and we lift you up. Oh God, Lord, even now as we stand in this time, in this season, oh God, Lord, you've told us many things that are going to transpire that have already begun. Oh God, but Lord, we ask that you will let Monessen be an example to the world around us. Oh God, to know what love is, to love one another, to care for one another, to work together, to be in unity, oh God, to treat each other as we would love to others, to treat us and Lord, we believe that you've already done some great things, and we know that there's much more that's going to happen if we just all get on the same page, oh God in the mind and together and looking

at what is best for the community and what is best for the citizens. Father, we thank you, and hopefully that other cities, other communities, other states, other counties, will look upon Monessen and say, look what God has done. And we need to get on the same page. We thank you, Lord. We give you the praise, we give you the glory, and we thank you for the praise and we give you the honor in Jesus' dear name. Amen.

All 05:19
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 05:30
So at this time, I'd like to ask the public if there's any comments on agenda items only at this time,

Ernie Telegraphis 05:36
Ernest Telegraphis. I got four questions. First, I want to start with our Council lawyer, Mr. Dalfonso, can you explain to me, to the public, this amount that we're supposed to pay for Cleveland Cliffs?

Joseph Dalfonso 06:04
That's not what that says.

Ernie Telegraphis 06:06
Well, that's what it says on G, I think that says for insurance. Okay, what are we paying their insurance for?

Mayor Ron Mozer 06:13
That'll be the discussion I'm talking about at the time.

Ernie Telegraphis 06:17
Yeah, but I wanted to hear from the Councilman. It'll be a discussion item at the time to do sewage work on the Cleveland Cliffs property, the City had to meet certain goals, okay, this is above the rental agreement that we got nothing to do with the railroad. Okay, that's extra, yes, all right. And then Tony, I just want two things from you there. What is the Grant fund? Invoices from the Grant fund. I know what a General fund and Recreation fund is, but what's a Grant fund? What are we paying it for? This is on page 3d where do you see that? On page 3d?

Councilman Orzechowski 07:03
Oh, the Grant fund that's from confiscated drugs. They get the City's part of the drug money that they bust. They get a percentage of whatever.

Ernie Telegraphis 07:17
But why are we paying that's their own account, and they're paying us. They'll pay you.

Councilman Orzechowski 07:24
You get a percentage, not you personally, but they pay well, it doesn't say it the way.

Earnie Telegraphis 07:33
Okay, one other thing here. Well, two other things. This for the mayor. Okay, Mayor, will you please explain the Animal Control Protection Services? Is that going to be a charge to the city of Monessen?

Mayor Ron Mozer 07:54

We have a contract with the Animal Control Department.

Ernie Telegraphis 07:58
With them? For how much? What are we paying them?

Mayor Ron Mozer 08:01
I really don't know, so we don't know, but we got contracts with people that we got to pay out.

Ernie Telegraphis 08:05
And then last is, this is part of Tony's here. The Redevelopment Authority of Monessen wants us to donate our equipment to them so they could cut grass. What does that say? What are you talking about?

Mayor Ron Mozer 08:31
What does it say on page four? To be discussed.

Ernie Telegraphis 08:34
Okay, you're going to clear this up Clean Up, OK. Because I think that Lou went overboard. Whenever the City cut the grass for his neighbor. He used City Employees to move stuff out of there. Well, I don't know why you did it, It is not on the Agenda. I'm not sure.

Mayor Ron Mozer 09:06
I won't spend a lot of time on comments, but there are some things that took place over the last couple of weeks, one of which is the complaint by By George that the runoff water from 906 was causing problems with their parking lot and so forth. That became an issue in that he's right on the border between Rostraver and Monessen. He is in Monessen. The border jets out into Rostraver, just enough to exclude that business. So the water coming down off of 906 was questionable. Where that's coming from. To make a long story short, I asked the City engineer to look at it. I involved Hepple, and he said, Well, this isn't in Monessen, so it's not our problem. I got Gaskill from the Mon Valley Sewage Authority to look at it, because he's Mon Valley Sewer Authority, and figured he'd have something to that. Nope, they don't do anything in Rostraver either. So we involved one of the Streets people from the Rostraver Streets Department. They determined that the problem wasn't their problem, either. It's a PennDOT problem. So, we went to PennDot, and PennDOT was in town today. They had an idea of where these sewer lines went. We had evidence that they went other places. We're waiting for PennDOT to give permission to work on their Right of Way right now, and that may be very forthcoming, such that we can fix the problem, or, more specifically, By George, can fix the problem that exists over there.

