

MONESSEN MUNICIPAL COMPLEX
ONE WENDELL RAMEY LANE
MONESSEN, PA 15062

OCTOBER 22, 2014

OPENING:

Minutes of the regular meeting of Monessen City Council held Wednesday, October 22, 2014 in Council Chambers of the Monessen Municipal Complex, One Wendell Ramey Lane, Eastgate 8, Monessen, PA. The meeting was called to order by Mayor Louis Mavrakis.

ROLL CALL:

The roll was called and the following members were in attendance:

PRESENT:

Councilman Retos
Councilwoman D'Alfonso
Councilman Nestor
Councilwoman Bukowski
Mayor Mavrakis

ABSENT:

PRESENT: FIVE

ABSENT: NONE

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

All present recited the pledge of allegiance to the flag of the United State of America.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Mayor Mavrakis, "Could I have a motion to approve the minutes of the September 17, 2014 meeting?"

Councilwoman Bukowski, "So moved".

Councilman Retos, "Second, Mayor".

YEAS:

NAYS:

Councilwoman D'Alfonso
Councilman Nestor
Councilwoman Bukowski
Councilman Retos
Mayor Mavrakis

YEAS: FIVE

NAYS: NONE

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Mayor Mavrakis opened the floor for public comment on Agenda Items only at this time.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Councilman Retos - Department of Accounts & Finance

No Report

Councilwoman D'Alfonso – Department of Streets & Public Improvements

No Report

Councilwoman Bukowski – Department of Parks & Public Properties

No Report

Councilman Nestor – Department of Public Safety

No Report

Solicitor Gary Matta

No Report

Mayor Mavrakis – Department of Public Affairs

No Report

NEW BUSINESS:

Councilman Retos – Department of Accounts & Finance

Councilman Retos, "Motion to authorize Holly Minno to begin the process for a 2015 TAN Note in the amount of \$500,000."

Councilwoman D'Alfonso, "I second".

Mayor Mavrakis, "Question on the motion?"

YEAS:

NAYS:

Councilman Nestor
Councilwoman Bukowski
Councilman Retos
Councilwoman D'Alfonso
Mayor Mavrakis

YEAS: FIVE

NAYS: NONE

Councilman Retos, "Thank you Mayor, that's all."

Lucille D'Alfonso – Department of Streets & Public Improvements

Councilwoman D'Alfonso gave the following Street Department Report for the month ending September 2014:

Street Department Report

Councilwoman D'Alfonso, "The street department report for September 2014: 77 streets cold patched, 5 catch basins repaired, 1 manhole repaired, 25 streets swept, responded to 13 PA 1 calls, repaired 3 parking meters, 3 paid pick up and drop offs, cut 21 areas with the Boom tractor, repaired, replaced, removed or installed 12 signs such as stop signs and so forth, they emptied city trash cans downtown 13 times, cut and trimmed Eastgate, cut and trimmed Rebecca and Schoonmaker, cut and trimmed Arizona alley and Ontario, cut and trimmed Parente, cut and trimmed Monessen blvd, Donner ave, Schoonmaker, and the islands at 5th and 6th st, they cut 2nd st steps 4 times and 4th st steps 4 times, Rostraver st steps were cut twice, they cut 9th st island twice, cut across from Valley 1st bank twice, cut 30 logs with brush hog and by hand in the 3rd ward, cut and trimmed properties on Reed and Knox, had repairs done to a total of 26 vehicles and other equipment."

Councilwoman D'Alfonso, "In addition to that, I just wanted to announce that we're in the process of getting a schedule worked out so that the street crew will be clearing out some of the abandoned properties that have become overgrown and we'll be working on that section at a time throughout the city. Our street supervisor will be working in conjunction with the code officer for those areas that are not in line with the code. That's all for my report. Thank you."

Mayor Mavrakis, "Thank you Lucille."

Councilwoman Bukowski – Department of Parks & Public Properties

Parks Department Report

Councilwoman Bukowski gave the following Parks Department Report for September 2014:

Removed trash from police station 2 or 3 times a week, swept and mopped floors, cleaned restrooms and jail cells as needed, removed trash from civic center, swept and mopped floors in hallway, cleaned restrooms, swept and mopped gym floor if needed, cleaned up tree branches inside city park from high winds, removed trash from the following parks: 9th st park, Shawnee park ball field, walking track, soccer field, city park ball field, Columbus park ball field, and park manor ball field; cut the soccer field once a week, cut the city park ball field once a week, dragged city park ball fields only if needed, cut city park and walking track 2 times every month, cut 9th st park 2 times every month, cut boat launch and park 2 times for the month, cut Hoover park 2 times, cut Crest ave gas lot 2 times, cut along service lane 1 time, cut the river walk 2 times. That's the end of that report."

Councilwoman Bukowski, "I have minutes of the Monessen Recreation Authority. They're looking...right now they're renting out for basketball and soccer, and also they're renting for parties, so you just have to get a hold of Eugene Sedlak or somebody that's on the authority to find out how to rent the hall or the party room. I have minutes also from the Amphitheater Committee. This month, the Amphitheater Committee is doing a Fall Festival on Saturday, October 25. It starts at 5 with a dog costume contest, 6 is the kids costume contest, and 6:30 is the trunk or treat, and that's where people either decorate their trunks and give kids candy from their trunks, or they just have their trunks open and give candy. Right now we have 89 signed up, we're expecting probably 100 kids, and right now we have about 12 dogs in the contest."

Councilwoman Bukowski, "I need a Motion to approve Change Order No. 6 in the amount of \$12,895.00 to Maccabee Industrial, Inc. for the City Park Amphitheater Project. Funds to be paid from DCNR."

Councilwoman D'Alfonso, "I'll second that."

YEAS:

NAYS:

Councilwoman Bukowski
Councilman Retos
Councilwoman D'Alfonso
Councilman Nestor
Mayor Mavrakis

YEAS: FIVE

NAYS: NONE

Councilwoman Bukowski, "Motion to approve Payment Application #7 in the amount of \$55,274.50 to Maccabee Industrial, Inc. for the City Park Amphitheater Project. Funds to be paid from DCNR."

Councilwoman D'Alfonso, "I'll second that."

Mayor Mavrakis, "Question on the Motion?"

