

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
MASSILLON CITY COUNCIL
HELD MONDAY, MAY 5, 2025**

PRESIDENT PRO TEM GREGG – Good evening. Welcome to the Massillon City Council meeting for Monday, May 5, 2025. I'm Councilman Michael Gregg, Pro Tem. I'm filling in for Council President, Mike Slater, who's had a death in the family. Let's keep Mike and his family in our thoughts this evening. We have in attendance the following City officials: Safety Service Director, Renee Baker, Law Director, Justin Richard, City Engineer, Alex Pitts, Director of Development, Ted Herncane and Income Tax/Budget Director, Lori Kotagides-Boron. 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.

PRESIDENT PRO TEM GREGG – 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, Seth Marcum, Ed Lewis and John Paquelet

Roll call of 8 present

PRESIDENT PRO TEM GREGG – Thank you, Madam Clerk.

COUNCILMAN LEWIS – I make a motion that we excuse Councilman Ray and President Slater.

PRESIDENT PRO TEM GREGG – Seconded by Councilman Marcum. Roll call.

8 yes to excuse Councilman Ray and President Slater

PRESIDENT PRO TEM GREGG – Thank you, Madam Clerk. Councilman Ray and President Slater have been excused. Councilman Marcum.

2. INVOCATION

COUNCILMAN SETH MARCUM

3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

LED BY COUNCILMAN MARCUM

PRESIDENT PRO TEM GREGG – Thank you, Councilman Marcum.

4. READING OF THE JOURNAL

PRESIDENT PRO TEM GREGG – Madam Clerk are the minutes of the previous meeting transcribed and open for public viewing?

COUNCIL CLERK ROLLAND – Yes, they are.

PRESIDENT PRO TEM GREGG – Are there any additions or corrections to be made?

COUNCIL CLERK ROLLAND – No, there are not.

PRESIDENT PRO TEM GREGG – 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

6. NEW AND MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS

PRESIDENT PRO TEM GREGG – This evening we have Safety Service Director Baker along with a representative from NOPEC, Tony Ramos, giving us a presentation.

RENEE BAKER – Good evening. I wanted to take the opportunity tonight to bring our Relationship's Manager, Tony Ramos, from NOPEC. As everyone knows, we switched to NOPEC as our consultants that negotiated our new contract and there's been a lot of questions. We tried to get as much information out via Facebook, via our website. We held two community events as well; in the day time and in the evening for residents to attend to ask questions, but as all of you know, I've received many phone calls from you guys as well as we get phone calls in the office. So we wanted an opportunity to try to get more information out to the residents about the aggregate. One thing that I did want to mention is the aggregation, the City did not decide just recently to do an aggregate. The aggregate has been in place since, I believe, 2009 and it's be revised code that the aggregate had to be placed on the ballot and the citizens had to vote to allow the City to negotiate rates for everybody and that's only on opt-out programs. So, that's one thing that I really wanted to make sure that the residents understood is that we did not just decide that we're going to choose your supplier. The residents decided back in 2009 to allow the City to do those negotiations. What I did differently was decided to go instead of paying a consultant to negotiate those rates which they do get a fee, we decided to go with NOPEC which is free and that's where Tony can speak a little bit more about NOPEC; what the organization is and what they do and on our current rates. So, at this time, I'll have Tony come up and explain more of that. Thank you.

TONY RAMOS – Thank you, Renee. As she mentioned, I'm Tony Ramos from the Northeast Ohio Public Energy Council. Before I start though, I want to take a moment to acknowledge Renee's leadership and her team. It's been a busy couple of weeks as the City has made this transition and it's been a pleasure to work with her and her staff. They've been super helpful. So, I wanted to make sure I mentioned that, as well. So as she mentioned, the City selected NOPEC to manage your electric aggregation program. We do that for 242 other communities throughout Ohio. By now, every eligible resident in the City has received an enrollment letter. If someone didn't receive an enrollment letter, there could be a reason why. Most likely is that they didn't show up on an eligibility list or they're in a contract with another supplier. If a resident is curious as to whether they're eligible and they didn't receive the letter, I recommend

