

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING  
MASSILLON CITY COUNCIL  
HELD TUESDAY, JANUARY 21, 2025**

**COUNCIL PRESIDENT SLATER** – Good evening. Welcome to the Massillon City Council meeting for Tuesday, January 21, 2025. We have in attendance the following City officials: Mayor, Jamie Slutz, Safety Service Director, Renee Baker, City Engineer, Alex Pitts, Parks & Rec. Director, Steve Pedro, Police Chief, Jason Saintenoy, Fire Chief, Matt Heck, Income Tax/Budget Director, Lori Kotagides-Boron, Wastewater Treatment Plant Manager, Tony Ulrich, Chief Building Official, Phil Gorman, Building Inspector, Frank Silla, Health Dept. Commissioner, Terri Argent, Street Superintendent, Tom Burgasser and Civil Service Administrator, Jim Thieret. 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, Madam Clerk.

**1. ROLL CALL**

Roll call for the evening found the following Council Members present: Holly Bryan-Huth, Jill Creamer, Sarita Cunningham, Mike Gregg, Julie Harwig Smith, Ed Lewis, John Paquelet and Eric Ray

Roll call of 8 present

**COUNCIL PRESIDENT SLATER** – Councilman Lewis.

**COUNCILMAN LEWIS** – I make a motion that we excuse Councilman Lombardi.

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

8 yes to excuse Councilman Lombardi

**COUNCIL PRESIDENT SLATER** – Thank you, Madam Clerk.

**2. INVOCATION**

**COUNCILMAN ED LEWIS**

**3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**LED BY COUNCILMAN LEWIS**

**COUNCIL PRESIDENT SLATER** – Thank you, Councilman Lewis.

**4. READING OF THE JOURNAL**

**COUNCIL PRESIDENT SLATER** – 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** – If not, then the minutes stand approved as written. Thank you, Madam Clerk.

**COUNCIL CLERK ROLLAND** – You are welcome.

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

**CHRISTINA RAY** – Ward 2. This is in regards to the code enforcement. It was presented to Council back in October so that Council would have ample time to ask the questions, get all of the information they needed so that if you guys were to pass it, it would be ready for spring so that the code enforcement employees could get the training that they needed and be ready for spring. But, it was presented to be tabled because there was so much on the budget agenda; there's too much on the plate and it had to be, you guys needed to table it. I sat through that meeting, the next couple of ones and you guys blew right through the budget and everything. It was not, there wasn't too much. What kind of felt to me was that you didn't want to deal with it at that time. Not all of you, but some just didn't want to deal with it at that time. This is an important issue. If there's questions that you have, which there's some questions that I have because it doesn't all make sense to me. Well, go get the answers. We have talked about it a little bit here and there; whether it be in committee or in council. But if you haven't gotten the questions that you needed, go get them. Contact the person that you need to contact and ask the questions and tell them that you want these answers right now. You have the right to do that. But it is an important issue that needs to be addressed and I don't feel that it should have been from October until now; I believe it's on third read tonight. So, we're gonna pass it or not pass it or we're going to table it. Why? Get the answers that you need and do it. There's been more than enough time. And I get it; there's a lot to it.

**COUNCIL PRESIDENT SLATER** – Thank you. Anyone else?

**6. NEW AND MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS**

**7. INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS**

**COUNCIL PRESIDENT SLATER** – Ord. No. 3 – 2025.

**ORDINANCE NO. 3 – 2025**

**BY: PUBLIC UTILITIES & 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 to enter into a contract with the lowest and best bidder, upon the approval of the Board of Control, for the 2025 Annual Removal and Disposal of Anaerobically Municipal Sludge at the Wastewater Treatment Plant, and declaring an emergency.

**COUNCIL PRESIDENT SLATER** – Councilwoman Bryan-Huth.

**COUNCILWOMAN BRYAN-HUTH** – Thank you, Mr. President. We did discuss this some at last Work Session. I would invite the City Engineer, Alex Pitts to come up. He had a little bit more information for us.

**ALEX PITTS** – Good evening, Council. So, I did print out a packet for all of you. This comes from Quasar Energy Group. It is for Massillon’s land application. It’s basically a summary of what all they need in order to do a land application for our sludge removal at the plant, and again, that is just land application, not including hauling to the landfill. I believe it starts with personnel and then it moves down to equipment and various line items. As you can see, I think just in personnel alone there’s around ten employees that are needed for this project and that is at a minimum.

**COUNCILWOMAN BRYAN-HUTH** – So, just to re-state; the ordinance we’re looking at is to enter into contract with Quasar again?

**ALEX PITTS** – No. It’s to go out and receive bids. It just so happens that Quasar was one of them.

**COUNCILWOMAN BRYAN-HUTH** – For the removal of the sludge from our wastewater treatment plant and one of the questions in the Work Session was could that more economically be done in-house? And the answer is astoundingly “no”.

**ALEX PITTS** – Yes, essentially. And we also looked at doing landfill as well and that cost was \$680,000.00 a year. So, as you can see, it’s just not economically feasible at this time as Councilwoman Bryan-Huth has stated.

