

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING  
MASSILLON CITY COUNCIL  
HELD MONDAY, MARCH 6, 2023**

**COUNCIL PRESIDENT ISTNICK** – Welcome to the Massillon City Council Meeting for Monday, March 6, 2023. We have in attendance the following City officials: Mayor, Kathy Catazaro-Perry, Safety Service Director, Barb Sylvester, Law Director, Justin Richard, Asst. Law Director, Edmond Mack, and Economic Development Director, David Maley. 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 everyone keep your mics off until you’re ready to speak and please, mute your cell phones or set them to vibrate.

**COUNCIL PRESIDENT ISTNICK** – Roll call.

**1. ROLL CALL**

Roll call for the evening found the following Council Members present: Jill Creamer, Julie Harwig Smith, Ted Herncane, Ed Lewis, Mark Lombardi, Jamie Slutz, Mike Snee and Aaron Violand.

Roll call of 8 present

**COUNCIL PRESIDENT ISTNICK** – Thank you. Councilman Lewis.

**COUNCILMAN LEWIS** – I make a motion to excuse Councilman Gregg.

**COUNCIL PRESIDENT ISTNICK** – Seconded by Councilman Slutz. Roll call.

8 yes to excuse Councilman Gregg

**COUNCIL PRESIDENT ISTNICK** – Thank you, Madam Clerk. Councilman Gregg has been excused. Councilwoman Harwig Smith.

**2. INVOCATION**

**COUNCILWOMAN JULIE HARWIG SMITH**

**3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**LED BY COUNCILWOMAN HARWIG SMITH**

**4. READING OF THE JOURNAL**

**COUNCIL PRESIDENT ISTNICK** – Thank you, Councilwoman Harwig Smith. Madam Clerk are the minutes of the previous meeting transcribed and open for public viewing?

**COUNCIL CLERK ROLLAND** – Yes, they are.

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

**COUNCIL CLERK ROLLAND** – Yes ma'am. Have to say that there is a correct to the minutes. In our bills, I stated that the payment for our copier was January and it should actually have been for February.

**COUNCIL PRESIDENT ISTNICK** – Thank you.

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

**SAM DAUT** – Excuse me; you have a resolution at the end of the agenda. If we have time to bring it up now or wait until the end of the meeting? I believe it's in regards to Huth Ready Mix Company; a zoning.

**COUNCIL CLERK ROLLAND** – Yes. That would be Resolution No. 4 on the agenda.

**COUNCIL PRESIDENT ISTNICK** – Yes.

**SAM DAUT** – That's considered?

**COUNCIL PRESIDENT ISTNICK** – Yes.

**SAM DAUT** – Okay. I live at 835 Cherry Rd. N.W., Massillon, Ohio. I come here tonight to basically hope that you uphold the cease and desist order against Huth Ready Mix. It's been an ongoing problem now for approximately two years. It's actually more of a health issue aside from the zoning. So, if this in regards to that, I would hope tonight you guys do right thing and upheld the Zoning Board of Appeals ruling to cease and desist and put an end to this because it's annoying not only to me which it's in the rear of my property that every morning I wake up and look at that mess back there. But the condominium complex which is an ongoing basically complex also has problems with this and I think that Jim Johnson could more or less explain it if he were here tonight because he's the one that's pretty much been there through the whole thing. So, please do me a favor and do the right thing and put an end to this for everybody on Cherry Rd. Thank you.

**COUNCIL PRESIDENT ISTNICK** – Thank you, Sam. Anyone else?

**TOM VOSHALL** – I'm representing Cherry Springs Condos. I live at 1025 Queen Anne Dr. N.W., Massillon, Ohio. I'm one of eventually sixty-two (62) owners at the condo complex right now. We have thirty-six condos completed and occupied and I've been told by our developer that the condos will be finished in the summer of 2024. So we will have sixty-two residents when that's all complete and I can assure you that over the last couple of years with the pounding of the concrete, not only the reverberations and the noise, can be really harmful when you're trying to sleep and they often start at 6:30 a.m. or 7:00 a.m. in the morning. But whenever that is going on, the dust is really a problem and as Sam mentioned, breathing concrete dust is not a very healthy thing. So, in addition to the light industrial zoning that is on that property, we think that it is an issued to be concerned about for health reasons as well and the City Council approved that development many years ago and I'm sure they wouldn't have approved that development going in if it was not zoned light industrial. So, I'm speaking in favor of the cease and desist order for Huth. Thank you.

