COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

CITY OF MONESSEN

CITY OF MONESSEN COUNCIL CHAMBERS

DECEMBER 22, 2022

6:30PM

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

1. ROLL CALL OF ALL MEMBERS PRESENT. Roll call by Michael Korposh – Anthony Orzechowski present – Lois Thomas present – John Nestor present – Donald Gregor present – Ron Mozer present

2. OPENING PRAYER OFFERED BY BISHOP WILLIAM C. BASS, OF GATE OF HEAVEN CHURCH OF GOD IN CHRIST, OF MONESSEN, PENNSYLVANIA. Opening prayer by Bishop William C. Bass

3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE. Lead by Ron Mozer

Recommendation to amend agenda add a Motion for TAN note from CFS Bank – Joseph Dalfonso – add motion of approval CFS Bank Tan Note – Motion by John Nestor – seconded by Donald Gregor – vote 5 - 0

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS SESSION, NOVEMBER 21ST, and DECEMBER 8, 2022. Motion to accept made by Lois Thomas – seconded by John Nestor – vote 5 - 0

5. OPEN FLOOR FOR PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS ONLY.

Ernie Telegraphis – congratulate on getting TAN note – a lot of transfers and invoices – do we have enough money – Mayor found a $150,000 – not included

6. CORRESPONDENCE

OLD BUSINESS N/A

7. REPORT OF THE SOLICITOR OF THE CITY OF MONESSEN - Joseph Dalfonso – past 2 weeks working on contract to be approved by council with clerical workers, streets, and parks – 2022 through 2027 – freeze in wages for 2022 - $1.00/hour after – changes to healthcare – employees will pay co-pays and some premium – W.E.C. is still looking over Phase 3 comments from USDA.

8. REPORT OF THE CITY TREASURER OF THE CITY OF MONESSEN (THE REPORT OF THE TREASURER WAS PROVIDED AT THE DECEMBER 8TH MEETING.)

9. REPORT OF THE CITY CONTROLLER OF THE CITY OF MONESSEN

Rosalie Nicksich – December 8, 2022 – General Fund Community Bank Checking Account – reconciliation as of November 30, 2022 – beginning bank balance as of October 31, 2022 - $397,421.66 – deposits $206,799.00 – expenses $303,634.21 – ending balance as of November 30, 2022 - $300,586.45 – outstanding checks $24,938.74 – outstanding deposits $8,107.99 – reconcile balance to bank statement $283,755.70

10. NEW BUSINESS

Ron Mozer - Police department received grant for $268,570.00 – for specific items – personal protection

reached agreement with AFSCME – bids open tomorrow for 544 Donner Avenue – early January building will come down

working hard on TAN not, pay advance – Community Bank said no – CFS Bank and PNC – CFS Bank is accepting our application for the TAN note – we need to move forward – need to close as early as possible –

major storm coming – open civic center and Orchard church - invited – not pets, weapons, fighting – limited number of cots – bring bedding –

police and fire departments will be checking on people – Salvation Army is heading this

Portnoff of garbage collection – aggressive debt collector – person now has not paid garbage bill since 2006 – face value $2500 - $8,245 to clear bill with all the fees and taxes – we will be willing to forgiving some of our fees – in 2015 amnesty program, reduced the amount of money – looking at a joint amnesty program – about ½ people joined the program and was successful - $150,000 from last year alone – like to hear from anyone on council – one time deal, not yearly – offered for only a short period of time – City got face value plus some interest – they only got a discount – they still had to pay some penalties

(Joe Dalfonso - Portnoff waved 50% of their fees)

Cypher & Cypher is not here tonight – they are working on it – looking to pay back on a 40-year loan just like the USDA loan – same interest rate – about $800/month

Proclamation of Mayor Mozer honoring the life and achievements of John Husher within the City of Monessen and proclaiming February 2nd as John Husher Day in the City of Monessen from this day forward. Mayor Ron Mozer, Director of Public Affairs – Proclamation read by Ron Mozer and can be red in its entirety by going to the City's website by clicking Resources Tab, then click Mayoral Proclamations and Events.