**COUNCILWOMAN BRYAN-HUTH** – Does anyone have any more questions about entering into those bids? No. Thank you, Mr. Pitts.

**ALEX PITTS** – Thank you.

**COUNCILWOMAN BRYAN-HUTH** – I would like to then waive the rules of three readings and bring Ord. No. 3 – 2025 forward for a vote; I’d like to motion.

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

7 yes; 1 abstention for suspension

**COUNCIL PRESIDENT SLATER** – And for passage.

7 yes; 1 abstention for passage

**COUNCIL PRESIDENT SLATER** – Thank you, Madam Clerk. Ord. No. 3 – 2025 has passed. Ord. No. 4 – 2025.

**ORDINANCE NO. 4 – 2025**

**BY: RULES, COURTS & CIVIL SERVICE COMMITTEE**

AN ORDINANCE authorizing the Mayor and the Director of Public Service and Safety of the City of Massillon, Ohio, to accept and enter into a collective bargaining agreement with the Massillon F.O.P. Henderson Lodge Police Officers Association, Gold Unit, effective July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2027, and declaring an emergency.

**COUNCIL PRESIDENT SLATER** – Councilman Gregg.

**COUNCILMAN GREGG** – Thank you, President Slater. I was in communication today with Chief Counsel Earle Wise regarding this legislation. He indicated that as of this morning, the Gold Unit had not voted on the contract. So therefore, I'm going to give this first reading this evening.

**COUNCIL PRESIDENT SLATER** – Ord. No. 4 – 2025 has received first reading. Res. No. 1 – 2025.

**RESOLUTION NO. 1 – 2025**

**BY: COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE**

A RESOLUTION consenting to the Mayor's appointment of Margy Vogt to the Historic Preservation Commission of the City of Massillon, Ohio, by the recommendation of the Massillon Museum, for the term expiring December 31, 2026.

**COUNCIL PRESIDENT SLATER** – Councilman Lewis.

**COUNCILMAN LEWIS** – Yes. Before we get to these, I just wanted to real quickly for Council, in case you're not familiar with some of the names; having been on Council for over thirteen years now, all three of these names, Margy Vogt, Jeff Thornberry and Lew Garrett, in my opinion, these are all three outstanding members of our community and I think the Mayor has done an excellent job on selecting people to represent the different communities in our City and I think that needed to be said that these are outstanding members of our community. So, with that, is there any other conversation regarding Ms. Vogt for the Historic Preservation Commission? Seeing none, I make a motion that we suspend the rules requiring three readings, bringing Res. No. 1 – 2025 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** – Thank you, Madam Clerk. Res. No. 1 – 2025 has passed. Res. No. 2 – 2025.

**RESOLUTION NO. 2 – 2025**

**BY: COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE**

A RESOLUTION consenting to the Mayor’s appointment of Jeff Thornberry to the Historic Preservation Commission of the City of Massillon, Ohio, for the term expiring December 31, 2026.

**COUNCIL PRESIDENT SLATER** – Councilman Lewis.

**COUNCILMAN LEWIS** – I make a motion that we suspend the rules requiring three readings, bringing Res. No. 2 - -2025 forward for a vote.

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

8 yes for suspension

**COUNCIL PRESIDENT** – And for passage.

8 yes for passage

**COUNCIL PRESIDENT SLATER** – Thank you, Madam Clerk. Res. No. 2 – 2025 has passed. Res. No. 3 – 2025.

**RESOLUTION NO. 3 – 2025**

**BY: COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE**

A RESOLUTION consenting to the Mayor’s appointment of Lew Garrett to the Board of Health of the City of Massillon, Ohio, for the term ending December 31, 2029.

**COUNCIL PRESIDENT SLATER** – Councilman Lewis.

**COUNCILMAN LEWIS** – I make a motion that we suspend the rules requiring three readings, bringing Res. No. 3 – 2025 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** – Thank you, Madam Clerk. Res. No. 3 – 2025 has passed.

**8. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

**9. PETITIONS AND GENERAL COMMUNICATIONS**

A Request for the Transfer of a Liquor License from Remas, LLC, DBA Affinity Drive Thru, located at 921 Amherst Rd. N.E., Massillon, Ohio 44646 to Affinity Mart Corporation, located at 921 Amherst Rd. N.E., Massillon, Ohio 44646. Permit classes are C1 and C2 and is located in Ward 2.

A Request for an Economic Transfer of a Liquor License from Cedarbrook Nurseries, Inc., located at 6177 Glick Rd., Shawnee Hills, Ohio 43065 to 3D Meats, LE, LLC, located at 1070 – 1<sup>st</sup> St. N.E., Massillon, Ohio 44646. Permit classes are C1 and C2 and is located in Ward 2.

