CITY OF MONESSEN

COUNCIL MEETING WORK SESSION MINUTES

June 11, 2026

City of Monessen Council Chambers

6:30 PM

Call to Order

Mayor Ron Mozer called the June 11, 2026 City Council Work Session to order at 6:30 PM.

Roll Call

Roll call was taken. The following members were present: Councilperson Karen Cosner, Councilman John Nestor, Councilman Bishop William Bass, Councilman Anthony Orzechowski, and Mayor Ron Mozer. A quorum was noted.

Opening Prayer

An opening prayer was offered by Nancy Gedeon.

Pledge of Allegiance

Those in attendance recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

Public Comment on Agenda Items

Ernie Telegraphis addressed Council regarding multiple agenda items. He questioned the City's expected benefit from the LERTA tax incentive program in light of school district budget concerns, asked for details regarding the Parente Boulevard multimodal transportation project, questioned the proposed security measures at the Civic Center, asked about the proposed bike repair station partnership at the Boat Launch, and requested information regarding funding for the upcoming Music in the Park series. He expressed concern that the City should provide clearer financial details before proceeding with new projects.

Old Business

No old business was presented.

Mayor's Discussion Items

Presentation Regarding Marion Avenue/Hilltop Area Sewer Separation Project

Jason McBride, engineer for the Mon Valley Sewage Authority, and representatives of the Authority provided a detailed presentation regarding the Marion Avenue/Hilltop area sewer separation project. Mr. McBride explained that the project is part of the ongoing effort to address Department of Environmental Protection requirements related to sewer overflow and combined-flow issues that have affected the Grand Boulevard and Hilltop area for many years.

Mr. McBride explained that the Authority had originally considered construction of an equalization tank to hold additional flows from the area. Because that project was anticipated to cost significantly more than originally expected, the Authority worked with the City and its engineer to develop an alternative sewer separation project. The alternative project will construct and rehabilitate sewer infrastructure in the Marion Avenue/Hilltop area to reduce the amount of stormwater entering the sanitary system, reduce combined flows, and decrease flow ultimately discharged to the Monongahela River.

The Authority reported that the project design has been completed and that bids were opened on June 8, 2026. Cooper Contracting was identified as the apparent lowest responsible bidder, with a bid of approximately $3.464

million. Mr. McBride noted that two bids were received, the bids were approximately $10,000 apart, and the bid amount fell between two prior opinions of probable construction cost, one near $3.0 million and one near $3.8 million, largely due to differing paving-cost assumptions.

The project schedule was discussed in detail. The Authority received a $750,000 grant, and the grant requirements require those funds to be expended before September 30, 2026. The Authority anticipates awarding the contract at its July meeting, with notice to proceed expected around July 15. After notice to proceed, the contractor will be required to submit shop drawings within seven days and order materials within thirty days. Mr. McBride stated that pipe and manhole materials are expected to be available within approximately two to four weeks after ordering.

Mr. McBride also reviewed the Act 537 planning and DEP permitting process. He stated that the Authority had adopted the Act 537 plan resolution at its meeting earlier in the week and intended to submit the plan to DEP the following day. DEP had already reviewed the project permit in advance, which was described as atypical but helpful due to the schedule. Final permit issuance is expected after DEP reviews and approves the Act 537 plan, with the permit potentially being issued within thirty to sixty days. The Authority also intends to discuss with DEP whether certain sewer-lining work can begin before full permit issuance because that work does not involve street excavation.

Right-of-way and easement status was reviewed. The Authority reported that several easements had already been executed and that additional easements were moving forward. Mayor Mozer noted that he and Councilperson Cosner had assisted by contacting residents and seeking signatures. The Authority indicated that letters and door notices had also been used to contact affected property owners.

Council discussed construction sequencing, street access, and pavement restoration. Mr. McBride explained that the contractor will determine the means and methods of construction, but the contractor will be required to provide a construction schedule showing where work will occur. Mayor Mozer emphasized the importance of keeping Marion Avenue and related access routes open as much as possible, restoring roads quickly, and giving residents advance notice so they can plan around construction impacts. Mr. McBride stated that the contract allows twelve months for completion, although he did not expect the work to require the full period.

The Authority explained that trenches will receive stone backfill and temporary trench restoration during construction, with final paving expected at the end of the project rather than street by street. Sewer-lining work will also occur in some areas and may involve trucks and traffic impacts, but it will not require street excavation.

