COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

CITY OF MONESSEN

CITY OF MONESSEN COUNCIL CHAMBERS

August 25, 2022

6:30PM

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

An Executive Session Meeting has been requested by Mayor Mozer to be held at 5:30 pm in the Mayor's Second Floor Office to discuss employment issues specifically associated with the contract of the Office of the City Clerk of the City of Monessen and all associated issues. – read by Mayor Mozer

1. ROLL CALL OF ALL MEMBERS PRESENT by City Administrator Mike Korposh - Council Woman Lois Thomas, Councilman Anthony Orzechowski, Councilman John Nestor, Councilman Donald Gregor, and Mayor Ron Mozer all present

2. OPENING PRAYER OFFERED BY REVEREND RICARDO HALL, NEWNESS OF LIFE MINISTRIES OF MONESSEN, PENNSYLVANIA. - prayer offered by Reverend Hall

3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE. - lead by Mayor Ron Mozer

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS SESSION, JULY 28, AND AUGUST 11, 2022. - Motion accepts by John Nestor – second by Donald Gregor – 5-0 vote

5. OPEN FLOOR FOR PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS ONLY. – Ernie Telegraphis – new sewage problem on 8th Street over $100,000 – are we getting three bids (Mozer answered yes) – where

will you get the money to pay for this repair (Mozer answer Line Usage – is a valid line usage expense) Is it necessary to pay Cypher & Cypher $5,000 for the audit, why can you just look at the bank statements and how long will it take (Mozer answer if they can find valid expenses we won't have to pay back as much to line usage and by spending the $5,000 we will save money, it will take one month starting September 1st – presentation in October)

- John from 331 Valley Manor Apt 404 – talked with Lois will cut any grass needed (Mozer answer not agenda item and we can talk about it later)

6. CORRESPONDENCE – no correspondence

OLD BUSINESS N/A

7. **REPORT OF THE SOLICITOR OF THE CITY OF MONESSEN** – not present in person – on phone call – went to Westmoreland County Program last week about the demolition program through Covid ARPA – another meeting next month to discuss process – Planning Commission recommended approval of the amended zoning ordinance – get dates from city administrator and notice in paper – send to County Planning Department – conduct public hearing – required notice 45 days

8. **REPORT OF THE CITY TREASURER** – no report

9. **REPORT OF THE CITY CONTROLLER** - no city controller present

10. **NEW BUSINESS**

Mayor Ron Mozer, Director of Public Affairs

Presentation by Londe Dander of the Lead Paint Hazard Control and Healthy Homes Program of Westmoreland County to outline their programs to protect the health of children, pregnant women, and families from the hazards of lead-based paint and other safety issues that are likely to be present in homes built prior to 1978 within the City of Monessen. – Londe Dander gave presentation on how to apply for help – get up to $5,000, income based but are higher limits – federal grant – money to help – brochures and cards available – (Ernie Telegrahis – does it include lead water lines (Londe – there is another program Health Homes) also can be used if you rent – test you children – eliminate source (John Nester – homeowner have choice of who does work) (Londe – must be educated, licensed and approved – they will retest after work is completed – they can put you up while work is being done) can be put on our website – get application in as soon as possible – (Ron Mozer – I met her at convention – big opportunity for the entire town – come to town meeting) (Londe will have applications at the town hall meeting)

A TOWN HALL MEETING WILL BE HELD SEPT 1ST AT CITY HALL AT 6:30PM FOR PRESENTATION TO ADDITIONAL CITIZENS.

Discussion: Mon Valley EMS and the dispatch of EMS services to residents. There are several options including, a) leaving it alone, b) allow 911 to fully control dispatch, c) change the "beat list", d) change our provider, e) use a dual dispatch. – Ron Mozer explained this issue. He feels he is responsible for the wellbeing of the residents – having staffing issues – Mon Valley EMS is responding ok ½ the time – want to make the next motion.

