

MONESSEN MUNICIPAL COMPLEX
ONE WENDELL RAMEY LANE
MONESSEN, PA 15062

NOVEMBER 19, 2014

OPENING:

Minutes of the regular meeting of Monessen City Council held Wednesday, November 19, 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 October 22, 2014 meeting?"

Councilman Retos, "So moved Mayor".

Councilwoman D'Alfonso, "Second".

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, "Yes Mayor. Motion to approve extending Portnoff's contract for collection of delinquent trash fees for an additional two (2) year term to expire December 31, 2016."

Councilwoman D'Alfonso, "I second that".

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 a \$600,000 Tax Anticipation Note from PNC Bank at 1.78% interest with a maturity date of August 31, 2015."

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 Retos, "Tentative 2015 Budget. We worked on that and this is the first reading to let you know. We have a second reading in December. And that there will be no tax increases for 2015."

Councilman Retos, "First Reading of Bill No. 7 of 2014 – An Ordinance of the City of Monessen, County of Westmoreland, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Appropriating Specific Sums Estimated to be Required for the Specific Purposes of the Municipal Government, Hereinafter Set Forth During the Year 2015. That's just the First Reading, Mayor."

Councilman Retos, "Number 5, this is also a First Reading of Bill No. 8 of 2014 – An Ordinance of the City of Monessen, County of Westmoreland, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Fixing the Tax Rate for the Year 2015."

Councilman Retos, "Next – A Motion to furlough the Street Department Superintendent, One Street Department Employee, a Part Time Clerical Employee, and the Part Time Meter Maids effective Friday, November 20, 2014 with the understanding they all will return to work on Monday, December 29, 2014 the beginning of the first pay period of the new year. I need that in a Motion, please."

Councilwoman D'Alfonso, "Well, you made the motion. I'll second it."

Councilman Retos, "Thank you."

Mayor Mavrakis, "Question on the motion. I am totally against furloughing our street superintendent because I believe that Leonard knows more about the City as far as the streets, as far as the parks and the whole nine yards. I don't believe that substantial savings would help us that much. So I'm definitely against Leonard being furloughed. Anybody else have any comments?"

Solicitor Matta, "Mayor, would you then like this motion to be that his name be taken out and have to separate motions or keep it as one?"

Mayor Mavrakis, "Well, personally I would like to have it taken out. Of course, I don't know what the pleasure is of the rest of the council."

Councilwoman Bukowski, "I understand what you're saying Gary."

Solicitor Matta, "Yeah, it would be two separate motions."

Councilman Retos, "No, just do it one."

Solicitor Matta, "That's fine."

Mayor Mavrakis, "Any more questions on the motion?"

YEAS:

NAYS:

Councilman Retos
Councilwoman D'Alfonso

Councilman Nestor
Councilwoman Bukowski

Mayor Mavrakis

YEAS: FOUR

NAYS: ONE

Councilman Retos, "That's all Mayor. Thank you for your time."

Lucille D'Alfonso – Department of Streets & Public Improvements

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

Street Department Report

Councilwoman D'Alfonso, "The street department report for October 2014: 52 streets cold patched, 11 catch basins cleaned, jetted 40 feet of sewer line, hauled 28 loads of yard waste to Washington Twp., Swept 27 streets, responded to 22 PA 1 calls, repaired 11 parking meters, 4 paid pick up and drop offs, cut 15 areas with the Boom tractor, repaired, replaced, removed or installed 7 signs such as stop signs and so forth, they emptied city trash cans downtown 13 times, cut and trimmed Eastgate Island, cut and trimmed Rebecca and Schoonmaker 4 times, cut and trimmed Arizona alley and Ontario 4 times, cut and trimmed Parente Island 3 times, cut and trimmed Monessen Blvd Islands 3 times, cut and trimmed lots on Donner Ave 3 times, cut and trimmed lot on Schoonmaker 3 times, cut and trimmed islands on 5th and 6th St parking lots twice, cut and trimmed 2nd St steps 3 times, cut and trimmed 4th St steps 3 times, Rostraver St was cut once, emptied city trash cans 3 times a week downtown and the boat launch, cut 9th st island, cut across from Valley 1st bank, cut 30 lots with brush hog and by hand in the 3rd ward, cut and trimmed 605 Reed, 605 Knox and 607 Knox, had repairs or services done for a total of 24 pieces of equipment. That's the street department report."

Councilwoman D'Alfonso, "I also have a Motion to adopt Resolution 12 of 2014 – A Resolution of the City Council of the City of Monessen entering into an Agility Agreement with PennDot. This Agility Agreement is basically an Agreement with PennDot that will facilitate our being able to borrow from the PennDot reserves salt if we would happen to run out of it in a bad storm situation. With the understanding that we would replace that salt when our supply comes in. It will certainly facilitate and make things easier on our crew. That is a motion. May I have a second?"

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

Councilwoman D'Alfonso, "Before I go on to the next motion, I just want to take the time to publicly thank Representative Ted Harhai for helping in procuring the necessary forms for us to have this agreement with PennDot. Ted made numerous phone calls and also had to smooth over some misunderstanding that were a result of inaccurate information that somehow had been circulated. I know for example that there are some residents in Monessen who were under the mistaken impression that the City has no salt for the rest of the winter. This is definitely not true. We have an agreement with American Rock Salt for 2,500 ton that we are in agreement at the Municipal rate that is \$40.00 a ton. Right now the going rate is \$70.00 a ton. So we are saving the City money and we have that contract in place. What happened was, the weather forecast was indicating that were in for some bad weather last week, actually so our street superintendent started to ask around to see if any of the neighboring municipalities had extra salt that we could borrow to get us through and bad weather that might approach us at that point. At some point, phone calls were also made into Harrisburg which I was not aware of that part, but I found out afterward. When I finally spoke to Representative Harhai he immediately did get in touch with PennDot. At first he met resistance because somehow these contacts were under the impression that the City was unwilling or unable to repay any salt that we would borrow. So Ted needed to intervene and to clarify these misunderstandings. So on Tuesday, Mr. Skuvinski (if I'm saying his name correctly) from Municipal Services Department of PennDot made a personal stop at the City Clerk's office and hand delivered the papers that we needed to sign and submit. That is the motion that we just acted upon now. So again I want to reassure the residents of Monessen that we do have salt, we have 150 ton on order that we should be receiving shortly."

City Clerk Minno, "It came today."

Councilwoman D'Alfonso, "Ok, it came today. And thanks to Representative Harhai we now have the ability to borrow salt from PennDot should we run out temporarily during the winter months."

Mayor Mavrakis, "On the same thing, I'd like to thank Senator Solabay. Chick and I had dialogue with Senator Solabay and he assured us also that he would be working on the project."

Councilwoman D'Alfonso, "That was part of the confusion there."

