

MONESSEN MUNICIPAL COMPLEX
ONE WENDELL RAMEY LANE
MONESSEN, PA 15062

JUNE 11, 2014

OPENING:

Minutes of the regular meeting of Monessen City Council held Wednesday, June 11, 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 May 14, 2014 meeting?"

Councilman Retos, "so moved, Mayor".

Councilman Nestor, "second".

YEAS:

NAYS:

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

YEAS: FOUR

NAYS: NONE

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Mayor Mavrakis opened the floor for public comment on Agenda Items only at this time.
There was no public comment.

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

Councilman Nestor made a motion to adopt Bill 2 of 2014 – An Ordinance Amending Ordinance 6 of 2012 to Modify the Fees for Rental Unit Licenses Within the City of Monessen.

Councilwoman Bukowski, "second"

Mayor Mavrakis, "any questions on the motion?"

YEAS:

NAYS:

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

YEAS: FIVE

NAYS: NONE

Solicitor Albert Gaudio

No Report

Mayor Mavrakis – Department of Public Affairs

No Report

NEW BUSINESS:

Councilman Retos – Department of Accounts & Finance

No Report

Lucille D'Alfonso – Department of Streets & Public Improvements

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

Street Department Report

The Street Department cold patched 5 streets, used a total of 30 ton of hot mix on 4th Street; repaired 7 catch basins and one manhole; jetted 1,015 feet of sewer line; hauled 4 yards of yard waste; swept 16 streets for a total of 14,725 feet; responded to 31 PA One Calls; 7 paid pick up and drop offs; cut with boom tractor 7 areas; repaired, replaced, removed or installed 10 signs; cut and trimmed Eastgate Island 4 times; cut and trimmed Rebecca Street and Schoonmaker Avenue 4 times; ; cut and trimmed Arizona alley and Ontario St. 4 times; cut and trimmed Parente Islands 4 times; cut and trimmed Monessen Boulevard Islands 4 times; cut and trimmed lots on Donner Avenue 4 times ;cut and trimmed lot on Schoonmaker Avenue 4 times; cut and trimmed islands at 5th and 6th Street Parking lots 3 times; cut and trimmed 2nd Street Steps 4 times; cut and trimmed 4th Street Steps 4 times; cut and trimmed Rostraver Street Steps 4 times;

cut back trees and weeds on 3rd Street steps 0 times; emptied City trash cans 3 times a week downtown and Boat Launch; cut 9th Street Island 2 times; cut across from Valley 1st Bank 2 times; cut 30 lots with Brush Hog and by hand in the 3rd Ward; cut and trimmed 605 Reed Avenue, 605 Knox and 607 Knox 1 time; worked 2 days cutting up fallen trees from spring storm and 1 day repairing damaged road way; had repairs done to the following vehicles and equipment in May – Police cars worked on, 7-3,7-4; trucks worked on, 1, 4, 6, 7, Boom Tractor, new Holland Tractor, Ford Tractor Brush Hog, 3 chain saws, 2 leaf blowers for a total of 14 pieces of equipment worked on.

I read the whole thing this time because there have been comments that the Street Department isn't doing anything and I just want you to be aware this that there is more going on than perhaps you know, because it is not happening in your neck of the woods.

Councilwoman Bukowski – Department of Parks & Public Properties

Parks Department Report

Councilwoman Bukowski gave the following Parks Department Report for May 2014: removed trash from Police Station 2 -3 times a week; swept and mopped floors, cleaned restrooms and jail cells as needed; removed trash from Civic Center 3 times a week, 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 Street, Shawnee Park; Walking Track, Soccer Field, City Park Ball Field, Columbus Park Ball Field, Park Manor Ball Field; Cut 4 ball fields and soccer field once a week; dragged the 4 ball fields before each game that week; cut City Park and Walking Track 2 times for the month; cut 9th Street Park 2 times per month; cut Boat Launch and Park 2 times for the month; cut Hoover Park 2 times; cut Crest Avenue lot 2 times; cut the river walk 2 times; cut two parts of 6th Street Park; set up shelters in City Park 3 times for rentals; set up Boat Launch 1 time for rental; set up 9th Street Park 1 time for rental.

Monessen Civic Recreation Board Authority Report

Councilwoman Bukowski, "I want you to know that the Civic Center will be open daily during the summer Monday through Friday from 9-2 and from 4-5:30. We are going to serve breakfast and lunches and also have games and different things with the kids. And also from 4-5:30 it would be basketball. We have Curtis May volunteered to coach basketball with the kids and Phillip and Aaron Ingram will continue during their football at 9th Street Park from 5:30-7:00.

