

MONESSEN MUNICIPAL COMPLEX
ONE WENDELL RAMEY LANE
MONESSEN, PA 15062

AUGUST 13, 2014

OPENING:

Minutes of the regular meeting of Monessen City Council held Wednesday, August 13, 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 July 9, 2014 meeting?"

Councilman Retos, "so moved, Mayor".

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

YEAS:

NAYS:

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

YEAS: FIVE

NAYS: NONE

Mayor Mavrakis, "Approval of the minutes of the special meeting July 24, 2014?"

Councilwoman D'Alfonso, "I'll make the motion to approve the minutes".

Councilman Nestor, "Second on the floor mayor".

YEAS:

NAYS:

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

YEAS: FIVE

NAYS: NONE

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Mayor Mavrakis, "Before I open the floor for comment on Agenda items I have a statement to make. So I'll get out here so everybody can hear. Our mics, we're out of mics. As the new mayor of Monessen, I promised the residents of Monessen that I would always look out for the best interests of our city; that I would always tell the truth, that I would always fight for what's right. Every day I try and make good the promise and today is no different. Because of my sometimes brutal honesty, I have become the target of Representative Ted Harhai and his allies.

Groaning from audience

Mayor Mavrakis, "In an effort - this is my report, do not interrupt me! In an effort to intimidate and silence me, I have been informed that false charges political in nature were published against me earlier today. The reason Ted Harhai is trying to silence me is because he knows I am currently in discussion with the Westmoreland District Attorney's office about his campaigning on taxpayer funded email, to which I have possession. The very same kind, where other public officials have gone to jail for. Upon request to the media, I will provide copies of the material that I refer to in the preceding

paragraph. In addition, the government emails in which Ted Harhai is soliciting campaign funds for his reelection, I have in my possession. Evidence of foul play at the Monessen Food Pantry, as well as documents that prove Monessen Rising was a scam.

Councilman Retos, "Should I adjourn the meeting?"

Solicitor Matta, "Mayor."

Mayor Mavrakis, "Ted Harhai –"

Councilwoman Bukowski, "MAYOR!"

Can't make out anymore of what Mayor Mavrakis is saying.

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

Councilman Retos, "I second the motion."

Councilwoman D'Alfonso, "All in favor?"

Some council members can be heard saying Aye.

The tape was stopped at this point. Solicitor Matta called everyone back to Council Chambers and the meeting was continued.

Mayor Mavrakis opened the floor for public discussion on Agenda Items only.

Councilman Nestor, "No, we just adjourned the meeting."

Solicitor Matta, "We just adjourned to Executive Session. We're back from - . My understanding was to Executive Session."

Audience: "We can't hear you" and "Use the mike"

Councilwoman Bukowski, "What are we supposed to do, I mean, we don't have microphones."

Mayor Mavrakis, "Does anybody have a hard time hearing me?"

Mixed answers from audience

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

No one commented so the Mayor stated to move on to Unfinished Business.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Councilman Retos - Department of Accounts & Finance

No Report

Councilwoman D'Alfonso – Department of Streets & Public Improvements

No Report

Councilwoman Bukowski – Department of Parks & Public Properties

No Report

Councilman Nestor – Department of Public Safety

No Report

Solicitor Gary Matta

Mayor Mavrakis, "You may see a new face on the horizon, this is our new Solicitor, his name is Gary Matta. Gary, welcome aboard, I'm sure you have a comment or two?"

Solicitor Matta, "I do. I know that I know several of you that are in audience today. I've met with a few of you over certain issues already in the past week since Council took the action to make me the Solicitor. I can assure you I'm going to be here working in the best interests of the taxpayers of this community. I will be having an office here in Monessen next month, right here in the borough building, and if at any time I can be of assistance or any of you have a concern, please do stop and give me a call for we can talk about any of your concerns, anything that you may need assistance with from my office. Thank you Mayor."

Mayor Mavrakis, "You're welcome."

Mayor Mavrakis – Department of Public Affairs

No Report

NEW BUSINESS:

Councilman Retos – Department of Accounts & Finance

Councilman Retos, "Motion to accept the resignation of part-time Clerical, Cathy Carroto."

Councilwoman D'Alfonso, "Second"

Mayor Mavrakis, "Question on the motion?"

YEAS:

Councilwoman Bukowski
Councilman Retos
Councilwoman D'Alfonso
Councilman Nestor

NAYS:

Mayor Mavrakis

YEAS: FOUR

NAYS: ONE

Councilman Retos, "Motion to ratify the hiring of Karla Spangler as part-time Clerical at \$9.00 an hour for a maximum of 20 hours per week."

Councilwoman Bukowski, "Second"

Mayor Mavrakis, "Question on that motion? This is one individual that was hired without my knowledge, no one come said a thing to me. There was a memo left on my desk by Holly, saying that they hired a part-time Clerical worker who was highly recommended by Pat Bukowski who is in charge of parks, Lucille D'Alfonso who is in charge of streets. I'm in City Hall, no one commented or even mentioned it to me. This is the way City Hall is being run at this point."

YEAS:

Councilwoman Retos
Councilwoman D'Alfonso
Councilman Nestor
Councilwoman Bukowski

NAYS:

Mayor Mavrakis

YEAS: FOUR

NAYS: ONE

Councilman Retos, "Motion to move forward with the One Time Amnesty Program through Portnoff Law Associates."

Councilwoman Bukowski, "So second."

Mayor Mavrakis, "Question on the motion?"

Councilman Retos, "Yes, Mayor. Just to inform the citizens of Monessen, we had a meeting with Portnoff Associates who do the garbage collections, delinquent garbages, and we are working with them to set up an Amnesty Program. They've had stellar success in the communities that they've been working with to get delinquent garbage paid up, to get some revenue brought into the City. The reason why we put a motion to move forward with it, our Solicitor needs to review the contract, dates need to be set up, and other information that needs to be handled. But, we are going to go forward with it and get it started as fast as possible for anyone who's behind on their garbage."

Solicitor Matta, "If I may, Councilman and Mayor. For everyone's aware, what this program will do, people will still have to pay the cost of their collections. They will be able to be waived on certain fees that the Portnoff Law offices have charged and penalty and interest. So to get you back close to the original balance, but people will still have to pay for the services that were provided to them, it's not as if they're going to get a discount on the original service."

YEAS:

NAYS:

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

YEAS: FIVE

NAYS: NONE

Councilman Retos, "First Reading of Bill 4 of 2014 – An Ordinance of the City of Monessen, Westmoreland County, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Approving A One Time Only Amnesty Program for the City of Monessen Property Owners for Delinquent Trash Fees for the years 2013 and prior and City Real Estate Taxes for the years 2003-2005 paid in full between September 15, 2014 and November 30, 2014."

Councilwoman Bukowski, "So moved"

Multiple Council members, "It's just the First Reading."

Councilman Retos, "Number 5 Mayor, Motion of Bill 5, sorry, First Reading of Bill 5 of 2014 – An Ordinance Requiring all Individuals or Entities Utilizing Credit Cards for

Payment of Delinquent Real Estate Taxes and Municipal Claims to Pay the Charges or Fees Associated with the Transaction.”

Councilman Retos, “Number 6 Mayor. A Six Month Financial Statement of where we’re at for the City. Mayor, as you may know we are currently, if the year would end right now, we are \$900,000 in debt. We have \$1.5 million in anticipated revenues between now and the end of the year. We have \$206,190 in real estate taxes, \$251,163 in earned income taxes, \$32,127 in code office permits, \$66,459 in cable tv fees, \$13,842 in street opening permits, \$34,722 in magistrate fines, \$17,817 in highways and streets, that’s for State Route 906, \$207,300 in state aid, the PUC pension act 147, \$155,000 of that goes right out the door to pay the pensions. \$7,000 in county housing authority, \$13,253 Lien letters and tax certifications, \$24,402 public safety, that’s lock-up, occupancy, and landlord fees. \$30,596 on and off street parking, \$227,463 in garbage fees, \$28,161 in miscellaneous revenue, and at \$381,208 in reimbursable revenues for a total of \$1,541,685. To meet our debt obligation of \$902,000 we must collect 60% of that throughout the rest of the year. Mayor that is my brief report for our Six Month Status of the year.”

Mayor Mavrakis, “That’s if everything goes smooth and nothing else occurs to the City from now till the end of the year, is that correct?”

Councilman Retos, “That is correct, Mayor.”

Mayor Mavrakis, “And things look pretty good so far this year?”

Councilman Retos, “Yes Mayor, we are actually doing okay. That is all for me Mayor, thank you very much.”

Lucille D’Alfonso – Department of Streets & Public Improvements

Councilwoman D’Alfonso gave the following Street Department Report for the month ending July 2014:

Street Department Report

Councilwoman D’Alfonso, “The street department report for the month of July 2014. There were 6 streets that were coal patched; There were 8 streets that were hot patched using a total of 6 tons of hot mix. There were 9 catch basins and one man hole cleaned. They jetted 10 feet of sewer line. They dye tested 20 homes in park plan for D.E.P. on water separation program. They swept 17 streets for a total of 41,767 feet. Responded to 23 PA 1 calls. Repaired 6 parking meters. There were 6 paid pick up and drop offs. Cut 7 areas with the boom tractor. Repaired, replaced, removed or installed 3 signs. Cut and trimmed various islands, streets, and alleys in the City. There were trees that needed cut back on 3rd street steps. They emptied city trash cans 3 times a week downtown and at the boat launch. Cut 9th street island 2 times. Cut across from Valley

1st bank twice. Cut 30 lots with brush hog and by hand in the 3rd ward. Cut and trimmed 605 Reed Ave, 605 Knox, and 607 Knox. Cut up tree branch and hauled away, this is the one that fell across 1200 Block of Leeds Ave. Had repairs done on 5 pieces of equipment."