Street Supervisor Billy, "On a personal note, I would like to thank both Senator Solabay and Representative Harhai in their efforts to get this pushed through for the City. I thank them both."

Councilwoman D'Alfonso, "I have a motion to approve the request from Reverend Bass of Gate of Heaven Church for the City of Monessen to paint a yellow line by his church parking lot to improve the safety and accessibility to the parking lot."

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

Councilwoman D'Alfonso, "That's all for my report."

Councilwoman Bukowski – Department of Parks & Public Properties

Parks Department Report

Councilwoman Bukowski gave the following Parks Department Report for October 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 city park and walking track 2 times every month, cut 9th st park 1 time for the month, cut boat launch and park 1 time for the month, cut Hoover park 1 time, cut Crest ave gas lot 2 times, cut along service lane 1 time, cut the river walk 1 time, set up shelters in city park 2 times for rentals, emptied trash cans in the parks 18 times for the month, picked leaves in and around City Park with cyclone rakes. That's the parks report for the month."

Councilwoman Bukowski, "I have here the minutes of the Monessen Recreation Authority. They basically did a lot of electrical work. They installed 4 receptacles, 2 eight-foot light fixtures, re-lamped existing lights. We also had the fan cleaned because I was really afraid for anybody to turn it on. There was so much grease in the fan; I was afraid there was going to be a fire down there. We have some money from CDBG that we are going to use in the hallway and the kitchen to replace the floor tiles. I should say cover the floor tiles because there asbestos. And also repair part of the gym floor. As you're walking into the gym, there is a section maybe 24 inches that has a steam pipe under it and it has rotted all the wood there. So we're going to have that re-done probably, hopefully before next month. The kids are down there now for the soccer teams and the basketball teams will be starting pretty soon, the midget leagues."

Councilwoman Bukowski, "The minutes from the Amphitheater. The Amphitheater had a trunk or treat up at the walking track and it was very successful. We had probably over 100 kids there, there were about 15 dogs dressed in costumes, and there were 10 vehicles that gave out candy. It was very successful. Everybody stayed around for the movie afterwards called Hocus Pocus and we had about 40 kids watch the movie. We are starting to plan now for next year."

Councilwoman Bukowski, "I make a Motion to approve payment to 1st-A-Fence for fence at Shawnee Park in the amount of \$2,675.00 to be paid from CDBG funds."

Mayor Mavrakakis, "We have a motion."

Councilman Retos, "Second, Mayor."

Mayor Mavrakakis, "Question on the motion."

YEAS:

NAYS:

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

YEAS: FIVE

NAYS: NONE

Councilwoman Bukowski, "Motion to approve Change Order Request #2 from Esken Landscaping for a fifty-seven (57) day extension to the Brown Street Clock Installation Project and also an increase of \$770.15. Money to be paid out of CDBG funds leaving a balance of \$1,111.85 in the account."

Mayor Mavrakakis, "We have a motion."

Councilman Retos, "Second Mayor."

Mayor Mavrakis, "Question on the Motion?"

YEAS:

Councilman Retos
Councilwoman D'Alfonso
Councilman Nestor
Councilwoman Bukowski

NAYS:

Mayor Mavrakis

YEAS: FOUR

NAYS: ONE

Councilwoman Bukowski, "We probably should've had this one first. A Motion to approve Payment Application #2 from Esken Landscaping in the amount of \$11,190.00 for Monessen Brown Street Clock. Money to be paid out of CDBG funds."

Mayor Mavrakis, "We have a Motion."

Councilman Retos, "Second Mayor."

Mayor Mavrakis, "Question on the Motion?"

YEAS:

Councilwoman D'Alfonso
Councilwoman Bukowski
Councilman Retos

NAYS:

Councilman Nestor

Mayor Mavrakis

YEAS: THREE

NAYS: TWO

Councilwoman Bukowski, "I have a letter from DCNR addressed to Holly Minno that the Phase I which is the Amphitheater. It said, Dear Ms. Minno, you should be very proud of your accomplishments. The improvements made to the City Park look fantastic and will provide its users with a variety of activities. Please note that this site inspection has been conducted by DCNR to verify that the project has been completed in accordance with the Contract Scope of Work and Grant Agreement. A favorable report does not in any way relieve the Grantee from its responsibilities to meet all post-completion requirements and provide ADA compliance, address liability and safety issues. The one issue that they brought up to us is that we have parking places for the handicap but we did not designate a van area. So we are going to have to change that and have an area

for a van to be able to park up there. Other than that, there were no other recommendations."

Councilwoman Bukowski, "That's all for my report."

Councilman Nestor – Department of Public Safety

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

Code Office Monthly Report

Councilman Nestor, "Since last council meeting, the following has taken place in the Code Enforcement Office; there were 14 violation letters went out in the month of October, 9 certificates issued for occupancies issued in October, 4 certificates of occupancies issued in the month of November so far, 2 temporary occupancy permits issued in November also, 7 pending occupancy inspections, 2 pending health food/safety inspections. K2 Engineering has submitted a bill for 17 occupancy inspections for the month of October. 3 orders of unfit occupancy were issued. One property will be declared unfit. There are about 40 properties in Monessen that have been aware of so far that will be on the unfit list. 3 magistrate hearings are scheduled for November 25th, 2 properties were ordered to be boarded up by the DPW. Also I want to regard that one of those hearings will be for the gasoline being poured in the sewer. We've been having a lot of complaints and we finally caught the person who was doing so."

Code Office Financial Report

Councilman Nestor, "Building Permits - \$182.00; Street Opening Permits - \$400.00; Sign Permits - \$140.00; Magistrate Code Enforcement - \$43.48; Occupancy Permits - \$3,700.00; Mercantile Machines - \$1,200.00; Landlord Fees - \$1,850.00; making October \$7,515.48. Year-to-date is \$94,352.62."

Fire Report

Councilman Nestor, "The fire report. There were a total of 24 calls for the month of October. Both companies devoted a total of 288 man hour for October."

EMS Report

Councilman Nestor, "Emergency calls there were 112, fire standbys 14, and public service 6. Total incidents were 132 for the Mon Valley Emergency Medical Service."

Councilman Nestor, "Motion to approve payment to WEC Inc. for the 2014 Demolition and Site Clearance – Phase 1 in the amount of \$320.00 to be paid from CDBG funds."

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 Nestor, "Motion to approve the request from Mon Valley EMS to host a Tactical Lifesaver Course on May 22, 23 and 24, 2015. They will be using City Park on May 24th, and either Eastgate 11 or Civic Center on May 23rd."

Councilwoman D'Alfonso, "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 accept Fred Moran's retirement letter effective December 31, 2014."