a. Motion to issue a directive by the City of Monessen to the 911 Emergency Management Services of Westmoreland County to develop a policy to first notify Mon Valley Emergency Medical. To ensure that if Mon Valley Emergency Medical Services group is unavailable to respond to an emergency call in the City of Monessen, a procedure to find the next available emergency medical provider is developed and coordinated by Emergency Services to ensure that a qualified medical response will be made. A review will be made of these procedures and implementation and coordination efforts for a (30), thirty-day period and reported to Council at the next meeting following the conclusion of the review period. Motion by Mayor Ron Mozer – Second by John Nestor – can we track their response – change wording – they notify Mon Valley EMS and if they can not go, Mon Valley EMS calls someone else – we want 911 to handle getting the replacement – John Nestor this effects police and fire – Delmar Hepple & David Yuhasz – need to get the next EMS in line to help – 5-0 vote

b. Motion to approve the transfer of funds from the PennVest account to the Line Usage account in the amount of $137,122.20. Motion by Lois Thomas – second by John Nestor – 5-0 vote

c. Motion to provide a Notice of Award to Mornack Excavation Services, for completion of the completion of the 2022 CDBG 9th Street Park Improvement Project, (MON)-2022-06 in the amount of $80,496.50. Motion by Lois Tomas – second by John Nestor – 5-0 vote

d. Motion to approve the second reading and final passage of the Tax Exoneration Ordinance for the City of Monessen. Motion by Lois Thomas – second by John Nestor – 5-0 vote

e. Discussion of emergency sewage issues at 8th and Schoonmaker Avenue, and potential funding and logistical plans, ideas, and solutions to address these issues. – Ron Mozer – month ago as an emergency we had Mornack repair the line as requested – they did what we asked by it was not successful – during a major storm it continues to overflow, and raw sewage is on the road – Ron has a different agenda which did not include next motion but the correct one was on the door and publicized

f. Motion to allocate an amount not to exceed $135,700.00 from the Line Usage Fund, for the purpose of removing the Wall and replacing the Pipe to address the emergency sewage issues at 8th and Schoonmaker Avenue. The project will allocate $115,000.00 for the performance of the work at the site, with $11,500.00 set forth for design and engineering, and $9,200.00 for construction management by WEC Engineering, Inc. – Ron Mozer this means that WEC will put out for bid this new project – talked with Todd Colley from USDA and the lining of this pipe was in the contract – by lining is no longer an option because the pipe is crushed – it must be replace – Todd is going to try to included this repair in the project and reimburse the city for the costs – we can wait a few months and hope it does not rain hard and have USDA make the repair or we can fix it ourselves now and get reimbursed by the USDA – Motion by Ron Mozer – second by Don Gregor – 5-0 vote

g. Motion to engage Cypher & Cypher to perform a study on the use of Line Usage funds and to study the general account for

activity that may credit the Line Usage fund. The study will commence on Sept 1st and a report should be made to Council by October 13 through a public meeting. Cost is not to exceed $5,000. Motion by Lois Thomas – second by John Nestor – 5-0 vote

These next two items have been previously approved by Council for submission to PennVest for processing, this is Council's final approval for payment. – Ron Mozer added to agenda again because he is signing the document and wants everyone to be aware of the costs again.

h. Motion to complete the approval process for PennVest payment in the amount of $14,637.63 to WEC for Phase 4 Engineering and Project Management as defined by the terms of the PennVest contract. – Motion by Lois Thomas – second by John Nestor – 5-0 vote

i. Motion to complete the approval process for PennVest payment in the amount of $497,715.80 for construction performed by Reynolds Brothers, Inc., in accordance with the terms of the PennVest contract. - Motion by Lois Thomas – second by John Nestor – 5-0 vote

j. Motion to permit a block party and the closing of 3rd street from Schoonmaker to Donner on Saturday, Sept 17th from 8:30 AM to 1:00 PM. – Motion by Lois Thomas – second by John Nestor – must notify library, businesses in the area, bus company, and PennDot of the closure – 5-0 vote

Councilman Anthony Orzechowski, Director of Accounts and Finance

a. Motion to pay the following invoices from the General Fund in the amount of $68,152.74. All invoices are attached to this Agenda as Attachment "A". – Motion by Anthony Orzechowski – second by John Nestor – 5-0 vote

b. Motion to pay the following invoices from the Recreational Account in the amount of $157.99. All invoices are attached to this Agenda as Attachment "B." – Motion by Anthony Orzechowski – second by John Nestor – 5-0 vote

c. Motion to pay the following invoices from the Parks Fund in the amount of $1910.77 All invoices are attached to this Agenda as "Attachment C". – Motion by Anthony Orzechowski – second by John Nestor – 5-0 vote

d. Motion to transfer $75,763.29 from the General fund to the Payroll Account Fund. – Motion by Anthony Orzechowski – second by John Nestor – 5-0 vote

e. Motion to transfer $3,000.00 from the General Account to the Healthcare Account. – Motion by Anthony Orzechowski – second by John Nestor – 5-0 vote