that they just reach out to our Customer Care line and we can help walk them through that. The letters would have detailed what the program's rate is. So starting with June, everybody who didn't opt-out of the program will get pulled into the program and they will assume a rate of 8.9 cents a kilowatt hour for period of their June meter read to their December meter read. That's our default rate option, but NOPEC also offers a variable month rate option in 12 and 24 month fixed pricing. At any time, they can visit NOPEC.org to see what those pricing options are and all they have to do is call and select something different other than the default, if that's what they would like to do. I'll note that a resident can opt-out of this program at any time. So, if someone is seeing this and going "I had that letter. I threw it away, but I don't want to participate". They can still call NOPEC at any time and opt-out without any fees. It doesn't cost somebody a fee to join and they have that pricing flexibility to move in between all of our pricing options. I brought you some materials to help you. One is just a quick brochure that talks about who we are and what we do. There are a multitude of other benefits afforded to the City with NOPEC membership other than just us negotiating competitive rates for your residents. Also included in there are FAQ's about NOPEC and then FAQ's specifically about the electric program. Those are the most common questions you're like to get from a resident, but again, if you get something that you can't answer, you can send them to our Customer Care number and that's listed on almost every page that you have out there. Another item I sent you is one of the questions that I've heard from residents is that "Why did the City choose an aggregator who's going to raise our prices?". Under the City's previous aggregation program, the City enjoyed what we like to refer to is a legacy rate. It was a very competitive and low rate. But unfortunately, gone are those days of rates being under 5 cents a kilowatt hour here in Ohio. In your packet is a sheet that explains why and no matter who your supplier is, whether it's NOPEC or any number of other suppliers that are authorize to operate in the State of Ohio, why electric rates are going up. Very briefly, it's not a function of NOPEC or any other supplier. It is a function of our grid operator PJM. Their capacity charges have gone up and as you know, when cost go up in one area, they get passed onto the users. So residents, whether they participate in the aggregation program or not, they can expect to see their electric bill increase by 10% to 15% starting with their June usage. On the sheet I gave you, there are some tips to kind of help mitigate those impacts. The last two items in your packet is one that explains how to read your gas and electric bill and kind of explains what some of those charges on your bill means and then the last sheet is how to compare energy offers. A lot of residents have been shopping, looking at "apples to apples". There are competitive rates available from other suppliers, but you always want to be careful. Are there monthly fees? Are there any cancellation fees? You want to understand what the terms and conditions are of those rates. So, I'll kind of pause there and see if anybody has any questions? Yes.

COUNCILWOMAN HARWIG SMITH – Thank you, Mr. Ramos. As far as the 8.9 cents per kilowatt hour, that is fixed, correct?

TONY RAMOS – Yes.

COUNCILWOMAN HARWIG SMITH – That's the automatic one that we'll be enrolled.

TONY RAMOS – A default.

COUNCILWOMAN HARWIG SMITH – And that is for how long?

TONY RAMOS – From your June meter read to your December meter read.

COUNCILWOMAN HARWIG SMITH – So for six-months?

TONY RAMOS – Yes, six-months.

COUNCILWOMAN HARWIG SMITH – And then what will happen after that?

TONY RAMOS – Typically, usually about in mid-November we will announce what the next rate for period of January 2026 to June 2026 is going to be. We are not permitted to directly solicit to residents. The only thing we're ever permitted to send to residents is that enrollment letter. So, if the question is well, will another letter be sent out if rates change? Unfortunately, no, because we're a Council of Governments, we cannot directly solicit to your residents. However, if they want to be notified of those potential pricing changes, they can sign up for a monthly newsletter at NOPEC.org. But I will keep the City informed of any rate changes and we provide the City materials that they can share on the website, push out on social media to help raise awareness of any changes.

COUNCILWOMAN HARWIG SMITH – And so just as a summary, this is, the 8.9 is you guys shopped around and this is the best fixed rate that they could get?