Councilwoman D'Alfonso, "That's the end of my street report. I also wanted to mention that our engineering firm has completed going over the plans for the repair on the Viaduct Bridge and we're looking for the bids for that. Hopefully we will have information on that very soon."

Mayor Mavrakis, "In other words our streets and everything's in pretty good shape then as far as you're concerned?"

Councilwoman D'Alfonso, "Well, there's still a lot of work to do Mayor, and you would know that as well as I do. That's the end of my report."

Councilwoman Bukowski – Department of Parks & Public Properties

Parks Department Report

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

Removed trash from police station 2 or 3 times a week; swept and mopped floors, cleaned restrooms and jail cells as needed; removed trash from civic center, swept and mopped floors and 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, Walking Track, Soccer Field, City Park, Columbus Park, and Park Manor; cut on 4 ball fields and soccer field at least once a week; dragged the 4 ball fields before each game that week; cut city park and walking track 2 times a month; cut 9th st. park 2 times a month; cut boat launch and park 2 times per month; cut Hoover park 2 times; cut Crest Ave 2 times; cut along service lane 2 times; cut the river walk 2 times; set up shelters in city park 4 times for rentals; set up boat launch 3 times for rental; set up 9th st park 1 time for rental; emptied trash cans in the parks 25 times a month. That's the end of my parks report."

Mayor Mavrakis, "Do you have a report on the clock?"

Councilwoman Bukowski, "On the what?"

Mayor Mavrakis, "On the clock?"

Councilwoman Bukowski, "Can we get to that after I'm finished with my..."

Mayor Mavrakis, "Well, let us not forget we have to bring that up because you had a dedication."

Councilwoman Bukowski, "Okay, Okay, you want a report on the clock? The parts are ordered for the clock. As soon as the parts are in, the clock will be repaired."

Mayor Mavrakis, "There still not working yet, correct?"

Councilwoman Bukowski, "No, because the parts aren't in."

Mayor Mavrakis, "And what are we at? We're over \$45,000 now invested in that clock?"

Councilwoman Bukowski, "No."

Mayor Mavrakis, "We're not?"

Councilwoman Bukowski, "No, that's not the amount."

Mayor Mavrakis, "What's the amount?"

Councilwoman Bukowski, "I think the amount is more like \$38,000. Well, it was \$18,000 was donated."

Mayor Mavrakis, "12,000 and some dollars was donated, not \$18,000."

Councilwoman Bukowski, "I just gave you the thing last, two months ago. We bring the clock up and the amount each time. I didn't happen to bring it with me because I didn't think I would need it."

Mayor Mavrakis, "Okay, well you'll give it next report then I'm sure."

Monessen Civic Recreation Board Authority Report

Councilwoman Bukowski, "The Civic Center ran a very successful summer feeding program, it ended last Friday. During the summer we served up to 30 youth per day, serving them breakfast and lunch. And then they played games and did crafts until 2 o'clock every afternoon. The Civic Center board is doing a wonderful job, they have a lot of things to try to get a hold of in the short period of time that they've been in existence, but they're doing a very good job. I just want to remind everyone that we do rent out the gym, and also rent a party room. So if anybody would like to rent the gymnasium or the party room they would have to get a hold of Eugene Sedlak or myself and I would pass the information along."

Councilwoman Bukowski, "I need a motion to accept the resignation from Joseph DiMascio as Night Time Security effective August 6, 2014."

Councilwoman D'Alfonso, "So moved"

Mayor Mavrakis, "Question?"

YEAS:

NAYS:

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

YEAS: FIVE

NAYS: NONE

Councilwoman Bukowski, "A motion to hire Kenneth Olexa as Night Time Security at \$7.25 per hour for approximately 20-25 hours a week depending upon building hours."

Councilwoman D'Alfonso, "Second."

Mayor Mavrakis, "Question? Who interviewed the individual?"

Councilwoman Bukowski, "We talked to the individual, yeah."

Mayor Mavrakis, "Who did?"

Councilwoman Bukowski, "I did."

Mayor Mavrakis, "By yourself?"

Councilwoman D'Alfonso, "Mayor, she tried to discuss it on Monday and you wouldn't discuss it."

Councilwoman Bukowski, "You wouldn't talk to us. I had the names sitting here and you said you didn't want to talk about it."

Councilman Retos, "In executive session, right."

Mayor Mavrakis, "How did the executive session end?"

Councilwoman Bukowski, "What do you mean?"

Mayor Mavrakis, "Did it end by Josh Retos saying that he was going to whip my effin' butt? Is that what ended the - John? Counselor? Is that a fact?"

Councilwoman Bukowsk, "I'm sorry but you said this before. This was not anywhere near that. When we got to that point I said I have three people here. And you said 'I don't want to see that, those are peons'."

Mayor Mavrakis, "No I did not."

Different Council Members can be heard saying 'yes you did'.

Councilwoman D'Alfonso, "We wanted to discuss it, you refused."

Mayor Mavrakis, "How did the session end? The people have a right to know this."

Councilwoman D'Alfonso, "No, they don't, that's personnel."

Mayor Mavrakis, "Yes they do."

Councilwoman Bukowski, "That's executive session."

Councilwoman D'Alfonso, "No, that's an executive session, that's confidential. What happens at executive session is not to be made public."

Solicitor Matta, "It was executive session. There was some heated comments made. I think that after that there was still some discussion and then we adjourned."

Mayor Mavrakis, "Just so everybody knows. You done with your report now?"

Councilwoman Bukowski, "No. Motion to approve the request from the Paul A. Jones –"

Councilman Retos, "We didn't vote on it."

Solicitor Matta, "We didn't vote on the other motion."

Councilwoman Bukowski, "Oh I'm sorry."

YEAS:

NAYS:

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

YEAS: FIVE

NAYS: NONE

Councilwoman Bukowski, "Motion to approve the request from the Paul A. Jones fundraiser committee to use the City Park ball field and concession stand on August 17, 2014 from 10am-dusk."

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

Mayor Mavrakis, "Question?"

YEAS:

NAYS:

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

YEAS: FIVE

NAYS: NONE

Councilwoman Bukowski, "I motion to approve Change Order #4 for the City Park Amphitheater Project in the amount of \$10,730 payable to Maccabee Industrial, Inc. to be paid from DCNR."

Councilwoman D'Alfonso, "Second."

Mayor Mavrakis, "Question on the motion?"

Councilman Retos, "Did we ever talk about the safety issue, was that ever discussed over the last three days; with the backdrop and the space? Patti?"

Councilwoman Bukowski, "Yeah, that's part of this."

Councilman Retos, "Yeah but did we reach out to them about the design issue?"

Councilwoman Bukowski, "Yes, I did talk to them, I did talk to them."

Councilman Retos, "What did they say?"

Councilwoman Bukowski, "The reason that happened, I guess, is because originally, the plan was to go into the stone work."

Audience member, "Can't hear you Patti."

Councilwoman Bukowski, "The original plan was to go into the stone work. They were not able to do that because they were afraid that the stone work might not hold what they were putting there, with the weight of it. So I guess between that not being able to happen, nobody realized that this was going to happen. So that's why the Change

Order. And I just want to say that, on the whole project, it's been a 10% change order on the whole project of half a million dollars. That's almost unheard of, only a 10% Change Orders."

Councilwoman D'Alfonso, "Particularly that low."

Mayor Mavrakis, "How did the change order come about? Was there a meeting called? Did you put a note on my desk, Holly? Stating that there was going to be a meeting up at the amphitheater to sign off on the project and that Pat Bukowski would be there, the Haglund's would be there, Leonard Billy would be there, and the contractors. Did you leave that note?"

City Clerk Minno, "That's what I was told from Jon Haglund."

Mayor Mavrakis, "Alright, I went there. I went by myself. No one was – Patti, were you there?"

Councilwoman Bukowski, "No, I wasn't there, I wasn't there. As a matter of fact, I called them and said I was sick – "

Mayor Mavrakis, "Leonard, Leonard wasn't there. I walked up, did I find a safety hazard? That you knew about, Josh, am I correct?"

Councilman Retos, "I just found out about it over the weekend."

Mayor Mavrakis, "Well here's what you do, you have a contractor that comes in for a project that's over \$400,000. There's a safety issue there that was quite obvious to anyone. I'm not an engineer. I walked up there. Maybe it's just because I'm a father, a grandfather, and a great grandfather. Where I seen a hazard that was almost 3 feet, where you sit in the backdrop. Children play up there every day. A child could've went up there, dropped off of there to a 10 foot, 12 foot drop. And these people knew nothing about it? The contractors didn't know nothing about it? And let me add, John Harhai was up there every day engineering the project and he doesn't even know, he's out of the office."

Councilwoman D'Alfonso, "Mayor – "

Mayor Mavrakis, "Look – don't – no – don't interrupt me while I'm speaking. And this is what happened. Josh, am I correct?"

Council Members are all talking at once, it is hard to make out what any individual is saying.

Councilman Retos, "Wait, for the record, when you brought this up on Monday I agreed with you because when I brought my daughter and a friend of mine was up there with his child, they went over and played and we went over and grabbed them and said

'whoa, whoa, whoa'. When you brought it to my attention and I said yeah, I understand and I witnessed what you're saying, I do agree with you Mayor, but the other additives you really shouldn't be doing."

Mayor Mavrakis, "The attitude is simply this – "

Councilman Retos, "Additives. I didn't say attitude."

Mayor Mavrakis, "Is simply this, an engineer came in and they didn't see that flaw, now what we're doing, you're being charged additional money for something that should have been in the original plan, is my argument. We've been blindsided, you know it yourself, you mentioned it to Josh, we were blindsided by work orders three different times. Am I correct?"