Council requested regular communication with the City and affected residents. Mr. Gaskll stated that monthly construction meetings will be held, that a full-time construction observer will be on site on behalf of the Authority, and that the City will receive initial and monthly schedule updates. Council also requested that residents receive direct notice as work moves into specific streets or blocks. The Authority agreed to provide contact information for the appropriate project representative so resident questions can be directed through the project team rather than directly to the contractor.

Councilman Nestor asked who would own the lines after construction, noting concerns about future maintenance responsibility. The Authority indicated that the sanitary sewer facilities constructed as part of the project will be owned and maintained by the Authority, while storm sewer facilities will remain the responsibility of the City. Councilman Orzechowski requested that project schedules and progress updates be provided to City Hall on a timely basis and that resident notification not fall through the cracks as construction proceeds.

Council also discussed the project limits and reviewed the general area of work, including the Marion Avenue/Hilltop area and related streets near Rostraver Street. Mayor Mozer stated that project maps were available for review. The possibility of a public kickoff or media event for the project was also discussed.

Motion presented under the Mayor's agenda for passage of the Act 537 Sewage Facilities Resolution for the Marion Avenue/Hilltop area Sewer Separation Project.

The motion was seconded by Councilman John Nestor.

Roll Call Vote

Karen Cosner	Yes

John Nestor	Aye
William Bass	Yes
Anthony Orzechowski	Yes
Ron Mozer	Yes

Motion Passed 5-0

Additional Mayor's Discussion Items

Mayor Mozer discussed a proposed Comcast service agreement, noting that the proposal was intended to combine bills and provide updated equipment and improved speed in exchange for a longer-term agreement. Council requested supporting documentation before any formal action.

Mayor Mozer noted that Captain Kara of the Salvation Army requested use of the walking track from 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM on August 1 for a cornhole tournament and fundraiser, with a free hot dog buffet. The item was expected to be placed on a future agenda.

Mayor Mozer reviewed the Music in the Park schedule and noted that fundraising efforts were underway. The schedule discussed included Billy Price and Broom on June 27, Good Karma on July 11, fireworks on July 25 at the Boat Launch, Praise in the Park on August 22, and Sky Pilot on September 12.

Mayor Mozer also discussed the September 12 Victory March for Jesus, the upcoming Microsoft licensing renewal through PA Connect, the resolution of an internet issue at the Police Station, Westmoreland County Planning and Development inquiries regarding CDBG/HUD participation, and the possible use of a low-cost internal wiki or reference system for City information.

Solicitation Ordinance

Council discussed the City solicitation ordinance. Solicitor Joseph Dalfonso stated that the existing ordinance is dated and does not provide sufficient procedural or enforcement mechanisms, including revocation of permits when needed. Councilman Nestor also raised concerns regarding signs being posted on telephone poles, and the Solicitor indicated that existing sign ordinances would be reviewed.

LERTA Tax Incentive Program

Council discussed the LERTA tax incentive program and the need for a public hearing before moving forward. The Solicitor explained that the public hearing would be similar to a CDBG hearing and would define the proposed LERTA area, which has been discussed as the entirety of the City. Notice requirements were discussed, including advertising once a week for two consecutive weeks, with the second notice at least seven days before the hearing.

Refuse Billing Services

Council discussed the proposed change from Muni Link to 3D Billing Services for refuse and related billing. Mayor Mozer stated that the City may realize substantial savings. Councilman Orzechowski asked for additional information, including a clearer comparison of existing costs, proposed costs, setup fees, annual subscription costs, work flow, benefits, and any risks or back-end costs. Council discussed the need for input from the Treasurer and staff who would use the system before final action.

Multimodal Transportation Fund Grant: Parente Boulevard Road to Trail Conversion

Council discussed the proposed City of Monessen Multimodal Transportation Fund Grant from the Commonwealth Financing Authority for the Parente Boulevard Road to Trail Conversion Project. Mayor Mozer stated that the City should only proceed if there is no required City match. Council discussed whether the project would affect sewer infrastructure, maintenance responsibilities for green space, proposed trees, benches, bike trail or bike lane elements, winter maintenance, public support, and the need to clearly explain the project to residents. Councilman Orzechowski and Councilman Nestor raised concerns regarding long-term maintenance, public perception, and whether the project should be revised before formal action.

A member of the public, Linda Lacy, commented during the discussion and expressed support for improving Parente Boulevard if the City could obtain the work at no cost. Mayor Mozer suggested that the newspaper may help explain the benefits and concerns associated with the project to obtain public response.