Mayor Ron Mozer 11:29
So with that, is the Proclamation here? Okay, well, we'll skip the Proclamation for the time being. I will get back to that.

Mayor Ron Mozer 11:46
Is there a representative from Supernova Services here today? Aaron, I think you're g
going to do a presentation for us.

Aaron 12:23
Thank you. Supernova Services is a social work agency in Washington. We're based out of Washington, Pennsylvania. We provide residential service, community integration employment, which

is the reason I'm here. I've met with Mike several times about our employment program. The idea is to find adults with disabilities who are looking to find work in their communities. We were hoping to kind of partner up with city of Monessen to find janitorial, custodial duties. We do blighted properties. We have four other municipalities that we work with currently. For the municipality, it's kind of cost neutral, I won't say it doesn't cost anything. We rent office space, and we neutralize that first of all, we would charge to do the work. It's a service we bill Medicaid for. So we provide a job coach with all of our individuals. Every hour somebody's here, they have a job coach with them making sure the job gets done. Short and sweet, really, I printed out the project that Mike and I had talked about. Overarching goal, we'd like to include the school district, some of the older students who are kind of staying in school until they're 21 but not really engaging in school, they can learn job skills and be able to get paid for some of the work. Okay, you mentioned what you would need in the facility: a desk and a lunch area, sure. So that would be the only cost that the city provides. So that would be the office space, and you would pay all salary and all related, yeah, we cover all that. We get the bill for that service through Medicare. We're a Medicare provider, so every unit that we're with an individual, we're reimbursed for that service. So the cost of the City would be our contract fee, but we would neutralize that with the rental that we have off of use of the office space, the desk place for lunch break.

Councilman Orzechowski 14:43
So basically, no cost. It's cost neutral.

Aaron 14:45
Yeah, I'm just trying to delicately say that because we have to have a contract for that service through the federal government with the school district, correct? Yeah, we've working with Monessen School District. Oh, sure, the township of Elizabeth, the City of Washington, the Borough of Charleroi, North Strabane Township.

Mayor Ron Mozer 15:10
So it seems to me that what we would have to do is prepare some items that we'd like for you to concentrate on and make sure that they fit within the scope of what they're capable of doing.

Aaron 15:40
The beauty of that is our guys are capable of just about anything, and if they're not again, they have the job coach that will make sure that the work gets done. If they can only do one step out of 10, the job coach will do the other nine until they build that skill. Would this be something that the Civic Center could use for cleaning the civic center?

Councilwoman Cosner 15:42
Is this similar to Life's Work?

Aaron 15:46
Life's Work is facility based. We're all community based. Our guys don't go to a workshop, they don't put nuts on bolts, they get out and they work and they make more than minimum wage in their paycheck. What's the downside to it? We haven't found one yet. That's why we started this in 2016 and we've replicated it numerous times since then. At one point I was across the state, out in Reading, PA, it was in Boiling Springs, PA, just replicating this program over and over. It's a win - win for everybody. Our guys get work in the community. They get to be involved in their community. Municipalities don't really have a whole bunch of money to throw around for menial tasks. It says that you guys include brush hogs, maintenance, mowing and weed eating. For the city of Washington, we manage all of their blighted properties right now. We have 21 properties on a list that we rotate through three days a week. We brush hog and mow it, we weed whack it and maintain it year round.

Mayor Ron Mozer 16:52
Well, but we have union people that do that. The thing I'm thinking about, though, is we do have some lots that have rocks in them and so forth that need to be cleaned out before our equipment can be used in them.

Aaron 17:05
Yep. Yeah, we do all that, street sweeping, window cleaning. I mean, you name it, get creative, and we'll find a way to make it work. We will have to work with the union, figure out what tasks are typically outside their scope, yeah. And we've done that again, and every municipality has unions, and they were all welcoming to our guys coming in again, in the City and in township of Elizabeth, we detail police cars, so all their police cruisers are detailed inside.

Mayor Ron Mozer 17:32
Now, very good. Anybody else have any questions?

Aaron 17:41
Sounds like win - win to me too. It's hard to do a presentation on this answer.

Joseph Dalfonso 17:47
I'm assuming there's an agreement that will be in place between your company and the City.

