CITY OF MONESSEN
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
September 24, 2026
City of Monessen Council Chambers
6:30 PM

Call to Order

Mayor Ron Mozer called the regular meeting of Monessen City Council to order at 6:30 PM on Thursday, September 24, 2026, in the City of Monessen Council Chambers.

Roll Call

Present were Councilperson Karen Cosner, Councilman Bishop William Bass, Councilman Anthony Orzechowski, and Mayor Ron Mozer. Councilman John Nestor was absent. Four members were present, and a quorum was established.

Also present were City Administrator Mike Korpash, City Solicitor Joseph Dalfonso, City Controller John Mandarino, and members of the public. City Treasurer Gerald A. Saksun was absent.

Opening Prayer

Rev. Jim Michaelson of The Orchard Church offered the opening prayer, giving thanks for God's order, mercy, and grace and asking for a blessing upon Council and the meeting.

Pledge of Allegiance

Those in attendance recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

Amendment to Agenda

Motion - Amend Agenda

Motion by Mayor Ron Mozer to amend the agenda to add: (1) a motion to accept the resignation of Employee No. 400; and (2) a motion to approve a payroll consulting agreement with Linda Matthews in the amount of $200 per payroll, effective September 21, 2026.

The motion was seconded.

City Solicitor Joseph Dalfonso advised that the revised agenda would need to be posted on the City website the following day.

Roll Call Vote

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

Motion Passed 4-0

Approval of Prior Minutes

Motion - Approval of Prior Minutes

Motion by Mayor Ron Mozer to approve the minutes of the August 13, August 18, August 27, and September 10, 2026 City of Monessen Council sessions as provided by Mayor Mozer.

The motion was seconded by Councilman Bishop William Bass.

Roll Call Vote

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

Motion Passed 4-0

Public Comment on Agenda Items

Mayor Mozer opened the floor for public comment on agenda items only.

Earnie Telegraphis commended Fire Chief Hepple for his response to a recent fire and asked questions concerning the proposed sale of the 2020 Ford Explorer Police Interceptor, the Local Share Initiative Police Infrastructure Improvement and Revitalization grant application, the City Park walking-track proposal, Line Usage expenditures, the payroll transfer, the 2026 Act 205 pension allocation, and the Cleveland-Cliffs grant to the Monessen Public Library. Mayor Mozer, City Administrator Korpash, and City Solicitor Dalfonso responded that the police-infrastructure item was an application for grant funding, the Act 205 funds were restricted to pension purposes, and the other agenda items would be addressed as Council proceeded through the agenda.

No other agenda-item-only public comments were offered.

Correspondence

No correspondence was reported.

Solicitor Report

City Solicitor Joseph Dalfonso reported on a pending stormwater-management appeal that must be heard by the City Planning Commission. He advised that the City needed to confirm active Planning Commission membership and schedule and advertise the required proceeding within the applicable time period.

Solicitor Dalfonso also reported on CDBG demolition activity previously approved in 2025. He stated that approximately six properties remained to be cleared through the required process and suggested scheduling the necessary hearing in November. He further advised that he had prepared the payroll consulting agreement with Linda Matthews that had been added to the agenda.

Treasurer Report

City Treasurer Gerald A. Saksun was absent. Mayor Mozer stated that Treasurer Saksun had authorized him to present the Treasurer's Report on his behalf. Mayor Mozer then read the September 24, 2026 written report into the record. The report covered August collections and year-to-date activity, and is incorporated into these minutes below.

Garbage Fees Revenue

Category	August	Year to Date	2026 Budget
Garbage Fee - Current	$7,472.15	$507,575.70	$686,924.00
Garbage Fee - Delinquent	$2,542.12	$57,206.26	$75,000.00
Amount collected by Portnoff	-	$10,723.41	Included in delinquent total
Penalty and Interest - Portnoff	$19.02	$303.68	$2,500.00
Garbage collected for Next Year 2027	-	$2,779.00	$5,000.00
TOTAL	$10,033.29	$567,864.64	$769,424.00

City Real Estate Taxes Revenue

Category	August	Year to Date	2026 Budget
City Real Estate Taxes - Current	$21,312.82	$1,902,035.72	$1,487,000.00
City Taxes - Prior Year collected by City	-	$9,156.04	$10,000.00
Sub Total	$21,312.82	$1,911,191.76	-
Delinquent City Taxes - Westmoreland Tax Claim Bureau (Quarterly)	-	$122,505.88	$250,000.00
Total Year to Date Taxes	-	$2,033,697.64	$1,747,000.00

