

MONESSEN MUNICIPAL COMPLEX
ONE WENDELL RAMEY LANE
MONESSEN, PA 15062

JULY 9, 2014

OPENING:

Minutes of the regular meeting of Monessen City Council held Wednesday, July 9, 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 June 11, 2014 meeting?"

Councilman Retos, "so moved, Mayor".

Councilwoman Bukowski, "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.

Ronald Chiravalli - Mayor, excuse me. This is just maybe a technicality I think it was inadvertently stated to approve the minutes from June 11th meeting and it should've been the 14th. So that's probably important.

City Clerk Minno " We'll make a note in the minutes."

Mayor Mavrakis " Three days means a lot if its towards the end of your life."

Ronald Chiravalli "Well, you know a month from now we'll be looking back saying Hey."

Councilwoman D'Alfonso, "Thank you."

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Councilman Retos - Department of Accounts & Finance

No Report

Councilwoman D'Alfonso – Department of Streets & Public Improvements

No Report

Councilwoman Bukowski – Department of Parks & Public Properties

No Report

Councilman Nestor – Department of Public Safety

No Report

Solicitor Albert Gaudio

Mayor Mavrakis, "I guess he's been relieved of his duties by the council in our Executive Session, so you want to expound on that?"

Councilman Retos, "No."

Mayor Mavrakis, "You Patty?"

Heard from the audience – "What's going on?"

John Pokomo, "Come on. This City's in enough trouble now. What are you doing here?"

Heard from the audience – "Who's trying to get control of this place?"

John Pokomo, "Buzzy quits yesterday, you fire this girl his secretary this morning, now you tell me Lou....."

Councilwoman D'Alfonso, "Well, first of all you're out of order."

John Pokomo, "No, come on..."

Councilwoman D'Alfonso, "Yes you are."

There was a lot of yelling and screaming from the audience, I was not able to make out everything everyone was saying.

Ernie Telegraphis, "You people are out of order. You guys don't got brains. *(Mentioned something about John Harhai and Mary Jo but there was too much screaming in the background to understand it.)* Your whole City is falling apart. It's all falling apart."

Mayor Mavrakis and Councilman Retos were yelling at Mr. Telegraphis to get out of here.

Mayor Mavrakis, "Come on, settle down. Come on, let's go on with the meeting, please. No sense in us getting excited."

More screaming heard from the audience.

Ernie Telegraphis, "That's what you did for six months last year."

Nancy Horvath, "Oh shut up."

Ernie Telegraphis, "I'm allowed to speak. Who the hell are you guys? You guys think you're privileged. That's your problem. You're supposed to serve the City of Monessen. Not your own fat asses."

Mayor Mavrakis, "Why don't you pay the rent that you owe, deadbeat?"

Councilman Retos, "Where's my check? Where's my check?"

Mr. Telegraphis was screaming so loudly he could not be understood on tape.

Councilman Retos, "If you pay your rent, you won't get evicted. That's the way the world works sir."

Again Mr. Telegraphis was screaming and could not be understood. The only thing I could make out was "You don't care you just say June oh that's a long way away."

Councilman Retos, "Well yeah cause it was April and you still hadn't paid the three prior months. Don't come here and hoot and holler."

Stanley Kershaw, "Is that the way we act? We actually go after people on personal attacks instead of dealing with the business of the City."

Councilman Retos, "Well that's what we try not to do sir and I apologize."

Stanley Kershaw, "You just did that."

Councilman Retos, "I didn't personally attack him, he personally attacked us. He had an issue for unpaid rent and we had to do a process of eviction and he's not happy with it, so."

You can hear Mayor Mavrakis calling for 911 assistance.

Stanley Kershaw was saying something but the Mayor's phone call drowned it out.

Councilman Retos, "And I agree with you whole heartedly. I'm trying."

Mayor Mavrakis – Department of Public Affairs

No Report

NEW BUSINESS:

Councilman Retos – Department of Accounts & Finance

Resolution 10 of 2014

"This has actually been added to the agenda because we are under an extreme time crunch with this particular item. It's going to be a lengthy resolution, I'll explain at the end."

Councilman Retos made a motion to adopt Resolution 10 of 2014 – A Resolution to retain Patrick M. Geary as the Investment Advisory Representative (IAR) and utilize the services of RIA, ING Financial Partners and the City of Monessen has decided to utilize Pershing as the new custodian for the Plan assets and no longer keep the assets held in trust. The City of Monessen terminates the trustee and custodial relationship with Pentegra Trust Company once an orderly process has been completed to transfer the Plan Assets and TPA services.

"Basically what this is to make a long story very short, our current provider for our Police Pension Fund they are no longer going to do defined pension funds. So what has happened is they have come to us and said you have thirty days to relocate your pension funds but you can still use your same plan advisory and he now is with ING. So now we are just moving it. It doesn't affect anything. We are just moving it from one provider to the next. That got added last minute because we have to have it done before the end of July."

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

Nancy Horvath, "May I ask where you are on the agenda?"

Councilman Retos, "This was added to the agenda earlier. This was added to the agenda and I do apologize."

Mayor Mavrakakis, "Did I miss anything while I was out making the call."

Councilman Retos, "No, you are right on."

Mayor Mavrakakis asked if there were questions on the motion and Stanley Kershaw spoke up and asked "Is this a secured pension fund that this is being moved in to?"

Councilman Retos, "Yes sir."

Stanley Kershaw, "So there's no risk that pensions won't be paid and somebody will scound with this money that these policeman and uniformed people are actually looking for in retirement."

Mayor Mavrakakis, "What are you hiding behind that podium for?"

Stanley Kershaw, "I just happen to be here. I'm trying to look at him and you at the same time. I only have two eyes."

Councilman Retos, "Yes this is a secure pension fund and we are keeping the same administrator so that the gentlemen who has been working for us for about twelve years is staying on as our advisor. All they are is changing the umbrella company."

Stanley Kershaw, "The reason I'm asking is because it's my understanding that the pension funds from the steel mills in this town got raided a number of times."

Councilwoman D'Alfonso, "This is a different....."

Councilman Retos, "This is different all together."

Stanley Kershaw, "They are only getting three hundred and some dollars a month after being nailed as many times as they were for working over 30 years for the mill."

Councilman Retos, "And I understand and that's an unfortunate situation."

Stanley Kershaw, "This makes me very nervous for the police."

Councilman Retos, "Well, this is the police fund and we've been with them for....."

Stanley Kershaw, "You've checked these people out, you've done the research?"

Councilwoman D'Alfonso, "Yes. It's the same people we worked with."

Councilwoman Bukowski, "Yes, Oh yes."

Councilman Retos, "These are the same exact people we've been working with, they are just under a new umbrella."

Stanley Kershaw, "Yeah but it's not that it's the umbrella I'm concerned with."

Councilman Retos, "Right, which is ING."

Mayor Mavrakis, "You want to step up and give your name and your address."

Councilman Retos, "He's out of order."

Councilwoman D'Alfonso, "You can't do that now."

Mayor Mavrakis, "Well, he's asking all kinds of questions. That's what the podium is for."

Councilwoman D'Alfonso, "Well yeah, but that could be done at the end of the meeting."

Mayor Mavrakis, "It could be done right now while he's speaking."

Stanley Kershaw, "Alright, well I just appreciate the opportunity to ask."

Councilman Retos, "That's fine."

Councilwoman Bukowski, "No, everything is fine."

Councilman Retos, "Vote."

YEAS:

NAYS:

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

YEAS: FIVE

NAYS: NONE

Lucille D'Alfonso – Department of Streets & Public Improvements

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

Street Department Report

There were 14 streets that were patched, 4 catch basins and 2 manholes cleaned, 740 feet of sewer line jetted, 23 loads of yard waste, there were 42 streets that were swept for a total of 78,352 feet and 1,404 cubic feet of debris. Our men responded to 34 PA One calls, they had 6 paid pick up and drop offs, they cut areas with boom tractor, emptied city trash cans 3 times, repaired, replaced, removed 5 signs, they cut and trimmed various islands and lots around the city, they cut back trees and weeds on third street, emptied trash cans at the boat launch 3 times a week, they cut 30 lots with brush hog and by hand in the third ward. Worked 2 days cutting up fallen trees from spring storm and one day repairing damaged road way. They've had repairs done to a total of 11 pieces of equipment which included 2 police cars, 3 trucks, the Holland tractor, the ford tractor Brush hog, 2 push mowers and 2 leaf blowers.

Part Time Summer Street Employees

Councilwoman D'Alfonso made a motion to ratify the hiring of Luke Doptis as part time summer employee with the street department at \$9.50 per hour. He's working no more

than 20 hours a week and it's just for the summer months to help keep up with the grass cutting.

Mayor Mavrakis, "We have a motion."

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

Councilwoman D'Alfonso made a motion to ratify the hiring of Eddie Bell as part time summer employee with the street department at \$9.50 per hour. He's working no more than 20 hours a week and it's just for the summer months to help keep up with the grass cutting.

Mayor Mavrakis, "We have a motion."

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

Councilwoman D'Alfonso, "I am very happy to announce that the City of Monessen is in receipt of Act 13 UGWF Marcellus Shale Impact Fees in the amount of \$20,492.32. It came at a very good time because it's going to help us do some of the street...It specifies that it's to be used on roadways and we can get some of this street work done.

Street Repair Work

Councilwoman D'Alfonso made a motion to authorize E.J. Burns Construction, Inc. to complete repairs for the Dover Street Project, in the amount of \$9,900.00 using the funds received from the Act 13 UGWF Marcellus Shale Impact Fees.

Councilwoman Bukowski, "Second."

Mayor Mavrakis, "Question on the motion?"

YEAS:

NAYS:

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

YEAS: FIVE

NAYS: NONE

Councilwoman D'Alfonso made a motion to authorize E.J. Burns Construction, Inc. to excavate, prepare and pave 200 square yards of 9th Street Roadway Restoration Project in the amount of \$11,600.00. This amount will be paid using Line Usage Funds.

Councilwoman D'Alfonso, "I want to make a comment that one of the reasons that E.J. Burns Construction got these two bids is because they are already in town and therefore will not have to charge for mobilization and allowed their estimates to be quite a bit lower."

Councilwoman Bukowski, "I'll second the motion."

Mayor Mavrakis, "Questions on the motion?"

YEAS:

NAYS:

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

YEAS: FIVE

NAYS: NONE

Councilwoman D'Alfonso, "Now, we do have the repairs that need to be done to the Reed Avenue Bridge over 3rd Street and right now our engineers are in the process of working out a plan for that. We are looking at doing kind of a patch job to make sure that nothing falls down on to 3rd Street for safety reason and I'm in the process of trying to get some state funding so that we can do the whole bridge the way it needs to be done and to keep it in decent shape. But we'll know more about that in the future."

Councilwoman Bukowski – Department of Parks & Public Properties

Parks Department Report

Councilwoman Bukowski gave the following Parks Department Report for June 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 along Service Lane 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, "The Civic Center is running very well. We changed the locks because it seemed through the years that a lot of people had keys to get in to the building. The locks were changed about 2 or 3 weeks ago so we're hoping to have a handle on those keys. Because anybody could just....we were finding people in the building who had no reason to be there. The summer feeding program is going well. It's from 9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.. We serve breakfast and lunch and they also play games and do crafts and those kinds of things with the kids. It's going very well. Hopefully it will keep building."