YEAS:

NAYS:

Councilman Retos
Councilwoman D'Alfonso
Councilman Nestor
Councilwoman Bukowski
Mayor Mavrakis

YEAS: FIVE

NAYS: NONE

Councilwoman Bukowski, "Motion to approve the request from Robert Dojonovic to shoot off fireworks at the Celebrate America Festival on July 11, 2015."

Councilman Nestor, "Second on the floor, Mayor."

Mayor Mavrakis, "Question on the Motion?"

YEAS:

NAYS:

Councilwoman D'Alfonso
Councilman Nestor
Councilwoman Bukowski
Councilman Retos
Mayor Mavrakis

YEAS: FIVE

NAYS: NONE

Councilwoman Bukowski, "Motion to approve the request from Monessen Amphitheater Committee to use City Park on July 18, 2015."

Councilwoman D'Alfonso, "Second."

Mayor Mavrakis, "Question on the Motion?"

YEAS:

NAYS:

Councilman Nestor
Councilwoman Bukowski
Councilman Retos
Councilwoman D'Alfonso
Mayor Mavrakis

YEAS: FIVE

NAYS: NONE

Councilwoman Bukowski, "It is my pleasure to announce that the City of Monessen received a \$100,000 grant from the Department of Community and Economic Development. This grant will be used to rehabilitate the city park half mile walking track, and the 9th st park 1 quarter mile track. The City's match is 15% and it's already budgeted in CDBG money, that's Community Development Block Grant money. When I first saw the grant, titled Greenways, Trails, and Recreation, I called Representative Ted Harhai and asked him to help Monessen get this money. We worked in unison for months to acquire this grant. Ted kept me informed at each stage of the grant process with the DCED. He worked hard to get the money for Monessen and I publicly want to thank him for all he did for the City. There were 400 grants submitted for approval and although I knew we had not been cut, it was still surprising to me, not only to receive the grant, but to receive the amount that we have requested. There are others I have to thank: Senator Tim Solobay, County Commissioner Ted Kopas, John and Walt Haglund from Urban Designs, Westmoreland Engineering Company, Holly Minno who helped compile the grant, the Mayor and Council for approving the submission of the grant. I'm happy to have another thing that's positive happening in Monessen. The walking tracks are used daily by hundreds of people. The tracks have been in poor condition for a few

years and we didn't have the money to redo them. Our parks department did all they could to keep them as best they could and usable condition. I understand some people will be upset that this money is going to parks and recreation and not to redo roads and demolish houses. Let me state again, this is a Greenways, Trails, and Recreation grant. This grant can only be used for those purposes. If a grant comes through for roads and to demolish houses, we will also apply for that money. Thank you."

Councilwoman D'Alfonso, "I want to thank Pat and..."

Mayor Mavrakis, "Patti, job well done, everyone is appreciative here on the Council and Holly, with you working with them too. I wish to thank those involved, Representative Harhai, Senator Solobay, and Commissioner Kopas. Job well done Patti."

Councilman Nestor – Department of Public Safety

Councilman Nestor, "Good evening Council, Honorable Mayor, Citizens of Monessen. Thank you all for coming out tonight. Here are my following reports for the Public Safety Department."

Code Office Report

Councilman Nestor, "There are currently 5 properties that were re-posted for demolition as requested by Darlene Grogan. K2 Engineering, since last month has inspected at least 12 properties, 5 out of the 12 actually passed, the other few K2 engineering had to come back out because of no smoke detectors and improper connections to electrical outlets. Those two things seem to be the biggest issues when we do occupancy permits. Citations were filed with the magistrate for the incident which took place on Harrison which caused a very hazardous condition in which the fire and police departments responded combined with People's Natural Gas. It was alleged that one of the residents were pouring gasoline down the sewage drain so we're going to start tackling that issue, it's been a big concern that's been coming up within the City. Citations were filed against a property owner on Lenewee for improperly using electricity and basically having an unfit property in which to be living in. There was a fire at the home at that time as well, the interior has been found unsafe and deplorable conditions for living conditions. Two building permits were issued, 1 sign permit was authorized, 10 violation letters were sent out so far for October. Currently, right now we have a major issue with apartments being rented out through Craigslist. A recent search has found that out of 16 properties that were noted, none of them had current occupancy permits or inspections for them. Other than that, I have received notice that of September 20th, 2014, 28 properties have not paid their water or sewage bill and their services were shut off. Also, the Code Enforcement office would like to thank the Monessen Police Chief and his officers for the great assistance they have been providing Andy for over the past several weeks. They have responded with me to post a couple of properties unfit for occupancy. That concludes Andy's Code Enforcement Report."

Councilman Nestor, "Demolition Permits, there were \$50.00, Street Opening Permits - \$600.00; Sign Permits - \$20.00; Magistrate Code Enforcement - \$43.48; Occupancy Permits - \$800.00; Landlord Fees - \$2,325.00; which makes September a grand total of \$3,838.48. Year-to-date is \$86,837.14. Also, I just wanted to make the public be aware that for the next several months, the code office is going to start enforcing and mandating any homes or houses or properties that do not have proper addresses verified in front of the homes. We've been having issues where EMS, fire, police, they're not able to go to those homes because they're not properly marked. Also, aiming towards to issues, for example like on Craigslist, we're going to be aiming for proper occupancy permits and tagging/towing abandoned and junked vehicles too, that seems to be a big issue still, today, in the downtown business district."

Fire Report

Councilman Nestor, "We have a total of 20 calls for the month of September. Fire fighters devote a total of 248 hours of service in the city."

EMS Report

Councilman Nestor, "There were 108 emergency calls, 6 fire standbys, 5 public services, total incidents of 119."

Councilman Nestor, "Motion to authorize the City Clerk to place an ad for the modification of Ordinances Re: Parking and direction of traffic on certain roads in the City of Monessen."

Councilwoman Bukowski, "Second."

Mayor Mavrakis, "Question on the Motion?"

YEAS:

NAYS:

Councilwoman Bukowski
Councilman Retos
Councilwoman D'Alfonso
Councilman Nestor
Mayor Mavrakis

YEAS: FIVE

NAYS: NONE

Councilman Nestor, "Motion to approve the request from Monessen PTA to use a city fire truck on Wednesday, November 26, 2014."

City Clerk Holly Minno, "And that's to bring Santa in."

