COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

CITY OF MONESSEN

CITY OF MONESSEN COUNCIL CHAMBERS

NOVEMBER 10, 2022

6:30PM

Meeting called to order by Mayor Ron Mozer at 6:30pm.

1. ROLL CALL OF ALL MEMBERS PRESENT. Anthony Orzechowski – present, Lois Thomas – present, John Nestor – present, Donald Gregor – present, Ron Mozer - present

2. OPENING PRAYER OFFERED BY REV. TIM BURGAN, LEAD PASTOR, CHRISTIAN CENTER CHURCH, BELLE VERNON, PENNSYLVANIA. Lead by Pasto Tim.

3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE. Lead by Mayor Ron Mozer

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS SESSION, OCTOBER 27, 2022. Motion to accept previous meeting minutes by Lois Thomas – seconded by John Nestor – Vote 5 – 0

5. OPEN FLOOR FOR PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS ONLY. Ernie Telegraphis – I see we moved money from one account to another account – why did we only move part of the payroll (Anthony Orzechowski – we reimbursed general for only part and this is the first time we have done this) Ernie – Nestor I want to talk about the stop signs – 3rd street – an actual stop sign is there along with the red light (John Nestor – we will talk about it later) (Donald Gregor – It was to be a stop here on red, not a stop sign) (John Nestor – who put it up?) (Ron Mozer – I asked then to paint a white

line – Rodney told me he did not have a Stop Here sign – I had no idea he put up an actual stop sign – will remove it on my way home – you are to follow the red light) Ernie – what is going on with the Cypher and Cypher report (Ron Mozer – I was in Spain – I will call them tomorrow and see when they are coming back)

6. CORRESPONDENCE None

OLD BUSINESS N/A

7. **REPORT OF THE SOLICITOR OF THE CITY OF MONESSEN** Joseph Dalfonso – zoning ordinance is ready to advertise – there is a motion to advertise on the agenda – I am working with Mike to make sure it is in the paper on Saturday – also working with Mike on the budgeting items – we need to look at the fee schedule – for the USDA we finalized a few insurance items and returned the information to USDA

8. **REPORT OF THE CITY TREASURER OF THE CITY OF MONESSEN** Gerald Saksun – current garbage $1,720 – year-to-date $325,586.51 – budget $370,000 – delinquent garbage $1,917.76 – year-to-date $80,779.83 – budget $120,000 – Portnoff $18,815.23 – year-to-date $40,090 – interest & penalty $1,452.49 – garbage county housing year-to-date $15,258.75 – last year garbage – total collected budget $490,000 – garbage collected for 2023 year-to-date $1,385 – budget $147,834

City real estate taxes current $10,580.13 – year-to-date $1,994,212.36 – budget $1m452,449 general fund, $394,229 debt service, $199,052 parks, $42,135 library for a total of $2,087,865

Delinquent city taxes prior year-to-date $5,502.96 – budget $9,000 – city taxes collected by Westmoreland County $50,195.99 – year-to-

date $167,425.55 – budget $210,000 – total year-to-date taxes collected $2,167,138.87

City real estate taxes distribution as of October 31, 2022 - $1,507,596.71 general fund - $409,197.64 debt service - $206,609.62 parks - $43,734.90 library – total $2,167,138.87

Real estate transfer tax $8,099.36 – year-to-date $39,332.51 – budget $70,000 – Earned Income Tax $35,094.84 – year-to-date $513,897.14 – budget $600,000 – Mercantile Tax - $1,433.57 – ear-to-date $22,579.46 – budget $29,000 – Local Services Tax $1,232.35 – year-to-date $53,357.32 – budget $75,000 – Tax Certifications $3,340 – year-to-date $21,940 – budget $23,000 – Municipal Lien Letters $2,475 – year-to-date $14,775 – budget $16,000

