

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
MASSILLON CITY COUNCIL
HELD MONDAY, JUNE 16, 2025**

COUNCIL PRESIDENT SLATER – Good evening. Welcome to the Massillon City Council meeting for Monday, June 16, 2025. We have in attendance the following City officials: Mayor, Jamie Slutz, Safety Service Director, Renee Baker, Law Director, Justin Richard, Asst. Law Director, Edmond Mack, 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.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT SLATER – Roll call, please.

1. ROLL CALL

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

Roll call of 8 present

COUNCIL PRESIDENT SLATER – Councilman Gregg.

COUNCILMAN GREGG – Thank you, President Slater. I make a motion that we excuse Councilwoman Harwig Smith from tonight's meeting.

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

8 yes to excuse Councilwoman Harwig Smith

COUNCIL PRESIDENT SLATER – Thank you, Madam Clerk. Councilwoman Bryan-Huth.

2. INVOCATION

COUNCILWOMAN HOLLY BRYAN-HUTH

3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

LED BY COUNCILWOMAN BRYAN-HUTH

COUNCIL PRESIDENT SLATER – Thank you, Councilwoman Bryan-Huth.

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

6. NEW AND MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS

COUNCIL PRESIDENT SLATER – Councilman Lewis.

COUNCILMAN LEWIS – Yes. We have an additional piece of legislation that is being brought to us today. It will be Ord. No. 53 – 2025. I'd like to make a motion that we amend the agenda bringing Ord. No. 53 – 2025 onto first readings.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT SLATER – Seconded by Councilman Gregg. Roll call

8 yes to amend the agenda to include Ord. No. 53 – 2025

COUNCIL PRESIDENT SLATER – Thank you, Madam Clerk. The agenda has been amended.

7. INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS

COUNCIL PRESIDENT SLATER – Ord. No 46 – 2025.

ORDINANCE NO. 46 – 2025

BY: ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

AN ORDINANCE authorizing the Mayor of the City of Massillon, Ohio, to enter into an agreement with William Ullom, Of PolyKinetix, Inc., to provide an economic development grant to provide funds to assist with equipment and relocation expenses associated with the business to 240 – 6th St. N.W., Massillon, Ohio.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT SLATER – Councilman Ray.

COUNCILMAN RAY – Thank you, President Slater. We brought this up in our Committee Meeting. This is covering an economic development inducement grant, obviously, to help with renovations. At this time, I believe at our last Committee session there were a few council people that weren't present. So, if you have any questions or does anyone have any questions about this issue? Seeing none, I would make a motion to waive the rules for three readings and bring Ord. No. 46 – 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. Ord. No. 46 – 2025 has passed. Ord. No. 47 – 2025.

ORDINANCE NO. 47 – 2025

BY: HEALTH, WELFARE & BLDG. REGS. COMMITTEE

AN ORDINANCE authorizing the Director of Public Service and Safety of the City of Massillon, Ohio, to advertise for and receive sealed Request for Qualifications (RFQ) for the City Information Technology Support Managed Services, through the Qualification Based Selection (QBS) process, to negotiate and to enter into a contract, upon the approval of the Board of Control, with the most qualified selected vendor, all in accordance with Sections 153.65 to 153.73 of the Ohio Revised Code.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT SLATER – Councilwoman Cunningham.

COUNCILWOMAN CUNNINGHAM – Thank you, Mr. President. As previous ordinance, we discussed this last week at the Committee Work Session and we had questions answered. So, this evening, even though it's not marked as an emergency, I would like to bring it forward for a vote and I make a motion that we waive the rules requiring three readings and bring Ord. No. 47 – 2025 forward for a vote.

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

8 yes for suspension

COUNCIL PRESIDENT SLATER – And for passage.

8 yes for passage

COUNCIL PRESIDENT SLATER – Thank you, Madam Clerk. Ord. No. 47 – 2025 has passed. Ord. No. 48 – 2025.

ORDINANCE NO. 48 – 2025

BY: STREETS, HIGHWAYS, TRAFFIC & SAFETY 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 University Drive S.E. Improvement Project, and declaring an emergency.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT SLATER – Councilman Paquelet.

COUNCILMAN PAQUELET – Yes. This was discussed last week during our Work Session and they were a few questions that were raised, and Mr. Pitts, if you'd like to please come up.

ALEX PITTS – Good evening, Council. Yes, so regarding the questions that were asked last week at the last Work Session was regarding funding and there was a question about TIF's.

We did look into it; there were two TIF's that could have potentially been applicable. However, they are not, that being Stark Glass TIF and the University Drive TIF. Unfortunately, we are restricted on using those dollars and University Drive does not apply to either one of those.

COUNCILMAN PAQUELET – Does anyone have any questions?