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 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 October. Garbage Fees budgeted for 2014 - \$470,000.00; Garbage Fees collected as of September 30 - \$457,290.00; Garbage Fees collected during October - \$4,042.00; Total Garbage Fees collected as of October 31 - \$461,332.00; Delinquent Garbage Fees collected as of September 30 - \$37,438.48; Delinquent Garbage Fees collected as of October was \$1,891.00. Delinquent Garbage Fees collected as of October 31 is \$39,329.48.

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 September 30 - \$1,815,948.74 , City Real Estate Taxes collected during October - \$9,504.89; Penalties were \$1,272.25; City Real Estate Taxes collected as of October 31 - \$1,826,725.88.

Delinquent City Taxes collected as of September 30 - \$5,437.87; Delinquent City Taxes collected during October - \$183.18; Total Delinquent City Taxes collected as of October 31 - \$5,621.05.

Distribution of the Income is as follows: General Fund received \$1,224,228.71; Debt Service Fund - \$462,567.51; City Parks Fund received - \$89,912.55; Library Fund received \$50,017.11 for a total of \$1,826,725.88. Mayor that concludes my report for the month."

Mayor Mavrakis, "You need 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

Wayne Vlasic – City Controller

Controller's Report

City Controller Vlasic read the Controller's Report as follows: General Fund First Federal Checking Account Bank Reconciliation as of October 31, 2014: Beginning Bank Balance - \$85,378.89; Deposits - \$362,645.03; PLGIT Transfers - \$20,000.00 for a Total of \$468,023.92. Checks Cashed \$244,108.95; leaving a Bank Balance of \$223,914.97. Deposits in Transit \$12,419.09; Outstanding Checks \$180,093.55; Outstanding NSF Checks - \$493.68; amount reconciled to the Balance Sheet of \$56,734.19.

CDBG Report

Controller Vlasic, "next is the CDBG Bank Account Monthly Activity: Beginning Balance \$10,254.50; Deposits \$2,879.61 for a total of \$13,134.11; Checks Cashed \$2,960.14 for a Bank Balance of \$10,173.97; Outstanding Checks \$2,020.00 for a final month end balance of \$8,153.97. That's the CDBG Fund Report, your Honor."

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

Councilwoman D'Alfonso, "So moved."

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

Gary Matta – Solicitor

Solicitor Matta, "Yes, Mr. Mayor, Council, Residents - I have this month worked on issues with Holly and the Council and the Mayor which include issues with Residents, Budget Issues, Code Enforcement Issues, Sewage Issues, Planning Commission, Fire Department Issues, Issues involving the City Hall Building and City Hall leases, Ordinances, Police Issues, Personnel Issues and Right to Know Requests. I am open for any questions of Council or the Mayor that you may have of me. Otherwise, that ends my report, Mr. Mayor."

Mayor Mavrakis, "Anybody have any questions?"

PAYMENT OF BILLS:

Jonmichael Retos – Department of Accounts & Finance

Councilman Retos, "Motion to approve payment of General Fund Expenditures for the month of November in the amount of \$277,225.78".

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 November in the amount of \$9,371.93".

Councilwoman D'Alfonso, "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 Grant Fund Expenditures for the month of November in the amount of \$202.26".

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 Line Usage Fund Expenditures for the month of November in the amount of \$13,380.92."

Councilman Nestor, "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 Police & K9 Fund Expenditures for the month of November in the amount of \$3,774.50".

Councilwoman D'Alfonso, "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, "Thank you Mayor, that's all."

Mayor Mavrakis – Department of Public Affairs

Police Department Report

Mayor Mavrakis, "Parking Meter Receipts: On Street Receipts - \$1,001.67; Off Street Receipts - \$406.90; Total Parking Meter Receipts - \$1,408.57; Parking Fines & Forfeits: Total On & Off Fines & Forfeits - \$820.00; Parking Permits: On Street Permits - \$1,650.00; Off Street Permits - \$1,550.00; Total Parking Permits - \$3,200.00; Miscellaneous Collections: Copies of Police Accident Reports - \$300.00; Charleroi Prisoners - \$1,400.00; North Belle Vernon Prisoners - \$175.00; RESA Prisoners - \$175.00; Restitution - \$30.00; Meter Bags - \$0.00; Open Records - \$11.75; Total Miscellaneous Collections - \$2,121.75; Court Receipts from District Justice Office: Vehicle Code Fines Collected - \$560.57; Crimes Code Fines Collected - \$1,109.61; City Ordinance Collected - \$248.51; Code Enforcement Collected - \$43.48; Total Receipts from District Justice Office - \$1,962.17; Total Receipts Collected for October 2014 - \$9,512.49. Police logged and telephone complaints for the month of October 2014 – 382. Arrests for October 2014: Total – 65; Year Total – 1,086. Mileage: Total Miles – 7,361; Miles per day - 237.45."

Mayor Mavrakis, "We have a letter here for a Motion for Lignelli Real Estate – Dear Rick, This letter is to confirm our conversation on Tuesday, November 18, 2014 whereas we agreed to the following: You will do three (3) appraisals on buildings the City owns; The buildings are as follows, Eastgate 8, Eastgate 11 and 100 Third Street; You have agreed to do all three (3) appraisals for a total of \$5,000; and You have agreed to accept payment on January 3, 2015. If you should have any questions or

require additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me at 724-684-5011.
Sincerely, Lou Mavrakis."

Councilman Retos, "I second that Mayor. Thank you very much."

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, "Motion to accept retirement of Carl Fronzaglio effective January 31, 2015."

Councilman Nestor, "Second."

Mayor Mavrakis, "Question on the Motion?"

YEAS:

NAYS:

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

YEAS: FIVE

NAYS: NONE

Mayor Mavrakis, "Motion to adopt Resolution 11 of 2014 – A Resolution of the City Council of the City of Monessen approving and authorizing the submission of the FY 2014 CDBG application."

Councilman Nestor, "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 adopt Resolution 13 of 2014 – A Fair Housing Resolution of the City of Monessen."

Councilman Nestor, "Second, Mayor."

Mayor Mavrakis, "Question on the motion?"

YEAS:

NAYS:

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

YEAS: FIVE

NAYS: NONE

Mayor Mavrakis, "Appointment of Anthony Orzechowski to the Monessen Redevelopment Authority Board for a 5 year term beginning December 1, 2014 and ending November 30, 2019."

Mayor Mavrakis, "Motion to accept resignation of Part Time Meter Maid Jamie Hurst effective immediately."

Councilman Retos, "Second, Mayor."

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, "Veteran's Certificate. Holly, I will give you the privilege of reading it.

City Clerk Minno, "Why thank you. We received a Certificate of Appreciation presented to the City of Monessen for the assistance given to the Monessen Veterans Council for the Mission planning, support and successful execution of the 2014 Mon Valley Veterans Day Parade. Signed by S. Ron Chromiak, Chairman."

Mayor Mavrakis, "Thank you Holly."

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.

Nancy Horvath, Meter Maid and Resident of the City – "Did you just decide on the layoff of the meter maids? Was this recently done? I just wondered because I hadn't heard about it."

