COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
January 24, 2019
6:00 P.M.

The meeting of the Council of the City of Monessen was called to order by Councilman Anthony Orzechowski at 6:00 p.m. The meeting was held at 557 Donner Avenue, Monessen PA. Council Members in attendance by Roll Call: Councilman David Feehan, Councilman Anthony Orzechowski, and Councilwoman Lois Thomas. Absent were: Councilman Gilbert Coles, Mayor Matthew Shorraw. Also in attendance: Joseph Dalfonso--Solicitor, Judith Taylor-City Administrator/Clerk. The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag was recited.

Public Comment on Agenda Items Only:
None

Motion to approve minutes of December 27, 2018 Monessen Council Meeting
Motion by Councilman Orzechowski, Second by Councilman Feehan
Roll Call Vote: Councilman Feehan—aye, Councilman Orzechowski—aye, Councilwoman Thomas—aye. Motion passed.

Motion to approve minutes of January 10, 2019 Monessen Work Session
Motion by Councilman Orzechowski, Second by Councilwoman Thomas
Roll Call Vote: Councilman Feehan—aye, Councilman Orzechowski—aye, Councilwoman Thomas—aye. Motion passed.

Motion to approve minutes of January 18, 2019 Monessen Special Meeting
Motion by Councilman Orzechowski, Second by Councilman Feehan
Roll Call Vote: Councilman Feehan—aye, Councilman Orzechowski—aye, Councilwoman Thomas—aye. Motion passed.

Pastor Tim Burgan, The Christian Center, made a presentation concerning the development of a coffee shop/youth center in the downtown area of Monessen as an outreach with free programs including tutoring sessions and children's reading programs.

The Treasurer's report for December 2018 was presented by Gerald Saksun.

Motion to accept the Treasurer's report for December 2018 as presented
Motion by Councilman Orzechowski, Second by Councilman Feehan
Roll Call Vote: Councilman Feehan—aye, Councilman Orzechowski—aye, Councilwoman Thomas—aye. Motion passed.

The police report for December 2018 was presented by Councilman Orzechowski and is available for review in the office of the City Clerk.

Motion to approve payment to Ford Business Machines, Inc. for lease of copier for the month of December 2018 to be paid out of CDBG funds in the amount of $75.00
Motion by Councilman Orzechowski, Second by Councilwoman Thomas
Roll Call Vote: Councilman Feehan—aye, Councilman Orzechowski—aye, Councilwoman Thomas—aye. Motion passed.

Motion to approve Resolution 4-2019, A Resolution to Change the Authorized Signatory on Farmers Bank Accounts and Related Checks for the City of Monessen, County of Westmoreland, Pennsylvania
Motion by Councilman Orzechowski, Second by Councilwoman Thomas
Roll Call Vote: Councilman Feehan—aye, Councilman Orzechowski—aye, Councilwoman Thomas—aye. Motion passed.

Motion to approve Resolution 5-2019, a Resolution of the City Council of the City of Monessen Approving and Authorizing the Designation of Signing Authority for Invoices for the Community Development Block Grant Program for FY 2016
Motion by Councilman Orzechowski, Second by Councilman Feehan
Roll Call Vote: Councilman Feehan—aye, Councilman Orzechowski—aye, Councilwoman Thomas—aye. Motion passed.

Motion to approve Resolution 6-2019, a Resolution of the City Council of the City of Monessen Approving and Authorizing the Designation of Signing Authority for Invoices for the Community Development Block Grant Program for FY 2017
Motion by Councilman Orzechowski, Second by Councilwoman Thomas
Roll Call Vote: Councilman Feehan—aye, Councilman Orzechowski—aye, Councilwoman Thomas—aye. Motion passed.

Motion to approve the form of the liability insurance policy of the Monessen Parks Restoration Group, subject to the City receiving a certificate of insurance with the City named as an additional insured prior to performance of any work on City property
Motion by Councilman Orzechowski, Second by Councilman Feehan
Roll Call Vote: Councilman Feehan—aye, Councilman Orzechowski—aye, Councilwoman Thomas—aye. Motion passed.

Motion to approve a request from Nickie Williams to host a community event, "Help Kids Beat Cancer!" at the City Park Walking Track on September 14, 2019 to benefit the Penn State Dance Marathon (THON)
Motion by Councilman Orzechowski, Second by Councilwoman Thomas
Roll Call Vote: Councilman Feehan—aye, Councilman Orzechowski—aye, Councilwoman Thomas—aye. Motion passed.

