CITY OF MONESSEN
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
FEBRUARY 26, 2026
CITY OF MONESSEN COUNCIL CHAMBERS

Call to Order

Mayor Ron Mozer called the February 26, 2026 City Council Meeting to order at 6:30 PM.

Roll Call

Roll call was taken. Councilperson Karen Cosner, Councilman John Nestor, Councilman Anthony Orzechowski, and Mayor Ron Mozer were present. Councilperson Lois Thomas was absent. A quorum was noted.

Opening Prayer

An opening prayer was offered by Amy Barfield.

Pledge of Allegiance

Those in attendance recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of Previous Minutes

Approval of the February 12, 2026 Work Session minutes was held pending completion and circulation of the minutes.

Public Comment on Agenda Items

Linda Lacey, 1624 Maple Avenue, addressed Council regarding the proposed renaming of the intersection at Pennsylvania Boulevard and Westmoreland Drive as Lou Mavrakis Way. She questioned whether sufficient historical review had been conducted and expressed concern that other residents and public servants had also contributed to the City. She also raised concerns about CDBG paving priorities, including 10th Street and Knox, and stated that areas of the City had not received sufficient attention.

Ernie Telegraphis addressed Council regarding roadway work and questioned whether paving near the ballfield and related areas was connected to future development activity. He also asked about the proposed ordinance concerning procedures for appointments to City boards, authorities, and the governing body. Solicitor Joseph Dalfonso explained that the ordinance addressed appointment procedures for boards and authorities and clarified vacancy requirements consistent with Third Class City Code.

Bishop William Bass spoke in support of naming the intersection as Lou Mavrakis Way. He summarized Mr. Mavrakis's service to the City, including service as Mayor, work related to the Civic Center, participation with the Redevelopment Authority, efforts related to sewer financing, and assistance with development contacts. He stated that, while others may also be deserving of recognition, he believed the proposed designation was appropriate.

Correspondence

No correspondence was presented.

Solicitor's Report

Solicitor Joseph Dalfonso reported on several matters, including the proposed ordinance regarding board and authority appointment procedures, the revised Super Nova Resource Services agreement, the Police Department Field Training Officer policy, the Fifth Street stormwater line issue and related Change Order No. 6 under the USDA Phase 3 project, the upcoming bond counsel action related to the USDA loan, and work with the Mon Valley Sewage Authority concerning the proposed sewer separation project in the Hilltop/Marion area.

Treasurer's Report

The City Treasurer was not present. The Treasurer's Report was deferred to the next meeting.

Controller's Report

Controller John Mandarino presented the January 2026 Controller's Report for the General Fund. He reported a beginning bank balance as of December 31, 2025 of $378,429.56, deposits of $165,471.58, expenses of $289,380.74, an ending bank balance as of January 31, 2026 of $254,520.40, outstanding checks totaling $102,337.43, outstanding deposits of $734.00, and a reconciled bank statement balance of $152,916.97.

Mayor's Report

Mayor Mozer thanked Council for its work in ending the prior year with a positive balance for the fourth consecutive year. He also summarized the Fifth Street stormwater line issue, noting that the 36-inch line runs under the railroad tracks and through Cleveland-Cliffs property before entering the river, and that the bottom of the pipe near the river required emergency repair before the remaining portion could be lined.

Mayor's Agenda Items

Code N Force 90 Program

Motion by Mayor Ron Mozer to approve and seek funding for the Code N Force 90 Program and Applications through the Westmoreland and Turtle Creek Valley Council of Governments. The motion was seconded.

Roll Call Vote

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

Lou Mavrakis Way

Motion by Mayor Ron Mozer to approve renaming the intersection at the corner of Pennsylvania Boulevard and Westmoreland Drive as Lou Mavrakis Way. The motion was seconded.

Roll Call Vote

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

Super Nova Resource Services Contract

Motion by Mayor Ron Mozer to approve the contract for Super Nova Resource Services and the City of Monessen. The motion was seconded by Councilman John Nestor.

Council discussed the scope of work and indicated that the services would include street cleaning and related work.

Roll Call Vote

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

International 7400 Dump Truck Advertisement

Motion by Mayor Ron Mozer to approve advertising for an International 7400 Dump Truck vehicle to be submitted in a sealed bid format and opened on March 23, 2026, at City Hall in the City of Monessen. The motion was seconded.