a. Motion to approve the Agreement between the City of Monessen and the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees, AFL-CIO Council 83, Local 769, effective January 1, 2022, through December 31st, 2027. Motion by Lois Thomas – seconded by John Nestor – vote 5 - 0

b. Motion to approve Contractor's Payment Request No. 11 Sewer Rehabilitation Project Phase 4 (MON-2021-02) The Payment request

No. 11 includes Payment Application No. 4 for Reynold's Brothers Inc. in the amount of $40, 893.11, and includes WEC's Invoice #2022-169 (b) (WEC Constr. LS Estimate #7) in the amount of $18,152.98 that was previously submitted for Council's approval. Motion by Lois Thomas – seconded by John Nestor – vote 5 - 0

c. Motion to correct a previous Motion of Council to authorize the City Administrator and the Solicitor of the City of Monessen to accept the recommended health insurance policy by Huntingdon Advisor's and UPMC which was required to be entered into prior to the December 1, 2022, contractual deadline. An independent review of the policy by the City Clerk of the City of Monessen indicated that the policy not only saved the City money, but also provided a better policy with lower deductibles. The Solicitor also indicated that the policy met the Union Contractual requirements. Motion by Lois Thomas – seconded by John Nestor – vote 5 – 0

d. Motion to accept the resignation of William Hans as a member of the Monessen Redevelopment Authority effective December 12, 2022. Motion by Lois Thomas – seconded by John Nestor – vote 5 - 0

e. Motion to appoint Bishop William C. Bass, Sr. to a term on the Monessen Redevelopment Authority commencing January 1st, 2023, for a five-year term ending on January 1st, 2028. Motion by Lois Thomas – seconded by John Nestor – vote 5 - 0

f. Motion to accept the second year of the contract with Noble Environmental, (County Hauling) for Refuse services and collection within the City of Monessen for the 2023 calendar year, at a payment of $48,517.24 per month, based upon an annual payment of $582,206.92. The upcoming 2023 meeting schedule of the Mon Valley Refuse Disposal Authority is also attached in your packets as Exhibit "1". Motion by Lois Thomas – seconded by John Nestor – vote 5 – 0

g. Discussion of plans to coordinate and develop efforts with Portnoff Law Associates to work to forgive in appropriate instances a portion of amounts owed to the City of Monessen and Portnoff Associates for outstanding Refuse billings in the continuing effort to assist homeowners to rehabilitate their property and become current with all taxes. Ron Mozer – talked about this earlier.

h. Motion to promote Amy Ehrensberger to the position of Deputy Treasurer within the City of Monessen. Motion by Lois Thomas – seconded by John Nestor – vote 5 - 0

i. Motion to hire LoriAnn Snyder Sergi to the position of Treasury Clerk within the City of Monessen. Motion by Lois Thomas – seconded by Donald Gregor – vote 5 - 0

j. Motion to hire Joy Chicolis to the position of Accounts Payable Clerk within the City of Monessen. Motion by Lois Thomas – seconded by John Nestor – vote 5 - 0

k. Motion to advertise for the position of Laborer/Streets Employee within the City of Monessen to replace the position of the retiring Mark Kravets. Motion by Lois Thomas – seconded by John Nestor – vote 5 – 0

L. Motion to accept TAN from CFS Bank for $500,000 at 4.5% fixed interest rate - Motion by John Nestor – seconded by Donald Gregor – 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 $79,330.76. 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 $647.32 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 Parks Fund in the amount of $225.00. 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 Grant Fund in the amount of $3035.00. All invoices are attached to this Agenda as "Attachment D". Motion by Anthony Orzechowski – seconded by John Nestor – vote 5 - 0

e. Motion to transfer $30, 553.24 from the American Rescue Fund Account to the General Fund for purposes of lost revenue for assistance in the payment of police salaries and related expenditures. Motion by Anthony Orzechowski – seconded by John Nestor – vote 5 - 0

f. Motion to transfer $53,558.23 from the General Fund to the Payroll Account. Motion by Anthony Orzechowski – seconded by John Nestor – vote 5 - 0

g. Motion for second reading and passage of Ordinance 1262, AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF MONESSEN, COUNTY OF WESTMORELAND COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA, APPROPRIATING SPECIFIC SUMS ESTIMATED TO BE REQUIRED FOR THE SPECIFIC PURPOSES OF THE MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENT, HEREINAFTER SET FORTH DURING THE YEAR 2023. Motion by Anthony Orzechowski – seconded by John Nestor – vote 5 - 0

h. Motion for second reading and passage of Ordinance 1263, AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF MONESSEN, COUNTY OF