TONY RAMOS – Correct. So, it's important to know whether you live in the City of Massillon or you live in Lakewood or Cleveland Heights or Ashtabula, if you're a member of community, the rate that you see for your community is the same rate throughout our footprint. So, yes, we've negotiated that 8.9 cent kilowatt hour on behalf of almost 600,000 electric customers.

COUNCILWOMAN HARWIG SMITH – Thank you.

TONY RAMOS – Yes.

COUNCILWOMAN CUNNINGHAM – Thank you. And I'm assuming that the rate will be going up; it's not going to come down?

TONY RAMOS – Wow; you paint me into a corner. So, I never, allow me to be a politician for a second; we anticipate rates to continue to be competitive, but they could go up or they could go down. We're kind of in a period right now as a result of those PJM capacity charges that these increased electric rates are anticipated to last for three to five years. So, no, this isn't just kind of a, we're going to experience this pain this summer. This is going to last. But, it's important to note that policy changes at the Federal level can affect those either up or down. So, I can't predict the future. Typically, electric rates tick down in the winter and they tick up in the summer and vice versa for gas. We use more gas in the winter. But on most of our electric, it's generated by using natural gas and that is also kind of contributing to pushing rates up as well.

COUNCILWOMAN CUNNINGHAM – Another thing, again, we do nothing and are brought in automatically into this new contract, correct?

TONY RAMOS – Correct. I wouldn't use the term contract. No resident is in a contract with NOPEC. As long as they participate, they're in. They can opt-out at any time. If they received that letter and did nothing with it, they're going to automatically get pulled in and the first time they will see us on their bill will be the bill they get in July for their June usage.

COUNCILWOMAN CUNNINGHAM – Okay. Thank you.

TONY RAMOS – Yes.

COUNCILWOMAN BRYAN-HUTH – Thank you, Tony. If someone opt-out, can they opt back in at any time?

TONY RAMOS – They sure can.

COUNCILWOMAN BRYAN-HUTH – And then my second question is back to the rates. In the letter it says you'll go to a month-to-month it might variable, but you're saying from January 2026 to June 2026 will be a set another six-month rate?

TONY RAMOS – So, I would just like to point that that letter is finely crafted by attorneys. No disrespect to them, but things are said in such a way that we're all protected. So, our standard default rate is technically a variable rate. We call it a market-following rate. In the last several years, though, we've been holding that in six month blocks to give people more stability. Because most people get that letter, they look at it and go "Okay, great" and they move on and so NOPEC's focus is always been to take bills from doing this to be more like this. So which is why the standard program, yes, we're constantly reassessing rates and negotiating, because it may be 8.9 through December, but if we are able to do something lower, then we're going to pull that price down lower. That's true for both our fixed term products as well. There is a true monthly variable rate that we offer that does move each month. That follows the utility's price to compare. It's always guaranteed to be 6% less than what the utility's price to compare is, but if the utility's price goes up to 12 cents per kilowatt hour, even with the 6% discount, that's still not a good option, but the standard default is going to be better and so would a 12 or 24 month fixed. If you're a more environmentally conscious person, a renewable energy is important to, we also offer 100% renewable energy content pricing options. The whole point of this program, unlike your previous program, is to give your residents more options to choose specifically what works best for their household. So it not just a one-size-fits-all thing. You get to look and see what works best for you. Some people just want a set twenty-four months and forget it. Other people are like, "No, I want to see it happen in shorter increments". So it just kind of depends.

COUNCILWOMAN BRYAN-HUTH – Thank you.

TONY RAMOS – Yes. I left you all my business card. It's likely you'll have questions that maybe you didn't think about tonight. Don't hesitate to call or e-mail me. Throughout the year, if you have neighborhood meetings or Ward meetings and you want someone from NOPEC to come to be available to your constituents, don't hesitate to reach out to either myself or a community outreach team is able to do that and if I can't answer it, Renee can.

PRESIDENT PRO TEM GREGG – Mr. Ramos.

TONY RAMOS – Yes sir.

PRESIDENT PRO TEM GREGG – You mentioned a couple of times a number that the residents can call to get in touch with NOPEC; can you state that number?

TONY RAMOS – Sure. Our customer care number is 1-855-667-3201 or they can also visit NOPEC.org.