Councilman Nestor, "The PTA was requesting to see if they could have a fire truck to bring Santa Claus into the Elementary at that time for pictures."

Mayor Mavrakis, "Any questions, please feel free to contact Dana Bergstedt."

Councilwoman Bukowski, "Second."

YEAS:

NAYS:

Councilman Retos
Councilwoman D'Alfonso
Councilman Nestor
Councilwoman Bukowski
Mayor Mavrakis

YEAS: FIVE

NAYS: NONE

Councilman Nestor, "I yield the floor Mayor, thank you."

Gerald Saksun – City Treasurer

City Treasurer Saksun, "Mayor Lou Mavrakis and members of City Council, Ladies and Gentlemen the following is a report of the Garbage Collection Fees and City Real Estate Taxes collected for the month of September. Garbage Fees budgeted for 2014 - \$470,000.00; Garbage Fees collected as of August 31 - \$453,695.00; Garbage Fees collected during September - \$3,595.00; Total Garbage Fees collected as of September 30 - \$457,290.00; Delinquent Garbage Fees collected as of August 31 - \$36,976.37; Delinquent Garbage Fees collected as of September was \$462.11. Delinquent Garbage Fees collected as of September 30 is \$37,438.48.

General Fund Real Estate Taxes budgeted is \$1,265,619.00; Debt Service Fund budgeted \$490,000.00, City Parks Fund budgeted \$216,250.00, Library Fund budgeted \$50,000 for a total of \$2,021,869.00.

City Real Estate Taxes collected as of August 31 - \$1,808,408.07, City Real Estate Taxes collected during September - \$6,843.32; Penalties were \$697.35; City Real Estate Taxes collected as of September 30 - \$1,815,948.74.

Delinquent City Taxes collected as of August 31 - \$5,437.87; Delinquent City Taxes collected during September - \$0.00; Total Delinquent City Taxes collected as of September 31 - \$5,437.87.

Distribution of the Income is as follows: General Fund received \$1,213,451.57; Debt Service Fund - \$462,567.51; City Parks Fund received - \$89,912.55; Library Fund received \$50,017.11 for a total of \$1,815,948.74

Mayor, that concludes my report for the month."

Mayor Mavrakis, "You have a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report?"

Councilman Retos, "So moved Mayor."

Councilwoman D'Alfonso, "I'll second that."

Mayor Mavrakis, "Question on the motion?"

YEAS:

NAYS:

Councilwoman D'Alfonso
Councilman Nestor
Councilwoman Bukowski
Councilman Retos
Mayor Mavrakis

YEAS: FIVE

NAYS: NONE

Mayor Mavrakis, "Jay, how's the garbage coming in, buddy?"

Treasurer Saksun, "Uh, not too good yet. They just went out so it's trickling in. I think we discussed that today when I was in, I think there was a total of maybe about \$7 or 8,000 came in so far."

Mayor Mavrakis, "Well that's good, that's good. Pay your garbage early if you can."

Wayne Vlastic – City Controller

Controller's Report

City Controller Vlastic read the Controller's Report as follows: General Fund First Federal Checking Account Bank Reconciliation as of September 30, 2014: Beginning Bank Balance - \$154,890.18; Deposits - \$191,873.84; PLGIT Transfers - \$80,000.00 for a Total of \$426,764.02. Checks Cashed \$341,385.13; leaving a Bank Balance of \$85,378.89. Outstanding Checks \$57,860.72; Outstanding NSF Checks - \$25.00; amount reconciled to the Balance Sheet of \$27,543.17.

CDBG Report

Controller Vlastic, "next is the CDBG Bank Account Monthly Activity: Beginning Balance \$10,975.15; Deposits \$3,793.33 for a total of \$14,768.48; Checks Cashed \$4,513.98 for a Bank Balance of \$10,254.50; Outstanding Checks \$2,125.00 for a final month end balance of \$8,129.50. That's the CDBG Fund Report, your Honor."

Mayor Mavrakis, "Could I have a motion to accept CDBG funds?"

Councilman Retos, "So moved Mayor."

Councilwoman D'Alfonso, "Second."

Mayor Mavrakis, "Question on the motion?"

YEAS:

NAYS:

Councilman Nestor
Councilwoman Bukowski
Councilman Retos
Councilwoman D'Alfonso
Mayor Mavrakis

YEAS: FIVE

NAYS: NONE

Gary Matta – Solicitor

Solicitor Matta was unable to attend this meeting. Krisha Mackulin was sent to attend in his place.

Attorney Mackulin, "Thank you Mayor. We did receive correspondence from Portnoff Law Associates that does our delinquent tax collection. They are looking for renewal as our contract expires December 31 of this year. We are reviewing the renewal and we'll have that available to you next at month's meeting. In addition, I did get the opportunity last night to come to your planning commission meeting and I have to say, it was my pleasure meeting with those individuals and I think we'll be having another one soon and work with the engineer on some of the issues that we're discussing there. Things are moving forward on that end as well. Other than that, that's the end on my report, but I would like to thank everyone. I've been able to come up here for this meeting, and for some personal reasons, and I have to say that this is a very nice city, and it's filled with a lot of good people, so I really appreciate you welcoming me."

PAYMENT OF BILLS:

Jonmichael Retos – Department of Accounts & Finance

Councilman Retos, "Motion to approve payment of General Fund Expenditures for the month of October in the amount of \$471,617.54".

Councilwoman D'Alfonso, "I'll second that".

Mayor Mavrakis, "Question on the motion?"

YEAS:

NAYS:

Councilwoman Bukowski
Councilman Retos
Councilwoman D'Alfonso
Councilman Nestor
Mayor Mavrakis

YEAS: FIVE

NAYS: NONE

Councilman Retos, "Motion to approve payment of Health Center Expenditures for the month of October in the amount of \$10,049.77".

Councilwoman Bukowski, "Second".

Mayor Mavrakis, "Question on the motion?"

YEAS:

NAYS:

Councilman Retos
Councilwoman D'Alfonso
Councilman Nestor
Councilwoman Bukowski
Mayor Mavrakis

YEAS: FIVE

NAYS: NONE

Councilman Retos, "Motion to approve payment of Parks Fund Expenditures for the month of October in the amount of \$9,604.13".

Councilwoman Bukowski, "Second".