Councilwoman Bukowski, "Mayor, have you never built anything? Have you never done anything in your home?"

Mayor Mavrakis, "No, no I haven't. I'm not an engineer, I've never claimed to be. I don't get paid for it."

Councilwoman Bukowski, "Everything that I've ever done in my home has cost me more money than I originally intended."

Councilwoman D'Alfonso, "And that's why they put extra money in the –"

Solicitor Matta, "If I may, Councilwoman, I think that at this point we know that we have a potential problem there that we need to wanna be addressed for no party gets injured. We're doing that, I think that Council would like to meet with the design team and have a discussion with them on why this wall wasn't part of the original design, and if they don't have a reason why it wasn't that's appropriate then we will take the appropriate action to have DCNR reimbursed for the amount of money that was expended."

Mayor Mavrakis, "That's all I'm asking for."

Councilwoman Bukowski, "Okay, we have a motion on the floor?"

Councilman Retos, "Patti, make sure you say that there was also contingency money in there so it doesn't come out of the City coffers, please?"

Councilwoman Bukowski, "Yeah, maybe if people think we're taking this money out of our general fund, this money was put aside for this project. There's no extra money the way maybe you think. You may be thinking, 'Oh my God, they're spending \$10,000 of our taxpayers money' and you know everybody has a different idea of taxpayer money."

Emory Terensky, "Patti, it is taxpayer's money, it's taxpayers money from the entire state of Pennsylvania, not just Monessen."

Councilwoman Bukowski, "I just said, some people have different ideas of what is taxpayer's money."

Audience Member says something else but it can't be made out over everyone talking.

Mayor Mavrakis, "Please save the comments till after, when we open the floor, then it'll be the proper time to do it."

Councilwoman Bukowski, "But this money is not coming out of our general budget, this money was a grant and money that came out of CDBG money."

Councilwoman D'Alfonso, "Pat if I may add, it was built into the actual project, they always but in extra money in case there are extenuating circumstances that require additional fees."

Councilwoman Bukowski, "Exactly."

Councilwoman D'Alfonso, "So that was part of the grant."

Councilwoman Bukowski, "We're up to \$450,000 on a project that started out at \$400,000."

Councilwoman D'Alfonso, "And we had \$500,000."

Councilwoman Bukowski, "And we had \$500,000 in that budget."

Mayor Mavrakis, "You through?"

Solicitor Matta, "We have a motion, second motion."

Mayor Mavrakis, "Are you through though Patti?"

Councilwoman Bukowski, "Yes."

Mayor Mavrakis, "Motion? Question on the motion?"

YEAS:

Councilwoman D'Alfonso
Councilman Nestor
Councilwoman Bukowski
Councilman Retos

NAYS:

Mayor Mavrakis ("No, with the money.")

YEAS: FOUR

NAYS: ONE

Councilman Retos, "But we need to go back to the engineering and see if we can get some reimbursement on that design error. You know the reason why I am voting yes is because it's a safety hazard, it needs to be handled right away."

Councilwoman Bukowski, "So you're not willing to take care of the kids?"

Councilwoman D'Alfonso, "You don't want to repair?"

Mayor Mavrakis, "You can table it but I said no to the money. You have the majority vote, what's the difference?"

Councilwoman D'Alfonso, "We're just trying to understand."

Councilwoman Bukowski, "Motion to approve the request from Charleroi Baptist Church to use City Park for a picnic and concert on August 29, 2014 from 5-9pm."

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

Councilwoman D'Alfonso, "Did we find out if they needed the amphitheater?"

City Clerk Minno, "They're going to use the amphitheater, yes."

Councilwoman D'Alfonso, "Okay, thank you."

Mayor Mavrakis, "Question on the motion?"

YEAS:

NAYS:

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

YEAS: FIVE

NAYS: NONE

Councilwoman Bukowski, "I want to talk a little bit about the amphitheater. We had a Doo Wop in the Park and it was very successful. We also had Dallas Marks up there this past weekend and that was also very successful. People came not only from Monessen but from all around the valley, and we had a lot of good comments about the park and how nice the park looked, and so we were all very pleased. The committee is very pleased, they really had to hit the ground running with this one because we weren't sure exactly when the amphitheater was going to be finished. Now on September 7, we have Motown in the park and I'm hoping that we get the 250-300 people that we got for

the Doo Wop. I have an invitation here to all of you to attend the amphitheater ribbon cutting ceremony on August 22, 2014. We'll have a Barbershop quartet going to be there, we have the Monessen High School band will be there, and then we'll cut the ribbon. Then we have a jazz band, Hot Mike or something like that, I don't know his name. So it should be a nice afternoon. That concludes my report."

Councilman Nestor – Department of Public Safety

Councilman Nestor, "good evening Council, Mayor, Citizens of Monessen. Thank you for coming out, I appreciate it. The following are my reports:

Code Office Report

The Code Office Report for the month ending July: Building Permits- \$3,108; Soliciting Permits: \$100; Street Opening Permits - \$2,600; Sign Permits - \$120; Magistrate Code Enforcement - \$193.47; Occupancy Permits - \$500; Plumbing License - \$100; Mercantile Machines - \$400; Landlord Fees - \$6,275 for a monthly total of \$13,396.47 and the year to date \$77,905.62.

Fire Report

Councilman Nestor, "for the Fire Report there was 29 calls and a total of 379.5 hours for the month of July."

EMS Report

Councilman Nestor, "there was a total of 131 emergency calls. There was 9 fire standbys and 1 public service for a total incidents of 141."

Councilman Nestor, "Motion to hire Andrew J. Marsh as part-time Code Enforcement Officer at \$9.50 per hour for a max of 25 hours per week."

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

Mayor Mavrakis, "Question?"

YEAS:

NAYS:

Councilwoman Bukowski

Councilman Retos
Councilwoman D'Alfonso
Councilman Nestor
Mayor Mavrakis

YEAS: FIVE

NAYS: NONE

Councilman Nestor, "Motion to enter into an agreement with K2 Engineering to serve as Building Inspector for the City, and authorizing the Mayor to sign the contract, after working with the Solicitor."

Councilman Retos, "Second."

Mayor Mavrakis, "John, did you get involved in a negotiation with it?"

Councilman Retos, "Uh, yes. What's going to happen is, if we continue to go with BIU, it's going to charge the City another \$5 per permit. I myself do not feel entitled to raise the cost of the occupancy permit because I feel it hurts the rentor, and it's just going to defer people from wanting to be obliged by being faithful and have an occupancy permit. This company's only going to charge us \$50 per occupancy, that's what we have, no matter what we're losing, but we're still saving 5 bucks. They're not willing to go down, no one was willing to go down. Plus, we're the cheapest."

Solicitor Matta, "One of the reasons, Mayor, that I have pending my review, to give us the opportunity to have further discussions with K2."

Mayor Mavrakis, "You and I did discuss the BIU contract and we did get involved with – we know there's contracts, 80 and 20 and 70 and 30, and it's your advice that we go this route, Counsellor?"

Solicitor Matta, "We can have those discussions with K2 regarding fees and bring that back to Council if we see it's fit."

Mayor Mavrakis, "Alright."

Councilman Nestor, "For the record too Mayor, if I may add, we do have the lowest fees around here in the Mon Valley for occupancy permits so it's pretty hard to negotiate a company that's going to want to come out here for maybe only \$20. Other than that, that's all I have to add."

Mayor Mavrakis, "Just for public knowledge, what we had before as far as BIU was concerned, what was the percentage, John, at that time?"

Councilman Nestor, "On the record, I'm not too sure, but I just know that we lose \$5 if we continue the deal BIU. And I do want to thank BIU for coming out and helping us during the time of needs when we were not able to have anyone out doing inspections. Thank you Gary for negotiating."

Solicitor Matta, "If I could explain a little bit on the Mayor's comments. Currently, there are some municipalities, in addition to what they are charged from a third party vendor, they will put an additional fee on that for administrative services that the municipality has to incur as far as Secretarial staff, whatever type of cost that may be incurred in addition to the third party. The City of Monessen does not do that and that's really what the discussion now, Council is concerned, to try to keep that fee as reasonable as possible and not add any additional fees to what's already being incurred by the residents. So that's really what the issue here is. We want to make sure that the City doesn't lose any money, but it's not going to be a revenue generating endeavor as it is in other municipalities."

Mayor Mavrakis, "Thank you Gary. Question on the motion?"

YEAS:

NAYS:

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

YEAS: FIVE

NAYS: NONE

Councilman Nestor, "I'm currently going to abstain from the agenda item 6 underneath my name because I do not have a report, there's nothing I can really give out any information. I'm not going to allude anything without a report. There is concerns that there's a building on 3rd street that might be..."

Councilman Retos, "Falling down?"

Solicitor Matta, "If I may Councilman. I did have an opportunity late this afternoon, prior to the meeting, to have a discussion with the engineer. I'm hoping if we leave here before it's dark to be able to take a look at it either today, or if I have to, I'll come back into the City tomorrow at some point and review it then have a further discussion with the engineer."

Councilman Nestor, "Thank you. Other than that, I yield the floor Mayor. Thank you."

Gerald Saksun – City Treasurer

City Treasurer Saksun, "Mayor Lou Mavrakis and members of City Council, Ladies and Gentlemen the following is a report of the Garbage Collection Fees and City Real Estate Taxes collected. Garbage Fees budgeted for 2014 - \$470,000.00; Garbage Fees collected as of June 30 - \$449,755.00; Garbage Fees collected during July - \$1,995.00; Total Garbage Fees collected as of July 31- \$451,750.00; Delinquent Garbage Fees collected as of June 30 - \$31,178.86; Delinquent Garbage Fees collected during July was \$2,921.53. Delinquent Garbage Fees collected as of July 31 is \$34,100.39.

