CITY OF MONESSEN

COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

MARCH 26, 2026

6:30 PM

Call to Order

Councilman Anthony Orzechowski called the March 26, 2026 City Council Meeting to order at approximately 6:35 PM in the City of Monessen Council Chambers. Mayor Ron Mozer participated by telephone.

Roll Call

Roll call was taken. The following members were present:

- Councilwoman Karen Cosner
- Councilman John Nestor
- Councilwoman Lois Thomas
- Councilman Anthony Orzechowski
- Mayor Ron Mozer, participating by telephone

Five members were present and a quorum was declared.

Agenda Amendment

Upon motion duly made and seconded, Council approved amending the agenda to add an additional item, later addressed as Item N, concerning Insight Pipe Company change orders for the Sewer Rehabilitation Project Phase 3.

Roll Call Vote

Karen Cosner ..... Yes

John Nestor ..... Yes

Lois Thomas ..... Yes

Anthony Orzechowski ..... Yes

Ron Mozer ..... Yes

Motion Passed 5-0

Opening Prayer

An opening prayer was offered by Pastor John Custer of The Orchard Christian Fellowship, 721 Schoonmaker Avenue, Monessen, Pennsylvania.

Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Discussion of Previous Minutes

The minutes from the February 26, 2026 Council Meeting and the March 12, 2026 Work Session were deferred to the next meeting.

Public Comment on Agenda Items

Ernie Telegraphis asked about the proposed $7,595,000 Guaranteed Revenue Obligation Bond and the purpose of the USDA financing. Solicitor Joseph Dalfonso explained that the bond related to the ongoing USDA sewer project and long-term USDA financing following use of the PNC interim loan.

Mr. Telegraphis also asked about the Asphalt Zipper acquisition and when the equipment would be available for use. Discussion followed that the City had advertised for bids, the bid would be awarded, and the equipment would need to be manufactured and assembled.

Mr. Telegraphis asked about the difference between the roadway resurfacing project and the CDBG roadway rehabilitation project. Solicitor Dalfonso and Councilman Orzechowski explained that the projects were

separate, that the resurfacing project involved areas connected to utility work and paving funds, and that both paving contracts were proposed to be awarded to Tresco Paving Corporation as the lowest responsible bidder.

Correspondence

No correspondence was reported.

Solicitor's Report

Solicitor Joseph Dalfonso reported on the Army Corps of Engineers agreement for the Boat Ramp Relocation Project, noting that it is structured as a reimbursement grant with design reimbursement at 75 percent design completion and final design approval, and construction reimbursement in 25 percent increments.

The Solicitor reported that the City received one bid from Asphalt Zipper, Inc. in the amount of $216,770.00 for the Asphalt Zipper apparatus, funded through an LSA grant, and that the bid included a two-year warranty.

The Solicitor also reported on the first reading of the Speed Limit Ordinance, the Marion Avenue Sewer Shed Separation Project and related intergovernmental cooperation agreement with the Mon Valley Sewage Authority, and the USDA loan closing. Bond counsel Anthony Ditka addressed Council and stated that the USDA loan was moving toward permanent closing, would provide long-term financing at an interest rate of 1.125 percent, and had a 40-year term. The Solicitor further noted that demolition hearings for the county demolition project would be held on April 23, 2026.

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Gerry Saksun presented the February 2026 Treasurer's Report, including garbage fee revenue, delinquent garbage collections, city real estate taxes, miscellaneous tax receipts, and line usage receipts. He reported total February garbage fee collections of $232,166.66 and year-to-date garbage fee collections of $410,851.47. He also reported that current city real estate tax bills had not been sent until March 1 and would be reflected in the next month's report.

Motion by Councilman John Nestor to accept the February 2026 Treasurer's Report regarding garbage fees and city real estate taxes collected for the month of February. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Lois Thomas.

Roll Call Vote

Karen Cosner ..... Yes

John Nestor ..... Yes

Lois Thomas ..... Yes

Anthony Orzechowski ..... Yes

Ron Mozer ..... Yes

Motion Passed 5-0

Controller's Report

Controller John Mandarino stated that the Controller's Report would be deferred until the next Council meeting.

Mayor's Report

Mayor Ron Mozer stated that he would defer his comments to the next session.

Mayor's Agenda Items

Motion by Councilman Anthony Orzechowski to approve an ordinance prepared by Bond Counsel authorizing the issuance of the City's $7,595,000 Guaranteed Revenue Obligation Bond, Series of 2026, to the USDA in accordance with the Local Government Unit Debt Act. The motion was seconded by Councilman John Nestor.