Mayor Mavrakis, "Question on the motion?"

YEAS:

NAYS:

Councilwoman D'Alfonso
Councilman Nestor
Councilwoman Bukowski
Councilman Retos
Mayor Mavrakis

YEAS: FIVE

NAYS: NONE

Councilman Retos, "Motion to approve payment of Grant Fund Expenditures for the month of October in the amount of \$5,755.44."

Councilwoman Bukowski, "Second."

Mayor Mavrakis, "Question on the motion?"

YEAS:

NAYS:

Councilman Nestor
Councilwoman Bukowski
Councilman Retos
Councilwoman D'Alfonso
Mayor Mavrakis

YEAS: FIVE

NAYS: NONE

Councilman Retos, "Motion to approve payment of Line Usage Fund Expenditures for the month of October in the amount of \$17,074.80".

Councilman Nestor, "Second".

Mayor Mavrakis, "Question on the Motion?"

YEAS:

NAYS:

Councilwoman Bukowski
Councilman Retos
Councilwoman D'Alfonso
Councilman Nestor
Mayor Mavrakis

YEAS: FIVE

NAYS: NONE

Councilman Retos, "Motion to approve reimbursement of Liquid Fuels Funds for the month of October in the amount of \$188,365.64"

Councilwoman Bukowski, "Second"

Mayor Mavrakis, "Question on the Motion?"

YEAS:

NAYS:

Councilman Retos
Councilwoman D'Alfonso
Councilman Nestor
Councilwoman Bukowski
Mayor Mavrakis

YEAS: FIVE

NAYS: NONE

Councilman Retos, "Motion to approve payment of PLGIT – General Fund Expenditures for the month of October in the amount of \$170,605.89."

Councilman Nestor, "Second."

Mayor Mavrakis, "Question on the Motion?"

YEAS:

NAYS:

Councilwoman D'Alfonso
Councilman Nestor
Councilwoman Bukowski
Councilman Retos
Mayor Mavrakis

YEAS: FIVE

NAYS: NONE

Councilman Retos, "Motion to approve payment of Police & K9 Fund Expenditures for the month of October in the amount of \$548.35."

Councilwoman D'Alfonso, "Second"

Mayor Mavrakis, "Question on the Motion?"

YEAS:

NAYS:

Councilman Nestor
Councilwoman Bukowski
Councilman Retos
Councilwoman D'Alfonso
Mayor Mavrakis

YEAS: FIVE

NAYS: NONE

Councilman Retos, "Thank you Mayor, that's all."

Mayor Mavrakis – Department of Public Affairs

Police Department Report

Mayor Mavrakis, "Parking Meter Receipts - \$863.52; Off Street Receipts - \$286.85; Total Parking Meter Receipts - \$1,150.37; Parking Fines & Forfeits - \$643.00; Total On & Off Fines & Forfeits - \$643.00; Parking Permits: On Street Permits - \$3,650.00; Off Street Permits - \$1,675.00; Total Parking Permits - \$5,325.00; Miscellaneous Collections: Copies of Police Accident Reports - \$0.00; Charleroi Prisoners - \$2,100.00; Restitution - \$20.00; Meter Bags - \$0.00; Open Records - \$0.00; Total Miscellaneous Collections - \$2,120.00; Court Receipts from District Justice Office: Vehicle Code Fines Collected - \$1,029.14; Crimes Code Fines Collected - \$1,583.03; City Ordinance Collected - \$889.79; Code Enforcement Collected - \$43.48; Total Receipts from District Justice Office - \$3,545.44; Total Receipts Collected for September 2014 - \$12,783.81. Arrests for September 2014: Total – 158; Year Total – 1021."

Mayor Mavrakis, "Motion to authorize City Clerk to advertise for the following Board Openings: Mon Valley Sewage Authority, Monessen Redevelopment Authority, Mon Valley Refuse Authority, Monessen Library Board, Prop. Maintenance Board of Review."

Councilman Retos, "Mayor, we're going to do that all at once to save money, is that correct?"

Mayor Mavrakis, "Right"

City Clerk Minno, "Yes, that's why I did it that way."

Councilman Retos, "Very good. Second, Mayor."

Mayor Mavrakis, "Question on the Motion?"

YEAS:

NAYS:

Councilwoman Bukowski
Councilman Retos
Councilwoman D'Alfonso
Councilman Nestor
Mayor Mavrakis

YEAS: FIVE

NAYS: NONE

Mayor Mavrakis, "Motion to hire Melissa Luketich as Part-Time Meter Maid at \$7.25 per hour."

Councilwoman Bukowski, "Second"

Mayor Mavrakis, "Question on the Motion?"

Councilwoman D'Alfonso, "I do have a question. We didn't discuss this on Monday, did this just come up or something?"

Mayor Mavrakis, "No, what it was – it was evidently an oversight, we didn't get it in there, and the thing is, we're operating with just one Meter Maid, we're losing money."

Councilwoman D'Alfonso, "Did we ever get a resignation from the other Meter Maid? The last I heard, we didn't have a resignation."

Mayor Mavrakis, "Mando made the request to put her on there. She had put the application in what, a year ago? When we was looking?"

City Clerk Minno, "Probably whenever we were looking."

Mayor Mavrakis, "Being that we need the Meter Maid, Mando – he's not here tonight, he's got a class so he's not here – but, uh, we need the Meter Maid."

Councilwoman D'Alfonso, "Do we have the money Josh?"

Councilman Retos, "It's gonna be close."

Mayor Mavrakis, "Well what are we gonna do? We're losing money..."

Councilman Retos, "She's gonna have to go earn some money."

Councilwoman D'Alfonso, "Is she gonna collect the money from the meters, will she do that part?"

Mayor Mavrakis, "Well if she doesn't do it she'll be gone. Nancy..."

Nancy Horvath, "She's not doing it."

Councilman Retos, "Who's collecting?"

Councilwoman D'Alfonso, "Who's going to collect then?"

Nancy Horvath, "Jamie."

Councilwoman Bukowski, "Jamie's no longer with us."

Nancy Horvath, "She's been doing it, that's all I know, you'll have to talk to Mando."

Mayor Mavrakis, "Well Mando's not here, so uh..."

Councilwoman D'Alfonso, "I think we should table this then. If you're going to have a third person collecting the money..."

