

MONESSEN MUNICIPAL COMPLEX
ONE WENDELL RAMEY LANE
MONESSEN, PA 15062

DECEMBER 17, 2014

Before the Regular Meeting started a Public Hearing was held to transfer liquor license from Arbach Solutions, LLC to Yorgo and Sons, LLC.

OPENING:

Minutes of the regular meeting of Monessen City Council held Wednesday, December 17, 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 November 19, 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.

Anthony Orzchowski, "Mayor, Council Anthony Orzchowski, 1229 Hillcrest Avenue, Monessen, PA. First off, before I get in to what I want to say, on behalf of myself and my wife we'd like to wish everybody a happy holiday and safe holiday. What I'm asking is after reviewing, Monday I had a chance to review the budget here and I noticed it's been passed out to everybody and I applaud the Council for finally doing for the first time this year and also that that book is up there and I thank you for that. Reviewing the 2015 budget, there is a line item in there for \$50,000 and has been in there for many years for the library donations. The library cost the citizens \$2.5 million to finish because of cost overruns. It was considered a great idea, it moved forward and it was done. But the City, due to budget deficits it can clearly no longer afford to give a \$50,000 donation. The library is a great resource for both the city of Monessen and the citizens both young and old, but during difficult times everyone is required to tighten their belts and help spend the taxpayer's money on reducing the current debt that the city's services have incurred. Nothing is wrong with a temporary hiatus for a year or possibly more until the City can get back on its feet. I believe all of you know and if anybody doesn't the breakdown of costing and please tell me if I'm wrong is about \$4,702 a month over 12 months is \$56,424 on the loan and over 30 years comes to \$1.6 million. Now the City is paying that for the renovations. If you add the \$50,000 a year and if that would continue on in 30 years as a rough figure the City will put \$3.1 million into the library. It's a great resource but this City is strapped. This City cannot afford to be giving donations."

Councilman Retos, "Anthony, can I answer your question real quick? Number 1, the library funding the way that it is set up through the state municipalities is that \$50,000 could not go back in to our general budget. In actuality your real estate tax would get lowered by about \$11.17, so I cannot take that \$50,000 and move it in to our general fund, I can't take it and move it to our debt service fund and I can't take it and move it to our parks fund. That money is designated by law to the library. So therefore, I'm just repeating myself, I can't take it and spend it and buy a new police car. I would actually have to go back, lower the millage rate for the citizens. We do 4,472 tax bills a year and for \$50,000 it lowers your taxes about \$11.17."

Mr. Orzechowski, "I wasn't going to debate this, I was just making a statement that's all."

Councilman Retos, "I'm not debating. I'm just telling you, it doesn't help us with our financial situation. It does two fold. Number one, because if we don't give the library their match fund, they then lose their state funding formula as well. So in turn by taking the \$50,000 away from the library, you will also take their state funding away; which ultimately would probably close their doors. And two, it just wouldn't help our situation. That's just the bottom line. And you wouldn't have a library."

Mayor Mavrakis, "I think something should be said here. I believe some people are under the wrong impression that this Mayor is trying to close the library. Nothing could be further from the truth. The fact remains I threw some options out there. We have to get out of this building eventually. And we have to have a place to go. We are strapped financially. Where are we going to go? Library was one of the options. If the City was to move into the library it would be a win-win for everyone. For the simple reason, if the City moved into the library, the library would be safe. It wouldn't be going anywhere. We all win. So don't get the impression that I'm looking to close the library or I don't want to fund the library, that's the furthest thing from my mind. As far as I'm concerned we have to look at other options, where are we going to go when we have to get out of this facility. Everyone on this Council agrees we have to get out of this building because we're losing \$100,000 a year on this facility. Next year we'll lose more than \$100,000 so just to explain my position. I don't want anybody to believe. In fact, you talk about Friends of the Library. Some of you people who are here, do you remember who was one of the first ones for years waited tables for the library, the Friends of the Library Luncheon. How many of you remember Me waiting on you for how many years. Are any of you here? Some of you are here. Is that true?"

Audience Member, "That's beside the point."

Mayor Mavrakis, "All I'm doing is asking a question."

Councilman Retos, "It doesn't matter anyways. One, we are not allowed to take the money away. It won't be taken away. You don't have to worry, the library will be stable."

Mayor Mavrakis, "Well, of course, it's easy for you to say at this point Josh. But somewhere down the line you know in a matter of 4 years it's very likely and it could be very possible none of us sitting at this table will be here. We could be replaced by other people being elected. So given that, anybody else have any more questions?"

Anthony Petaccia, "46 Overhill Drive, Monessen. How much state funding does the library get?"

Councilman Retos, "Anthony, it's a formula that we aren't....."

Mayor Mavrakis, "Presently, it's \$59,055."

Councilman Retos, "But it's figured out on a formula."

Mr. Petaccia, "I remember they were a district center and they lost the district center. But they're still getting state money is that correct? And it's \$59,000?"

Councilwoman D'Alfonso, "Absolutely. And that's based upon on a formula that in turn is based upon how much the municipality donates. If there is no local effort, then there's no state effort either."

Mayor Mavrakis, "But there will be some, Lucille. The way I understand...."

Councilwoman D'Alfonso, "Not much. I saw the statistics with other communities where they were not giving anything to their library and the state was just giving them a token."

Mayor Mavrakis, "Anybody else before we get started?"

Councilwoman Bukowski, "And there's not enough votes on this Council to move to the library."

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Councilman Retos - Department of Accounts & Finance

Councilman Retos, "Yes, Mayor. A motion to adopt Ordinance 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."

Councilwoman D'Alfonso, "I'll 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, "Number 2, Mayor. Motion to adopt Ordinance 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. I'd like to read the tax rate. Tax rate general purpose in the sum is 23.25 mills, tax rate debt purposes is the sum of 7.87 Mills, tax rate for the library fund is the sum of .84 Mills and the tax rate for the parks and recreation, that's 3.57Mills. That's all Mayor, thank you."

Mayor Mavrakis, "We have a motion on the floor."

Councilwoman D'Alfonso, "I will 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, "That's all Mayor. Thank you very much."

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 adopt Resolution 14 of 2014 – A Resolution of the Council of the City of Monessen, Westmoreland County, Pennsylvania, Authorizing the Issuance of a Tax Revenue Anticipation Note, Series 2015 with the Terms Set Forth in the Foregoing and Attached Certificate and Transmittal; Approving a Form of Note; Authorizing Designated Officers to Execute and Deliver the Note; Authorizing and Directing the Filing of Proceedings with the Department of Community and Economic Development; Providing for the Payment and Security of the Note; Making Certain Federal Income Tax Covenants in Respect of the Note; Accepting the Proposal of PNC Bank, National Association for the Purchase of the Note; and Repealing Inconsistent Resolutions."