Payment No. 4 – City Park Amphitheater Project

Councilwoman Bukowski made a motion to approve the Contractor's Application for Payment No. 4 from Maccabee Industrial, Inc. in the amount of \$86,203.58, for the City Park Amphitheater Improvements Project based upon the recommendation of Urban Design Ventures.

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: FOUR

NAYS: ONE

Payment No. 5 – City Park Amphitheater Project

Councilwoman Bukowski made a motion to approve the Contractor's Application for Payment No. 5 from Maccabee Industrial, Inc. in the amount of \$96,737.85, for the City Park Amphitheater Improvements Project based upon the recommendation of Urban Design Ventures.

Councilman Nestor, "Second the motion".

Mayor Mavrakis, "Question on the motion?"

YEAS:

NAYS:

Councilman Retos
Councilwoman D'Alfonso
Councilman Nestor
Councilwoman Bukowski

Mayor Mavrakis

YEAS: FOUR

NAYS: ONE

Resolution 9 of 2014

Councilwoman Bukowski made a motion to adopt Resolution 9 of 2014 – A Resolution of the City Council of the City of Monessen Authorizing the Submission of an Application for the Greenways, Trails and Recreation Program.

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

Councilwoman Bukowski, "Ok, I just want to give you a little outline of what that is. We are looking into get a grant of \$100,000.00 to redo the walking track at the City Park and Ninth Street Park. This is also Marcellus Shale money and it is only a 15% match. For

the \$100,000.00 we would have to have \$15,000.00 cash. We are going to try for this grant. It's going to cost us a \$100 application fee."

Mayor Mavrakis, "Questions on the motion?"

Councilman Nestor, " Question Mayor, have we figured out where the funding will take place to meet the grant?"

Councilwoman Bukowski, "The \$15,000?"

Councilman Nestor, "Yes."

Councilwoman Bukowski, "It could be cash money."

Councilman Nestor, "From the citizens."

Councilwoman Bukowski, "Yes."

Councilman Nestor, "Ok."

Mayor Mavrakis, "It could be or is it going to be?"

Councilwoman Bukowski, "Well, we have to get the grant first and then if we get the grant; I've been told by several people that we should be able to get that money."

Mayor Mavrakis, "Question on the motion?"

YEAS:

NAYS:

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

YEAS: FIVE

NAYS: NONE

City Park Ballfield

Councilwoman Bukowski made a motion to approve the request of John Swann to use the City Park Ball Field July 25, 26 and 27, 2014.

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

Brown Street Clock

Councilwoman Bukowski, "I just wanted to mention that we are going to have the dedication of the Brown Street Clock on Saturday, July 26, 2014 at 11:00 a.m. Everyone is invited to attend.

Nancy Horvath -- "Is it going to be working by then?"

Councilwoman Bukowski, "Yes, yes it will."

Mayor Mavrakis, "Who is coming in to repair the clock?"

Councilwoman Bukowski, "The people who erected the clock for us are going to come in and use their truck. They have talked to the man from New York. He's from Rochester, New York and he told them how to tighten the set screw, I guess you would call it for the hand to stay on. Because the clock itself is working."

Mayor Mavrakis, "Is there going to be a charge for that?"

Councilwoman Bukowski, "Well, I have no idea. There is still \$1,100.00 in that fund."

Mayor Mavrakis, "You don't know if they're going to charge us to correct it? Well, what is it to set the clock, what have they charged? \$1,885.00?"

Councilwoman Bukowski, "No. I was told that for him to come in from Rochester was \$900.00."

Mayor Mavrakis, "Well, according to the statistics from the CDBG fund from Darlene, it was \$1,885.00 for him to come in and set the clock."

Audience was having problem hearing Council and we were trying to adjust the microphones then we had a lot of feedback.

Mayor Mavrakis, "Is there an electrician in the house?"

John Pokomo, "No he quit."

Mayor Mavrakis, "Holly, what to do, shut it off all together back there."

Councilman Retos, "It wont shut the recorder off, will it?"

Mayor Mavrakis, "No. What I asked was, if he comes back in, is he going to charge us to repair the clock. Initially the clock costs \$1,885.00 to set it."

Councilwoman Bukowski, " I thought that was the amount of money that was set aside for that."

Mayor Mavrakis, "No, I said....What I'm doing, I'm giving you the actual amount is what I'm saying. But what I'm asking you, if he comes in again, he already set the clock alright now the hand fell off...."

Councilman Retos, "It's not the same person."

Councilwoman D'Alfonso, "The same person isn't coming this time."

Councilman Retos, "The local contractor who I believe actually built, put the clock together, he's going to come in and actually reset it. I believe he's local."

Councilwoman Bukowski, "He talked to Chuck, I cant remember his last name, who is a clock expert and he informed him how to set the nut or screw whatever you call it for that hand."

Mayor Mavrakis, "Well one other question on that clock, when the time change comes about, whose going to set the clock? I mean, Leonard are you here?"

Councilwoman D'Alfonso, "He explained to Leonard how to do it."

Mayor Mavrakis, "Leonard, when the time changes will you be the one to set the clock or what?"

Public Works Supervisor Billy, "Yes, from what the clock maker told me there is only one way of setting that clock. When the time change comes in Spring of the year, you spring forward you shut the clock down, when you come to the proper time you turn it back on. There are no adjustments inside to set the clock. Fall of the year, you do the same thing. You fall back, you shut it off till it catches up and then you turn it back on."

Mayor Mavrakis, "In other words, you can take care of that."

Supervisor Billy, "Yes."

Mayor Mavrakis, "Alright."

Audience Member – “So in other words there’s not going to be no charge for fixing this? To put the hands back up.”

Councilwoman D’Alfonso, “A minimal charge.”

LeeAnn Snyder – “So the clock has never worked yet?”

Nancy Horvath – “It never did work.”

Councilman Retos, “ It worked for.....

Councilwoman Bukowski, “The clock was working. I think from the vibration of the clock actually working the hand fell off.”

Nancy Horvath – “I never saw it working.”

Councilman Retos, “It worked for a limited amount of time. In the day that he came out it worked and what happened was it unwound the minute hand or whatever it was creating it to fall off.”

Councilwoman Bukowski, “It was the vibration, I’m sure.”

Councilman Retos, “It was a few hours that it worked, but the set screw is what caused the issue. We don’t know, I’m sure there’s going to be a minimal charge for the contractor to come out. He’s a local guy, sets the screw, shuts it up and rolls out.”

LeeAnn Snyder – “But what happens if you keep having problems. Is it going to keep costing tax payer money over and over.”

Councilman Retos, “Well, we don’t know. Ma’am, I can’t tell you. I wasn’t...

LeeAnn Snyder - “It just seems like there are more important things then this clock here.”

Councilwoman Bukowski, “Well, it seems to me that the most important thing on a lot of people’s mind is the clock isn’t working. So, you know they’re not coming up to me with other problems. They’re coming up saying the clock’s not working.”

LeeAnn Snyder - “Well, you’re already having a dedication for a clock that isn’t working.”

Councilwoman Bukowski, “So we have to get the clock working.”

Audience Member – “Is there a warranty on that clock?”

LeeAnn Snyder – “For the work?”

Councilwoman Bukowski, "It was only built in 1900, I'm sure there is still a warranty on it."

Audience began their own discussion among themselves.

Councilwoman D'Alfonso, "Why are we letting them talk?"

Jamie Hurst – "So we can hear why Al Gaudio got fired."

Mayor Mavrakis, "With this administration if people want to talk they can talk. We don't have that problem."

Councilwoman D'Alfonso, "There's something called Parlimentary Procedure."

Mayor Mavrakis, "I'm running this meeting, not you. Now go ahead Patty."

DooWop Concert

Councilwoman Bukowski, "We have a DooWop Concert to be held at the City Park Amphitheater, July 25, 2014 from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.. Dennis Wince is going to play the DooWop music. I think everybody will enjoy it. When we were up there last week on Tuesday, you can hear the sound all over the park and it sounded very, very nice. And mostly everything is done. I think Ed Burns is going to finish up the roadways. I don't know if he's done that yet, but he's supposed to while he's in town. I'm inviting all of you to attend."

Rental of Amphitheater

Councilwoman Bukowski, "We have a rental for the amphitheater. We are going to use a \$200.00 rental fee and \$100.00 will be refunded if it is left in good condition. If its clean and there is no problems, then the \$100.00 will be refunded. I think \$100.00 is more than fair to rent that."

Mayor Mavrakis, "You said there are also parking facilities for this affair."

Councilwoman D'Alfonso, "The handicap."

Councilwoman Bukowski, "Yes, Ed Burns should have that done. For the handicap parking, you are talking about?"

Mayor Mavrakis, "No for everybody in general."

Councilwoman Bukowski, "Well, we have parking around the park. I mean what we have, we have. But now the handicap will be there."

Mayor Mavrakis, "And of course, you warned the people about the walk way, as far as if they park up above."

Councilwoman D'Alfonso, "They can walk through the grass. Because the walkway might be... "

Councilwoman Bukowski, "You mean the grass, walking through the grass?"

Councilwoman D'Alfonso, "No he worried about walking on the stones."

Mayor Mavrakis, "Im worried about walking on the brick which we know is deplorable. We talked about this before. It's a lawsuit waiting to happen. So you should at least warn the people if they're going to come there stay...."

Councilwoman Bukowski, "We could put a warning sign. We could put a big warning sign up there Walk at Your Own Risk or they can walk on the grass to get down there. We can put a sign up there and then it absolves the City of"

Councilwoman D'Alfonso, "I think the City is already absolved. It's a public park, if you enter any kind of park like that you are entering at your own risk. That's understood. But I mean I would walk in the grass if I go up there. I walk through the grass I don't walk on the bricks anyhow."

Mayor Mavrakis, "Well at least you are warning the people, right. They should walk in the grass and not walk on the brick. Is that what you are suggesting?"

Councilwoman Bukowski, "No that was your suggestion. Your suggestion was don't walk on the brick cause you might get hurt. So I'm saying then just walk on the grass."

Mayor Mavrakis, "That's what I said, you want them to walk on the grass instead of the brick."

Jamie Hurst – "Patty say yes."

Councilwoman D'Alfonso, "Just say yes."

Councilwoman Bukowski, "Sure Mayor."

Mayor Mavrakis, "Thank you."

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 June: Building Permits- \$1,081; Soliciting Permits: \$100; Street Opening Permits - \$600; Magistrate Code Enforcement - \$54.36; Health Inspections - \$50; Occupancy Permits - \$750; Mercantile Machines - \$1,400; Landlord Fees - \$3,675 for a monthly total of \$7,710.36 and the year to date \$62,875.15.

Fire Report

Councilman Nestor, "for the Fire Report there a total of 27 alarms answered by the City of Monessen Fire Department ending in June. Both fire departments have a total of 347 man hours for the month of June. No injuries to report for that month.

EMS Report

Councilman Nestor, "there were 144 emergency calls, 12 fire standbys and 1 public service for a total incidents of 157 for the ending of June.

Donald "Buzzy" Byron

Councilman Nestor made a motion to accept the resignation of Donald Byron effective July 7, 2014.

Councilman Retos, "Second, Mayor".

Mayor Mavrakis, "Question on the motion?"