Mayor Mavrakis, "If you table, you're going to be losing money cause you don't have a Meter Maid. That's the Council's pleasure, whatever you want to do."

Councilman Retos, "Solicitor, can we ratify this at a later date, sooner than our next meeting – the other Meter Maid situation gets resolved, I don't know, tomorrow? Can we ratify after the meeting, or do we have to wait until the next meeting?"

Attorney Mackulin, "You have to take a vote in a public meeting to hire her; you can make the effective date sooner or later. If you would hire her before that in an emergency situation and it was later ratified by Council at the next meeting, it would be effective, but I would caution you then, if for some reason the vote wouldn't pass, then she would have an issue with her hire date."

Councilwoman D'Alfonso, "I just have a concern because we have a third party who is or is not an employee of the City, which isn't clear, collecting the money on Sunday's. There isn't a clear follow through with the money. This building isn't open to put that money away, I don't know how it's being counted and how there's being a follow through with that collection. The week before Columbus day it was collected on a Sunday, which meant that it was held over until Tuesday. I'm not sure if it was counted or who verified it or what, I mean that possibly was taken care of, but I think that we're opening ourselves up for a problem."

Mayor Mavrakis, "Gerry, do you have a comment on that?"

Treasurer Saksun, "Basically, I don't think I know, as it was locked up at the Police Department, cause I questioned this, and it was locked up at the Police Station. Mando

had access to the safe down there, and then it was brought up here on the next business day after the weekend."

Nancy Horvath, "That's correct."

Councilwoman D'Alfonso, "But didn't we have a policy in – didn't we have a policy after..."

Treasurer Saksun, "Yes we did."

Councilwoman D'Alfonso, "That there was never – "

Treasurer Saksun, "Yes we did."

Councilwoman D'Alfonso, "Okay. And we're not following that policy now?"

Treasurer Saksun, "No we're not."

Nancy Horvath, "That was done in the interim, her emptying the meters on a Sunday since she had not been able to continue being a Meter Maid. And they're waiting, I guess, for this other one to take her place."

Mayor Mavrakis, "Haven't we had occasions where the Police emptied the meters also, Gerry?"

Councilman Retos, "Years ago Mayor, Terry Halinka emptied them for years."

Treasurer Saksun, "Years ago we did, yes. And Terry did it from the Street Department."

Councilman Retos, "I know Leonard's back there real happy."

Councilwoman D'Alfonso, "Well, right now, remember, we're short staffed in the Street Department so you know, we've got to..."

Councilman Retos, "I'm using that as an example, it's not written in stone."

Councilwoman D'Alfonso, "But the point is, we had established a policy because of the issue. And I thought that there was supposed to be two people at all times, and there was supposed to be a chain of custody."

Treasurer Saksun, "Once it gets to my office there is two people counting it."

Councilwoman D'Alfonso, "I know that your end is. I had a concern about – and I'm not saying that anything – I'm not accusing anybody of anything, but we are leaving

ourselves open. I had phone calls concerning that. Why was this happening on a Sunday? And I didn't even know that that was happening."

Councilman Retos, "Can we ratify at the next meeting if she is able to do the collections from now on, on Sunday, and we get the proper documentation from Jamie?"

Attorney Mackulin, "Is she currently an employee?"

Councilwoman D'Alfonso, "So you're going to put three in?"

Councilman Retos, "No."

Attorney Mackulin, "Has she sent a resignation in? This lady that collects...?"

City Clerk Minno, "Payroll Department has not received anything."

Attorney Mackulin, "So technically she's still an employee of the borough?"

City Clerk Minno, "Correct"

Councilwoman D'Alfonso, "But she's not reporting to work other than –"

City Clerk Minno, "Other than collection; that's all she's getting paid for is like 2 or 3 hours."

Attorney Mackulin, "Oh, and she's putting in for those hours that she's working?"

City Clerk Minno, "Oh yes."

Attorney Mackulin, "Well then, as long as you guys are okay with the fact that she's collecting that money as an employee and you're paying her for those hours..."

Councilman Retos, "Yeah but, I would rather keep things normal. If I was hiring a new person I would want that person in turn to also collect the meter money. I don't need a third person. So it would be two part timers, one of which collects the meter money. Not two part timers and a third person collecting the money on a Sunday."

Attorney Mackulin, "Well I think you need to clarify whether or not this individual - and I'm hesitating on talking about personnel at this point – I think you would want to clarify if this person is going to continue being an employee of yours or not. Whether or not they're resigning or you're, you know, I hesitate to say even if you're contemplating dismissing her."

Councilwoman D'Alfonso, "Well, should we discuss this – should we have an executive session to discuss this more?"

Attorney Mackulin, "I would prefer you have an executive session."

Councilman Retos, "Like right now?"

Attorney Mackulin, "I can't call an executive session, but whatever your pleasure."

Mayor Mavrakakis, "What we can do, we can meet later in executive session. I'll call Manderino."

Councilman Retos, "I don't have a problem, I just want to make sure that she's able to collect and that's fine."

Councilwoman D'Alfonso, "But I guess we have a motion on the floor."

Councilman Retos, "What do we do, just not...? But then we have to reconvene to vote for her, right?"

Attorney Mackulin, "To hire her. Or you could ratify her hire at a later time. If you clarify this issue with this employee between now and your next meeting, and you hire somebody else and then ratify it at the next meeting. But I caution you that you would need to make sure that you have those votes. And it can't be discussed prior to that where a vote, poll, would be taken."

Councilwoman D'Alfonso, "Well what do we do about the motion that's on the floor now? Do we have to vote?"

Attorney Mackulin, "You have a chance to, if you have second, then you can take a vote on it. Or, you can have a motion to table it."

Councilman Retos, "Or we can have a motion to executive session to discuss then come back."

Attorney Mackulin, "Correct."

Nancy Horvath, "Would it help any if I were the one to collect the money?"

Councilman Retos, "That still doesn't solve the Jamie issue."

Councilwoman D'Alfonso, "Well don't mention the names."

City Clerk Minno, "You can't say the names."

Councilman Retos, "I'm sorry - everybody c'mon, there's 800 people in this town, we all know who collects the money."

Mayor Mavrakis, "The Jamie issue will be resolved once the new employee is hired. Then Jamie wouldn't be needed at all."

