

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
MASSILLON CITY COUNCIL
HELD MONDAY, JUNE 17, 2024**

COUNCIL PRESIDENT SLATER – Welcome to the Massillon City Council Meeting for Monday, June 17, 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, Director of Development, Ted Herncane and Fire Chief, Matt Heck. 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, Mark Lombardi, Eric Ray and Mike Snee.

Roll call of 9 present

COUNCIL PRESIDENT SLATER – Thank you, Madam Clerk. Councilman Snee.

2. INVOCATION

COUNCILMAN MIKE SNEE

3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

LED BY COUNCILMAN SNEE

4. READING OF THE JOURNAL

COUNCIL PRESIDENT SLATER – Thank you, Councilman Snee. 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

COUNCIL PRESIDENT SLATER – Due to the fact that Wednesday is a legal holiday, Juneteenth, City Hall will be closed. The requests for legislation to the Council Clerk deadline has been extended to Thursday by 3:00 p.m.

7. INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS

COUNCIL PRESIDENT SLATER – Ord. No. 56 – 2024.

ORDINANCE NO. 56 – 2024

BY: RULES, COURTS & CIVIL SERVICE COMMITTEE

AN ORDINANCE amending the rules of Massillon City Council by amending Rule 19 “Standing Committees” (1) and (5) of Section 121.02 “RULES OF COUNCIL” of the Codified Ordinances of the City of Massillon, Ohio.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT SLATER – Councilman Gregg.

COUNCILMAN GREGG – Thank you, Mr. President. First reading.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT SLATER – Ord. No. 56 – 2024 has received first reading. Ord. No. 57 – 2024.

ORDINANCE NO. 57 – 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 Final Legislation with the Ohio Dept. of Transportation (ODOT), for the resurfacing of Lincoln Way N.W. (SR 172) within the City of Massillon, PID 101268, and declaring an emergency.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT SLATER – Councilman Snee.

COUNCILMAN SNEE – Thank you, President Slater. This is just a, well, back in 2022, I asked our Administration to look into the Lincoln Way from 17th St. to 32nd St. to restripe the road for safety reasons. We did a traffic study on it and this is the final piece of legislation for this traffic study. We’ve been given copies repeatedly throughout the years. I’d like to open it up to any questions at this time or if Mr. Pitts would be allowed to come up and speak on it. If he’s got anything that he’d like to add.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT SLATER – Mr. Pitts, would you come forward.

ALEX PITTS – Good evening, Council. Yes, I would also just like to add, this is for the resurfacing portion of that project, Lincoln Way W. from 32nd St. to the viaduct. Are there any additional questions? I’m more than welcome to answer them.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT SLATER – Councilman Lewis.

COUNCILMAN LEWIS – What is the time frame for you to get this agreement through Council so that you can meet whatever deadlines you may have?

ALEX PITTS – July 25th is when they’re opening bids for the project. So, prior to that date.

COUNCILMAN LEWIS – Okay. I ask just because that not so much that we heard any disagreement on this piece, but I know that the funding piece, some Council Members had concerns. So, I was just wondering if we'd might be best served to keep these two together and I'm not sure what we'll do with the finance piece tonight until that conversation is had. That's all.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT SLATER – Councilwoman Cunningham.

COUNCILWOMAN CUNNINGHAM – Thank you, Mr. President. Mr. Pitts, when do you hope to get this started and how long will it take?

ALEX PITTS – Honestly, that depends on ODOT. Once the contract is awarded they'll likely hold a pre-construction meeting and honestly, I don't see why they wouldn't be able to start in August or September. Again, it's weather depending and when contracts get back to them and signed. It could start next year, but I don't foresee that. I foresee it happening later this year.

COUNCILWOMAN CUNNINGHAM – Thank you.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT SLATER – Councilwoman Creamer.

COUNCILWOMAN CREAMER – So can you clarify for me, we have the resurfacing that we are not paying for, but then we are paying 100% of the curb ramps, the sidewalks, the curb, the pavement repairs so, when you say "go out for bid", who's going to be overseeing that since we're not going to be resurfacing, we're not in charge of repaving and resurfacing? We're just like ancillary projects.