COUNCIL PRESIDENT SLATER – Councilwoman Creamer.

COUNCILWOMAN CREAMER – What specifically criteria does it not meet?

ALEX PITTS – So, for University Drive or the University Inn TIF, I apologize, you could only use it on Richville Rd., Nave Rd. intersection improvement or the Richville Rd. resurfacing. So that is what it's restricted for for that one. And then the Stark Glass TIF is restricted only to Nova or on the property of the Stark Glass.

COUNCILWOMAN CREAMER – So where does that specific language house? We have the Marketplace also. So, what about the Marketplace, using those dollars?

ALEX PITTS – Yes. So the Marketplace TIF, I know I read that one like a year or so ago and I know that it basically does state that we can use that. It's less restrictive than these ones, in these TIF's that we researched, but the end of University TIF right here and I basically just underlined where it states that you can only use it on Richville, Nave and Richville Rd. resurfacing of those intersections. But the Marketplace TIF, I can, again, it's a little bit separate from this piece than this ordinance, but I can look that one up and present that to you as well. But, that was based off of a legal opinion as well and I remember it being a lot less restrictive than these TIF's that we are trying to utilize.

COUNCILWOMAN CREAMER – I don't recall specific verbage, restrictions with TIF's, so this is kind of new to me on those two TIF's, but I know Marketplace we've used throughout the City. So I know there shouldn't be any restrictions on that piece. Just my opinion.

COUNCILMAN PAQUELET – Any other questions? So, hearing that, do we want to do just the first reading to wait until we can completely verify that there are any other opportunities to use TIF's for this project? I know it's going to be another two weeks before we could pass that even though it has emergency language.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT SLATER – Councilman Lewis.

COUNCILMAN LEWIS – My thought process is, what's today, the 16th? So it would actually be three weeks so then we're getting into July, so my concern is knowing from what passed this, when you start getting into July and everything, then you're running the risk of the project not even being done until next spring. By the time you get through the bid process, have somebody jump on it and them gearing up, you might be looking at April or May before the project gets done and tell me if I'm wrong, Alex, but, or Mr. Pitts, I apologize, that typically, there's a window.

ALEX PITTS – Yeah.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT SLATER – Councilman Gregg.

COUNCILMAN GREGG – That would be my concern also but what else I wanted to say, my opinion is, I agree wholeheartedly with Councilman Creamer when she brought up the point that perhaps a TIF that was in that area could be used for that neighborhood. But, since it's not, since those that we talked about can't be used, the Marketplace is a little bit different. It's not really right there in that area and I would think those dollars, we might want to save for other projects that might be closer to the Marketplace or be larger projects that we need additional funds for. For this particular project, we already have the funds. We've got to pull a little bit from the General Fund...

ALEX PITTS – The 1201.

COUNCILMAN GREGG – The 1201, right, but we have them, they're available. So my opinion would be that I'd be more inclined, especially because of the timing, to go ahead with the legislation as we have it and look at using the Marketplace TIF for other projects. Thank you.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT SLATER – Councilman Marcum.

COUNCILMAN MARCUM – I was just going to say that just from reading this, it looks like we're just authorizing you to put it out for bid and if it gets paid later, it gets paid later, but it's not going to be paid in the next three weeks. So we could, theoretically, explore other TIF options or see if there's anything else we could do to generate the funding between now and when the bill actually goes out. Right?

ALEX PITTS – Can I interject? So, there is one of the ordinances using the specific funds from the 1201 account, so, you are authorizing it to be paid for out of that specific account, the street account.

COUNCILMAN MARCUM – But months down the line? Once the bills start coming in on the project we put out for bid?

ALEX PITTS – Right. Once we receive the first the payout.

COUNCILMAN MARCUM – But we could do retroactive, but legislation that just changes the bucket that the money is coming out of, theoretically, if it's even possible.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT SLATER – Councilman Lewis.

COUNCILMAN LEWIS – I agree in a sense, wholeheartedly with Ms. Creamer's thoughts or concerns. We've used Marketplace freely throughout the City and I kind of remember when that was first broken up, it's restrictions allowed for if you could justify that the improvement provided a means of transportation to Marketplace and since pretty much everything in Massillon leads to Marketplace; almost everything has been justified by it. I will say that my one concern with the Marketplace TIF is I would actually want to see us cool off of it because we are under a million dollars in that TIF and there are some significant roadways right in that area that I would hate to see us put ourselves in a bad situation such as like S. Erie. I know the bridge we're not necessarily responsible for, but if in any way we became responsible for any of that intersection there, things like that. I would like to actually see it build up a little bit and stop tapping it so much.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT SLATER – Councilwoman Holly Bryan-Huth.