Police Department Car Show

Mayor Mozer reported that the City Police Department requested to host a car show at the Herman Mihalich Memorial Boat Launch on September 5, 2026. Council expressed no objection during the discussion.

Councilman Anthony Orzechowski, Director of Accounts and Finance

Councilman Orzechowski presented the Accounts and Finance motions. Councilman John Nestor seconded the motions. Council voted unanimously in favor of each motion.

Motion by Councilman Anthony Orzechowski to pay the following invoices from the General Fund in the amount of $17,777.33, as amended from the agenda amount of $17,172.92, with invoices attached as Attachment A.

The motion was seconded by Councilman John Nestor.

The amount was corrected during the meeting after Councilman Orzechowski identified that the General Fund list and packet total did not match.

Roll Call Vote

Karen Cosner	Yes
John Nestor	Aye
William Bass	Yes
Anthony Orzechowski	Yes
Ron Mozer	Yes

Motion Passed 5-0

Motion by Councilman Anthony Orzechowski to pay the following invoices from the Recreation Account in the amount of $741.12, with invoices attached as Attachment B.

The motion was seconded by Councilman John Nestor.

Roll Call Vote

Karen Cosner	Yes
John Nestor	Aye
William Bass	Yes
Anthony Orzechowski	Yes
Ron Mozer	Yes

Motion Passed 5-0

Motion by Councilman Anthony Orzechowski to pay the following invoices from the Line Usage Fund in the amount of $624.50, with invoices attached as Attachment C.

The motion was seconded by Councilman John Nestor.

Roll Call Vote

Karen Cosner	Yes
John Nestor	Aye
William Bass	Yes
Anthony Orzechowski	Yes
Ron Mozer	Yes

Motion Passed 5-0

Motion by Councilman Anthony Orzechowski to pay the following invoices from the Parks Fund in the amount of $6,877.24, with invoices attached as Attachment D.

The motion was seconded by Councilman John Nestor.

Roll Call Vote

Karen Cosner	Yes
John Nestor	Aye
William Bass	Yes
Anthony Orzechowski	Yes
Ron Mozer	Yes

Motion Passed 5-0

Motion by Councilman Anthony Orzechowski to pay the following invoices from the Grant Fund in the amount of $372.70, with invoices attached as Attachment E.

The motion was seconded by Councilman John Nestor.

Roll Call Vote

Karen Cosner	Yes
John Nestor	Aye
William Bass	Yes
Anthony Orzechowski	Yes
Ron Mozer	Yes

Motion Passed 5-0

Motion by Councilman Anthony Orzechowski to pay the following invoices from the Refuse Fund in the amount of $57,243.66, with invoices attached as Attachment F.

The motion was seconded by Councilman John Nestor.

Roll Call Vote

Karen Cosner	Yes
John Nestor	Aye
William Bass	Yes
Anthony Orzechowski	Yes
Ron Mozer	Yes

Motion Passed 5-0

Motion by Councilman Anthony Orzechowski to pay the following invoices from the Liquid Fuels Fund in the amount of $23,641.85, with invoices attached as Attachment G.

The motion was seconded by Councilman John Nestor.

Roll Call Vote

Karen Cosner	Yes
John Nestor	Aye
William Bass	Yes
Anthony Orzechowski	Yes
Ron Mozer	Yes

Motion Passed 5-0

Motion by Councilman Anthony Orzechowski to approve the transfer of $80,281.77 from the General Fund to the Payroll Account for payroll expenses for the June 4, 2026 payroll allocation.

The motion was seconded by Councilman John Nestor.

Roll Call Vote

Karen Cosner	Yes
John Nestor	Aye
William Bass	Yes
Anthony Orzechowski	Yes
Ron Mozer	Yes

Motion Passed 5-0

Motion by Councilman Anthony Orzechowski to approve the transfer of $5,000.00 from the General Fund to the Healthcare Account.

The motion was seconded by Councilman John Nestor.

Roll Call Vote

Karen Cosner	Yes
John Nestor	Aye
William Bass	Yes
Anthony Orzechowski	Yes
Ron Mozer	Yes

Motion Passed 5-0

Motion by Councilman Anthony Orzechowski to approve Sewer Rehabilitation Project Phase 3, Payment Requisition and Certificate No. 44, in the amount of $23,958.98, for Phase 3 work performed by WEC Engineers from May 2, 2026 through May 29, 2026.

