CITY OF MONESSEN
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
CITY OF MONESSEN COUNCIL CHAMBERS
APRIL 23, 2026
6:30 PM

Call to Order

Mayor Ron Mozer called the April 23, 2026 City Council meeting to order at 6:30 PM.

Roll Call

City Administrator Mike Korpash conducted roll call. Councilwoman Karen Cosner, Councilman John Nestor, Councilman Anthony Orzechowski, and Mayor Ron Mozer were present. Four members were present and a quorum was noted. The council seat formerly held by Lois Thomas was vacant at the time of roll call.

Opening Prayer

An opening prayer was offered by Pastor Hall.

Pledge of Allegiance

Those in attendance recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of Previous Minutes

Motion by Councilman John Nestor to approve the minutes of the previous City of Monessen Council Session of February 12, 2026, and related discussion and coordination activities on past minutes. The motion was seconded.

Roll Call Vote

Karen Cosner Yes
John Nestor Yes
Anthony Orzechowski Yes
Ron Mozer Yes
Motion Passed 4-0

Public Comment on Agenda Items

Ernie Telegraphis asked questions regarding the proposed transfer of the Miller Street parcel to the Nehemiah of Monessen CDC and expressed concern about whether the transfer would return property to the tax rolls. Mayor Mozer stated that the Nehemiah of Monessen Community Development Corporation is a 501(c)(3) organization with a mission that includes providing quality homes for those in need, and that the directive was to rehabilitate the property and return it to the tax rolls. Mr. Telegraphis also criticized the process used to select a replacement for the vacant City Council seat and stated his concern that the decision had already been made before public discussion.

Correspondence

No correspondence was reported.

Solicitor's Report

Solicitor Joseph Dalfonso reported that the USDA loan closing should take place the following week, and that closing documents had been signed by the Mayor and City Administrator before the meeting. He reported that DCED had approved the debt ordinance from the previous month.

The Solicitor also reported that the intergovernmental cooperation agreement with the Mon Valley Sewage Authority regarding the Marion Avenue sewer shed was finalized and ready for Council review. He reviewed the expected schedule: advertising for bids in May, bid opening in June, permits in July, award in July, construction beginning in August, and completion expected in December. He stated the project would use

the same funding previously proposed for the EQ tank project, which the Marion Avenue project was replacing.

The Solicitor further reported that an update to the Sewage Authority Act 537 Plan was necessary because the Sewage Authority would be adding the Marion Avenue pipeline to its system and conveying it to its plant. He also reported that a demolition hearing was held at 5:45 PM for properties listed on the agenda, that no one attended the hearing, and that the properties had been properly noticed and posted.

Controller's Report

Controller John Mandarino reported that there was no Controller's Report for the month and that prior months, including the current month, were expected to be available at the next meeting.

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Gerry Saksun presented the March 2026 Treasurer's Report, including garbage fee revenue, delinquent garbage fee collections, real estate taxes, real estate transfer tax, earned income tax, mercantile tax, local services tax, tax certification letters, municipal lien letters, unsewered payments, and line usage fees.

Motion by Councilman John Nestor to accept the garbage fees and City real estate taxes collected for the month of March as presented in the Treasurer's Report. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Karen Cosner.

Roll Call Vote

Karen Cosner Yes
John Nestor Yes
Anthony Orzechowski Yes
Ron Mozer Yes
Motion Passed 4-0

Mayor's Discussion Items and Agenda Items

Mayor Mozer briefly discussed right-of-way and easement efforts for the Marion Avenue Sewer Separation Project. He stated that he and Councilwoman Cosner had visited certain property owners to obtain required right-of-way and easement documents and emphasized that the easements were critical to moving the project forward.

Appointment to Vacant City Council Seat

Motion by Mayor Ron Mozer to nominate and approve William Bass for the position of City Council within the City of Monessen for the remainder of the two-year term of former Councilperson Lois Thomas. The motion was seconded by Councilman John Nestor.

Roll Call Vote

Karen Cosner Yes
John Nestor Yes
Anthony Orzechowski Yes
Ron Mozer Yes
Motion Passed 4-0

Following approval, Judge Vlasic administered the oath of office to William Bass, who then joined Council.

Appointment to Mon Valley Refuse Authority

Motion by Mayor Ron Mozer to appoint Lisa Little to the Mon Valley Refuse Authority to fill the vacant seat of John Mandarino. The motion was seconded by Councilman John Nestor.