City Real Estate Tax Distribution as of August 31, 2026

Fund	Year to Date	2026 Budget
General Fund	$1,329,618.11	$1,034,505.90
Debt Service	$360,833.01	$280,745.60
Library	$38,606.11	$30,037.40
Parks	$182,134.53	$141,711.10
TOTAL	$1,911,191.76	$1,487,000.00

Other Revenue

Category	August	Year to Date	2026 Budget
Real Estate Transfer Tax	$6,452.70	$62,498.63	$70,000.00
Earned Income Tax	$92,046.84	$530,711.76	$700,000.00
Mercantile Tax	$203.30	$14,417.78	$21,000.00
Local Services Tax	$12,373.73	$51,238.11	$70,000.00
Tax Certifications	$1,200.00	$14,920.00	$20,000.00
Municipal Lien Letters	$750.00	$8,775.00	$12,000.00

Line Usage Account

Category	August	Year to Date
Unsewered Payments	-	$9,098.00
Line Usage Fee	$66,085.87	$592,020.04
TOTAL	-	$601,118.04

Motion - Accept Treasurer Report

Motion by Mayor Ron Mozer to accept the Treasurer's Report for September 24, 2026 as read.

The motion was seconded by Councilman Bishop William Bass.

Roll Call Vote

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

Motion Passed 4-0

Controller Report

City Controller John Mandarino deferred his report until the next meeting.

Old Business

No old business was presented.

Mayor's Discussion Items and Motions

Mayor Mozer stated that he had no additional discussion items and asked Councilperson Cosner to read his motions into the record.

Second CDBG Public Hearing

Motion by Mayor Ron Mozer to advertise and schedule the second CDBG public hearing to discuss the content and ratification of the City of Monessen's upcoming CDBG filing for fiscal year 2026.

The motion was seconded by Councilman Bishop William Bass.

Roll Call Vote

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

Motion Passed 4-0

Sale of 2020 Ford Explorer Police Interceptor

Motion by Mayor Ron Mozer to approve the sale of the City of Monessen 2020 Ford Explorer Utility Police Interceptor to Rusty's Towing and Restoration of Washington, Pennsylvania, for $1,000.00.

The motion was seconded by Councilman Bishop William Bass.

Mayor Mozer stated that the vehicle was in poor condition and that the estimated cost to make it roadworthy exceeded its value.

Roll Call Vote

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

Motion Passed 4-0

Local Share Initiative Police Infrastructure Improvement and Revitalization Project

Following discussion and amendment, motion by Mayor Ron Mozer to approve a resolution in support of the City of Monessen Local Share Initiative Police Infrastructure Improvement and Revitalization Project, including infrastructure improvements, a new side security door, new computers, and related equipment for the Police Station, in an amount not to exceed $65,000.00.

The amended motion was seconded by Councilman Bishop William Bass.

Council discussed that the item authorized submission of a grant application rather than expenditure of City funds. The amount was changed from $62,279.82 to an amount not to exceed $65,000.00 to allow final vendor pricing to be incorporated into the application.

Roll Call Vote

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

Motion Passed 4-0

Hiring - Streets and Parks Employee

Motion by Mayor Ron Mozer to approve the hiring of Streets and Parks employee Nickolas Curcio-Sumpman to begin immediately at a wage rate of $21.00 per hour, contingent upon successfully completing all required pre-employment screenings.

The motion was seconded.

Roll Call Vote

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

Motion Passed 4-0

Phase 3A Change Order No. 10

Motion by Mayor Ron Mozer to approve Phase 3A Change Order No. 10 for a final quantities adjustment due to reduced dig-spot repairs and changes in pipe sizes during pre-lining inspections, adding $93,235.65 to the project's uncommitted funds.

The motion was seconded.

Mayor Mozer clarified that the change order reduced the amount of work charged under the contract and returned approximately $93,000 to uncommitted project funds.

Roll Call Vote

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

Motion Passed 4-0

Halloween Parade

Motion by Mayor Ron Mozer to approve the Halloween Parade in the City of Monessen on October 29, 2026 at 6:30 PM, beginning at Eighth Street, proceeding the wrong way on Donner Avenue to Second Street, and ending at Fire Department No. 1.

The motion was seconded by Councilman Bishop William Bass.

Roll Call Vote

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

Motion Passed 4-0

Halloween Trick-or-Treat Celebration

Motion by Mayor Ron Mozer to approve the Halloween Trick-or-Treat Celebration in the City of Monessen on Saturday, October 31, 2026, from 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM.