YEAS:

NAYS:

Councilwoman Bukowski
Councilman Retos
Councilwoman D'Alfonso

Councilman Nestor
Mayor Mavrakis

YEAS: THREE

NAYS: TWO

Councilwoman D'Alfonso made a comment after her vote, "I would just like to add that I'm voting yes but I think it needs to be understood in light of the letter that was submitted that he resigned under fire."

Mayor Mavrakis, "He resigned under what?"

Councilwoman D'Alfonso, "Under fire."

Mayor Mavrakis, "You going to explain that."

Councilwoman D'Alfonso, "We were going to fire him if he didn't resign. The letter that he wrote was an insult to every one of us that are on this council except for you (motioning to the Mayor) and I think that instead of it going down that he resigned because it was our fault, I think that the public needs to know that he resigned because of disappointments we had in his job product."

Mayor Mavrakis, "Would you have felt better if he would have insulted me too?"

Councilwoman D'Alfonso, "Yeah."

Mayor Mavrakis, "Alright. Well that's all. Thank you."

After all votes were taken, Mayor Mavrakis, "And incidentally I want to commend Buzzy Byron for a good job that he did. Plus the fact that he saved this City thousands of dollars using his own equipment, doing work here in this run down facility that is beyond repair or if it is it's going to take at least 2 or 3 million dollars to repair it. Buzzy put a band-aid on quite a bit and he also did a lot, Leonard where you at, did you do a lot down at the old City Hall?"

Supervisor Billy, "Yes we did. We had to cut up some water lines that froze over the winter. We had four water lines that froze down there. We also found that the furnace is shot beyond repair."

Mayor Mavrakis, "But anyway I would like to commend Buzzy for the work that he did do."

Councilwoman D'Alfonso, "Excuse me Mayor, but did he do that work on City time or on his own time?"

Mayor Mavrakis, "He did it on City time."

Councilwoman D'Alfonso, "Well, he was supposed to be doing code work on city time."

Mayor Mavrakis, "He saved you the money."

Councilwoman D'Alfonso, "He's supposed to be....Yes but he needed to be doing the work that the code officer does. Not doing the work that the street crew supposed to do."

Mayor Mavrakis, "Leonard, did you ask him to help you?"

Councilman Retos, "Or where you directed?"

Councilwoman D'Alfonso, "I don't think that's fair to put him on the spot?"

Councilman Retos, "Leonard, I apologize. I'm not putting you in that position. I'm sorry.

Mark Santacolombo – "Can I speak as past Code Enforcement Officer? That was out of his realm. I used to tell Buzzy stick to what you're supposed to do nothing else but that. He got involved in stuff he shouldn't have got involved in. He wouldn't listen to a guy who did the job for six years. There is no body who would've told me how to do my job cause I had the license. I don't care who it was. No disrespect. The license was in my name. You can not tell a guy with a license go do something that is out of his realm. And that's the way he did it."

Audience Member – "Was he licensed?"

Councilman Retos and Councilwoman D'Alfonso, "No."

Mayor Mavrakis, "I still thank Buzzy for what he did. Move on."

Part Time Code Enforcement Officer

Councilman Nestor, "Authorize City Clerk, Holly Minno, to advertise for a Part Time Code Enforcement Officer."

Councilwoman Bukowski, "So moved."

City Clerk Minno, "I didn't know if we needed a motion on that or not."

Councilwoman D'Alfonso, "I don't think we need a motion on that. Do we need it?"

Councilwoman Bukowski, "Do we need it?"

Councilman Retos, "No."

Eliminate Administrative Clerk Position

Councilman Nestor made a motion to eliminate the position of the Administrative Clerk for the Code Enforcement Office effective July 9, 2014.

Councilwoman Bukowski, "So moved."

Mayor Mavrakis, "Question on the motion?"

YEAS:

Councilman Retos
Councilwoman D'Alfonso

Councilwoman Bukowski

YEAS: THREE

NAYS:

Councilman Nestor

Mayor Mavrakis

NAYS: TWO

Councilman Nestor, "At this time I relinquish my time. I yield the floor, Mayor. Thank you."

Councilwoman Bukowski, "John, I have one question for you. We've been going on for several months about the saboxin clinic. Because you are in charge of code, we have done nothing about it. The area that is in is C-1 and for treatment centers it has to be a C-2. Also there were numerous things these people who were running the Saboxin Clinic were supposed to do. One of them was come to Council and notify us, have a public hearing. There are many things here they were supposed to do and they didn't. What are we going to do about them? We need the problem resolved."

Councilman Nestor, "Sure, sure. That's actually going to be addressed. Holly and I were working with BIU to come up and remove them out of the building. Due to the fact that right now, I can't go much into depth without a solicitor to help us out with answering those questions. Also remind you though, with the last meeting we all were in agreement that we thought that the fire department was going to handle that. But that didn't happen. So this is where we're at now and unfortunately we're waiting to hear from BIU. The second thing though about the zoning, the map that we have down here does not reflect from the map that you're looking at. Holly you were supposed to get in touch to get a current map so we can all be on the same page. And that's it."

Councilwoman Bukowski, "What do you mean, our map isn't current?"

Stanley Kershaw, "Are you going to have a public hearing on this?"

Councilman Retos, "Sir, that actually goes to another authority."

Councilman Nestor, "Our current map for the zoning does not match up to what they were looking up and what I was looking up. Cause what I see on the map was a C-2. What they see is a C-1. And this is the discussion we had Monday."

Councilwoman Bukowski, "I see. Well, even putting that aside, they did not do the proper procedure that they needed to do."

Councilman Nestor, "I'm not disagreeing with you on that. We were all shocked on that."

Councilwoman Bukowski, "We got to do something. We got to close them down."

Councilman Nestor, "So we are waiting for BIU to come up and kick them out."

Councilwoman Bukowski, "Cause they lawyered up on the firm, saying that they couldn't abandon their patients. Well how long do you go without having your patients go somewhere else? He has an office over in Charleroi. He doesn't have them go over to Charleroi, does he? He wouldn't let herion addicts come over to his place there. I mean he's just right across the river. Why is he making sure that he's staying right here."

Councilwoman D'Alfonso, "And so close to the school."

Councilwoman Bukowski, "Close to the schools and a daycare center and churches. I mean, we got to do something. When BIU comes in, they'll shut them down. Ok. That's what I wanted to know."

Councilman Nestor, "And I want to apologize though for the inconvenience that is on behalf of that. We were all in the same position. We thought that the fire department was going to be handling it. So I do apologize."

Josh Turkovich – "If I may comment on behalf of the fire department and that's not the reason I'm here but, as a board of director at the downtown fire department and the property owner at that facility we do have legal action and we are working with our attorney to take the proper procedures and of course as council said you have to work with the doctors and give them prior notification in order to get their patients the notification they need. So the fire department is acting. Unfortunately we have to go through legal actions which kind of makes the whole process longer. But the fire department is taking proper steps to get those people out of that facility."

Councilman Nestor, "Thank you Josh."

Councilwoman Bukowski, "We understand that Josh. It's not your fault that they lawyered up on you. But we have to do something now. It's our job now to do something."

LeeAnn Snyder, "Can I ask a question real quick? Back to Code Enforcement..."

Councilman Retos, "Ma'am at the end of the meeting you can public comment all you want."

LeeAnn Snyder, "Well, I just wanted to know, Buzzy, it says he resigned on the 7th. Who's been riding around in the code car for the last few days?"

Councilman Retos, "Larry. Who is an authorized volunteer and who is also on our insurance."

LeeAnn Snyder, "Is he licensed? Did he renew?"

Councilman Retos, "No, he's not licensed."

Gerald Saksun – City Treasurer

City Treasurer Saksun, "Mayor Lou Mavrakakis and members of City Council, Ladies and Gentlemen the following is a report of the Garbage Collection Fees and City Real Estate Taxes collected. Garbage Fees budgeted for 2014 - \$470,000.00; Garbage Fees collected as of May 31 - \$447,617.00; Garbage Fees collected during June - \$2,138.00; Total Garbage Fees collected as of June 30- \$,449.75500; Delinquent Garbage Fees collected as of May 31 - \$29,717.68; Delinquent Garbage Fees collected during June was \$1,461.18. Delinquent Garbage Fees collected as of June 30 is \$31,178.86.

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 May 31 - \$1,631,156.00, City Real Estate Taxes collected during June - \$124,035.35; 2% discount on the early payment \$0.00; City Taxes collected as of June 30 - \$1,755,191.35.

Delinquent City Taxes collected as of May 31 - \$4,990.70; Delinquent City Taxes collected during June - \$219.80; Delinquent City Taxes collected as of June 30 - \$5,210.50.

Distribution of the Income is as follows: General Fund received \$1,189,456.65; Debt Service Fund - \$425,805.04; City Parks Fund received - \$89,912.55; Library Fund received \$50,017.11.

Mayor and Council, that concludes my report for the month."

Mayor Mavrakakis, "Jerry, just being that it's 6 month period has gone. Just off the top of your head, in City Hall the salaries, have we saved any money in that 6 month period in comparision to last year?"

Treasurer Saksun, "I never looked at that figure, Mayor. But I can research it and find out probably by next meeting."

Mayor Mavrakakis, "Thank you. I would appreciate that Jerry."

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

Councilman Retos, "so moved, Mayor."

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

Mayor Mavrakis, "any questions?"

YEAS:

NAYS:

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

YEAS: FIVE

NAYS: NONE

Wayne Vlasic – City Controller

Controller's Report

City Controller Vlasic read the Controller's Report as follows: General Fund First Federal Checking Account Bank Reconciliation as of June 30, 2014: Beginning Bank Balance - \$206,039.37; Deposits - \$182,560.77; PLGIT Transfers - \$100,000.00 for a Total of \$488,600.14. Checks Cashed \$291,111.43; leaving a Bank Balance of \$197,488.71. Deposits in Transit \$38,661.99; Outstanding Checks \$11,369.16; amount reconciled to the Balance Sheet of \$224,781.54.

CDBG Report

Controller Vlasic, "next is the CDBG Bank Account Monthly Activity: Beginning Balance \$19,927.44; Deposits \$12,525.91 for a total of \$32,453.35. Checks Cashed \$18,155.86 for a Bank Balance of \$14,297.49. Outstanding Checks \$1,740.00 for a final month end balance of \$12,557.49.

Councilwoman D'Alfonso, "I move to accept."

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

Albert Gaudio – Solicitor

Mayor Mavrakis, "I guess he doesn't have a report."

Mayor Mavrakis – Department of Public Affairs

Mayor Mavrakis, "Before I give my police report, it is my intention to provide a report at each council meeting on the State of the City that I have discovered during my term as Mayor. And I am discovering as we proceed. I intend to explain the issues that confront the City of Monessen. The City's financial status is terrible. We are deeply in debt. I must continue to harp on the financial status of the City because if there is one thing that I have learned in my years, if you forget the past your destin to relive it again. I am in the process of trying to find an explanation of extravagant expenditures of the past administration. For example, I have searched for a work product of Kaplin Stewart Law Firm who both Lucille and Josh voted to retain. I have searched the files throughout the City I cannot find one shred of document on why you paid this individual \$94,467.87. Is there anybody that could give me an explanation on why there is no documents left in City Hall explaining why these people were paid that astranumonical figure? Josh do you have comments"

Councilman Retos, "I only voted for it because our previous attorney wasn't able to handle the case."