Roll Call Vote

Karen Cosner Yes
John Nestor Yes
William Bass Yes

Anthony Orzechowski Yes
Ron Mozer Yes
Motion Passed 5-0

Following approval, Judge Vlasic administered the oath of office to Lisa Little.

Resolution No. 3 of 2026 - Intergovernmental Cooperation Agreement

Upon motion duly made and seconded, Council presented under the Mayor's agenda to approve Resolution No. 3 of 2026 approving the City to enter an Intergovernmental Cooperation Agreement with the Mon Valley Sewage Authority to facilitate the Marion Avenue Hilltop Sanitary Sewer Separation Project.

During discussion, Councilman Orzechowski asked for assurance that the project would not exceed $4 million. Mayor Mozer stated that the City was not going over $4 million, and Solicitor Dalfonso stated that the agreement did not contain a provision allowing the Authority to borrow additional funding.

Roll Call Vote

Karen Cosner Yes
John Nestor Yes
William Bass Yes
Anthony Orzechowski Yes
Ron Mozer Yes
Motion Passed 5-0

Resolution No. 4 of 2026 - Act 537 Plan Special Study

Upon motion duly made and seconded, Council presented under the Mayor's agenda to adopt Resolution No. 4 of 2026 authorizing the Mon Valley Sewage Authority to prepare an Act 537 Plan Special Study related to the Marion Sewer Shed Separation Project.

Roll Call Vote

Karen Cosner Yes
John Nestor Yes
William Bass Yes
Anthony Orzechowski Yes
Ron Mozer Yes
Motion Passed 5-0

Stephen Tyler Amoroso - Streets and Parks Department

Upon motion duly made and seconded, Council presented under the Mayor's agenda to approve Stephen Tyler Amoroso for a position as a member of the Streets and Parks Department of the City of Monessen, contingent upon passing the pre-employment screening process.

During discussion, Councilman Orzechowski asked whether the person could be brought on quickly. Solicitor Dalfonso advised that the motion should be contingent on the pre-employment screening process.

Roll Call Vote

Karen Cosner Yes
John Nestor Yes
William Bass Yes
Anthony Orzechowski Yes
Ron Mozer Yes
Motion Passed 5-0

Speed Limit Ordinance

Upon motion duly made and seconded, Council presented under the Mayor's agenda for second reading and passage of the Speed Limit Ordinance, Bill No. 2, Ordinance No. 1283 of 2026, for the City of Monessen.

Discussion noted that the ordinance corrected areas where posted speed limit signs did not match the existing ordinance and made the ordinance consistent with signage.

Roll Call Vote

Karen Cosner Yes
John Nestor Yes
William Bass Yes
Anthony Orzechowski Yes
Ron Mozer Yes
Motion Passed 5-0

Demolition Properties

Motion presented under the Mayor's agenda to approve the following properties for demolition within the City of Monessen following a public hearing held at 5:45 PM on April 23, 2026, in City Hall to receive testimony and approve the proposed demolition of the listed structures and properties. The motion was seconded by Councilman John Nestor.

- 218 Indiana Avenue, Monessen, PA 15062, Parcel No. 20-02-08-0-399.
- 340 Indiana Avenue, Monessen, PA 15062, Parcel No. 20-02-08-0-437.
- 334 Oneida Street, Monessen, PA 15062, Parcel No. 20-02-08-0-048.
- 312 Chestnut Street, Monessen, PA 15062, Parcel No. 20-02-07-0-221.
- 311 Short Street, Monessen, PA 15062, Parcel No. 20-02-07-0-094.
- 308 Oneida Street, Monessen, PA 15062, Parcel No. 20-02-08-0-042.
- 424 Frye Avenue, Monessen, PA 15062, Parcel No. 20-02-08-0-312.
- 408 4th Street, Monessen, PA 15062, Parcel No. 20-02-07-0-050.
- 427 4th Street, Monessen, PA 15062, Parcel No. 20-02-07-0-042.

Roll Call Vote

Karen Cosner Yes
John Nestor Yes
William Bass Yes
Anthony Orzechowski Yes
Ron Mozer Yes
Motion Passed 5-0

Transfer of 1106 Miller Street to Nehemiah of Monessen CDC

Motion presented under the Mayor's agenda to transfer 1106 Miller Street, Parcel No. 20-02-06-0-728, to the Nehemiah of Monessen CDC for the sum of $1.00 with the directive to rehabilitate the property and return it to the tax rolls upon completion. The motion was seconded and then amended after discussion.