ALEX PITTS – Yeah, so, even the resurfacing portion; we are responsible for 20% of that total cost. So, 20% of the cost, we're charged with for the project. It's only the curb ramps, pavement repair, repairs the infrastructure adjustments, catch basins, manholes...that's where we're responsible for 100% of that cost. As far as who's in charge of advertising, opening bids, that's all ODOT. It's still a State project. It's still their project, essentially. They're responsible for signing the contract, opening bids; all of that. They're just pulling our portion, our share from us prior to opening the bids.

COUNCILWOMAN CREAMER – Okay. Thank you.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT SLATER – Councilman Snee.

COUNCILMAN SNEE – Thank you, President Slater. I just want to make a comment on it; the why to 17th, we re-stripped that pavement about three years ago. That was only supposed to last about two years. From 17th to 32nd, we have multiple holes which if anybody rides a motorcycle will tell you how extremely dangerous that can be going lengthwise down the road. I've brought up numerous times about the amount of accidents. We've heard from our former safety service director of the Grosvenor, Lincoln Way area where two pregnant women have both been involved in accidents and it's only a matter of time before there's a fatality because people headed west bound keep going straight through the turn lane there which is awkward because it goes mainly goes from two lanes to one lane and back to two lanes. 23rd and Lincoln Way, it still hasn't been decreased in accidents or if it has it's been very little. So, this is a project I brought up multiple times, it has to go through just for safety reasons alone. Not to mention maintenance and our due responsibility. So, I just wanted to point those out and

remind everybody, yeah, it's a big project to maintain this. We're going to have to put some money in, but this is well overdue. Because I can't remember when was the last time we've had curbs replaced on Lincoln Way out in the west side. I mean, Mr. Pitts would you have an idea? It's been that long, it's well overdue. Thank you.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT SLATER – Councilman Lewis.

COUNCILMAN LEWIS – I'm in agreement with the project. I think the project does need to be done. It's a major artery especially on the west side of town. If you get anywhere, you're going through Lincoln Way and there are safety concerns. I think the reason that gave me pause tonight is not the project itself, but when people had questions about the funding, \$324,000 of this funding is coming out of the Marketplace TIF which is Walmart and questions were raised as if that is an appropriate utilization of those dollars considering they're over on the southeast end. Further considerations that we need to be aware of is that TIF right now has about a million-dollars in it, I believe. Yes, it has a little over one-million dollars. I believe it generates somewhere in the ballpark of \$300,000 to \$400,000 dollars a year, maybe and it expires in 2029 which is only five years from now and that TIF would also be responsible for any repair or replacement or any portion we would have a bridge that goes over a highway. Now, I would imagine the State would have a lot of responsibility with that too. I'm just thinking that there's some considerations there of while this project is important and we need to get it done, how far are we willing to go on the Marketplace TIF funding and put ourselves in an awkward position later and that was the arguments that we heard last week and I just wanted to give ourselves an opportunity to think about that and discuss that.

ALEX PITTS – If I may interject really quick; as far as maintenance of bridges go, that is mainly the County who's responsible for replacement like major infrastructure replacement of bridges even within the City. We handle street light poles, for example, on the bridges. I'm thinking of the viaduct itself for example. So, I wouldn't worry too much about bridges, per se. But other concerns are valid as well.

COUNCILMAN LEWIS – I actually just learn that this week, so thank you for pointing that out to everybody and that would include on and off ramps, right? That would probably be the State because of Rt. 21, right?

ALEX PITTS – Yeah, I'm almost positive that's more of the State. I'll verify that. I mean, we have a maintenance agreement with ODOT and how much we're responsible for versus how much they're responsible for, it varies between municipalities. It also varies between the County. So, I'd have to check on our maintenance agreement with ODOT.

COUNCILMAN LEWIS – So, tell me if I'm wrong, but I would imagine our sole responsibility would basically so many feet before either side of the bridge and then it would start to get wrapped up into these other entities?

ALEX PITTS – Correct.

COUNCILMAN LEWIS – Okay.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT SLATER – Councilman Gregg.