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 June 30 - \$1,755,191.35 , City Real Estate Taxes collected during July - \$40,621.99; 2%; City Taxes collected as of July 31 - \$1,795,813.34.

Delinquent City Taxes collected as of June 30 - \$5,210.50; Delinquent City Taxes collected during July - \$227.37; Delinquent City Taxes collected as of July 31 - \$5,437.87.

Distribution of the Income is as follows: General Fund received \$1,223,846.46; Debt Service Fund - \$432,037.22; City Parks Fund received - \$89,912.55; Library Fund received \$50,017.11.

Mayor, that concludes my report for the month."

Mayor Mavrakis, "You have a motion on that?"

City Treasurer Saksun, "Yes"

Councilman Retos, "So moved Mayor."

Mayor Mavrakis, "Question. Gerry, of the top of your head, from the last administration to this in the first 6 months, have we saved a substantial amount of money in City Hall as far as salaries are concerned? Do you have a ballpark figure?"

City Treasurer Saksun, "No I don't Mayor. I gave you the report but in defense of my department, that should be coming from the department of accounts and finances, the treasurer department is only supposed to collect the taxes and the fees that come into the City."

Mayor Mavrakis, "Josh, would you take care of that for us for the next meeting?"

Councilman Retos, "I will make sure you get it."

Mayor Mavrakis, "Thank you. We have a motion?"

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

Mayor Mavrakis, "Question on the motion?"

YEAS:

NAYS:

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

YEAS: FIVE

NAYS: NONE

Wayne Vlasic – City Controller

Controller's Report

City Controller Vlasic read the Controller's Report as follows: General Fund First Federal Checking Account Bank Reconciliation as of July 31, 2014: Beginning Bank Balance - \$197,488.71; Deposits - \$217,558.66; for a Total of \$415,047.37. Checks Cashed \$313,556.86; leaving a Bank Balance of \$101,490.51. Outstanding Checks \$71,371.04; amount reconciled to the Balance Sheet of \$30,119.47.

CDBG Report

Controller Vlasic, "next is the CDBG Bank Account Monthly Activity: Beginning Balance \$14,297.49; Deposits \$73,802.91 for a total of \$88,100.40. Checks Cashed \$73,898.99 for a Bank Balance of \$14,201.41. Outstanding Checks \$1,740.00 for a final month end balance of \$12,461.41.

Mayor Mavrakis, "Do we have a motion to accept CDBG funds?"

Councilwoman D'Alfonso, "So moved."

Councilwoman Bukowski, "I'll second."

Mayor Mavrakis, "Question?"

YEAS:

NAYS:

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

YEAS: FIVE

NAYS: NONE

Gary Matta – Solicitor

Mayor Mavrakis, "Mr. Solicitor, our good Gary Matta, you're up on the firing line for your first time. We hope that you'll be very successful today."

Solicitor Matta, "Thank you Mayor. First, I'd like to announce to the public that we did hold an executive session prior to this evening's meeting to discuss potential litigation and personnel items. As I had said earlier, I have been the Solicitor here for less than a month. I have had meetings with the administrative staff, have had a phone conference with the engineer, trying to get the update on some of the facts. I did speak with the prior Solicitor who has been very gracious to provide me some information and will be providing me with a more full description of some of the open files that he has and providing me them over the next several weeks I'll be meeting with him. And again, he was very cooperative in getting me the information that was needed. We do have an issue with the municipal authority that I started to discuss with their Solicitor regarding that holding tank issue. We are planning on meeting Mr. Bialon and both our engineer and municipal engineer to try to move that item along. The other issues that I've handled have been executive session in nature, Mr. Mayor. I'm open to any questions that any of the Council or the Mayor would have for me."

Mayor Mavrakis, "Anybody have any questions?"

Councilman Retos, "No Mayor."

Councilwoman D'Alfonso, "No Mayor."

Mayor Mavrakis, "Gary, thank you for your report, Josh?"

PAYMENT OF BILLS:

Jonmichael Retos – Department of Accounts & Finance

Councilman Retos, "motion to approve payment of General Fund Expenditures for the month of August 2014 in the amount of \$598,314.18".

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

Mayor Mavrakis, "question on the motion?"

YEAS:

NAYS:

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

YEAS: FIVE

NAYS: NONE

Councilman Retos, "motion to approve payment of Health Center Expenditures for the month of August 2014 in the amount of \$11,645.74".

Councilwoman Bukowski, "Second".

Mayor Mavrakis, "question on the motion?"

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 August 2014 in the amount of \$10,970.55".

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 August 2014 in the amount of \$714.16."

Councilwoman Bukowski, "Second."

Mayor Mavrakis, "question on the motion?"

YEAS:

NAYS:

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

YEAS: FIVE

NAYS: NONE

Councilman Retos, "motion to approve payment of Line Usage Fund Expenditures for the month of August 2014 in the amount of \$20,877.24".

Councilman Nestor, "Second on the floor".

Mayor Mavrakis, "question?"

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 August 2014 in the amount of \$1,821.57."

Councilwoman D'Alfonso, "Second."

Mayor Mavrakis, "Question?"

YEAS:

NAYS:

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

YEAS: FIVE

NAYS: NONE

Mayor Mavrakis – Department of Public Affairs

Police Department Report

Mayor Mavrakis, "Parking Meters - \$1,086.45; Total Parking Receipts - \$1,433.26; Parking Fines and Forfeits - \$995.00; Total On and Off Fines & Forfeits - \$995.00; Parking Permits On Street - \$2,050.00; Parking Permits Off Street - \$1,125.00; Total Parking Permits - \$3,175.00; Miscellaneous Collection: Copies of Police Accident Reports - \$0.00; Charleroi Prisoners - \$700.00; West Newton Prisoners - \$175.00; Restitution - \$0.00; Meter Bags - \$0.00; Open Records - \$0.00; Total Miscellaneous Collection - \$875.00; Court Receipts from District Justice Office: Vehicle Code Fines Collected - \$599.03; Crimes Code Fines Collected - \$1,609.86; City Ordinance Collected - \$340.59; Code Enforcement Collected - \$193.47; Total Receipts from District Justice Office - \$2,742.95; Total Receipts Collected for July 2014 - \$9,221.21. Arrests for July 2014: Total – 124; YTD Total – 779 arrests."

Mayor Mavrakis, "First and Final Reading of Bill 3, Ordinance No. 4 – An Ordinance of the City of Monessen, Westmoreland County, Pennsylvania Establishing Meeting Dates. (Changing Meeting Dates back to the Third Wednesday of each month.)"

Mayor Mavrakis, "Motion on the floor."

Councilman Retos, "Second Mayor."

Mayor Mavrakis, "Question. Solicitor?"

Solicitor Matta, "Yes Mayor."

Mayor Mavrakis, "Does that accommodate you? Did you have a comment on it or do you have anything to do with that?"

Solicitor Matta, "We did discuss, Mayor, and we're going to I think look at it at the beginning of the year to try to put it that we have a week between our meetings where we can be more prepared after workshop. For the remainder of this year it appears that this would be the best for the administration. I think that I can make that work in my

schedule and as I told you, my whole office is representing you, just not myself, so there may be one occasion through the end of the year that I would have to have an associate here, but I don't see it to be a problem."

Mayor Mavrakis, "Motion to approve the request from the Monessen Volunteer Fire Department #1 Auxiliary to hold a Bar Crawl on September 13, 2014. Does anybody know what a Bar Crawl is?"

Mixed responses from Audience

Mayor Mavrakis, "Does anybody that drinks would like to explain? I don't drink, I couldn't explain. Anybody here from the Fire Department?"

Councilwoman Bukowski, "Let's just approve it."

Jamie Hurst, "You go bar, to bar, to bar, collecting money, donations and you raise money for whatever their cause is that day."

Mayor Mavrakis, "Okay, Jamie thank you for explaining that."

City Treasurer Saksun, "It's going to be used for the Veteran's affair. The donations will be all going to that."

Councilwoman D'Alfonso, "We were told it was split."

Jamie Hurst, "I know I'm not the only person know what that is in here."

Audience laughs

Councilwoman D'Alfonso, "They told us it was going to be split between #1 and the Veteran's. Correct?"

Solicitor Matta, "I believe that was accurate."

Mayor Mavrakis, "Just so we get a clarification on that, Jerry would you say loud enough so they will understand?"

City Treasurer Saksun, "The donations from the Bar Crawl will be split between the #1 Fire Department and the Veterans for their affairs for the year."

Mayor Mavrakis, "Okay, we got a motion on the floor."

YEAS:

NAYS:

Councilwoman D'Alfonso
Councilman Nestor

Councilwoman Bukowski
Councilman Retos
Mayor Mavrakis

YEAS: FIVE

NAYS: NONE

Mayor Mavrakis, "Motion to approve the Monessen Halloween Parade on Thursday, October 23, 2014. The parade will be handled by Ricky Dick, owner of "Castle Blood"."

Councilwoman D'Alfonso, "Second."

Mayor Mavrakis, "Question on the motion?"

YEAS:

NAYS:

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

YEAS: FIVE

NAYS: NONE

Councilwoman D'Alfonso, "Do we need a motion to change meetings before we move forward, Solicitor?"

Solicitor Matta, "We had a reading, that should have probably been a motion to do that, I apologize, I didn't – We should probably have a motion for #2 to approve that."

Councilwoman D'Alfonso, "I'll move that we advertise that we are changing the meeting dates back to the third Wednesday of the month with Work Session on the Monday prior to that."

Councilman Retos, "I second that, for the record."