Councilwoman D'Alfonso, "Was that the litigation with....."

Councilman Retos, "The litigation I was not for but we did need to retain special counsel. So that just kind of puts us there."

Mayor Mavrakis, "Lucille, could you explain, you wrote out the checks you paid the bills."

Councilwoman D'Alfonso, "Well right off the top of my head, first of all, I don't know why you cant find anything in the minutes because it would've had to have been approved in the minutes. And I...."

Mayor Mavrakis, "I found it in the minutes where you approved, you and Josh both voted to retain. Now what I'm simply saying to you, John Harhai erased all of this information from his computer and from...No, No....I want to know where the documents, the people of Monessen."

Councilwoman D'Alfonso, "Well first of all....."

Councilman Retos, "Don't blame me for missing documents."

Councilwoman D'Alfonso, "But first of all, John wouldn't know how to erase files."

Councilman Retos, "You just implied, you asked me....."

Mayor Mavrakis, "I asked you a question if you knew anything about it, Josh. That's what I asked you."

Councilman Retos, "Alright. Well don't imply that I have something to do with missing documents. Cause I don't. "

Mayor Mavrakis, "I asked you, I asked you."

Councilwoman D'Alfonso, "And I don't think John, John didn't know enough about erasing files to have removed them. Somebody else got in there. And I can guess who. And I know it wasn't John."

Mayor Mavrakis, "Who got in there?"

Councilwoman D'Alfonso, "I'm not going to be accused of slander, like and be guilty of slander like other people here."

Mayor Mavrakis, "Who you making reference to?"

Councilwoman D'Alfonso, "I'm not gonna, I'm not gonna comment."

Mayor Mavrakis, "Well you know it's quite obvious that you have something to hide too. Because it's very simple, John Harhai erased over 2,000; yeah what are you shaking your head about? Over 2,000 documents off of email. Now why do people erase things. They erase it for a reason. They don't want nobody to know what happened."

Councilwoman D'Alfonso, "Well he wouldn't have documented that in email anyhow."

Mayor Mavrakis, "Now there's also the expense of Randy Lee for \$23,396.00 for Monessen Rising, that's gone."

Councilwoman D'Alfonso, "That was for his travel expense. He came here a couple times a month. He traveled in to do the consulting work and to check the different projects. And he only charged us a minimal fee for his travel expense."

Mayor Mavrakis, "I presently occupy John Harhai's office. Wayne, you've been in that office. Where those files missing that were in that cradenza? Josh, you were there too. You told me they were missing also. Did you not?"

Councilman Retos, "Yes I did. I'm not disagreeing with you on that. I just don't want to be implicated."

Mayor Mavrakis, "I understand that. I'm not implicating you, Josh. What I'm simply telling you the people out here have a right to know what went on in City Hall. They have a right to know why we're so far in debt and I'm going to explain to you why. And I'm gonna explain to you every council meeting. I'm only touching on a few things at this point because I'll give you a little bit every time. Because if I give it all to you right now you know what's going to happen, it will be forgotten about in a month. But every month I'm going to give you a tidbit on happen and what put us in this position that we are in today. These people might want to, it's our fault? No, the past administration is gonna be responsible and they're gonna stand responsible for what has happened. Moving on, I had the City Solicitor send a letter to John Harhai, the former Administrator to ask him to return and an explanation of the location of these files and records. He never answered that letter. You would think that John Harhai, a resident of Monessen who received \$313,585.75 over a four year period would have the courtesy and decency to return the files and give the City an explanation of their whereabouts. He did not do that. Now, since the Council has time and has concurred about what went on, I'm talking about you two...."

Councilwoman D'Alfonso, "I know."

Councilman Retos, "You two, you....."

Mayor Mavrakis, "You two, no you were, look you people, you concurred....."

Councilman Retos, "First of all, stop referring to me as you people. That's very disrespectful, Lou. It's Councilman Retos or Mr. Retos. Not you..."

Mayor Mavrakis, "Mr. Retos."

Councilman Retos, "Thank you. I do demand a little respect. I think I've earned it. Ok. And I give Lou plenty of respect Ladies and Gentlemen. And the other issue I don't like you implicating me like I didn't vote for this. Because it was real funny. I rest on my record. Go look at the record. Did I vote on any of this?"

Mayor Mavrakis, "June 13, 2012, Mayor Smith – I have a motion to adopt a Resolution No. 6 of 2012, A Resolution retaining Kaplin Stewart, Attorneys at Law as special counsel of legal advice and representation regarding the redevelopment of the City's Riverfront Area. Mayor Smith – I have a motion on the floor. Do I have a second?"

Councilman Retos, "Yes, Lou I voted for it."

Mayor Mavrakis, "Councilman Dudas – Second, Mayor. Mayor Smith – Any questions on the motion? Councilman Retos – Mayor, what's the retainer fee for that? Mayor Smith – Its in your file. Councilman Retos – Ok. I'm looking. I'm sorry. I apologize. Mayor Smith – Its an hourly rate. Councilman Retos – It's an hourly rate? Ok, that's fine. Mayor Smith – Any questions? Clerk call the roll. Yeas – Councilman Saksun, Dudas, Retos, D'Alfonso, Mayor Smith. That's all I'm asking you for because naturally you concurred. So I asked you a question, Josh. Not trying to implicate you. I simply want an answer.

Councilwoman D'Alfonso, "But see the problem here is...."

Mayor Mavrakis, "The people need an answer here. I don't know, do you people want an answer to what's happened? That's all I can tell you. Now let me go on with the rest of my report. You'll get some more tidbits come next council meeting."

Councilman Retos, "You know Lou, you know. You sit here and preach about what the problems are for the City but you haven't answered or made one suggestion on how to do anything. You live in the past.

Mayor Mavrakis, "I have, I have...."

Councilman Retos, "What have you done?"

Mayor Mavrakis, "You asked me a question. This is what I have done. I have uncovered a scam."

Councilman Retos, "Ask him how many City man hours he has used to do this."

Mayor Mavrakis, "I have uncovered a scam in this City. Alright, here's the thing. I've uncovered a fantastic scam across the street. You wrote out the checks, did you collect the money. Did you know that that guy was paying \$100 a year. Did you know that you paid in October \$1,700.00 for an electric bill. You have more money going out then coming in. There is a guy who rents right below him. Am I correct in what happened? He could tell you that. What am I saving money? Yes I'm saving money. Am I collecting a salary? \$40,000 so far I saved you doing somebody's job that put us \$8 million in debt. And what am I doing? What are you doing?"

Councilwoman D'Alfonso, "We were trying to move forward. I was part of it, and I'm proud of it."

Mayor Mavrakis, "You can move forward, your proud?"

Councilwoman D'Alfonso, "I am proud that we tried to move the City forward. You're moving backwards. You are moving backwards."

Mayor Mavrakis, "Now wait a while....."

Councilman Retos, "I mean I don't understand, what have you done in six months besides sit back there and have one of our employees hours on end go through minutes and look for stuff. Hours, and Hours, and Hours. You just sit back there with your feet up, you talk vulgar to people."

Mayor Mavrakis, "Oh and you don't talk vulgar to nobody?"

Councilwoman D'Alfonso, "Never to me."

Mayor Mavrakis, "Never to you, Oh no, no, no. Not you."

Councilwoman D'Alfonso, "He's never told me to shut up or get out of the room."

Mayor Mavrakis, "you know, we have a problem here. Whenever we sit down, you know what the problem is, if you have a woman interrupt you, you cant say nothing. No really and truly."

Councilwoman D'Alfonso, "There's ways to do it without being rude."

Councilman Retos, "Hey Lou, just because you have a shovel doesn't mean you should keep digging brother. I gotta be real honest with you on that."

Mayor Mavrakis, "We'll find out who's digging. You gotta remember one thing...."

Councilman Retos, "That's right I remember one thing, your 74 years old"

Mayor Mavrakis, "76."

Councilman Retos, "whatever dude, there's nothing you could do with me and I'm only here for four years so I don't really give a f. That's what you said to me right there. After you told these two to shut up, Lou."

Mayor Mavrakis, "I'm gonna be here longer than four years. I'm gonna be here another four years."

Councilman Retos, "Yeah, I don't think so."

Mayor Mavrakis, "Cause its gonna take me a long time to dig out the crap that you people put us in to.

Councilman Retos, "Well, start digging. How about that. I got a plan, Lou. How about you put a plan together and actually do something to help get us out of this.

Mayor Mavrakis, "My plan, my plan....."

Councilman Retos, "Your plan is nothing. Your plan is to sit here and point out....but see here's the deal, I figured out what your plan is. Your plan #1 is going to be to complain the first two years of what the prior administration did and then complain your second year about the current administration not working with you. You have a built in excuse that you don't have to do anything. You're not on the campaign trail anymore, you're the Mayor. You need to act like it.

Mayor Mavrakis, "Here's what I'm gonna do, I'm going to spend the first two years complaining and then after that first two years you two will be gone and I'll get somebody that can work with me and do something around here.

Councilwoman D'Alfonso, "Excuse me. Well you know what....."

Mayor Mavrakis, "Now I'm going to move on with my report.

Councilwoman Bukowski, "Mayor, at the last meeting you said you didn't like to be blindsided, you have just blindsided two people who happen to be on council well actually three because Jerry Saksun was on too with this information. You said and its in the minutes that you don't like to be blindsided.

Mayor Mavrakis, "Oh I don't

Councilwoman Bukowski, "But you just blindsided

Mayor Mavrakis, "And if I get blindsided, I'll blindside back

Councilwoman D'Alfonso, "Well, we didn't blindside you.

Mayor Mavrakis, "No, here's what you got to understand it's time for my report now. You'll get the rest of the tidbits, stay tuned next meeting you'll get some more and find out why you're in debt.

Councilman Retos, "I know what you'll do you'll continue to make a circus out of this meeting while we're trying to conduct business

Mayor Mavrakis, "Well we can make a circus out of this when we got a bunch of clowns sitting up here. What do you expect.

Audience Member – “And you’re the ring master.

Mayor Mavrakis, “What’s your problem. You know you of all people

Councilman Retos, “Five seconds ago you were on his side when he wanted to stand up and speak.

Audience Member – “If your calling all these people clowns, that makes you the chief clown, the ring master.

Mayor Mavrakis, “Let me finish my report. Like I said, stay tuned to next council meeting and you’ll get some more tidbits.

Councilwoman D’Alfonso, “Remember what I told you. Make sure your facts are right.

Mayor Mavrakis, “Parking meter receipts, total parking meter receipts, there you go you see you wonder why people interrupt while you’re trying to talk.

Police Department Report

Mayor Mavrakis, “Parking Meters - \$1,618.51; Parking Fines and Forfeits - \$707.00 ; Total Off Fines & Forfeits - \$707.00; Parking Meter Permits - \$2,000; Off Street Parking Permits; 1,150.00; Total Parking Permits - \$3,150.00; Miscellaneous Collections Total - \$1,867.96; Court Receipts, District Justice Total - \$2,519.47; Total Receipt Collected for June - \$9,862.94 . Police Logged and Telephone Complaints for the month of June 2014 - 436; Arrests for June 2014 –152, Year Total – 655; Mileage – 4,757; Miles per Day 158.56.