**COUNCIL PRESIDENT SLATER** – Councilman Ray, did you receive copies of these?

**COUNCILMAN RAY** – Yes, I received both copies. Just a little confused. 3D Meats services alcohol?

**COUNCIL CLERK ROLLAND** – That will be beer and wine.

**COUNCILMAN RAY** – Alright. I’ll have to give them a call. Thanks.

**COUNCIL PRESIDENT SLATER** – Thank you.

**10. BILLS, ACCOUNTS AND CLAIMS**

LocaliQ Gannett	-	\$ 748.00	Publication of November Ordinances
Office Depot	-	<u>198.12</u>	Office Supplies
<b>Total</b>	-	<b>\$ 946.12</b>	

Payment was made to U.S. Bank Equip. Finance - \$127.00. It was the January invoice for our copier submitted January 10, 2025.

**COUNCIL PRESIDENT SLATER** – Councilman Lewis.

**COUNCILMAN LEWIS** – I make a motion that we pay the bills

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

8 yes to pay the bills

**COUNCIL PRESIDENT SLATER** – Thank you, Madam Clerk. The Clerk will pay the bills and charge them to their proper accounts.

**11. REPORTS FROM CITY OFFICIALS**

Mayor’s State of the City Address

**COUNCIL PRESIDENT SLATER** – Please come forward, Mr. Mayor.

**MAYOR JAMIE SLUTZ** – Mr. President, Members of Council, fellow Massillonians. As your Mayor it is my obligation to report on the state of city affairs. Before I get started I would like to acknowledge several people. My administration works hard every day on behalf of our citizens. From our department directors to our frontline employees, I am very proud of the way my team continues to work hard for the people of Massillon. I am also proud of the working relationship my staff has with the Law Department, the Auditor's Office, and City Council. The people of Massillon elected all of us to get things done. That's what we did last year and that's what we will continue to do as long as we can keep and build upon these cooperative relationships for the betterment of Massillon.

I am a positive person. I believe that if you think good thoughts, good things will happen. I am very positive about Massillon's future. We have a lot of great things happening and many more will continue to happen if we have the right attitude. Is everything perfect? No. But I want everyone to know that my focus, and the focus of our staff, is on how to make better the things that are going well, and to identify and improve the areas where we need to spend a little more attention.

2024 certainly posed some new opportunities that we have not seen before. New industries like bitcoin, recreational marijuana, and hydrogen production have forced us as a community to embrace change. There will always be some people who resist change simply because they don't understand it. But Massillon has a rich history of embracing new technologies and industries, and our economic future depends on our ability to accommodate new industries and technologies if we want to be a viable community for future generations.

One of the highlights of 2024 was the announcement of a major expansion at A.R.E., which will be completed this year. We spent a lot of time on this project and I want to thank the Stark Economic Development Board and their outgoing president Ray Hexamer for their assistance in making this happen. With the expansion of production lines at their existing facility on Nave Road SE, and the relocation of production from their Dundee and Mount Eaton plants, this project adds 330 new job opportunities for our residents. And these are good paying manufacturing jobs to raise a family on. Last year we welcomed CEI Crane & Rigging to Massillon. They purchased the former EB Display complex in the Finerock Industrial Park bringing a great family business operating for over 60 years, and 50 employees to the city. Bitdeer will be open later this year. Babcock & Wilcox will break ground on a new hydrogen production facility at the Massillon Energy & Technology Park. And the whole community eagerly awaits the opening of 3D Meats here soon. All of these projects combined result in over 500 new job opportunities in the City of Massillon.

A major area of focus for my administration is public safety. Lead by Chief Matt Heck, our fire department added 2 new firefighters bringing the department's staff level 55. We are excited that the fire department has ordered a new tower truck, paid mostly by leftover ARPA funds. There is a 2-3 year wait list but it is on the way and will replace the existing truck that has been in use since 1991. In the Police Department, we swore in 8 new police officers and added 2 civilian corrections officers to staff the jail during the day. Recently, we added 1 traffic enforcement officer assigned solely to traffic enforcement throughout the City. We are working with Chief Jason Saintenoy to assign an additional officer to these duties. This year we are

adding speed tables as a passive traffic enforcement measure to compliment staffed traffic enforcement throughout the city.

The safety of our citizens is our highest priority and goes beyond police and fire. Under the direction of Law Director Justin Richard, our law department has settled several major lawsuits – most notably the lawsuit that resulted in the City acquiring four downtown properties on the corner of Lincoln Way and Erie St. Upon acquisition, Chief Building Official Frank Silla made the determination that they were an immediate hazard and ordered emergency demolition. This was the right decision because we knew that a significant amount of snow could have caused these structures to come down on their own, which would have posed a terrible threat to public safety. We know that this demolition was an inconvenience at a busy time of year. But I will always put the safety and well-being of our community above any other consideration.

Neighborhood improvements are a key component of a successful community, and this is one area where the city government can do more. We can preserve our residential neighborhoods by cracking down on landlords who are not being responsible, and addressing vacant and blighted housing units. Last year we doubled our code enforcement staff to 4. This increase in staff resulted in an additional 2,000 inspections from the prior year. An important part of our efforts to improve code enforcement is council's passage of the International Property Maintenance Code. Submitted by the Law Department, this legislation is a huge step forward in many respects and gives City staff the tools they need to clean up our neighborhoods, which is what our residents want.