Mayor Mavrakis, "Question on the motion?"

Solicitor Matta, "And Holly, we're going to need to make sure that it is advertised."

City Clerk Minno, "Yes."

YEAS:

NAYS:

Councilwoman Bukowski

Councilman Retos
Councilwoman D'Alfonso
Councilman Nestor
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 their name and address.

John Sivek – 200 Donner, “Ever since they blacktopped Donner Ave, the road’s so high that the water runs down the whole block and it’s going across my sidewalk and it’s leaving a big puddle of water, then in the wintertime, it freezes. And I got all these young girls pushing strollers with little kids, senior citizens, and some people walk down there, I don’t even know if they know where they’re walking. I’m just a little concerned someone’s going to get hurt. I sent a letter to John Harhai, who forwarded it to the City engineer and they were supposed to look into it, see what they could do. My sidewalk’s fine, the curb’s high enough, but it’s coming from all the other streets, all the other sidewalks, which like I said, is because the road was raised. Just for my insurance purposes, I want to make sure the City is notified a second time and I also have a copy of the correspondence if anybody wants it. But the City engineer was supposed to get in touch with me but I really don’t think you guys can, with the money, don’t have the money to do anything, but because of my insurance I just wanted to make sure we bring it up, that you guys are aware of it, okay? Cause it is bad, I mean, I get this much ice all the way across the sidewalk.”

Mayor Mavrakis, “Lucille, you want to comment on that?”

Councilwoman D'Alfonso, “I can’t comment at this time, but I will get in touch with the engineer and have him look at it again.”

John Sivek, “My suggestion was, I realize you can’t do all new sidewalks, was to just put a curb, leave a 1 foot, 2 foot strip of grass, you know for everybody’s sidewalk, that way you don’t have to worry about the sidewalk, and you still have a curb. Cause my water runoff I want to cut a little trough, which I’ve done for other people across the sidewalk with a grate, to take care of my water, but the street’s too high, water don’t go anywhere.”

Councilwoman D'Alfonso, “You said you had a copy of the letter?”

John Sivek, “I just want to make sure it’s on the minutes, that I made everybody aware of it.”

Mayor Mavrakis, "Anybody else have a comment, please stand up, step forward please."

Tony Evans – 236 Donner, "Just have a couple things to mention; regarding John Sivek's concern, I live on the same block and it is a concern for me as well, when the rain's really bad. This is regarding Councilwoman Bukowski's report and concerns regarding the Change Orders and it just seems like a lackadaisical response of 'Oh golly, well we always have additional expenses, you know, these things happen'"

Councilwoman Bukowski, "I didn't think I was like happy about it."

Tony Evans, "Not happy, but apparently there's no concern."

Councilwoman Bukowski, "But that's what you're saying."

Tony Evans, "Lackadaisical. And it's my opinion that all expenses should be scrutinized; particularly things that have come unforeseen, such as Change Orders. It's your responsibility, that's your department. I just think that should be known. I think it would be wise to scrutinize those expenses. You don't have to comment, I was just giving my opinion."

Councilwoman Bukowski, "Tony we did, we've done that. We met Monday and we went over all of these expenses. I mean, it wasn't like I just threw it out here. This was done on Monday."

Tony Evans, "Well but you said these things happen, there's always additional expenses; as though each expense was not scrutinized. I would hope that you don't do that in your own household. I don't. The second, which, just a concern regarding, you mentioned about the clock and you had to have somebody come back in. I saw that Esken Landscaping from Pittsburgh had come back, they were the company that installed the clock but they weren't the company that serviced the clock. I saw that they had come back, put up a stepladder, grabbed a few handles, and took the lenses off and put the hands back on, which one of them fell off the next day. Did they do that just out of the graciousness of their hearts?"

Councilwoman Bukowski, "Yes, they did."

Tony Evans, "I would assume they aren't the only one in the area with a screwdriver. But that's my comment, thank you for listening."

Councilman Retos, "Thank you Tony."

Councilwoman Bukowski, "Ah, Tony. Yes, please. I said with the clock we have to order parts and that was one of the things that they saw when they were up there, that

the parts needed to be ordered. You can't just go in the store and buy these parts, the clock's over 100 years old."

Tony Evans, "I wasn't concerned about that."

Councilwoman Bukowski, "Okay. And also, on the – you said it was lackadaisical, we went over these Monday, each and every one of them, saying what the Change Order was for. One of the Change Orders I put into place because we didn't have a sign at the bottom of the road saying handicap parking. And I thought that that was needed so that people knew where they could park up close to the amphitheater. So that was 600 and some dollars –\$625 for handicap seating, handicap access, you know, handicap parking, those kinds of signs. We had to install another 100 amp electrical up there and wiring because it was – I think we had 100 amp up there but we had to install another one, so that was \$4000 for the work that they did there, and then of course the \$6000 was to put these rear panels in for safety reasons. And that's what that money was about and that's why we didn't – you know it wasn't lackadaisical, it was just reading it off. We did this Monday."

Tony Evans, "Well you didn't read it off an itemized list and say that they were justified, so it made it sound as though it was something of no concern. That's all. I don't have to go on about it. You explained it. I'm very satisfied."

Councilwoman Bukowski, "No, I mean, I think personally, when you a job of any kind, okay? Anything you've ever done, if you can stay within 10%..."

Tony Evans, "But that doesn't mean you have to go over by almost 10%. And that's what it sounded like. So your explanation of these as they were itemized, that's acceptable to me. Had I heard this before, I wouldn't have had the question."

Councilwoman D'Alfonso, "That's discussed at the work session, Tony."

Councilwoman Bukowski, "It was talked about Monday."

Councilwoman D'Alfonso, "That's what we had the work session for."

Tony Evans, "Right, but you said, when it was something brought up – a concern brought up, you know, these expenses, well these things – there's always overages. Rather than, rather than – there's always overages and we looked into these and they were justifiable, that's all."

Councilwoman Bukowski, "Tony, you do work for people, okay? When you give em bid, do you stick strictly by that bid?"

Tony Evans, "Absolutely, I do. When there's an unforeseen condition that causes the job to cost more I take the loss. Yes."

Councilwoman Bukowski, "Well, God bless you because most people don't do that."

Tony Evans, "I think it's only right."

Councilwoman Bukowski, "Most people don't do that. When I ran my business I also took the loss on a lot of things."

Tony Evans, "Just as a – again, this is a short comment regarding when they had the clock experts, so to speak, or whatever he was. He said that the reason he couldn't inspect the clock correctly was because the city didn't provide a bucket truck, that's not true, it was parked there for three hours. I just wanted to let you know."

Councilwoman Bukowski, "I was there, I was there, okay. What we were told – "

Tony Evans, "I don't remember who made that – said that the City didn't provide it but, it was there."

Councilwoman Bukowski, "Okay, what we were told, what we were told, I was there, I saw the bucket truck. What were told is the man said he couldn't operate it and he couldn't get a hold of the operator of the bucket truck."

Tony Evans, "Leonard said that?"

Councilwoman D'Alfonso, "We weren't mentioning names."

Tony Evans, "Cause Leonard was there till quitting time, so I just wanted to let that be known, just so that he doesn't get a bad name as a result of all of that, cause he was there."

Councilwoman D'Alfonso, "But you brought up his name and we weren't mentioning it."

Councilwoman Bukowski, "I didn't bring his name up."

Tony Evans, "That's okay. I think if the name is – "

Councilwoman Bukowski, "I didn't bring it up though, you brought it up."

Tony Evans, "Right, and now I'm saying, Leonard Billy was there, he did the job."

Solicitor Matta, "Excuse me sir, we really don't want to mention any employees, it's not appropriate to mention an employee's name."

Tony Evans, "Okay. The Superintendent of the Street Department was there."

Councilwoman Bukowski, "I know, I was there myself."

Tony Evans, "I'm not arguing, I'm just wanted to let you know in case it sounded as though he was being blamed for not being there."

Councilwoman Bukowski, "I didn't say he wasn't there."

Tony Evans, "I'm not here to argue, just to let anybody know, that's all. I don't want to take up anymore of your time. Thank you."

Mayor Mavrikis, "Next person? Got a comment, step forward please. Give your name and your address."

Anthony Orzechowski – 1229 Hillcrest Ave, "City Council, I've got some questions if I can. I'd like to apologize to everybody here, I know it's warm, I've got some things but I don't want to be lengthy so please forgive me ahead of time. First question is, it was mentioned tonight that the City's right now currently is about \$900,000 in the red, correct?"

Councilman Retos, "Correct. 900, yes, 900,000."

Councilwoman D'Alfonso, "No, that's how much we would need to pay till the end of the year, that's our expense."

Councilman Retos, "If the year ended today, that's where our deficit would be."

Anthony Orzechowski, "So we're in a deficit?"

Councilman Retos, "Well yeah, but our year of revenues isn't over yet."

Solicitor Matta, "If I may. I think what the report said was if the total amount of expenses from today till the end of the year would be \$900,000. The total amount of revenues expected from today till the end of the year would be \$1.5 million. So those expenses aren't all due today and those revenues aren't all obtainable today. Those are both projections of expenses and revenues so if we would end with the report today with what expenses have been incurred and what revenues have been received, and then also what expenses are going to be expended by the end of the year and what revenues will be received, we should be in a position of approximately \$600 and some odd thousand in the black at the end of the fiscal year."

Mayor Mavrikis, "Providing everything goes smooth."

Solicitor Matta, "That's correct. Expenses could fluctuate slightly, those are the projected expenses and projected revenues."

Anthony Orzechowski., "So my question is can Council tell me what the 2014 projected budget was?"

Anthony Petaccia, "It was about \$4.2."

Anthony Orzechowski, "Or I can help you, I have your complete budget here so."