Aaron 17:51
Yeah, we'll send a contract over. We carry insurance on our folks for all the work they do. You've been through this before. You answered all these questions. Yeah, I think I said, Mike, the copies of everything for you guys to take a look over. I'm going to let you do this presentation and then forward it to Joe. Okay, the Council for the next phase, next step, perfect. If there's referrals you need, I can give you the names and numbers of the folks in the other municipalities that we're in. Yeah, for us, it's a win, win. I know I'm on a couple of the county work groups for employment, for getting employment for our guys. And there's a lot of talk that there's no options down in the valley. There's no options in the valley. So here's an option in the Valley for folks with disabilities to get out and work within their community. How many people we talking to? Ideally, I'd like to rotate maybe 16 through once the project grows to capacity, because our guys won't work 40 hours a week. Some of them may work four hour shifts, so we do a nine to one and then one to five every day. Somebody might work one day a week, somebody might work three days a week, but only four hours at a time. 12 or 16 people would run five days a week, rotating through and again, when you bring the students in from the school district, and we would pay them as well for the work they do.

Councilwoman Cosner
Are they over 18 so we don't have to worry about labor laws, with equipment and everything.

Aaron 19:24
Yeah, all of our guys are over 18. We have a waiver signed and all that. And again, we carry millions of dollars of insurance on our individuals when they're working in projects like this.

Councilman Orzechowski 19:33
How do they get here?

Aaron 19:34

Our job coach brings them, yeah, so we'll have a meeting spot, which would be whatever office we decide on would be the meeting spot. If they live close, they'll meet the job coach here, another job coach will transport them around. We would probably meet closer to Washington. Job coach would meet them and drive them down. All transportation is covered through us. It's an all- encompassing service, the employment service. Thank you.

Mayor Ron Mozer 20:00
Very good well. Thank you very much.

Mayor Ron Mozer 20:18
I did receive word from Who Rescued Who that they're not going to be here tonight. So we can scratch D off the list altogether. That's just a non- happening thing. It is interesting. I want to make this very clear to everybody. There was an article in the newspaper that occurred earlier this week that said that two new officers were sworn in to the animal control Who Rescued Who agency in the City of Monessen, and nobody on Council knew anything about this whatsoever. No one here heard word one about it. I talked to Judge Vlasic, and Judge Vlasic said what happened was they came into his office for a different thing altogether, and somebody mentioned to him that they had some officers that wanted to work in Monessen and they had to be sworn in. So, he swore him in, but we had no part of that. We knew nothing about it. The purpose of having them here tonight was so they could explain to us what kind of services they could offer to Monessen. But they indicated they couldn't be here, so we'll discount that.

Mayor Ron Mozer 21:33
We also held a CDBG meeting, a public hearing prior to this meeting, earlier this evening, this afternoon, and we talked about several different things, primarily the roads that are used to move around in some of the low income areas that we have, and the fact that those would not require surveys. We talked about some aid for the fire department in the form of equipment and the building that they have there.

Mayor Ron Mozer 22:03
We also talked about some playground equipment and mulch and so forth. And informed me that we have some money for that too, by the way, we can talk about that. All the information will be compiled and be presented to the Council for a decision on this at the next meeting, and at which time he will have a limited period of time, like seven days, to take all the information and put it into an application and get that must be filed by the end of this month with DCE D for the fund. If anybody has any questions about that, I will try to answer them, but that was a public hearing we just had.

Mayor Ron Mozer 23:00
We only have a couple motions here that need to be taken care of. There's a motion for requisition No. 36 in the amount of $226,787.62 for Phase 3 work performed by WEC Engineering from September 1, 2025, to September 26, 2025, in the amount of $37,888.60 and for Insight Pipe Contracting, LLC for work they performed from September 1 through September 30, in the amount of $188,899.02. The invoices are attached for approval by Council.

Mayor Ron Mozer 23:40
Is there a second?

Councilwoman Karen Cosner 23:41
Second.

Mayor Ron Mozer 23:43
Any questions? Call the roll.

Mike Korposh 23:47
Councilperson, Cosner, yes. Councilman Orzechowski, yes. Mayor Mozer, yes.

Mayor Ron Mozer 23:54
Motion to pay the insurance policy for the Cleveland Cliffs Pollution and Terrorism, Liability Policy premiums and the amount of $23,317.00 from the Line Usage Fund.

