

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
MASSILLON CITY COUNCIL
HELD TUESDAY, JANUARY 16, 2024**

COUNCIL PRESIDENT SLATER – Welcome to the Massillon City Council Meeting for Tuesday, January 16, 2024. We have in attendance the following City officials: Mayor, Jamie Slutz, Safety Service Director, Renee Baker, Auditor, John Ferrero, Chief Deputy Auditor, Stefanie Myers, Chief Counsel, Earle Wise Jr., City Engineer, Alex Pitts, Director of Development, Ted Herncane, Police Chief, Jason Saintenoy, Fire Chief, Matt Heck, Income Tax/Budget Director, Lori Kotagides Boron and Chief Building Official, Frank Silla. Under #5 on the agenda is where the public can speak on any topic that appears on tonight’s agenda and under #17 is where the public can speak on any topic that does NOT appear on tonight’s agenda. I’d like to remind you that if you have a cell phone, please set it to mute, vibrate or turn it off. Thank you.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT SLATER – Roll call.

1. ROLL CALL

Roll call for the evening found the following Council Members present: Jill Creamer, Sarita Cunningham, Mike Gregg, Julie Harwig Smith, Ed Lewis, Mark Lombardi, Eric Ray and Mike Snee.

Roll call of 8 present

COUNCIL PRESIDENT SLATER – Thank you, Madam Clerk.

2. INVOCATION

COUNCILMAN ERIC RAY

3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

LED BY COUNCILMAN RAY

4. READING OF THE JOURNAL

COUNCIL PRESIDENT SLATER – Thank you, Councilman Ray. Madam Clerk are the minutes of the previous meeting transcribed and open for public viewing?

COUNCIL CLERK ROLLAND – Yes they are.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT SLATER – Are there any additions or corrections to be made?

COUNCIL CLERK ROLLAND – No, there are not.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT SLATER – Thank you. The minutes stand approved as written.

5. REMARKS OF DELEGATIONS AND CITIZENS TO MATTERS ON THE AGENDA

6. NEW AND MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS

COUNCIL PRESIDENT SLATER – Councilman Lombardi.

COUNCILMAN LOMBARDI – Thank you, President Slater. On our agenda tonight, we have the Mayor’s State of the City Address under Item #11, Reports from City Officials. I would like to make a motion that we amend tonight’s agenda and move the State of the City Address under the current item #6, New and Miscellaneous Business.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT SLATER – Seconded by Councilman Snee. Roll call.

8 yes to amend the agenda to move the Mayor’s State of the City Address under New and Miscellaneous Business

COUNCIL PRESIDENT SLATER – Mayor Slutz.

MAYOR SLUTZ – Good evening. “Mr. President, Members of Council, citizens of Massillon. It is a great honor to deliver my first State of the City Address as your Mayor. I am excited about the opportunities ahead and I look forward to working with City Council to make Massillon the best it can be. I asked my staff to come in on New Year’s Day to get sworn in because I wanted our team to get started on day one. I have retained a majority of the existing City department directors, but there are some new faces in my Administration that I would like to mention. Director of Public Service and Safety, Renee Baker, has a strong background and excellent work ethic. Director Baker has hit the ground running in taking on this important role. Over the last two weeks, she has met with department directors to learn more about the workings of their departments, talk about their goals for the year, and establishing channels of communication to improve service to our residents. Our administrative assistants, Frank Hill V and Monica Kring have amazed Director Baker and I with how quickly they are adapting to their new roles. I want the Mayor’s office to be accessible and welcoming for City staff and our citizens. I believe that sets the tone for good government. My priorities as your Mayor are the same things I talked about during the campaign. I want Massillon City government to be responsive to the needs of our citizens, and improve upon the things important to them. My Administration will focus on public safety, job growth, and preserving our neighborhoods to help Massillon grow for future generations. All City departments play a role in achieving these goals and I am encouraged by the willingness to collaborate I have seen so far among City staff. Although we start the year on sound financial footing, we must continue to be fiscally responsible and accountable. As City Council and Auditor Ferrero’s office share in that responsibility, I hope that we can work together to make the best financial decisions for our community. It is important that we live within our means and continuously look for new ways to make the most out of our existing revenue. For example, combining the Community and Economic Development Director positions frees up CDBG funds, allowing us to add two more code enforcement officers to work in our low and moderate income neighborhoods. I thank City Council for their cooperation in making that happen. Here are some things we intend to accomplish this year:

Hire an animal control officer. Budget Director Lori Kotagides-Boron and I are looking at the feasibility of accomplishing this within our existing 2024 budget. We will discuss this matter with City Council when the time comes.