Line Usage Account – unsewered payments year-to-date $12,780 – line usage fee $86,552.30 – year-to-date $708,387.96 – total line usage $721,167.96 – motion to accept by John Nestor – seconded by Lois Thomas – vote 5 - 0

9. **REPORT OF THE CITY CONTROLLER OF THE CITY OF MONESSEN**
Controller is not present tonight

10. **NEW BUSINESS**

SPECIAL PRESENTATION BY MELISSA MACZKO FROM THE PENNSYLVANIA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION ON THE YELLOW DOT PROGRAM AND TRAFFIC SAFETY RELATED ISSUES. I work with district 12 – Fayette, Greene, Washington and Westmoreland Counties – I met with the Chief and he suggested I come to the meeting – The Yellow Dot Program – assist the golden years for emergency care for after an accident – You are to request a packet at no cost to you – in packet is a yellow dot – put it on the rear window of your car – fill in the information requested and put the completed packet in the glove

compartment – information consists of recent phone(update every 6 months to a year, with date of last update) your name – emergency contract information – name of emergency room of your choice – any allergies – medications – doctor's name

This helps the first responders – everyone is eligible – been around since 2013 – grouping of Penn Dot, Department of Health & Aging, EMS, State Police and Local Police

Scan QR code of bottom of paper and it will take you to the website

(www.yellowdot@pa.gov) - she is leaving a few packets

Mayor Ron Mozer, Director of Public Affairs

a. Mayor Mozer is announcing the plans of the Monessen Community Development Corporation (MCDC) to hold a daylong event and celebration in honor of the City of Monessen and its 125th Anniversary on Saturday August 19th, 2023. The event would also require the approval of Council for the utilization of the entire City Park area on that date to accommodate the many activities that are currently being planned for the day. Read by Ron Mozer – left message for Dan at Historical Society – we want everyone to participate

b. Motion to approve Payment Application No. 9 Sewer Rehabilitation Project Phase 4 (MON-2021-02) in the amount of $51,579.59. This payment request includes Payment Application No. 3 for Reynolds Brothers, Inc. in the amount of $7,205.64, Westmoreland Engineering Company Invoice # 2022-145 (WEC Constr. LS Estimate #5) in the amount of $23, 493.22 and Westmoreland Engineering Company #2022-145 (WEC Constr. LS

Estimate #6) in the amount of $20,880.73. Motion by John Nestor – Seconded by Lois Thomas – vote 5 – 0

c. Motion to approve the first reading for approval of The Revised Zoning Ordinance for the City of Monessen, and also authorizing the Legal Advertising of the appropriate documents to move the approval process to a final stage of approval at the next scheduled meeting of the Council of the City of Monessen on Monday November 21st, 2022. Motion by John Nestor – seconded by Lois Thomas – vote 5 - 0

d. Motion for approval by the City Council of the City of Monessen to authorize consent to settle civil matter, 2:21-cv-00783-CRE, based upon the recommendation of AXA XL. Motion by Lois Thomas – seconded by John Nestor – vote 5 – 0

e. Continuing Discussion and the upcoming scheduling of meetings next week with Members of Council, City Staff, PennDot and interested Citizens to continue to develop ideas and plans on transportation issues relative to 3rd and Donner, 5th and Donner, 6th and Schoonmaker Ave.,and other transportation related matters to submit to PennDOT for their evaluation and assistance. Ron Mozer – city administrator talked to Penn Dot about these issues – I was wrong - Ted Harhai wrote letter 2021 to move a stop light – they did a study – then Lou Mavrakis took over as new mayor, Penn Dot would redo the pavement but it would be costly to add a new light – the council agreed to stop sign only – we are making major changes in the city – teardown old building – need to get new businesses in the city – relook at where the traffic pattern is going – suggestion – hold off until we figure out what is going with the city – in the meanwhile I had the streets guys paint lines for us – we are going to add signs to help for now