Councilwoman D'Alfonso, "Second."

Mayor Mavrakis, "Question on the motion?"

Solicitor Matta, "Just so the Council and the Mayor is aware I have reviewed all of the documents, provided a Legal Opinion Letter to the bank. So if passed this evening, we will be able to get the funds immediately, at the beginning of the year."

YEAS:

NAYS:

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

YEAS: FIVE

NAYS: NONE

Councilman Retos, "Number 2, Motion to adopt Resolution No. 16 of 2014 – A Resolution of the Council of the City of Monessen, Westmoreland County, Pennsylvania Authorizing the City to Enter into a Revocable License Agreement for the Property Located at 326 Donner Avenue, Monessen, Pennsylvania with the Library Board of the Monessen Public Library for a Five Year Term."

Councilwoman Bukowski, "Second".

Mayor Mavrakis, "Question on the motion? I have one. I don't believe that the Council should be making decisions for a period of five years. In the past has the lease been year by year?"

Solicitor Matta, "The lease currently, it's the same agreement it just occurs every year."

Mayor Mavrakis, "Well, what is the reason for going from one year to five?"

Councilman Retos, "For all intents and purposes, to basically secure the library's situation to make sure that other councils that may or may not be here, don't force their way in to moving into the library."

Councilwoman D'Alfonso, "Or moving them out."

Councilman Retos, "Or moving them out. So this is just a level of protection that we feel, certain members of this council feel that we need to give that kind of protection to the library."

Mayor Mavrakis, "Well, let me ask Counselor a question? For example, say that this side of the table, which is up for election, they are no longer council, what would happen if as Mr. Orzechowski suggested that the City couldn't give the \$50,000 to the library? Quite naturally they would lose the state funding which they would have nothing. On the other hand, if the City Hall - if needed - not that they are going to - if needed to move into the library, the library would be secure - is my argument."

Solicitor Matta, "If you're asking me about the lease, the lease clearly would state as long as there is a library in operation there, they would have a term of five years. If because of funding issues the library would cease to exist, the lease would become void and the property would..."

Councilwoman Bukowski, "Revert back to the City."

Solicitor Matta, "That's correct."

Councilman Retos, "And if the library would so welcome, then they have the right to do that as well. Which I highly doubt that."

Solicitor Matta, "And during the term, how it is written now, they wouldn't be required but there could still be discussion and if Council and the Library Board as the tenant would agree to some modifications to the space, that could be done."

Mayor Mavrakis, "The next administration, if Council on this side would not be reelected Resolution made that this could be changed again?"

Solicitor Matta, "It would be a five year lease. You would have to come to negotiations with the Library Board."

Mayor Mavrakis, "Anybody else have any questions on the motion?"

YEAS:

NAYS:

Councilwoman D'Alfonso
Councilman Nestor
Councilwoman Bukowski
Councilman Retos

Mayor Mavrakis

YEAS: FOUR

NAYS: ONE

Councilman Retos, "Announcement: We will be changing our meeting dates beginning January 1, 2015 and will pass an Ordinance at the next council meeting. The City of Monessen Work Sessions will be held on the Third Monday of the month with the Council Meetings being held on the Fourth Monday of the Month. We are going to operate very similar to what the school board does with the week break in between."

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

Lucille D'Alfonso – Department of Streets & Public Improvements

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

Street Department Report

Councilwoman D'Alfonso, "The street department report. There were 15 streets that were coal patched; two manholes that had cracked lids and frames were fixed; 10 parking meters were repaired with the poles replaced and the meter heads repaired; they put up the Christmas lights; they have been getting the city trucks prepared for winter. Just a reminder the main roads will be taken care of first and of course the bus routes will be at the beginning of the roads to be taken care of. The alleys and other secondary roads will be salted or plowed after the main roads are opened. There was one day, November 22nd when three truck were out for salting of the ice covered roads; the sweeper has cleaned a total of 20 streets; we boarded up 11 properties throughout the City; we painted the curb yellow for the Gate of Heaven Church; they had one paid pick up; they put the chains up at the Boat Launch for the high water; they have been going through general clean up throughout the City; there were 15 complaints that were addressed; they took the ramp out on Reservoir Avenue and just a reminder to the

Citizens that if you see street lights that are not working, you are asked to make the call to the police desk and if you could get the pole number that would be helpful. West Penn will replace those lights. The street crew isn't out at night, so they are not always going to pick up that the lights are out. That would be the proper procedure on that."

Councilwoman D'Alfonso, "I also wanted to comment on a meeting that I had last week with the Superintendent of Monessen School District, Dr. Spazek. Meeting with us were from Hilltop Bus Garage, Brian Kessler and Jack LaForte; the school's head custodian as well as the school police officer, John Bachinski; Rod Freeman who represented the Street Department and myself representing the City. We discussed the procedure that will be used during the winter in terms of getting the roads ready for the buses to roll. One of the problems is the buses start rolling by 7:00 or before and our crew doesn't normally report until around that time. So if it starts snowing at 6:30 it's going to be difficult for the crew to get the roads ready in time for the buses to roll. So we needed to develop some sort of communication and I think it should work better we have the people from Hilltop Bus Garage will be in touch with the Superintendent of Schools and with the City Garage. We are hoping by working the communication in all directions we will be able to work a little bit more efficiently and perhaps keep school open more than it was last year. Sorry. I know we all like snow delays but sometimes it gets to the point where there's too much of that."

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

Mayor Mavrakis, "And also, if you have problems with your streets and they need salted call Lucille."

Councilwoman D'Alfonso, "My number is in the book."

Mayor Mavrakis, "But I'll still be fielding your calls anyway, Lucille."

Councilwoman Bukowski – Department of Parks & Public Properties

Parks Department Report

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

"Picked up leaves in City Park; fixed lights in garage; winterized tractors; put a refrigerator in the kitchen at the Civic Center; put up Christmas lights at Eastgate island and in front of Police Station.

Councilwoman Bukowski, "In the minutes from the Monessen Recreation Authority; we have installed four new heaters in the gymnasium. Two of the heaters were not working, two are working. I think the two that are working they're going to put in the old City Hall

to try to keep some warmth so the pipes don't freeze up. They also got a refrigerator; those were from CDBG funds."

Councilwoman Bukowski, "I need a motion to approve the contract with Weeds No More, Inc. regarding our chemical weed control program at the price of \$1,562.00 (same as last year) for the year 2015."