Effective February 1, the Income Tax Department will be open to the public 8:30-4:30 Monday through Friday. The Income Tax Department will transition to a new tax collection system after tax season.

The Fire Department anticipates a new ambulance this year and we look forward to a building addition to Station No. 4 by Genshaft Park. The Fire Department has a staff of 56 and we will work closely with Chief Heck on any other needs he may have.

As we continue to hire police officers, we plan on opening a traffic division. This would consist of officers who will be assigned to concentrate on enforcing traffic laws to make our streets safer and slow violators down. The PD intends to add two more cruisers and one jail transportation vehicle. Chief Saintenoy's goal is to reach 50 officers this year and full staff the detective bureau.

For Parks and Recreation, we are looking forward to new restrooms at Lincoln Park and L.C. Jones Park. A new pavilion will be constructed at Lincoln Park as well. The Wampler Splash Pad will open this year. And we are awaiting a response from the State of Ohio regarding the \$1 million capital improvement grant request for Reservoir Park made by the City a few months ago. We expect a decision by this summer.

We are estimating \$2 million in street resurfacing projects this year. We are also discussing with the Engineering Department timelines to get our bids out earlier in the year.

The City will continue the annual Summer Concert series on Monday and Thursday nights and we have begun preparations for those already. Other longstanding community events will continue as well.

We look to add two additional code enforcement officers by this summer, bringing the total code staff to four. We will be reorganizing this department and assigning those individuals to specific parts of the City. Code will also be more proactive in the community. We need to take a look at what administrative needs that have so that their time is maximized and spent in the field.

Director of Development, Ted Herncane, is currently work with two companies looking to relocate to Massillon and one local manufacturing company looking at a major expansion of operations that would result in hundreds of new jobs.

The Health Department will be partnering with Central Presbyterian Church as a warming center during severe cold and will work toward reaccreditation through continuous quality improvement of all services.

These are just some of the highlights of what looks to be an exciting year. I look forward to working with City Council and our community partners in the years to come to serve the City we all love. We can achieve anything we set out to do by working together. I purposefully put together a bipartisan administration because, as City leaders, we must always put the citizens of Massillon first. We may not always agree on the best course of action, but we must always be will to collaborate and cooperate for the greater good of our City. Massillon is the City of Champions because we are a strong, resilient, and determined community. And it is the job of all of us in this room to remember that each day is an opportunity to make things better than

they were the day before. As leaders in Massillon, we are all part of a larger community story. Those that came before us worked hard for us to be where we are today, and now it is our job to make things better for future generations of Massillonians. I look forward to working with each and every one of you to do just that. Thank you.”

(Applause)

COUNCIL PRESIDENT SLATER – Councilman Lombardi.

COUNCILMAN LOMBARDI – Thank you, President Slater. At this time, I would like to make a motion in accordance with the Division (G)(1) of Section 121.22 of the Ohio Revised Code, I move that we enter into executive session to include the following individuals; all Members of Council, President of Council and we would like to reserve the right to call representatives of the Law Dept., Clerk of Council and Mayor, Jamie Slutz, for the purpose of considering the appointment, employment, dismissal, discipline, promotion, demotion or compensation of a public employee or official.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT SLATER – Seconded by Councilman Lewis. Roll call.

8 yes to enter into executive session – 6:45 p.m.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT SLATER – Councilman Lombardi.

COUNCILMAN LOMBARDI – I’d like to make a motion that we exit executive session.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT SLATER – Seconded by Councilman Gregg. Roll call.

8 yes to exit executive session – 7:30 p.m.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT SLATER – Thank you.

7. INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS

ORDINANCE NO. 1 – 2024

BY: PUBLIC UTILITIES AND ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE

AN ORDINANCE authorizing the Director of Public Service and Safety of the City of Massillon, Ohio, to enter into an agreement for the fourth supplemental agreement to the Massillon/Stark County Sewer Agreement to enlarge the Service Area and include the North Lawrence Tributary.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT SLATER – Councilman Lewis.