After discussion, Council amended the motion to include a reversionary clause returning the property to the City of Monessen if the project is not completed within two years from the date of transfer. The amended motion was seconded by Councilman John Nestor.

Roll Call Vote

Karen Cosner Yes
John Nestor Yes
William Bass Yes
Anthony Orzechowski Yes
Ron Mozer Yes
Amended Motion Passed 5-0

Event Approvals

Motion presented under the Mayor's agenda to approve the following events at the Civic Center, Anthony Madison 9th Street Park, and the Herman Mihalich Boat Launch. The motion was seconded by Councilman John Nestor.

- May 16, 2026: City Reach Church of Charleroi and Mon Valley Pro Wrestling, family-friendly day-long Light in the Darkness Festival at the City of Monessen Civic Center, with music, wrestling, vendors, and refreshments. The event was described as fully licensed, bonded, and insured, with the attached contract signed and fee paid.
- July 25 and July 26, 2026: Gate of Heaven Church annual Deacon Marvin Davis 3-on-3 Basketball Tournament at Anthony Madison 9th Street Park, with food vendors, refreshments, and site activities. Fees were requested to be waived in memory of Marvin Davis, with request correspondence to be submitted and approved by Council.
- September 27, 2026: Tri State Antique Fire Engine Association annual Fire Muster at the Herman Mihalich Memorial River Launch and Park area from 8:00 AM to 3:00 PM, free to the public, with fire apparatus displays, demonstrations, contests, and family activities, with request correspondence to be submitted and approved by Council.
- July 25, 2026: Fireworks and celebration at the Herman Mihalich Boat Launch and Pavilion, including fireworks, a fire company Battle of the Kegs water event, food trucks, pavilion activities, and vendor activities, with request correspondence to be submitted and approved by Council.

Discussion included questions regarding timing, insurance, correspondence, scheduling, security, and past administrative practice for reserving City facilities. A request was stated as withdrawn during discussion; however, the motion proceeded to roll call.

Roll Call Vote

Karen Cosner Yes
John Nestor Yes
William Bass Yes
Anthony Orzechowski Yes
Ron Mozer Yes
Motion Passed 5-0

3D Garbage Billing Proposal

Motion presented under the Mayor's agenda to accept the 3D Garbage Billing proposal to be implemented monthly for consolidated and coordinated collection of refuse fees within the City of Monessen. The motion was seconded by Councilman John Nestor. During discussion, questions were raised regarding cost, contract terms, and input from the City Treasurer. Mayor Mozer then made a motion to table the item for further discussion. The motion to table was seconded by Councilman John Nestor.

Roll Call Vote

Karen Cosner Yes
John Nestor Yes
William Bass Yes
Anthony Orzechowski Yes
Ron Mozer Yes
Motion to Table Passed 5-0

Resolution No. 5 - Mid Mon Valley Transit Authority Local Match

Upon motion duly made and seconded, Council presented under the Mayor's agenda to approve Resolution No. 5 by the City of Monessen certifying provision of local match for State Operating Financial Assistance to the Mid Mon Valley Transit Authority (MMVTA).

During discussion, Councilman Orzechowski asked whether the commitment was for the current year or next year. Solicitor Dalfonso explained that the Transit Authority must submit proposed local matches for the next fiscal year ahead of time because that impacts state funding. Discussion also included a request for supporting documents to be provided earlier when possible.

Roll Call Vote

Karen Cosner Yes
John Nestor Yes
William Bass Yes

Anthony Orzechowski Yes
Ron Mozer Yes
Motion Passed 5-0

Acrisure East Insurance Services, LLC

Upon motion duly made and seconded, Council presented under the Mayor's agenda to pay Acrisure East Insurance Services, LLC for police and fire pension consulting and pension actuarial services in the amount of $2,775.00, with details of services and contract attached to the motion request.

Roll Call Vote

Karen Cosner Yes
John Nestor Yes
William Bass Yes
Anthony Orzechowski Yes
Ron Mozer Yes
Motion Passed 5-0

Accounts and Finance - Councilman Anthony Orzechowski

General Fund Invoices

Motion by Councilman Anthony Orzechowski to pay the following invoices from the General Fund in the amount of $99,350.94, all invoices attached as Attachment A. The motion was seconded by Councilman John Nestor.