Councilwoman Bukowski, "Then why are you asking?"

Anthony Orzechowski, "I want to see if you can produce the documents."

Councilman Retos, "We have it in our packets sir."

Anthony Orzechowski, "According to what I have, your 2014 is budgeted at (*someone coughs and the figure he says can't be made out*) million. Does that sound about correct?"

Councilman Retos, "I'm digging through my packet, Anthony."

Councilwoman Bukowski, "I'm not going to say that until I have the sheet."

Anthony Orzechowski, "So my question is, going on budget analysis is what I have here from 2012-2013 and year to date. 2012 was \$10.5 million. 2013 was \$5.8 million. The actual was \$6.2 million. 2014's budget for Monessen is \$5.6 million. Could someone explain to me the \$600,000 drop?"

Mayor Mavrakis, "Are you making a reference to the \$663,000 cut in budget, is that what you making a reference to?"

Councilwoman D'Alfonso, "In the revenue? That was because of change in personnel, for one thing."

Councilman Retos, "Change in personnel, there's also retirements, grants, our grant funds are done, items like that."

Mayor Mavrakis, "There's also cuts in the street department. I believe..."

Councilwoman D'Alfonso, "We're down one person in the street department."

Mayor Mavrakis, "We're also talking about down in street department materials."

Councilman Retos, "Correct."

Mayor Mavrakis, "I think that's included if you were looking to that Tony, you'll find out."

Anthony Orzechowski, "Well, my question is, cause going over the – "

Mayor Mavrikis, "One other current thing too, if you look at the gas, I believe the fuel goes up and I believe that the gas might have been cut down possibly \$10,000 from what last year, so that's quite naturally the gas prices go up."

Anthony Orzechowski, "At 2012 gas allocated was 81,000, 2013 was 70,000. The actual year to date was 80,000 but it was budgeted this year for 70,000."

Councilman Retos, "That's correct."

Anthony Orzechowski, "There's a lot of fluctuations in this budget that are going to be very difficult for this Council to hold to the – possibly the \$600,000 in the black. And if that doesn't happen what's Council's plan to turn around and make that up so it's not a burden on the taxpayers?"

Councilwoman Bukowski, "Well you saw one of them. The Tax Amnesty. The Tax Amnesty is being put in place to get some of the tax money that we would not normally be able to get. Wilkesburg got \$200,000, somebody else got \$165,000. We don't know how much we're going to get with the Tax Amnesty, we're hoping that we can get somewhere in that region of money."

Anthony Orzechowski, "So you get that \$200,000, where's the other \$400,000 possibly going to come from?"

Councilman Retos, "But that's if we do not collect or spend, I mean, you know, unfortunately Lucille cut my crystal ball when she did the budget this year."

Councilwoman D'Alfonso, "Throw me under the bus."

Councilman Retos, "I know, you cut my crystal ball. We do our best to operate in the guidelines of the budget, for instance, we moved our diesel fuel now in house which saved us several thousand dollars, actually about – saving us \$12,000, \$13,000 a year. You know the other thing that I can't anticipate is weather. We had a horrible end of the year in December, January, and February. We may have a great November and December where we don't have overtime and we don't have to call out trucks that don't have to burn up all the fuel. That's where we fluctuate, we purchased salt, we have to purchase our salt in advance. I have to predict what we're going to use in salt for next year, now. Well actually, two months ago. Three years ago we had more salt than we could know what to do with, we had to actually store it in another facility. So there are things that fluctuate, go up, go down, we don't use the manpower, like I said, three years ago we didn't have any snow overtime, these guys were all mad. You know this year, this year these guys had great holiday's this year Tony. At the end of the year it may not happen, there are so many items that affect a budget across the board. Especially when you're dealing with the unknowns."

Anthony Orzechowski, "Well, using those unknowns, looking at your 2014 July worksheet, your accounting and finance, there's a lot of multiple things over here, has

Council looked into consolidating to save taxpayers money? Being that, and this is no disrespect to anybody that might be on this as a business, but my question would be is, there's a lot of automotive repairs, has the Council sat down and ever considered or discussed putting out for bid one place that gives a discount and then have a backup in that place?"

Councilman Retos, "Number one, we have an in house mechanic. Number two, George you know it, we have warranty work, so we take it to the places where we get warranty. We go to Napa because Napa is a specialty store, it's not an AutoZone for the homemaker who needs to get his little Chevy fixed, Napa has the diesel parts that we need, Napa has specialty parts that we have to get. If Ford doesn't have it over in Charleroi we have to go to another Ford dealership and get that part. That's why you see multiple things, it's just like if Home Depot doesn't have it, we have to go to Lowe's. So we also get governmental discounts with all of these companies. So they offer us a government discount, and also, with Leonard and our mechanic, they call around and get the best pricing. So when they call they may call a couple of dealerships asking if they have this part, what's your best price, can you get it to us, how fast you can get it to us, because another very important item is lee time. I can't have trucks down for 3 days because I'm waiting for a part to come in from Chicago. You know, if he has to call around and get a part shipped up here next day because we need to get that plow back on the road, then that's what we have to do. When you're dealing with 13 vehicles you're dealing with a Kabota tractor, you're dealing with all these different entities and most of these things are 3 different elements. You have a truck, a plow, and a bed, so we have to go to different places for all these different items. If we could buy – if there was one big store that sold everything we needed we'd be there."

Mayor Mavrakis, "There's one item on there that no one's even mentioned. We have the holding tank that's coming down there on Parente Blvd. That's going to cost us well over \$1 million. Where we going to get that money?"

Councilman Retos, "Unfortunately Mayor, that's what we're in negotiations with the Sewage Authority. It's out of our hands, I mean, the Sewage Authority's going to charge us, they're going to charge me and everybody else involved in this and there's nothing we can do about it."

Mayor Mavrakis, "They're going to be charged because they're going to be assessed and we already kicked this figure around which would be \$17 a year for the next two years, but that doesn't preclude the fact that we got over a million dollars that we have to pay. That \$17 is not going to come out to pay that million dollars. That million dollars, which is going to be in excess of a million dollars, is going to have to be paid by us out of our general fund."

Councilwoman D'Alfonso, "Well that's why we were having our meeting so that we can see exactly how to do that."

Councilman Retos, "Correct."

Councilwoman D'Alfonso, "And there are different ways we can handle it and that's why you need to discuss it."

Councilman Retos, "And another reason is, that is DEP regulated, believe me, if we didn't have to have this holding tank we wouldn't be getting it. But it's mandated and we are under the gun with this."

Mayor Mavrakis, "We're under the gun now because it was kicked down the street by the last 6 years. And now we're at the point where if we don't do it, we're going to be fined. Am I correct?"

Councilwoman Bukowski, "Right."

Councilman Retos, "Yeah."

Anthony Orzechowski, "If I could get back to one of my last questions, and this is addressed to all of Council, I do have one after this, how active are all you Council members in your departments?"

Audience Member, "We can't hear you."

Anthony Orzechowski, "I'm sorry. I asked them how involved they were in their assigned departments. Being that one is for City, one is for Parks, one's responsible for revenues and everything else."

Councilwoman D'Alfonso, "How active in what sense? I don't go plowing the streets if that's what you're asking."

Anthony Orzechowski, "Sorry I didn't ask you that, I asked you –"

Councilwoman D'Alfonso, "Well you asked me how active –"

Councilman Retos, "I believe I'm very active, you can ask Holly."

Anthony Orzechowski, "Well that's nice, but speaking to some of the guys in the maintenance and other departments."

Councilman Retos, "I don't work in those departments."

Anthony Orzechowski, "There seems to be some disconnect. And is there a lack of communication? According to them, they didn't have a clue on sign off for thresholds, having separate budgets for even salt, things of that nature."

Councilwoman D'Alfonso, "Who did you talk to?"

Councilman Retos, "Who did you talk to?"

Councilwoman D'Alfonso, "Leonard knows all about that and he's in charge of that aspect, workers don't need to know that."

Someone in the audience makes a comment about names being brought up

Solicitor Matta, "Let's refrain, here's the thing, we – "

Councilwoman D'Alfonso, "Yeah, I'm sorry. I didn't mean to do that but I mean, the individual workers don't deal with the budget. The supervisor is the one that has to determine whether or not something is budgeted for or not. And he talks to me and he talks to Josh about the financial aspect."

Anthony Orzechowski, "So you met with – you all appropriately met with your departments for their budget for the year of what they may need for this year? Reason I'm bringing it up is I'm getting a conflict of different answers between speaking to the actual people that do the work and a disconnect with apparently the Council. I'm just trying to understand..."

Councilman Retos, "So you're interviewing the city employees?"

Anthony Orzechowski, "No, I'm just speaking to them on a park bench."

Councilwoman Bukowski, "Well what is the disconnect? Where are we disconnected?"

Anthony Orzechowski, "I don't think I'm getting across to you so I'll just – "

Councilman Retos, "No"

Anthony Orzechowski, "That's okay, I'm not going to waste your time on that matter, I'm not getting across to you. The last thing was, and I apologize, this is it. For the budget analysis and revenues, I requested this, came to see Holly about a month ago – less than a month ago about this. And I got a response that says that she was told by few Council members that under no circumstances was this supposed to leave the office. May I ask why?"

Solicitor Matta, "I think that was inaccurate. At least from –"

Anthony Orzechowski, "Before you were brought on, I know that."

Solicitor Matta, "At least at this time, I can tell you what my response to it is. There should be a copy of that for public review in the office. There's a copy of the bills payable here. If anybody would like copies of particular documents they can go through the right to know act to get that. You have the right to review it and it is available to anybody that would like to."