Mayor Mavrakis, "We have a motion."

Councilman Retos, "Second, Mayor."

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, "I motion to approve the contract with Weeds No More, Inc. regarding pricing for any additional work at \$190.00 per hour for Labor and Equipment, \$0.50 per Gallon for Standard Chemicals and \$0.80 per Gallon for Arsenal Mix (same as last year) for the year 2015."

Councilwoman D'Alfonso, "Second"

Mayor Mavrakis, "Question on the Motion; Patti, is there a possibility that we could purchase the chemicals and do the spraying ourselves for \$190.00 an hour?"

Councilman Retos, "From my understand Mayor, it's a toxic chemical, anybody just can't handle it."

Councilwoman D'Alfonso, "That is arsenic. You have to have the proper equipment for it."

Mayor Mavrakis, "Question on the Motion?"

YEAS:

NAYS:

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

YEAS: FIVE

NAYS: ONE

Councilwoman Bukowski, "I motion to approve payment to Stadium Solutions, Inc. for four (4) stadium benches to be placed at Shawnee Park and Ninth Street Park in the amount of \$3,930.00 to be paid from CDBG funds.

Mayor Mavrakis, "We have a Motion."

Councilman Retos, "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

Councilwoman Bukowski, "Motion to approve payment to Highway Appliance and Television for the Civic Center refrigerator in the amount of \$699.99 to be paid from CDBG funds."

Mayor Mavrakis, "We have a Motion on the floor."

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

Councilwoman Bukowski, "I have an announcement; the City was awarded a \$30,000 Revitalizing Westmoreland Grant from the Community Foundation of Westmoreland County. This was the only grant that was awarded in Monessen, and it was also the largest grant that they gave out. The grant will create a park in the area where we're going to tear down a lot of houses in between 6th and 12th, and Parkway and Summit. Somewhere in there we're going to need a committee from that area to help us decide what we're actually going to put in there. This would give people in the area a better opportunity to walk to a small park, which they can't do up to City Park. I'd like to thank Judge Gary Caruso and Dr. Martin Dudas for any help they might have given us to secure this grant."

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 Monthly Report

Councilman Nestor, "I received notice that the Code Enforcement Officer passed the BCO from the Department of Labor and Industry. 3 violation letters were sent out for various property maintenance code violations; 10 occupancy inspections were performed and 8 occupancy permits were issued. The Public Safety Department investigated several properties that had no running water, vacating the occupants to other locations. One property allegedly had water service turned back on illegally but did correct it legally by paying their bill. The Code Enforcement Officer requested the assistance of the PA Department of Agriculture to come out to assist with the food inspection with Elementary, High School, and Middle School. Specialists from this department have been working with the Code Enforcement Officer and have given him access to state systems and software to perform and submit inspections which will now be accessible online. This will also provide us with the most up-to-date inspection format being used throughout Pennsylvania. The Specialist has also signed off on the Code Enforcement Officer for doing the food and safety inspection for Monessen. Code

Enforcement Officer attended and testified at three magistrate hearings involving area City Ordinance violations. With the assistance of the Police Department, helping with abandoned and junked vehicles and reported that they've ordered to tow 10 vehicles and 1 boat. The Police Department has also assisted with the Code Enforcement Officer in investigating vacant properties and with the removal of occupants as necessary. I'd like to thank the Police Department. The current condition of the City Parking Garage on Donner is deplorable. Some work will need to be done in an appropriate manner or it will be deemed closed. At the beginning of December the Code Enforcement Officer started doing an audit on properties that were listed as being vacant by their owners. Two of the properties were not vacant, which the City is owed their various fees for inspections, permits and landlord fees. To date, \$300.00 has been received, but more is expected.

Code Office Financial Report

Councilman Nestor, "Soliciting Permits - \$10.00; Street Opening Permits - \$200.00; Magistrate Code Enforcement - \$43.48; Occupancy Permits - \$350.00; Landlord Fees - \$50.00; making November \$653.48. Year-to-date is \$94,119.14."

Fire Report

Councilman Nestor, "The City Fire Department devoted a total of 269 man hours for both the City of Monessen and surrounding communities in the month of November. There were a total of 19 calls for this month of November."

EMS Report

Councilman Nestor, "There were 85 Emergency Calls for the Mon Valley EMS."

Councilman Nestor, "Motion to approve the contract with Hoffman's Boarding Kennels as the City of Monessen's Animal Control Officer effective January 1, 2015."

Mayor Mavrakis, "We have a Motion on the floor."

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 payment to WEC, Inc. for 2014 Demolition and Site Clearance – Phase 1 in the amount of \$1,734.80 to be paid from CDBG funds."

Mayor Mavrakis, "We have a Motion."

Councilman Retos, "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

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

Gerald Saksun – City Treasurer

City Treasurer Saksun, "Mayor Lou Mavrakis and members of City Council, I have a three page report for this month. The first report will be for the regular report and the other two are supplemental reports. Ladies and Gentlemen, the following is the Report of the City Garbage Fees and City Real Estate Taxes collected.

2014 Garbage Fees budgeted - \$470,000.00; Garbage Fees collected as of October 31 - \$461,332.00; Garbage Fees collected during November - \$4,539.00; Garbage Fees collected as of November 30 - \$465,871.00;

2014 Delinquent Garbage Fees budgeted - \$55,000.00; Delinquent Garbage Fees collected as of October 31 - \$39,329.48; Delinquent Garbage Fees collected during November - \$6,533.39; Delinquent Garbage Fees collected as of November 30 - \$45,862.87

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 October 31 - \$1,826,725.88, City Real Estate Taxes collected during November - \$7,312.68; Penalties include \$787.47; City Real Estate Taxes collected as of November 30 - \$1,834,826.03.

Delinquent City Taxes collected as of October 31 - \$5,621.05; Delinquent City Taxes collected during November - \$189.23; Total Delinquent City Taxes collected as of November 30 - \$5,810.28.

Distribution of Funds is as follows: General Fund received \$1,232,309.14; Debt Service Fund - \$462,587.23; City Parks Fund received - \$89,912.55; Library Fund received \$50,017.11 for a total of \$1,834,826.03."

Treasurer Saksun, "Next report is what we collected from November 31 till today. City Real Estate Taxes still owed as of November 30, 2014 - \$279,723.47; Penalties - \$27,972.35; Total still owed to the City - \$307,695.82; Owed to the City as of December 16 - \$274,135.16; Penalties - \$27,413.15 for a Total of \$301,548.66.

2014 Garbage Fees collected as of December 16 - \$471,901.00 and that was over budget by \$1,901.00 so we did well on the garbage collection.