WESTMORELAND, COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA, FIXING THE TAX RATE FOR THE YEAR 2023. Motion by Anthony Orzechowski – seconded by John Nestor – vote 5 – 0

Account balances – Liquid Fuels $248.84 – Debt Service $388,237.85 – Line Usage $589,897.37 – Fire Escrow $17,303.92 – Grant $91,807.19 – Healthcare $4,047.55 – Park $9,620.48 – Payroll $6,2232.14 – Recreation $3,656.11 – Refuse $149,334.58 – American Rescue $303,901.73 – General $131,187.21

Councilman Lois Thomas Director of Streets and Public Improvements

Streets and Public Improvement Report for month ending November 30, 2022. Lois Thomas – answered 25 PA One Calls – emptied garbage cans downtown – cold patch several roads – put up signs and straightened signs – came out for 3 call outs for snow and water breaks

Councilman John Nestor, Director of Public Safety

Police and Public Safety Report for month ending November 30th, 2022. John Nestor – Police receipt for November – parking permits $1,560.00 – miscellaneous collection, copies of police accident reports $105.00 – total miscellaneous $105.00 – court receipts from District Justice Office, vehicle code fines collected $714.70 – crime code fines collected $432.90 – total receipts from District Justice Office $1,067.63 – total receipts collected for November 2022 $2,732.63

Councilman Nestor's introduction of Recreation Board Members to discuss maintenance issues at the Civic Center, and specific matters related to the cleaning, stripping, and waxing of the Gymnasium Floor for the upcoming Basketball Season. We will be looking into what can be done.

Delmar Hepple read Fire Department Report – November 2022 – Automatic Fire Alarm 2 – Structure Fire 3 – Flooding 1 – EMS Assist 11 – Landing Zone 3 – Carbon Monoxide 1 – Vehicle fire 1 – Standby Stockdale 1 – Brush Fire 1 – Structure Fire Charleroi 1 – Structure Fire Dunlevy 1 – Automatic Fire Alarm 3 – Structure Fire Carroll Twp. 2 – total calls 31 – total responding 330 – average responding per call 10.64 – total man hours 446

Councilman Donald S. Gregor, Director of Parks, and Public Property

Parks and Public Property Report for the month ending November 30th, 2022. Donald Gregor – gave report last meeting – read again – all park buildings and bathroom are winterized – picking up leaves in the park when weather permits – help the streets department as needed

Use ARP money for the tennis courts – Tony who did you talk to already (Anthony Orzechowski – I have been bounced around at Dick's, we have not done anything officially – even the Penguins will do donations – council needs to determine exactly what we want) – want courts to be used for pickle ball and tennis – we could get our cost down with donations (Anthony Orzechowski – would like you to spear head this since it is your department)

Ron Mozer – cold in the next few days contact us.

11. OPEN FLOOR FOR PUBLIC COMMENT ON ANY ITEM.

Pino Cianflone – thanks for giving the workers a contract well over due – police department, streets, parks and clerical is all understaffed – look at the safety of the people in the City - Mayor you are working with 2 ex-Mayors – how are they getting paid (Ron Mozer – I did not hire them – we do not pay them – They get a $50 stiffen for every trip to transfer deeds) Do you control the trips? (Ron Mozer – Redevelopment

Authority handles their pay – I consult with them – both have legacies that are not very good, but both are trying to now help the city)

12. ADJOURNMENT - Motion to adjourn meeting at 7:42 pm by John Nestor – seconded by Donald Gregor – vote 5 - 0