Change Order #2 – City Park Amphitheater Project

Councilwoman Bukowski made a motion to approve Change Order #2 for the City Park Amphitheater Project, in the amount of \$11,055, payable to Maccabee Industrial, Inc. to be paid from CDBG Funds.

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

Mayor Mavrakis, "question on the motion? We have had some discussion about this. If you refer to last month's reading of the minutes when we discussed the City Park Amphitheater, Councilwoman Bukowski made a motion to approve Change Order #1 in the amount of \$26,575.00 payable to Maccabee Industrial, Inc. for the City Park Amphitheater Project. Councilwoman D'Alfonso made the second. Mayor Mavrakis, question on the motion. Councilman Retos, I would like to make a comment just so everyone is aware that it is not a change order that the City has to pay out of pocket, that it is included in the initial bid in the contract for the amphitheater, it was built in. Mayor Mavrakis, the only objection and we had a discussion...this is that the communication has come down Monday at 4:00 and put on my desk from Haglund and we didn't have a chance to review it, so there was some discussion that was the only objection that we had. We thought that the timing was very bad. Didn't give us a chance to look at things and we didn't have a chance to go up and look at things at the amphitheater that was the only question that was asked.

Now, this afternoon, what time did you put this communication on my desk, Holly? About quarter after two?"

Holly, "probably somewhere around there, after I got the Agenda done".

Mayor Mavrakis, "it seems very unusual that every time there is a change, it comes down right before we are ready to have a Council meeting, without having a chance to look at or discuss it. Is there any reason for that?"

Walt Haglund, "yes, Mr. Mayor. I received the Change Order yesterday afternoon from Maccabee and that is why the last minute. We had a meeting on Friday with Leonard Billy, the Public Works Director and we went over this with him and his suggestion that we do a Change Order. In order for them to prepare all the documentation, they had to talk to their electricians, who did not get back to them until Tuesday morning, yesterday morning, so that is why there was a delay."

Councilman Retos, "Walt, did anybody after this meeting.....well, I shouldn't ask Walt. Did Leonard say anything to you that there was an issue there? Did he say anything to you (Councilwoman D'Alfonso) that there was an issue up there?"

Councilwoman D'Alfonso, "he should have talked to Patty".

Councilwoman Bukowski, "I talked to Leonard".

Councilwoman D'Alfonso, "he told you about this?"

Councilwoman Bukowski, "um hum".

Councilman Retos, "when did Leonard talk to you about this?"

Councilwoman Bukowski, "he talked to me Monday".

Councilwoman D'Alfonso, "that this was going to happen?"

Councilman Retos, "Walt, our issue is in this particular....we get a Change Order at 4:00 and I get a call from the Mayor at 4:20 that there is this issue and we haven't been able to discuss, figure out what the issues are, now I understand that is not your fault. You get it, you pass it on and you do what you need to do. We haven't had one opportunity to look, discuss, figure out alternatives and what any other issues that may or may not arise. And this came a 4:15 today."

Councilwoman D'Alfonso, "but, Josh, the money is already....it is not like we are spending money from the General Budget. They have already allowed for these kinds of expenses. That always happens when you have these....."

Mayor Mavrakis, "this idea that you allow for these expenses, does any project come under the estimate cost? Why is everything....there is an over run or you spend all the money. This is the objection. You know, we have problems with the Streets, the way it is. You was one of them that voted for this Amphitheater taking the money out of the CDBG out of the Street Funds and here is a guy over here that has called me and been on me....people have been on me left and right about 9th Street because of the streets and here we are we don't care how much money we spend, it is all going into this boom box up there. This is ridiculous!"

Councilwoman Bukowski, "Mayor, you have to remember that there is \$500,000 that was put aside for this project".

Mayor Mavrakis, "where did the \$500,000 come from?"

Councilwoman Bukowski, "\$250,000 was from CDBG Funds and \$250,000 was from a grant."

Councilwoman D'Alfonso, "and the grant could only be used on something like that."

Mayor Mavrakis, "I am not worried about the grant! I am worried about the \$250,000 that came out of CDBG and that we got problems with the streets. There is a guy up there, get up here Marvin and tell us what your problem is. We got a problem here and you don't care how the money is spent!

You know what you better do, you got the Street Department, take a ride through the alleys, take a ride up the Streets and do all that...."

Councilwoman D'Alfonso, "I have done that!"

Mayor Mavrakis, "you worked out a budget, why don't you have the money for all the problems that we have? Go ahead, Marvin".

Marvin, "the issue is that we have a situation on Ninth Street, lower Ninth St. and upper Ninth Street....."

Councilwoman Bukowski, "wait a minute, Mayor. We have a motion and a second on the floor, this is an entirely different subject....."

Councilwoman D'Alfonso, "I would be glad to....."

Councilwoman Bukowski, "I am not saying that you are wrong....."