Councilwoman D'Alfonso, "Well not if we still didn't have anyone to collect."

Mayor Mavrakis, "Well, Nancy just said that she would collect, and then of course that would be – we would have to talk to Mando. I'm quite sure that – what does it take to teach her how to collect the money? The same as Nancy or anybody else has done it in the past."

Councilwoman D'Alfonso, "I make a motion that we recess for an executive session for two minutes."

Councilman Retos, "Yeah, we'll go in the back, I mean that's fine, let's go in the back real quick."

Councilwoman D'Alfonso, "We need a second."

Councilman Nestor, "Second"

Mayor Mavrakis, "Question on the motion?"

Councilman Retos, "Can you get Mando on the phone?"

Mayor Mavrakis, "I will make that attempt right now. If he sees me calling he might not answer."

YEAS:

NAYS:

Councilman Retos
Councilwoman D'Alfonso
Councilman Nestor
Councilwoman Bukowski
Mayor Mavrakis

YEAS: FIVE

NAYS: NONE

Council left the room for a few minutes for executive session

Mayor Mavrakis, "We are now back from executive session."

Attorney Mackulin, "Where we discussed a personnel matter."

Mayor Mavrakis, "Solicitor?"

Attorney Mackulin, "We were in executive session where we discussed a personnel matter, prior to that, we had a motion on the floor."

Councilman Retos, "Patti seconded it."

Attorney Mackulin, "Then Mayor, I'll turn it over to you."

Mayor Mavrakis, "We have a question on the motion?"

YEAS:

NAYS:

Councilwoman D'Alfonso
Councilman Nestor
Councilwoman Bukowski
Councilman Retos
Mayor Mavrakis

YEAS: FIVE

NAYS: NONE

Mayor Mavrakis, "There's a Halloween Parade Thursday, October 23rd, 2014 at 7 pm, line up at 6pm, parade concludes at EMS Building. That's tomorrow."

Councilwoman Bukowski, "Where's the line up? Is it Parente Boulevard?"

City Clerk Minno, "Yes."

Mayor Mavrakis, "Our Monessen Trick or Treat will be Saturday, October 25th, 2-4pm. Fall Festival starting at 5pm Walking Track, same day? Patti?"

Councilwoman Bukowski, "Right. That's the same day."

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Mayor Mavrakis opened the meeting for public comment at this time. Instructed the public to step to the microphone, give their name and address.

Anthony Orzechowski – 1229 Hillcrest Ave, "Good evening Council and Mayor. I just have a couple questions. Could someone please tell me roughly how much so far the amphitheater has brought into the City?"

Councilwoman Bukowski, "I didn't hear you."

Anthony Orzechowski, "How much the amphitheater has brought into the City so far?"

Councilwoman Bukowski, "Well, everything we have is free."

Anthony Orzechowski, "I thought we were supposed to pay \$100 for you to rent - \$200 to rent the facility, and if it's clean..."

Councilwoman Bukowski, "We had one - we had a wedding there, that's the only thing that we have had that has been, would have been, followed other something that would pay for. But we asked the people in the wedding if we could take pictures, so that we could use em possibly for advertisement at a future date."

Anthony Orzechowski, "So you're saying the amphitheater has brought zero into the City so far?"

Councilwoman Bukowski, "Yeah."

Anthony Orzechowski, "Really?"

Councilwoman Bukowski, "Well, I mean if you don't have people coming to rent it at this point."

Anthony Orzechowski, "Then why did we build it?"

Councilwoman Bukowski, "Because we're having things go on there."

Anthony Orzechowski, "Then you should be charging for rent, correct?"

Councilwoman Bukowski, "We're sponsoring these things ourselves."

Councilwoman D'Alfonso, "The City is sponsoring these events. The City's no going to pay itself."

Anthony Orzechowski, "Why is the City sponsoring these events? Like this Saturday, okay?"

Councilwoman Bukowski, "That's at the Walking Track, this Saturday. And then they have a little movie, I think, at the end for the kids."

Anthony Orzechowski, "Okay, but my question is then, you're still saying that the amphitheater hasn't brought anything in yet? I just want to make that clear."

Councilwoman Bukowski, "No, I said that we haven't brought any money in. I mean we just started using the amphitheater in, what was it?"

Councilman Retos, "July? Early August?"

Councilwoman Bukowski, "No, it wasn't June and July. I think it must have been in August. It was August we started using it."

Anthony Orzechowski, "And we never had it rented out at all then, right?"

Councilwoman Bukowski, "No."

Anthony Orzechowski, "Okay. Want that clarified, thank you. My second question is, can I ask for a rough idea for how the City sits financially this month?"

Councilman Retos, "Same as last month."

Anthony Orzechowski, "Your answer last month was you didn't have a clue. I asked you to guess and you said, 'I can't'."

Councilman Retos, "I won't, cause I don't guess, Anthony. We are making our bills, we're making payroll, we have money for payroll. Garbage money is coming in now to pay bills for November and December."

Anthony Orzechowski, "So how is the City financially right now?"

Councilman Retos, "Treading water; I mean, we're gonna make it. We're not finishing with a surplus, and I say that every month. We're gonna have to rely on – "

Anthony Orzechowski, "Where are we roughly? You have it in front of you, so you should be able to produce that information every month to the public."

Councilwoman D'Alfonso, "We had a report from the Treasurer, what other total do you need?"

Councilman Retos, "What other total would you like me to give you? I can't make up a report to give you."

Anthony Orzechowski, "Gerald? Can I ask you a question? Do you know roughly where the City sits financially this month? I heard you say something about taxes and everything, you took in 1.8 million, and I think 2 point something went out."

Treasurer Saksun, "If you just wanted to know, you can get a comparison for your budget every month. It tells you what you collected so far in revenues, and what was expended, okay? That's going to give you a figure on where you're at. That's what he wants to know. So look at your budget, and see where, you know, if it's a \$4.7 million budget, what did you collect so far, what did you expend? And that will tell you what you're in the hole. That's what he's wanting to know."

Anthony Orzechowski, "Every month?"

Treasurer Saksun, "Every month. And you get that report every month."

Anthony Orzechowski, "And you keep telling me you don't know every month. I'm asking you, I'm not asking anybody else. I'm asking the Council, please. It's your responsibility to know this figure..."