Resolution 8 of 2014

Mayor Mavrakis made a motion to adopt Resolution 8 of 2014 – A Resolution By the City of Monessen, Westmoreland Co.

Mayor Mavrakis, “Second?”

Councilman Retos, “second, Mayor”.

Mayor Mavrakis, “question on the motion?”

Councilwoman D’Alfonso, “We need to explain the Resolution.”

Mayor Mavrakis, “Would you read it, Holly.”

City Clerk Minno, "We have to pass a Resolution every year that we will provide matching funds to the Mid Mon Valley Transit Authority. The fund amount for the fiscal year 2014 – 2015 will be \$3,125.00 made payable by July 31, 2014."

Mayor Mavrakis, "You have the motion for it."

Councilman Retos, "I seconded it."

Mayor Mavrakis, "Question on the motion?"

YEAS:

NAYS:

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

YEAS: FIVE

NAYS: NONE

Handicap Parking – 408 Delaware Street

Mayor Mavrakis made a motion to approve the request Dorothy Matiyasic for the installation of a handicap parking sign at 408 Delaware Street (approved for the other side of the street) contingent upon Ms. Matiyasic receiving approval and placard from the Department of Transportation.

Councilman Nestor, "Second".

Mayor Mavrakis, "question on the motion?"

YEAS:

NAYS:

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

YEAS: FIVE

NAYS: NONE

Part Time Officers

Mayor Mavrakis made a motion to hire Anthony Cancilla as a Part Time Police Officer at a rate of \$14.50 per hour. Part Time Police Officers are paid by the Westmoreland County Housing Authority.

Councilman Nestor, "second, Mayor".

Councilman Retos, "Mayor, that's not accurate. That's not what a part time police officer gets paid per hour."

Mayor Mavrakis, "I only read what I see."

Councilman Retos, "Yes we know.

City Clerk Minno, "It's \$14.50."

Councilman Nestor, "Are they still getting paid by the Westmoreland County Housing Authority though?

City Clerk Minno, "Yes."

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 hire Alyssa Brown as a Part Time Police Officer at a rate of \$14.50 per hour.

City Clerk Minno, "And that ones also paid by the Housing Authority."

Councilman Nestor, "Second".

Mayor Mavrakis, "question on the motion?"

YEAS:

NAYS:

Councilman Nestor
Councilwoman Bukowski

Councilman Retos
Councilwoman D'Alfonso
Mayor Mavrakis

YEAS: FIVE

NAYS: NONE

Announcement - Kennywood

Mayor Mavrakis, "Announcement – Monessen Community Picnic on Tuesday, July 22, 2014 at Kennywood Park. And who will be the Mystery Man or Woman? Anybody got an idea.

Mayor Mavrakis, "You don't know anything about that do you? Generation gap, Josh."

PAYMENT OF BILLS:

Jonmichael Retos – Department of Accounts & Finance

Councilman Retos, "motion to approve payment of General Fund Expenditures for the month of July 2014 in the amount of \$338,368.04".

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 payment of Health Center Expenditures for the month of July 2014 in the amount of \$8,344.09".

Councilwoman Nestor, "second on the floor".

Mayor Mavrakis, "question on the motion? I have a question. Do we have any idea our expenditures are \$8,344.09 for the month. How much did we take in? What are we losing a month on this? Huh? Do you have any idea, Holly?"

City Clerk Minno, "Not off the top of my head, No.

Mayor Mavrakis, "But we are losing, right?

City Clerk Minno, "Probably."

Councilwoman D'Alfonso, "Well the rental fees are what....

City Clerk Minno, "Yes, I don't have that. I'd have to ask the Treasurer's Office to do a report on that.

YEAS:

NAYS:

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

YEAS: FIVE

NAYS: NONE

Councilman Retos, "motion to approve payment of Parks Fund Expenditures for the month of June 2014 in the amount of \$3,668.15".

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 Grant Fund Expenditures for the month of July 2014 in the amount of \$227.40."

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 Line Usage Fund Expenditures for the month of July 2014 in the amount of \$3,474.08".

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 payment of Police and K9 Fund Expenditures for the month of July 2014 in the amount of \$109.00."

Councilman Nestor, "Second on the floor."

Mayor Mavrakis, "Question?"

YEAS:

NAYS:

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

YEAS: FIVE

NAYS: NONE

PUBLIC COMMENT:

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

Reverend William Bass, Sr. – 1225 Leeds Avenue, "I have a couple questions, here on the 9th Street Park Restoration. My first question is does that mean that it's going to be repaired up there and the street will be open?"

Councilwoman D'Alfonso, "We are going to open the lower street one way up towards Knox and the upper will be put back as one way like it was before."

Reverend Bass, "Ok, are there plans to...."

Councilwoman D'Alfonso, "We'll finish it eventually. But right now before winter we want to get the one lane open so we won't have to use the upper ninth as two way traffic."

Councilman Retos, "Just to let you know, that 2015 that is priority number one for the council. We discussed this. We will have some line usage fee money, some CDBG fund eligible and some possible grants to get that back up to where it needs to be. Fully open and ready. But again it's gonna be 2015."

Councilwoman D'Alfonso, "But part of the issue there too is that we still have to do some restoration of the water pipes. There is still some danger that there might be a collapse there. So that's gonna have to be dealt with before we can actually take care of the whole project. But I think it should make it safer after we have that one lane open."

Reverend Bass, "I just want to emphasize that that is very important to us. That Ninth Street be completely open so I'm glad to hear that and hopefully that will happen. Secondly, the upper street that you mentioned is a public safety hazard. There is no barrier or guardrail to prevent if someone lost control of their car in inclement weather stop them from going over to the lower street and is it possible that we can get guardrail up there?"

Councilwoman D'Alfonso, "We did have some prices on that and it's more expensive than you would think. But we'll have to see if we have the funding left, we'll do that or we'll try to come up with some kind of barrier or....is Leonard still here? Leonard we were talking about some other kind of barrier. Maybe he left. We've planned to try to address that. We are aware of the concern. Like I said, it's been like that for how many years."

Reverend Bass, "I appreciate that because you can't of course put any kind of value on life. And that is dangerous."

Councilwoman D'Alfonso, "I agree."

Reverend Bass, "Ok, thank you so much for the opportunity. I appreciate it."

Councilwoman D'Alfonso, Councilman Retos, and Councilwoman Bukowski, "Thank you Reverend."

Tony Orzechowski - 1229 Hillcrest Avenue, "I'd like to ask Council if I could stand here, I just came off back surgery. Instead of walking all the way up there. Mayor, City Council, I have a couple questions here, thank you for your time. My first question, why was the Solicitor let go? Second, what is the plans to replace this deposition?

Councilwoman D'Alfonso, "That's personnel."

Councilman Retos, "Unfortunately, I'm not going to be able to discuss why Al has decided to resign, it's a personal matter that we are just going to keep personal. And we are going to re-advertise and have open interviews for a replacement of a Solicitor."

Mr. Orzechowski, "So who is handling the job, meanwhile?"

Councilman Retos, "Hopefully there will be a very short interium where it will only be a few weeks."

Mr. Orzechowski, "Ok, second question, please. What is the state of the budget for Monessen, exactly?"

Councilman Retos, "At this point, this is the half way mark through the year. We just finished it, we did our half way point. Holly and I are currently working on the six month where we are at. We did a first quarter report, next month I will give you a six month report and what our projections are for the end of 2014."

Mr. Orzechowski, "But where are we right now?"

Councilman Retos, "We are about break even. We were about \$64,000 a head last quarter of what we did in 2013. We haven't finished the calculations for the second quarter of 2014, Sir."

Mr. Orzechowski, "Ok, a follow-up on that question, I asked and I'm going to ask this council again...."

Councilman Retos, "I have it for you."

Mr. Orzechowski, "It's not me, it's the people here."

Councilman Retos, "To be quite honest, you haven't been here but we've had it in our packets for about the last three meetings. You're talking about the list of bills?

Mr. Orzechowski, "You better believe it."

Councilman Retos, "You can actually come to Holly's office tomorrow, she'll have it ready for you."

Mr. Orzechowski, "I also asked that it be public record and it be placed out here."

Councilman Retos, "It actually has been for the last three meetings."

Mr. Orzechowski, "So it has been?"

Councilman Retos, "Yes, it has been placed in our packets. It is my personal...."

Mr. Orzechowski, "No, no. Not your packets."

Councilman Retos, "I apologize, I misspoke. What we have been advised and how it can work is anybody is allowed, like our private budget, you can come down to Holly's office anytime you feel free. It will be posted every month. That is what we have decided to do on the advice of the Solicitor. It will be posted much like the budget and you can come down and review it."

Mr. Orzechowski, "That's not what you ran on the campaign."

Councilman Retos, "I didn't run under that."

Mr. Orzechowski, "But you were in agreement with Council that you would start to disclose that and show that."

Councilman Retos, "You are absolutely correct and it is disclosed and it is provided. It will be provided for you, just like the budget is for review at City Hall on a monthly basis prior to the Wednesday meeting. And we had that report specially made and designed by our programming software company."

Mayor Mavrakis, "Tony, in reference to you asking about this state of equinox as far as our budget is concerned. Josh, we have 13 payments left in the year of \$65,000 per pay which comes to \$845,000. We have 6 months to pay left approximately \$125,000 per month which comes to \$750,000. We have to pay police and firemen pension \$300,018. That comes to a total of \$1,895,018. We have \$692,503.61 on hand at this point. We need \$1,202,515 to finish the year out. Now what I'm asking and I'm quite sure everybody wants to know...."

Councilman Retos, "That's not accurate. What happens Mayor is the \$300,000 for the police pension is traditionally paid on the last day of the year. So therefore, it will be used for the year advancement. So for instance we pay on the last working day of the year in 2013; 2014's monies were used. So, deduct \$300,000 off of that."

Mayor Mavrakis, "And that still comes to \$992,000. Let me ask you....."

Councilman Retos, "That's correct. But we haven't finished collecting garbage, we have not finished collecting taxes, and there are some other uncollected fees. We still have a full year of police, we still have a full year of code, and there are some other monies that come in."

Mayor Mavrakis, "The way I understand the bond issue, we are talking about the \$5 million one and also the \$2.5 million. What happens if we can't meet that \$400,000 at the end of the year?"

Councilman Retos, "I don't understand your question."

Mayor Mavrakis, "If we can't meet that obligation, what happens?"

Stanley Kershaw, "The City goes Act 47."

Councilwoman D'Alfonso, "First of all, Mayor...."

Mayor Mavrakis, "Let me put it to you this way....."

Councilman Retos, "Let her answer."

Mayor Mavrakis, "Wait, let me finish this way, is it a fact that if we can't meet that obligation that we will lose our CDBG fund because that CDBG funds will go to make that payment? Is that a fact?"

Councilman Retos, "I never heard of that. You know what, and again Mayor you are pointing out issues that you need to be; instead of pointing them out and terrifying people and telling people, you should be actually doing something and helping us figure out how we're going to get through this. Instead of just going out and preaching about this."

Councilwoman Bukowski, "I thought one of the things we were going to do is the amnesty? I thought we were going to try a tax amnesty. I've been trying to get that through."

Councilman Retos, "Absolutely. There are options that are....."