**COUNCIL PRESIDENT ISTNICK** – Thank you, Tom. Anyone else?

6. **NEW AND MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS**

7. **INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS**

**COUNCIL PRESIDENT ISTNICK** – Ord. No. 15– 2023.

**ORDINANCE NO. 15 – 2023**

**BY: ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE**

AN ORDINANCE authorizing the Mayor of the City of Massillon, Ohio, to enter into an agreement with Carolyn Worthen to provide an economic development “inducement grant” to fund start-up costs including build-out, equipment etc. for Little Sprouts-West, located at 2112 Lincoln Way W., Massillon, Ohio, and declaring an emergency.

**COUNCIL PRESIDENT ISTNICK** – Councilman Herncane.

**COUNCILMAN HERNCAINE** – Thank you, President Istnick. First reading.

**COUNCIL PRESIDENT ISTNICK** – Thank you. Ord. No. 15 – 2023 has received first reading. Ord. No. 16 – 2023.

**ORDINANCE NO. 16 – 2023**

**BY: POLICE AND FIRE COMMITTEE**

AN ORDINANCE authorizing the Director of Public Service and Safety of the City of Massillon, Ohio, to accept a donation from Grief Brothers Packaging, on behalf of the Massillon Fire Department.

**COUNCIL PRESIDENT ISTNICK** – Councilman Lombardi.

**COUNCILMAN LOMBARDI** – Thank you, President Istnick. This is to receive a donation of \$3,000 from Greif Brothers. I think they do this about once a year. Are there any questions of this? Seeing none, I’m going to make a motion that we suspend the rules requiring three readings and bring Ord. No. 16 – 2023 forward for a vote tonight.

**COUNCIL PRESIDENT ISTNICK** – Seconded by Councilman Slutz. Roll call for suspension.

8 yes for suspension

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

8 yes for passage

**COUNCIL PRESIDENT ISTNICK** – Thank you, Madam Clerk. Ord. No. 16 – 2023 has passed. Ord. No. 17 – 2023.

**ORDINANCE NO. 17 – 2023**

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

AN ORDINANCE amending Section 2(D) OCCUPATION LIST OF CLASS TITLES of Ordinance No. 127 – 1997, to add three (3) new positions within the 705 – 730 HEALTH DEPARTMENT, and declaring an emergency.

**COUNCIL PRESIDENT ISTNICK** – Councilman Lewis.

**COUNCILMAN LEWIS** – First reading.

**COUNCIL PRESIDENT ISTNICK** – Thank you. Ord. No. 17 – 2023 has received first reading.

**COUNCIL CLERK ROLLAND** – Excuse me, Madam President. Shouldn't that have been Julie or Herncane?

**COUNCIL PRESIDENT ISTNICK** – Yes. I was one ahead of myself. Councilwoman Harwig Smith.

**COUNCILWOMAN HARWIG SMITH** – First reading.

**COUNCIL PRESIDENT ISTNICK** – Thank you. Ord. No. 17 – 2023 has received first reading. Ord. No. 18 – 2023.

**ORDINANCE NO. 18 – 2023**

**BY: FINANCE COMMITTEE**

AN ORDINANCE making certain appropriations from the unappropriated balance of the 1100 General Fund for the Massillon Fire Department, for the year ending December 31, 2023.

**COUNCIL PRESIDENT ISTNICK** – Councilman Lewis.

**COUNCILMAN LEWIS** – Yes. This is the appropriation of the donation to the Fire Department. Is any questions or discussion? Seeing none, I make a motion that we suspend the rules requiring three readings, bringing Ord. No. 18 – 2023 forward for a vote.