Mayor Mavrakis, "you will get a chance after I'm done with Marvin".

Councilwoman Bukowski, "this is an entirely different subject, we need to stay on....."

Jon Haglund, "the CDBG funds, the \$250,000 that we are talking about have already been allocated and been put under contract. So, discussing to basically say that this is money that can be used for your road is not a realistic statement. Let me go back first and say I apologize that this was dropped on all of you the last minute...."

Mayor Mavrakis, "it happened twice...."

Jon continued, "being at this meeting was the first time I have ever heard any concern about the change order being sent in the last time. That is a total surprise to us. My apologies that happened the last time."

Mayor Mavrakis, "is it in the minutes?"

Jon replied, "did anyone send us the minutes, did anyone communicate to us the issues that Council expressed the last meeting?"

Walt Haglund, "no".

Jon continued, "this is the first time I have ever heard of it. If you would like us to be aware of that, then please pass the information on to us, Mayor".

Mayor Mavrakis, "isn't your timing a little unusual?"

Jon, "no, I don't see it all unusual. Would you like for me to send tomorrow my communication e-mails from the contractor and when I received everything, I would gladly do that. We are not trying to drop anything on you. We are trying to make this project work and move forward. And to assume that we are trying to pull something over on anyone's eyes is anything but an insult....."

Mayor Mavrakis, "your timing is very unusual!"

Jon, "and that is your opinion".

Mayor Mavrakis, "that is my opinion! And I don't like the idea that you people drop things on us at the last minute and it has happened twice now!"

Councilwoman Bukowski, "well, Mayor, they only....."

Mayor Mavrakis, "oh, I don't want to hear you! Just keep your mouth shut! I am not talking to you, I am talking to them!"

Councilwoman D'Alfonso, "Mayor, that is really out of order".

Mayor Mavrakis, "no it's not out of order!"

Councilwoman D'Alfonso, "it is her department".

Mayor Mavrakis, "it's her department, but I am talking to these guys and she doesn't have to interfere. We are having a communication between the two of us. I have had enough of this!"

Walt Haglund, "Mayor, we had a meeting on Friday with Leonard Billy. Leonard Billy asked basically to have the electrical, the 200 amp box moved inside. That constitutes Change Order #3. That happened on Friday and it was told to Leonard that we couldn't do this until we had the prices from the electrician. We did not get the prices from the electrician until yesterday afternoon. John prepared that last night and sent it. I signed it this morning and sent it to the City. I had no control over this, this happened and came up on Friday.

The other item was the troth drain or trench drain, whatever you want to call it, is a result of the heavy rainfall that we had a week ago and the idea was that this would flood out the restrooms, which it did, or the dressing rooms, and flood out the area and the idea was to take care of that. If the Council and Mayor do not want to approve this Change Order, fine. You can postpone this until next month if you want to. The question is that we are just going to slow up the project. We are trying to get done and we will be done by the end of June."

Mayor Mavrakis, "the total cost of this work is \$15,400? This increases Maccabee's contract price from \$425,975 to \$441,375.00. The construction budget for the project included a \$40,000 contingency line item as well as additional unallocated funds for the project. Attached is a total cost breakdown for the project that show an unallocated remaining budget of \$23,625.00, after the proposed change orders. Now, what is going to come next week? Or next month? Are we going to spend the other \$23,625?"

Jon Haglund, "you have to expend that money".

Walt Haglund, "you expend it or you send it back. And I also had a request from Leonard Billy who said if there is any money left, in June, he would like to be able to use it for eligible activities in that park."

Councilman Retos, "you send it back and reapply under whatever is left over you send it back and change it...."

Walt Haglund, "no, you keep it and use it for the park".

Leonard Billy, "Mother Nature struck again".

Walt Haglund, "the money that would be remaining after the two Change Orders is \$23,000, Leonard asked that it be used in the park and we said, "yes", it would be used in the park. So, yes, Mayor, there will be Change Order #4 and that will be from the \$23,000 to do additional work. Leonard talked to me earlier and said we would love to pave that road that goes from the Parking Lot to the back of the amphitheater is so that anyone coming with supplies, etc. can drop it off on a paved road rather than two dirt ruts. He may have some other work that he may want to do and some electrical work that he wants to do that is all related to that facility.

We have spent all of the CDBG money the City will be receiving probably this week."

Councilman Retos, "Walt, this is the first time I have even heard about this portion of the project. The additional \$23,000. Am I the only one that has not heard about....."

Walt, "we just found out about this \$23,000".

Councilman Retos, "no, no, what I am saying to you is that you knew that there was going to be \$23,000 left over because you just got the Change Order. So you have \$23,000 left over and we would like to do XYZ in the park. This is the first time we are hearing about XY & Z."