Councilwoman D'Alfonso, "I feel like you're putting us on trial or something."

Anthony Orzechowski, "That's what you're here for. You're running the City and its finances."

Councilwoman D'Alfonso, "We give the reports – "

Attorney Mackulin, "Sir, can I ask the clarification? Are you looking for a year to date profit and loss statement for the City?"

Anthony Orzechowski, "No, I'm looking for a month. Where's the City sitting? We're \$200,000 in the red; we're \$200,000 in the black so far."

Attorney Mackulin, "You're asking for our year to date profit and loss statement. Mr. Treasurer, that's what I believe he's asking."

Councilman Retos, "Year to date, \$385,000...430..."

Treasurer Saksun, "I gave you the total what we got in for the year and I told you where the distribution of funds relied. In the Controller's report, he has a beginning balance, deposits for the month, the transfers, the checks cashed, and we're showing a loss for the month of \$341,385.13. Now you balance that to the bank balance sheet and we're showing a surplus of \$27,543.17 for the month. That's what the Controller report gives you."

Anthony Orzechowski, "Exactly what I wanted to know."

Councilwoman D'Alfonso, "And that was already given, that was my point."

Anthony Orzechowski, "Well I just wanted a simple debt."

Councilman Retos, "That is simple, I mean how much simple would you like it."

Councilwoman D'Alfonso, "That's why we don't understand what your question is because that was already given."

Anthony Orzechowski, "Okay. It must be beyond what your understanding is."

Councilman Retos, "No, it's not, it's beyond what your understanding – we give you every month, if you'd like a copy of the Treasurer's report and the Controller's report we

will be happy to supply that for you. That gives you the exact information that you need, broke down to the penny. Bank account, Treasurer, I handle the business aspect of it."

Anthony Orzechowski, "But don't say 'treading water'."

Councilman Retos, "You keep asking me to give you like a budget analysis, we're gonna make payroll, we're gonna make our bill. We're not gonna have any surplus, we never do. The goal is to, at this point, because of the debt that we have, it's to hopefully tread water without any issues, and we are doing that. I mean, I'm giving you, not an exact detail, that's what those two reports do. You're asking the wrong person for that information."

Anthony Orzechowski, "I just asked Council, I didn't specifically ask you."

Councilman Retos, "That's fine then; perfectly understandable."

Councilwoman D'Alfonso, "Did you have another question?"

Anthony Orzechowski, "No I don't, thank you."

Councilman Retos, "Have a great one."

Mayor Mavrakakis, "Anybody else?"

Nancy Horvath – Meter Maid, "I would like to make a request from the City to provide trash bags so that I can have something in which to put the trash that I'll be picking up sometime between now and the parade."

Mayor Mavrakakis, "Leonard, you just walked out the door at the right time, you're back in, Nancy, would you repeat that please?"

Nancy Horvath, "I would like to have the City provide garbage bags for me so that I'll have something in which to put the trash that I pick up."

Leonard Billy, "There's cans all through downtown."

Nancy Horvath, "I don't want to have to carry to the cans, I would like to have something, when I clean up a certain area, that I can put the trash into, and then perhaps the City can pick up the bags when I'm finished. I'm asking for the bags."

Leonard Billy, "There are bags down at the Police Station."

Nancy Horvath, "Do I have permission to get those?"

Mayor Mavrakakis, "Oh yeah, if you want to pick up garbage, if you have no objection Leonard, you can get as many garbage bags as you want at the City Hall."

Councilman Retos, "Hey hey hey, it's the end of the year."

Mayor Mavrakis, "We have some here too if you want; I've got some in my office I'll give you."

Nancy Horvath, "Okay, that's all I need to know."

Wayne Vlasic – City Controller, "Just to get a little bit of lightheartedness here, but uh, on a really personal note, I'm speaking as a member of the Monessen Veteran's Council. This will be the last Council meeting before the parade on Saturday, November 8th at 2 o'clock. Today, and actually the last week or so, and especially today, I had a conversation with Leonard Billy the Supervisor for the Streets. We talked about just what Nancy just mentioned about this cleaning up. We talked about the condition of the sidewalks and other areas through town where the parade's going to go, and Leonard was actually – he beat me to the punch on making sure that downtown is spiffed up and ready to go, so when people come in from out of town to see this parade, that they're going to be proud to come down here and see this area and not gonna be anything negative about it. So I want to thank Leonard for that, and of course Mayor and Council. But what I want to reiterate about the parade is, we've been meeting diligently for about 11 months and it's a great undertaking. Personally, I wasn't really in favor of it, because I know from 5 years ago how much work's involved and how much money it takes. It takes approximately \$8,000 to put this parade on. And like I said, I wasn't really in favor of it because I knew how much work. And I also know the ages of the members of the American Legion and the VFW and I'm like to youngest guy, so I would be doing a lot of the work. However, we had some guys and ladies take the bull by the horns and I'm telling you, did a remarkable job. If you come out, and I hope you all come out and bring your family and friends and out of towners come down to see this. As of last Thursday we have over 65 units in the parade. Matter of fact, I just got a call yesterday for three more, so this was added on top, and I do not know what we've added since the last meeting, but the response has been great, the donations have been outstanding. We want to thank the citizens of Monessen and those who have donated, it's just unbelievable. We really want this to be a Veteran's and patriotic event to honor the Veterans past and present. It's really coming together and I think this is going to be something that the people are going to really look up to. As a matter of fact, nothing against Charleroi, but Charleroi asked us to help them already for next year. They're hosting it next year, it goes between 5 communities, Washington had it last year and then it's Monessen this year, and Charleroi's supposed to have it next year. They already asked us to come over and help em to see if they can put this parade on. And we'll do it, we'll go over and do what we can for them. Like I said, this is the last public meeting and I've been serving as kind of like the liaison between the Veteran's Council and Mayor and Council here. Anything I've come up with, there's really been no problem, I don't even really say anything, I just say 'hey, we're doing this' and everybody just goes 'yeah, go ahead' and whatever has to be done. One of the main things is getting the street, from Chief Manderino making sure that 906 is blocked off, it's allowable through PennDot, and that was taken care of approximately 4 months ago. Just to give you a little bit of information, the line-up will be on Parente Boulevard and