Councilman Retos, "Like at... yes today. Today, Nancy. And again, you'll be brought back; you guys are normally off all of December anyway."

Ms. Horvath, "Well that's another thing I was going to bring up, you mentioned December 29th?"

Councilman Retos, "Right, the reason why we did that is because it starts a new pay period. So it was easier for us to bring you guys back, the street department guys, it's easier to bring you back on that for the next pay period. So you have a solid pay."

Ms. Horvath, "But there are holidays in there. That's why I wondered why you didn't continue with the January 5th. There are holidays that we won't be working. I thought it would be easier to include."

City Clerk Minno, "It was just easier with the pay periods."

Ms. Horvath, "Ok."

Mayor Mavrakis, "Well normally we don't have parking meters for the month of December?"

Ms. Horvath, "Just the two weeks."

Mayor Mavrakis, "Two weeks?"

Ms. Horvath, "Yes, Christmas and New Year's. I have a question about the payment on the landscaping. The term seems very broad. For the Brown Street Clock. Oh yeah, the landscaping for \$11,190. Correct me if I'm wrong, the only landscaping I saw that was done by them was this little section that surrounds the clock and \$11,000, I could do it for \$50."

Councilwoman Bukowski, "I think they also did those things to stop anybody from hitting the clock."

Councilman Retos, "The pillars, the concrete pillars that are in front, the concrete and masonry work for that, and am I not correct with the plaque, and all the underground electrical. They did all of that as well. It's all under one thing."

Mayor Mavrakis, "Do we have an exact number of what it has cost us to this point, Holly."

City Clerk Minno, "Off- hand, No."

Ms. Horvath, "It just sounded like....."

Councilman Retos, "Yes I understand when you say landscaping. It's more involved than some plants and some grass."

Ms. Horvath, "And the little shrubs that are going to grow into one cause they're so close together. But that's neither here nor there."

City Clerk Minno, "Their total bill was \$16,950.00. We've paid them already \$5,760.00. So this was their final payment of \$11,190.00."

Ms. Horvath, "There was one other thing, but if I get to it, I'll be back up. Thank you."

Tony Orzechowski, 1229 Hillcrest Avenue – "Mayor, City Council, Residents of Monessen; she beat me to the question my one question I was going to ask about that and I'm glad she did, can someone tell us also what is the total that has been paid for the clock restoration project."

Mayor Mavrakis, "I believe Darlene has those figures. I did see her today and I didn't get a chance to talk to her. So, we will have that for you at the next meeting. Holly, would you write a note there. And we will get the full cost of that clock at our next meeting, Tony."

Mr. Orzechowski, "Ok. Thank you. My second question of course my obvious one, what is the projected financial situation of the City going into the last month of the year? Is it projected to be in the plus or the minus?"

Councilman Retos, "We are projected to be in the minus, Tony."

Mr. Orzechowski, "May I ask and inquire how much, roughly?"

Councilman Retos, "What's the number here Holly? 369."

Mr. Orzechowski, "\$369,000?"

Councilman Retos, "Yes Sir."

City Clerk Minno, "346 as of today."

Councilman Retos, "Sorry, \$346,000. It got better. \$346,000 as of today."

Mr. Orzechowski, "Ok. If that would hold true, may I ask the Council they plan to make up that difference? Or is there a plan or is there a possibility of making up that difference and if they can't what services may be impacted for the City."

Councilman Retos, "Well, we do have a plan that we put together over the last couple of days. Number one: We borrowed an extra \$100,000 on our tax anticipation note. We will make all of our payroll obligations for the year and our insurance payments for the end of the year. We borrowed an additional \$100,000 on our tax anticipation note at the same exact interest rate. We are then extending that out two months additional. We normally pay that back, is it May 31st or June 30th? June 30th we usually pay that back. It's now extended into August 31st, which will elevate some of the debt. And what we're actually doing is wrapping our debt from this year into next year and then paying it off with the extra money. And hopefully our goal is once again to try to pay that tax anticipation note off early like we did last year. This year we did the same. Part of the other reason why we wanted to extend it out two more months, is that happens to coincide with one of the bond payments. So it becomes very difficult to have to pay the tax anticipation note back as early as we can and make our bond payment commitment so we extended it out two additional months that way to elevate some of the stress on the budget."

Mr. Orzechowski, "Since we uncovered a few things, my next question is does council foresee in the future of 2015 to maybe afford microphones? Something that I remember standing up here and getting a promise in January of 2014. Along with that a breakdown of expenditures for the public to be able to see. We are into the eleventh month, I still haven't seen it."

City Clerk Minno, "They're over there."

Mr. Orzechowski, "No. I meant a little more detailed."

City Clerk Minno, "That's all we can do."

Councilman Retos, "That's all we can do, Anthony. I mean there it is right there. That's the checks that we paid, that's the checks that are run. I mean that's the best we can do for you."

Mayor Mavrakis, "What we could do Tony is you have a question. I don't think there would be an objection if you would come in to talk to Holly. Holly, would you have any objection to that."

Councilwoman D'Alfonso, "But if that's a Right to Know issue, that shouldn't be."

Mayor Mavrakis, "You understand what I'm saying Tony? Go in talk to Holly. Holly I'm quite sure that you can give him the information that you require, Tony."

Mr. Orzechowski, "One last thing if I can ask if council could consider this, is whenever the reports are made for like the department of Accounts & Finance and it's not Josh or you or anybody else who's been in that position, when the comments are made like motion to approve a payment of general fund expenditures \$277,000 and sometimes there are a lot of things there, it would be nice if sometimes there is a little, real quick this involves, this is all wrapped into this, this and this. It gives people an idea of knowing what it's all encompassed. Instead of just throwing out a figure. I think that is something that you could consider for either December or next year?"

Councilman Retos, "Sure, I can consider it. We have to look. You have to understand, the general fund, that's all the bills. I mean how many checks have we signed tonight Wayne about 54 – 68. And that was a low number. So that's the other issue, I mean every line item, like 615 line items."

Mr. Orzechowski, "I'm not asking for line items. I'm asking for you saying this is what it encompasses by departments or something."

Mayor Mavrakis, "I would be certain that given our financial status going into next year Tony that we will be looking at every one of them a little bit closer as far as the itemized bills. Am I correct Josh?"

Councilman Retos, "Yes."

Mayor Mavrakis, "And we will be separating what we feel might not be necessary."

Mr. Orzechowski, "Alright. Thank you."

Nancy Horvath, "This will be real quick. The last time I was up at the Amphitheater there was that space behind the wall of the bandstand was open. Was that ever....."

Councilwoman Bukowski, "That was fixed."

Ms. Horvath, "Was it? Ok, cause the last time is when they had that jazz group. Oh you should've been there, it was so good. There were only 5 of us there to enjoy it, but we applauded very loudly. That's it. I'm done."