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

8 yes for suspension

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

8 yes for passage

**COUNCIL PRESIDENT ISTNICK** – Thank you, Madam Clerk. Ord. No. 18 – 2023 has passed. Ord. No. 19 – 2023.

**ORDINANCE NO. 19 – 2023**

**BY: FINANCE COMMITTEE**

AN ORDINANCE making certain appropriations from the unappropriated balance of the 1224 OneOhio Fund, for the year ending December 31, 2023.

**COUNCIL PRESIDENT ISTNICK** – Councilman Lewis.

**COUNCILMAN LEWIS** – Yes. This is an appropriation of \$15,000 coming out of that OneOhio Fund that was part of the opioid settlement. 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. 19 – 2023 forward for a vote.

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

8 yes for suspension

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

8 yes for passage

**COUNCIL PRESIDENT ISTNICK** – Thank you, Madam Clerk. Ord. No. 19 – 2023 has passed. Ord. No. 20 – 2023.

**ORDINANCE NO. 20 – 2023**

**BY: FINANCE COMMITTEE**

AN ORDINANCE making certain appropriations from the unappropriated balance of the 1234 Legends Capital Improvement Fund, for the year ending December 31, 2023, and declaring an emergency.

**COUNCIL PRESIDENT ISTNICK** – Councilman Lewis.

**COUNCILMAN LEWIS** – Yes. This is an appropriation of \$100,000 for the improvements related to The Legends. 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. 20 – 2023 forward for a vote.

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

8 yes for suspension

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

8 yes for passage

**COUNCIL PRESIDENT ISTNICK** – Thank you, Madam Clerk. Ord. No. 20 – 2023 has passed. Ord. No. 21 – 2023.

**ORDINANCE NO. 21 – 2023**

**BY: FINANCE COMMITTEE**

AN ORDINANCE authorizing the Law Director to accept and agree to the material terms of the OneOhio Subdivision Settlement pursuant to the OneOhio Memorandum of Understanding and consistent with the terms of the April 15, 2023, National Opioid Settlement; also authorizing the Law Director to execute the OneOhio Subdivision Participation Form; and declaring the same to be an emergency.

**COUNCIL PRESIDENT ISTNICK** – Councilman Lewis.

**COUNCILMAN LEWIS** – Yes. As discussed at the Committee Meeting, this is going to allow our Law Department to continue to work towards other settlements with other entities involved with the opioid epidemic. 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. 21 – 2023 forward for a vote.

**COUNCIL PRESIDENT ISTNICK** – Seconded by Councilman Lombardi. Roll call.

8 yes for suspension

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

8 yes for passage

**COUNCIL PRESIDENT ISTNICK** – Thank you, Madam Clerk. Ord. No. 21 – 2023 has passed. Res. No. 4 – 2023.

**RESOLUTION NO. 4 – 2023**

**BY: COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE**

A RESOLUTION approving the decision of the Massillon Board of Zoning Appeals in the Variance Case No. 2023 – 2.

**COUNCIL PRESIDENT ISTNICK** – Councilwoman Creamer.

**COUNCILWOMAN CREAMER** – Thank you, Madam President. The Resolution is requesting Council to approve the decision of the Massillon Zoning Board of Appeals, denying an appeal filed November 23, 2022, in the Variance Case No. 2023 – 2 from the Massillon Zoning Code for the appellant Huth Ready Mix and Supply Co. to cease and desist per the order. We have a public hearing scheduled on March 20<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 p.m. here in Council Chambers. We did receive documents regarding this resolution. First reading.