Councilman Retos, "And Anthony, that was what our prior Solicitor had told us. We had a meeting about this, that's what he told us, that's the advice that I went on. We asked the new Solicitor the same thing, he said create a binder, put the binder out for the meeting, mark it do not copy, and that's where it's at right now."

Anthony Orzechowski, "So I just wanted to make it clear so if anybody here does want to walk in and get it, they are capable of doing so."

Councilman Retos, "Right, and it also says do not remove."

Solicitor Matta, "Again, I think just for everybody's understanding, there is a right to know process in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania for public records. If you would like a public record you come in, ask for that public record, you fill out the document that – there's a form if that item is a public record it will be provided for you, if there's a question if it's a public record or not, that will be referred to my office and we'll respond in the appropriate manner."

Mayor Mavrakakis, "Anybody else? Step forward, give your name and your address."

Eugene Salvino – 646 Knox Ave, "I saw your write up in the paper the other day about the abandoned homes and properties. My neighborhood's not the only in town that way. There are people up there that will cut their front yards and not their backs. The other night I was sitting on my porch, a rat come running by, about 5 minutes later a possum come running by. Then I went in the house because I don't know what's going to happen. There are a lot of people that do care what their properties look like in town, and there's others that really don't. There's a home behind me the man has been running; four different people in a year, that house is in very bad shape. I don't think - he's from New York, and I don't think he's ever paid any of the fees that you're supposed to pay when you own a property. I thought that homes were supposed to be inspected before a tenant moves in, and the fourth person is moving in right now and I think something needs to be done. We're talking about the City needs money, these people are finding loopholes not to pay."

Solicitor Matta, "Sir, if I may respond to that. That's an issue that we have in almost every municipality that I represent. What we need, and when I say we the City of Monessen needs to have help from all of its residents. Unfortunately, there's only a few elected officials here, a few administrators, the police department at times knows about moves and does not just because they're out on the streets. When you as a resident see that those types of things are occurring, people are coming in and out, people aren't getting the appropriate permits for building permits, or occupancy permits, you need to contact the municipality for we can address that."

Eugene Salvino, "I have."

Solicitor Matta, "I hope you continue to, and I can tell you that's one of the things we're working on. As you saw this evening, there was some discussions about bringing a new Code Enforcement group in that we can start addressing those issues. That's going to be the biggest problem in cities and boroughs and townships similar to Monessen, so along the river. We see this from, all the way from the city of Pittsburgh, all through Washington County along these river towns that unfortunately have people that come down here, take advantage of our municipalities, make money on them, and then don't live here and don't care about the residents that do. We need everybody's help to address that and I think that, I know just from my discussions with Council, both in my interview and since that point, that that's an issue that we need to address. We need everybody's help to do that. This isn't just that it's, you know – this is your city, if we are going to be able to make this an area that we're all proud to live in and raise our children in, we need your help to tell us if you can make sure every time that occurs. Some of the problem is, and I know that you said already, I have called. I don't know what's happened here in the past, I can tell you another municipalities that I represent, we take them to the magistrate and it's a long process to go through, and when you say you've had four people in one year, sometimes I may be handling that case through the court system and some of the owners are familiar enough with the system that they can keep bouncing it along for that it doesn't get addressed yet. They're onto the third or fourth person before we address the first one. We need to keep every time it happens, we need to make sure we write the appropriate citations, and we move that along."

Mayor Mavrakis, "In reference today you mentioned the article in the paper yesterday."

Eugene Salvino, "Yes"

Mayor Mavrakis, "This is what the plans are, this has been my plan from the very beginning. I'm getting together a coalition of the third class cities in Westmoreland County. There's five of us. Now, what I intend to do is get our Congressman and our Senate set up a committee, go to Washington DC, testify it before Congress. What is the problem? The problem is simply this, the very communities that built this country are suffering the most. We had the steel mills here, Donora, we're talking about Duquesne, all of these – Latrobe, Jeanette had the biggest glass as far as they're concerned. We're suffering the most. Every morning that you get up, millions of dollars go to foreign countries. For foreign aid, and they hate us. Three months ago, Malaysian airlines 370 went down in the Indian Ocean, allegedly. The United States was there immediately. They spent \$12 – 15,000 looking for that flight. I got 7700 people in Monessen that are alive! I'm not a callous person, but what do you want to do with them people at the bottom of the ocean? We got a problem here, and you're not going to get any money from the City by raising taxes, you're not going to get any money from the county, you're not going to get any money from the state. You got to go to the federal government and that's what I intend to do, with the coalition, and people say I don't have plans, I have several plans. And this is one of them. And you got to get rid of the blight. No one's going to come to Monessen because you got a 100 year old clock or you got an amphitheater, they're not going to come here for that reason. Who's going to move into Monessen with all this blight when you go downtown and you go up on the hill? The last

administration had a million dollars set aside to tear down 250 homes, what did they do with it? They put that money into the parks. They should have torn down them homes."

Councilwoman D'Alfonso, "Excuse me.

Mayor Mavrakis, "Don't interrupt me when I'm speaking. You can speak after I'm done. Let me finish. Now I don't know whether you people agree with that but as far as I'm concerned that's what my plans are going to be and that's what I'm gonna do. Contrary to anybody on this council how they feel. But that's my plans and I'm going forward with them. Now you can have the floor."

Councilwoman D'Alfonso, "I only wanted to say is you need to get your facts straight. I've asked that before."

Mayor Mavrakis, "What are the facts?"

Councilwoman D'Alfonso, "The facts are that there was already money earmarked for the park. We did not use the money that you're talking about for the park."

Audience Member, "Where's it at?"

Mayor Mavrakis, "The minutes will reflect the million dollars. Josh Retos is the only one that asked about them homes. Josh, am I correct? Did you ask about the homes? How many homes did you ask about Josh?"

Councilman Retos, "250."

Mayor Mavrakis, "I rest my case."

Audience Members, "Where's the money?" "Where's the money?"

Mayor Mavrakis, "Ask them where it's at. The minutes will reflect. Do you want me to get the minutes and show you?"

Councilwoman D'Alfonso, "You don't need to cause I know what happened. We took out the bond issue and yes in the original bond issue we had \$1 million set for demolition. However, unfortunately we found problems. We started with the public safety building there were problems. That went over the \$1 million, we had to use more than the \$1 million dollars we had earmarked for. We had roads, we used \$1 million that was set aside for roads. We had to do repairs on the viaduct."

Mayor Mavrakis, "Where did you get the money for the lights?"

Councilwoman D'Alfonso, "That was already earmarked for as...There was \$1 million earmarked to repair the parks."

Mayor Mavrakis, "There's a word that I use, priority. Lights in the park or tear down demolished homes."

Councilwoman D'Alfonso, "We had another plan and you know very well that we did to take care of the blight and that's why we put that aside and used the money for the other areas where we had started."

Mayor Mavrakis, "How many people in here agree that Monessen is in great shape? The streets, the catch basins, everything in this town. Is it in great shape?"

Audience Members, "No."

Councilwoman D'Alfonso, "Nobody said that it was, Lou."

Mayor Mavrakis, "Was it caused by this administration or was it caused by the last administration?"

Councilwoman Bukowski, "This has been going on for 15 or 20 years. This is not new."

Councilwoman D'Alfonso, "We have to move forward."

Mayor Mavrakis, "You can't move forward. You know why you can't move forward."

Councilwoman D'Alfonso, "Cause you won't."

Councilwoman Bukowski, "Cause you won't let us."

Mayor Mavrakis, "If you forget the past, your destin to relive it again. And it's because of the past that our future looks bleak. Everybody in this town has a right to know."

Councilwoman D'Alfonso, "Motion, please."

Councilman Retos, "Hold on, hold on."

Mayor Mavrakis, "You can't have a motion right now to dismiss. There is still a conversation going on here. You can finish talking. I'm sorry I interrupted you."

Tim Wiggins, "I want to know one thing, why is it that you're always trying to blame everything on the past administration? Cause you're trying to cover it up."

Mayor Mavrakis, "Cover what up?"

Tim Wiggins, "Cause you don't know what to do, so you're trying to blame the past administration just to make yourself look good."

Solicitor Matta, "Gentlemen, please."

Audience Member, "Seven months."

Mayor Mavrakis, "Did I just get through telling you..."

Tim Wiggins, "You're trying to make yourself look good cause you don't have a clue."

Audience Member, "Seven months."

Mayor Mavrakis, "Who don't have a clue?"

Tim Wiggins, "You"

Mayor Mavrakis, "I know a hell of a lot more than you do."

Audience Member, "Seven months versus all those years. Seven months."

Solicitor Matta, "If we could. Hey I'll sit here all evening and leave everybody talk. Let's do it in an orderly fashion for everybody to make their comments."

Mayor Mavrakis, "Go ahead. Continue."

Eugene Salvino, "I only had one other suggestion. I have seen and I don't know if anybody else here had seen in Pittsburgh to clear weeds and hillsides, they had somebody bring in goats instead of hiring people to do it. We have a lot of places in town that could be cleaned up and I'm sure we get goats in here, somebody will have goats, up on 70 some guy has goats they would probably be glad to bring them down and let 'em feed all day long."

Audience Member, "That's a good suggestion."

Eugene Salvino, "That would save the City a ton of money on clearing the hillside..."

Too much chatter from the audience to make out the rest of what is said

Mayor Mavrakis, "Please keep quiet back there. Allow the gentlemen to speak, please."

Eugene Salvino, "You could turn 'em loose on some of the abandoned properties and let 'em go to town. That would be one way to save some money for the City and get it cleaned up a little bit."

Audience Member, "Pittsburgh does it."

Councilwoman Bukowski, "That's something I can look into."

Councilman Retos, "To buy goats?"