Roll Call Vote

Karen Cosner Yes
John Nestor Yes
William Bass Yes
Anthony Orzechowski Yes
Ron Mozer Yes
Motion Passed 5-0

Refuse Account Invoices

Motion by Councilman Anthony Orzechowski to pay the following invoices from the Refuse Account in the amount of $57,243.66, all invoices attached as Attachment B. The motion was seconded by Councilman John Nestor.

Roll Call Vote

Karen Cosner Yes
John Nestor Yes
William Bass Yes
Anthony Orzechowski Yes
Ron Mozer Yes
Motion Passed 5-0

Line Usage Account Invoices

Motion by Councilman Anthony Orzechowski to pay the following invoices from the Line Usage Account in the amount of $665.00, all invoices attached as Attachment C. The motion was seconded by Councilman John Nestor.

Roll Call Vote

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

Motion Passed 5-0

Grant Account Invoices

Motion by Councilman Anthony Orzechowski to pay the following invoices from the Grant Account in the amount of $821.64, all invoices attached as Attachment D. The motion was seconded by Councilman John Nestor.

Roll Call Vote

Karen Cosner Yes
John Nestor Yes
William Bass Yes
Anthony Orzechowski Yes
Ron Mozer Yes
Motion Passed 5-0

Parks Fund Invoices

Motion by Councilman Anthony Orzechowski to pay the following invoices from the Parks Fund in the amount of $404.16, all invoices attached as Attachment E. The motion was seconded by Councilman John Nestor.

Roll Call Vote

Karen Cosner Yes
John Nestor Yes
William Bass Yes
Anthony Orzechowski Yes
Ron Mozer Yes
Motion Passed 5-0

Payroll Transfer

Motion by Councilman Anthony Orzechowski to approve the transfer of $77,230.00 from the General Fund to the Payroll Account for payroll expenses for April 23, 2026. The motion was seconded by Councilman John Nestor.

Roll Call Vote

Karen Cosner Yes
John Nestor Yes
William Bass Yes
Anthony Orzechowski Yes
Ron Mozer Yes
Motion Passed 5-0

Healthcare Account Transfer

Motion by Councilman Anthony Orzechowski to transfer $2,200.00 from the General Fund to the Healthcare Account. The motion was seconded by Councilman John Nestor.

Roll Call Vote

Karen Cosner Yes
John Nestor Yes
William Bass Yes
Anthony Orzechowski Yes
Ron Mozer Yes
Motion Passed 5-0

PennVEST Fund Transfer to Line Usage Account

Motion by Councilman Anthony Orzechowski to transfer $168,790.37 from the PennVEST Fund to the Line Usage Account, previously utilized with the Sewer and Storm Water Project known as Phase 4, which was

completed in 2024. In addition, upon receipt of $113,713.92 from the PennVEST account held for retainage, and to allocate an additional $800.61 residual fee to the Line Usage Account. The motion was seconded by Councilman John Nestor.

Roll Call Vote

Karen Cosner Yes
John Nestor Yes
William Bass Yes
Anthony Orzechowski Yes
Ron Mozer Yes
Motion Passed 5-0

Public Safety - Councilman John Nestor

Councilman Nestor presented the Public Safety reports for March 2026. Police Department receipts included $165.00 for accident reports and $525.00 for Charleroi prisoners, for a total of $690.00. District Justice receipts included Vehicle Code fines of $751.17, Crime Code fines of $658.44, City ordinance collections of $50.00, and code enforcement collections of $320.90, for total receipts of $1,780.51 and a March grand total of $2,470.51. He reported 130 citations issued in March 2026.

The Code Activity Report for March 2026 included 14 habitation permits, 2 correction letters, 3 animal complaints, 5 miscellaneous complaints, 4 health inspections, 5 building permits, and 1 zoning permit.

The Monessen Municipal Fire Chief's Report for March 2026 included 42 total calls, 310 total firefighters, 7.83 firefighters per call, and 340 man hours. The report included vehicle accidents, automatic fire alarms, landing zone, wires down, carbon monoxide, natural gas, structure fire, public service, flooding, EMS assistance, trees down, illegal burn, partial building collapse, and calls outside the City. Councilman Nestor also announced the Fire Department Open House for Saturday, May 2, from 12:00 PM to 4:00 PM.