PRESIDENT PRO TEM GREGG – Thank you. Any other questions?

TONY RAMOS – I appreciate the time. Thank you.

PRESIDENT PRO TEM GREGG – Thank you. Councilman Lewis.

COUNCILMAN LEWIS – Yes. This evening I do have a matter that I'd like to discuss, but in order to do so, I would like to call an Executive Session where in accordance to ORC, Section 121.22(G) 1, it says "A Public Body holds and Executive Session pursuant to this division of the Section, the motion to vote to hold that Executive Session shall state which one or more the approved purposes listed that in Division (G) , one of the Sections are the purpose for which the Executive Session is to be held, but it need not include the name of any person to be considered at the meeting and the purpose of this Executive Session would be to consider the appointment, employment dismissal, promotion, demotion or compensation of a public employee or official". To this Executive Session I would like to invite all Members of Council, our Law Director and our Safety Service Director, if I can have a second.

PRESIDENT PRO TEM GREGG – Seconded by Councilwoman Creamer. Roll call.

8 yes to enter into Executive Session – 6:50 p.m.

PRESIDENT PRO TEM GREGG – Councilman Lewis.

COUNCILMAN LEWIS – I make a motion that we exit Executive Session.

PRESIDENT PRO TEM GREGG – Seconded by Councilman Paquelet. Roll call.

8 yes to exit Executive Session – 7:20 p.m.

PRESIDENT PRO TEM GREGG – Thank you, Madam Clerk.

7. INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS

PRESIDENT PRO TEM GREGG – Ord. No 31 – 2025.

ORDINANCE NO. 31 – 2025

BY: FINANCE COMMITTEE

AN ORDINANCE making certain appropriations from the unappropriated balance of the 1234 Parks and Recreation Fund, for the year ending December 31, 2025, and declaring an emergency.

PRESIDENT PRO TEM GREGG – Councilman Lewis.

COUNCILMAN LEWIS – Basically, this is appropriations for the golf course that we discussed last week. Are there any questions or discussion? Seeing none, I make a motion that we suspend the rules requiring three readings, bringing Ord. No. 31 – 2025 forward for a vote.

PRESIDENT PRO TEM GREGG – Seconded by Councilman Marcum. Roll call for suspension.

8 yes for suspension

PRESIDENT PRO TEM GREGG – And for passage.

8 yes for passage

PRESIDENT PRO TEM GREGG – Thank you, Madam Clerk. Ord. No. 31 – 2025 has passed. Ord. No. 32 – 2025.

ORDINANCE NO. 32 – 2025

BY: FINANCE COMMITTEE

AN ORDINANCE making certain appropriations from the unappropriated balance of the 1219 WIC Fund, for the year ending December 31, 2025.

PRESIDENT PRO TEM GREGG – Councilman Lewis.

COUNCILMAN LEWIS – Yes. The City was the beneficiary of increased funding for our WIC program and as such, we do need to appropriate those dollars so that the WIC program can utilize them. 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. 32 – 2025 forward for a vote.

PRESIDENT PRO TEM GREGG – Seconded by Councilman Marcum. Roll call for suspension.

8 yes for suspension

PRESIDENT PRO TEM GREGG – And for passage.

8 yes for passage

PRESIDENT PRO TEM GREGG – Thank you, Madam Clerk. Ord. No. 32 – 2025 has passed. Ord. No. 33 – 2025.

ORDINANCE NO. 33 – 2025

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 Wilmot, Ohio, for the purpose of providing prosecutorial service, and declaring an emergency.

PRESIDENT PRO TEM GREGG – Councilman Lewis.

COUNCILMAN LEWIS – Yes. The next two that we have in front of us are dealing with similar things. Basically, it's the agreements with surrounding communities so that our Law Dept. would represent them in the prosecutorial stages of our court process. 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. 33 – 2025 forward for a vote.

PRESIDENT PRO TEM GREGG – Seconded by Councilman Marcum. Roll call for suspension.

8 yes for suspension

PRESIDENT PRO TEM GREGG – And for passage.