Balances – Fire Escrow - $18,410.99 – General $887,320.67 – Payroll $6,270.15 – Grant $59,440.41 – Debt Service $598,854.37 – Park - $81,670.16 – Line Usage $482,855.51 – Healthcare $5,696.26 – Tax Collector $3.58 – America Rescue $39,217.81 – PennVest $319,521.411 – Recreation $3,822.64 – Refuse $750.00 – Rehab Program $4,028.26 – SPC General $496.97 – Small Communities $25,852.56

Anthony Orzechowski – might look like a lot but it is not – we pull $130,000 per month in payroll and another $130,000 for invoices

– we now have about $710,000 in General – we are going to need to get creative around Thanksgiving – hoping some avenue will come thru

Don Gregor – last meeting we paid an invoice to WEC for 1427 Rostraver for 21 hours at $135 per hour – issue and miscellaneous is the only explanation – where are the details – what did they do

Anthony Orzechowski – he and the mayor just had a conversation about the same thing – we need more detail – everything needs to be spelled out – I will be talking with Tony today on this issue – same as other vendors with all information

Ron Mozer – like USDA and PennVest, in the contract it states we are to pay them so much for their services – we will pay that based on the contract, but we need a detail explanation of what is covered under the invoice – both Tony and I need more detail – we need auditor to see where the expenses should come out of

Councilman Lois Thomas Director of Streets and Public Improvements

Streets and Public Improvement Report for month ending July 31st 2022. – explained by Lois Thomas - took garbage out twice per week – cold patch several streets – PA one calls – pull weeds at city hall flower bed – set-up picnic tables and garbage cans as needed – clean restrooms a boat launch weekly – took out sweeper – help parks

Library – report received 2,349 people – summer reading program a success – attendance and amount the kids read – Friend of Library Annual Luncheon is Tuesday October 11th at 11am at St.

Spyridon's – can get tickets at the library for $30 – Art Work on September 25th from 1 to 4 pm – art work will be on display until October 8th

Councilman John Nestor, Director of Public Safety – John Nestor – parking permits $520 – police $210 – vehicle code $1,231.72 – criminal code $266 – city ordinance $20.97 – code $25 – district justice total $1,543.93 – grand total for July $2,273.49

Police and Public Safety Report for month ending July 31st, 2022. – John Nestor police report 117 citations for July – year-to-date 670 – EMS report 151 calls – 7 fire standby – 1 public service total 159 – Fire chief report Station 81 – 6 automatic alarms – 1 public service – 1 structure fire – 5 fire down – 5 trees – 1 natural gas leak – 3 vehicle accidents – 3 landing zones – 1 brush fire – 1 smoke in structure – 2 structure fire in Charleroi – 2 fire alarms in Charleroi – total 31 calls – total responding 415 – 13.38 – 442 manhours – No code report – issue with rodents in the city – (Anthony Orzechowski – came up this morning with Marvin – Marvin to call exterminator to set traps – need an estimate moving forward if it is going to be too much – may need to get bids - we need to act immediately

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

Parks and Public Property Report for the month ending July 31st, 2022 - Donald Gregor – reread from last meeting – cut city park grass – set-up picnic tables and garbage cans as needed – help streets department – boat ramp parking edge of river – large hole other side of fence – took pictures – sent to contact person – he was not in – told Hepple – health hazard – address immediately – he put in a temporary plug – returning to put reinforcements and

additional concrete – Monday after – someone else from streets took care of filling the remainder of hole with dirt – not an adequate repair – should be at least 12” concrete and reinforced – kids can get hurt – look under barges – they are rotting and deteriorating – we need a structural engineer to look at the situation – also a bigger hole on path way all the way to the end (audience input) -need to get WEC immediately, tomorrow – may be best to close off for now – safety issue

11. OPEN FLOOR FOR PUBLIC COMMENT ON ANY ITEM.

12. ADJOURNMENT