In 2024 we spent \$2.1 million repaving city streets. This year we anticipate another \$1.25 million and will begin those projects in the spring. Our Engineering Department has several large storm sewer projects scheduled for this year and will continue to identify areas to upgrade of aging infrastructure. A growing city requires that we invest in our infrastructure for both commercial and residential users, and this costs money to do so. With 60 new housing starts and over \$33 million in commercial alteration and new industrial permits issued by the Building Department, we have a responsibility as a city to provide the necessary infrastructure to accommodate such growth. But the financial investment we make as a city in order for these things to happen is well worth the new income tax generated by these projects, and the new opportunities both residentially and commercially for the people of Massillon.

One of the most important things from 2024 was bringing back the animal control officer position. I thank City Council for their cooperation in making this a reality. We had talked about it for several years and I am glad that we got this done together.

Restoration of our beloved Reservoir Park is important to our residents, and it is important to me too. I have previously detailed my 3-phase plan to do this and we hope to complete phase 1, the north streambank restoration, this year. We will move to the second phase as funding is secured. We thank Congresswoman Emilia Sykes for including our \$1 million request for the Reservoir in the Federal government's budget for community project funding. I want our parks to be the best they can be. People shouldn't have to go to other communities to enjoy their parks, I want them to stay here and enjoy ours. There are many parks and it is a huge undertaking, but the continued maintenance and improvements we can accomplish working



with City Council and the Park and Recreation Board will benefit our entire community. Last year our Parks and Recreation Department built new bathrooms at LC Jones and Lincoln Parks, added pickleball courts at Wampler Park, among other improvements throughout our City park system.

We head into 2025 with a financial carryover of just shy of \$4 million. This is sound financial footing, but we must continue to be fiscally responsible and accountable. All facets of city government share in that responsibility and I hope we can continue to work together to make the best financial decisions for the City of Massillon. It is important that we live within our means and continuously look for new ways to make the most out of our existing revenue, while continuing to grow our tax base through economic growth. My staff has a great working relationship with Auditor Ferrero's office and I congratulate John and his staff for receiving the Excellence in Financial Reporting Award from the State of Ohio for our 2023 audit.

The recent announcement of the opening of the Massillon Community Health and Innovation Center at the former site of Affinity is great news for our community. This new healthcare facility will not be the same as the hospital we all remember, but it will provide needed services, like emergency care, for our residents. My office will continue to work with the property owner and the new operators so that they can be as successful as possible here in Massillon.

As I said before, I am a positive person and I believe that Massillon has a bright future. If we work together, we can do big things. If we stay focused, we can do the important things that make people's lives better. It takes hard work, but the people who put us here expect us to work hard. It takes cooperation, which means reaching across party lines with all governmental partners, and working with civic organizations, schools, and churches to get things done.

To conclude, it is an honor and a privilege to lead our great city into the future. Massillon is strong and resilient and we have the capacity to achieve more for the betterment of our entire community. Thank you.

**COUNCIL PRESIDENT SLATER** – Thank you, Mayor Slutz.

## 12. REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

**COUNCIL PRESIDENT SLATER** – Our next Work Session will be Monday, January 27, 2025, at 6:30 p.m.

## 13. RESOLUTIONS AND REQUESTS OF COUNCIL MEMBERS

**COUNCIL PRESIDENT SLATER** – Councilwoman Cunningham.

**COUNCILWOMAN CUNNINGHAM** – Thank you, President Slater. I just want to make the announcement that due to my upcoming surgery on Thursday, I will probably be out at least two or maybe three sessions. Thank you.

**COUNCIL PRESIDENT SLATER** – Councilwoman Harwig Smith.

**COUNCILWOMAN HARWIG SMITH** – Thank you, President Slater. I will not be here on February 3<sup>rd</sup>.

**COUNCIL PRESIDENT SLATER** – Councilman Lewis.

**COUNCILMAN LEWIS** – I do intend to be here on February 3<sup>rd</sup>, however, I just wanted to make sure that everybody on Council was up to speed; I did learn today that I believe that the Stark GOP will be having their meeting this Saturday at 9:30 a.m. and that will be for the replacement of Mark Lombardi who has resigned at the end of this month. The good news is that we shall see no interruption in representation of the residents of Ward 1 because that person will be able to take office in time for the February meeting. Keep in mind that at that meeting, this Council will have to have on our agenda things to accomplish of assigning committees so that the new person will be on. I'll just put it out there; we don't need to discuss that tonight. We can discuss in two weeks, but, sometimes it's just easiest just to have them replace the outgoing member. But if anybody has a different opinion, be ready to discuss that at that meeting. We will also have to replace Mr. Lombardi as President Pro Tem at that meeting. So, I just wanted to make sure that everybody was on the same page and know that that will be coming up at that meeting.

**COUNCIL PRESIDENT SLATER** – Thank you, Mr. Lewis. Councilman Gregg.

**COUNCILMAN GREGG** – Thank you, President Slater. Just to report; I will also be unable to attend the February 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting. But I will be at the Work Session this coming Monday.