Roll Call Vote

Karen Cosner ..... Yes

John Nestor ..... Yes

Lois Thomas ..... Yes

Anthony Orzechowski ..... Yes

Ron Mozer ..... Yes

Motion Passed 5-0

Motion by Councilman Anthony Orzechowski to approve second reading and approval 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.

Roll Call Vote

Karen Cosner ..... Yes

John Nestor ..... Yes

Lois Thomas ..... Yes

Anthony Orzechowski ..... Yes

Ron Mozer ..... Yes

Motion Passed 5-0

Motion by Councilman Anthony Orzechowski to offer the position of City Clerk within the City of Monessen to Terry Taylor at a rate of $57,000.00 per year, pending standard employment and background checks, effective immediately. The motion was seconded.

Roll Call Vote

Karen Cosner ..... Yes

John Nestor ..... Yes

Lois Thomas ..... Yes

Anthony Orzechowski ..... Yes

Ron Mozer ..... Yes

Motion Passed 5-0

Motion by Councilman Anthony Orzechowski to approve the Army Corps of Engineers Contractual Agreement, LMON Relocation Agreement, City of Monessen Boat Ramp Relocation Project, Agreement DACW 59-9-26-0030. The motion was seconded by Councilman John Nestor.

Roll Call Vote

Karen Cosner ..... Yes

John Nestor ..... Yes

Lois Thomas ..... Yes

Anthony Orzechowski ..... Yes

Ron Mozer ..... Yes

Motion Passed 5-0

Motion by Councilman Anthony Orzechowski to ratify the accepted purchase bid for the International 7400 truck as awarded at the opening of a closed bid procedure on March 24, 2026, at City Hall in Monessen. The motion was seconded by Councilman John Nestor.

Roll Call Vote

Karen Cosner ..... Yes

John Nestor ..... Yes

Lois Thomas ..... Yes

Anthony Orzechowski ..... Yes

Ron Mozer ..... Yes

Motion Passed 5-0

Motion by Councilman Anthony Orzechowski to advertise a full-time Public Works Department position opening for the City of Monessen effective March 27, 2026. The motion was seconded by Councilman John Nestor.

Roll Call Vote

Karen Cosner ..... Yes

John Nestor ..... Yes

Lois Thomas ..... Yes

Anthony Orzechowski ..... Yes

Ron Mozer ..... Yes

Motion Passed 5-0

Motion by Councilman Anthony Orzechowski to approve waiver of refuse fees owed at 566 Donner Avenue in the City of Monessen to proceed with transfer of the deed to the City of Monessen to permit and implement demolition of the property by the County of Westmoreland. The motion was seconded by Councilman John Nestor. Discussion followed regarding confirmation that the waiver would occur only upon entry into a sales agreement.

Roll Call Vote

Karen Cosner ..... Yes

John Nestor ..... Yes

Lois Thomas ..... Yes

Anthony Orzechowski ..... Yes

Ron Mozer ..... Yes

Motion Passed 5-0

Motion by Councilman Anthony Orzechowski to advertise and conduct first reading of the Speed Limit Ordinance, Bill No. 2, Ordinance No. 1283 of 2026, for the City of Monessen. The motion was seconded by Councilman John Nestor.

Roll Call Vote

Karen Cosner ..... Yes

John Nestor ..... Yes

Lois Thomas ..... Yes

Anthony Orzechowski ..... Yes

Ron Mozer ..... Yes

Motion Passed 5-0

Motion by Councilman Anthony Orzechowski to accept the bid of Asphalt Zipper, Inc., of 831 East 340 South, American Fork, Utah 84003, for procurement and assembly of an Asphalt Zipper paving apparatus for the City of Monessen in the amount of $216,770.00, to be paid for with proceeds of a CFA/LSA grant award allocated to the cost of the construction apparatus. The motion was seconded by Councilman John Nestor.

Roll Call Vote

Karen Cosner ..... Yes

John Nestor ..... Yes

Lois Thomas ..... Yes

Anthony Orzechowski ..... Yes

Ron Mozer ..... Yes

Motion Passed 5-0

Motion by Councilman Anthony Orzechowski to approve movement of a valid handicapped parking placard from 638 Reed Avenue, Monessen, Pennsylvania, to Braddock Avenue in the City of Monessen directly behind the Monessen House. The motion was seconded.

