

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING  
MASSILLON CITY COUNCIL  
HELD MONDAY, JUNE 3, 2024**

**COUNCIL PRESIDENT SLATER** – Welcome to the Massillon City Council Meeting for Monday, June 3, 2024. We have in attendance the following City officials: Mayor, Jamie Slutz, Safety Service Director, Renee Baker, Asst. Law Director, Edmond Mack, City Engineer, Alex Pitts and Director of Development, Ted Herncane. Under #5 on the agenda is where the public can speak on any topic that appears on tonight’s agenda and under #17 is where the public can speak on any topic that does NOT appear on tonight’s agenda. I’d like to remind you that if you have a cell phone, please set it to mute, vibrate or turn it off. Thank you.

**COUNCIL PRESIDENT SLATER** – Roll call.

**1. ROLL CALL**

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

Roll call of 8 present

**COUNCIL PRESIDENT SLATER** – Councilman Lewis.

**COUNCILMAN LEWIS** – I’d like to make a motion to excuse Mr. Lombardi.

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

8 yes to excuse Councilman Lombardi

**COUNCIL PRESIDENT SLATER** – Thank you, Madam Clerk. Councilman Lombardi has been excused. Councilman Ray.

**2. INVOCATION**

**COUNCILMAN ERIC RAY**

**3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**LED BY COUNCILMAN RAY**

**4. READING OF THE JOURNAL**

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

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

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

**COUNCIL CLERK ROLLAND** – No, there are not.

**COUNCIL PRESIDENT SLATER** – Then the minutes stand approved as written.

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

6. **NEW AND MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS**

7. **INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS**

**COUNCIL PRESIDENT SLATER** – Ord. No. 50 – 2024.

**ORDINANCE NO. 50 – 2024**

**BY: COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE**

AN ORDINANCE to accept the dedication of road right of way and easements for Sippo Reserves Allotment, Phase 3, Massillon, Ohio.

**COUNCIL PRESIDENT SLATER** – Councilwoman Creamer.

**COUNCILWOMAN CREAMER** – Thank you, Mr. President. First reading.

**COUNCIL PRESIDENT SLATER** – Ord. No. 50 – 2024 has received first reading. Ord. No. 51 – 2024.

**ORDINANCE NO. 51 – 2024**

**BY: ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE**

AN ORDINANCE declaring the improvement to a certain parcel of real property within the City of Massillon, Ohio, to be a public purpose and exempt from taxation pursuant to R.C. § 5709.40(B); providing for the collection and deposit of service payments and specifying the purposes for which those service payments may be expended; and specifying the public infrastructure improvements directly benefitting the parcel.

**COUNCIL PRESIDENT SLATER** – Councilman Ray.

**COUNCILMAN RAY** – Thank you, Mr. President. First reading.

**COUNCIL PRESIDENT SLATER** – Thank you. Ord. No. 51 – 2024 has received first reading. Ord. No. 52 - -2024.

**ORDINANCE NO. 52 – 2024**

**BY: ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE**

AN ORDINANCE approving and authorizing the Director of Public Safety and Service to execute and deliver a tax increment financing and cooperative agreement by and among the City of Massillon, Ohio, the Stark County Port Authority, Stark County, Ohio, and the Village of Navarre, Ohio, in order to support the Port Authority's issuance and sale of port authority revenue bonds or notes to provide for costs of public infrastructure improvements constituting port authority facilities and benefiting properties subject to tax increment financing established by the City; and approving and authorizing related matters.

**COUNCIL PRESIDENT SLATER** – Councilman Ray.

**COUNCILMAN RAY** – Thank you. If we have any Council Members who have any questions concerning this matter? If not, we'll call it a first reading. Thank you.

**COUNCIL PRESIDENT SLATER** – Any questions? Thank you. Ord. No. 52 – 2024 has received first reading. Ord. No. 53 – 2024.

**ORDINANCE NO. 53 – 2024**

**BY: PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE**

AN ORDINANCE authorizing the Director of Parks and Recreation, on behalf of the Massillon Recreation Board and the City of Massillon, Ohio, to apply for the H2Ohio Grant for the purpose of the Reservoir Park Streambank Restoration, and declaring an emergency.

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

**COUNCILWOMAN HARWIG SMITH** – Thank you, President Slater. This ordinance is exactly what it says, it's to apply for the H2Ohio grant for the purpose of reservoir park's streambank restoration. Did anybody on Parks and Rec. have a question; or anybody on Council have any questions? I know we're just applying for the money. With that being said, they do want to get this going at the time thing. I would like to waive the rules requiring three readings and bring Ord. No. 53 – 2024 up for a vote.