**COUNCIL PRESIDENT SLATER** – Thank you, sir. Anyone else?

**COUNCIL CLERK ROLLAND** – Me.

**COUNCIL PRESIDENT SLATER** – Yes, Madam Clerk.

**COUNCIL CLERK ROLLAND** – I'd just like to give a shout-out to Ohio State Buckeyes, the National Champions.

**14. CALL OF THE CALENDAR**

**15. THIRD READING ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS**

**COUNCIL PRESIDENT SLATER** – Ord. No. 103 – 2024.

**ORDINANCE NO. 103 – 2024**

**BY: HEALTH, WELFARE & BLDG. REGS. COMMITTEE**

AN ORDINANCE enacting CHAPTER 1306 “INTERNATIONAL PROPERTY MAINTENANCE CODE” under TITLE ONE – BUILDING CODES of PART THIRTEEN-BUILDING CODE of the Codified Ordinances of the City of Massillon, Ohio.

**COUNCIL PRESIDENT SLATER** – Councilwoman Cunningham.

**COUNCILWOMAN CUNNINGHAM** – Thank you, President Slater. As Mrs. Ray said earlier, we've been working on this since October and we really need, and I feel we really need to get this passed this evening. I know earlier I spoke with Mr. Wise concerning this and has he

mentioned to me some of you asked some questions and he answered them to the best of his ability. This is a complaint driven ordinance. This is going to give us some to our own legislation that we have and being complaint driven, if something would come up that we haven't really touched on or thought about, we can adjust the legislation at that time and make amendments. So, does anybody have any questions?

**COUNCIL PRESIDENT SLATER** – Councilwoman Harwig Smith.

**COUNCILWOMAN HARWIG SMITH** – So, we're going to pass this without making amendments, right? I did talk to, I sent an e-mail to both our attorneys, Edmond Mack and Mr. Wise got it and he called me back and we discussed at length. But I think what we discussed should also be discussed with this committee since no one wanted to. So, I had like eight changes I wanted to make and he didn't recommend all of them, but he was okay with a few of them. One of them, I think I 106.1 and J 106.3, we should leave as is in the book. But we should remove and there should be no charges for appeal. Because as our Mayor said, they're going to be fined. Fine No. 1 is \$250, fine No. 2 is \$350, fine No. 3 is \$500 or misdemeanor at any point. If they have a disagreement with these laws that we're not making amendment to and they want to take it to the board and say I disagree with them writing me up for this. For them to do that, it's \$100 to appeal. So, we really want to know if we have problems to identify, because we do want to improve the codes and part of improving is getting feedback. I don't think they should have to pay the \$100 for the appeal. So that last week you brushed it off. I did talk about it with the Mayor, I won't put words in his mouth, but he was supportive and he would be interested in hearing that to, waiving that. Item No. 107.4, I wanted to remove which comes right after this; each day that a violation continues after due, and has not been served shall be deemed a separate offense. So, are we applying this to everyone? This means that every single day is another offense. So, I asked if we could remove that. But he said, most likely even if someone got up into the thousands and thousands of dollars, we may come to agreement where they don't have to pay it all. But bottom line, they could apply this; they could apply this to everyone. So that's a huge thing that kind of bothered me. R, Section 302.4, they had amended it and included things about poison ivy, John had concerns. I felt we should just leave it. That legislation that was in our amended, that we got in the original packet, that was from, I believe, Pittsburgh. Massillon is not the same as Pittsburgh. We have a lot of properties with one, two, thirty acres out in the rural parts of Massillon. But I think we should just keep that the same and so we can get compliance and things and just put in "What is eight inches?". I think that's what everyone agreed on. So, I think we should remove what was amended and just go with eight inches. Then when you go down to "Disposal of rubbish and disposal of garbage, Section 308.2 and 308.3, I don't like being told that I have to use a specific, designated garbage can when we don't even know what that is. Are current law says that "It has to have containers or lids that are animal and rodent proof". So, I kind of rewrote it and said I would like it amended to say that because some people they different trash providers. The big thing, they distinguish between rubbish and garbage; garbage is like food waste. So you really want those things with a container. What's not addressed anywhere, and they address refrigerators because that's a state law thing about taking things off. What's not addressed is bulk pickup and we have many providers, I have service through our waste provider where you can put things like mattresses, couches, furniture, other non-organic rubbish that does not fit in your container. Under this current law, basically, it has to be in a container, period. I did recommend that we put a limit, twenty-four, forty-eight hours before scheduled pickup. You can put bulk items out, but that will be picked up. We don't want trash sitting there for weeks, but, I think this needs addressed because automatically, well, who's going to write someone up for that? Well,