Mark Santacolombo – 610 Third Street, "Ms. D'Alfonso, I know you and I used to have some words and I apologize for that. But you know that was in the past. You need to be commended for what you did for the salt. Leonard, you also and Ted Harhai. Because I know speaking with experience on that I was the Superintendent and we did have problems with getting salt. But I knew all I had to do was make one phone call and from that phone call it went to another gentleman and we had salt. Council and mayor never knew. Ok, cause that's how I did business. But then we told them that we needed to replace what we got. And that gentlemen I'm speaking of is State Rep Ted Harhai. And if we would have lost him in that election and I know I'm going offbeat we would have been in trouble. Cause there ain't no republican going to help a staunch democrat City. And we got democrats that are in this room that had Logan signs in their yard. They ought to be ashamed of themselves. What are you going to do with Logan and those republicans up there?

Audience Member, "No politicking allowed."

Mr. Santacolombo, "I know that. I know that but I'm just saying. Do you think those republicans are going to help a staunch democrat town? I don't think so. Bartalotta ain't going to do nothing, and I can't believe people jumped ship."

Mayor Mavrakis, "Bartalotta's not our Senator, Mark."

Mr. Santacolombo, "She's not, she's not, but see there was people who supported her over our boy, Tim."

Mayor Mavrakis, "Stefano is our Senator, Mark."

Mr. Santacolombo, "I'm talking about people went over and jumped ship and him too another republican."

Solicitor Matta, "Sir, Sir with all due respect, with all due respect this is not a political rally."

Mr. Gagatko, "People can vote for who they want to vote for in the City of Monessen. That's wrong Gary."

Solicitor Matta, "I agree. And that's what I said."

Mr. Gagatko, "That should've never been allowed to come to this council. That's wrong."

Solicitor Matta, "Your right, your right."

Mr. Gagatko, "You support who you want. Not to be chastised by somebody in the audience who you're going to support. That's wrong. "

Solicitor Matta, "Here's the thing. For the last couple of months since I've been here, I think we've been trying to act properly to each other. I know there are some people that don't like that I interject myself but as long as I'm the solicitor here we're going to act and we're not going to bring the circus to town. Ok? If you want to make a comment that is about business of this community, you can make comments. We can disagree about them and we can have debate about them and that's fine. But we're not going to get into political things. We're not going to bring the circus and I will interject myself as long as this council and mayor permits me to do so. When I think people are just trying to disrupt the activities of business. Again, anybody wants to talk outside including with me you see after the meetings. I stay here and I'll talk to anybody about issues that may be a little bit off of City business but we're not going to do it here. Again, not that anybody's wrong or right, but politics shouldn't be in here. We have enough business to conduct about the City of Monessen. We got enough of our own problems we need to solve and we need every body's help to solve these problems. This council, the mayor can't do it, I can't just do it, and Holly can't do it. You know the building inspector, the road department we need everybody's help. You want to disagree about politics and personal things let do that outside. Here let's work for the best interest of the community and I believe everybody has that interest. If you're here, that's why you're here. Ok? We may disagree on how to get there, but I think that everybody wants to try to make this City better. So, again I'm not trying to cut you short, and the gentlemen back there I understand his point."

Mr. Gagatko, "I appreciate what you're saying."

Solicitor Matta, "I want to make sure we keep doing business."

Mayor Mavrakis, "The thing is simply this, if the news media cares to inject that into the article tomorrow, I will respond to you outside, Rick as far as what my position is on that and I won't discuss it here in front of this crowd for that particular reason."

Ron Chiaravalle – 1508 Cemetery St., "I would like to bring up something that has been sort of a pet peeve of mine here for a number of years and bring it to the attention of the council here and the mayor and the solicitor. Probably especially the Solicitor. This has to do with a letter we all got last week which just happens to be a duplicate of a letter we all got a year ago from the Water Authority. Informing us that our rates are once again going to be increased due to the fact that they have some projects scheduled, some mandates, some improvements and at their current rate they just don't have enough

money to pay for this. Basically, that's not word for word. I got out last year's letter. It was exactly the same letter. I understand things cost money and at times you need to get the increases in revenue but you would think at least there would be some type of a breakdown on what these additional expenditures are going to be. Why do they need the money, why do they need to raise the rates once again one year after they did it the last time? That's the reason I'm standing up here. Now along with that reason comes the Pennsylvania Municipal Authorities Act. Do we not have a right as a participating municipality to that authority? Do we not have a right?"

Mayor Mavrakis, "What happened on that Ron, you know I had a conversation?"

Mr. Chiaravalle, "Wait, one second Lou, let me finish the question actually. A right according to the PMAA, to have equal representation on that board of directors. Now unless I'm mistaken we have Monessen, Donora, and the Borough of Charleroi that are the member Municipalities. We have no representation, Donora has no representation."

Solicitor Matta, "I'm assuming, and I'm not familiar with that authority."

Mr. Chiaravalle, "I don't expect you to answer this now."

Solicitor Matta, "But let me give you a little bit of an overview and I don't mean to interrupt you so if you need more time after I'm done, please do so. Normally whoever establishes the authority and I've never looked..... "

Councilman Retos, "Charleroi established it."

Solicitor Matta, "They established it? So we may not have any rights to representation. I represent another municipal authority down the river that treats sewage for what we consider the upstream communities because it's upstream from where the plant is. And even though they provide a lot of sewage and payments to the authority they have no right because the city that established that authority only has the right of appointment. There have been times in other authorities that because of how much involvement outside communities had maybe you change it to a joint authority and so forth. That is something that can be looked at in the future if it's need be but to be honest having municipal authorities are still better than going to a poor profit institution because there are entities now that are doing sewage or doing water that are for profit, but you really have less control over and naturally they want to make a profit so they're looking at their shareholders then how we have municipal authorities. A good example and I see we have our superintendent from the Municipal Authority and some board members from the municipal authority that handles sewage, when you have people who are there, they're not there making money, they're there trying to break even. So we can keep our bills as reasonable as possible. Naturally they still have to affect that. I've never seen this letter. If you want to bring one in I'll be more than happy to look at it. Just so I can give you some information the next time I see you."

Mayor Mavrakis, "Ron, I think you and I had this dialogue before, and I went to the council in Charleroi and also to the Mayor. The way it's set up Council in Charleroi decides who is going to be on that Board. I asked a couple on council who I am quite friendly with. Is there a possibility somewhere down the line could you possibly do something to try to at least get one of our people on to that board. They said they would be working on it, so."

Solicitor Matta, "And there are, if I may Mayor, there are some ways under the MAA even if it is established by another community for a member that could possibly be for example from Monessen if they may own property in there, they may be a business owner, there are other ways to get someone that's appointed that may not be a resident of the community but may have an interest. So we can try to look at that also and see if there's anybody that might fit that specific criteria."