**COUNCIL PRESIDENT ISTNICK** – Thank you. Res. No. 4 – 2023 has received first reading.

**8. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

**9. PETITIONS AND GENERAL COMMUNICATIONS**

**10. BILLS, ACCOUNTS AND CLAIMS**

Visual Edge IT - \$ 61.89 Overage Charge – 11/24/22 to 02/23/23

**COUNCIL PRESIDENT ISTNICK** – Councilman Lewis.

**COUNCILMAN LEWIS** – I'd like to make a motion that we pay the bills.

**COUNCIL PRESIDENT ISTNICK** – Seconded by Councilman Lombardi. Roll call.

8 yes to pay the bills

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

**11. REPORTS FROM CITY OFFICIALS**

Treasurer's Report - January 2023

**12. REPORTS OF COMMITTEES**

**COUNCIL PRESIDENT ISTNICK** – Our next Work Session will be Monday, March 13, 2023, at 6:30 p.m.

**13. RESOLUTIONS AND REQUESTS OF COUNCIL MEMBERS**

**COUNCIL PRESIDENT ISTNICK** – Councilman Slutz.

**COUNCILMAN SLUTZ** – Thank you. I'd like to have another Health and Welfare Committee meeting on March 27, 2023, at 6:00 p.m. to address some of these solutions that we came up with this evening.

**COUNCIL PRESIDENT ISTNICK** – March 27<sup>th</sup>?

**COUNCILMAN SLUTZ** – March 27<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m.

**COUNCIL PRESIDENT ISTNICK** – Okay.

**COUNCILMAN SLUTZ** – Thank you.

**14. CALL OF THE CALENDAR**

**15. THIRD READING ORDINANCE AND RESOLUTIONS**

**16. SECOND READING ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS**

**COUNCIL PRESIDENT ISTNICK** – Ord. No. 13 – 2023.

**ORDINANCE NO. 13 – 2023**

**BY: STREETS, HIGHWAYS, TRAFFIC AND SAFETY COMMITTEE**

AN ORDINANCE to approve the vacation of a portion of South Ave. S.E., Massillon, Ohio, an unimproved 50-foot wide right of way, located north of Harsh Ave. S.E., and running in a westerly direction from 20<sup>th</sup> St.

**COUNCIL PRESIDENT ISTNICK** – Councilman Snee.

**COUNCILMAN SNEE** – Thank you, Madam President. So this is just to vacate the property to make way for the Middle School. The only question I had for Council, is has anybody heard anything at all from any constituent about clearing this land? Does anybody have any questions or comments? Mr. Slutz.

**COUNCILMAN SLUTZ** – Thank you. Is this land where the Marching Band practices in that parking lot?

**COUNCILMAN SNEE** – So, we have an attached aerial photograph of that and I believe it's over by the busier parking lot.

**COUNCILMAN SLUTZ** – Okay. Thank you.

**COUNCILMAN SNEE** – Any other questions? Seeing none, I'd like to make a motion that we waive the rules requiring three readings and bring Ord. No. 13 – 2023 forward for a vote.

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

8 yes for suspension

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

8 yes for passage

**COUNCIL PRESIDENT ISTNICK** – Thank you, Madam Clerk. Ord. No. 13 – 2023 has passed.

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

**BROOKE LONGHEIR** – I live at 206 Hayes Ave. N.E., Massillon, Ohio. I'm here today regarding 24 Lincoln Way E. as well. Sorry, I tried to write some notes but I was at my other job; didn't get a lot done. So, I'm going to try to do this quickly and hit my point. First of all, I'm curious. You guys of the Council, we have Law Director's. I had to find the ordinance stating that I wasn't responsible for the damage to my building caused by the demolition. I haven't been to every Council meeting, I admit, but I was at one where I sat here and listened to y'all argue whether to put a lien on or not put a lien on, when the whole time you had to. So, who's accountable for knowing the City's laws and ordinances, anybody? But, I'm here as a citizen and a small business owner. I can only speak on the last four and a half years as far as 24 Lincoln Way E. and the adjoining property. That's all I've owned it. When the fire happened, I