Roll Call Vote

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

Easter Egg Hunt at City Park Walking Track

Motion by Mayor Ron Mozer to approve the use of the City of Monessen City Park Walking Track by Mia Lippincott of 1324 Patton Avenue, Monessen, Pennsylvania, on April 4, 2026, for an Easter Egg Hunt event. The motion was seconded.

Roll Call Vote

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

Rotary Recycling Event at Herman Mihalich Boat Launch Pavilion

Motion by Mayor Ron Mozer to approve the use of the Herman Mihalich Boat Launch Pavilion on April 11, 2026, from 10:00 AM to 1:00 PM for a recycling event for the Rotary Club of the Mon-Yough River Valley. The motion was seconded.

Council clarified that the event involved electronics recycling.

Roll Call Vote

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

First Reading and Advertisement of Ordinance No. 1282

Motion by Mayor Ron Mozer to approve first reading and advertisement of Bill No. 1 of 2026, Ordinance No. 1282 of 2026, amending City Code Chapter 80, Section 25 regarding qualifications and procedures to fill vacancies on City Boards, Authorities, and the City's governing body. The motion was seconded by Councilman John Nestor.

Solicitor Joseph Dalfonso explained that the ordinance addressed procedures for boards and authorities and requirements for vacancies on Council consistent with state law.

Roll Call Vote

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

Police Department Field Training Officer Policy

Motion by Mayor Ron Mozer to approve the City of Monessen Police Department Field Training Officer (FTO) Policy. The motion was seconded by Councilman John Nestor.

Roll Call Vote

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

WEC Engineers Paving Project Bidding Services

Motion by Mayor Ron Mozer to approve WEC Engineers, Inc. to advertise, prepare specifications, bid procedures, and conduct the bidding process for paving projects through CDBG funding at Skurkay, Thompson, Pollard, Rebecca, and Veterans Way; through the Paving Fund of the City of Monessen at Crest, Overhill, Jackson, and Washington; and at Evergreen through a PNG, Inc. paving project. The motion was seconded.

Roll Call Vote

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

USDA Phase 3 Change Order No. 6

Motion by Mayor Ron Mozer to approve Change Order No. 6 of the USDA Phase 3 Project in the amount of $298,750.00 for MCSP, Inc. to perform emergency repair for the Fifth Street line as it enters the river, along with CIPP lining included as part of the existing agreement under the project. The motion was seconded by Councilman John Nestor.

Roll Call Vote

Lois Thomas Absent
Karen Cosner Yes
John Nestor Yes

Anthony Orzechowski Yes
Ron Mozer Yes
Motion Passed 4-0

City Clerk Position

Motion by Councilman Anthony Orzechowski to table the agenda item to offer the position of City Clerk within the City of Monessen. The motion was seconded by Councilman John Nestor.

Roll Call Vote

Lois Thomas Absent
Karen Cosner Yes
John Nestor Yes
Anthony Orzechowski Yes
Ron Mozer Yes
Motion to Table Passed 4-0

MuniLink Agreement

Motion by Mayor Ron Mozer to convert the MuniLink Agreement from its current annual yearly approval structure to a month-to-month arrangement and authorize Administration to formally evaluate and test QuickBooks, 3D, or another payment solution for potential future implementation at a time convenient for the remaining MuniLink customers. The motion was seconded by Councilman John Nestor.

Council discussed the cost of the existing garbage billing software, the timing of the annual renewal, the need for flexibility, and the evaluation of possible replacement systems.

Roll Call Vote

Lois Thomas Absent
Karen Cosner Yes
John Nestor Yes
Anthony Orzechowski No
Ron Mozer Yes
Motion Passed 3-1

Accounts and Finance

General Fund Invoices

Motion by Councilman Anthony Orzechowski to pay the following invoices from the General Fund in the amount of $86,673.97, as listed in Attachment A. The motion was seconded.

Roll Call Vote

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

Refuse Account Invoices

Motion by Councilman Anthony Orzechowski to pay the following invoices from the Refuse Account in the amount of $57,479.66, as listed in Attachment B. The motion was seconded.

Councilman Orzechowski questioned a separate refuse account check in the amount of $236.00 that did not appear on the bill list and stated that it should be reviewed before signature. The motion to pay the listed Refuse Account invoices proceeded.