Councilman Retos, "Ron, so go by a house in Charleroi then we'll get you on."

Mr. Chiaravalle, "No thank you. My purpose wasn't to put anybody on the spot."

Mayor Mavrakis, "Ron, we'll keep trying. I'll keep on the Council and on the Mayor who I have a very good dialogue with and hopefully maybe next year we'll see what happens."

Mr. Chiaravalle, "Ok. I appreciate that. I would like you to look at the Act in that respect of the governing board. Because....."

Solicitor Matta, "I just haven't looked at it recently."

Mr. Chiaravalle, "I have it printed out. I could bring it down and show it to you."

Solicitor Matta, "Oh I have it. That's not the issue. I haven't looked at it that I could tell you verbatim but if you after the meeting give me your number I'm in town often and it's not that there would be a charge for you to come in and talk to me."

Mr. Chiaravalle, "I'm in town all the time."

Solicitor Matta, "Right, I know, that's what I'm saying. I tell the Mayor all the time when I come to town I like to go to lunch because I have an eating habit, so I'll even be willing to take you out to lunch and we could talk about it. Ok?"

Mr. Chiaravalle "Sounds good. Thank you very much."

Viktoryia Maroz – Donora Resident, "I would like to start with a quote by Jacques Cousteau who once said that water and air, the two essential fluids on which all life depends, have become global garbage cans. Paul Hawken reinforced the argument when he said this planet came with a set of instructions, but we seem to have misplaced them. Important rules like don't poison the water, soil, air have been broken. The reason as to why I am here today is to voice my concern on a matter that has been impacting

the quality of my life. With the reopening of the plant in Monessen, the quality of the air has been declining to the point that it becomes unbearable to be in your own home. You don't need to be a DEP agent to realize that something is not right when you don't feel safe in your own home. I have lived in Donora for over 5 years and the quality of the air is the worst it has ever been. I wish it was just the smell, but with the smell come a lot of consequences. I am referring to potential health issues. It is not just a coincidence that according to Jessica Prefling's article the Liberty-Clairton area sees the nation's highest cancer risks. With a registered rate of 289 cases per million over a 70-year lifetime, when the national average is around 50, has caused residents to tag this region the "sacrifice zone." As production picks up, residents in the area will continue to face health risks directly resulting from coke plant emissions. So, what are the chemicals that are being released in the air? Based on the article from World Bank, they are: VOCs, Benzene, Sulfur oxides, Nitrogen oxides, Formaldehyde and many others. According to Don Lieber from EcoWatch, long-term exposure to certain VOCs may lead to chronic diseases and cancer. Benzene is a well-established carcinogen with specific links to leukemia as well as breast and urinary tract cancers. Exposure to benzene reduces red and white blood cell production in bone marrow; decreases auto-immune cell function. The Colorado School of Public Health published a report which warned that the benzene gives local residents higher long-term cancer risks. Sulfur dioxide and nitrogen oxides are two primary examples of particle-forming air pollutants known to contribute to serious health problems. Both are highly toxic to human health, and contribute directly to thousands of hospitalizations, heart attacks and deaths annually. Formaldehyde is another carcinogen with known links to leukemia and cancers, according to the International Agency for Research on Cancer. Formaldehyde is highly toxic regardless of method of intake. Studies have linked low birth weights, infertility and endometriosis to formaldehyde exposure along with DNA alteration. So what does this mean to all of us? It means that every day we are exposed to deadly chemicals that can potentially kill you. I understand that it is all about the money and the plant is focused on pumping the most of amount of coke every day, but it is not right to do it at the cost of other people's health. I hope that a study could be done to measure levels of toxins of people that live in Monessen or nearby cities. Something needs to change and I hope that something will start today."

Mayor Mavrakis, "How long have you been in Donora?"

Ms. Maroz, "Five years."

Mayor Mavrakis, "I'm quite sure you were not around near 1950 in Donora. And I'm quite sure that you weren't here whenever we had over 7,000 employees in the steel mill here. I for one have 19 years in the coke plant when you couldn't see from here to where you're standing."

Ms. Maroz, "But do you think it's right."

Mayor Mavrakis, "What I'm simply saying to you they have cleaned that thing up dramatically from the way it was before. The thing is you have approximately 160 – 180

high paying jobs in that facility at this point and it is our intention as far as this council is concerned that we're going to have to get them on to the tax roll. There's a little bit more, Josh you're familiar with this that we wanted to give them a chance to get their feet on the ground as far as getting production started and everything. Once they get production started it's going to be a big tax increase for Monessen for the facility. And the thing is if you're talking about job being lost we can't afford to be losing jobs and if anybody is under the impression that you've been here for 5 year and you're going to die in three more years because of what your breathing from that coke plant, I assure you that it won't happen. I have 19 years when it was real bad and I'm still here. The thing what you got to understand, is there were many people that worked in that plant, why do you think the community is the way it is right now? The reason that we have the blight in this City is because steel mills are closed down. Every time a steel mill closed down the blight comes on. And this is what we go. Look at Donora, you know you had 12,000 employees at US Steel in Donora. Did you know that? Did you know you had a zinc works? Did you know that?"

Ms. Maroz, "I understand what you are saying, however I just want you to hear what I have to say."

Mayor Mavrakakis, "Oh no. I heard what you said, but I just want you to understand what our position at least what my position is here. And as far as I'm concerned I'm not interested in chasing jobs out of this valley. I'm interested in getting jobs in this valley."

Councilwoman D'Alfonso, "But Mayor there are ways that we can control the pollution."

Mayor Mavrakakis, "They are controlled."

Councilwoman D'Alfonso, "And I think that she's asking that we look into that a little bit further. She has a valid point."

Ms. Maroz, "I'm not here for people to lose their jobs. That's not what I'm here for today."

Mayor Mavrakakis, "Do you know if you look next to our fire station right down the road here, do you know that there is a trailer there monitoring the coke plant? Every day? Do you know that?"

Ms. Maroz, "Ok, so they're monitoring but the thing is why do we smell what we smell every day? You shouldn't smell nasty rotten egg smell when you wake up in the morning. That's disgusting. I mean I understand when it comes to pollution in the coal production and the jobs but at the same time when you feel like you can't come outside and open the windows in your house because it smells this way."

Mayor Mavrakakis, "I live in Monessen."

Solicitor Matta, "I think we understand your concerns and if there was something that was completely inappropriate this council would take action I think though your comments really need to be addressed with DEP. Some of your issues this council could not do anything because as long as that plant is working under the DEP requirements."

Rick Bruni, Reporter for Valley Independent, "Counselor, the DEP has cited the coke plant 6 times with notice of violation for illegal emission since May."

Solicitor Matta, "And again, there's nothing that we can do in addition to DEP."

Mr. Bruni, "I just thought you should know. Where there's smoke, there's fire. No pun intended."