Motion to approve a request from Jamie Hurst to use Monessen City Park softball field and concession stand on April 27, 2019 and April 28, 2019 for a Monessen Youth Softball League tournament
Motion by Councilman Orzechowski, Second by Councilman Feehan

Roll Call Vote: Councilman Feehan—aye, Councilman Orzechowski—aye, Councilwoman Thomas—aye. Motion passed.

The Library Board Report for the month of December 2018 was presented by Councilman Orzechowski and is available in the office of the City Clerk.

The Library Board Financial Report for the month of December 2018 was presented by Councilman Orzechowski and is available in the office of the City Clerk.

Motion to approve payment to WEC, Inc in the amount of $2,865.00 for construction management and observation and periodic estimate review for the 2018 Downtown Monessen Demolition and Site Clearance Project, to be paid out of the bond refinancing funds
Motion by Councilman Orzechowski, Second by Councilwoman Thomas
Roll Call Vote: Councilman Feehan—aye, Councilman Orzechowski—aye, Councilwoman Thomas—aye. Motion passed.

Motion to approve payment to WEC, Inc in the amount of $500.00 for construction management for the 279 Schoonmaker Avenue Demolition and Site Clearance Project, to be paid out of the General Fund
Motion by Councilman Orzechowski, Second by Councilman Feehan
Roll Call Vote: Councilman Feehan—aye, Councilman Orzechowski—aye, Councilwoman Thomas—aye. Motion passed.

Motion to approve payment to Mornak Excavation Inc in the amount of $10,305.00 for Invoice #1 (Partial) for the Third Street Drainage Repair Project, per the recommendation of WEC, Inc, to be paid out of Line Usage Funds
Motion by Councilman Orzechowski, Second by Councilwoman Thomas
Roll Call Vote: Councilman Feehan—aye, Councilman Orzechowski—aye, Councilwoman Thomas—aye. Motion passed.

The Street Report was presented by Councilwoman Thomas and is available for review in the office of the City Clerk.

The Parks Report was presented by Councilwoman Thomas and is available for review in the office of the City Clerk.

Motion to approve a handicapped space and sign for Robert Youngblood, 1415 Walnut Avenue, as according to the approval of the Police and Code Enforcement Department
Motion by Councilwoman Thomas, Second by Councilman Feehan
Roll Call Vote: Councilman Feehan—aye, Councilman Orzechowski—aye, Councilwoman Thomas—aye. Motion passed.

The Code Office Financials for month of December 2018 was presented by Councilman Feehan and is available for review in the office of the City Clerk.

The Code Office Report for month of December 2018 was presented by Councilman Feehan and is available for review in the office of the City Clerk.

The Fire Report for month of December 2018 was presented by Councilman Feehan and is available for review in the office of the City Clerk.

The Mon Valley Emergency Medical Service Report for month of December 2018 was presented by Councilman Feehan and is available for review in the office of the City Clerk.

Civic Center Rec Board Report for month of December 2018 was presented by Councilman Feehan and is available for review in the office of the City Clerk.

Solicitor Joseph Dalfonso presented a summary of monthly activities in December 2018 including assessment of commercial properties and continuing delinquent garbage collections.

The Controllers Report for the month of December 2018 was presented by Wayne Vlasic.

The CDBG Report for the month of December 2018 was held for next month.

Motion to approve payment on checks already released from the General Fund for the month of January 2019, in the amount of $98,255.45
Motion by Councilman Orzechowski, Second by Councilwoman Thomas
Roll Call Vote: Councilman Feehan—aye, Councilman Orzechowski—aye, Councilwoman Thomas—aye. Motion passed.

Motion to approve electronic transfers from the General Fund to the Payroll Fund for payroll for January 2019 in the amount of $112,521.84
Motion by Councilwoman Thomas, Second by Councilman Feehan
Roll Call Vote: Councilman Feehan—aye, Councilman Orzechowski—aye, Councilwoman Thomas—aye. Motion passed.

Motion to approve electronic transfers from the General Fund to the Health Care Account for health care expenditures for the month of January 2019 in the amount of $88,848.26
Motion by Councilwoman Thomas, Second by Councilman Feehan
Roll Call Vote: Councilman Feehan—aye, Councilman Orzechowski—aye, Councilwoman Thomas—aye. Motion passed.