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

8 yes for suspension

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

8 yes for passage

**COUNCIL PRESIDENT SLATER** – Thank you, Madam Clerk. Ord. No. 53 – 2024 has passed. Ord. No. 54 – 2024.

**ORDINANCE NO. 54 – 2024**

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

AN ORDINANCE authorizing the Director of Public Service and Safety of the City of Massillon, Ohio, to sign the Consent Legislation with Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) for crack sealing on U.S. Route 30 within the City of Massillon, PID 116081, and declaring an emergency.

**COUNCIL PRESIDENT SLATER** – Councilman Snee.

**COUNCILMAN SNEE** – Thank you, President Slater. This is for the crack sealing on Rt. 30 from Richville Dr. to the Tuscarawas River overpass. At this time, I'd like to make a motion to waive the rules requiring three readings and bring Ord. No. 54 – 2024 forward for a vote.

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

8 yes for suspension

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

8 yes for passage

**COUNCIL PRESIDENT SLATER** – Thank you, Madam Clerk. Ord. No. 54 – 2024 has passed. Ord. No. 55 – 2024.

**ORDINANCE NO. 55 – 2024**

**BY: FINANCE COMMITTEE**

AN ORDINANCE authorizing the Director of Parks and Recreation, on behalf of the Massillon Recreation Board and the City of Massillon, Ohio, to accept donations from corporate donors for the purpose of sponsoring the outdoor movies at the Massillon Recreation Center, and declaring an emergency.

**COUNCIL PRESIDENT SLATER** – Councilman Lewis.

**COUNCILMAN LEWIS** – Yes. This piece is pretty self-explanatory as well. I know the outdoor movies are enjoyed by many in our community. 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. 55 – 2024 forward for a vote.

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

8 yes for suspension

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

8 yes for passage

**COUNCIL PRESIDENT SLATER** – Thank you, Madam Clerk. Ord. No. 55 – 2024 has passed.

**8. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

**9. PETITIONS AND GENERAL COMMUNICATIONS**

**10. BILLS, ACCOUNTS AND CLAIMS**

US Bank Equipment Finance	-	\$ 127.00	May Payment for Copier
Visual Edge IT	-	<u>47.79</u>	Overage Chg. 02/24/24 to 05/23/24
<b>Total</b>	-	<b>\$ 174.79</b>	

**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**

Treasurer's Report - April 2024

**12. REPORTS OF COMMITTEES**

**COUNCIL PRESIDENT SLATER** – Our next Work Session will be Monday June 10, 2024, at 6:30 p.m.

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

**COUNCIL PRESIDENT SLATER** – Councilman Gregg.

**COUNCILMAN GREGG** – Thank you, Mr. President. I just want to report that I will not be at the Work Session on Monday. I'll be out of town.

**COUNCIL PRESIDENT SLATER** – Thank you.

**14. CALL OF THE CALENDAR**

**15. THIRD READING ORDINANCE AND RESOLUTIONS**

**16. SECOND READING ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS**

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

**MITCH GROVE** – I live at 849 Earl Rd. N.W., Massillon, Ohio. I don't know what ward I live in. I know we have to have an ordinance in place to take care of people that don't take care of their properties. Is that true or not? Why doesn't it get enforced? They just mowed the theatre the other day. That house up there on the corner of 17<sup>th</sup> and Lincoln Way is deplorable. I took care of that yard for probably ten years. It used to be a council lady that used to live there and of course I quit taking care of it after the new people moved in because they didn't pay the bill. I don't understand why we let these properties get so bad. Why do you want those people in the City that let those properties get the way they look? I mean, it's ridiculous and I also want to speak on The Legends Golf Course. Whoever is doing the maintenance down there, it's terrible. The Rec. Center; the guy mulched that, weeded it; it looks beautiful. The reason it looks like that is because I trained that guy and now he works for the Rec. Center. If you don't expect people to do something right, they won't do it right and I was just down there, I played there on Tuesday; I'm the first lifetime member there. I don't play there very often any more, but the conditions of that course are horrible and I don't want to hear that it's money. It's pride. You've got to take pride in your work. People don't take pride in their properties. It's not money. I got somebody up there by my house that mows their yard once every two months. It looks like a hay field and then after they cut it after two months; the grass is just laying there. They have a mower. They can mow it once a week. I don't understand why we don't enforce this. I have a home out west and I got a letter today

stating somebody had a car sitting overnight in front of my house. So, they sent me a letter, which I haven't been there since middle April. They are on it. If you sit a car out there overnight, which I think some of this is ridiculous, but they'll find you. Why can't we do something like that to get these properties...why do we want them to look like this? I know we don't want them to look like this, but why do we allow them to do this and not take pride in their properties. The older people used to take pride in what they had. Today, people don't care and I don't see why we can't force them to do something. I'd like to know why.

**COUNCIL PRESIDENT SLATER** – I know we do have code enforcement officers on hand and we will address this issues as appropriated.