it'll go down Donner to 6th, then back up Schoonmaker and break back up here. There is a couple of displays we're working on; one of them is actually an ejection seat display from Martin Baker I think it is, who makes ejections seats for aircraft. I don't know if anybody wants to get ejected out of the seat here, but they're going to have it outside, we're not really sure exactly where it's going to be at. Jeff Imbrescia offered his building, 30 Donner, in case of inclement weather it will be put in there so people will be able to see this. There was another, it's a bit Johnsonville brats, they come around all around the country with this big trailer and they actually – it's like a big, giant kitchen, and they give away – I'm sorry – they sell brats for a nominal fee and all the money goes to whatever, in this case it would be the Monessen Veteran's Council. Unfortunately, their year ends November 1st, and we tried to get them to add like 10 more days on to come here. As of last Thursday, they still didn't really give us a yes or no, so there's a chance that they will be here also. I encourage you to come down and see the parade, bring your family and friends. I think this is going to be one of the biggest, they talked about 1948, unfortunately I wasn't around then, and they talked about the 70's, of course the last one here was about 20 years ago, not 5 years ago but prior to that it was about 20 years ago. I think you'll be proud of this parade, and I invite you all down. Like I said, we have another meeting tomorrow night, we'll have another meeting before the parade, and everything's really, really going well and I've got to thank everybody that was involved and I thank everybody that donated. It's just unbelievable. Thank you very much."

Councilman Retos, "Thanks Wayne."

Mayor Mavrakis, "Wayne, I was wondering about that new vehicle that Chief Manderino wants to ride in, now you talking about ejection?"

Controller Vlasic, "It's ejection seat in the - I think it's in the vehicle you're riding in."

Councilwoman Bukowski, "Are we going to have a car in? Are we going to have a car in the parade?"

Controller Vlasic, "The Mayor always has in the past. The Mayor always rides with the Chief of Police and they would lead the parade. And then after that, there'll be 5 contingents, basically. Charleroi will be first, and it would be like their Mayor and Council and then their VFW legions, whatever, Donora, Monongahela, and Monessen will be last. In between there are other groups like there's Boy Scouts and things like that. I believe there's – right now there's 7 high school bands and we have, I failed to mention, we kind of ran out of Generals in Monessen. Monessen had 5 Generals at one time and we kind of like ran out of Generals, and the parade Marshall and the guest speaker at the luncheon prior to the parade is actually a friend of mine and a fellow graduate 1975, retired Lt. Colonel Army Mark Moore who's coming up from North Carolina to be the guest speaker and Grand Marshall of the parade. We're welcoming him back, and like I said, any Council, you're welcome to line-up. The Firemen are helping us out with the line-up and the parade route. I've already lined that up, like I said, with Chief Manderino

and both Chris Rhome, Joe Altemare, and Don Novak. Everything is really falling into place, you're welcome to join in and be in the parade, I actually encourage you."

Councilwoman D'Alfonso, "Is there a vehicle, because I don't think we..."

Controller Vlasic, "Well you would have to provide your own vehicles."

Councilman Retos, "Take your Oldsmobile, Lucille."

Councilwoman Bukowski, "You're not going to give us a convertible or anything?"

Controller Vlasic, "Well, we're actually working on some convertibles for the dignitaries that we have coming in, like the guest speaker and... I hate to open this up but, we've also invited Monessen resident Bernie Cera. Young Bernie Cera's a mid-shipment, I've actually sent him a letter, his coach and his sponsor. We requested their presence at the parade, invited them to the parade. What's good about it is they're off, they don't play football that weekend, and his sponsor, if you saw the other day's paper, is retired Brigadier General Dave Paypak from Monongahela who I met a couple of weeks ago. He's actually coming up, not only next Saturday for the Marine Corps ball, but he's coming up for an event in Pittsburgh on the 8th so we're really hoping that he would bring Bernie up here and they would both be in the parade. They're both going to be guests of ours at the luncheon and be in the parade. Whether it happens or not, we're not sure, it's probably going to be a last minute game time decision but hopefully it works out."

Mayor Mavrakis, "Chick?"

Leonard Billy, "Mayor and Council, in regards to what Mr. Vlasic commented on about the parade, also in the paper it needs to be noted that Parente Boulevard, from Grand Boulevard to Schoonmaker, will be shut down during the line-up and parade. Oak Street also will be closed, there will no traffic whatsoever with that many people on Parente Boulevard. We have to shut it down. Oak Street goes up the hill behind the city garage."

Controller Vlasic, "One other thing is, we also thought about having port-o-johns throughout the City. We're going to have approximately 12 port-o-johns, possibly more, in different locations on Donner and Schoonmaker, and also on Parente Boulevard. Just trying to look ahead, what we can provide, because there's a lot of businesses, a lot of people you know, 'hey, can I use your bathroom, can I use your bathroom' and they bother the businesses and we want to take care of that. I know Leonard and I've been talking about, we want to put it on City property, not private property, so we've been talking about locations where we're going to put them the day of the parade or the day before."

Audience Member, "What time does the parade start?"

Controller Vlasic, "Parade starts at 2pm. And there's going to be a flyover by the Civil Air Patrol out of Allegheny County, and they're actually going to take photos for us during the flyover. And this is going to be something really different and we're going to have some aerial photos of the parade."

Councilman Nestor, "What time is line-up?"

Controller Vlasic, "Line-up will start at 1. Parade starts at 2."

Mayor Mavrakis, "Anybody else? Before we close, again I think we should give Councilwoman Bukowski another hand for the Grant. Maybe things are shaping up a little bit, I hope because we're working on a lot of things, the Council and myself and Holly. We got a lot of things going on, too many to mention at this point but we're all positive at this point and I'm quite sure you'll see some results coming in the near future. Could I have a motion to adjourn?"

ADJOURNMENT:

Councilman Retos, "So moved, Mayor".

Councilwoman D'Alfonso, "Second."

Mayor Mavrakis, "Question on the motion?"

YEAS:

NAYS:

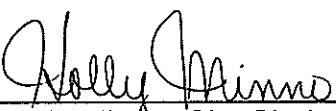
Councilman Nestor
Councilwoman Bukowski
Councilman Retos
Councilwoman D'Alfonso
Mayor Mavrakis

YEAS: FIVE

NAYS: NONE



Louis Mavrakis, Mayor



Holly Minno, City Clerk