Councilwoman Bukowski, "it is my department!"

Councilman Retos, "I understand that!"

Councilwoman D'Alfonso, "she didn't even have a chance to bring it up yet".

Councilman Nestor, "we are not even there yet, Josh to the \$23,000 and what we are going to do with the \$23,000".

Walt, "that is for Council and Leonard to decide".

Leonard Billy, "in the City Park with this grant for DCNR and CDBG money, any money that is left over has to be used in the park."

Councilman Retos, "park or parks".

Leonard Billy, "it was specified strictly for that park. We can't take it nowhere else. I have already inquired about that because we have other places that we could use it also in other parks. Let's face it, we have 9 parks. But, the money was designated strictly for that park and it is the only place it could be used. So, if we could use it to our advantage because you don't give the money back. You use it and it has to be used right to the "t", because like I told Walt and John there is no money left over. There is no anything over because the City does not have the money to afford to pay for this."

Councilwoman Bukowski, "Leonard, what was brought up before you got here is that some members of Council were unhappy with getting the Change Order so late".

Leonard, "the Change Order was just discussed the other day".

Mayor, "it was discussed the other day and I knew nothing about it and John didn't know anything about it and Josh didn't know anything about it".

Leonard, "there was nothing....it had to come with a price to see if the money was available, because like I told Walt and John, if the grant cannot support the Change Order, don't even bring it here. You have to come up with a cost first and then you bring it to Mayor and Council. Because until that if you don't have enough money in the grant to support this, we don't have the money to pay for it. You have to come up with the cost estimate first to see what it is going to cost to do it and that is what they did. And they brought it on the floor to Mayor and Council."

Councilwoman Bukowski, "now you know how we feel, Mayor, when we aren't told what is happening."

Mayor Mavrakis, "well, I make a motion that we table this issue....."

Councilwoman D'Alfonso, "we have a motion, you have to vote on this motion".

Solicitor Gaudio, "if there is a motion to table, the motion to table takes precedence over the existing motion. So you have to vote on the table, if there is a second to the table. So, a motion to table is in order. If there is a second, you vote on the table and if the table survives it's tabled and if it doesn't, then you vote on the original motion."

Councilman Nestor, "I'll second that, Mayor".

Mayor Mavrakis, "any questions on the motion?"

Councilwoman Bukowski, "I have a question. What difference does it make if we are going to table this. We can't wait another month. They are going to be finished up there."

Councilwoman D'Alfonso, "that is exactly what we want to do. We want to delay it so the amphitheater doesn't get done."

Councilwoman Bukowski, "I mean, next month...."

Councilwoman D'Alfonso, "why can't we just finish this project and move on? We have people ready to rent this facility."

Councilwoman Bukowski, "or what we could do is not do the changes and then suffer the consequences later in the day. Somewhere along the line this is going to have to be done".

Councilwoman D'Alfonso, "and have to pay more for it".

Mayor Mavrakakis, "no, we are not going to pay more for it".

Councilman Retos, "and back to what I was trying to do prior to this meeting was to have this discussion with our options. What our options are, talk to these gentlemen, talk to our street foreman...."

Councilwoman Bukowski, "well, they are talking...."

Councilman Retos, "no, no, but we are in a middle of a meeting and now we have a motion to table, motion to do this....this is why I wanted to discuss this prior to a meeting. Set forth a plan, who, what, when and why, but now we are sitting here in the middle of the meeting arguing over 1. Are we passing it and 2. Are we going to table it. This is why we should have had this discussion prior. Or, no offense to anyone in this room, this is a Work Session item that we could have discussed on Monday night and figured out what we could have done and what to bring for Wednesday."

Councilwoman Bukowski, "Josh, we didn't have the figures".

Councilman Retos, "I understand that. But, they had a meeting on Friday. We weren't...I wasn't...like, if they knew Friday like listen there is going to be a change order and here is what are issues are. We had a meeting on Friday and we have an issue with mudslides down there and there is also an amp box that we want to move in from the outside and we are looking at change orders and then we could have at least discussed it. Now I am sitting here in the middle of a Council meeting discussing something that 1. Should have been discussed, in my opinion, prior to a meeting or 2. On Monday night in some generic terms".

Councilwoman D'Alfonso, "Josh, I would agree with you if this money was coming out of the General Fund Budget. But, this money has already been set aside. It is just that we are okaying the use of money that has already been earmarked for this project, whether you like the project or not, but it is done and the money is there. Why would we delay this?"

Mayor Mavrakis, "I don't like being blindsided two meetings in a row over changes! Now, I don't know how you feel about it, but I don't appreciate it."

Councilman Retos, "so, Walt, the extra money can only be used in the park?"

Councilwoman D'Alfonso, "City Park".