Mayor Mavrakis, "You can't move forward till you find out where you've been in the past."

Councilman Retos, "But you keep living in the past."

Mayor Mavrakis, "No I won't leave it in the past because you two were part of that administration that put us in this hole."

Councilman Retos, "Now back to that administration. Did I vote for the bond? Did I vote for the bond."

Councilwoman D'Alfonso, "Wait, let me say something. First of all, when we voted for the bond issue we were investing in ourselves."

Stanley Kershaw, "Amen."

Councilwoman D'Alfonso, "And because we invested in ourselves we had other investors from out of the City. We can't depend on tax money here, we don't have that kind of tax base. We had people that were interested in helping us financially and with their services that were lined up. If you had at least gone along with one of the plans, there would have been money coming in at this point. You said you were going to "Save the City". All you have done is talked about what we did wrong and you have yet to do anything or tell us your direction, your plan. You have no vision."

Mayor Mavrakis, "I'm pointing out, I'm pointing out...."

Councilman Retos, "What was your campaign slogan? Save the City. Well...."

Mayor Mavrakis, "In order for me to Save the City I have to let these people know what you did. Because what you've done is hard for the City to be saved. You put us so far in debt that its difficult to get out."

Councilman Retos, "Don't worry Lou, you've got a built in excuse. You're going to blame the past."

Mayor Mavrakis, "You better believe it."

Councilwoman D'Alfonso, "Let me repeat this, I'm going to repeat this again."

Mayor Mavrakis, "Go ahead."

Councilwoman D'Alfonso, "This is about the tenth time I told you."

Mrs. Mavrakis, "He's only been Mayor for six months, what do you expect out of him."

Councilman Retos, "Something."

Councilwoman D'Alfonso, "Wait a minute, wait a minute; I have the floor now."

Mr. Orzechowski, "No, I am sorry. I have the floor. I have the floor."

Councilman Retos, "So finish your questions."

Mr. Orzechowski, "I have the floor over all of you, please I was not done. Am I correct? I'm sorry. I have the floor.

Councilwoman D'Alfonso, "I wanted to answer. Wasn't he answering your question? I wanted to give you the other side.

Mr. Orzechowski, "Can I please finish? I have the floor, no disrespect.

Councilwoman D'Alfonso, "Go ahead.

Mr. Orzechowski, "I'm going to ask Council, where's the mics? People can't hear. I talked about this before. Unfortunately I went out getting hurt and having back surgery. People can't hear. They can't hear anything.

Councilman Retos, "Why? We're not screaming loud enough?

Mr. Orzechowski, "I'm not asking you to do that I'm asking where the mics are and what's the situation.

Councilwoman Bukowski, "There was feedback and everyone was bothered by the feedback. So we turned the mics off.

Mr. Orzechowski, "No, no. Where are the mics that back in March when I was still here it was going to get looked at.

Councilwoman Bukowski, "We have mics."

Councilman Retos, "Well according to the Mayor, we don't have any money so we can't buy new ones.

Mr. Orzechowski, "If we don't have money then why are we spending matching funds for a walking track for \$15,000.

Councilman Retos, "First of all, she said three times that she's going to try to raise private monies from the Park Restoration. Three times she said it. I mean I don't know what more. Three times she said.

Mr. Orzechowski, "Could you please answer my question, where are the mics?

Councilman Retos, "I can't, I'm not. Unfortunately I don't have a good answer for why the mics are not working. I didn't go to ITT Tech for electrical engineering so I don't know what to tell you.

Councilwoman Bukowski, "Nobody's been able to fix them. We don't know.

Mr. Orzechowski, "My last comment is a question that you know and I apologize that I haven't been here in two and a half months for the back it's not an excuse, but you know I'm going to go back to a time, end of last year; middle of last year January's meeting, February's meeting December's meeting of last year ok. When this current council got re-elected or they were on and carried over or got elected we have the current council. I can remember standing here and having this complete council stand up and say 'we are all united in to make Monessen a greater place, fix the problems and there will not be any infrastructure fighting cause we're all on the same page'. I'm going to challenge each one of you, please forgive me, excuse me for this, what the hell happened? I come back here now this is a free for all, it's a circus. I'm hearing rumors outside that there's koos going on, someone fired a solicitor, someone on council now wants to be mayor, I don't know what the heck is going on. The people of Monessen deserve better than this. I'm sorry. But that is meant for all of you. All of you are responsible. Ok. I don't want a re-buttal. It's just something that's going on. You know, if this is what's going on, quite frankly when everybody comes up for re-election, like we consider in congress and the senate, everybody goes and you start over. Because you can't put together which I know.....

Councilwoman Bukowski, "Everybody goes, everybody goes. Yeah, I vote for that."

Mr. Orzechowski, "I'm sorry, but you all made a promise and I stood here with a lot of these people and you said 'we are united behind what we have to go forward as a new administration

Councilman Retos, "And I'm trying to move forward, and I'm trying to do that.

Councilwoman D'Alfonso, "I think we are trying to do that.

Councilman Retos, "And that's were our best intentions are. You know its very easy for someone to sit out in the crowd, not have to be here everyday and worry about the bills, what is coming in and what is going out. And worry about this on a daily basis.

Mr. Orzechowski, "These people are worried about how they pay their taxes,

Councilman Retos, "And so am i. You don't think I'm invested in this community? I have a nineteen month old daughter, I have the next twenty years that I have to be here. So you don't think I'm vested in this community?

Mr. Orzechowski, "No body suggested that.

Councilman Retos, "Well, yes you are because you're acting like I don't care about this community and I do.

Mr. Orzechowski, "But your not responsible for...."

Councilman Retos, "Do you know how much money I have put in this community.

Mr. Orzechowski, "Excuse me. You are all.....

Councilman Retos, "No excuse me. Guess what, I have the floor now. And you're not going to sit here and tell me that I'm not moving forward and I'm not trying to do the best for the community. Well, I am doing the best for the community. Do you understand? Do you understand how hard this job is? You know, do you? Its very easy to sit out in the crowd of people and chant and hoot and holler. Come on this side of the table and everything you do gets shot down, or there's some government issue where you cant do what you want.

Mr. Orzechowski, "I'll tell you what Josh. I'd be very happy to run against you then when you come up for election. Cause I've been across there.

Councilman Retos, "Well lets go. Bring it on.

Mr. Orzechowski, "And I will make sure that everybody makes the change.

Councilman Retos, "I hope you do. I hope you do.

Mr. Orzechowski, "What's going on now is like kindergarden. It's kindergarten. This is nothing but mockery in the paper.

Councilman Retos, "And all it does is sell papers. You think I want this to be like this. I don't want this. This isn't what I want.

Councilwoman D'Alfonso, "None of us signed up for this.

Mayor Mavrakakis, "Its quite clear, you know. Look here's the thing. Half of these people here they're for me, the other half for them. I mean it's that simple, you know.

Councilman Retos, "Why's it gotta be us and them? I mean that's what I don't understand?

Mayor Mavrakakis, "No, because that's the way it is.

Councilman Retos, "This is the way it is, it's him and everybody else.

Mayor Mavrakakis, "That's what it is.

Councilman Retos, "Its his way or the highway.

Mayor Mavrakakis, "They got the three votes cause she (pointing at Patricia Bukowski) jumped ship. She's with these people.

Councilman Retos, "Jump ship, teams. But see what you fail to understand is when your on Lou's team its you cant say this, don't do that, you cant vote for this, I want that.

Mr. Orzechowski, "I don't want you to be on any team except for Team Monessen.

Councilman Retos, "Im not. That's it. Exactly. I'm not on anybody's team. In three months from now these two and I could be fighting and in two months John and I could be disagreeing. Its an issue based situation. Its not a personal matter. Just because your my political adversary does not make you my political enemy. Do you understand? So John and I and Lou in three months from now could whole heartedly agree on a situation that these two young ladies may not agree upon. Do you understand? So I don't understand. Its not a team, it's what I have to do for the City of Monessen to secure my future here. I'm 37 years old, I have a 19 month old daughter that I don't want to move away when she's 20 years old because there's nothing here for her.

Mr. Orzechowski, "I understand that.

Councilman Retos, "So don't stand there and tell me I'm not doing what I can do for the best interest for the City of Monessen.

Mr. Orzechowski, "But you need and everybody needs to represent the people.

Councilwoman Bukowski, "That's what we're doing.

Councilman Retos, "So you don't think that is absolutely what I am trying to do every day?

Mr. Orzechowski, "Apparently what I keep hearing from everybody, that's not what's happening.

Councilwoman Bukowski, "How are we not doing that?

Audience Member, "That sounds like a bunch of rumors.

Councilwoman Bukowski, "They're back there yelling, how are we not representing you? How are we not representing you.

Mr. Orzechowski, "Well, you cant approve things of finances for a walking track and things like that.

Councilman Retos, "We approved an application to try to get to get the money.

Audience Member, "You shouldn't be concerned about that stuff.

Councilwoman Bukowski, "Cause you don't use the walking track.

Mr. Orzechowski, "Your in a \$8 million debt.

Councilman Retos, "So what youre saying Sir, investing in Monessen taking a \$100,000 to redo Ninth Street Park Walking Track and do the City of Monessen, he's over here whining and crying about the bricks, I cant walk my kid on the track at City Park without falling in a hole.

Councilwoman Bukowski, "Do you know how many people..."

Mr. Orzechowski, "But hard decisions don't need to be made at difficult times.

Councilman Retos, "Your absolutely correct. So a \$100 application fee is a big expenditure.

Mr. Orzechowski, "You can spend without going bankrupt.

Councilwoman Bukowski, "do you realize

Mr. Orzechowski, - *said something about not everybody liking that and this City*

Councilman Retos, "And you're absolutely correct until they come down here and complain about the condition of Ninth Street or they come down here and complain that they cant walk their dogs or they cant walk their kid on the track. So I'm just supposed to ignore that

Mr. Orzechowski, "You've got to prioritize things.

"We have and \$100 to secure \$100,000 grant; I'll roll the dice with that. I have to be honest with you.

Mr. , "No you let your constituents decided to roll the dice. You don't decide.

No, they elected me to make the decision and the best decision of my ability and that's what I do here day in and day out.

Mr. , "You represent a majority here. They decide. They talk to you

D'Alfonso, "We cant take everything out on referendum. This is a third class city. I don't know where youre getting your thoughts from.

Mr. , "Did you ever run a business?

Councilwoman Bukowski, "Yeah."

Mr. , "I didn't ask you. Did you ever run a business? Did you?

D'Alfonso, "No.

Mr. , "Thank you.

D'Alfonso, "I was a teacher

Retos, "I did. So what's your, go ahead.

D'Alfonso, "So what's your point?

Mr. , "The point is hard decisions

Retos, "Your stepping over dollars to pick up pennies.

D'Alfonso, "And don't you also have, Isn't there also a little theory of economics that you have to pass in order to make a, you have to invest in order to make....

Mr. , "Im sorry I move the floor to somebody else. This isn't going anywhere.

D'Alfonso, "You have to invest in yourself in order to make a profit. Isn't there?

Mr. , "When your debt is so much as it is now it's a disraise.

Retos, "But we still have to provide services for our City.

D'Alfonso, "And our budget was balanced.