someone probably will write someone up if there's a bunch of furniture or something sitting out there for a week or this. But basically under this, they're not allowed to put out anything and we have providers that do it. So, I think that should be changed. Almost done. On page 20 in the book, as far as I wanted them to totally remove Section 302.8 about motor vehicles. Just remove all of it. If you read our current laws, under Ord. 521.13 and it goes into "Storage of unlicensed vehicles are prohibited" and what a junk vehicle and basically, if it's in your yard and it's a licensed vehicle because the police handle this part of it, it's your vehicle. But still if it meets the junk, they could be towed away. But if it's a licensed vehicle, it's your vehicle. I think if you go through and read, a lot of paragraphs are much more defined and so I'd like that flipped. Page 22, F 304.3, "Premise Identification", this goes with your addresses on your houses. I have been out walking in the cold and driving in the cold this past week and many addresses that you see but they are not exactly what it says "four inches by whatever". It's very specified in here. Are current law says you have to have an address that is visible from the road. I get it. It's safety. Fire, police come; we want to see that address or the postman, you've got to have an address. But to say that it has to be an exact thing makes all kinds of people out of violation when if it can be seen at the road, I don't see why they should have to change their address. So my recommendation was that we just add the words "It is recommended that...the first part, leave it the way that it is. It says that you have to have an address that is visible from the road, same as our current. And then where it gets all specific and nitty-gritty about the size and depth and everything else, I put that I just wanted to add it is recommended that these numbers shall contrast and maybe we could make a program for people who don't have addresses. You know, put a couple of thousand and set it as a community outreach and build repair with our community and give them an address for their house if they don't have it. You know, make a little fund. The last thing that I questioned was on the Board of Appeals limitation of authority and on that it says "The Board shall not have any authority to waive requirements of this code or interpret the administration of the code". That kind of bothered me and I asked if we could remove the word "not", that the Board shall have the authority to waive requirements of this code and interpret the administration. And he said that we can't do that. He didn't recommend doing that either. So those are the things that I wanted to changed. I don't think it's been a very long period when we've had our presentations, we've been cut off because at our meetings, questions haven't been answered. When we try to answer questions, everyone just avoids it. They don't want to discuss it. Just do it on your own. So I did it on my own and I went to our attorneys. I understand that they can't be here. That's totally understandable. I'm not blaming them; our attorneys are awesome. But, I am not comfortable. You can go ahead and pass it, but, until we make the changes. I mean, there's so many things...I could have went through. We need something like this, but it scary too, because there are things that are really specific. We're not going to worry about that, well, bottom line, it's the law. Someone down the line could start targeting someone. I think there are more questions. When you go to that daily accumulated, charges of a new offense that it's not paid. Someone could get up into \$10,000 to \$20,000 dollars in fees. Are you guys all okay with that? That's all I have to say.

**COUNCIL PRESIDENT SLATER** – Councilwoman Creamer.

**COUNCILWOMAN CREAMER** – I have a few comments. So, first of all, it's been stated that code, it's complaint driven and I know we spoke about that. It's reactive, that's our current state. Our future states, we want them to be proactive. We don't want them to be complaint driven. So, if this code, this International Property Management Code is going to help us, I'm not opposed to it. Just talking to Julie very quickly prior to the start of the meeting tonight, I stated, let's put it up for a vote, we'll see what happens. If it's approved, we'll move forward.

But I'd like her to present to all of us at the Work Session, these eight items I believe she has in verbage. What our current ordinance states, what the IPMC states and then her proposed language. So that we have them all in front of us so then we can start discussing, yes, we're in favor, no, I don't like that language. Let's recommend to revise it for this and then, hopefully, the next meeting we can put this up for a vote. I don't want it to be delayed. I don't want for a problem to happen and then have it revised. If we're going to move forward today on this, then I need those proposed revisions presented to us next week so then we can move forward and put them up for a vote. So, that's my thoughts.

**COUNCIL PRESIDENT SLATER** – Councilman Lewis.

**COUNCILMAN LEWIS** – I guess, first, I have an immense amount of respect for Julie and the work you've done. I want to make sure that that is clear. Because, honestly, I wish you were around, and this is no slight to anybody that's been on Council for a while; I wish you'd been around for the last ten years. Because that is the kind of bulldog tenacity that I think we need to get through this. So, thank you. I also, if I'm understanding Ms. Creamer, I'm in agreement with you and if I'm not, you can tell me I'm not. But I think if we're going to vote, let's vote. But let's not lose the tenacity. The reason I'm siding with this is that I think that most of us will agree that a majority of what we see in front of us, is exactly what we want and I want our code enforcement officers to be able to get trained and get ready to start to implement. But I agree that if there are things that need tweaked, we need to make sure that we do not allow it to fall to the wayside and not be addressed. I don't know if we'll be ready in two weeks, you know. There's a lot there. So I would rather have something started and have that tenacity continue so that we can start to address them. Maybe two at a time instead of all eight at once. Because it's overwhelming; it's a lot. But, get the ball rolling, at least. So my thought is to move forward tonight, but, I'm going to lean on you, Ms. Harwig Smith, to keep us in check. If that makes sense.

**COUNCIL PRESIDENT SLATER** – Councilwoman Bryan-Huth. Do you have something to say?

**COUNCILWOMAN BRYAN-HUTH** – With Mr. Lewis in speaking the same. I am very impressed with how thoroughly you have looked into that and thought of those ins and outs and some of them do make a lot of sense. Why would we have something that doesn't work for us. But in the big picture of what we need to move on now, I feel an urgency to get this moving forward and then without skipping a beat, like Mr. Lewis said, working on those that you've identified already to bring forward like Ms. Creamer said and then we can continue to hone this and make it ours while still respecting the broader work. Like every hospital is going to make their codes and their policies according to their standards and governing boards as well.