was living in North Carolina; I wasn't here. What I do know is when the architect put out the final report that we were given a copy of, it stated that the building was neglected for so long, the mortar was gone between the bricks. As far as the meeting y'all had earlier, I think you need a few more questions to ask. One, how can a building owner continue to pull permits for fourteen years and never do any work? Now I heard tonight that work was being done. I've been next door for four and a half years. What work? My ultimate question is, who looked in there at any point in the last fourteen and a half years and thought, "yeah, this could be built back up without ever being demolished". My building adjoining shared wall has spent fourteen years not fixed the proper way because no trucks could come in and fix my wall from the side that needed fixed after the fire. I've probably have been asked five, eight times in this whole thing, how I'm going to pay for all this damage? Now at this point, have I received a bill? No. But I'm looking at \$4,000 worth of steel marks sitting in my building. I already work a second job to pay my bills at home so I can keep my 126 years-old family business open. I'm not going to get a third to keep steel in my building. I'm not looking for sympathy or any of that. But what I feel, it's a double edged sword. Should building owners be responsible for their buildings? Of course. Do we want the downtown owned by nothing but mega corporations and millionaires? Apparently. I don't think there's a great answer, but I think the fact and the situations with my building and the building sitting next to me, it is criminal, it is neglect by all the City officials before you and by all of y'all who has ever looked in there thought, "no, it couldn't be torn down". For what I've been told, the owners of it when it was burnt asked to tear it down and were told "no". Why? Who is going to build that back up? Who? It was a twenty-foot hole in the ground.

**COUNCIL PRESIDENT ISTNICK** – Thank you, Brooke.

**BROOKE LONGHEIR** – You're welcome, Madam President.

**COUNCIL PRESIDENT ISTNICK** – Is there anyone else in Council that would like to speak?

**GAYLE DANZY** – I live at 2014 Tennyson Ave. N.E., Massillon, Ohio. I've just been made aware of something that may have made you ignore the times that I've spoken previously on these buildings with Fuzzy Kowell. I found out that none of the stuff is in his name. So, it's in his wife's name. So, let me speak to that. Even though it's in his wife's name, still burnt down the building that I told you previously; I'm going to keep saying that because I want to make that stays in the record. So, it's in his wife's name, so now I would say that his wife then would be responsible for fixing up his dilapidated buildings. So I'm here, again, to ask Council if you would please consider coming up with some type of legislation that says that people that own dilapidated, below code buildings cannot rent those buildings to anyone within the City of Massillon. Because I see that Lincoln School is being rented again and if it didn't pass the first time, it hasn't passed now. So, I'm going to keep asking that. The second thing I want to ask is that I've been made aware that there's a historic building on Walnut Rd. that was actually owned by someone who was a former slave and it's really historic and I have the whole story about that. So, I want to know what I need to do, if Council could tell me, how we could have that turned into a historic building to make sure that it doesn't get torn down and I also wanted to know if there was anything that we could do to purchase that building to keep it there. It is exactly a historic site that was mentioned by Springhill on Wales Rd. They did something during Black History month that I listened to and I heard them say it and it's like I heard it and didn't hear it. But now I've heard it again and it's a tremendous story. It is a historic building and I would like to see that preserved. Thank you.

**COUNCIL PRESIDENT ISTNICK** – Thank you. If someone after Council could direct Gayle on who she could speak to about the historic building.

**MAYOR CATAZARO-PERRY** – Good evening, Madam President, Members of Council. Just to give you a quick update tonight. The Sidewalk Program, we have \$125,000 in the program. We are at about \$69,000 right now. So, \$35,000 of the City's money is involved in that \$69,000. The ice rink, as of today, has started to be taken down. So there'll be no more ice skating. The ice skating rink will take a few days for it to be taken down completely. I know you're probably wondering about our street program for this year and we have evaluated all of the roads and they're putting together a plan now and it should be to Council shortly. The last thing I want to talk about is the committee that I did put together. There's more than one piece to this puzzle, ladies and gentlemen. There's multiple pieces to the puzzle and so, yes, some is code; reorganization of our code regulations, but there's other pieces. And so, Mrs. Creamer is sitting on that committee and she is the liaison to Council and I appreciate your serving. But, we'll be meeting again here shortly and then the committee will be bringing recommendations with me along to City Council for changes. Thank you.