Delinquent City Garbage Fees collected as of December 16, 2014 - \$54,779.72 and that was under budget by \$220.28.

2015 Garbage Fees collected as of December 16, 2014 - \$124,509.50. Also, the Treasurer's Office sent out 1,100 reminder notices for Taxes not yet paid for 2014 and 865 reminder notices for Garbage Fees not yet paid for 2014."

Treasurer Saksun, "On the Portnoff Amnesty Program, from September 22 – November 22, 2014; the Principle the City received, including face amount and penalties, was \$16,261.33. Attorney Fees collected - \$8,922.13; Court Costs - \$4,650.24; Penalties waived by the City under this program - \$5,000.22; Interest waived by the City - \$2,084.16; Attorney Fees waived by Portnoff - \$8,993.12; Bottom line, the City waived \$7,084.38 to receive a total of \$16,261.33. Mayor, that concludes my Report for the year."

Mayor Mavrakis, "We have a Motion?"

Councilman Retos, "So moved Mayor."

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

Wayne Vlasic – City Controller

Controller's Report

City Controller Vlasic read the Controller's Report as follows: General Fund Community Bank Checking Account Bank Reconciliation as of November 30, 2014: Beginning Bank Balance - \$233,094.06; Deposits - \$212,760.06 for a Total of \$445,854.12. Checks Cashed \$225,076.55; leaving a Bank Balance of \$220,777.57. Deposits in Transit \$1,644.00; Outstanding Checks \$229,327.64; amount reconciled to the Balance Sheet of -\$6,906.07."

Controller Vlasic, "Let me just clarify the negative \$6,906.07 is not really a negative because the \$229,327.64 in Outstanding Checks are checks being held until we receive the Tax Anticipation Note. On paper we are \$222,421.57 is the actual balance because of those checks being outstanding. Once we receive the Tax Anticipation Note, those checks will go out. That's my report your Honor."

CDBG Report

Controller Vlasic, "Next is the CDBG Fund Report for the month of November 2014: Beginning Balance \$10,173.97; Deposits \$32,329.10 for a total of \$42,503.07; Checks Cashed \$10,920.49 for a Bank Balance of \$31,582.58; Outstanding Checks \$16,109.33 for a final month end balance of \$15,473.25. 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:

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

YEAS: FIVE

NAYS: NONE

Gary Matta – Solicitor

Solicitor Matta, "Yes, Mr. Mayor, Council, Ladies and Gentlemen; this month was a pretty active month. We had a lot of issues to handle, some of those you saw action items today that I prepared, either Resolutions, Ordinances, and/or Agreements. In addition, I worked on various Code Issues, Right to Know request, have started to work with the Police Chief on some issues in the Police Department as far as policies. I've worked with Council and the Mayor and the Administration regarding their vacant properties that we will be taking action on here shortly. We evaluated the various city properties; as everyone is aware, there was some issues with the Library that we worked on; budget issues, personnel issues, and lease agreements for the City Hall. I may have missed a few things but I think that's the majority of what we worked on here this month, Mayor. So unless anyone has a question of me, that would be the end of my report."

Mayor Mavrakis, "I know you've been very active this month, Gary, and we appreciate your time."

PAYMENT OF BILLS:

Jonmichael Retos – Department of Accounts & Finance

Councilman Retos, "Motion to approve payment of General Fund Expenditures for the month of December in the amount of \$406,961.82".

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, "Motion to approve payment of Health Center Expenditures for the month of December in the amount of \$16,679.53".

Councilwoman Bukowski, "So moved."

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 Grant Fund Expenditures for the month of December in the amount of \$156.39".

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 Line Usage Fund Expenditures for the month of December in the amount of \$5,339.08."

Councilwoman D'Alfonso, "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 December in the amount of \$310.00".

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 transfer of Liquid Fuels Fund to City of Monessen, General Fund for the month of December in the amount of \$6,260.32".

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

Mayor Mavrakis – Department of Public Affairs

Police Department Report

Mayor Mavrakis, "Parking Meter Receipts - \$2,664.48; Parking Fines & Forfeits - \$1,255.00; Parking Permits - \$2,425.00; Miscellaneous Collections: Copies of Police Accident Reports - \$165.00; Charleroi Prisoners - \$875.00; North Belle Vernon Prisoners - \$175.00; West Newton Prisoners - \$175.00; Restitution - \$0.00; Meter Bags - \$0.00; Open Records - \$0.00; Total Miscellaneous Collections - \$1,390.00; Court Receipts from District Justice Office - \$5,490.67; Total Receipts Collected for November 2014 - \$13,225.15.

Police logged and telephone complaints for the month of November 2014 – 257. Arrests for November 2014: Total – 99; Year Total – 1,186. Mileage: Total Miles – 6,912; Miles per day – 230.40."

Mayor Mavrakis, "We have a Motion to reappoint Dennis Wince to the Mon Valley Sewage Authority Board for a five (5) year term beginning January 1, 2015 and ending December 31, 2019."

Councilman Retos, "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, "Motion to appoint Ron Chiaravalle to the Mon Valley Refuse Authority Board for a five (5) year term beginning January 1, 2015 and ending December 31, 2019."

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, "Motion to reappoint Susanna Swade to the Monessen Public Library Board for a three (3) year term beginning January 1, 2015 and ending December 31, 2017."

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

Mayor Mavrakis, "Motion to appoint Mary Jo Smith to the Monessen Public Library Board for a three (3) year term beginning January 1, 2015 and ending December 31, 2017."

Councilwoman D'Alfonso, "Second"

Mayor Mavrakis, "Question on the motion?"

YEAS:

Councilwoman Bukowski
Councilman Retos
Councilwoman D'Alfonso

NAYS:

Councilman Nestor
Mayor Mavrakis

YEAS: THREE

NAYS: TWO

Mayor Mavrakis, "Motion to appoint Ron Chiaravalle to the Property Maintenance Review Board for a five (5) year term beginning January 1, 2015 and ending December 31, 2019."

Councilman Retos, "Second, Mayor."

Mayor Mavrakis, "Question on the Motion."

YEAS:

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

NAYS:

YEAS: FIVE

NAYS: NONE

Mayor Mavrakis, "Motion to authorize the City Solicitor to discuss with AlumiSource and DCED changes in their Section 108 Loan Agreement Language."

Councilwoman Bukowski, "Second"

Mayor Mavrakis, "Question on the Motion?"