Councilwoman Bukowski, "Yeah. We could have a herder."

Eugene Salvino, "You don't buy 'em, you get a farmer that has goats and bring 'em in."

Mayor Mavrakis, "I do believe we have an ordinance about animals in Monessen."

Councilman Retos, "I think a couple of them would come up missing inside of someone's bar-b-q pit."

Councilwoman Bukowski, "Thank you."

Mayor Mavrakis, "Next?"

Anthony Petaccia - 46 Overhill Drive, "Let me make a comment about change orders, okay? There are going to be times you need change orders, okay, it does happen, but Mr. Matta can attest this, he represents different municipalities, the way you control change orders is they have to get a contract. These people bid a job, if they're telling me they're gonna pave a road for \$200,000 you got a contract. I want it done in a certain time, okay, and it's going to be done to certain specs so you can control the change orders by the contract. You review the contract, you make sure they're doing the work, and you build into the contract how much you want for a change order so you don't have a company come back and say, 'Okay we're paving a road, it was \$200,000, now we want \$400,000.' Guess what, your low bid was \$200,000, we'll get somebody that's \$205,000. So, moving forward..."

Solicitor Matta, "We are looking into this, and I can say that we have a design team that designed this project, for whatever reason, they believe that the change order is appropriate, I haven't had the opportunity to look at it yet. As far as what the design and specifications were, we're going to look at that and make sure that it was handled properly."

Anthony Petaccia, "And there are times you need change orders, it does happen, but you want to keep them to a minimum."

Solicitor Matta, "There's no doubt about it."

Councilwoman Bukowski, "Anthony, but what you're saying is you build in money in case there are change orders, and that's exactly what happened here."

Anthony Petaccia, "Right, and I'm not disagreeing or agreeing, all I'm saying is, the way it's controlled is through the contract."

Councilwoman Bukowski, "Right."

Glenda Mavrakis – 14 Westmoreland Drive, “Everybody here that knows me, knows that I’m a passive person, I don’t yell, I don’t scream, I love everybody.”

Audience Member, “You’ll have to be a little bit louder for us to hear you.”

Glenda Mavrakis, “Okay, I’ll talk as loud as I can. I’m here to defend my husband. First of all, this is the same Mayor that was voted in by 2 to 1 by his constituents. He was voted in with the same philosophy, the same ideas, and the same loud mouth if you want to say it. This is the same man. He has been working under such a strain with the Council, and I can start naming things but you’ll walk out on me too, but I won’t do that. All I’m saying is now there’s been a big allegation of sexual harassment that made the TV already. I’m from Monessen, I’m from the old school, he’s from the old school, we learned to fight, we’re gonna fight and he will not resign.”

Audience Member, “That’s right!”

Glenda Mavrakis, “He will not resign!”

Audience clapping

Glenda Mavrakis, “I want to know what this man would have done that was so horrible to Patti, to whatever your name is, cause I could say something to each one of you – “

Councilwoman D’Alfonso, “And I could say something too.”

Glenda Mavrakis, “Okay, but that’s what I’m trying to tell you. What could he have done that was so horrible that it came down to this, where you got rid of all of his appointees, why? You’re going to tell me that the people that you got rid of were incompetent? Would you say that Al Gaudio is incompetent when he has...”

Solicitor Matta, “Excuse me Ma’am. With all due respect, Mrs. Mayor with all due respect, I would appreciate - I mean – I don’t want to defame anybody. Mr. Gaudio is an esteemed attorney, I have the utmost respect for him. He’s worked with my law partners for 25 or 30 years or longer. We don’t want to say anything that may be, even though I don’t believe that you’re trying to be disparaging to anybody, I don’t want anybody to believe that, so if you could refrain from talking about any individual, I appreciate that.”

Glenda Mavrakis, “I will, and I apologize for that. But I want any wife in here to see how they would feel if their husband was put up for harassment – sexual harassment with no validity to it at all. And not only that, this isn’t the first time in this past few administrations that sexual harassment charges have been brought against people. I think it’s about the third or fourth time. So is the game that you play to get rid of? But my husband is not going to retire, he’s a good man, he’s trying – I want people to know if they don’t, he’s not getting paid, he has not accepted a salary, he is down here 5 days a week. He gets phone calls at night, he goes to Greensburg to talk to people, he goes anywhere they’ll meet him to see where he can get funds and they sit back and say he’s

not doing anything. And again, the only thing I'll say Josh, if you wanted to be Mayor, you should have ran."

Audience Member, "That's right."

Mayor Mavrakis, "Anybody else? I hope I don't have to sleep with the dog tonight."

Sue Thwaite – 1112 State Road, "I came here in January excited."

Audience Member, "Speak up a little bit."

Sue Thwaite, "I came here in January excited about a new Council."

Audience Member, "We all were."

Sue Thwaite, "And a new group to help Monessen. I'm embarrassed tonight. To watch the smears, the smirks, the laughs around the table at other people's expense."

Audience Member, "They can't even put their heads up."

Mayor Mavrakis, "Please no comments from the audience, please while she's speaking."

Sue Thwaite, "You guys really need – we need you, we need every person around this table. Our city is failing, that's nothing to laugh about, that's nothing to joke about. And that's nothing to go at each other about, it's serious, it's not team A against team B, that's ridiculous. We live in one city, one town, the roads are terrible, the finances are terrible, most of the parks are horrible, the buildings are falling down. There's no department that's doing well in Monessen. It's time we go back and look at the promises we all made to work together to help Monessen and have it as a team."

Audience Member, "Hear hear"

Sue Thwaite, "I have no time – this is just sad..."

Audience clapping

Mayor Mavrakis, "Anybody else? Step up, give your name, your address. Well one thing that I could possibly say, from the last administration to this, we pack em in, it's unfortunate that we didn't have this kind of a crowd back then, maybe we wouldn't have been in this situation today either. I'm glad to see that you're here, and you'll find out, as long as I'm the Mayor of this city everybody will get an opportunity to speak as long as they want to, not three minutes like the rest of em done, you can speak as long as you want, as long as you're not repetitious, over and over again, then you'll be cut off. But everybody deserves to say their peace in this town in order for us to get ahead. And with that, any other questions? Then may we have a motion for adjournment?"

ADJOURNMENT:

Councilman Retos, "so moved, Mayor".

Councilwoman D'Alfonso, "Second."

Mayor Mavrakis, "Question on the motion?"

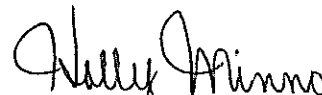
YEAS:

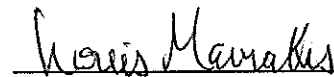
Councilman Retos
Councilwoman D'Alfonso
Councilman Nestor
Councilwoman Bukowski
Mayor Mavrakis

YEAS: FIVE

NAYS:

NAYS: NONE


Holly Minno, City Clerk


Louis Mavrakis, Mayor

MONESSEN MUNICIPAL COMPLEX
ONE WENDELL RAMEY LANE
MONESSEN, PA 15062

JULY 24, 2014

OPENING:

Minutes of the special meeting of Monessen City Council held Thursday, July 24, 2014 at 3:00 p.m. 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.

The Mayor called the Special Meeting to order by announcing the Executive Session. Councilman Retos stated, "For the record this is the public portion of the meeting. We had an Executive Session at 2:55 p.m." Councilwoman D'Alfonso stated, "Concerning Personnel".

ROLL CALL:

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

PRESENT:

Councilman Retos
Councilwoman D'Alfonso

Councilwoman Bukowski
Mayor Mavrakis

PRESENT: FOUR

ABSENT:

Councilman Nestor

ABSENT: ONE

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

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

Resignation of Solicitor

Mayor Mavrakis made a motion to accept the resignation of Albert C. Gaudio as City Solicitor as of July 14, 2014.

Councilman Retos, "So moved, Mayor."

Mayor Mavrakis, "Questions on the motion."

YEAS:

NAYS:

Councilwoman D'Alfonso
Councilwoman Bukowski
Councilman Retos

Mayor Mavrakis

YEAS: THREE

NAYS: ONE

New City Solicitor

Mayor Mavrakis made a motion to hire a new City Solicitor at the determined rates. Making the motion to hire Amanda Como.

Mayor Mavrakis, "No second? Does somebody else care to make a motion?"

Councilman Retos, "Motion to hire City Solicitor position, Gary Matta for the amount of \$100 per hour, and a retainer fee of \$750 per month for a total of \$9,000 yearly. That will include any and all phone calls, 2 meetings per month, and any special meetings up to four times per year."

Councilwoman D'Alfonso, "And he will be opening an office in Monessen?"

Councilman Retos, "And he will be opening an office in Monessen, and in the current Municipal Complex Building. Can I have a second on the motion, please?"

Councilwoman Bukowski, "Second"

Mayor Mavrakis, "Question?"

YEAS:

NAYS:

Councilwoman Bukowski
Councilman Retos
Councilwoman D'Alfonso

Mayor Mavrakis

YEAS: THREE

NAYS: ONE

ADJOURNMENT:

Mayor Mavrakis made a request to adjourn.

Councilman Retos, "so moved."

Councilwoman D'Alfonso, "Second."

Mayor Mavrakis, "Questions?"

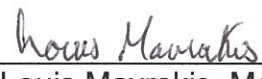
YEAS:

NAYS:

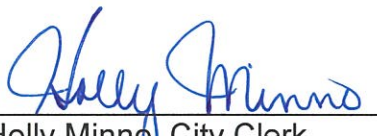
Councilman Retos
Councilwoman D'Alfonso
Councilwoman Bukowski
Mayor Mavrakis

YEAS: FOUR

NAYS: NONE



Louis Mavrakis, Mayor



Holly Minno, City Clerk