COUNCILWOMAN BRYAN-HUTH – Thank you, Mr. President. To add on to what Ed said, I believe we just used Marketplace TIF when we approved for Lincoln Way W. So, in a reciprocal fashion since we used Marketplace to do what we needed to add for the City's input of Lincoln Way W. then the City's money should go into the 4th Ward to replace what we took from the Marketplace TIF so that that reciprocal fashion happens.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT SLATER – Councilwoman Creamer.

COUNCILWOMAN CREAMER – I just have a couple of comments. I think S. Erie, I checked into that for repaving and I think I was told there was state funding for that. Is that correct?

ALEX PITTS – Yes.

COUNCILWOMAN CREAMER – Okay. So that's taken care of. If we want to expedite this, we could have a special meeting to bring this forward to get the funding out of the way so there isn't a three-week delay. Why pushing this is because our dollar amount that we have this year for paving is much lower than previous years. So my goal was to try to save this money, use the TIF dollars and then use this \$300,000 possibly for additional streets throughout the City. That was just my mentality on why I was pushing with TIF dollars because our paving was \$1.1, \$1.2 and previous years we spent over \$2 million. So that was kind of like just trying to get more streets paved with this funding and use the TIF within 4th Ward because they're in the 4th Ward. That was my thought process with pushing this.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT SLATER – Councilman Lewis.

COUNCILMAN LEWIS – So the amount is about \$115, right? A \$115,000 is what we're looking to appropriate?

ALEX PITTS – Yes. Correct.

COUNCILMAN LEWIS – That would be the piece coming under Finance Committee, I believe it's Ord. No. 50 – 2025. So, it might not be ideal, but back to what Mr. Marcum was saying, in theory, and tell me if this is going to screw everything up with you, we could move forward. No one is disagreeing that a project needs to go forward. We could vote on Ord. No. 48 – 2025 that way he has the authority and the ability to go out to bid. We can give first reading to Ord. No. 50 – 2025 which is the actual funding piece. It doesn't handcuff you to anything; it allows you to do what you need to do now.

ALEX PITTS – The only thing it would handcuff us to is that Board of Control piece. So, when it goes to Board of Control after the Council meeting, we wouldn't be able to pass via Board of Control because we wouldn't have the funding to pass it via, which account we're taking it from. So, anything, so, that's the only thing that would cause a delay there. So, in theory, realistically, if you wanted to, but I'd suggest we want, preference that I think it's good idea that we just stick with the 1201, but in theory, if Council wanted to you could do what Councilman Marcum had stated and revoke it, but then there would have to be a new Board of Control and I don't even know if that would even void the contract at that point. So, there's a whole lot of new moving pieces that would end up happening there.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT SLATER – Councilwoman Cunningham.

COUNCILWOMAN CUNNINGHAM – Thank you, Mr. President. I don't know if this is even possible, but going along with what Councilman Marcum said about checking out the Marketplace funding; if we went ahead and did the 1201 and then we could follow up with some funds from the Marketplace funding, could be put it back in to the 1201 fund or would that really mess up something?

ALEX PITTS – We can't put it back in there.

COUNCILWOMAN CUNNINGHAM – Okay. Thank you.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT SLATER – Councilman Lewis.

COUNCILMAN LEWIS – If this body is willing to seriously consider Marketplace as the funding source I would have two additional questions. One, I'd want to hear from legal tonight and put them on the spot and two, I would want to know if anybody else from the Administration would want to state any additional concerns that maybe Mr. Pitts isn't privy to speak to. So, whatever order you want to handle that, Mr. Slater. Legal and then the Administration?

COUNCIL PRESIDENT SLATER – If somebody from Legal or Administration would like to come forward and speak to that?

JUSTIN RICHARD – We both can, but.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT SLATER – Thank you.

JUSTIN RICHARD – About the University contract; I know previously when we looked at these it's a stretch. So we need to know specifically what are the details of who it benefits on the location actually.

ALEX PITTS – Yeah. So, the University Dr. resurfacing project basically goes from Nave, just south and then all the way up to just south of Malone Ave. So that entire stretch that's currently concrete, we would be milling out that concrete section and putting back asphalt essentially is what would happen. That's the extent of the project.

COUNCILMAN LEWIS – So, I would think the argument would be that this project would provide the feeder system onto Nave which is a major thoroughfare to the Marketplace?

EDMOND MACK – For this specific TIF we can use it for resurfacing streets that directly affect the Marketplace project. Every TIF has restrictions on how you can use it, the money. You have to be able to spend it somehow directly on the property. I don't know the precise details of these locations, but based on what you describe, it would seem to fit the plan. One word of caution, this is just a lawyer's opinion from the State Auditor. The State Auditor has subjectively set down with us, let them challenge the court.