COUNCILMAN LEWIS – Yes. As discussed, are there any further discussions or questions this week regarding this? Seeing none, I make a motion that we suspend the rules requiring three readings, bringing Ord. No. 1 – 2024 forward for a vote.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT SLATER – Seconded by Councilman Lombardi. Roll call for suspension.

8 yes for suspension

COUNCIL PRESIDENT SLATER – And for passage.

8 yes for passage

COUNCIL PRESIDENT SLATER – Thank you. Ord. No. 1 – 2024 has passed. Ord. No. 2 – 2024.

ORDINANCE NO. 2 – 2024

BY: PUBLIC UTILITIES AND ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE

AN ORDINANCE authorizing the Director of Public Service and Safety of the City of Massillon, Ohio, to advertise for and receive sealed bids and enter into contract with the lowest and best bidder, upon approval of the Board of Control, for the Storm Valve Automation Project, and declaring an emergency.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT SLATER – Councilman Lewis.

COUNCILMAN LEWIS – Yes. Are there any questions or discussion on this this evening? Seeing none, I make a motion that we suspend the rules requiring three readings, bringing Ord. No. 2 – 2024 forward for a vote.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT SLATER – Seconded by Councilman Ray. Roll call for suspension.

8 yes for suspension

COUNCIL PRESIDENT SLATER – And for passage.

8 yes for passage

COUNCIL PRESIDENT SLATER – Ord. No. 2 – 2024 has passed. Ord. No. 3 – 2024.

ORDINANCE NO. 3 – 2024

BY: RULES, COURTS AND CIVIL SERVICE COMMITTEE

AN ORDINANCE approving the current replacement pages to the Massillon Codified Ordinances, and declaring an emergency.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT SLATER – Councilman Gregg.

COUNCILMAN GREGG – Thank you, Mr. President. This is something that we do each year. We're required to pass the legislation to approve the current replacement pages to the Massillon Codified ordinances. Any questions or discussion? Seeing none, I make a motion that we suspend the rules requiring three readings and bring Ord. No. 3 – 2024 forward for a vote.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT SLATER – Seconded by Councilwoman Harwig Smith. Roll call for suspension.

8 yes for suspension

COUNCIL PRESIDENT SLATER – And for passage.

8 yes for passage

COUNCIL PRESIDENT SLATER – Ord. No. 3 – 2024 has passed. Ord. No. 4 – 2024.

ORDINANCE NO. 4 – 2024

BY: RULES, COURTS AND CIVIL SERVICE COMMITTEE

AN ORDINANCE amending the OCCUPATION LIST OF CLASS TITLES, 305 – 307 POLICE DEPARTMENT, in the City of Massillon, Ohio, by establishing and creating the position of “Corrections Officer” and establishing the Class Grade Schedule for said position within the 305 – 307 POLICE DEPARTMENT and eliminating obsolete positions under 305 – 307 POLICE DEPARTMENT, and declaring an emergency.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT SLATER – Councilman Gregg.

COUNCILMAN GREGG – Thank you, Mr. President. I’m going to give this first reading this evening. I know it was added to the agenda in the middle of the week. So, I’m going to give it one reading. So, first reading.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT SLATER – Ord. No. 4 -2024 has received first reading. Ord. No. 5 – 2024.

ORDINANCE NO. 5 – 2024

BY: FINANCE COMMITTEE

AN ORDINANCE making certain appropriations from the unappropriated balance of the 1221 American Rescue Plan – SLFRF Fund, for the year ending December 31, 2024, and declaring an emergency.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT SLATER – Councilman Lewis.

COUNCILMAN LEWIS – Yes. This ordinance is just taking the American Rescue Fund monies that were appropriated last year and moving them into 2024 and appropriating again. Are there any questions or discussion this evening? Seeing none, I make a motion that we suspend the rules requiring three readings, bringing Ord. No. 5 – 2024 forward for a vote.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT SLATER – Seconded by Councilman Lombardi. Roll call for suspension.

8 yes for suspension

COUNCIL PRESIDENT SLATER – And for passage.

8 yes for passage

COUNCIL PRESIDENT SLATER – Ord. No. 5 – 2024 has passed. Ord. No. 6 – 2024.

ORDINANCE NO. 6 – 2024

BY: FINANCE COMMITTEE

AN ORDINANCE making certain appropriations from the unappropriated balance of the 3112 Donation Fund, for the year ending December 31, 2024, and declaring an emergency.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT SLATER – Councilman Lewis.