YEAS:

Councilwoman D'Alfonso
Councilman Nestor
Councilwoman Bukowski
Mayor Mavrakis

NAYS:

YEAS: FOUR

NAYS: NONE

Councilman Retos abstained from voting due to them being clients of his

Solicitor Matta, "Just for Mayor and Councils aware, I did already start the ball rolling as we talked about it at the last meeting to make sure we could expedite the assistance with this issue."

Mayor Mavrakis, "Motion to award the Planning Consulting Services to Urban Design Ventures for FY 2015, 2016 and 2017 based on review of the submitted proposal for the City of Monessen CDBG Program."

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

Mayor Mavrakis, "Motion to award the Engineering Consulting Services to WEC, Inc. for FY 2015, 2016 and 2017 based on review of the submitted proposals for the City of Monessen CDBG Program."

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

Mayor Mavrakis, "Motion to accept the resignation of Kristen Lankin as Part Time School Guard effective December 15, 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

Mayor Mavrakis, "Motion to ratify the hiring of Monica Kramer as Part Time School Guard effective December 16, 2014 at a rate of \$7.25 per hour."

Councilman Retos, "Second Mayor"

Mayor Mavrakis, "Mando, you took care of that?"

Chief Manderino, "Yes"

YEAS:

NAYS:

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

YEAS: FIVE

NAYS: NONE

Mayor Mavrakis, "Motion to adopt Resolution 15 of 2014 – A Resolution of the City of Monessen, Westmoreland County, Pennsylvania Authorizing the City of Monessen to Submit a Formal Bid to Westmoreland County for Acquisition of Properties from the Tax Claim Bureau's Repository of Unsold Properties."

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

Mayor Mavrakis, "Motion to adopt Resolution 17 of 2014 – A Resolution of the City of Monessen, Westmoreland County, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Approving the Transfer of a Liquor License No. R-14594 into Yorgo and Sons, LLC from Abach Solutions, LLC."

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

Mayor Mavrakis, "We have a Thank You note from the Westmoreland County Food Bank. 'Dear friends of the Food Bank, Thank you for your generosity in allowing the Food Bank to use the parking lot while providing food to needy in the area of December 3, 2014. With your help we were able to serve 293 households. Families served comprised of 156 children, 373 adults, 132 senior citizens. 17,984 pounds of wholesome nursery and food was distributed. We couldn't have done it without your help. Again, thank you very much. We are proud to have you as our partner in the fight against hunger. Yours very truly, Commissioner Al Maund Community Outreach Coordinator.'" I'd like to thank John Nestor, he's been there every step of the way distributing food, John, it's very admirable of you. I want to thank the rest of the Council for allowing them to use our parking facilities. This, I believe, was the – John, was it the biggest one we've had so far?"

Councilman Nestor, "It was indeed, Mayor."

Mayor Mavrakis, "And indeed, it was a very, very cold day. It was amazing to see as many people lined up all the way down to the Valley Independent. It's really commendable that – wish we had a few more people would help with the distribution. John, I'm sure we were short this time, right?"

Councilman Nestor, "We were, it was very frigid out there, but I would still like to thank everyone that showed up. Especially the ones that also helped donate the proceeds to both areas. Thank you Mayor too."

Mayor Mavrakis, "And again, good job John. Announcement: free parking in downtown Monessen from December 22 – December 31. I think we've had free parking before that. Meter Maid Nancy, how long has it been?"

Nancy Horvath – Meter Maid, "Since October."

Mayor Mavrakis, "Oh okay. But that doesn't mean that you can't put money in the meter if you so desire. We will accept it."

Councilman Retos, "Mayor, I'd just like to say one thing. I'd like to thank publicly our City Clerk Holly for the work she did on this budget and dealing with the situations that we are in. She's done an excellent job and put this budget together with a rookie like myself on it and some other rookie team members. She did a wonderful job, I'd just like to thank you publicly, Holly, and tell you you did a very good job."

City Clerk Minno, "Thank you."

Councilman Nestor, "Thank you Holly."

Mayor Mavrakis, "Thank you for considering me a rookie, Josh."

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.

Susanna Swade – 1310 Graham Ave., "Good evening, Mayor and City Council, and members of the audience. My name is Susanna Swade, I am a resident of Monessen where I own my home and I am a taxpayer. I am also on the Monessen Public Library Board of Trustees and I thank the Council for reappointing me - and the Mayor - for another term. I've been serving as the Treasurer and Fundraising Chairman for the Library. I just wanted to add a few things this evening about statistics for Library usage in the community, lest you think that we are not using that facility to the utmost. The figures were gathered through something called Polaris, which is a library systems software used by all libraries in Westmoreland County, and also by Invisionware,

another software program that is used to determine computer usage. On an average, foot traffic in the Library per day is about 208 people per day. We have a people counter machine at the front door, it's not just a guesstimate. The circulation of material - whether it be books, audio visual material, whatever - on an average for - excuse me, this is not an average, this is a specific statistic for the year of 2014 minus the month of December, we have circulated 16,565 items and last year it was 18,271 items. The computer usage by customers, meaning the public, is approximately 604 hours per month. So you multiply that by 12 months of the year, we're well over 7,000 hours of free computer usage service for people who do not have access in their own homes. And also, added to that, is the wireless wifi computer usage, per month it is approximately 258 hours of service that people are using the wireless computer. On an average, we are answering for the year up till now, about 1700 reference questions. People want to know certain things. When we have programs, in attendance for this past year, 3,500 people have attended events at the Library. The other thing I wanted to mention is why we think a public library is important. It gives family in our community and neighboring communities access to free books, summer reading programs, helping our students, and it impacts their academic performance, regardless of your economic strata. Poor, average, or really rich, the printed word is easier to process as per a research study being done, even above the computer screen. The other title we like to call our public libraries, and our one in Monessen in particular, is the people's university. You need information, you can go to the library, you want entertainment, you can go to the library. Thank you to our Council and Mayor and the citizens of Monessen, through our tax base and so on, this is providing a people's university for our community. It is also a center for local culture. And we all can use a little bit of that. It is a quiet study place. Many times, the student has no place in their own home or at the university to go and study. We do provide that. And last but not least, the internet, believe it or not, is not the end of the road. Information on the internet is not home for what is most beneficial particularly on the academic scale. Books in the library, at least the printed material, have been edited and fact checked. So with that kind of information, I just want you to know that we will continue to work hard to be a credit to the community and to the Council and to the Mayor. I thank you for the opportunity."

Mayor Mavrakakis, "Susanna, let me reiterate my position. My intent is not to close the library, my intent is to sustain it and make it more viable with what I've suggested at this point, as an option for down the road. I don't want anybody to get the idea, and I reiterate my position more than once that I have no intentions whatsoever, I want to see the library exist, I've been a friend of the library from it's very inception whenever they started. The so called library luncheon."