**COUNCIL PRESIDENT ISTNICK** – Thank you.

**L.J. DELUCA** – I live at 3900 Mt. Pleasant St. N.W., North Canton, Ohio. My heart's in Massillon, Ohio, by the way, just in case you're wondering. I can't believe what I heard tonight about Mr. Silla. I have talked to Mr. Silla before. His famous line is "put it in an e-mail and I'll talk about it". When Mr. Silla here, and I'll get into this; he said that he didn't know of anything that's...there is a three, a six month and a twelve month for these historic buildings. It's written in historic. I have it with me. So, Mr. Silla, I'm glad you left right now. I just want to say that we've got all these buildings falling down due to neglect. You got "M's" in the road. You got Duncan Plaza, you got all of this stuff. We refurbished all of that, okay. But it doesn't equate to our historic, beautiful buildings in downtown Massillon. I think we should have taken care of those buildings first and made sure our anchor is down on that before we start going on and putting "M's" in roads where the historic buildings are falling down or could be; they aren't now. Or we have a Duncan Plaza that's all cement and these buildings are falling down and I'm sorry, I'm sorry to tell you, I'm very upset about it. Now let's get to Mr. Silla, again here; Chief Building Inspector. He's what he said, I'm going to revamp this, "We know buildings are good and bad in downtown Massillon". He mentioned something that I really jumped out of my seat, he said he had two business owners that were interested years ago in thirty buildings. Well, I just remember reading and the Mayor said that there two business owners interested in thirty buildings. That's years ago, I think. Maybe they're talking about two different things, but I'm not talking about two different things. Also, let's take that building, the big apartment building at 59 Duncan that he said was all, blah, blah, blah. People complained to me while I was eating, "Mr. Deluca, can you do something? The elevators aren't working." Everything isn't working, okay. What's it's going to take for Massillon, we had four buildings falling down, now, four. You talk about Chloe's, I understand. Jeff Doll's doing his thing. Smiley's a great example. He's taking care of his building. He's a landlord. He's been here for twenty-nine, thirty years. He talked about citations going out. It has to go to some board and then it'll go to Justin Richard, the Law Director. I'm going to ask Justin later, maybe personally; how many of those citations has he seen or come through? Building owners compliance. Ninety buildings downtown and not even inspected in a year. Let me tell you, all of Massillon, if somebody worked for me, Aaron, and he didn't inspect a building, even years; it was 218, I believe, a key number that Mr. Silla gave. Not to run them down, but we got to get to the pointed facts. 218 is when all the buildings in downtown Massillon, our beautiful historic building, that Barb

Sylvester, she was a coordinator, then I believe she was the budget director and economic development; she fought for this to get us a historic designation. Are we going to slap Barb Sylvester? She's on this administration, in the face? I hope not. Fire Chief Heck, I can't even get to where I'm going because this is really upsetting to me. He asked that people go up on the second floor of these historic buildings because they don't want to trip on garbage. Well, let me tell you something, my friend, Bill Weaver, Mr. Silla had to go to downtown Canton to get these. We farm things out like a farm that you would never believe. Our people aren't certified, I don't believe, to do all of this. Why? The second and third floor, let's get back to Bill Weaver, I'll make that point. They were unsteady. They couldn't put anything on the second and third floors. You mean to tell me, we're putting second and third floors in Massillon that are unsafe too? Things have got to be changing here, okay. And also, John Picard. John Picard is held in high esteem by the Mayor, by many of you on City Council. I like John. His friend comes in and eats at a restaurant that I go to, one of his workers. John Picard said and I'll end it up, Madam President, thank you. He said that thirty of the historic downtown buildings, I want to repeat this, Jamie; thirty of the downtown historic buildings in Massillon, Ohio, need review; they're bad. And finally, I went to the "Boots on the Ground". I want everybody in Massillon not to believe everything this year. I've talked to Eslich Wrecking; I've talked to Coon Caulking. I'm not going to mention names; people need their jobs and I appreciated that. But they said these buildings are very bad. Now who know more, the people that they were terrible, the waterproofing, everything. I agree with Brooke. We've had a fake façade for too many years. We've had fake teeth and a fake façade. It's time to get this bite going. I agree with you, Ted. Thank you, Madam President and God bless Massillon, Ohio, and our historic buildings. Thank you.

