Oct 1, 2025 Special Council Meeting

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SUMMARY KEYWORDS

City council meeting, roll call, executive session, public comment, LSA grant applications, employment testing, background check, drug test, category four facility, six-wheel ATV, lithium battery extinguisher, resolution approval, Commonwealth Financing Authority, adjournment.

SPEAKERS

Speaker 2, Mike Korposh, Speaker 4, Joseph Dalfonso, Councilwoman Karen Cosner, Speaker 3, Earnie Telegraphis, Speaker 1, Mayor Ron Mozer, Councilman John Nestor, All, Councilman Orzechowski

Mayor Ron Mozer 00:00
It's now 6:30. I'd like to call this special council meeting to order in the City of Monessen. Could I have a roll call? Oh, one note, we did have an executive session in the City of Monessen and council was held in the following meeting, following the previous meeting of September 25, 2025 in the mayor's office to discuss personnel matters and related issues. Can I have a roll call please? We're going to have another meeting. We need to make that announcement. There will be another meeting. For the same reason after conclusion of this meeting. Can I have a roll call please?

Mike Korposh 00:40
Council person, Cosner, here, Councilman Nestor. Council person, Thomas Council person Orzechowski, here, Mayor Mozer, here.

Mike Korposh 00:51
Three members present, two absent, but note a quorum.

Mayor Ron Mozer 00:54
Thank you.

Mayor Ron Mozer 01:03
Heavenly Father, we pause at the start of this meeting to acknowledge your presence and to seek your wisdom. We thank you for the opportunity to serve the people of Monessen and for the trust placed in us, guide us on our words, our thoughts and our discussions that they may reflect fairness, integrity and care for all who call the City home. Grant us patience in discussion, unity and purpose and courage to do what is right. May our efforts tonight help build a stronger, safer and more hopeful Monessen for generations to come. In your holy name, we pray Amen.

All 01:39
I pledge allegiance to the flag of United States of America and to the republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible with liberty and justice for All.

Mayor Ron Mozer 01:59
We've got no correspondence this week. There's no new business. Oh, I will open the floor to public comment on agenda items only.

Ernie Telegraphis 02:19
I'll start with the lighter one. Why is there 2b and C resolutions for the category four facility? Was it two separate quotes, invoices?

Mayor Ron Mozer 02:34
They're not. They are resolutions to support LSA grant applications being made.

Ernie Telegraphis 02:40
But why is it divided into two?

Mayor Ron Mozer 02:42
That's just the way. There's two different two different parts for that.

Joseph Dalfonso 02:45
They're probably two separate grants. Looks like one's for a battery, extinguisher, for lithium batteries.

Mayor Ron Mozer 02:54
That's right, the other is for a vehicle, four wheel drive vehicle.

Ernie Telegraphis 02:59
I was just asking. It was the same title, but it had two different invoices. Okay, this is the bigger one. This lady Stephanie that you guys are looking to hire. How come she ain't present so that the public that you invited could have say so, and how could you guys decide on hiring her already based on what qualifications? I heard that she only got a few years, and she jumped around to three different employments over three years. And how is it related to handling the going ons on a daily basis with the city government. She had no city government or any government exposure, all in the private sector, and she didn't have more than one year in either one of those employments she had. So how could you base on something we're going to hire her? She's not even present. So what are we doing here? I see no transparency, and I'm surprised. Tony, you interact with these girls before.

Councilman Orzechowski 04:10
I wasn't there. I was on vacation.

Ernie Telegraphis 04:12
Not her, the girl that we had before, and they quit, and you interacted with them, and you discovered things that the mayor didn't know. So what we're gonna do, we're gonna go down the same alley, and that's all I'm saying. You guys can't be desperate and reach for straws because she came from some employment background with testing or something. That ain't good enough. You know how many cooks I know that went through all kind of credentials of cooking, and then when they go to cook, their meals are lousy. So that's about it.

Mayor Ron Mozer 04:52
Anybody else have any comments they would like to make? No. To go through this pretty quickly. Tonight, there's going to be a short agenda, and I don't want to belabor it. First off, I need a motion to approve the contingent offer of employment to Stephanie Bible of Monessen, PA, 15062, with the city of Monessen city clerk contingent on the completion of required employment testing and procedures at a salary of $57,000 per year commencing on October 20.