COUNCILMAN GREGG – Thank you, President Slater. Mr. Pitts, this looks like to me or is it not, correct me if I'm wrong, pretty standard; this particular piece of legislation, pretty standard legislation is put before us whenever ODOT is doing a project within the City limits, right? So, this legislation authorizing the Director of Public Service and Safety to sign the Final Legislation, that's standard?

ALEX PITTS – Right. Yes.

COUNCILMAN GREGG – Thank you.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT SLATER – Any more questions? Councilman Snee.

COUNCILMAN SNEE – So, in light of pairing with the funding, I will go ahead and ask for first reading.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT SLATER – Thank you. Ord. No. 57 – 2024 has received first reading. Ord. No. 58 – 2024.

ORDINANCE NO. 58 – 2024

BY: FINANCE COMMITTEE

AN ORDINANCE making certain appropriations from the unappropriated balance of the 1201 Street Construction M & R Fund and 1419 Marketplace Infrastructure Fund, for the year ending December 31, 2024, and declaring an emergency.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT SLATER – Councilman Lewis.

COUNCILMAN LEWIS – So, we already started to enter into some of this discussion. I'll tell you, my opinion is that I would like to see us in two weeks now to be able to get both of these done. Giving us a two week pause to consider and get answers and whatever is fine, but I don't want us to fall behind schedule of what we need to in order to get the project done. But does anyone have any questions specifically about the utilization of the TIF dollars?

COUNCIL PRESIDENT SLATER – Councilwoman Creamer.

COUNCILWOMAN CREAMER – I'm just going to make my statement again; I'm not in favor of using the Marketplace TIF for the southwest...

COUNCILMAN LEWIS – That would be northwest.

COUNCILWOMAN CREAMER – Northwest side of town. I would like to see the Marketplace TIF used possibly Erie St. It seems like we're always paving on Erie St. Somewhere on the southeast side is where I would like to see these Marketplace TIF dollars used. Thank you.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT SLATER – Any more questions? Councilman Gregg.

COUNCILMAN GREGG – So if we do not use money from the TIF, what is our alternative, the General Fund?

COUNCILMAN LEWIS – Possibly. You got to look, we've got the 1201 which is getting pretty light. It's only got \$700,000 and we got other projects which I'm sure we're going to hit. The

General Fund is a little over two million-dollars right now, but we want to be cautious with that as well because remember, that's a fluid number. So, if taxes ever start to lag at any point and time during the year, that number can dry up pretty quick on us, assuming that our revenues stay up. So, yeah, those would be two areas that you could potentially look at.

COUNCILMAN GREGG – Could we do a combination; TIF money plus money from the General Fund?

COUNCILMAN LEWIS – Well, it's already using \$340,000 from the 1201, I believe, if I'm looking at this correctly. \$353,000 from the 1201 which would be the street construction.

COUNCILMAN GREGG – So, we're already doing a combination?

COUNCILMAN LEWIS – Yes.

COUNCILMAN GREGG – Okay, thank you.

COUNCILMAN LEWIS – Just for historical knowledge, some people may ask “How can a TIF down at Marketplace be used on the far west end?”, I mean, all the way out to 32nd St. I don't know, this had to be eight or so years ago, there was a legal opinion provided to the City that as long, I believe it was something along the lines of as long as it was considered or could be seen as an artery that led to the target area, and I believe in this case, Lincoln Way would be considered an artery that leads to the Marketplace. That is the judgement that they're basically using to justify the use of.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT SLATER – Councilman Lombardi.

COUNCILMAN LOMBARDI – Thank you, President Slater. Councilwoman Creamer brought up Erie St. in particular and I tend to agree with her on this. I would like to ask Mr. Pitts if there's plans for Erie St. that are on the drawing board that we don't know about and if there's other funding or alternate funding or anything like that that's being considered?

ALEX PITTS – As far as Erie St. goes, I don't have that answer at this time. Again, that would be another ODOT project, as well, that we would be cooperating with them. I do have a map of their streets that they plan to resurface from 2023 up to 2029. So, I can review that and see if Erie St. is on there. I just don't know off the top of my head right at this moment, but I can get back with you tomorrow or so.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT SLATER – Councilwoman Creamer.