Councilman Retos, "in the City Park, again, this is something that we could have been discussing and questioning on Monday night at the Work Session".

Walt Haglund, "right, City Park and related to the amphitheater".

Councilman Retos, "so it could only be spent there?"

John Haglund, "correct".

Councilman Retos, "if we don't spend it, where does it go?"

Walt Haglund, "back to Harrisburg".

Councilwoman D'Alfonso, "so one way or another this money is going to be spent on the amphitheater anyhow or it is going to be given back?"

Walt, "that is correct".

Solicitor Gaudio, "could it be modified in Harrisburg?"

Walt, "no, it is too late. You have a signed contract and you are up against a deadline."

Councilman Nestor, "my question is if both motions, say hypothetically, were approved today and there is some left over and we would have to make another motion next month, right?"

Councilwoman Bukowski, "or as soon as Leonard figures out what we are going to do with it".

Councilman Nestor, "for something like say you want to pave a road...."

Councilman Retos, "but that doesn't affect the amphitheater per say, correct? The extra money that we have for the City Park has nothing to do with the amphitheater, right Leonard?"

Jon Haglund, "to address that remaining \$26,425, that would not delay the completion of the amphitheater. The amphitheater would be completed prior to that in as such that you would be putting in a change order to expend the remaining DCNR Funds in a project related to....."

Councilman Retos, "to dress up the rest of the park area".

Jon, "something like that".

Walt, "like I said, Leonard had mentioned to me the possibility of additional lighting in the area, you know. Also, paving the access drive behind the amphitheater with asphalt when we pave the other.....and those type of things are potentials or anything else that he comes up with.

Also I want to point out, with the change we had a public hearing today and before Council tonight is the change from the CDBG Program. It is like \$32,000 that is being earmarked for Parks & Recreation, not for City Park, for Parks & Recreation. So, there is the additional money that you wanted from last year or two years ago, money from Parks & Recreation".

Councilman Nestor, "Mayor, I mean, we are pigeon toed, there is nothing we can do...."

Mayor Mavrakis, "do want you want to do! I am disgusted with the whole damn project! I don't want to be blindsided anymore and I am just telling you two guys, don't blindside us anymore, that is all I am telling you!"

Solicitor Gaudio, "you have to take a vote on the table, that is the first thing you have to do. That is your order that you are at right now. There needs to be a vote taken on the table and if that fails, you....."

Councilwoman Bukowski, "this is on the table?"

This is on the table.

YEAS:

NAYS:

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

YEAS: NONE

NAYS: FIVE

Solicitor Gaudio, "next, motion to approve the Change Order".

YEAS:

NAYS:

Councilman Retos (very reluctantly)
Councilwoman D'Alfonso
Councilman Nestor
Councilwoman Bukowski

Mayor Mavrakis

YEAS: FOUR

NAYS: ONE

Change Order #3 – City Park Amphitheater

Councilwoman Bukowski made a motion to approve Change Order #3 for the City Park Amphitheater Project, in the amount of \$4,345, payable to Maccabee Industrial, Inc. to be paid from CDBG Funds.

Councilwoman D'Alfonso, "second".

Mayor Mavrakis, "question on the motion?"

YEAS:

NAYS:

Councilman D'Alfonso
Councilman Nestor
Councilwoman Bukowski
Councilman Retos (hesitantly)

Mayor Mavrakis

YEAS: FOUR

NAYS: ONE

Councilwoman Bukowski, "I have one more thing to report. Mr. Carl Hughes volunteered to do a little bit of patching on the gym floor as you are coming into the gymnasium down at the Civic Center. It looks very nice and he took out a potential hazard for us down there. So, I would like to thank him for doing that."

Councilman Nestor – Department of Public Safety

Councilman Nestor, "good evening Council, Mayor, Citizens of Monessen. Here are my following reports:

Code Office Report

The Code Office Report for the month ending May: Building Permits- \$405.50; Soliciting Permits: \$100; Street Opening Permits - \$2,760; Sign Permits - \$260; Magistrate Code Enforcement - \$82.90; Eat & Drink License - \$100; Health Inspections - \$450 – Occupancy Permits - \$3,700; Plumbing License - \$300; Mercantile Machines - \$1,800 for a monthly total of \$9,957.69 and the year to date \$55,044.30.

Fire Report

Councilman Nestor, "for the Fire Report there was 563 man hours. Chris would like to thank the City and the surrounding communities for helping out on 5/27/14. We had 11 calls on that day and also on 5/28 we had six calls.

Also, we are going to be meeting with the DEP on 6/13/14 in regards to the controlled burning of dilapidated structures within the City. Chris stated that he will advise Mayor and Council as to any and all progress in this matter.

Also, there were 33 calls altogether for that month.