**COUNCIL PRESIDENT SLATER** – Mr. Mayor, you have something to speak on?

**MAYOR SLUTZ** – Thank you. First of all, Ms. Harwig Smith, thank you for the hard work you've done on this. I really appreciate it. For those of you who have ever been on Council, we've been dealing with code enforcement for the last four years. I was on Council January of 2021. That was the first issue we dealt with when I came of Council. I just want to address some of these issues that Mrs. Harwig Smith has with house numbers and things like that and I'm going to compare it to my time on the police department and I believe Chief Saintenoy would agree with this. As a police officer, you have a lot of discretion. Let's say for instance,

speed limit. The speed limit is twenty-five on most city streets in the neighborhoods. Well, police officers aren't pulling people over doing twenty-six. They have discretion and I want to give our code enforcement officers that same discretion when it comes to addressing issues where people may not be able to afford to get trash cans that have lids or they may sit a mattress out at the curb and it doesn't get picked up for two weeks because it's not wrapped in plastic. Our intention and I believe, and I don't want to speak for the Law Department, but when they brought this forward their intentions were to give our code enforcement all the tools necessary to enforce some of these ordinances that have not been dealt with in years past and I'm not knocking anybody on any code enforcement. Anybody in the previous Administration. They did a great job. But we need, and I think that most of us can agree that we get a lot of complaints about issues in our neighborhoods that maybe were not handled as promptly as before. So this new ordinance that Edmond Mack brought forward is just an additional tool to help our code enforcement do their jobs at a better rate. You know I mentioned earlier, calls we addressed 2,000 additional calls this year because we doubled our staff. This is going to be an additional tool for them to help people and I say help people because we're not going out there like gangbusters and wanting to write everybody tickets because they have little house numbers on their house. Chief Saintenoy, I'm sure could back this up that responding to calls on the midnight shift when somebody doesn't have house numbers on their house and they call 911 and they have an emergency and you can't find the house because there's no house numbers on the house; those are the people we want to help. We don't want to fine them or punish them and if somebody didn't have house numbers on their house and couldn't afford the numbers, I would personally go buy house numbers to help them or for them to post on their house. We're not doing this to punish anybody. We're not, like I said, going out there like gangbusters to make thousands of dollars to add to our budget or add to the General Fund. This is all to address issues like slum landlords who refuse to fix their properties. It's to address those people that leave piles of trash in their garage for a year and we have to pay for somebody to go clean up this garage. This is for people that want to hold onto to property that probably needs to be disposed of. I myself went out with code enforcement a couple of months ago on the southwest side to just see what they were dealing with and I wish some of you could have gone there too. The mess and to these people, it probably could have been salvage. But me, all I saw was a mess in this back yard. And we want to be able to give code enforcement those tools to help them get things cleaned up. Not necessarily to punish them or to make money off of them, because, let's face it, people are struggling. We understand that. I understand that and we don't want to punish people, we want to help people and I think by passing this maintenance code is going to give us the tools to not only help people, but to educate people on what needs to be done to make their residence or their homes or their properties presentable in the eyes of code enforcement, your neighbors and the laws on the books in the City of Massillon. Thank you. That's all I wanted to say. I support it and I hope you all do too. I know there's a lot of questions. I feel like if we can pass this and we can address some of those issues down the road, I think it'll be beneficial to the everybody. Thank you.

**COUNCIL PRESIDENT SLATER** – Thank you. Councilman Gregg.

**COUNCILMAN GREGG** – Thank you, President Slater. I just want say, I think when Edmond Mack brought this to us a couple of months ago, it was intended at that time to be a starting point. A way to get the tools that the department needs in place. He knew from the beginning that there'd be things we needed to adjust with it and said that was part of the process. So I think we need to move this forward tonight, otherwise, we're no further ahead than we were two months ago. I think what Julie has identified, the areas that she's identified through her

hard work, again, I thank you for that as well, and also some of the reservations that Mr. Paquelet has had, is a great place to start to start adjusting this to fit Massillon. But I think we need to get the framework in place, the legislation in place so that we can then go forward with adjusting and making it fit Massillon. That's my thoughts. Thank you.

**COUNCIL PRESIDENT SLATER** – Appreciate it. Councilman Paquelet.

**COUNCILMAN PAQUELET** – I've expressed it in the past, in the beginning my concerns with growths. Personally, for me, and the Ward that I represent where people are property owners where they might exceed an acre. Last week I spoke with Edmond Mack to come up with some ideas to have an amendment for that. So one would be if it were, the property, would be under CAUV, that's the agricultural exemption for the tax purposes or zone agricultural that it could be exempt. Now, if you put the limit at ten acres, I think that should be a little lower than that because somebody might have two or three acres that may not fall under that. But, these are starting points, but to me personally, and yes, it doesn't all revolve around me; if I were to vote "yes" on this and it were to be approved, this summer I would be in violation of the way it stands and I would feel that I shouldn't approve to vote on some law that I would be in violation of. I think that would be almost hypocritical on my behalf and just from the vegetation aspect. And then the other one, I had asked the question about electrified fences for livestock. If that is something that is or not permitted, I haven't heard back on that and that's something that would be important to me because throughout the summer months we have roughly about thirty-five cattle that I have to maintain and pasture and the fences are electrified and I know that's self-serving to me, but there are other people that have horses or other livestock and one of the methods is electrified fence and that's just what it is and I just feel in my heart, wrong to vote, I don't want to tell anyone how to vote or to sway anyone's vote by no means. I just can't vote my way that I may vote just because it would be kind of hypocritical because I would be in violation of some of those currently with vegetation growth. Thank you.