The motion was seconded by Councilman John Nestor.

Roll Call Vote

Karen Cosner	Yes
John Nestor	Aye
William Bass	Yes
Anthony Orzechowski	Yes
Ron Mozer	Yes

Motion Passed 5-0

Following the Sewer Rehabilitation Project Phase 3 motion, Councilman Orzechowski asked about supporting documentation and the related check process. Solicitor Dalfonso noted that an invoice referenced in the WEC email should be included in the packet before submission to USDA. Council also discussed the status of department totals and the TAN note balance shown in QuickBooks.

Councilman Bishop William Bass, Director of Streets and Public Improvements

Councilman Bass deferred his full report to the next meeting. He discussed concerns identified during a walkthrough of the Civic Center, including non-functioning cameras, security for staff when alone in the facility, a camera angle that may not capture visitors soon enough, an exit door with a chain, and the need to clean underneath the bleachers.

Council discussed Civic Center security, including PA Connect camera follow-up, the history of key and lock issues, and possible door access systems. Chief Yuhasz described the key fob system used at the Police Department and noted that similar systems can be programmed, monitored, and disabled if a fob is lost or if access needs to be limited. Council discussed whether a similar system, keypad system, or other access-control solution should be considered for the Civic Center.

Council also discussed Civic Center staffing, event rentals, deposits, and the status of the Recreation Board Fund. The City Administrator indicated that he would review the records and provide additional information.

Councilman John Nestor, Director of Public Safety

Councilman Nestor deferred his full report to the next meeting but raised concerns regarding streetlight outages. He discussed lights at the Boat Launch, City Park, the road near City Park, the Charleroi-Monessen Bridge area, and Ross Traver Road. Mayor Mozer stated that updates had been received from the West Penn Power liaison and that he would send the latest information to Councilman Nestor.

Councilman Nestor also raised concerns regarding the need for a second code officer. He stated that the current code officer is overwhelmed and asked whether unused budgeted funds could support a second part-time officer or a higher pay scale to attract qualified applicants. Council discussed the need for department budget allocation reports showing budget, current-month spending, and year-to-date spending so department heads can understand available funds and make staffing decisions. Council also discussed the possible use of a second vehicle for code enforcement if a second officer is hired.

Councilperson Karen Cosner, Director of Parks and Public Property

Councilperson Cosner deferred her main report to the end of the month. She began discussion of the Mon Valley Trainers Club partnership with Evans Graphics to donate and install a public bike repair station at the Herman Mihalich Memorial Boat Launch. She stated that she had met with Travis Turner, visited the Boat Launch, and believed the organization could bring additional people into Monessen through community activity and publicity.

Draft Review Note

The provided Otter transcripts ended during Councilperson Cosner's report and did not capture the remainder of the meeting, including any final discussion on the bike repair station, Music in the Park invoices, Farmers Market reminder, Library Annex HVAC, Columbus Park women's restroom door, or adjournment. Those items were listed on the agenda but were not fully captured in the available transcript text. These minutes should be reviewed against the complete audio before final adoption if additional action occurred after the transcript ended.

Adjournment

A motion to adjourn was made by Mayor Mozer at 8:13 PM, seconded by Councilman Nestor and all voted in unison Aye.

Ron Mozer, Mayor

ATTEST:

Terry Taylor, City Clerk

So nobody permanent necessarily get charged for it. Do you want to be charged? No, no, I'm asking because I saw all these cars,

Delmar Hepple 33:22
and again, that was a technical rescue. Okay, so in in my information at 911, for a technical rescue calls for this person, that person, this the average Joe, can't go 800 feet on the hillside with a rope and save something. You have to call people that are qualified to do that. Okay, well, we had qualified, but it was a larger scale thing than I wanted to handle.

Ernie Telegraphis 33:44
I'm glad you cleared it up, because when I ask questions, they don't know. All right, thank you. That's it.

Councilman John Nestor 33:50
Let's say stick with the travel agencies.

Councilman Orzechowski 33:55
Okay?

Councilman Orzechowski 33:55
Like to make a motion to adjourn at 707?

Councilman John Nestor 33:59
So moved second.

Councilman Orzechowski 34:03
Call the roll,

City Adminstrator Mike Korposh 34:06
council man cosner, Yes , Council man Nestor, aye, Councilman Orzechowski. Yeah.

Attest: Terry Taylor
Terry Taylor on behalf of
Linda Matthews, City Clerk

Signed: _____
Ron Mozer, Mayor