(Donald Gregor – no turn on red was torn down on 3rd and Donner after an accident – can we put the sign back up ourselves) (Joseph Dalfonso – not sure – call Penn Dot to see if we can put sign back up)

f. Discussion and information on the current status of refuse collections in the City of Monessen, with emphasis on true and correct household counts within the process to ensure proper billing and collection of revenues for the City. Council may also clarify the participation of both Council and Citizen representatives on the Board to facilitate the proper flow of information and necessary dialogue on these and other issues. Skip item on agenda

g. Motion by Councilperson Thomas to approve payment for the cost of rental of table and chairs from the Equipment Connection of Belle Vernon, PA for the Community Breakfast with Santa on Saturday December 3rd, 2022, at the Monessen Civic Center. The cost will be at or around $600.00 which includes delivery, pickup, set up and tear down of equipment. Motion by Lois Thomas – seconded by John Nestor – vote 5 - 0

h. Motion to approve request by the City Treasurer of the City of Monessen for exoneration of 2021 City Real Estate Tax for the City of Monessen, 567-575 Donner Avenue, Monessen, PA 15062 Map # 20 02 03 0 019 as the City of Monessen is a tax-exempt entity. Motion by Lois Thomas - seconded by John Nestor – vote 5 – 0 (Ron Mozer – this is the piece of property between this building and the old building – get tax exempt)

i. Motion to utilize American Rescue Plan funds to reimburse the General Fund account for purposes of lost revenue for assistance in the payment of salaries and related expenditures

for the upcoming payroll allocation in the amount of $ 39,487.34. Motion by Lois Thomas – seconded by John Nestor – vote 5 - 0

Councilman Anthony Orzechowski, Director of Accounts and Finance

a. Motion to pay the following invoices from the General Fund in the amount of $40,511.94. All invoices are attached to this Agenda as Attachment "A". Motion by Anthony Orzechowski – seconded by John Nestor – vote 5 - 0

b. Motion to pay the following invoices from the Recreational Account in the amount of $330.02. All invoices are attached to this Agenda as Attachment "B." Motion by Anthony Orzechowski – seconded by John Nestor – vote 5 - 0

c. Motion to pay the following invoices from the Line Usage Fund in the amount of $20,117.61. All invoices are attached to this Agenda as "Attachment C". Motion by Anthony Orzechowski – seconded by John Nestor – vote 5 – 0

d. Motion to pay the following invoices from the Parks Fund in the amount of $2,413.82. All invoices are attached to this Agenda as "Attachment D" Motion by Anthony Orzechowski – seconded by John Nestor – vote 5 – 0

d. Motion to transfer $64,047.86 from the General Fund to the Payroll Account. Motion by Anthony Orzechowski – seconded by John Nestor – vote 5 – 0

e. Discussion by Councilman Orzechowski on the applicability and utilization of American Rescue Plan Funds within the City of Monessen. Ideas to think of project that could benefit the city

and the citizens – spoken to the chief about a new police vehicle, already have one at C. Harper – co-star dealer – council to consider – maybe this month – talked with Lois about the city crew with that big truck – constantly down and putting money in it - can not afford a new big truck but maybe a used one – not talked with Don yet – Lois said something about redoing the tennis court or make it a pickle court – we have $400,000 – unique opportunity to do this for the citizens of Monessen – impact on the city – I would like to use that money make thing better – come up to a list we can talk about – consider the new police vehicle (Donald Gregor – can you get by with a new 1 ton instead of a big one – maybe two 1 tons trucks)

Balance of general fund before invoices paid was $305,461.87 after $192,583.43 – fire escrow $18,410.99 – grant $54,868.31 – American rescue $420,377.10 – debt service $760,880.22 – recreation $4,761.00 – healthcare $3,410.02 – payroll $4,013.58 – line usage $564,985.35 – refuse $8,149.58 – park $11,931.44 – liquid fuels $248.84

Councilman Lois Thomas Director of Streets and Public Improvements Defer reading of reports to next council meeting

Streets and Public Improvement Report for month ending October 31st, 2022.