COUNCILMAN LEWIS – And I'm not saying necessarily that I'm for or against, but to the support of Ms. Creamer's point, I would say that this particular road project is probably within one mile of the Marketplace and it definitely dumps out to of a neighborhood of probably, what, usually two hundred homes; two hundred plus homes dump out onto Nave which is definitely a

feeder into that. I would like to hear from the Administration as well, though, if they have any additional comments.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT SLATER – Mr. Herncane.

TED HERNCANE – Mr. President, Members of Council, Mr. Lewis. This binder is all the active City TIF ordinances. There are probably twenty-five or so. Every time City Council passes an ordinance, there's language in the ordinance that says where and how these funds can be used. By law, the Ohio Revised Code states that they're for public infrastructure improvements and those are many different things, but the TIF's that Mr. Pitts eluded to are specified in each ordinance as to how we can use them. A work of caution on the Marketplace TIF, it's probably the oldest one we have still active. It goes back to probably 1988, 1998 or 1999. It was a thirty-year TIF. It's coming at the end of its life cycle. It's only going to be producing funds for the next couple of years and I think the balance is down to around \$800 or \$900 or so thousand dollars. Those of you that served with me on Council, you know how I feel about using TIF funds outside of their stated area. The only time I did and it does not apply in this case is when the State would refund those dollars and they would go back into the TIF fund. There were some examples in recent years, but we did use the TIF funds throughout the City, but those were funds that were reimbursed from a State grant or some other funding mechanism that replenished those funds taken from the Marketplace. With Marketplace being a thirty-year old project, there will be a time when things need to be repaired down there, whether they be sanitary lines, sewer lines, water lines, any type of infrastructure improvement to that development, this is the source of funds that we want to use, first and foremost, when those things happen and you know they will, I would just advise caution on trying to utilize that TIF fund. For this project, if Mr. Pitts has it budgeted may advice would be and on the consultation with the Mayor as well, is to please proceed as planned. Future projects, obviously, can be treated differently as well. But, I would say the Marketplace with its end of life, we're only going to have it produce funds for a couple of more years. I think we should build that up for when we need it down there.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT SLATER – Councilwoman Holly Bryan-Huth.

COUNCILWOMAN BRYAN-HUTH – Thank you, Mr. President. Mr. Herncane, do you know how much annually we receive in revenue from that TIF?

TED HERNCANE – I don't, but after looking at these for several years, I think it's around one to two hundred thousand dollars a year, maybe.

COUNCILWOMAN BRYAN-HUTH – So this is half?

COUNCILMAN LEWIS – Year-to-date, we've brought in \$126,000. So, I would assume, at best, that's 50%?

COUNCILWOMAN BRYAN-HUTH – Thank you.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT SLATER – Councilman Marcum.

COUNCILMAN MARCUM – And then, not to throw another wrench into this, but do we know if any grants were applied for through the State or the Federal government for this project at all?

ALEX PITTS – No. Not for this project. Reason being is because I would say this is probably the second most, within my office, the second most requested street to resurface in the City. First being Warmington. I've already applied for grants for Warmington through the TID grant. It's a reimbursable grant. However, I did not apply for University just because the plans for University were not completed at that time and just because of the sheer amount of this project, I just felt that TID would be best for Warmington and then seeing with OPWC later this year. That was the plan was to apply for Warmington for those two grants. University, no, and even then, any other grant that I could even think of applying for, we wouldn't receive funding probably until fiscal year 2029 or 2030. So, that's how far out we are at this point and time. The last grant I submitted that we received funding for was about a year or two ago and that was SEMAC and it was like \$2.4 for fiscal year 2029. So I felt that University should probably be addressed sooner rather than later and we had the funds appropriated. Well, we could have the funds to pay for it outright within the 1201.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT SLATER – Councilman Paquelet.

COUNCILMAN PAQUELET – So, where are we today?

COUNCIL PRESIDENT SLATER – Councilman Gregg.

COUNCILMAN GREGG – Thank you, President Slater. You mentioned the sheer size of this project. You're talking about the University Dr. project?

ALEX PITTS – Yes.

COUNCILMAN GREGG – It's not a large project is it?

ALEX PITTS – Not comparing it to Warmington. Warmington is around \$2.7 million dollars.

COUNCILMAN GREGG – Okay. That's what I thought. This one is relatively a smaller project which is another reason I thought we'd just use the funding that was set forth.

ALEX PITTS – Correct.

COUNCILMAN GREGG – Alright. Thank you.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT SLATER – Any further questions? Councilman Ray.

COUNCILMAN RAY – Thank you, President Slater. I would just say, with all due respect to Councilwoman Creamer, I understand her wanting to have the TIF's from that area to be applied to that area, so maybe moving forward in the future we just look into whatever TIF's are in that area prior to asking for the full amount. I think that might make everybody else see it well.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT SLATER – Councilman Paquelet.