Retos, "So I'll tell you what, here's what we'll do. We don't have any money, we wont plow a street, we wont cut a park, we wont do anything. Because that's costing us money. But we have to provide a service. Correct? Your tax dollars deserve services. You deserve a park, you deserve a library, you deserve an educational facility. Am I right? You pay taxes, this is what you want. So we have to provide goods and services to you to do this. Ok, thank you.

Bukowski, "Do you realize what you said about leaving go of a \$100,000 grant? Though it's going to cost us \$15,000 and its' going to be from people in the community and maybe people outside of the community because they use that track. That track is the most used track. The guys that were working up there, Macabee, they said they couldn't believe how often and how much that track is used. So we're just supposed to say to the people who use this every day, well too bad you know for \$15,000 we just let the whole thing go.

Maria Scuteri, "Could that money rather than use it on the track be redirected towards the walkways to the amphitheather that all of these thousands of dollars have been spent on already? To make the amphitheater more accessible as opposed to worrying about the walking track

Bukowski, "Actually it's a Greenways Trails and Recreation Grant.

Scuteri, "It can't be used on trails?"

Bukowski, "One of the things in the grant is a walking track.

Scuteri, "What about the walk ways? I'm just asking. Could that money be redirected towards the brick pathways to the colossal project of the amphitheater that is basically inaccessible unless you're going to tear up the grass and ruin the grass in the park.

Bukowski, "Why are we going to tear up the grass, Maria

Scuteri, "Because how else are you going to get to the amphitheater? The brick walk ways are unpassable. You cant walk on them without hurting yourself.

Bukowski, "Why we can't fix those? Is that what you're saying?

Audience Member, "There is a roadway.

Scuteri, "That's for the handicap. All I'm asking, it's just a question, the money that youre going to be granted rather than using it to fix the walking track, which I use I use the walking track. Could it be used to fix the bricks and maybe elevate one of the issues of this disaster with the amphitheater?

Bukowski, "I understand where you're coming from Maria, but you know grants as well as I do. They are specific, so when they're specific.

Scuteri, "That's why I'm asking is it specifically for the walking track? It can not be redirected to consider that being a path or a walk way.

Bukowski, "Its specific. No.

Scuteri, "I mean its politics. There's got to be a loop hole. I mean, you know what I'm saying. Wording. Some kind of creative wording or something like that.

Bukowski, "The \$100,000 is going to do both tracks.

Scuteri, "Because that's what's going to come about this, after all of this re-bids and re this and re that on that amphitheater that's going to become an issue. I'm guessing.

Bukowski, "Yeah but all the re ifs and buts and ands, the money was already there Maria. The money, You know.

Scuteri, "I understand that.

Bukowski, "You know, it wasn't like we were looking for any more money from anybody else.

Scuteri, "All I was asking was creative bookkeeping, creative wording.

Bukowski, "Actually what I'd like to do more than that is actually add a restroom down in that area.

Scuteri, "It was just a thought.

Mavrakis, "Well, Let's move on. Let's move on. Kershaw you got something?

Kershaw, "Yes, sir."

Mavrakis, "Give your name and your address, please."

Stanley Kershaw – 412 Delaware Avenue, "You know a year ago, I was in negotiations with the City to get the Health Mart in order to turn the first floor of the Health Mart in to a restaurant and the second floor in to a boutique hotel. So that way the kids who go to Douglas would actually have a place for their parents, their family members, other people who come in to town to do business who might have something, or one of your family members who came into town from somewhere else, might have somewhere half way decent to stay. In December City Council and the Redevelopment Authority both had agreed to sell me the mall down on Donner Avenue. It was my intent to redevelop the mall and put a diner in the front of the mall and other retail space. And I had twenty-four women who do crafts that wanted a space in the mall in order to perpetuate their craft and it would share time in trying to actually do something in there. And ultimately I saw the mall where there would be twenty jobs in Monessen that aren't there. Now some of them may have been high end because of the owners of stores and the actual facilities in there and some would've been entry level positions. But there would have been twenty jobs just in the mall. There probably would've been another twelve to fifteen between the boutique hotel and the restaurant down stairs. Mayor Mavrakis came to me through Mr. Gaudio and demanded that I show up at the January meeting of the Redevelopment Authority to ask me to rescind my purchase, my offer to buy the mall because he wanted to tear that building down. Now, when I actually put in the application to the City to buy the building, I had to put in exactly what my intent was to use the building, how it would affect the community, and I did all those things. But I was told, through an email that I did not provide them with those exact things. And at the meeting where Mr. Mavrakis at that time came to me and said I want you to back off of the building. I asked him why. Why do you want me to not buy this building? Because we're talking tax dollars for the City. We're talking tax revenues on buildings that aren't paying taxes, we're not talking residential property, we're talking property that's you know probably about ten – twelve thousand for each of the two buildings and property in between. So, nothing has happened with those buildings. They're still an eyesore. Mayor Mavrakis said he was going to tear them down and turn them into green space.

There is no tax dollars in green space down there. We have parks. I've asked for a year now, what is your plan? What's your plan?

Mavrakis, "Let me ask you, I'll tell you. I'm going to tell you now.

Kershaw, "What is your plan for Monessen to rise again? I mean lets talk about Monessen rising out of deceiving.

Mavrakis, "We'll talk about that, then we'll talk about the slum properties that you own that you haven't done a thing with yet. Now let me finish, you asked me a question.

Kershaw, "Lets try that.

Mavrakis, "Now let me finish. I sent.....

Kershaw, "I've already answered that question for you too.

Mavrakis, "Let me finish please.

Kershaw, "You accused me of being a slumlord. I think I have a right to turn around and answer you.

Mavrakis, "Well you are one.

Kershaw, "Really

Mavrakis, "Yes

Kershaw, "Well tell me Lou, what building, what address are you talking about?

Mavrakis, "The one on first street

Kershaw, "What address

Mavrakis, "The one on first street

Kershaw, "What address

Mavrakis, "On Second Street

Kershaw, "First Street, Second Street, the Corner. And you know why that building? I told you straight to your face and Josh you were the one who supposedly told him that you had an issue with me getting anything from the City as long as the building at Second and Schoonmaker was not actively being used. Do you have a problem with the building at Second and Schoonmaker? Is it an eyesore? Is it a building like Fifth and Donner?

Councilman Retos, "I'll answer this real quick. I have no faith in you to be quite honest. You show me good faith. And this is how things work. You go in, you buy the building on Second Street, you fix it up, you do what needs to be done, paint, new windows, move tenants in, do what you need to do. You earn trust in this council, you earn trust in myself and I would give you another building. But I don't just hand out building then you disappear from where ever you came from. It doesn't work. It's not a direct insult to you, but it's I have to trust you cause again I have all these people I have to answer to

Kershaw, "I have a four unit building that has...if you do not have because it's a four unit building...if you don't have an intended purpose or an intended use for that building currently.

Retos, "So what is your intended use

Kershaw, "Exactly. Right now when that building was purchased the intent was that it was going to be a coffee roasting plant in the basement and the first floor and the back would have to be cut out. Now setting up plans and doing the engineering prints and everything that needed to be done there and the architectural prints is not cheap.

Retos, "So you have no money to fix this but I'm supposed to give you a bunch of other buildings too.

Kershaw, "Its not a matter of weather I have the money to fix it or I don't.

Retos, "Yes it does.

Kershaw, "No

Retos, "Yes it does

Kershaw, "If I cant use it for that then what, you give me a use for that building.

Retos, "I didn't buy the building. I don't have to give you a use for it.

Kershaw, "As long as there's nothing degorigotary on that building....

Retos, "Again, why would I give you more buildings when you cant even maintain and fix up the one you have?

Kershaw, "Its not that I can't fix it up.

Mavrakis, "Can we move on. Let's move on. Now what you did, you had that building. Did you come to my office and sit down and say give me the Yoney Funeral Home? Did you not come and ask me?

Kershaw, "Lets back up one second."

Councilman Retos, "For the record, Lou and I are agreeing, so..."

Mavrakis, "Did you ask me for the funeral home

Kershaw, "Yes and you know why?"

Mavrakis, "Why

Kershaw, "Because in December and November of last year when that building was up for tax sale I went to Ricky Dick and I explained to Ricky Dick that all he had to do was go to Greensburg I would go with him and tell him exactly what it was going to cost. It was going to cost him about \$1,500. And he could have that building for even less if he just went to Greensburg.

Mavrakis, "He got it for less. All he got it for was \$350.00

Kershaw, "Well, that's great Lou. And that's because that's what the County charged you to get the building back. That's fine. But if he would've just showed up at the Sheriff's Sale, he could've gotten it through Judicial Sale.....

Mavrakis, "Now are you going to let me finish telling you what I plan to do with the City. With the \$4,500 mini mall that you wanted to buy, now I will tell you. You asked me what my plans were.

Kershaw, "You told me....

Mavrakis, "Let me finish now you asked me a question

Kershaw, "What did you tell me when I gave you that building back?"

Mavrakis, "Are you going to let me answer you

Kershaw, "Answer it.

Mavrakis, "Alright, I got a plan. And my plan was simply this. And Josh knows what I've been doing. I sent out letters. I went to the coke plant. I know how major corporations work. They have goodwill toward communities. I've gone to them and I've gone to talk to management. I've sent requests in writing. Met with them personally and Josh knows that I have met with them personally. Show some good will toward this community. We need a couple hundred thousand dollars. I want to tear down that corridor which you was going to make an elevator and the whole nine yards on the corner of Fifth Street, the mini mall you wanted to purchase. What I want to do is knock down that whole corridor going all the way down to Citizens Bank. Alright, when I would do that, that would clear that whole block and then I would go across the street, the old

[Monessen Plumbing Building which you have the street blocked off. People can't walk down the street on the sidewalk, they have to walk in the street to get beyond over to the pawn shop which many people go to today. My idea was I sent approximately 40 letters out to corporations, vendors that have done business with the City of Monessen. If you give me enough money this corridor will come down. That'll all be open. Now I went one step further then these people probably don't know about it. Anybody heard of Becky Helkus? Becky Helkus is a consultant. She worked in the Ridge Administration. I talked to Becky. Becky this is my dilemma. I want to tear these buildings down, we don't have the money. I'll tell you what Lou, I'll write you a grant, pro-bono, don't cost you a nickel. Not like all these other consultants that you have that take twenty-five percent of whatever they write for you. She's writing it. She's in the process right now of writing a \$500,000 grant for us. That's what my intent is. I've been doing these things behind the scenes and a lot of other things uncovering a lot of other stuff going on in this City Hall and in this City. And you ask me what my plans are? This is what I've been doing. And then I have the other 264 properties that I've got to get rid of. And I've been doing that, piece mill. And people in here know some of them here got the properties coming to them. I've been doing that too. I've been answering phone calls. Every time. I'm in that office every day. I'm there for almost 8 hours. I answer

Kershaw, "Are these properties that the City owns

[Mavrakis, "Let me finish. I answer the phone. People get a chance to talk to me. I pick up the phone. Oh is this the Mayor. Oh you answer the phone. How did this happen? They thought that they had the wrong number. That's what I've been doing.

Kershaw, "Are these properties that you were talking about the properties that the City owns

Mavrakis, "The redevelopment owns them

Councilman Retos, "No

Mavrakis, "The Redevelopment owns the Health Mart Building and the Mini Mall.