**MITCH GROVE** – The just cut the theatre the other day. That was the first time it's been cut this year. That grass was this high. That CVS or whatever that is up on the corner of Lincoln Way and Wales, the place was a mess. I mean, I don't just understand why we don't have a special task force. Hey, if you don't clean up your property, we'll take care of it; we'll bill you. It's ridiculous. And then what we do, which I don't understand, people that take care of their properties get penalized, of course, because they're property values are probably a lot higher, so they taxed. People that let them go to shit, well, we don't tax them more because they're only worth \$40,000 and the neighbor guy, he pays \$100,000 so he pays more in taxes. It makes no sense. We have stuff ass backwards on that. I mean, you should get penalized if you don't take care of your properties. If you do take care of them you should get, you know, I mean, I know that I'm crazy because I'm neat, but I can't hardly stand...the fact is that I stopped at one of the properties the other day by my house. I said, "Why do you let this place look like this?". And he said, "What's it any of your business?". I said, "Because I drive by it every day and it just drives me nuts". I just don't understand why we don't do something about it to make it look better for the city; everything. Who's ever taken care of the maintenance at the Legends, they pay for the mulch but they didn't pull any weeds. The weeds are this high. They just throw the mulch around it. It doesn't take much longer to do something right than it does to do something wrong. Anyways, that's my feedback.

**COUNCIL PRESIDENT SLATER** – We appreciate it. Councilwoman Harwig Smith.

**COUNCILWOMAN HARWIG SMITH** – Thank you, Mr. Slater. I just wanted to ask you, are you talking about the 17<sup>th</sup> and Lincoln Way house with the butterfly sign?

**MITCH GROVE** – Yeah, they put a butterfly thing up.

**COUNCILWOMAN HARWIG SMITH** – So, our code enforcement has been working on this since last year and talking to the legal department and there's some issues as far as if someone planting something it's not considered a weed, but if you go by there, I agree. You see the weeds, the grass, the tree two inches from the house that's from the ceiling coming up; but code enforcement is working on that and whenever they get complaints, they're trying when they go to complaints, they're also looking at the area and they've been letting people know. Certain areas, the Rec. Center when we get a lot of rain, the Community Park where there's water issue problems, the soils stays wet and you can't always mow right away.

**MITCH GROVE** – I was in the business for forty-seven years. So, I don't take cop-outs and that place, first there was an old guy that lived there years ago. He took really nice care of it and then that council lady, Michelle Keller, I think; she moved into that house because that was her uncle's house or something.

**COUNCILWOMAN HARWIG SMITH** – It always looked so nice.

**MITCH GROVE** – She paid me to take care of it. Well then, this guy moves in. In a couple of months, I had to threaten him to get my money. He just leaves it go. He's lazy.

**COUNCILWOMAN HARWIG SMITH** – I did speak to them like a month ago and they were working with it and talking to the law department to see if there's something. There's a fear that you have law. I agree with you on that.

**MITCH GROVE** – And then there's one up on the corner of Cherry by my house, the one that had the chickens. They let the grass get this high and then they mow it.

**COUNCILWOMAN HARWIG SMITH** – But when they do go out, I was told, if they go out a second time and if there's been anything on the code enforcement, they are fining them every time they have to go back out, automatically. I think it's like \$150 and if they're not mowing their grass and the City's program just started I think this week or a couple of weeks ago, it just started, if we have to go out and mow it, it goes on their taxes and if we have to go out and mow it again, it goes on their taxes and they're paying a fine. So we are doing those things. I just wanted to direct with you right now, but wait for me after the meeting and tell me your exact complaints about the Legends and I will pass it on to the Director of Parks and Rec.

**MITCH GROVE** – I told them last week, because I know a lot of the guys down there.

**COUNCILWOMAN HARWIG SMITH** – I got to all the Parks and Rec. meetings and we've been putting thousands and thousands into the Legends; new windows, new furnace, new this, painting, we're doing trails.

**MITCH GROVE** – Just do the job right. Mow properly; weed the beds before you put mulch in. Chris Moser, he works down at the Rec. Center. He worked for me like fifteen years; he did that down there. Go out and look at it and then go look at the Legends. You'll see the difference.

**COUNCILWOMAN HARWIG SMITH** – Thank you for your concerns and I'll talk to you after the meeting.

## 18. ADJOURNMENT

**COUNCIL PRESIDENT SLATER** – Councilman Ray.

**COUNCILMAN RAY** – I motion that we adjourn.

**COUNCIL PRESIDENT SLATER** – Seconded by Councilwoman Cunningham. Roll call, please.

8 yes to adjourn

**COUNCIL PRESIDENT SLATER** – Meeting adjourned.

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DIANE ROLLAND, COUNCIL CLERK

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MIKE SLATER, PRESIDENT