COUNCILMAN LEWIS – Yes. This appropriation is related to the ice rink. Are there any questions or discussion this evening? Seeing none, I make a motion that we suspend the rules requiring three readings, bringing Ord. No. 6 – 2024 forward for a vote.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT SLATER – Seconded by Councilman Lombardi. Roll call for suspension.

8 yes for suspension

COUNCIL PRESIDENT SLATER – And for passage.

8 yes for passage

COUNCIL PRESIDENT SLATER – Ord. No. 6 – 2024 has passed. Ord. No. 7 – 2024.

ORDINANCE NO. 7 – 2024

BY: FINANCE COMMITTEE

AN ORDINANCE authorizing the Director of Law of the City of Massillon, Ohio, to enter into a one (1) year Agreement with the Village of Brewster, Ohio, for the purpose of providing prosecutorial services, and declaring an emergency.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT SLATER – Councilman Lewis.

COUNCILMAN LEWIS – Yes. This is standard that we do every year with the different villages around us that allows the Law Dept. to be able to represent the numerous municipalities for prosecutorial purposes. Are there any discussion or comments this evening? Seeing none, I make a motion to suspend the rules requiring three readings, bringing Ord. No. 7 – 2024 forward for a vote.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT SLATER – Seconded by Councilman Gregg. Roll call for suspension.

8 yes for suspension

COUNCIL PRESIDENT SLATER – And for passage.

8 yes for passage

COUNCIL PRESIDENT SLATER – Ord. No. 7 – 2024 has passed. Res. No. 1 – 2024.

A RESOLUTION appointing DIANE ROLLAND as Administrative Assistant/Clerk of Council of Massillon City Council and establishing salary for said job.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT SLATER – Councilman Lombardi.

COUNCILMAN LOMBARDI – Thank you, President Slater. This is just to retain Diane as our Clerk. Are there any questions? I make a motion that we suspend the rules requiring three readings and bring Res. No. 1 – 2024 forward for a vote.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT SLATER – Seconded by Councilwoman Creamer. Roll call for suspension.

8 yes for suspension

COUNCIL PRESIDENT SLATER – And for passage.

8 yes for passage

COUNCIL PRESIDENT SLATER – Res. No. 1 – 2024 has passed. Res. No. 2 – 2024.

RESOLUTION NO. 2 – 2024 **BY: COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE**

A RESOLUTION commending AARON VIOLAND as a Member of City Council of the City of Massillon, Ohio.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT SLATER – Councilman Lombardi.

COUNCILMAN LOMBARDI – Thank you, President Slater. We do this every year with Members of Council who have moved on. Are there any questions? Seeing none, I make a motion that we bring Res. No. 2 – 2024 forward for a vote.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT SLATER – Seconded by Councilman Gregg. Roll call for suspension.

8 yes for suspension

COUNCIL PRESIDENT SLATER – And for passage.

8 yes for passage

COUNCIL PRESIDENT SLATER – Res. No. 2 – 2024 has passed. Res. No. 3 – 2024.

RESOLUTION NO. 3 – 2024 **BY: COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE**

A RESOLUTION commending TED HERNCANE as a Member of City Council of the City of Massillon, Ohio.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT SLATER – Councilman Lombardi.

COUNCILMAN LOMBARDI – Thank you, President Slater. I'd like to make a motion that we waive the rules requiring three readings and bring Res. No. 3 – 2024 forward for a vote.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT SLATER – Seconded by Councilwoman Harwig Smith. Roll call for suspension.

8 yes for suspension

COUNCIL PRESIDENT SLATER – And for passage.

8 yes for passage

COUNCIL PRESIDENT SLATER – Res. No. 3 – 2024 has passed. Res. No. 4 – 2024.

RESOLUTION NO. 4 – 2024

BY: COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

A RESOLUTION commending JAMIE SLUTZ as a Member of City Council of the City of Massillon, Ohio.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT SLATER – Councilman Lombardi.

COUNCILMAN LOMBARDI – Thank you, President Slater. I'd like to make a motion to suspend the rules requiring three readings and bring Res. No. 4 – 2024 forward for a vote.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT SLATER – Seconded by Councilman Gregg. Roll call for suspension.

8 yes for suspension

COUNCIL PRESIDENT SLATER – And for passage.