COUNCILWOMAN CREAMER – Mr. Pitts, if it's not on their list, how do we get it on their list? Because the street needs help. So, how does that process work?

ALEX PITTS – Typically, they'll do their own pavement assessment analysis of their state routes throughout the State. We just finished doing scanning to do pavement condition ratings of all the streets in the City of Massillon. We finished that up about a week or so ago. So, I guess what I could do is send the pavement condition rating of Erie St. over to ODOT and say “Hey look, this state route needs addressed” and I could do a compare and contrast with other state routes within the city limits and try to expedite that process a little bit more.

COUNCILWOMAN CREAMER – Thank you.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT SLATER – Councilman Snee.

COUNCILMAN SNEE – I'd recommend forming a working relationship with your State Representative. That's what I did and Mr. Solasuse came and talked to us about the corridor which is moving along through the House. It got voted on last Wednesday and passed. But any state route in your wards, if you form that working relationship with them they'll more than likely help you with it.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT SLATER – Any further questions?

COUNCILMAN LEWIS – Proceed.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT SLATER – Okay. Ord. No. 58 – 2024 has received its first reading. Ord. No. 59 – 2024.

ORDINANCE NO. 59 – 2024

BY: PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE

AN ORDINANCE making certain appropriations from the unappropriated balance of the 1100 General Fund, for the purpose of the Massillon Fire Department, for the year ending December 31, 2024, and declaring an emergency.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT SLATER – Councilman Lewis.

COUNCILMAN LEWIS – Yes. This ordinance would be appropriating \$210,000 in total with \$120,000 of it going to fire comp. and the other \$90,000 going to overtime paid. I personally don't have any objections to, obviously making appropriations to get our guys paid. But I thought it would be beneficial for us to hear from Chief Heck to give us an update on the state of staffing within the Fire Dept. just so that we're aware and, hopefully, we could be proactive with him and the Mayor in addressing it.

CHIEF HECK – Mr. President, Members of Council. We did this last year and we're back and the only problem with this is that we're earlier than we were last year. So, one of the biggest reasons why we're coming this early is between the months of February and into today, we've had anywhere from six to nine members off on extended leave. Whether it was sick leave for surgery or BWC which has put a big dent in our working force. We're looking anywhere from 12% to 17% of our workforce has been out and we have to cover that with overtime. So, that's been the biggest reason why we're in the position that we are now. We're actually currently projected about double what we requested. But, we're starting to get some people back, so we want to see how that affects overtime going forward and also see some other things that we'll be able to transfer in and cover some of the cost later in the year. Talking with Lori, the discussion and decision was to go about half and then see where we are going forward with staffing.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT SLATER – Councilman Lewis.

COUNCILMAN LEWIS – So, are all of our...do we have every slot accounted for? Someone is hired for every position? Maybe they may be out injured, but we don't have any openings?

CHIEF HECK – Currently we have every authorized position filled. That’s going to change here at the end of June. We’re going to lose two which is going exasperate the problem. Hopefully we’ll get some people back to counteract that. We are starting the hiring process here. I sent an email last week to get the ball rolling with that.

COUNCILMAN LEWIS – How many do you have in total?

CHIEF HECK – We have fifty-six total and fifty-one on shift which is the operations side of it.

COUNCILMAN LEWIS – Okay, fifty-one on shift. So there are actual people making responses?

CHIEF HECK – Yes.

COUNCILMAN LEWIS – And how many on shift are on a shift?

CHIEF HECK – The fifty-one are divided into three equal shifts. Seventeen on each shift and we’re running with the thirteen-person minimum.

COUNCILMAN LEWIS – Alright, thank you.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT SLATER – Any more questions? Councilwoman Cunningham.

COUNCILWOMAN CUNNINGHAM – Thank you, Mr. President. How many positions are open or how many would you like to hire?

CHIEF HECK – Well, we’re going to need to hire two to help alleviate the problem. We’re running some numbers and looking at three to six additional, perhaps. That’s a partial solution to the issue that we’re in. So, there’s some other things that would need to happen, but that’s what we’re looking at. And again, working with Lori and where the numbers are in the budget, right now we just can’t do it.

COUNCILWOMAN CUNNINGHAM – Thank you.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT SLATER – Any further questions? Councilman Lewis.