8 yes for passage

PRESIDENT PRO TEM GREGG – Thank you, Madam Clerk. Ord. No. 33 – 2025 has passed. Ord. No. 34 – 2025.

ORDINANCE NO. 34 – 2025

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.

PRESIDENT PRO TEM GREGG – Councilman Lewis.

COUNCILMAN LEWIS – Yes, I make a motion that we suspend the rules requiring three readings, bringing Ord. No. 34 – 2025 forward for a vote.

PRESIDENT PRO TEM GREGG – Seconded by Councilman Marcum. Roll call for suspension.

8 yes for suspension

PRESIDENT PRO TEM GREGG – And for passage.

8 yes for passage

PRESIDENT PRO TEM GREGG – Thank you, Madam Clerk. Ord. No. 34 – 2025 has passed. Ord. No. 35 – 2025.

ORDINANCE NO. 35 – 2025

BY: FINANCE COMMITTEE

AN ORDINANCE authorizing the Auditor of the City of Massillon, Ohio, to add an additional source of revenue for Property Maintenance Fines to the 1220 Foreclosure Property Administration Fund, for the year ending December 31, 2025.

PRESIDENT PRO TEM GREGG – Councilman Lewis.

COUNCILMAN LEWIS – Yes. With the implementation of the International Property Maintenance Code and the diligent work of our Code Enforcement Dept., there's an anticipation that we will start to see fines coming in to the City and as such, this particular ordinance would put in place a specific line item for us to receive those funds into which will assist us in tracking and knowing where they are and how much is being collected and assist us also in the later disbursement of said funds for appropriate purposes. So that's what this ordinance does. I also want to take a second, this might shock some of you, but I'm going to congratulate Mr. Herncane because he did make me aware this week that the Code

Enforcement Team did collect its first fine of, I believe, \$250.00. Oh, we got two of them now? So, does show that we are starting to see some traction with the implementation of these things. So, with that said, 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. 35 – 2025 forward for a vote.

PRESIDENT PRO TEM GREGG – Seconded by Councilman Marcum. Roll call for suspension.

8 yes for suspension

PRESIDENT PRO TEM GREGG – And for passage.

8 yes for passage

PRESIDENT PRO TEM GREGG – Thank you, Madam Clerk. Ord. No. 35 – 2025 has passed.

8. UNFINISHED BUSINESS
9. PETITIONS AND GENERAL COMMUNICATIONS
10. BILLS, ACCOUNTS AND CLAIMS
11. REPORTS FROM CITY OFFICIALS

Treasurer's Report	-	March 2025
Auditor's Report	-	April 2025

PRESIDENT PRO TEM GREGG – Councilman Lewis.

COUNCILMAN LEWIS – Yes. I make a motion that we accept the Auditor's Report.

PRESIDENT PRO TEM – Seconded by Councilman Marcum. Roll call.

8 yes to accept the Auditor's Report

PRESIDENT PRO TEM – Thank you, Madam Clerk. The Auditor's Report has been accepted.

12. REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

PRESIDENT PRO TEM GREGG – Our next Work Session will be Monday, May 12, 2025, at 6:30 p.m.

13. RESOLUTIONS AND REQUESTS OF COUNCIL MEMBERS

PRESIDENT PRO TEM GREGG – Councilwoman Cunningham.

COUNCILWOMAN CUNNINGHAM – Thank you, Mr. Pro Tem. I'm requesting to report off on the 12th and the 19th as well.

PRESIDENT PRO TEM GREGG – Okay. Thank you.

14. CALL OF THE CALENDAR

PRESIDENT PRO TEM GREGG – Ord. No. 8 – 2025.

ORDINANCE NO. 8 – 2025

BY: HEALTH, WELFARE & BLDG. REGS. COMMITTEE

AN ORDINANCE to amend Ord. No. 103 – 2024 pertaining to 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.

PRESIDENT PRO TEM – Councilwoman Cunningham.

COUNCILWOMAN CUNNINGHAM – Thank you, Mr. Pro Tem. Due to a “snafu” when we voted on this the last time, this is coming forward again. We had more discussion and I’d like to bring it forward for a vote this evening.