COUNCILMAN PAQUELET – Thank you, everyone. Mr. Ray, good point. I was going to raise that same point. I would like to make a motion that we waive the rules requiring three readings and bring Ord. No. 48 – 2025 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. 48 – 2025 has passed. Ord. No. 49 – 2025.

ORDINANCE NO. 49 – 2025

BY: FINANCE COMMITTEE

AN ORDINANCE making certain appropriations from the unappropriated balance of the 1237 Economic Development Fund, for the year ending December 31, 2025.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT SLATER – Councilman Lewis.

COUNCILMAN LEWIS – Yes. This goes along with the grant that we discussed earlier. Are there any questions or discussion? Seeing none, I make a motion that we suspend the rules requiring three readings, bringing Ord. No. 49 – 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. Ord. No. 49 – 2025 has passed. Ord. No. 50 – 2025.

ORDINANCE NO. 50 – 2025

BY: FINANCE COMMITTEE

AN ORDINANCE making certain appropriations from the unappropriated balance of the 1201 Street Construction M & R Fund, for the year ending December 31, 2025, and declaring an emergency.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT SLATER – Councilman Lewis.

COUNCILMAN LEWIS – Yes. This is the appropriation related to the project we were just discussing. Are there any further questions or discussion? Seeing none, I make a motion to suspend the rules requiring three readings, bringing Ord. No. 50 – 2025 forward for a vote.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT SLATER – Seconded by Councilman Marcum. 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. 50 – 2025 has passed. Ord. No. 51 – 2025.

ORDINANCE NO. 51 – 2025

BY: FINANCE COMMITTEE

AN ORDINANCE making certain appropriations from the unappropriated balance of the 1235 Community Health Services Fund, for the year ending December 31, 2025, and declaring an emergency.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT SLATER – Councilman Lewis.

COUNCILMAN LEWIS – Yes. We had Ms. Argent here last week and she was able to discuss this with us. Does anybody have any questions or comments? Seeing none, I make a motion that we suspend the rules requiring three readings, bringing Ord. No. 51 – 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. Ord. No. 51 – 2025 has passed. Ord. No. 52 – 2025.

ORDINANCE NO. 52 – 2025

BY: FINANCE COMMITTEE

AN ORDINANCE reducing the appropriations in the 1222 Waste Management Grant Fund, for the year ending December 31, 2025, and declaring an emergency.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT SLATER – Councilman Lewis.

COUNCILMAN LEWIS – Yes. If you recall, the grant that we normally receive to this account was less dollars than what we typically receive because they now have some perimeters regarding recycling that no longer benefit us. So we do have to reduce the appropriations in there to reflect that change. Are there any questions or discussion this evening? Seeing none, I make a motion to suspend the rules requiring three readings, bringing Ord. No. 52 – 2025 forward for a vote.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT SLATER – Seconded by Councilman Marcum. 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. 52 – 2025 has passed. Ord. No. 53 – 2025.

ORDINANCE NO. 53 – 2025

BY: FINANCE COMMITTEE

AN ORDINANCE making certain appropriations from the unappropriated balance of the 1220 Foreclosure Property Administration Fund, for the year ending December 31, 2025, and declaring an emergency.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT SLATER – Councilman Lewis.

COUNCILMAN LEWIS – Yes. This is the piece that we amended to have placed on. The request is for \$20,000 and it is to be used for services and contracts, supplies and materials. This is for additional dumpsters, property clean up and postage. Mr. Herncane, I do have one additional question that I didn't think about earlier.

TED HERNCANE – Mr. President, Members of Council, Mr. Lewis.

COUNCILMAN LEWIS – Just to make sure we're all on the same page, this is the account that whenever a bank forecloses on a property they have to put \$10,000 in bond and we keep \$2,000 and they get \$8,000 back upon the sale, correct?

TED HERNCANE – It's the same fund, but I don't think it's the same account. This account within that fund would be for when Code utilizes dumpsters or other nuisance abatement or clean ups that get assessed on the taxes and then when those tax bills are paid, those funds are remitted back to the City into this fund.

COUNCILMAN LEWIS – So, this account then, or maybe this is more of a Lori reference as well, doesn't necessarily impact HMRP?

TED HERNCANE – Not to my knowledge. That is in this fund, but...

COUNCILMAN LEWIS – But not this account?

TED HERNCANE – Correct.

COUNCILMAN LEWIS – That was the only thing, because when you look at that fund, it's at \$54,000.

TED HERNCANE – Did I misspeak?

LORI KOTAGIDES-BORON – No, you were correct. It does not affect the HMRP at all. That's another account.

COUNCILMAN LEWIS – Okay. So HMRP, is that part of the 1220 though, that \$54,000?