Susanna Swade, "Don't be a stranger, come on down."

Mayor Mavrakakis, "I have enough to read here in City Hall, I don't need to be reading anymore books."

Susanna Swade, "No, I mean just to be there."

Mayor Mavrakis, "Do you offer lunch or some cookies?"

Susanna Swade, "We can work on it."

Mayor Mavrakis, "Okay, well do that then."

Susanna Swade, "Okay, thank you."

Tom Marinkovich – 926 Alexander Ave., "I've come to talk to the people tonight about the letter Louis Mavrakis – Mayor Mavrakis - gave out before the last election."

Mayor Mavrakis, "If this is about politics, you're out of order – "

Tom Marinkovich, "Excuse me – "

Mayor Mavrakis, "If it's about politics, it's out of order – "

Tom Marinkovich, "Excuse me, it's my money."

Mayor Mavrakis, "What money?"

Audience Member, "Let him talk."

Tom Marinkovich, "I asked this to be put on the agenda. And I gave it to Holly two days after the last meeting."

Mayor Mavrakis, "What is there, Holly?"

City Clerk Minno, "I just gave it to you."

Tom Marinkovich, "She said she didn't know where to put it on the agenda. Well if I can't get it on the agenda and at the end it's politics, then I shut up. I think I have to go see the ACLU."

Councilman Retos, "Go ahead, go ahead."

Tom Marinkovich, "Now, I wanted to know from the attorney, Solicitor – City Solicitor – maybe 1,000 of these letters were sent out. If they were \$0.42 a letter that's over \$4,000. Did that come from City monies? I want to ask the attorney."

Mayor Mavrakis, "That come from Lou Mavrakis's pocket."

Tom Marinkovich, "I'm talking to the attorney."

Mayor Mavrakis, "I'm addressing it. He don't know, he doesn't know where the money-"

Solicitor Matta, "There's nowhere that I'm aware that it came out of any City coffers."

Mayor Mavrakis, "It came out of my pocket, Gary."

Solicitor Matta, "Oh, I believe it did. That's why I said that I don't believe it came out of the City."

Tom Marinkovich, "Then I would like you to have the State Attorney General come in and look at these if City employees were used to make this letter, type this letter, process this letter, and pay for this letter."

Solicitor Matta, "Again Sir, if you are aware that that action took place, then I would look at it. At this point, we have no reason to believe that. The Mayor said that he took of this letter on his own."

Mayor Mavrakis, "I absorbed everything. All cost factors. Didn't cost the City one penny."

Tom Marinkovich, "I don't accept that."

Mayor Mavrakis, "You what?"

Tom Marinkovich, "I don't accept that."

Mayor Mavrakis, "I don't care what you accept or don't."

Tom Marinkovich, "Thank you. I'll be calling the Attorney General to see what he can do about it."

Mayor Mavrakis, "Good luck."

Virginia Monaghan – 14 Colonial Drive, "I'm a Monessen resident and taxpayer, former educator at the Monessen City School District, and I am presently Vice President of the Monessen Library Board of Trustees. And I might say, I've never seen a group that worked harder to keep our library viable. And I wanted to also thank Council and the Mayor and all of you for your vision and support, and I would like to reiterate what Susanna said and invite all of you to come down. This library is the lifeblood of our community. It provides educational and cultural programs that I think many of you have not been involved with or are aware of. So please come down and avail yourselves of these services and see what the library is doing. I think you'll be very, very – and I invite all of you in the audience tonight too, come on down and see what we're doing. I think you'll have a very good opinion of our library. Maybe many of you have not been in there for years. I'm just proud to be a part of it, and I'm relatively new on the Board, and I want to thank you for your vision and support and I hope it continues. I hope you look at other avenues to have your offices because annexing our library would curtail many

valuable programs especially for the children, and we can't afford that in Monessen. Thank you very much."

Councilman Retos, "Thank you Mrs. Monaghan."

Councilman Nestor, "Thank you."

Linda Lacey – 1624 Maple Ave., "I've been here since 2006, my question is – and I'm not sure, this is not on the agenda – but I just want to know, did you get a report back from the EPA on that plant? On the coke plant?"

Mayor Mavrakis, "We don't receive any information from the DEP at all."

Solicitor Matta, "We would only receive something from the DEP – "

Linda Lacey, "I said EPA. Environmental Protection Agency."

Solicitor Matta, "The DEP's state, EPA is federal. The only time that we would receive something is if there was some violation of the plant that would be a concern to the City."

Linda Lacey, "Well, I think there was, wasn't there? I thought they were cited 6 times, that's what I read in the Valley Independent."

Solicitor Matta, "The appropriate government agencies are handling that. If it was something that we needed to be involved in, then we would be noticed."

Linda Lacey, "Well, I think we do because we live here."

Solicitor Matta, "I understand, but either your government entity on the state or federal level, or who controls those issues. So unless it would be an issue that they would need the City's involvement, then they would not give us notice on those documents."

Linda Lacey, "Okay. I'll accept that as an answer. The second question I have is, the old city building on 3rd St. where the Police Station used to be, what are your plans for that building?"

Mayor Mavrakis, "Well, at this point we're looking at all three properties that we own. We're talking about this building, across the street at 11 Eastgate, and also 100 3rd St. That's something that Council's looking at further down the line on what we have to do, determining what we do with this building because the problems that we're having in here, as far as costing us \$100,000 a year we're losing on this building. So we're looking at all three of em, and we haven't made any decision whatsoever yet."

Linda Lacey, "Did you make that public, why you're losing \$100,000 a year on this building?"

Councilman Retos, "It's cost of operations of the building."

Mayor Mavrakis, "We've been talking about that every meeting that we've had. We have a problem with heating, we have problems with the windows, we have a problem with the maintenance of the building. The building's just generally rundown."

Councilman Retos, "I just want to make something clear; we are all in agreement that we need to leave here. Our problem is we're not in agreement on where we need to go and what we need to do. This building, at the time that we took it over, we had a much higher level of tenants. So our overhead and operation costs were much lower. No matter where you go you're going to have operation and cost overhead. We don't need it to be at the levels that they're currently at. We've spoke many meetings about this, that we're all in agreement that 1, the City needs to find an adequate new facility which would lower our overhead, more energy efficient, far more accessible, getting rid of this, and other buildings, to lower our debt."

Linda Lacey, "Okay, I have another question. If you move out of this building, what happens to the building?"

Councilman Retos, "We wouldn't move out until this building is sold."

Linda Lacey, "Okay, you would sell it to somebody?"