Councilman Nestor asked for an update regarding relocation of the soccer field. Mayor Mozer stated that the City had requested DCNR approval to move the soccer field to City Park and was awaiting a response.

Parks and Public Property - Councilwoman Karen Cosner

Councilwoman Cosner presented the March 2026 Parks Report. The Parks Department cleaned the Civic Center for events, replaced lights in the prison cell, started picking up limbs and cutting fallen trees in City Park, tightened plumbing at park facilities so water could be turned on, and assisted the Street Department as needed.

Councilwoman Cosner suggested organizing a volunteer “Pick-Up Sticks” day at City Park for residents to help gather fallen branches and improve safety and maintenance conditions. Mayor Mozer supported the idea and stated that a date and collection location could be identified and publicized.

Replacement of Park Bench No. 13

Motion by Councilwoman Karen Cosner to approve replacement of Park Bench No. 13 in honor of Ralph Buffa by Donna Buffa of 371 Ridge Avenue, Monessen, PA 15062. The motion was seconded by Councilman John Nestor.

Roll Call Vote

Karen Cosner Yes
John Nestor Yes
William Bass Yes
Anthony Orzechowski Yes
Ron Mozer Yes
Motion Passed 5-0

Councilwoman Cosner reported that a person who grew up in Monessen offered to purchase and install up to seven trees at City Park. She stated that the matter would be reviewed through the Shade Tree Commission. She also thanked the Mon Yough River Valley Rotary for its electronic pickup event and

thanked the Westmoreland County Food Bank and Highmark Wholecare for supporting a drive-through food distribution activity in Monessen.

Streets and Public Improvements - Councilman William Bass

Councilman Bass thanked Council for its confidence in appointing him to the vacant Council seat and stated that he was prepared to work and be available to the public and Council. He presented the March 2026 Street Department Report, noting that the department picked up garbage downtown, removed salt spreaders from trucks, cold patched roads, began spring maintenance on tractors, ran the street sweeper after storms, cleaned catch basins, removed trees after storms, and assisted the Parks Department as needed.

Mayor Mozer stated that the City had obtained an asphalt zipper through DCED/LSA and said he would like to work with Councilman Bass and the Street Department on training, possibly beginning on Evergreen as soon as practical.

Public Comment

Nancy Horvath of 1417 Arlington Street asked Council members to use their microphones so that residents in attendance could hear the discussion. Mayor Mozer agreed that Council should pay attention to microphone use and use the microphones more consistently.

Ernie Telegraphis criticized Council discussion practices and stated that Council should have more details before voting on ordinances and expenditures. He also raised concerns regarding increased costs for residents, the status of LERTA discussions with the school district, the proposed gated community, and City property transfers to nonprofit organizations. Mayor Mozer responded that the City was working to provide land where appropriate and that the Nehemiah transfer was intended to rehabilitate property and return it to the tax rolls. Discussion became contentious, and Mayor Mozer ended the exchange.

Jewel Crawley of 640 McKee Avenue followed up on a prior letter concerning the 600 block of McKee and asked about the status of paving alleys between Reed and McKee. She stated that the alleys were in poor condition, that dirt and mud were being dragged to the bottom of the alley near her property, and that the condition affected access to her garage and property. Council discussed the condition of alleys, possible use of millings, and the pending LSA roller. Councilman Nestor suggested that, once the roller is received, the alley could potentially be used as a test area for millings and rolling.

An audience member asked for an explanation of the Marion Avenue Sewer Separation Project. Mayor Mozer provided background on the prior EQ tank proposal and stated that the separation project is intended to separate stormwater from sewage, direct stormwater to the existing large storm pipe, reduce burden on the satellite treatment plant, and avoid additional line usage increases beyond the existing agreement. He explained that the project requires right-of-way and easement agreements from certain property owners, that properties would be restored after work, and that the agreements would be posted for public review. Councilman Nestor also asked about a road condition near McKee/Motheral and Sixth Street, and Mayor Mozer stated he would find out more and noted that a USDA-related project existed near the bottom of Sixth Street.

Adjournment

Councilman John Nestor moved to adjourn. The motion was approved by voice vote, and the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Terry Taylor

Terry Taylor, City Clerk

Ron Mozer, Mayor