Mayor Ron Mozer 24:09
Is there a second?

Councilwoman Karen Cosner 24:12
Second.

Mayor Ron Mozer 24:12
Any questions?

Councilman Orzechowski 24:15
Clarification, please.

Mayor Ron Mozer 24:17
This isn't a payment to Cleveland Cliffs. This is an insurance policy for the city to be able to work on their sewage lines over at Cleveland Cliffs.

Councilman Orzechowski 24:31
Okay

Mayor Ron Mozer 24:33
Call the roll.

Mike Korposh 24:34
Councilperson, Cosner, yes. Councilman Orzechowski, yes. Mayor Mozer, yes.

Mayor Ron Mozer 24:38
At this time I'm turning this over to Tony for his motions.

Councilman Orzechowski 24:40
Thank you, Mayor.

Councilman Orzechowski 24:41
Make a motion to pay the following invoices from the General Fund the amount of $28,589.20

Mayor Ron Mozer 24:44
Is there a second?

Councilperson Karen Cosner 24:45
Second.

Mayor Ron Mozer 24:45
Any questions? Call the roll.

Mike Korposh 24:47
Councilperson Cosner, yes. Councilman Orzechowski, yes. Mayor Mozer, yes.

Councilman Orzechowski 24:49
Motion to pay the following invoices from the Parks Fund account in the amount of $2,858.05

Mayor Ron Mozer 24:53
Is there a second?

Councilwoman Karen Cosner 24:54
Second.

Mayor Ron Mozer 24:54
Any questions? Call the roll.

Mike Korposh 24:55
Council person Cosner, yes. Councilman Orzechowski, yes. Mayor Mozer, yes.

Councilman Orzechowski 24:58
Motion to pay the following invoices from the Line Usage fund the amount of $365.34.

Mayor Ron Mozer 25:01
Is there a second?

Councilwoman Karen Cosner 25:04
Second.

Mayor Ron Mozer 25:06
Any questions? Call the roll

Mike Korposh 25:11
Council person Cosner, yes. Councilman Orzechowski, yes. Mayor Mozer, yes.

Councilman Orzechowski 25:11
Motion to pay the following invoices from the Grant Fund the amount of $2,846.

Mayor Ron Mozer 25:11
is there a second?

Councilwoman Karen Cosner 25:11
Second.

Mayor Ron Mozer 25:11
Any questions? Call the roll.

Mike Korposh 25:11
Councilperson Cosner, yes. Council member Orzechowski, yes. Mayor Mozer, yes.

Councilman Orzechowski 25:11
Motion to pay the following invoices from the Liquid Fuels Fund in the amount of $3,122.82.

Mayor Ron Mozer 25:11
is there a second?

Councilperson Karen Cosner 25:11
Second.

Mayor Ron Mozer 25:11
Any questions? Call roll.

Mike Korposh 25:11
Councilperson Cosner, yes. Council member Orzechowski, yes. Mayor Moze, yes.

Councilman Orzechowski 25:11
Motion to pay the following invoices from the Rec Fund in the amount of $664.27

Mayor Ron Mozer 25:11
Is there a second?

Councilwoman Karen Cosner 25:11
Second.

Mayor Ron Mozer 25:11
Any questions? Call the roll.

Mike Korposh 25:13
Councilperson Cosner, yes. Council Member Orzechowski, yes. Mayor Mozer, yes.

Councilman Orzechowski 26:17
Motion to approve the transfer from the General Fund to the Payroll Account for October 9, 2025 payroll in the amount of $74,667.43.

Councilman Orzechowski 26:47
Balance is listed here. Debt Service Fund $754,997.17, Fire Escrow of $94,737.76, General Fund is $834,774.26.

Councilman Orzechowski 27:03
Grant Fund is $150,066.76 cents.

Councilman Orzechowski 27:08
Healthcare Fund is $3,184.14

Councilwoman Karen Cosner 27:11
Second.

Councilman Orzechowski 27:11
Line Usage is $719,671.24.

Councilman Orzechowski 27:15
Liquid Fuels is $124,113.62, Parks is $106,622.83, Payroll Fund is $27,372.63

Mike Korposh 27:24

Councilman Orzechowski 27:25
Rec. Fund is $724.75.

Councilman Orzechowski 27:31
Refuse Account is $185,106.46.