EMS Report

Councilman Nestor, "there were a total of 136 emergency calls and three fire standbys.

Resolution 5 of 2014

Councilman Nestor made a motion to adopt Resolution 5 of 2014 – A Resolution Providing Rules and Regulations Governing Display and Sale of Consumer Fireworks for Display Within the City of Monessen.

Councilman Retos, "second, Mayor".

YEAS:

NAYS:

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

YEAS: FIVE

NAYS: NONE

Resolution 6 of 2014

Councilman Nestor made a motion to adopt Resolution 6 of 2014 – Emergency Operation Plan of the City of Monessen.

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

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 June 2014: Garbage Fees budgeted for 2014 - \$470,000.00; Garbage Fees collected as of April 30 \$443,744.00; Garbage Fees collected during May -\$3,873.00; Total Garbage Fees collected as of May 31- \$447,617.00; Delinquent Garbage Fees collected as of April 30 - \$23,834.32; Delinquent Garbage Fees collected during May was \$5,883.36. Delinquent Garbage Fees collected as of May 31 is \$29,717.68.

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.

City Real Estate Taxes collected as of April 30 - \$1,568,850.46, City Real Estate Taxes collected during May \$63,085.69; 2% discount on the early payment \$780.15; City Taxes collected as of May 31 - \$1,631,156.00.

Delinquent City Taxes collected as of April 30 - \$4,955.70; delinquent City Taxes collected during May - \$35.00; Delinquent City Taxes collected as of May 31 - \$4,990.76.

Distribution of the Income is as follows: General Fund received \$1,138,735.35; Debt Service Fund - \$352,490.96; City Parks Fund received - \$89,912.55; Library Fund received \$50,017.11.

Mayor, that concludes my report for the month."

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

Councilman Retos, "so moved, Mayor."

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

Mayor Mavrakakis, "any questions? Clerk call the roll."

YEAS:

NAYS:

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

YEAS: FOUR

NAYS: NONE

Wayne Vlasic – City Controller

Controller's Report

Holly Minno read the Controller's Report as follows: General Fund First Federal Checking Account Bank Reconciliation as of May 31, 2014: Beginning Bank Balance - \$544,525.51; Deposits - \$355,102.65 for a Total of \$899,628.16. Checks Cashed \$393,588.79; transfer to PLGIT was \$300,000 leaving a Bank Balance of \$206,039.37. Deposits in Transit \$1,164.00; Outstanding Checks \$24,748.83; NFS Checks and Fees Incurred - \$10.00; amount reconciled to the Balance Sheet of \$182,464.54.

CDBG Report

Holly Minno, "next is the CDBG Bank Account Monthly Activity: Beginning Balance \$18,356.32; Deposits \$176,828.40; Checks Cashed \$175,257.28; Outstanding Checks \$7,208.26 and reconciled to the Bank Statement was \$12,719.18.

Councilwoman D'Alfonso, "I move to accept the report as read".

Councilman Nestor, "second that motion".

YEAS:

NAYS:

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

YEAS: FIVE

NAYS: NONE

Albert Gaudio – Solicitor

Solicitor Gaudio, "during the past month the Solicitor has been involved in consultation and providing advice to members of the staff, Mayor, and Council when called upon. In addition, prepared the Resolution providing rules and regulations governing display and sale of consumer fireworks for display within the City and that is all that I have to report on, Mayor."

Mayor Mavrakis – Department of Public Affairs

Police Department Report

Mayor Mavrakis, 'the Police Department Report for the month of May: Parking Meters - \$1,344.91; Total Fines and Forfeits - \$1,061 ; Parking Permits - \$2,.900; Total Miscellaneous Collection - \$1,230.00; Total Receipts for District Justice Office \$2,771.17; Total Receipt Collected for May - \$9,719.45 . Police Logged and Telephone Complaints 440; Arrests for May –73; Year Total –502; Mileage –9,693; Miles per Day 312

Zoning Board Appointment

Mayor Mavrakis made a motion to appoint Ronald Chiaravalle to the Zoning Board of Appeals for a 3 year term beginning June 1, 2014 to May 31, 2017.

Councilman Nestor, "second the motion".

Mayor Mavrakis, "question on the motion?"

YEAS:

NAYS:

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

YEAS: FIVE

NAYS: NONE

Planning Commission Appointment

Mayor Mavrakis made a motion to appoint Charles Assenat to the Planning Commission for a 5 year term beginning February 1, 2014 to January 31, 2019.

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

Planning Commission Appointment

Mayor Mavrakis made a motion to appoint Donald Marple to the Planning Commission for a 5 year term beginning June 1, 2014 to May 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

Handicap Parking Sign

Mayor Mavrakis, "motion to approve the request for a Handicap Parking Space at 929 Leeds Avenue.