PRESIDENT PRO TEM GREGG – Seconded by Councilwoman Harwig Smith. Roll call for passage.

4 yes; 4 no – Bryan-Huth, Creamer, Gregg, Lewis

COUNCILMAN LEWIS – So, due to no way to break a tie and it failed to meet five, my assumption would be that it would not meet passage.

PRESIDENT PRO TEM GREGG – Mr. Richard.

JUSTIN RICHARD – Unfortunately, it fails today, but since we have one member that’s gone, our rules do allow, obviously, for a vote of reconsideration. So, when Councilman Ray comes back he could, in fact, make the motion to revive to vote again. But as it stands, a tie is a failure.

PRESIDENT PRO TEM GREGG – Okay. Thank you. So, Ord. No. 8 – 2025 has been defeated. Councilwoman Harwig Smith.

COUNCILWOMAN HARWIG SMITH – As far as that reconsideration, so the people who are not here, the ones who can reconsider, so would President Slater also have the ability to reconsider it if he wanted to?

PRESIDENT PRO TEM GREGG – Not as President.

COUNCILWOMAN HARWIG SMITH – Not as President; only a Council Member?

COUNCILMAN PAQUELET – But now if we were to have been at tie and he were here, would he have been able to break the tie?

COUNCILWOMAN CUNNINGHAM – Yeah, he could have voted.

PRESIDENT PRO TEM GREGG – Okay. Moving forward. Ord. No. 9 – 2025

ORDINANCE NO. 9 – 2025

BY: HEALTH, WELFARE & BLDG. REGS. COMMITTEE

AN ORDINANCE to amend Ord. No. 103 – 2024 pertaining to 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.

PRESIDENT PRO TEM GREGG – Councilwoman Cunningham.

COUNCILWOMAN CUNNINGHAM – Thank you, Mr. Pro Tem. Again, this was part of Ord. No. 8 that there was a “snafu” and we’re bringing it forward. There was discussion and we’re bringing it forward again this evening for a vote. This is the one that we needed to table indefinitely. I’d like to make a motion to table Ord. No. 9 – 2025 indefinitely.

PRESIDENT PRO TEM GREGG – Seconded by Councilwoman Harwig Smith. Roll call for tabling.

8 yes to table Ord. No. 9 – 2025 indefinitely

PRESIDENT PRO TEM GREGG – Thank you, Madam Clerk. Ord. No. 9 – 2025 has been tabled indefinitely.

15. THIRD READING ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS

PRESIDENT PRO TEM GREGG – Ord. No. 15 – 2025.

ORDINANCE NO. 15 – 2025

BY: COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

AN ORDINANCE amending the Zoning Map of the City of Massillon, Ohio, by rezoning a certain property from R-1 Single Family Residential to A-1 Agricultural District.

PRESIDENT PRO TEM GREGG – Councilwoman Creamer.

COUNCILWOMAN CREAMER – Thank you, Mr. Gregg. This request is a rezoning request of parcel #500176 which is a 4-acre parcel located on the east side of 17th St. S.W. between Finefrock and Pigeon Run Ave. We do have a public meeting scheduled for May 19th at 6:00 p.m. here in Council Chambers. So, I’d like to make a motion to table Ord. No. 15 – 2025.

PRESIDENT PRO TEM GREGG – Councilwoman Bryan-Huth.

COUNCILMAN MARCUM – Excuse me; just to clarify, do we want to table indefinitely or table it until May 19th?

COUNCILWOMAN CREAMER – May 19th.

COUNCILMAN MARCUM – Okay.

PRESIDENT PRO TEM GREGG – Thank you. Roll call to table Ord. No. 15 – 2025.

8 yes to table Ord. No. 15 – 2025 until May 19th

PRESIDENT PRO TEM GREGG – Thank you, Madam Clerk. Ord. No. 15 – 2025 has been tabled until May 19, 2025. Ord. No. 16 – 2025.

ORDINANCE NO. 16 – 2025

BY: COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

AN ORDINANCE approving the proposed Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program Budget for the FY2025 Program year, and declaring an emergency.