Councilman John Nestor, Director of Public Safety

Police and Public Safety Report for month ending October 31st, 2022. Defer reading of reports to next council meeting

a. **Motion by Councilman Nestor to request that the Streets Department of the City of Monessen assist in the construction**

and enhancement of the curb area in front of the residence at 1125 Reservoir Avenue, Monessen, PA 15062 to aid and help with handicapped issues and access at the home. Motion by John Nestor – seconded by Lois Thomas – vote 5 – 0
Tomorrow a big storm – don't drive through the water – turn around
Take down signs for voting
Thanks everyone who served our country

Councilman Donald S. Gregor, Director of Parks, and Public Property Defer reading of reports to next council meeting

Parks and Public Property Report for the month ending October 31st, 2022

Vacuum truck is being fixed now

(Ron Mozer 13 trees are being planted this Saturday)

(Anthony Orzechowski – need to make Hilltop handicapped accessible for voting – can we add a ramp – can they come out the back door instead of coming back out the same way they went in) (Donald Gregor – we can put a new ramp up to the door)

(Ron Mozer – also the civic center is not handicapped accessible)

11. OPEN FLOOR FOR PUBLIC COMMENT ON ANY ITEM.

Peno Cianflone – last not Dalfonso – you get paid by the month – we also pay the law firm – you get a retaining fee – how much do we pay you $80,000 (Anthony Orzechowski – maybe $60,000 – depends on what goes on – maybe $100,000) Peno – we are paying you and your law firm $4522 now (Joseph Dalfonso – how does your math work) Peno – I just want to know how much we

paid you over the past 10 months – we need to know this (Anthony Orzechowski – we pay WEX every month – it fluctuates – with gas prices up – it doubled – He had litigation from the city – last year it was $130,000 – no one complained) (Joseph Delfonso – call me – I will go over it – some of the thing will be left off because of confidentiality – I don't know but I can get that for you – call me on my cell phone) Peno – how many police officers on each shift (David Yuhasz – 2 on duty, sometimes a 3rd one) Peno – we have 5 cars now and only two on duty, why do we need another car – how about more police officers (David Yuhasz – we put about 100 or more miles per shift on the cars – sometimes we have to transport prisoners to Greensburg – make two trips – we rotate the cars – we use cars 1 & 2 on day and cars 3 & 4 on night shift) Peno – the camera – I'm not going away – the newspaper is run by your dad, Joe (Anthony Orzechowski – we don't have any control over the newspaper – you need to direct your question to them not the council – ask them why they are not here) Peno – I know a little about everything – you pulled the cameras out (Joseph Dalfonso – you don't have proof for your accusations) (Ron Mozer – someone from the newspaper is watching now) (Anthony Orzechowski – covid had changed everything – we can't tell them how to run their business – nothing wrong if they are watching it instead of actually being here – see what is written in the newspaper tomorrow – send a letter to the editor – I don't know their policy) Peno – opinion on what they say – I am going to critique what they do – I will not go away or be silent – the newspaper is giving you a break

Ernie Telegraphis – I talked with the newspaper – they are having a problem with their computer and camera – can we use the American rescue money for street repairs – I think we should not

spend it all and sit on some for emergencies (Anthony Orzechowski – not sure – I don't think we can) (Ron Mozer – we are just getting ideas) (Anthony Orzechowski – we are not spending all the money – we are not moving ahead on anything right now – we are just looking for suggestions)

Linda Lacey – suggestion for the American rescue money – water source and concession stand for 9th street (Lois Thomas – that is already being handled with CDBG money) Linda – on the traffic study – if we are going to put a light at 3rd and Donner we need to put the light back at 5th and Donner – must do both (Ron Mozer – we will conduct the study and look at it later)

12. ADJOURNMENT Motion to adjourn meeting at 7:53 pm by John Nestor – seconded by Donald Gregor – vote 5 – 0