Councilman Nestor, "second that motion, Mayor".

Mayor Mavrakis, "question on the motion?"

YEAS:

NAYS:

Councilwoman D'Alfonso
Councilman Nestor
Councilwoman Bukowski
Councilman Retos

Mayor Mavrakis

YEAS: FOUR

NAYS: NONE

Part Time Manor Police

Mayor Mavrakis made a motion to hire William Gardner as a Part Time Manor Police Officer at the hourly rate of \$14.25.

Mayor, "Mando do you have a comment on that?"

Chief Mandarino, "we lost an officer that is not available on Mondays anymore, so he will be working on Mondays daylight to replace the officer that we lost".

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

Prisoner Watch List

Mayor Mavrakis made a motion to add Julius Chapman to the Prisoner Watch List at the hourly rate of \$9.00. "Mando, do you have anything on that?"

Chief Mandarino, "he has all his clearances and background checks and he passed all of them. We need extra guys because of the summertime to watch prisoners and that way we don't have to pay a full time police officer to watch the prisoners".

Mayor Mavrakis, do I have a second?"

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

Resolution 7 of 2014

Mayor Mavrakis made a motion to adopt Resolution 7 of 2014 – Resolution to Reallocate FY 2010 and FY 2011 CDBG Funding.

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

PAYMENT OF BILLS:

Jonmichael Retos – Department of Accounts & Finance

Councilman Retos, "motion to approve General Fund Expenditures for the month of June 2014 in the amount of \$202,922.66".

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 Health Center Expenditures for the month of June 2014 in the amount of \$6,561.68".

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 Parks Fund Expenditures for the month of June 2014 in the amount of \$4,789.37".

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, "motion to approve Line Usage Expenditures for the month of June 2014 in the amount of \$4,735.00."

Councilwoman Bukowski, "second."

Mayor Mavrakis, "question on the motion?"

YEAS:

NAYS:

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

YEAS: FIVE

NAYS: NONE

Councilman Retos, "motion to approve Police & K9 Fund Expenditures for the month of June 2014 in the amount of \$618.00".

Councilman Nestor, "second".

Mayor Mavrakis, "question on the motion?"

YEAS:

NAYS:

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

YEAS: FOUR

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Mayor Mavrakis opened the meeting for public comment at this time.

Anthony Petaccia – 46 Overhill Drive, "I have a question, I am not really complaining, but this is for my own edification. Walt, since you are here, I just want to clarify something. I haven't toured the park to see what is going on at the amphitheater. The building that they are constructing next to the bleachers, is that a restroom or is that a dressing room?"

Walt, "dressing room".

Anthony, "okay, so no restroom is being constructed there, is that correct?"

Walt, "that is correct".

Anthony, "just since Patty is here and for future reference, and I know the \$23,000 has to be spent probably in the amphitheater area, but a future project that you may want to look at is that we need a restroom on the bottom portion of the park. We have two port-

a-johns that you are paying money for. I know I tried to do this when I was the Mayor, and I don't know what we are paying a month, I think it is \$2,000, \$2,500, \$1,500 a month and that adds up. So you are spending \$10,000 or \$12,000 to keep port-a-johns there, why don't we built a restroom in the corner down there by the playground equipment or somewhere in that vicinity and get rid of the port-a-johns. In the long run you are going to save money."

Councilwoman Bukowski, "we would have to build somewhere when the pipes would be coming down".

Anthony, "that is a project to look at for the future. And we also need, you know how we have that little bridge that crosses that little portion for the older people who come down for the veteran's events, they have to walk all the way down to the corner and come across and cross over, we can use a little bridge right where the parking lot is across the street and then just walk over the little bridge right to the event. That would be another small project that would, you know..... I don't know if you could use that \$23,000 or if you have to use it where the amphitheater is or on a project related to the amphitheater. Those are just two future things that you may want to look at."

Councilwoman Bukowski, "actually, Anthony, Leonard and I have talked about that several times, but thank you".

Marvin Davis – 619 Manown Street, "the concern that I have, as well as some of the people that I know and live in the area of Ninth Street and Ninth Street lower, is the road that is not open. Now, we are accessing that road and we are using that road and it was very dangerous this winter. There are no railings there, there are a lot of elderly people that use that road going and coming. I just think that it needs to be shored up. If we are not going to open it, if it is not going to be opened on the bottom, then the top part of that road something has to be done. The posts there are falling over the hill. The blacktop is drifting over the hill. The hill is just melting away actually. It is a real dangerous situation and it has caused a problem for parishioners at my church, Gate of Heaven, Waymen A&E Church on the corner there. People run through that Stop Sign that we have there. I have had near misses there, my pastor and other members of other churches. Neighborhood people have had real serious consequences come up because of the way that road is. We are just hopeful that something can be done to make it a little more safe."