Roll Call Vote

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

Line Usage Account Invoices

Motion by Councilman Anthony Orzechowski to pay the following invoices from the Line Usage Account in the amount of $5,750.00, as listed in Attachment C. The motion was seconded by Councilman John Nestor.

Roll Call Vote
Lois Thomas Absent
Karen Cosner Yes
John Nestor Yes
Anthony Orzechowski Yes
Ron Mozer Yes
Motion Passed 4-0

Recreational Account Invoices

Motion by Councilman Anthony Orzechowski to pay the following invoices from the Recreational Account in the amount of $35.72, as listed in Attachment D. The motion was seconded.

Roll Call Vote
Lois Thomas Absent
Karen Cosner Yes
John Nestor Yes
Anthony Orzechowski Yes
Ron Mozer Yes
Motion Passed 4-0

Park Fund Invoices

Motion by Councilman Anthony Orzechowski to pay the following invoices from the Park Fund in the amount of $117.50, as listed in Attachment E. The motion was seconded.

Roll Call Vote
Lois Thomas Absent
Karen Cosner Yes
John Nestor Yes
Anthony Orzechowski Yes
Ron Mozer Yes
Motion Passed 4-0

Payroll Transfer

Motion by Councilman Anthony Orzechowski to approve the transfer of $79,780.36 from the General Fund to the Payroll Account for payroll expenses. The motion was seconded by Councilman John Nestor.

Roll Call Vote
Lois Thomas Absent
Karen Cosner Yes
John Nestor Yes
Anthony Orzechowski Yes
Ron Mozer Yes
Motion Passed 4-0

Healthcare Fund Transfer

Motion by Councilman Anthony Orzechowski to approve the transfer of $5,000.00 from the General Fund to the Healthcare Fund. The motion was seconded by Councilman John Nestor.

Roll Call Vote
Lois Thomas Absent
Karen Cosner Yes
John Nestor Yes
Anthony Orzechowski Yes
Ron Mozer Yes
Motion Passed 4-0

Director of Accounts and Finance Report

Councilman Orzechowski reported fund balances as of the meeting date, including Debt Service, Fire Escrow, General Fund, Grant Fund, Healthcare Fund, Line Usage, Liquid Fuels, Parks, Paving Escrow, Payroll, Recreation Fund, Refuse Account, and the remaining balance in the Tax Anticipation Note.

Director of Streets and Public Improvements Report

Councilperson Lois Thomas was absent. Councilwoman Cosner read the Streets Department report for January 2026. The report included garbage pickup downtown, removal of Christmas lights, cold patching, truck cleaning

and greasing following snow removal, snow plowing throughout the month, and assistance to the Parks Department as needed. The report noted that hills and main roads are plowed first, followed by secondary roads, with alleys handled afterward.

Director of Public Safety Report

Councilman John Nestor presented the Public Safety report. Police Department receipts for January 2026 included Vehicle Code fines, Crime Code fines, city ordinance collections, and code enforcement collections, totaling $845.01. The Police Department reported 35 total citations for January 2026. Code activity included habitation inspections, correction letters, miscellaneous complaints, a health inspection, a magistrate hearing, and dumpster activity.

Director of Parks and Public Property Report

Councilwoman Karen Cosner presented the Parks report for January 2026. The report included cleaning the Civic Center, fixing lights in the City Building, and assisting other departments as needed. Councilwoman Cosner also reported that she and Mayor Mozer met with Mike Callahan from Highmark Wholecare regarding planned drive-through food distributions in Monessen, expected to occur in April, June, August, and October.

Public Comment

Ernie Telegraphis asked about the STMP program and the role of the consultant in relation to a comprehensive plan or market analysis. He also commented on LERTA, school district finances, development strategy, and the need to attract industry rather than relying on retail or government-backed development.

Linda Lacey, 1624 Maple Avenue, asked about Evergreen and Leeds roads, questioned prior statements regarding paving eligibility, and expressed continuing concern that certain areas of the City, including her side of town, had been neglected in road work and infrastructure priorities.

Adjournment

Motion by Councilman John Nestor to adjourn the meeting at approximately 7:28 PM. The motion was seconded. The motion passed by voice vote, and the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Terry Taylor

Terry Taylor, City Clerk

Ron Mozer, Mayor