Councilman Retos, "Oh, yes Ma'am."

Linda Lacey, "And that person would renovate?"

Councilman Retos, "Yes Ma'am."

Linda Lacey, "Okay, my question. Why don't you take that money - if you do that - and renovate the historical building that our Police Station was in the first place?"

Audience Member, "Hear, hear."

Councilman Retos, "That is one of the options we have discussed. I personally - and former Mayor Petaccia - I was a big proponent of trying to do everything we could to save that building. At the time, it wasn't feasible, the City didn't have it. There is a lot of issues that Labor and Industry kinda forced our hand to say basically get out or we're putting a lock on the door - years ago."

Linda Lacey, "Okay, I understand that part, but I do think that because it is a historical building you can get money from the state. Or you can get money from Washington to fix it."

Councilwoman D'Alfonso, "When they remodeled, and I don't know what year it was, they put in new windows, and those windows do not meet the standard of a historical

building. So because they have those other windows in there now it's not technically going to fit into the historical..."

Linda Lacey, "Just because of windows?"

Councilwoman D'Alfonso, "Well yeah because in order to maintain the historical label you have to maintain all of the original façade."

Councilman Retos, "Or approved reproduction."

Councilwoman D'Alfonso, "It would probably not be cost effective for the City to try and put money into that building. What I'm hoping we can do is get another entity interested in restoring it because of the historical..."

Linda Lacey, "...value of it. Okay, my last question is, I patronize the library a lot. And that's where I started my genealogy. I personally think that our – no disrespect Mayor – but I think you should be in your own building. I don't think you should be in the library. But that's my opinion."

Mayor Mavrakakis, "Everybody's entitled to the opinion, and what we have to look at, as the Mayor of this City, I have to be responsible and do what's best for the City as far as the economic. Whether you know it or not, we're in dire straits economically. What we have to, we have to do whatever we can in order for us to save as much money as we possibly can and dig our way out of the big hole that we're in."

Linda Lacey, "I'm very well aware of how our City is falling apart."

Mayor Mavrakakis, "Sometimes people have to do things that they don't want to do. But it has to be done."

Linda Lacey, "Alright, thank you."

Nancy Horvath – Meter Maid, "The building once had a lot of tenants. Would having meetings here, are there any meetings that take place in this building?"

Councilman Retos, "Yes."

Nancy Horvath, "Are the fees still \$40 or they went back to \$25?"

Mayor Mavrakakis, "We don't charge anybody any money to use the facilities that actually belong to the residents of this City."

Nancy Horvath, "What about meetings, just outside meetings that comprise of people from other cities?"

Mayor Mavrakakis, "No, we don't get too much."

Nancy Horvath, "You don't charge for that either?"

City Clerk Minno, "The only one we do charge for is Unemployment Compensation has their hearings here and they charge \$50 when they're here. They may come 3, 4 times a month and we charge them \$50."

Nancy Horvath, "But if I had a quilting group I could meet here and there wouldn't be no fee?"

Councilwoman D'Alfonso, "There were fees."

City Clerk Minno, "There used to be fees."

Councilman Retos, "To be honest, we – and you say quilting as an example – we've waived the fees for the Veteran's Council to come meet, entities like that. Private ones, that's something that..."

Nancy Horvath, "That's what I meant."

Councilman Retos, "Right, very few and far between, and there are technically still fees on the books for those. When Mayor Mavrakis took over and we all agreed that the public ones that are public organizations – like the Veteran's again – those are free. We felt that that's part of what this building needs to provide is a meeting space for those community groups."

Nancy Horvath, "I was referring to a group that was meeting here at \$25 a month and then when it was raised to \$40 they couldn't pay it so they had to leave. And I just wondered if that would be a fee or would that be a free meeting also?"

Councilman Retos, "I don't know. I can't answer that, I'm sorry. I try to have a lot of answers."

Nancy Horvath, "Yes you do. Even if you don't know, you try."

Councilman Retos, "Right, I try."

Nancy Horvath, "I have a question about this group that was doing the weeds, killing the weeds, where are they supposed to be going?"

Mayor Mavrakis, "Wherever we got weeds."

Nancy Horvath, "We have weeds that were never tended to, that's why I'm asking."

Councilwoman D'Alfonso, "It's for the park."

City Clerk Minno, "It's for the parks, the ball field..."

Nancy Horvath, "Oh, just the parks?"

City Clerk Minno, "Yeah."

Nancy Horvath, "I wasn't aware of that. I thought it was just all of the town."

City Clerk Minno, "No, it's the ball fields for softball and baseball."

Nancy Horvath, "The other comment, there are a lot of people still feeding the meters. They don't know. Should we not empty them before the holiday weekend or...? Just something to think about."

Mayor Mavrakis, "Mando?"

Chief John Mandarino, "Yeah, they could be. We'll take care of that."

Councilman Retos, "I think we should."

Councilwoman D'Alfonso, "Maybe there are a couple dollars in there."

Chief Mandarino, "I still have some older officers that know how to collect the meters."

Ron Chiaravalle, "First of all, I want to thank everybody your confidence, and I'll try to live up to it. Secondly, given the fact that gasoline prices have been dropping steadily and they're predicted to continue dropping, has anybody – I'm sure you probably have – but has anybody looked into the fact of any positive impact that might have on the City's usage of gasoline and fuels? I mean, is that going to help us out to any extent? Or are we under some kind of a flat rate contract?"

Solicitor Matta, "No."

Ron Chiaravalle, "No we're not, so that should help."

Councilman Retos, "Unfortunately, diesel is one of our biggest expense with our firetrucks and our equipment. But we do actually save on diesel fuel because we have our own tank, and we've had our own tank since March, so we do save money there off of what a list rate would be because we buy it. When the national fuel price does drop we do because we pay at the pump just like everybody else, except we don't have tax. So it does, our costs will lower as gas – just like, if gas goes up we still got to pay."

Ron Chiaravalle, "But the proposed budget is still at last year's figures?"

Councilman Retos, "We have to base it off of last year's. We can't determine if gas is going to go up, and being in the oil and gas industry like myself, it's a 90 fluctuation sometimes. Right now, in the industry, they're still drilling and pulling out, but if that barrel drops any lower they're going to stop because they can't afford to do it anymore."

It's a hard swing on that, so we just keep it, and there's nothing wrong with finishing underneath budget, there's nothing wrong with that, we don't get mad about that."

Ron Chiavaralle, "I just thought that may be a bright ray that we could at instead of all the negative stuff."

Councilman Retos, "Well let's just hope."

Ron Chiavaralle, "Thank you."