Councilwoman D'Alfonso, "I would like to address that concern and maybe Leonard can have something later. But, first of all, I did have the City Engineer check the upper Ninth because that road scared me even 30 years ago just because of the way it is. We have also been in discussion.....we are looking at a few options to see what we could do in the future. The bottom line is there isn't enough money in the budget because the estimate came in at \$115,000 to do the whole paving of Ninth Street. We don't have that money in the budget at this point. We are trying to gather some information concerning the figures that paving one lane of the bottom part of Ninth Street so we could have one lane that way and just return upper Ninth one way situation."

The City Engineer tells me that that road, even though it looks pretty scary on upper Ninth is sound. I am going to talk to him again, he is supposed to get some more information back about it. We haven't forgotten, we discussed this at length on Monday and I am hoping that we will be doing something before the end of summer and will have something shored up before winter so that we can resolve that safety issue."

Marvin, "just a question, when you say sound, do you mean that it is solid to ride on? But, it is not sound safety wise, because if anyone comes off that hill and makes any type of....."

Councilwoman D'Alfonso, "that is why we are investigating and if we can't get one thing done, then we are going to have to put guard rails or something up there."

Marvin, "wouldn't that be a consideration until you figure something out? A guard rail would probably make a lot of people feel a lot safer".

Councilwoman D'Alfonso, "I agree, but it is the financial deal again. So we have to check the figures and we are in the process of getting some figures and some ideas of what it would cost to go either direction. I agree with you, when I taught at the high school, I wouldn't go down Reed Avenue. I broke the law every day after school and went the other way because I was afraid to go down and make that turn there."

Marvin, "I will just say this and take my seat. I have heard people say that there was an article in the paper a few weeks ago about some transfer of money to do some things in some of the parks. And some of the people in that neighborhood would think that that money would be better spent for guard rails or curbing or something as opposed to aluminum seating for Ninth Street Park and those kind of things. I just think that that needs to take precedent over some of the other things."

Councilwoman Bukowski, "but what you don't understand about that is that when there is money allocated from a grant orand you have to spend it there."

Marvin, "I understand that, but I am saying that maybe we should steal some money from somewhere else to make that work. Because that is a bad situation, I am telling you if something happens there we are going to be very regretful that something didn't take place sooner."

Councilwoman D'Alfonso, "we're aware of it".

Councilman Retos, "and we have talked about this at length over the last few months that that is going to be priority number 1 budgeting wise in 2015. To get the project complete. Unfortunately the way this kind of ended up was that the budget was not completed, monies were allocated and so on and so forth. Then we find out that it is an extreme amount of money to get this fixed and we don't have the money in 2014, but now when we sit down and do our budge come October, that is going to be priority

number one to get that whole Ninth corridor back to the way it was and back to full use again."

Marvin, "I just hope nothing happens before....."

Councilman Retos, "you and me both".

Councilwoman D'Alfonso, "I understand what you are saying. We are all concerned about it. I just want to add to that, there was some money budgeted for Ninth Street, but between the time that the budget was made last year and the point of time when we needed to do the paving, apparently the sidewalk and the curb had also crumbled and that just escalated the amount of money that needed to be used in order to do the whole project correctly."

Mayor Mavrakis, "the lengthy discussion that we had at Work Session on Monday, we agreed that we are going to have to make it one way. We could put that on the fast track right now as far as one way, we had that discussion and we all agreed that it should be one way. We should do that right away. Does everyone agree to that?"

Councilwoman Bukowski, "it used to be one way down". Others agreed it was one way down.

Mayor Mavrakis, "so I think that we should put that on the fast track and that should help the situation and then if the money comes as we discussed in the Work Session, how much was it? Nine thousand dollars....."

Leonard Billy, "a bid came in for a guide rail if you go from the corner of Ninth and High Ninth up to the existing guide rail at Reed Avenue now".

Mayor Mavrakis, "what we can do is make it one way and then when the money comes, if the money comes, then you can put up the guide rail. Would that help, Marvin?"

Marvin, "I would feel safer and I am sure other people would as well. That would be some change as opposed to what is there now. Now it is just like going off a cliff if something goes wrong up there. With two way traffic and how some people come up that hill it could be a serious problem".

ADJOURNMENT:

Mayor Mavrakis, "can I have a motion to adjourn?"

Councilman Retos, "so moved, Mayor".

Councilwoman D'Alfonso, "second"

Mayor Mavrakis, "question on the motion?"

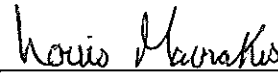
YEAS:

NAYS:

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

YEAS: FIVE

NAYS: NONE



Louis Mavrakis, Mayor

Holly Minno, City Clerk