**COUNCIL PRESIDENT ISTNICK** – Thank you, Mr. DeLuca. Anyone else?

**GAYLE DANZY** – This is important and I meant to say this. It was in the paper or somewhere I read this that Judge Elum said that there has been no court anything for anybody with dilapidated buildings in ten years. So for ten years, the City of Massillon, Council or whoever, has ignored people who had dilapidated buildings. Nothing has ever come to court in ten years about those owners. Thank you.

**COUNCIL PRESIDENT ISTNICK** – Thank you, Gayle.

**DAVID SCHULTZ** – I live 1221 Providence Rd. N.E., Massillon, Ohio. I was here earlier for the Committee meeting and my head was spinning listening to the conversation between the Council Members and Mr. Silla. This has been something of interest to me for many, many, many years. I came here forty-two years ago and those of you who know me know I've always been interested in the historic buildings. I live in a home that's almost a hundred years old and I had to make notes because there was so many things that were said tonight. But, the comment was made that buildings need to be restored. Buildings need to be restored when they're not maintained anymore. I own a hundred-year old house. It's not in need of restoration because it was maintained. I own three antique automobiles that are ninety years old and I could drive them to California tomorrow because they were maintained. They don't need to be restored. So, where we've fallen down is on maintenance. That simple and it's no point in pointing fingers at people, but that's been our issue. I've been a trustee of the Massillon Museum for years. If you all can remember, there was a wood structure building next to the museum; remember that building? It's now been replaced by the addition to the museum. When I was on that board forty years ago, that building, the wooden building, was leaning against our building. It touched it. And the solution from the Building Dept. was to saw

off the part that was leaning on our building. The building was structurally unsound. It was probably turning into a trapezoid. If there was ever a building that should have condemned, that was it. But we ended up having to pay way too much money for something that should have been a teardown so we could build the museum. How do we enforce code? You guys asked good questions. What is the code? Because from where I sit, you have to have a base to start with. What's the law say. How far can we go? What can you do? Or, do you just wring your hands and say "oh jeez". If those buildings that were burned in 2009 were repaired and passed code and then fell down, there's a disconnect there, for me. A building that's been repaired doesn't fall down. What's the code? Or, who's enforcing the code? I guess the other question is, is the staff, how does the staff function? I would ask that question, the building code staff. I mean, are they proactive or do they wait for the phone to ring? I don't know. But when I ran a business here years ago, one of the things that I initially asked every one of my department heads when I started working with them for job descriptions of all their people. Because I had three unions to deal with and I hate finger pointing going on saying that that's not my job; that's what I'm supposed to do; we're going to fire her because she doesn't do this and I realize if we're there, there's a dearth of job descriptions and every one of you understand the importance of that. Get them a job description. Sometimes the employee and the manager had different ideas of what the job was. So, let's get a job description. So, I would ask that question of you as the people in charge of pursuing all of this. Well, I'll just Segway into residential. This isn't just a downtown building thing. It's residential as well and I have to say, does anybody drive around the City? We all drive around it. There's houses on Wales, there's houses, I could give you a list of, you could give me a list of, you wonder how they're inhabitable. What's the process for dealing with that? Anyway, if that's my minute, I'll stop, but thanks for letting me say a few words. I really care about this. I could be out playing golf, but I'd rather be doing this and doing something good for the City and thanks for your concern and thanks for what you're doing.