COUNCILMAN LEWIS – Thank you, Chief Heck.

CHIEF HECK – Thank you.

COUNCILMAN LEWIS – With that said, if there’s no other questions or discussion, I’d like to make motion that we suspend the rules requiring three readings, bringing Ord. No. 59 – 2024 forward for a vote.

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

9 yes for suspension

COUNCIL PRESIDENT SLATER – And for passage.

9 yes for passage

COUNCIL PRESIDENT SLATER – Thank you, Madam Clerk. Ord. No. 59 – 2024 has passed.

8. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

9. PETITIONS AND GENERAL COMMUNICATIONS

10. BILLS, ACCOUNTS AND CLAIMS

LocaliQ – Gannett	-	\$ 1,017.12	Publication of Mar. & Apr. Ordinances
US Bank Equip. Finance	-	<u>127.00</u>	June Payment for Copier
Total	-	\$ 1,144.12	

COUNCIL PRESIDENT SLATER – Councilman Lewis.

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

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

9 yes to pay the bills

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

11. REPORTS FROM CITY OFFICIALS

Mayor’s Report	-	May 2024
Auditor’s Report	-	May 2024

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.

9 yes to accept the Auditor’s Report

COUNCIL PRESIDENT SLATER – Thank you, Madam Clerk. The Auditor’s Report has been accepted.

12. REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

COUNCIL PRESIDENT SLATER – Our next Work Session will be Monday June 24, 2024, at 6:30 p.m.

13. RESOLUTIONS AND REQUESTS OF COUNCIL MEMBERS

14. CALL OF THE CALENDAR

15. **THIRD READING ORDINANCE AND RESOLUTIONS**

16. **SECOND READING 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. This request includes the dedication of 1.7511 acres of the roadways including new roads of Kara St., Leslie St. and Raya Dr. There will be 38 additional platted lots in the subdivision. The area is currently zoned R-1 Single Family Residential. This was approved by the City Planning Commission on May 8th. I believe it's in Ward 6. Does anyone have any additional questions regarding this? Seeing none, I make a motion that we waive the rules requiring readings and bring forward Ord. No. 50 – 2024 for a vote.

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

9 yes for suspension

COUNCIL PRESIDENT SLATER – And for passage.

9 yes for passage

COUNCIL PRESIDENT SLATER – Thank you, Madam Clerk. Ord. No. 50 – 2024 has passed. 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 benefiting the parcel.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT SLATER – Councilman Ray.

COUNCILMAN RAY – Thank you, Council President. We all discussed this TIF a few times, obviously. I just, basically, wanted to bring forth to see if anyone had any more questions concerning this matter? Seeing none, I make a motion to waive the rules requiring three readings and bring Ord. No. 51 – 2024 forward for a vote.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT SLATER – Seconded by Councilwoman Harwig Smith. Roll call for suspension.

9 yes for suspension

COUNCIL PRESIDENT SLATER – And for passage.

7 yes; 2 no for passage

COUNCIL PRESIDENT SLATER – Thank you, Madam Clerk. Ord. No. 51 – 2024 has passed. 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, 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, President. Well, we've already discussed this issue multiple times. Does anyone have any other questions concerning this matter at this time? Seeing none, I would like to make a motion to waive the rules requiring three readings and bring Ord. No. 52 – 2024 forward for a vote.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT SLATER – Seconded by Councilwoman Harwig Smith. Roll call for suspension.

9 yes for suspension

COUNCIL PRESIDENT SLATER – And for passage.

7 yes; 2 no for passage

COUNCIL PRESIDENT SLATER – Thank you, Madam Clerk. Ord. No. 52 – 2024 has passed.