Motion to approve payment of General Fund Expenditures for the month of January 2019 in the amount of $122,412.32
Motion by Councilman Orzechowski, Second by Councilwoman Thomas
Roll Call Vote: Councilman Feehan—aye, Councilman Orzechowski—aye, Councilwoman Thomas—aye. Motion passed.

Motion to approve payment of Parks Fund Expenditures for the month of January 2019 in the amount of $1,974.79
Motion by Councilwoman Thomas, Second by Councilman Feehan
Roll Call Vote: Councilman Feehan—aye, Councilman Orzechowski—aye, Councilwoman Thomas—aye. Motion passed.

Motion to approve payment of Recreation Board Expenditures for the month of January 2019in the amount of $1,314.25
Motion by Councilman Orzechowski, Second by Councilwoman Thomas
Roll Call Vote: Councilman Feehan—aye, Councilman Orzechowski—aye, Councilwoman Thomas—aye. Motion passed.

Motion to approve payment of Line Usage Fund Expenditures for the month of January 2019 in the amount of $18,910.94
Motion by Councilwoman Thomas, Second by Councilman Feehan
Roll Call Vote: Councilman Feehan—aye, Councilman Orzechowski—aye, Councilwoman Thomas—aye. Motion passed.

Motion to approve payment of Grant Fund Expenditures for the month of January 2019 in the amount of $8,678.62
Motion by Councilman Orzechowski, Second by Councilwoman Thomas
Roll Call Vote: Councilman Feehan—aye, Councilman Orzechowski—aye, Councilwoman Thomas—aye. Motion passed.

Motion to approve payment of Demo Fund Expenditures for the month of January 2019 in the amount of $21,000.00
Motion by Councilwoman Thomas, Second by Councilman Feehan
Roll Call Vote: Councilman Feehan—aye, Councilman Orzechowski—aye, Councilwoman Thomas—aye. Motion passed.

Motion to approve payment of Capital Improvement Expenditures for the month of January 2019 in the amount of $3,505.00
Motion by Councilman Orzechowski, Second by Councilwoman Thomas
Roll Call Vote: Councilman Feehan—aye, Councilman Orzechowski—aye, Councilwoman Thomas—aye. Motion passed.

Councilman Orzechowski spoke to Mayor Shorraw's list of items printed in the newspaper and Councilman Feehan noted his response to the Mayor's posts on social media.

Public Comment on Non-Agenda Items:

John Golomb, 1545 Mellon Avenue, commented on the cost to taxpayers to answer Mayor Shorraw's several requests for investigations of alleged City infractions.

Bernie Furtal, 59 Pennsylvania Avenue, commented he estimated his business was down 70% due to the Donner Avenue reconstruction work and that parking fees should be suspended everywhere until completion.

Ernie Telegraphis, 29 Rex Blvd, questioned if a representative of Best Medical had spoken to Council on the public's concerns on the handling and storage of hazardous materials at the business, questioned the status of the reassessment of commercial properties. The solicitor stated that real estate appraisals were required and was continuing to work on the matter.

Wayne Vlasic, City Controller, corrected Mayor Shorraw's statement in the newspaper, concerning blocking the transfer of the City Pension Funds to a different investment manager, stating that his job duties in his position with the PA Department of the Auditor General are not related in any way with the oversight of the City Pension Funds.

Tina O'dell, 1252 Rostraver Street, questioned if the owner of Best Medical had discussed his plan prior to his purchase of the property and commented that cancer treatment material is handled safely in other facilities.

Captain Sue, Salvation Army, 1120 State Road, questioned if there might be chemicals being stored at Pfarnum and Pfile, and concerns about the handling and storing of chemicals in communities, and commented on the reassessment of commercial properties and the effect on the businesses in the City.

Don Gregor, 1428 Graham Avenue, questioned the amount of taxes paid by Arcerlor Mittal versus the amount that was paid in the 1970's, the land use appeal of the coke plant startup cost the City money, anticipated costs for reassessment of the commercial properties, safety of Morgan Excavating's maintenance of the streets during his construction projects, possible opening of Third Street for emergencies during demolition project.

Councilman Orzechowski stated there would be an executive session following the Council meeting.

Motion to adjourn the Council meeting
Motion by Councilman Feehan, Second by Councilwoman Thomas
Roll Call Vote: Councilman Feehan—aye, Councilman Orzechowski—aye, Councilwoman Thomas—aye. Motion passed.

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Judith L. Taylor, City Administrator/Clerk