The motion was seconded by Councilman Bishop William Bass.

Roll Call Vote

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

Motion Passed 4-0

Donation - Sealcoating at Fire Department No. 1 and Police Station

Motion by Mayor Ron Mozer to accept the donation being made by Jim Earl for sealcoating of the Fire Department No. 1 parking lot and the Police Station parking lot by Yancoskie Asphalt Sealcoating, contingent upon Yancoskie Asphalt Sealcoating providing satisfactory proof of insurance naming the City of Monessen as an additional insured for the work.

The motion was seconded by Councilman Bishop William Bass.

Council clarified that Mr. Earl arranged and paid the contractor directly and was donating the completed work to the City; no City funds were involved. The roll-call vote was taken after Council completed this clarification.

Roll Call Vote

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

Motion Passed 4-0

City Park Walking Track

Motion by Mayor Ron Mozer to approve the proposal of Gary Yancoskie to prepare and seal the walking track at City Park in the amount of $7,200.00.

The motion was seconded by Councilman Bishop William Bass.

Roll Call Vote

Karen Cosner	Yes
William Bass	Yes
Anthony Orzechowski	Yes

Ron Mozer	Yes

Motion Passed 4-0

Resignation - Employee No. 400

Motion by Mayor Ron Mozer to accept the resignation of Employee No. 400.

The motion was seconded.

Roll Call Vote

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

Motion Passed 4-0

Payroll Consulting Agreement - Linda Matthews

Motion by Mayor Ron Mozer to approve a payroll consulting agreement with Linda Matthews in the amount of $200.00 per payroll, effective September 21, 2026.

The motion was seconded.

Council discussed the distinction between the temporary payroll consulting arrangement, the City's evaluation of outside payroll-service providers, and the separate search for a new City Clerk. City Administrator Korpash reported that City Clerk interviews were expected the following week and resumes would be distributed to Council.

Roll Call Vote

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

Motion Passed 4-0

Council also discussed a possible vehicle for fire-service use. Mayor Mozer stated that no action would be taken until the City received a complete assessment of the vehicle's safety needs and repair costs. No motion was considered on that matter.

Councilman Anthony Orzechowski - Accounts and Finance

General Fund Invoices

Motion by Councilman Anthony Orzechowski to pay General Fund invoices in the amount of $31,091.31, as listed in Attachment A to the agenda.

The motion was seconded by Councilman Bishop William Bass.

Roll Call Vote

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

Motion Passed 4-0

Parks Fund Invoices

Motion by Councilman Anthony Orzechowski to pay Parks Fund invoices in the amount of $426.95, as listed in Attachment B to the agenda.

The motion was seconded by Councilman Bishop William Bass.

Roll Call Vote

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

Motion Passed 4-0

Recreation Board Fund Invoices

Motion by Councilman Anthony Orzechowski to pay Recreation Board Fund invoices in the amount of $101.39, as listed in Attachment C to the agenda.

The motion was seconded by Councilman Bishop William Bass.

Roll Call Vote

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

Motion Passed 4-0

Line Usage Fund Invoices

Motion by Councilman Anthony Orzechowski to pay Line Usage Fund invoices in the amount of $322,942.08, as listed in Attachment D to the agenda.

The motion was seconded by Councilman Bishop William Bass.

Roll Call Vote

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

Motion Passed 4-0

Grant Fund Invoices

Motion by Councilman Anthony Orzechowski to pay Grant Fund invoices in the amount of $729.64, as listed in Attachment E to the agenda.

The motion was seconded by Councilman Bishop William Bass.

Roll Call Vote

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

Motion Passed 4-0

Refuse Fund Invoices

Motion by Councilman Anthony Orzechowski to pay Refuse Fund invoices in the amount of $499.18, as listed in Attachment F to the agenda.

The motion was seconded.

Roll Call Vote

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

Motion Passed 4-0

Payroll Transfer

Motion by Councilman Anthony Orzechowski to approve the transfer of $79,546.78 from the General Fund to the Payroll Account for the September 24, 2026 payroll.

The motion was seconded by Councilman Bishop William Bass.

Roll Call Vote

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

Motion Passed 4-0

Health Care Account Allocation

Motion by Councilman Anthony Orzechowski to approve an allocation of $2,000.00 from the General Fund to the Health Care Account.

The motion was seconded.

Roll Call Vote

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

Motion Passed 4-0

2026 Municipal Pension Payment - Act 205

Motion by Councilman Anthony Orzechowski to accept the 2026 Municipal Pension Payment - Act 205 from the Office of the Auditor General, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, in the amount of $215,912.71.