Councilman Retos, "Thank you Ron."

Anthony Orzechowski – 1229 Hillcrest Ave, "I would like to have a clarification about something that I still don't understand or maybe to be explained a little bit more, as far as the amphitheater committee. There was a nice write up last month in the paper. There's been five events so far that have been held, okay? Two of those events came before City Council, one in September, one in October. Council back in, I think it was July, passed a motion for the \$200, \$100 return. Not adding up the numbers of where the money's going, or is any money going?"

Councilwoman Bukowski, "This is something for the City. This is something for our citizens, the same as we have the Library, same as we give the people, allow them to come here. This is not a money making proposition. We've made a few dollars but those few dollars are going to go to get some bands or some group to come for everybody. Nobody comes there and pays a penny."

Anthony Orzechowski, "I'm not asking that, I'm asking, the rental fee that you put on the use of the amphitheater, just wondering if that was standing."

Councilwoman D'Alfonso, "That was if an outside group wanted to rent it to have an activity for their group or something along those lines. What we've had so far have been activities that the City has sponsored for the people of Monessen. The groups for the most part, didn't charge us anything for their performance. We're not going to charge them to use the stage when they're not charging us for their services. It's not like a group comes and uses a pavilion because they're having a reunion, then they're charged to use the pavilion. If somebody wanted to use the amphitheater because they were having an activity for their own group that wasn't necessarily open to the public, it was for their purpose, then there would be a fee. Do you understand the difference?"

Anthony Orzechowski, "I understand what you're saying but I'm trying to understand the purpose of the amphitheater to generate income for the City because it cost a lot."

Councilwoman D'Alfonso, "We never said it was for..."

Councilman Retos, "Anthony, it's just like the baseball fields. We don't charge the leagues to use the baseball fields."

Councilwoman D'Alfonso, "Yes we do."

Councilman Retos, "Well, a minimal amount we charge, but we don't make any money off the candy bars they sell. Or we don't make any money off the advertising that they sell. It's part of our Parks and Recreation budget. That amphitheater was put in - some people voted for it, some people didn't - I can't help it. But that is for a community gathering point. They had a trick or treat, you going to charge \$200 to have a public trick or treat so my kid - I got to pay money so my kid can go trick or treating down there? I mean, I don't know what you're trying to get at with that."

Anthony Orzechowski, "I'm just looking for - "

Councilman Retos, "And I understand, if you wanted to come, if your family wanted to have a family reunion and they had a band or a DJ, then you would pay. But community actions or the City of Monessen wouldn't pay itself to rent it out, and pay itself back."

Anthony Orzechowski, "Just trying to understand where the amphitheater committee falls for with Council and how things happen."

Councilman Retos, "They're just like the Parks and Recreation committee."

Councilwoman D'Alfonso, "They're volunteers."

Councilman Retos, "They're volunteers, they set it up. We don't do that. They make the rental agreements, they make the, you know, when they come in and use it."

Councilwoman Bukowski, "Same as the Civic Center."

Councilman Retos, "The City doesn't have to - so I don't have to Holly scheduling stuff and Holly doing this. That's why they were set up and done like that."

Anthony Orzechowski, "Okay. Just wondering an explanation so I understand it. The last thing is, where is the City in the month here? Or at the end of the year?"

Councilman Retos, "As of 12/17/2014 our balance sheet shows a negative balance of \$139,837.22."

Councilwoman D'Alfonso, "Isn't it like Wayne said, the checks are being held."

Councilman Retos, "We sent out all of this on the last day of the year for our Tax Anticipation Note."

Anthony Orzechowski, "Okay. So you're going to break even for the year?"

Councilman Retos, "No, we're actually going - no, we're not. What happens is, because we are getting the \$600,000 Tax Anticipation, okay? We are going to be carrying over -

we also have to pay our pension which we pay at the beginning of the year for 2013, we always pay it on the last day of the year. We are going to be carrying over \$139,000, but the additional \$100,000 that we borrowed on the Tax Anticipation Note will cover all but \$39,000. So if you wanted to look at it that way, our debt that we incurred extra is \$39,000. But we are actually, technically, in the hole \$139,837.22."

Anthony Orzechowski, "Okay. Thank you."

Treasurer Saksun, "Insert something on that, if we didn't do the Portnoff Amnesty program our deficit would have \$16,261 more than what it is currently now. So that helped to budget, very little, but it still helped."

Councilman Retos, "And if \$300,000 worth of unpaid taxes would have been paid we would be in a lot better shape."

Mayor Mavrakis, "And of course, one thing we got to concerned about the upcoming year is the unknown. And when I say that, you can almost be guaranteed that some expense is going to jump up and hit us in the face, which will be unexpected and we don't know what that would be. Let's just wish for the best and that's it? Anybody else?"

Nancy Horvath, "Just a quick, quick question. The Council had proposed giving people a break as far as fines and so forth on the garbage collection, was that put into action?"

Councilman Retos, "No, an amnesty program has not been set up with the garbage program."

City Clerk Minno, "It was through..."

Councilman Retos, "Oh I'm sorry, I'm sorry, I apologize. Taxes and garabage."

Councilwoman Bukowski, "I think one of the problems was, we started it too late. We needed to start it earlier in the year because then we start running into the other taxes that people have to pay and then of course the end of November you're running into Christmas."

Nancy Horvath, "Are you going to try that for the coming year?"

City Clerk Minno, "I don't know if you can do it every year."

Councilman Retos, "And also, that's a working agreement with Portnoff, they also need to agree to that because they're waiving monies that they've earned as well. So that's a working agreement between the two entities."

Nancy Horvath, "Between who?"

Councilman Retos, "Portnoff and the City of Monessen. So they also have to say, yeah, I'll tell you what, we'll do one too because our fees are backing up, maybe we can recover some."

Nancy Horvath, "They are the recipient of the extra funds, okay."

Mayor Mavrakis, "Anybody else? Well, with that this Council would like to wish everybody a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year, and let's hope that 2015 will be a lot better than what 2014 has been."

ADJOURNMENT:

Councilman Retos, "So moved, Mayor".

Councilwoman Bukowski, "Second."

Mayor Mavrakis, "Question on the motion?"

YEAS:

NAYS:

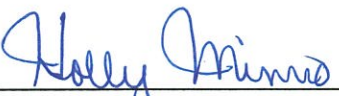
Councilman Retos
Councilwoman D'Alfonso
Councilman Nestor
Councilwoman Bukowski
Mayor Mavrakis

YEAS: FIVE

NAYS: NONE



Louis Mavrakis, Mayor



Holly Minno, City Clerk