Roll Call Vote

Karen Cosner ..... Yes

John Nestor ..... Yes

Lois Thomas ..... Yes

Anthony Orzechowski ..... Yes

Ron Mozer ..... Yes

Motion Passed 5-0

Motion by Councilman Anthony Orzechowski to have the curb painted blue for a valid handicapped placard at 135 Schoonmaker Avenue, Monessen, Pennsylvania, to delineate and mark the address and spot for easier handicapped parking access for the residence. The motion was seconded by Councilman John Nestor.

Roll Call Vote

Karen Cosner ..... Yes

John Nestor ..... Yes

Lois Thomas ..... Yes

Anthony Orzechowski ..... Yes

Ron Mozer ..... Yes

Motion Passed 5-0

Motion by Councilman Anthony Orzechowski to approve the 2026 Roadway Resurfacing Project Phase 1 for Overhill Drive, Jackson Drive, and Washington Drive in the City of Monessen, and to award the contract, following review by WEC Consulting Engineers, to the lowest responsible bidder, Tresco Paving Corporation, based upon its unit bid price of $62,849.12. The motion was seconded.

Roll Call Vote

Karen Cosner ..... Yes

John Nestor ..... Yes

Lois Thomas ..... Yes

Anthony Orzechowski ..... Yes

Ron Mozer ..... Yes

Motion Passed 5-0

Motion by Councilman Anthony Orzechowski to approve the 2026 CDBG Roadway Rehabilitation Project Phase 1 for Pollard Street, Skurkay Avenue, Thompson Avenue, Rebecca Street, Veterans Way, and Parente Boulevard/Mandarino Way in the City of Monessen, and to award the contract, following review by WEC Consulting Engineers, to the lowest responsible bidder, Tresco Paving Corporation, based upon its unit bid price of $134,450.65. The motion was seconded by Councilman John Nestor.

Roll Call Vote

Karen Cosner ..... Yes

John Nestor ..... Yes

Lois Thomas ..... Yes

Anthony Orzechowski ..... Yes

Ron Mozer ..... Yes

Motion Passed 5-0

Motion by Councilman Anthony Orzechowski to approve Change Order No. 9 for Insight Pipe Company contracting within the Sewer Rehabilitation Project Phase 3, reflecting a price reduction due to Change Order No. 5 final quantity adjustments and no required digs, spot repairs, pipe-size changes, or linear footage inspection adjustments, in the amount of $219,852.70; and to approve Change Order No. 10 for Insight Pipe Company for additional manhole lining, CIPP lining, and spot repairs as required, in the amount of $664,628.37. The motion was seconded.

Roll Call Vote

Karen Cosner ..... Yes

John Nestor ..... Yes

Lois Thomas ..... Yes

Anthony Orzechowski ..... Yes

Ron Mozer ..... Yes

Motion Passed 5-0

Accounts and Finance

Motion by Councilman Anthony Orzechowski to pay invoices from the General Fund in the amount of $22,151.18, contingent upon verification of funds. The motion was seconded by Councilman John Nestor.

Roll Call Vote

Karen Cosner ..... Yes

John Nestor ..... Yes

Lois Thomas ..... Yes

Anthony Orzechowski ..... Yes

Ron Mozer ..... Yes

Motion Passed 5-0

Motion by Councilman Anthony Orzechowski to pay invoices from the Refuse Account in the amount of $57,243.66, contingent upon verification of funds. The motion was seconded by Councilman John Nestor.

Roll Call Vote

Karen Cosner ..... Yes

John Nestor ..... Yes

Lois Thomas ..... Yes

Anthony Orzechowski ..... Yes

Ron Mozer ..... Yes

Motion Passed 5-0

Motion by Councilman Anthony Orzechowski to pay invoices from the Line Usage Account in the amount of $38.75, contingent upon verification of funds. The motion was seconded.

Roll Call Vote

Karen Cosner ..... Yes

John Nestor ..... Yes

Lois Thomas ..... Yes

Anthony Orzechowski ..... Yes

Ron Mozer ..... Yes

Motion Passed 5-0

Motion by Councilman Anthony Orzechowski to pay invoices from the Grant Account in the amount of $5,467.43, contingent upon verification of funds. The motion was seconded.

Roll Call Vote

Karen Cosner ..... Yes

John Nestor ..... Yes

Lois Thomas ..... Yes

Anthony Orzechowski ..... Yes

Ron Mozer ..... Yes

Motion Passed 5-0

Motion by Councilman Anthony Orzechowski to pay invoices from the Parks Fund in the amount of $1,970.96, contingent upon verification of funds. The motion was seconded.