PRESIDENT PRO TEM GREGG – Councilwoman Creamer.

COUNCILWOMAN CREAMER – Thank you, Mr. Gregg. This ordinance is to approve the proposed Community Development Block Grant for the 2025 program year. This program is to provide decent, safe and affordable housing to promote a suitable living environment and to expand economic opportunity. We did receive the estimated breakdown of the City of Massillon activities along with the local agency projects, with an estimated total of \$752,222.00. Is there anyone that has any questions regarding this? We did have both meetings that are required before bringing this forward. Seeing none, I make a motion to bring forward Ord. No. 16 – 2025 for a vote.

PRESIDENT PRO TEM GREGG – Seconded by Councilwoman Bryan-Huth. Roll call for passage.

8 yes for passage

PRESIDENT PRO TEM GREGG – Thank you, Madam Clerk. Ord. No. 16 – 2025 has passed. Ord. No. 17 – 2025.

ORDINANCE NO. 17 – 2025

BY: COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

AN ORDINANCE authorizing the Director of Public Service and Safety of the City of Massillon, Ohio, to transfer Out Lot No. 681, a 13.427-acre parcel located in Massillon, Ohio, from the City of Massillon to the Community Improvement Corporation of Massillon (CIC).

PRESIDENT PRO TEM GREGG – Councilwoman Creamer.

COUNCILWOMAN CREAMER – Thank you, Mr. Gregg. As stated, this ordinance is transferring 13.427-acres of Out Lot No. 681 currently owned by the City to the Community Improvement Corporation of Massillon for economic development. That said property, CIC will sell that property to Massillon Energy and Technology Park, LLC for One Dollar (\$1.00). This request will replat with the surrounding parcels and use it for economic development or for sale. Are there any questions regarding this ordinance? Seeing none, I make a motion to bring Ord. No. 17 – 2025 forward for a vote.

PRESIDENT PRO TEM GREGG – Seconded by Councilwoman Bryan-Huth. Roll call for passage.

8 yes for passage

PRESIDENT PRO TEM GREGG – Thank you, Madam Clerk. Ord. No. 17 – 2025 has passed. Ord. No. 19 – 2025.

AN ORDINANCE amending the OCCUPATION LIST OF CLASS TITLES, 610-615 “WASTEWATER TREATMENT DEPARTMENT”, in the City of Massillon, Ohio, by establishing and creating the position of “Safety Officer” and establishing the Class Grade Schedule for said position within the 610-615 “WASTEWATER TREATMENT DEPARTMENT”.

PRESIDENT PRO TEM GREGG – Councilwoman Bryan-Huth.

COUNCILWOMAN BRYAN- HUTH – Thank you, President Pro Tem. This ordinance, we’ve discussed and were provided a job description as well. We had time for questions. Does anyone have any other further questions?

PRESIDENT PRO TEM GREGG – Councilman Lewis.

COUNCILMAN LEWIS – I may have missed it, but I had mentioned last week possibly if we could get confirmation if the other wastewater districts had a similar position? I don’t know if we got confirmation or not.

PRESIDENT PRO TEM GREGG – Mr. Pitts, would you join us.

ALEX PITTS – Good evening, Council. So, I know for a fact that Stark County, their sewer department, they have one. That’s where the job description was pulled from. Other districts in the surrounding area, I couldn’t find any evidence of that. I was gathering all of the other answers regarding some of the questions that were asked last week. But, other than Stark County, I didn’t find anything else.

COUNCILMAN PAQUELET – Do you know how many employees Stark County Sewer Dept. has, by any chance, roughly?

ALEX PITTS – I wasn’t looking for that specifically; I do not know.

COUNCILMAN PAQUELET – Alright. Thank you, Mr. Pitts.

PRESIDENT PRO TEM GREGG – Mr. Pitts, you mentioned you had answers to some questions from the last time.