LORI KOTAGIDES-BORON – No. That’s a different account.

COUNCILMAN LEWIS – That’s a different number somewhere else?

LORI KOTAGIDES-BORON – Yes.

COUNCILMAN LEWIS – Okay. I’m very protective of HMRP.

TED HERNCANE – I would be too.

COUNCIL CLERK ROLLAND – Excuse me, Lori. Is this the account that we added just about maybe a month ago, within this Foreclosure Fund?

LORI KOTAGIDES-BORON – Yes.

COUNCILMAN LEWIS – That is my only question.

TED HERNCANE – Thanks.

COUNCILMAN LEWIS – Does anybody else have any other questions or discussion other than what is HMRP?

COUNCILWOMAN CUNNINGHAM – What is it?

COUNCILMAN LEWIS – HMRP is Housing Market Reinvestment Program. So, when a bank forecloses on a property, they give us a \$10,000 essentially bonded allotment. Once that property is sold, they can get up to \$8,000 back as long as there’s not additional fees or penalties that we have to lobby against them. We keep \$1,000 for administration, so it’s for like similar things of what we’re talking about here and we keep \$1,000 of that to fund the Housing Market Reinvestment Program. What the Housing Market Reinvestment Program is is whenever someone buys a home in a CDBG neighborhood or that one was foreclosed and they are the first purchaser after the foreclosure, they can apply to get for the first three years of owning, they can apply to get their property taxes or a \$1,000 from the City, the lesser of the two. Does that make sense? Any other questions? Seeing none, I make a motion to suspend the rules requiring three readings, bringing Ord. No. 53 – 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. Ord. No. 53 – 2025 has passed.

8. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

9. PETITIONS AND GENERAL COMMUNICATIONS

10. BILLS, ACCOUNTS AND CLAIMS

11. REPORTS FROM CITY OFFICIALS

Auditor's Report - May 2025

COUNCIL PRESIDENT SLATER – Councilman Lewis.

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

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

8 yes to accept the Auditor's Report

COUNCIL PRESIDENT SLATER – The Auditor's report has been accepted.

12. REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

COUNCIL PRESIDENT SLATER – Our next Work Session will be Monday, June 30, 2025, at 6:30 p.m. Council is off the week of June 23rd.

13. RESOLUTIONS AND REQUESTS OF COUNCIL MEMBERS

COUNCIL PRESIDENT SLATER – Councilman Marcum.

COUNCILMAN MARCUM – One quick thing here, since we can't talk about certain things outside of open meetings, I was wondering if anybody else has been receiving complaints about the speed tables? I've received a few phone calls as well as just other passing comments about them especially on Lake and Burd, since those are both in my Ward, in part. So, I was wondering if anybody else has been receiving any comments and maybe have ideas on how to approach this issue in the future.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT SLATER – Councilman Lewis.

COUNCILMAN LEWIS – I've received many comments, both positive and negative. It's a mixed bag. I would say that these speed tables are a direct response to the years of complaints that we have been receiving from citizens of speeding, particularly on Lake and West Main and this is a reasonable measure to help do passive control of traffic and it is implemented throughout the United States affectively and that would be my response to people.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT SLATER – Councilwoman Bryan-Huth.

COUNCILWOMAN BRYAN-HUTH – Thank you, Mr. President. Thank you, Mr. Marcum. I've received positive comments only and, again, because of the years of issues and not only complaints, but accidents and cars ending up in yards and things like that we don't want to have. Change is hard, but the response I've gotten is positive from my constituents.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT SLATER – Councilman Gregg.

COUNCILMAN GREGG – Thank you, President Slater. I've received a few comments, mostly negative, but not from anybody that's actually driven over them and been down there. It's all been speculative. This is going to be crazy or whatever and I don't know that that is. I agree 100% with Mr. Lewis that this is a reasonable measure we can take to make our City safer. Thank you.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT SLATER – Councilwoman Cunningham.

COUNCILWOMAN CUNNINGHAM – Thank you, Mr. President. I have received some comments, mostly it's been positive. Because people who drive on Lake and Burd do fly down there because that's where I live up there and I think it's a safely measure and I'm really glad that we've got them.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT SLATER – Councilman Ray.

COUNCILMAN RAY – Thank you, President Slater. That's in the bottom of my Ward, it's right around the corner from my house. I've traveled them a few times. I didn't have any issues. Looks like traffic didn't back up as much as I thought it would. Everyone in my Ward, no one had any complaints. I thought my e-mails were going to be jumping, but nothing happened. So, we must be doing good, quiet is good.