Solicitor Matta, "I can tell you that if there are some things that are done that are concerning the health safety and welfare of this community if this council, mayor or myself would be aware of those things we would take the appropriate actions and get the appropriate agencies in here. Ok."

Ms. Horvath, "Is the DEP really monitoring it?"

Councilman Retos and Solicitor Matta, "Yeah."

Mayor Mavrakis, "Every day. They got the trailer right outside of the fire station downtown, Nancy."

Ms. Horvath, "I thought that's who it was."

Ron Moser, Resident of Monessen, "To be honest, I'm not a public speaker so forgive me. My thoughts aren't well organized or anything else. I moved to Monessen 6 years ago and quite honestly I came to Monessen with my eyes wide open. I looked around at what's going on. I've been up here before trying to solicit the incubation of businesses and so forth. City Council has yet to really follow through with any strong public initiatives to do that. The BBB is disconnected from City Council. There is no body that really takes that upon themselves. To be honest all I hear for the last several years is that Monessen is dying. Three years ago I went to the businesses in Monessen, I conducted a survey, what can we do to make Monessen better? And I'm an optimistic person I tried my best to figure out ways to make this happen. But yet we continue to see problems collecting taxes, there's not any new businesses coming into town and the building I'm in right now is being sold. That's fine. I don't have a problem with that. I have been asked by the mayor of two other cities to move my business to their community. My employees, my business will likely move since you are trying to sell the business anyway. I would like to make a suggestion though. Eleven Eastgate over there, the downstairs is in reasonably good shape. Upstairs is a disaster as you are

well aware. There are plenty of offices downstairs to house city council. If you could sell this building, you could move downstairs over there, you could put all your records upstairs and you would do just fine. After all, you're a shrinking community, you don't see a future. That's probably the best thing to do is down size and keep going. Thank you."

Councilwoman Bukowski, "But it's a shame we don't see a future. We should be seeing a future."

Mr. Moser, "I agree. We should. I'm an optimist."

Mayor Mavrakis, "You and I had dialogue on the building being appraised and I said naturally you'd be considered. I know that Rick, you and I had a discussion here a while back as far as the facilities whoever is in here being relocated. Well, I've worked on that. I've had dialogue with in incubator with Frank Duda. Frank is willing to take anybody that has to be relocated from here. I've worked on that too. But what happened was, him and I had a good conversation and he's willing to take anybody that wants to relocate if and when we sell this building. And the way it looks at this point we have a good potential buyer and as I talked to you about it before my dreams are to turn this facility here in to a senior citizen gated community for middle income as far as never have to leave this place. We have people in Monessen who are widows and widerows who live up on the hill they can't cut their grass, they have a hard time making taxes, they can't shovel snow. All they have to do is sell their home to a young couple that may come in we may bring young people to relocate here in Monessen. We put these elderly people in this facility and they're amongst their own people, they can communicate with each other. And they would never have to leave this facility. Doctor's offices in it and everything. This has been a plan that I've had for years with Dr. Goshi going way back. And the thing is I have a good shot with somebody presently. We are in negotiations and if that's possible then we sell the building, gone. And we have to go into a place. And you know I hate this criticism about the library. Well naturally we talked about this. Gary, you and I went and we looked at it. We went down with Walt Haglund, we looked at it. They thought it was a wonderful idea. What do we have? We have a situation where the people in the library, were they say Oh well you can't come down here. Do you know there is \$1,094,000 that we have to pay for that library? And then if you look at the paper, which you wrote the article, Rick, Zilka confirmed that before the City embarked on the library improvement project, the board discussed bringing in a future tenant to bring in revenue. The board entertained bringing in a substantial office-type operation according to the documents from the library's now defunct long range planning committee, but the plan never came to fruition. That was bandied about if we could find somebody to lease out half the building, but that never went beyond the talking stage, Zilka said. That wasn't the main goal to have somebody else in the building and it was never given a serious discussion by the board. The thing is, if they were looking to house somebody in there and get somebody come in there why couldn't the City go in there, when we have to pay \$1,095,000 and \$50,000 on top of that per year. And that's what my simply.....We leave here we have to go

somewhere. If you go across the street, you've been there Josh, you've been there Rick. You went over there. Didn't you go over there with us?"

Mr. Bruni, "Not upstairs, Mayor."

Mayor Mavrakis, "you went over there Gary, John you went over there, who else?"

Mr. Moser, "Have you been downstairs and looked at all the offices there? What's wrong with the offices there?"

Mayor Mavrakis, "There's nothing wrong with the offices there. The thing is you got no daylight. Where you going to put these people? There is no daylight down there."

Mr. Moser, "So it's not safe to work there or what? There's plenty of lights. I work there every day."

Councilwoman Bukowski, "The problem is right now, we have to go by steps. We said we're going to get the buildings so we know what they are worth. Then we have to put them up for sale. I don't agree and I know other people on council do not agree about going to the library. We have said this for over a month."

Ms. Horvath, "What's your objection?"

Councilwoman Bukowski, "Excuse me?"

Mr. Moser, "It's a library."

Councilwoman Bukowski, "What's the objection?"

Ms. Horvath, "Yes. I'm just curious."

Councilwoman Bukowski, "My objection is that's not big enough to house us. Where are we going to put our council chambers?"

Mayor Mavrakis, "Your council chamber goes upstairs. And if you need a council chamber the firemen's social hall would be glad to let us use their social hall for council meetings if that's the case."

Councilwoman Bukowski, "Like I said, we're gypsies."

Mayor Mavrakis, "You're a gypsy. I'm not."

Councilwoman Bukowski, "Very meeting you come to us with a different building. Let's move here, oh no, this month we're going to move here, oh no we're going to move here."

Mayor Mavrakis, Well you know what, let's stay here the way you want and pay \$100,000 a year losing it, and then what are you going to do?"

Councilwoman Bukowski, "Lou we are still going to have to pay out the monies to somebody. If we don't sell the building...."

Mayor Mavrakis, "It's my intent to sell the building. I told you I'm in negotiations at this point. If it works out fine, then what are you going to do?"

Councilwoman Bukowski, "I think we need our own place."

Mayor Mavrakis, "Well, naturally you need.....the library, who does that belong to?"

Councilwoman Bukowski, "The citizens."

Mayor Mavrakis, "It belongs to the Citizens? Are we the citizens? There is a \$1,094,000 that we owe on that building. That we have to pay plus the \$50,000 that we have to give them every year."

Councilwoman Bukowski, "You still have to give them the \$50,000."

Mayor Mavrakis, "Well naturally you have to give them the \$50,000. What are we going to do? Give them money and then go look for someplace else?"

Councilwoman Bukowski, "It's not feasible."

Mayor Mavrakis, "Oh no, it's not feasible. You know why...."

Councilwoman D'Alfonso, "Alright, you know what...."