Councilman Orzechowski 27:37
Paving Escrow is $177,582.70.

Mayor Ron Mozer
I guess I have a discussion. I have discussion of city council Redevelopment Authority issues related to donations and assisted activities the city of Monessen, plain and simple, Redevelopment Authority is interested in making a monetary donation to the City of Monessen towards the purchase of a tractor. And that is $10,000. Am I correct?

Councilman Orzechowski 28:15
With a possible another $5,000 the month after.

Councilman Orzechowski 28:19
And in response, they're asking the city to continue to cut their property, if it's available to be cut. Of course, if there's no rocks and boulders and glass, we're not even doing it for regular stuff. And the City carries their insurance and pays it, which is around $1,100 a year. That's simply what it is.

Mayor Ron Mozer 28:34
The only concern I would have is that's only valid as long as we're all in office. This administration is here.

Councilman Orzechowski 28:56
Nothing is in stone after we're out of office, right?

Mayor Ron Mozer 29:03
That's the only comment I got to make about that.

Councilperson Cosner
This is something that you did before in the past. So, this isn't a novel idea, is it?

Councilman Orzechowski 29:14
Well, from my understanding, the City took care of the Redevelopment Authority property and cut the grass for some number of years, but I mean the payment of their insurance payment they paid, the City paid insurance premium for the board members, so if something happened, they were protected.

Mayor Mozer When was that the Policy?

Councilman Orzechowski It's always been that way except for when she was Mayor, was in office, the office prior to that, it' always been the case. Nobody's going to sit on a board and possibly get sued for something that they may or may not have control over and lose their house.

Mayor Ron Mozer 30:00
If I remember when I was there as a Treasurer, we were paying the thing. But it might have been before that too.

Councilman Orzechowski 30:06
The City paid for it because we didn't have any money. Ron, yeah, the RDA paid for it while I was there. The City paid for the RDA. The RDA had no money. We was broke, absolutely broke.

Mayor Ron Mozer 30:21
Once we got money, we paid for our own insurance.

Councilman Orzechowski 30:24
Well, I don't know that, because I was off the board by then, but when I was on the board as Chairman for those three years, the City paid the insurance because we were flat broke and we had a judgment against us.

Mayor Ron Mozer 30:35
Okay, that makes sense. Okay? So lets put this to bed. Whether council wants to do it, Council doesn't want to do it, but it's there. Okay, make sense?

Councilman Orzechowski 30:49
Perfect.

Mayor Ron Mozer 30:52
Were there any items that were brought forth by Lois that she wanted to talk about?

Mayor Ron Mozer 31:01
John Nester is not here, so we'll discount that. Karen, did you have any items for discussion?

Councilwoman Karen Cosner 31:07
Well, I had gotten a phone call today, and this has nothing to do with Parks. It has more to do with a conversation that we had a few weeks ago about speeding on Grand Boulevard. I'd gotten a complaint from Gary McDonald, the Director of the Senior Center, and he lives a few houses down from the Senior Center, and he said that they do not stop at that stop sign. He sees it when he's home and when they're at the Senior Center. He just wanted me to bring it to your attention, but I told him, we've had this discussion for what, about a month now, especially about Grand Boulevard. And then another thing is, I just want everybody to be aware that on October 29 the Westmoreland County Food Bank and Highmark Wholecare is sponsoring another drive through food bank activity. Last time we had over 200 boxes of food left over. I'm hoping this time that it goes well. So spread the word. I have flyers up here. If you want to post them, any place that has a bulletin board, or you want me to send you a digital copy, just let me know your email address. But this is a good opportunity. We also need help. If anybody would like to volunteer, it's October 29 between 1:30 and 4:30 down at One Wendell Ramey Lane parking area, and it's open to everybody. Anybody that drives through can get a box of food. I think it's fresh food. This is not canned goods. These are fresh fruits and vegetables.

Councilwoman Karen Cosner 32:39
That's all I have.

Mayor Ron Mozer 32:40
Thank you.

Councilman Orzechowski 32:41
Alright, would anybody like to make a motion to adjourn?

Mayor Ron Mozer 32:48
Make a motion to adjourn at 7:05. All in favor. Say, aye. This meeting is adjourned. Thank you, everybody.

33:02
Thank you.

ATTEST:

Michael J. Korposh

City Administrator

Ron Mozer, Mayor