COUNCILMAN MARCUM – Glad to hear that I'm the only person getting yelled at. A lot of the complaints aren't really even Burd, it's Lake and most of the complaints from the people on Lake is they just can't get in or out of their driveway with where they're at because of the congestion it's creating and what they say is "They slow down and then they shoot right back up" and then also they're concerned about watching fire trucks and ambulances having to slow down instead of getting where they need to be. But I think what the big issue there for those folks is really just the congestion of being able to leave their house and pull into their house during rush hour. So I don't know if maybe in the future there's a way we could help them. Although, driving down Lake you look at it and it's like, here's a driveway, here's a driveway, here's a driveway, here's a driveway. So I don't really know how we could do it better. But, I was just hoping that somebody else was getting yelled at and it wasn't just me and I wanted to get this out there before a committee of folks came to Council and voiced their concerns.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT SLATER – Councilman Lewis.

COUNCILMAN LEWIS – I will tell you that one of my hopes for Lake is that I know much of the traffic because I used to do it myself, being a westsider; we'd cut down Earl, we go to Lake and we use it as a major thoroughway. The problem is, Lake is not a major thoroughway. It is a wide road through a neighborhood and I learned a couple of years ago that it is just as fast if not faster to just take Lincoln Way and most people don't realize that. They think with all the lights that they're going to be slower. It's actually not. I actually get to work about four minutes faster just by taking Lincoln Way to Wales. So my hope would be that more people would re-route away from Lake therefore, easing congestion because Lake is not built to handle the amount...I mean, it can handle it, but that's not really the intent for it. That would be my hope. Because if those neighborhoods that are right there were the only ones using Lake, we wouldn't have the issue. It's all the other people that are just passing by.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT SLATER – Councilman Paquette.

COUNCILMAN PAQUELET – I've had several negative comments on it. Some people are talking about the pricing, the \$80,000 for the speed tables. I've asked the question, what's the cost to install and uninstall them. I don't know what that is so it would be an ongoing fee for that. Myself, personally, driving over them, they're not as bad as I thought they would be. I will admit that publicly, but I think we all need to realize that Lake is a main road and it's probably in the top five busiest of our community and primarily, that's the reason because it has an on and off ramp access to Rt. 21 and that's what allows that. So if you really wanted to reduce that, cut off Rt. 21 which will not happen in the future. So, I feel sorry for those individuals that live on Lake and they experience these high volumes of traffic, fast cars, the sound. I live on a very busy road back in my time in Columbus. It's not pleasant. I do feel sorry for them, but it's just how the typography and how the roadway system came out. It's a busy road. The other roads, they're neighborhood roads and there's zero problems with those. Lake is just a busy, busy road and we've all driven it, we all know that.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT SLATER – Mr. Mayor.

MAYOR SLUTZ – Good evening, Council. I just had a few things I wanted to say, Councilman Marcum. When we did the study of where we wanted to put these speed tables, we took it into consideration people's driveways, intersections, manhole covers, catch basins and things like that. So, there are no speed tables in front of somebody's driveway. As far as people complaining about being able to get out of their driveways or off the side streets, I've had nothing but good comments, phone calls to my office from residents on 2nd St., on Keuper stating that it's much easier to get out onto Lake now that the speed tables are there instead of previously, people exceeding the speed limit up and down Lake Ave. So, I just wanted to address some of those issues. I have not had any negative phone calls to my office about it. Matter of fact, it's just the opposite. I've had numerous people call my office wanting speed tables on their streets. So, I feel that they are doing exactly what we want them to do. They're slowing people down. Obviously, the police can't be on Lake Ave. or any other street for that matter, twenty-four hours a day. So, we, as Council Members, when I was on Council, we voted to put digital speed signs up. That didn't slow people down. As a matter of fact, in my opinion, I feel like sometimes it encourages people to go faster to see how high they can get that number on the digital speed limit sign. So, we put targeted area signs up. That's just a sign. People are ignoring those signs. So, with the police not being able to be there twenty-four hours a day, we had to take that into consideration and take the next step to slow people down to make sure our roads are safe. To make sure Lake Ave. is safe for not just our residents that live on Lake, but the people traveling on Lake Ave. on a daily basis and I think they're doing exactly what I thought they would do, they're slowing people down. Let's face it; people don't like change and when you slow people down on their daily commute, when it's going to take them an extra two minutes to get to work because they have to slow down to go over these speed tables, people are going to be upset, but like I said, I'm happy with them. I'm excited that the residents on Lake Ave. can feel safer that they're there and they're doing their job; they're slowing people down. So, thank you.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT SLATER – Thank you, sir. Good?

COUNCILMAN MARCUM – Glad it's just coming from my Ward, for the most part. I'm sure time heals all wounds, right?

14. **CALL OF THE CALENDAR**
15. **THIRD READING ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS**
16. **SECOND READING ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS**

COUNCIL PRESIDENT SLATER – Ord. No. 41 – 2025.