Mayor Mavrakis, "What?"

Councilwoman D'Alfonso, "We went through this; we've discussed it over and over again. Do we really need to do it again now? We are not in agreement. We are not in agreement and we need to come up with another plan."

Mayor Mavrakis, "But the thing is, It's out there in the public now let the public decide too."

Councilwoman Bukowski, "Then let the public vote for it. Let them vote."

Mrs. Mavrakis, "May I say something, Belle Vernon's library is right by their municipal building. I mean, you say it's too small, it's this and that is one thing. But to combine them I don't see a problem if they"

Mayor Mavrakis, "Excuse me darling, darling, excuse me....I'm going back to my office and show you the plans that our consultant drew up and showed it. When he looked at it he said it was a wonderful, why didn't he think of it."

Councilwoman D'Alfonso and Councilman Retos, "No he didn't. He did not."

Mayor Mavrakis, "Yes he did."

Councilwoman D'Alfonso, "We talked to him."

Mayor Mavrakis, "He told you one thing, he told me another."

Councilman Retos, "Lucille and I had a conference call with him; he said if I had a dollar for every time the Mayor said I said it was a good idea, I'd be retired. And then Councilwoman Bukowski has a conversation with him today and comes in and tells us the same thing. I don't know what to tell you about that, Lou."

Councilwoman Bukowski, "I mean he never said it was a good idea."

Councilman Retos, "Right, I don't know what to tell you. I only know what he told me."

Ms. Horvath, "Why don't we table that?"

Councilwoman D'Alfonso, "Can we adjourn the meeting now?"

Mayor Mavrakis, "We can adjourn the meeting."

Audience Member, "Whoa, Whoa, I got to talk first."

Councilwoman Bukowski, "Then come up here. I can't hear what you're saying."

Audience Member, "I can't hear you back here. Believe me; you'll hear my mouth when I talk."

Mayor Mavrakis, "We'll adjourn the meeting after everybody has their say."

Audience Member, "Alright, thank you."

Councilman Retos, "Buzzy, would you like to come up here and say something buddy?"

Donald "Buzzy" Byron, "Sure."

Councilman Retos, "Well, come on."

Mr. Byron, "I got a question. I'm not real smart but I got a little bit of common sense. Now, we got the most crucial time of the year, winter time. And I don't know who had the bright idea to lay off the superintendent of maintenance."

Councilman Retos, "He's not laid off, there's a difference. He's furloughed. "

Mr. Byron, "Now wait a minute, it's my turn to talk."

Councilman Retos, "Well I'm just responding to what you said there."

Mr. Byron, "but I'm not done. Second of all, he's a salaried employee. He makes \$45,000 a year. Salary employee. Salary means that's his salary for the year whether he works or doesn't work."

Councilman Retos, "No he doesn't."

Mr. Byron, "That's not true? That's not true?"

Councilman Retos, "He's salary but if he is furloughed then you don't receive your salary. That's how business works."

Mr. Orzechowski, "That's not true. If your salary and you're let go, your let go fired completely."

Councilman Retos, "He's not. He's furloughed. There is a difference. He is returning to work."

Mr. Byron, "I didn't say he was fired."

Councilman Retos, "He is not fired, he's not laid off. Don't put words in my mouth."

Solicitor Matta, "Here's the thing, this is a personnel issue and we're not going to debate this. We are not going to debate a personnel issue."

Mr. Byron, "He's salary. He has a salary of \$45,000 is divided by 26 pays am I correct? Mr. Mayor."

Councilwoman D'Alfonso, "I thought we weren't discussing....."

Mayor Mavrakis, "That's alright, Buzzy. Buz."

Solicitor Matta, "I'm not going to get involved, I'm not going to have a discussion of personnel matter."

Mr. Byron, "This isn't personal. It has nothing to do with me."

Solicitor Matta, "Payroll is divided by how ever the payroll periods are."

Mayor Mavrakis, "Buz, let it go Buz. Does anybody else have anything?"

Mr. Byron, "Let me finish, let me finish. I worked in the mill, you worked in the mill, Wayne worked in the mill as far as you guys up there and what we used to do to protect our younger guys is we would have a voluntary layoff for maybe an older guy or two or three. You know if two guys at the top of the pile left it keeps your two younger guys."

Councilman Retos, "That's still personnel, Gary."

Solicitor Matta, "He's just giving some comments. He's not talking about a specific person. I don't have a problem. Go on Buz. I'm listening."

Mr. Byron, "Ok, so let's just say that you got employees that got 30 years of service and they go hey man this is Christmas, Thanksgiving, deer season I want laid off. Let the young boys work, let them make the money. Did you ever think about that? I mean because the one superintendent guy we're talking about we are talking about \$3,400 for his total layoff. Dollars and Cents. Correct? Ballpark?"

Solicitor Matta, "I'm not sure what his paid scale is."

Mr. Byron, "Well that's what it is. But anyway, I mean why would you get rid of the key player at that time of the year. It's really stupid."

Solicitor Matta, "I appreciate your comments."

Audience Member, "Are they permitted to collect unemployment?"

Mayor Mavrakis, "What is your name? Would you please give your name?"

Audience Member, "I'm just piggy backing off of what he said."

Anthony Petaccia – Overhill Drive, "No, but I'm just asking are they going to be permitted to collect unemployment?"

Councilman Retos, "Absolutely, 100%."

Solicitor Matta, "Anyone who is laid off is entitled to unemployment compensation."

Controller Wayne Vlasic, "I'm not going to argue about the Mayor, Council, Solicitor,

Streets or anybody else. This is going to be a quick, brief thank you, thank you, thank you on behalf of the Monessen Veterans Council. Wayne Vlasic – 912 Rostraver St. for the record. But on behalf of the Monessen Veterans Council I can't thank this city, this community, this people that helped us achieve what we did and you have to give yourself a round of applause and you have to be proud of this city what we did for the veterans both past and present. Without your help you would not believe what we got. With your help not only monetarily but just help in general to make this parade successful. Believe me, we thank you, we can't thank the citizens enough. The businesses enough; the police, the fire departments, the street departments, Mayor and council, everyone. It was a joint effort. Everybody pitched in and made it a huge success. Five years from now, we're coming back. Thank you very much."

Mayor Mavrakis, "What I'd like to do, I think, Wayne you did a good job too. I think you deserve a hand."

Mr. Vlasic, "I'm only one part."

Mayor Mavrakis, "Anybody else? Well, I entertain a motion for adjournment."

ADJOURNMENT:

Councilman Retos, "So moved, Mayor".

Councilwoman D'Alfonso, "Second."

Mayor Mavrakis, "Question on the motion?"

YEAS:

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

YEAS: FIVE

NAYS:

NAYS: NONE



Louis Mavrakis, Mayor



Holly Minno
Holly Minno, City Clerk

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