**COUNCIL PRESIDENT SLATER** – Yes, sir. Councilman Gregg.

**COUNCILMAN GREGG** – Thank you, President Slater. I just wanted to respond to Mr. Paquelet. I understand your concerns and your thoughts, there John, but keep in mind, as Mayor Slutz mentioned, there's a lot of discretion involved with this. I don't think your vegetation or electric fence will be high on the priority list for enforcement.

**COUNCILMAN PAQUELET** – I hope not. But, I never know and sorry for cutting you off.

**COUNCILMAN GREGG** – But I encourage you to think through that because there may be things that I'm in violation of, I'm not sure. I keep my property up, but I haven't gone through everything in this code completely. I don't think. I'll ask Julie if I'm in violation, but I think I would encourage you to see the big picture and help us move this forward so we've got a place to start. Thank you.

**COUNCILMAN PAQUELET** – On that note, ideally, I'd like to see these amendments be addressed prior to the final vote. That would be the idea in my perfect world.

**COUNCIL PRESIDENT SLATER** – Councilman Ray.

**COUNCILMAN RAY** – Yes. Thank you. I understand everyone, like you said, ultimately, a lot of people may be in violation. Maybe in violation of the current code. But, with that being said

and moving forward and them using discretion would be great. Usually when we sit in the seat I'm sitting here for Ward 2. So, I have to think of overall what the ward would need and what would benefit the ward. From a selfish point of view on the code, I'm a general contractor. There's codes in there that's going to make me do different things. But, I would like to do the job right and make sure it's all up to code and things don't fall down when the snow falls on it. Thank you, again, Julie, because you went diligently into that book. I'm probably going to call you and get some notes. Yes, I think we should go ahead and move forward. I think that the amendments wouldn't be an issue. Due to the fact that there's going to be a training course, there's going to be a timeframe. We would have to just stay on top of it and make all those changes that are necessary. Thank you.

**COUNCIL PRESIDENT SLATER** – Councilwoman Creamer.

**COUNCILWOMAN CREAMER** – Just keep in mind, Julie stated eight items. Three of those items we've already talked about at Work Sessions. The weeds, the house numbers and the trash containers. So this isn't as large as we think it's going to be. The things have been addressed. It's just a matter of putting them down on paper with the right language and with the help of the Law Department because I want them, like Julie stated, Earle had some issues with one or two of them. Well, let's get that language where it's acceptable for the Law Department along with us. So, I think maybe not in two weeks for first reading, but we can't sit on it because of these concerns. Three are already done, if we agree on that. They're very quick fixes. So, just kind of keep that in mind so they don't fall off. Thank you.

**COUNCIL PRESIDENT SLATER** – Councilman Ray.

**COUNCILMAN RAY** – And one last thing; I just have to give out my support for the Sparkers and the Dashers of Massillon for the addresses to be changed. I appreciate that sentiment about maybe having a benefit to get people bigger addresses because it's very difficult for these people who drive out throughout the night and deliver people's groceries and deliver their meals and they can't find where they're going. That's a good idea.

**COUNCIL PRESIDENT SLATER** – Councilwoman Cunningham.

**COUNCILWOMAN CUNNINGHAM** – Thank you. Thank you, Council. Thank you for all the conversation. Julie, again, thank you so much for your diligence and your hard work on this. So, on that note, I would like, because this is the third reading, I would like to bring forward Ord. No. 103 – 2024 for passage.

**COUNCIL PRESIDENT SLATER** – Seconded by Councilman Ray. Roll call.

6 yes; 2 no for passage

**COUNCIL PRESIDENT SLATER** – Thank you, Madam Clerk. Ord. No. 103 – 2024 has passed. Councilman Lewis.

**COUNCILMAN LEWIS** – I just want to point out for the Council that also as we continue conversation, since this legislation did not have emergency language, it will not go into effect until February 21, 2025. I feel like, given our conversation, that's relevant.

**COUNCIL PRESIDENT SLATER** – Thank you, Councilman Lewis.



16. **SECOND READING ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS**

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

18. **ADJOURNMENT**

**COUNCIL PRESIDENT SLATER** – Councilman Lewis.

**COUNCILMAN LEWIS** – I make a motion to adjourn.

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

8 yes to adjourn

**COUNCIL PRESIDENT SLATER** – Meeting adjourned.

---

DIANE ROLLAND, COUNCIL CLERK

---

MIKE SLATER, PRESIDENT