8 yes for passage

COUNCIL PRESIDENT SLATER - Res. No. 4 – 2024 has passed. Res. No. 5 – 2024.

RESOLUTION NO. 5 – 2024

BY: COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

A RESOLUTION commending CLAUDETTE O. ISTNICK as President of City Council of the City of Massillon, Ohio.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT SLATER – Councilman Lombardi.

COUNCILMAN LOMBARDI – Thank you, President Slater. I'd like to make a motion to suspend the rules requiring three readings and bring Res. No. 5 – 2024 forward for a vote.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT SLATER – Seconded by Councilman Gregg. Roll call for suspension.

8 yes for suspension

COUNCIL PRESIDENT SLATER – And for passage.

8 yes for passage

COUNCIL PRESIDENT SLATER – Res. No. 5 – 2024 has passed.

8. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

9. PETITIONS AND GENERAL COMMUNICATIONS

Thank you note from former Council President Istnick

10. BILLS, ACCOUNTS AND CLAIMS

LocaliQ Ohio Gannett	-	\$ 643.04	Publication of Ordinances
Bonnie’s Engravers Gallery	-	231.00	Name Plates
US Bank Equip. Finance	-	<u>133.35</u>	January Payment for Copier
Total	-	\$1,007.39	

COUNCIL PRESIDENT SLATER – Councilman Lewis.

COUNCILMAN LEWIS – I make a motion to pay the bills.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT SLATER – Seconded by Councilman Lombardi. Roll call.

8 yes to pay the bills

COUNCIL PRESIDENT SLATER – The Clerk will pay the bills and charge them to their proper accounts.

11. REPORTS FROM CITY OFFICIALS

Mayor’s Report	-	December 2023
Auditor’s Report	-	December 2023

COUNCIL PRESIDENT SLATER – Councilman Lewis.

COUNCILMAN LEWIS – I’d like to make a motion to accept the Auditor’s Report

COUNCIL PRESIDENT SLATER – Seconded by Councilman Gregg. Roll call.

8 yes to accept the Auditor’s Report

COUNCIL PRESIDENT SLATER – The Auditor’s Report has been accepted.

12. REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

COUNCIL PRESIDENT SLATER – Our next Work Session will be Monday, January 29, 2024, at 6:30 p.m. We are off the week of January 22, 2024 as January has five Mondays.

13. RESOLUTIONS AND REQUESTS OF COUNCIL MEMBERS

14. CALL OF THE CALENDAR

15. THIRD READING ORDINANCE AND RESOLUTIONS

16. SECOND READING ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS

17. REMARKS OF DELEGATIONS AND CITIZENS TO MATTERS NOT ON THE AGENDA

GAYLE DANZY – I brought this before and I'm not sure who it's supposed to go to, but I still would like for somebody to look into what happened to the position that Ed Grier used to hold with the City as the E.E.O. Officer or whatever his title may have been at that time. I would like to know what happened to that position and ask that if somebody could look into perhaps bringing a position such as that back to the City of Massillon and my reason for that is that, my personal opinion, there's no representation of African Americans with the City of Massillon and there hasn't been any for some time. So, I just want to see that position brought back. Because I believe that he was very effective in what he did. Thank you.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT SLATER – Councilman Gregg.

COUNCILMAN GREGG – I have, at least, a partial answer, Mrs. Danzy, to your question. That position had been combined with the Civil Service Director's position some time ago and I believe in 2022 or 2023, I don't remember the exact date, but we determined that it was improper to have that position combined and be under the purview of the Mayor. So, the position was split apart and that person continued with the Civil Service Director's position. The E.E.O position was never filled at that point. So, going forward if that's something that, since that would come under the Mayor's office as something that he would like to do; then that can be done.

GAYLE DANZY – Okay. So the first half I already knew, but the second half is still my question. Can something be done to bring that position to the City of Massillon. Thank you.

COUNCILMAN GREGG – You are welcome.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT SLATER – Thank you for speaking.

18. **ADJOURNMENT**

COUNCIL PRESIDENT SLATER – Councilman Ray.

COUNCILMAN RAY – I'd like to make a motion to adjourn.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT SLATER – Seconded by Councilman Lombardi. Roll call.

8 yes to adjourn

COUNCIL PRESIDENT SLATER – Meeting adjourned.

DIANE ROLLAND, COUNCIL CLERK

MIKE SLATER, PRESIDENT