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

BROOKE LONGHEIR – 24 Lincoln Way E., Ward 2. I'm here once again. Hello, the new Council I have spoken to yet. Congratulations on winning your positions. I am the owner of the building at 24 Lincoln Way E. which has been damaged by the City's demolition of the property next door; according to the City, it's damaged. So, I just, I guess am on a last ditch effort here to...when I talk to you Council Members in public, in person, you seem to be appalled by what's going on, but no one's done anything. We fought for gun shops to get grants, but no one's fought for me. So, I just have a few things I want you to look at. The City is demanding a plan from a structural engineer from me, but my structural engineer that I already had to pay thousands of dollars to to prove that I could be in my own building says

that's not his job to do that. The City signed the contract for the steel. They never contacted me, they never told me that it needed to come out. Coon contacted me. Accused me of pretty much stealing their steel. I let them take it out. Four days past, the City vacated me. Disrespectfully. Never contacted me. Didn't have my appropriate address in all these years of me owning the building. Just posted for the public to see. At a meeting that I was called to, I was told by the City's lawyers several times that I don't understand things. That I'm not a lawyer I had to ask him at least twice to be respectful and to calm his tone. We do have an ordinance in this City which I've read to you on multiple times which I passed out that says "Whenever a building or structure or a side of a party wall is being demolished, it shall be maintain in a safe, weather proof condition by and at the expense of the person, firm or person causing the structure to be...", sorry, I was mad and I can't read my writing. But, you have it in front of you. You guys create ordinances every day. You want us to follow the ordinances, why don't they have to be followed when it comes to this? I also have a breakdown for you of the Kowell two buildings needed demoed, but he had \$450,000 forgiven. Granted, y'all got three properties. Oh wait, the City is about to ask for another two hundred and some to demolish, excuse me; you got four properties and the City is about to ask for more money to demolish another one of those properties. So what's that? About \$650,000 on the corner. But, I'm still screwed. We forgave \$154,000 of Rubin's debt. His building needed torn down. He only owes \$30,000. There was, what, \$400,000 in grant money towards both those projects. My building had no issues. But now I'm looking at a base of \$42,000 to fix my wall and that's before I paid Coon who's not a structural engineer to make a plan, but I'm trying to bypass it somehow since the City doesn't seem to want to work with me. And, I got to pay them another \$1,500 just to have a lift come out to get a detailed estimate. So you tell me, why should Rubin be off? Why should Fuzzy be off and owe no money, but I should have to go into debt to fix my building? The rich men in town that like to buy buildings laugh at me when I tell them what I want for my building. But it's the same thing the buildings around me got. I have better architecture, I have safes, I have mahogany cases. This is ridiculous. So let's go now to the quotes that were said by our Mayor and Richard. Richard on the Rubin property "Not only does the settlement provide the City \$30,000 to reinvest into the buildings of our historic downtown". So there's \$30,000 right there. That's a big chunk of what my wall fix would cost. So here's Slutz on the Kowell property. He called meetings back in March of 2023 after he called my brother-in-law and assured my brother-in-law because they were both cops they he would have our backs. Then in March calls meeting to address how to preserve downtown buildings. In an article in March he said "This is the heart of Massillon. Massillon is a very historic town and we need to do what we can to preserve the integrity of the downtown buildings in the future." He sent at least two postal political campaign postcards that I got at my house. I'm assuming the rest of you did that said his number one priority was historic buildings downtown. So it seems to me that this was all said to get elected because I haven't heard from him. I haven't had any of you come to me and say "Hey, let's help you out; let's do this". How do you sleep at night approving all of this money to be forgiven from people and me is just left in debt? 126-year-old business. Been in the building for a hundred years. We've had nothing wrong with it. Our insurance company denied our claim because the government hurt our building. You've spent...how much do you think you're getting for the property? \$650,000? Are you expecting somebody to buy that corner property for a million so that y'all have a surplus? I'm just confused on how I listen to you every time giving money, giving money, giving money, giving money and y'all just continue to not support your citizens. You're the Council. Who's going to stand up for me like they stood up for the gun shop or like they stood up for other stuff? That's really all I have to say. I appreciate you guys. I appreciate what you do, but, this isn't fair.

18. **ADJOURNMENT**

COUNCIL PRESIDENT SLATER – Councilman Snee.

COUNCILMAN SNEE – I'd like to make a motion we adjourn.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT SLATER – Seconded by Councilman Lombardi. Roll call, please.

9 yes to adjourn

COUNCIL PRESIDENT SLATER – Meeting adjourned.

DIANE ROLLAND, COUNCIL CLERK

MIKE SLATER, PRESIDENT