**COUNCIL PRESIDENT ISTNICK** – Thank you, Mr. Schultz. Anyone else?

**GEORGE GLIBA** – I live at 222 Lake Ave. N.E., Massillon, Ohio. I wanted to weigh in on the situation downtown with the buildings. They tore down two buildings; 14 and 20 Lincoln Way at a cost of \$457,000. The Land Bank paid two hundred; the City paid two fifty-seven. So, moving forward, we're in a situation like Frank was saying about money. People don't have the money to put into their buildings. So, we got to look at other options. Either tearing some of them down or helping the business owners, by criteria, from what Ed was saying; how are you maintaining the building? Were you maintaining the building? How long have you been here? There should be a criteria for the City to maybe help them save the building. If they're going to stay, maybe a contract stating if we help you, you got to stay, I mean, there's a lot of things you got to look at. You got to look at are they making money? Are they creating jobs? Just another way to look at the whole business entity here in Massillon because I think we're missing something here. You know, business-friendly; that quotation kind of sticks with me because when five City Council members voted "no" for them people to get the money at Tiger Rags when they had a buyer to buy it to put in another business, at some point, for them to tell the City of Massillon how that was business-friendly because I don't see that. So moving forward, that's kind of what we got to look at. I mean, maybe the City could get involved to where, like, what are we going to do here with 14 and 20 Lincoln Way right now? Maybe the City has an opportunity to talk to the owner and buy it and maybe invest in it. It seems like they're having money issues here at these 14 and 20 buildings because they've been vacant for fourteen years now. So, there's an issue here. So, let's try to put everybody's thinking caps on and say, "well, what are we going to do"? How long is it going to sit there vacant? So,

that's kind of where I'm at with the situation downtown, but the Land Bank; like I said, \$200,000 they kicked in. If we want to start tearing down some buildings, that's what we might need to do. Because the thing going on over in Canton, they're tearing down buildings. They're reinvesting in the Hall of Fame Village over there. That's just taking off. So, that's something we might need to think about with some of these buildings down here. How much more time?

**COUNCIL PRESIDENT ISTNICK** – One minute.

**GEORGE GLIBA** – One minute. Okay. Just another thing I wanted to touch on was Lake St. I gave everybody pictures of the situation on Lake St. So, the comments I get, Lombardi says to me "I've been trying to get something done there forever". Talked to Mike, "Nothing I can do". Talked to Barb; she gives me this piece of paper with these measurements; the houses away from the street doesn't fit the criteria. But, in 2019 when I asked her about putting a guardrail she said that you're not allowed to have them in the City limits. I asked her a month ago, you are allowed to have guardrails inside the City limits. So, she had just gotten the job, I think, in 2019 from Joel. So I don't know if she misspoke or just told me a lie. I don't know. Maybe she can tell me. Because in 2019 even my neighbor called and she said "You can't have a guardrail inside the City limits. So, somebody's gonna die, eventually. It's getting worse and worse. The accidents, you've seen the pictures. And I went to ODOT and talked to them. Talked to a guy named Griffin and he said "Just because you get a piece a paper that says it doesn't fit the criteria, doesn't mean you can't put one up". So, I'm just going to leave it at that and see if we can get a guardrail put up. But, I took the initiative because I care about Lake St. I care about people. I come up here and fight for the people of Massillon all the time and I wish more people would. Because, you know, this is where I live and I'm a taxpayer and I'll just kind of leave it at that. So, and one other thing I do want to say, just one last thing; people come up to me when this Chambers over and tell me they're glad I said something. I ain't gonna tell who they are, but since I've been coming up here since way back to the Paul Manson days when he was over here, people have come up to me and said "George, I'm glad you said something" and I just kind of take pride in that because that's what it takes. It takes somebody to say something and then, furthermore, it takes somebody to do something. Not just walk out the door; "Hey, I gotta go". Talk to me, man. Don't disrespect. So, I'll just leave it at that.

**COUNCIL PRESIDENT ISTNICK** – Thank you, George. Anyone else?

**L.J. DELUCA** – I wanted to know from the Administration, if a convicted felon can serve a Mayor's Committee?

**COUNCIL PRESIDENT ISTNICK** – You'll have to ask the Mayor after the meeting. Anyone else?

## 18. ADJOURNMENT

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

**COUNCILWOMAN HARWIG SMITH** – I make a motion we adjourn.

**COUNCIL PRESIDENT ISTNICK** – Seconded by Councilwoman Creamer. Roll call.

8 yes to adjourn

**COUNCIL PRESIDENT ISTNICK** – Meeting adjourned.

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DIANE ROLLAND, COUNCIL CLERK

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CLAUDETTE ISTNICK, PRESIDENT