Councilwoman D'Alfonso, "The ones from the County

Kershaw, "Are they going out on bid

Councilman Retos, "He's talking about the ones from the County

Mavrakis, "The 264 properties, we own them now.

Kershaw, "But are they going out on bid.

[Mavrakis, "They're not going out on bid.

Kershaw, "They have to

Mavrakis, "I explained the situation to you people before. Hypothetically if you have a home and you have an empty lot next to you and that empty lot is on that repository list you will be given the first choice to take that lot. It will be given to you. All you have to do is pay the transfer of the title which is less than \$100. Then you maintain it. Then Chick doesn't have to worry about cutting the grass. That gets it off of the City's backache. Now, what do we have. The system is broke. And I'm going to tell you why its broke. We got the 264 properties that are in repository that were given to us. There is 350 more homes out there that are like that, and how did it get that way. Here's how it got that way. People buy homes, they get a mortgage, they borrow money against the home and the mortgage, after while they say well the hell with it im not going to pay the taxes anymore, I'm not going to pay the mortgage and the next thing you know the bank kicks them out.

Kershaw, "Lou, as an investor I can probably answer that probably even more honestly. When you come into the area and buy a home and you get into the home and you actually have the house put together where its functional. And then two weeks later you walk into the house because you may have gone away or you've been working on another property and its stripped. Then you have this investor.

Mavrakis, "Let me finish. I'm getting to my point. What I'm trying to tell you. You asked me what I've been doing. I haven't been sitting in that office, drinking coffee. I don't drink coffee. I wasn't sitting there in that office, I've been doing a lot of things. And like I told you, there is 350 more like that out there. Now, what are we going to do these people leave that home, it sits there for six months the bank doesn't do anything with it. Along comes these druggies and everybody they go in there and strip it down. They even get the siding as far up as they can reach because they don't go and get a ladder because they're not contractors to tear the siding off. They take it down to the junk yard. No body checks the junk yard on where did you get this siding? Isn't that as funny as hell, the same person comes down there with siding and the junk yard doesn't do anything about it? Is that a little suspicious. Now, getting to the point. That house sits there and then it goes in to Sheriff Sale. Two or three years have gone by, after that it goes in to Judicial Sale, at that time you'll see a home. You've seen them in the Sheriff Sale, a home on Summit Avenue they owe \$97,000. Where the hell do you see a house on Summit Avenue for \$97,000? Now, what does it do? It goes in to Judicial, it sits there for a while, then it goes into Repository and they give it back to the City. Now we have to tear it down. Where do we get the money? Now, the system is broke. And it can't be fixed. I'm in the process right now, I'm going to meet with the Commissioners to put some of this stuff on expedited procedure.

Kershaw, "Last year Lou, I brought a number of people to town who bought properties and moved here. They've actually been taking care of and clean up their properties. One of them didn't obviously, but the rest of them did. That was because the Repository List was open. You know and if you could re-open that repository list at least the people who come to you straight to your face and say hey listen I'd like to buy

[this property and redevelop it. Give me a specific amount of time and I fulfill that obligation or they fulfill that obligation. I mean are you willing to give them that property.

Retos, "That's the process now.

Mavrakis, "I'm in the process...I will be meeting with the County Commissioners and the Planning Commission in the next week or two. I'm going to plead with them. I'm going to beg with them. Put this thing on the fast track so that we can get rid of these properties. You have 56 homes out there that's on the repository list, not one of them could be rehabilitated. Not one.

Kershaw, "No, cause actually the ones that were worth being rehabilitating, I already sold.

Mavrakis, "I told you, none of them could be rehabilitated. I'm still stuck with the other 200 – 350 that's out there. That's coming on line. Where's the problem lie. It doesn't lie here in Monessen, it lies at the state level, at the county level. They have to change the procedure and the law. I can't do that.

Kershaw, "You have to protect the person who's investing in those properties in order to be sure others will come in and invest there money too.

[Mavrakis, "I ran for this job and you know what this job did to me. It made the City, the County, and the State; it made me a begger. I'm on the phone constantly. I'm working with Becky Helkus, which I have meetings set up with Senator Toomey, Governor Casey, Congressman Shuster. I've got these meetings already lined up. They're coming up. Like I said, I'm begging people. I'm sending letters to people asking for money. Now, if I can get enough to tear that corridor down maybe somebody will come in and do something. In the meantime, it's got to stay green till somebody comes in and says they'll do something. These are things that I'm doing. You know people say that I don't have a plan. You know, what do you want me to do.

D'Alfonso, "Well, you have to share it with us.

Mavrakis, "I have to share it? Josh knew what my plans was. Did you not know Josh?

Retos, "That was the plan

D'Alfonso, "That was the whole plan

Retos, "The whole plan.

[Mavrakis, "Alright, well I told it to you people, now you know where I'm going and like I told you I've been working diligently at this. You can ask my wife. What I do.....Get up, darling. When I come home, do you see me go to my desk and start going through

all this crap again? And what am I doing you see me make, how many phone calls do you see.

Mrs. Mavrakis, "He spends hours. Yes, council people believe it or not, he spends hours.

D'Alfonso, "So do i.

Mrs. Mavrakis, "I'm not saying anything against you. Stop this. When I make a comment or somebody else makes a comment we are not commenting against you. It's a comment. Don't take it so personally. Everything is taken here so personally, I cant stand it. I love Monessen. We could've bought a home anywhere. We stayed here. We have two homes here. I want this town to succeed. My heart is here, my blood is here and I cant stand this anymore. I'm so upset the way things are being handled and everybody is, it's so political. It's nasty and its ugly and it's not called for. You got to act like adults and you have to sit there, so somebody swears at you, nobody ever swore at you before in your life? And don't tell me they haven't. It all happens. You have to move on.

D'Alfonso, "Yes but there is a time and place where it is not

Mrs. Mavrakis, "You have to move on to the next level. You cant stay there and see how you can out do another person. You have to work together. One by one. You each have a job to do and you're all great people. You need to work together. You cant do this. I'm really upset. I couldn't sleep last night and I probably wont sleep tonight. No, I'm talking now. You gave me the floor, I'm using it.

Mavrakis, "You got the floor at home all the time, too.

Mrs. Mavrakis, "You've got to do this. It's breaking my heart and its breaking.....it's not just breaking my heart its all these citizens who come here. Quit yelling when your team wins and do this and do this. Stop it. Stop it. And I want you to just give away to these feeling and get rid of the animosity and get rid of the hate and say your not doing your job and you are and your not....work together. We have one town not four towns here, one. So work together and pull together and make it the town we can be proud of like we've always been proud of this town. Thank you.

Mavrakis, "What we got to understand and you know I wasn't being nasty toward Josh and to Lucille, but with the research that I have been doing; looking at the bond if we don't make the payment the way I understand it we will lose our CDBG. They will take the money out of the CDBG, is that a fact? Josh do you know?

Retos, "Lou, if you've done the research and that's what it is, then I'll have to trust you on that.

Mavrakis, "Lucille?"

Retos, "That is not an answer that I cant give you.

D'Alfonso, "All I can say is that we had the money in the budget to meet it. If we would've stayed within the budget this year, there wouldn't be an issue.

Kershaw, "If the bond isn't paid and it goes into default, what happens is that the state steps in and pays off the bond, the City automatically goes Act 47

Mavrakis, "Now wait a while, I think there's a clause in there. I read through the bond a while back and what I , I could be wrong, I'm sure that I read it that if it goes into default we got approximately \$300,000 coming from CDBG that they would take that money from the CDBG and go toward our payments.

Kershaw, "But we would still go Act 47, and they would take over the payments.

D'Alfonso, "I don't think so.

Retos, "No, we have a guarantee

D'Alfonso, "We had a guarantee, it was a guarantee plus we had one of the highest bond ratings you could get in the third class city and that was an indication that there was faith that we had the ability if we had been allowed to continue our plan.

Mavrakis, "Anybody else. Tony will please get up and give your name and address and give us your telephone number too.

Retos, "That's fine, Tony. What's up?

Mr. O , "I just need to follow up on something cause I was a little confused. Josh, when I asked you where Monessen was on budget for this going on, you seemed to say that you're on budget.

Retos, "No I didn't. I said I haven't run the numbers yet,

Mr. O , "But you said we weren't over budget

Retos, "No, what I said Tony was, we have not run the numbers for this quarter. I don't have an accurate. I said we are on budget actually \$64,000 ahead the first quarter. I do not know

Mr. O , "That's ok. Youre right. Lucille just said, had we stayed in budget, so I need a clarification on that.

Retos, "Ok, for instance, what she means by in budget, for instance we may have spent more in the code office but we may have spent less in liquid fuels. Or we may have spent less in the line usage fee but maybe spent more in the police department because

of overtime. We definitely spent more in salt this year, so we may be over budget there. But we may be on budget in repair and maintenance on vehicles. That's why she's right and I'm right. It's not an accurate answer until I give you the quarterly breakdown of where we're at, per line item, per budgetary. I mean I don't understand what you don't understand.

Mr. O, "What you are saying to me is that you're not sure where we are at right now.

Retos, "I've said that about three times Tony. That until I do the second quarter numbers and our six month numbers, I'm not and I will not comment on where we are because I don't want to put an inaccuracy out there.

Mr. O, "Ok.

Kershaw, " Do you see a short fall at this time.

Bukowski, "Let's just tell them we're paying our bills.

Retos, "I don't want to comment on a shortfall because I don't know.

Mr. O, "You know I'm glad the City doesn't run a business cause then you don't know from day to day whether you can run a business or you can make your bills.

Bukowski, "We are making....We're paying the bills."

Retos, "Unfortunately, you're right, it is a business, but it's a business that relies on multiple fundings from multiple places.

Mr. O, "But you still should know at any particular point in time even every month you should know where your at.

Retos, "We know where we're at from month to month, that bills have been paid and funding has been met. Again, half way through the year, we are doing a report to find out where we are at halfway. Just like I did for the first quarter, I'll do it in the second, I'll do it in the third and we'll do a final. I mean, that's what

Mrs. O. "So next month you'll have it.

Retos, "Yes. And I've said that.

Councilwoman D'Alfonso, "Can I make a motion to adjourn.

Retos, "And I do run a business and I have a couple of successful ones. Thank you very much. I heard that. I appreciate it.

Mr. O, "You were meant to hear it because you sure don't know what youre doing.

Retos, "Ok, well again in a year and a half when you can run, you can do it.

Retos, "Motion to adjourn.

Nestor, "Second.

Mavrakis, "Wait a while, wait a while.

Retos, "I'm done.

Mavrakis, "Does anybody have....One thing that this administration doesn't do, everybody gets an opportunity to speak and they speak as long as they want to. Does anybody else have anything? If nobody else has anything, then I will require a motion to adjourn.

ADJOURNMENT:

Councilman Retos, "so moved, Mayor".

Mayor Mavrakis, "Second?"

Councilman Nestor, "Second the motion."

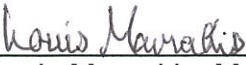
YEAS:

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

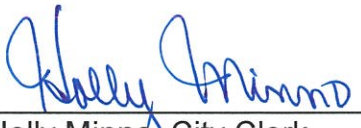
YEAS: FIVE

NAYS:

NAYS: NONE



Louis Mavrakis, Mayor



Holly Minno, City Clerk

[

[

[