ORDINANCE NO. 41 – 2025

BY: FINANCE COMMITTEE

AN ORDINANCE making certain appropriations from the unappropriated balance of the 2202 Insurance Fund, for the year ending December 31, 2025.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT SLATER – Councilman Lewis.

COUNCILMAN LEWIS – Yes. These next two pieces, we're transferring a little over \$200,000 out of the insurance fund, we're placing it into the 1100 General Fund for miscellaneous services and others. I wasn't here at the initial introduction of this, but does anybody have any questions, concerns or comments, otherwise, I would look to move these forward. Seeing none, I make a motion that we suspend the rules requiring three readings, bringing Ord. No. 41 – 2025 forward for a vote.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT SLATER – Seconded by Councilman Marcum. 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. 41 – 2025 has passed. Ord. No. 42 – 2025.

ORDINANCE NO. 42 – 2025

BY: FINANCE COMMITTEE

AN ORDINANCE making certain transfers in the 2025 appropriations from within the 2202 Insurance Fund, for the year ending December 31, 2025.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT SLATER – Councilman Lewis

COUNCILMAN LEWIS – Yes. This is the follow-up piece of the last piece of legislation. I make a motion that we suspend the rules requiring three readings, bringing Ord. No. 42 – 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. Ord. No. 42 – 2025 has passed. Ord. No. 45 – 2025.

ORDINANCE NO. 45 – 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 City of Canal Fulton, Ohio, for the purpose of providing prosecutorial services, and declaring an emergency.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT SLATER – Councilman Lewis.

COUNCILMAN LEWIS – Yes. This is pretty standard. We've done it for numerous other communities around us. This is a contract that would go into effect retroactively to January 1, 2025 and we are now at the end of June. I know there were some additional questions and discussion about it. However, as I stated at the Work Session, if we want to continue to dive into how these contracts are developed, I would think it would be best set to look at next year's in working with the Law Dept. because we are already six-months in and their appropriate governing bodies have already approved these agreements. With that said, are there any further discussions this evening?

COUNCIL PRESIDENT SLATER – Councilman Gregg.

COUNCILMAN GREGG – I'll just mention that I did talk to the Law Dept. regarding this and this current contract price is an increase over the previous years and a fair amount for the work that's being done. Thank you.

COUNCILMAN LEWIS – Seeing nothing else, I make a motion that we suspend the rules requiring three readings, bringing Ord. No. 45 – 2025 forward for a vote.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT SLATER – Seconded by Councilman Marcum. 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. 45 – 2025 has passed.

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

DEBBIE BUSBY – Good evening, Council. I do not live in the City of Massillon, however, I do work for the Massillon Chamber of Commerce as well as Massillon Main Street and that's who I am representing this evening. About a year or so ago, a group of us got together on behalf of the City. I'm sure you're all familiar with Umbrella Alley in Louisville and the positive economic impact it has had on that particular community. We had an alley, Postal Place, what was our

umbrella alley. And that group was Alex Coon from the museum, myself, Amelia Pennell Margy Vogt from the museum as well and then Holly Bryan-Huth from Downtown Massillon Association. And when we met, we realized that in Massillon we have deep history on transportation. So, whether it's the Russell Steam Engine, whether it's airplanes, whether it's the Canal. So, we realized that we could make this alley based on the history of transportation. So we spent the better part of this past year, we invited an additional person on with our project, Mr. John Picard. Because we may have had the idea, but how do we get it out of our heads and into the alley. So we invited John to help us and he graciously agreed to do so and he has created the design that is an amazing design to make an amazing use out of Postal Place for this transformation and for what we hope to be a pocket park. I'm just letting you know because it's getting to the point where we are close. We have somewhat of a final design and we're getting close to working not only with Stark Parks as well as the City of Massillon with regards to portions of the alley that we're working on in agreement with. So I thought since its starting to get out there and people are starting to understand and hear about this particular alley, that I wanted City Council to know what we're doing. So, that's what I wanted to talk to you about. Any questions?

COUNCIL PRESIDENT SLATER – Thank you. If you would, come back to the next Work Session. That way if any Council Members have any questions or comments they can address them at that time, if you don't mind?

DEBBIE BUSBY – I'd be happy to. I'd be very happy to.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT SLATER – Loved to have you, if you would.

DEBBIE BUSBY – Okay. Thank you.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT SLATER – Yes ma'am.

18. ADJOURNMENT

COUNCIL PRESIDENT SLATER – Councilwoman Bryan-Huth.

COUNCILWOMAN BRYAN-HUTH – Thank you, Mr. President. I would like to motion to adjourn, please.

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

8 yes to adjourn

COUNCIL PRESIDENT SLATER – Meeting adjourned.

DIANE ROLLAND, COUNCIL CLERK

MIKE SLATER, PRESIDENT