Roll Call Vote

Karen Cosner ..... Yes

John Nestor ..... Yes

Lois Thomas ..... Yes

Anthony Orzechowski ..... Yes

Ron Mozer ..... Yes

Motion Passed 5-0

Motion by Councilman Anthony Orzechowski to approve the transfer of $75,284.24 from the General Fund to the Payroll Account for payroll expenses for March 26, 2026. The motion was seconded by Councilman John Nestor.

Roll Call Vote

Karen Cosner ..... Yes

John Nestor ..... Yes

Lois Thomas ..... Yes

Anthony Orzechowski ..... Yes

Ron Mozer ..... Yes

Motion Passed 5-0

Motion by Councilman Anthony Orzechowski to approve retainer payment of Non-Profit Executive Protection and Employment Practices Insurance, Policy No. EPPE193319, for the Redevelopment Authority of the City of Monessen in the amount of $1,220.00. The motion was seconded.

Roll Call Vote

Karen Cosner ..... Yes

John Nestor ..... Yes

Lois Thomas ..... Yes

Anthony Orzechowski ..... Yes

Ron Mozer ..... Yes

Motion Passed 5-0

Motion by Councilman Anthony Orzechowski to appoint Paul Berardelli to a new five-year term on the Mon Valley Sewage Authority Board. The motion was seconded.

Roll Call Vote

Karen Cosner ..... Yes

John Nestor ..... Yes

Lois Thomas ..... No

Anthony Orzechowski ..... Yes

Ron Mozer ..... No

Motion Passed 3-2

Councilwoman Lois Thomas, Director of Streets and Public Improvements

Councilwoman Lois Thomas announced that, effective at the close of the meeting, it would be her last day on City Council. She thanked the City of Monessen, the residents, and the Streets and Parks Departments, and stated that it had been an honor and privilege to serve. She stated that she would continue to pray for wisdom, direction, and progress for the City.

Councilwoman Thomas presented the Streets Department report for February 2026. The report included downtown and citywide garbage collection, PA One Call markings, snow removal, cleaning of trucks and salt spreaders after snow removal, and assistance to the Parks Department as needed. She noted that hills and main streets are plowed first, followed by secondary roads, flat streets, and alleys.

Councilman John Nestor, Director of Public Safety

Councilman John Nestor presented the Public Safety report for February 2026. He reported miscellaneous police collections totaling $526.00, District Justice Office receipts totaling $606.00, and total receipts collected for February 2026 of $1,176.06. He reported 36 arrests for February and 71 year-to-date arrests.

Councilman Nestor also presented the Monessen Municipal Fire Chief's report for February 2026. The report included vehicle accidents, medical assistance, automatic fire alarms, landing zone, wires down, carbon monoxide, natural gas, structure fires, vehicle fire, flooding, calls outside the City, total calls, total firefighters, firefighters per call, and total man-hours. He also presented code activity, including habitation permits, correction letters, miscellaneous complaints, health inspections, office meetings with residents, and dumpsters.

Councilwoman Karen Cosner, Director of Parks and Public Property

Councilwoman Karen Cosner announced that the Mon-Yough River Valley Rotary would sponsor an electronics recycling event on Saturday, April 11, from 10:00 AM to 1:00 PM at the boat launch. She also announced a Westmoreland Food Bank and Highmark Wholecare drive-through food distribution on April 13 from 1:30 PM to 4:30 PM at One Wendell Ramey Lane in Monessen. She further announced that Billy Price would return on June 27, with Broom opening the evening at the amphitheater.

Councilwoman Cosner presented the Parks report for February 2026, including cleaning of the Civic Center and assistance to the Streets Department as needed.

Public Comment

Ernie Telegraphis commented on prior City development discussions, including the Donner Avenue development effort, medical facility concepts, and gated community ideas. He stated that the City should provide more follow-up on announced projects and on vacancies and Civic Center matters. He also expressed concern regarding road conditions and potholes and stated that he hoped the Asphalt Zipper would improve road repairs. He further asked whether Mayor Mozer would donate one day of pay due to his remote participation and suggested that Council consider him for the vacancy created by Councilwoman Thomas's resignation. Councilman Orzechowski stated that the vacancy process does not work that way.

Adjournment

Upon motion duly made and seconded, the meeting was adjourned by voice vote.

Respectfully submitted,

Terry Taylor, City Clerk

Ron Mozer, Mayor