The motion was seconded.

Council clarified that the state pension aid applies to the City's police and fire pension obligations. Mayor Mozer stated that the total municipal minimum pension obligation was approximately $320,000 and that the exact remaining City contribution would be provided when confirmed.

Roll Call Vote

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

Motion Passed 4-0

Accounts and Finance Report

Councilman Orzechowski reported current fund balances and noted that approximately $5,979.17 remained in the Tax Anticipation Note account and could be considered for transfer to the General Fund at a subsequent meeting. Among the balances reported were Refuse, $213,030.60; Paving Escrow, $76,989.77; Parks, $260,777.70; Liquid Fuels, approximately $138,664.70; Line Usage, $724,259.30; Health Care, $7,870.39; Grant Fund, $20,632.50; Fire Escrow, $89,978.58; and General Fund, $239,023.70.

Councilman Bishop William Bass - Streets and Public Improvements

Councilman Bass reported that the Streets Department picked up downtown garbage, responded to PA One Call markings, cut City lots, cold-patched streets, swept streets, prepared salt spreaders, repaired the high lift, painted crosswalks, and assisted the Parks Department as needed. He reported that three salt spreaders were operational and parts had been ordered for two others.

Councilman Bass also reported that he had begun an occupational safety and health review of City Garage operations, with the intent of identifying practical safety, health, and efficiency improvements. City Administrator Korpash advised that the City had completed the applicable COSTARS/Department of General Services review for the upcoming salt season.

Councilman John Nestor - Public Safety

Councilman Nestor was absent. No Public Safety report was presented.

Councilperson Karen Cosner - Parks and Public Property

Councilperson Cosner presented the Parks Department report for August 2026. Work included mowing City parks and ballfields, maintaining and cleaning pavilions for rentals, changing lights at the Police Station and City Hall, and assisting the Streets Department as needed.

Councilperson Cosner announced the Greater Monessen Historical Society Founders Day Dinner on October 3, 2026, and the availability of the 125th Anniversary booklet, each at $35. She also announced the Monessen Public Library luncheon on October 13, 2026, and the September 26, 2026 meet-and-greet for new librarian Carrie Gessner.

Councilperson Cosner commended Library Board member Tamara Boyson for obtaining a $15,000 Cleveland-Cliffs grant for the Monessen Public Library. She stated that the grant would support beautification improvements,

including landscaping along the Donner Avenue side of the Library, and other Library improvements authorized under the grant.

Mayor Mozer announced that His Place intended to hold a Christmas parade on December 5, 2026 and that the required parade authorization would be brought before Council at a future meeting. Councilperson Cosner also announced Joseph's Nursery Fall Fest scheduled for September 26 from 11:00 AM to 5:00 PM.

Councilman Bass additionally commended the Monessen Police Department for its prompt and professional response to a recent alarm at his church.

Public Comment

Mayor Mozer opened the floor for public comment on matters relating to City business.

Earnie Telegraphis asked about the City's projected financial position through the end of 2026. Councilman Orzechowski stated that the City was currently short of projected needs but that complete figures were still being developed. He said preparation of the 2027 budget should begin and that the City should begin discussions with its bank concerning a Tax Anticipation Note. Mr. Telegraphis also raised concerns about code enforcement at the former Rite Aid property, the use of local vendors and workers, and the need for additional industrial and economic development. Mayor Mozer stated that code enforcement had issued a citation regarding the property and that redevelopment efforts were ongoing.

Don Greggor asked about the status of Local Share Account grant funds. Mayor Mozer stated that the City was issuing purchase orders and submitting reimbursement requests, including for Fire Department equipment. Mr. Greggor also discussed the condition of a possible fire-service vehicle, City fund balances, the possibility of attracting a data center to privately owned brownfield property, and potential residential redevelopment involving the existing soccer field. Mayor Mozer and Solicitor Dalfonso explained that any redevelopment affecting the existing soccer field would require replacement recreation space because of the funding encumbrance on that property. No action was taken on these discussion items.

Additional public discussion concerned the possible fire-service vehicle. Mayor Mozer reiterated that Council would not consider action until the safety and repair costs were established and explained that other vehicle purchases referenced by residents involved different funding sources.

Adjournment

Motion by Councilman Anthony Orzechowski to adjourn the meeting.

The motion was seconded by Councilman Bishop William Bass.

The motion carried by voice vote. The meeting adjourned at approximately 7:30 PM.

Attest: _____
City Clerk, Mike Korposh

Signed: _____
Mayor, Ron Mozer