ALEX PITTS – Yeah. So, a few of the questions that were asked like for example, are all of the certifications needed? Any of them that say “desirable”, those are not necessarily needed, but anything that does not say “desirable”, if it’s underneath the education and experience, it is required. I know there was a question about pay. The pay is 19S-20S, between \$54,000 to \$69,000 is the pay range. \$69,000 being a 20S at a thirty-year rate. \$54,000, and these are approximately, being entry-level 19S rate. Just wanted to clarify on that. There were specific certification questions. The OSHA one is definitely required for sure in order to be a certified instructor for the Wastewater Treatment Plant for confined space; I know that was a question as well. If this individual would be teaching in confined space. Of course, the idea would be “yes”, they would be as well as organizing any other certifications required at the department that they may not be certified to instruct. I have a list of other facts that’s written here. If there are any specific questions that Council may have.

PRESIDENT PRO TEM GREGG - Questions? Councilwoman Creamer.

COUNCILWOMAN CREAMER – Can you please just state which certifications are required, because I just see “desirable” with those four bullet points?

ALEX PITTS – Yeah. So, certifications by the Dept. of Labor and certified instructor on OSHA standards for construction and general industries is “desirable”. So, I apologize, I didn’t see that “desirable” there.

COUNCILWOMAN CREAMER – They’re all “desirable” and that’s what my concern is; what is the least amount, yes, we want all of these certifications, but if we don’t get qualified applicants, what’s are minimum?

ALEX PITTS – Well, I know for a fact that in order to teach any of these courses that are needed, like confined space, you need to be OSHA certified. That 100% should be required.

PRESIDENT PRO TEM GREGG – Councilman Lewis.

COUNCILMAN LEWIS – So, I don’t mean to be a pain, but the feeling, the vibe I’m getting from this Body is that I think we see value in what’s being proposed, but I get nervous because I think some of us still might have some questions when we are left with uncertainty, we may vote “no”. So, to save ourselves from a possibility of dismissing this proposal with uncertainties, maybe a good course of action would be to table so that we can continue to ask some more questions. Because I know me, I’m on the fence and if I’m going to be pressed to vote tonight, I’m probably going to falter to “no”, even though I can see where this could be valuable and I would hate to due to lack of more information to vote something down that actually would be valuable for us to have. Does that make sense?

ALEX PITTS – Yeah.

COUNCILMAN LEWIS – So that would be my thought process.

PRESIDENT PRO TEM GREGG – Any other questions? Councilman Paquelet.

COUNCILMAN PAQUELET – I would just like to second Mr. Lewis’ comment.

PRESIDENT PRO TEM GREGG – So, I’ll entertain a motion to table this ordinance to a specific date. Councilwoman Bryan-Huth.

COUNCILWOMAN BRYAN-HUTH – Thank you, President Pro Tem. I would motion that we table Ord. No. 19 – 2025 to our first Regular Meeting of June. What date would that be, Diane.

COUNCIL CLERK ROLLAND – June 2nd is the first Monday in June.

COUNCILWOMAN BRYAN-HUTH – Table to June 2nd. However, is it possible that someone from Wastewater could parcel out what is actually needed as certifications versus what is “desirable” and then to plot out maybe even further what would be acceptable for on-the-job learning and advancement?

ALEX PITTS – Yes. I will get with Wastewater on that.

COUNCILWOMAN BRYAN-HUTH – Thank you.

PRESIDENT PRO TEM GREGG – Thank you, Mr. Pitts. I will need a second for the motion to table. Seconded by Councilman Marcum. Roll call for motion to table.

8 yes to table Ord. No. 19 – 2025 until June 2, 2025

PRESIDENT PRO TEM GREGG – Thank you, Madam Clerk. Ord. No. 19 – 2025 has been tabled until June 2, 2025.

16. SECOND READING ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS

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

18. ADJOURNMENT

PRESIDENT PRO TEM GREGG – Councilman Marcum.

COUNCILMAN MARCUM – I move to adjourn.

PRESIDENT PRO TEM GREGG – Seconded by Councilwoman Cunningham. Roll call to adjourn.

8 yes to adjourn

PRESIDENT PRO TEM GREGG – Meeting adjourned.

DIANE ROLLAND, COUNCIL CLERK

MIKE GREGG, PRESIDENT PRO TEM