Mayor Ron Mozer 05:22

Could I have a second?

Councilwoman Karen Cosner 05:25
Second.

Mayor Ron Mozer 05:25
Any questions?

Councilman Orzechowski 05:26
Yeah, okay. Again, I think this should be spelled out on what are the required employment, testing and procedures.

Mayor Ron Mozer 05:34
There is a list that we've adopted that we go through for everybody that's been hired, a drug test, background check.

Councilman Orzechowski 05:46
She's coming from an agency, though, right? Yes, they have that information. It'll satisfy the city's qualifications, correct? So that won't have to be done. What are the procedures?

Mayor Ron Mozer 05:58
That's testing, employment testing.

Councilman Orzechowski 06:05
Is she taking a math test or something?

Mike Korposh 06:07
No, no, there's only the background check and the drug test.

Mayor Ron Mozer 06:21
Once she's got that stuff done, we're done.

Mike Korposh 06:23
Make it very easy for the agency, then we would be done.

Councilman Orzechowski 06:27
But there's no additional procedures of that sort.

Councilman Orzechowski 06:31
I think the motion should change to say pending drug testing.

Mayor Ron Mozer 06:38
It says it's contingent on those things, and if she's got them done, that's a done deal. Well, it doesn't state that's what the contingency is.

Councilman Orzechowski 06:51
No, we're a government agency, we need to be specific in what we're saying and doing.

Mayor Ron Mozer 06:56

I'll leave that to our solicitor.

Joseph Dalfonso 06:58
If you're putting the amended motion on the floor. Need a second.

Councilwoman Karen Cosner 07:04
What is that? Exactly, what are we exchanging it for?

Mayor Ron Mozer 07:04
We got a second.

Councilman Orzechowski 07:10
Saying that instead of required employment testing and procedures that it states on completion of a drug and alcohol screen and a background check that is specific.

Mayor Ron Mozer 07:28
Can we modify the language like that?

Mayor Ron Mozer 07:30
He just made a motion. The amended motion needs a second.

Mayor Ron Mozer 07:33
Okay. Is there a second?

Councilwoman Karen Cosner 07:35
Second.

Councilman Orzechowski 07:37
Okay, my one last question. I'm sorry I'm going to ask it. In my opinion, this meeting should have been nonexistent. We should have had a person here, temporarily as we talked about this person the second or third day after Linda had made her resignation public to the council and it was even talked about that there was somebody that was interviewed, I believe she was interviewed before, originally with Linda.

Mayor Ron Mozer 08:14
She was interviewed by everybody, except for you. At that time, you said on the phone. Absolutely, I'll trust you guys to make the proper decision.

Councilman Orzechowski 08:23
Absolutely, you're absolutely 100% correct, Mayor. And then nothing was done for two weeks. That's my problem. We waited two weeks where we could have had her sit down with Linda and got some valuable input and valuable information, and we lost it. I have a problem with that.

Mayor Ron Mozer 08:46
Well, the first problem with that is that takes two weeks for her to give two week notice; she's not going to come to work tomorrow. It's on September the 20th, October the 20th.

Councilman Orzechowski 08:58
I'm just making a statement. That's all, I mean, okay.

Mayor Ron Mozer 09:03
Well, anything else,

Councilman Orzechowski 09:09
Just on a side note, I know it's not necessary, I guess it'd be nice and it's happened before. I have to agree with, believe it or not, with Ernie. I would have thought it would have been nice if she would have showed up and being as she officially is getting hired, kind of puts a nice little bow tie on things. I mean, we do that. I'm sorry we don't do that, but I know whenever we hire officers, even though they're getting sworn in, they're here.

Mayor Ron Mozer 09:54
Primarily because they're getting sworn in.

Councilman Orzechowski 09:54
Possibly, but that's just my little opinion. I'm sorry, okay.

Mayor Ron Mozer 09:54
Unless there's other comments to be made, call the roll.

Mike Korposh 09:54
Councilperson Cosner, yes. Councilman Orzechowski, yes. Mayor Mozer, yes.

Mayor Ron Mozer 09:54
Motion to approve a resolution of the Council of the City of Monessen, County of Westmoreland County, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, authorizing and approving a request for a category four facilities load LSA share grant from the Commonwealth Financing Authority in the amount of $27,437.44

Councilman Orzechowski 10:18
What exactly is it for? If you would spell that out please.

Mayor Ron Mozer 10:18
Could I have a second?

Councilman John Nestor 10:18
Second.

Mayor Ron Mozer 10:18
Any questions?

Mayor Ron Mozer 10:31
It's a six wheel ATV that allows them to get into alleys and fire ravaged places.

Councilman Orzechowski 10:40
Okay.

Councilman Orzechowski 10:43
So my question is dual on both of these, and it has nothing to do with getting it, approving it, or anything else. But my question is, why didn't we just have these on the agenda at our last meeting?

Mayor Ron Mozer 10:56
They weren't prepared by that time

Councilman Orzechowski 10:58
And when was the deadline?

Mayor Ron Mozer 10:59
Yesterday.

Councilman Orzechowski 11:00
Wait a minute, yesterday was the deadline, and we're approving it today?

Mike Korposh 11:04
You're approving the resolution. There were situations in the packet that went to them, but you're permitted to pass the resolution at later days.

Councilman Orzechowski 11:15
Is that true, Joe?

Joseph Dalfonso 11:18
I've seen it happen before.

Mayor Ron Mozer 11:19
Both of those were required yesterday, yes.

Councilman Orzechowski 11:19
It doesn't make it right. So both of these should have been done yesterday?

Mike Korposh 11:33
And they were in the packets that went to DCED.

Councilman Orzechowski 11:37
And when did they go?

Mike Korposh 11:39
Yesterday

Councilman Orzechowski 11:48
When did we know about this?

Mayor Ron Mozer 11:51
Well, I sent the email on Tuesday or Monday.

Councilman Orzechowski 11:58
But on Monday or Tuesday, we didn't apply for the LSA grant. We had to do that, probably months ago.

Mayor Ron Mozer 12:06
No, the grant was applied. It was due yesterday and submitted.

Mike Korposh 12:10
But many times applied and changing different aspects, that sort of thing.

Mayor Ron Mozer 12:15
There's a lot of work that was going on with the fire department during this process.

Councilman Orzechowski 12:22
You were pretty clear on what you wanted. I take it, right?

Mayor Ron Mozer 12:27
These are things that Chief Hepple put together.

Councilman Orzechowski 12:31
Nothing about it. I just want to know why we waited for the last minute and it's past the 12th hour.

Mayor Ron Mozer 12:41
That's all right. Anything else?

Councilman Orzechowski 12:48
No, no.

Mayor Ron Mozer 12:49
Call the roll.

Mike Korposh 12:50
Council person, Cosner, yes. Councilman Orzechowski, yes. Mayor Mozer, yes.

Mayor Ron Mozer 12:55
Motion to approve the Resolution of the Council of the City of Monessen, County of Westmoreland, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, authorizing and approving a request for a Category 4 Facilities Local Share Assessment Grant from the Commonwealth Financing Authority in the amount of $13,043.94.

Mayor Ron Mozer 13:14
Can I have a second?

Councilwoman Karen Cosner 13:15
Second.

Mayor Ron Mozer 13:16
Any questions? And what's this for? This happens to be for equipment used in handling lithium type fires.

Mayor Ron Mozer 13:31
And it also was due yesterday.

Speaker 1

Mayor Ron Mozer :

Yep, it's part of the same thing. I don't know why it's two different things, 200 line items that had to be done.
Councilman Orzzechowski: These are the LSA's for this year?

Mayor Ron Mozer 13:42
Yeah, they were LSAs for the county. Okay, so these weren't the state LSA's.

Mayor Ron Mozer 13:50
No, no, no. Those are for next month, just so you know, they'll be due at the end of November.

Mayor Ron Mozer 14:03
Call the roll.

Mayor Ron Mozer 14:03
Council person Cosner, yes. Councilman Orzechowski, yes. Mayor Mozer, yes.

Mayor Ron Mozer 14:08
This time I'd like a motion to adjourn.

Mayor Ron Mozer 14:11
Is there a second?

Councilman Orzechowski 14:14
Second.

Mayor Ron Mozer 14:15
All in favor of adjournment? Say, aye, the meeting is adjourned.

Mayor Ron Mozer 14:17
Thank you.

ATTEST:

SIGNED:

Ron Mozer, Mayor