

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING  
MASSILLON CITY COUNCIL  
HELD MONDAY, JULY 10, 2023**

**COUNCIL PRESIDENT ISTNICK** – Welcome to the Massillon City Council Meeting for Monday, July 10, 2023. We have in attendance the following City officials: Mayor Kathy Catazaro-Perry, Safety Service Director, Barb Sylvester, Asst. Law Director, Edmond Mack, Chief Counsel, Earle Wise Jr., Economic Development Director, David Maley and Parks and Recreation Board Member, Alex Wood. 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 ISTNICK** – Roll call.

**1. ROLL CALL**

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

Roll call of 9 present

**COUNCIL PRESIDENT ISTNICK** – Thank you, Madam Clerk. All present and accounted for. Councilwoman Harwig Smith.

**2. INVOCATION**

**COUNCILWOMAN JULIE HARWIG SMITH**

**3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**LED BY COUNCILWOMAN HARWIG SMITH**

**4. READING OF THE JOURNAL**

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

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

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

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

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

**COUNCILMAN LEWIS** – Yes. I just wanted to make a note that on October 23<sup>rd</sup>; it is a five Monday month and so, on October 23<sup>rd</sup> in speaking with the President, we would like to try to schedule a visit with the Ohio Edison. We did this a few years back and it was extremely informative and beneficial to learn of their operations in the town and how our citizens can interact, gaining services or emergency services and things of that nature. Like I said, we probably did this a few years back and I found it beneficial. I recommended to President Istnick and she selected the 23<sup>rd</sup> as a possible date to organize. So, we just wanted to have you guys put that on your calendars in advance if you would like to attend.

**COUNCIL PRESIDENT ISTNICK** – Thank you.

7. **INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS**

**COUNCIL PRESIDENT ISTNICK** – Ord. No. 67 – 2023.

**ORDINANCE NO. 67 – 2023**

**BY: COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE**

AN ORDINANCE amending the Zoning Map of the City of Massillon, Ohio, by rezoning certain property from B-2 Central Business District to R-1 One Family Residential, and declaring an emergency.

**COUNCIL PRESIDENT ISTNICK** – Councilwoman Creamer.

**COUNCILWOMAN CREAMER** – Thank you, Madam President. As this request, it is three parcels located on Oak Ave. S.E. This rezoning request, the City Planning Commission recommended the approval at the June 14, 2023 meeting. The purpose of the rezoning is to allow for the construction of a new home. We have planned a public hearing here in Council Chambers on August 21, 2023 at 6:00 p.m. First reading.

**COUNCIL PRESIDENT ISTNICK** – Thank you, Councilwoman Creamer. Ord. No. 67 – 2023 has received first reading. Ord. No. 68 – 2023.

**ORDINANCE NO. 68 – 2023**

**BY: POLICE AND FIRE COMMITTEE**

AN ORDINANCE authorizing the Chief of Police, on behalf of the Massillon Police Department, to accept a donation from the Fraternal Order of Eagles #190 for the Annual National Night Out, and declaring an emergency.

**COUNCIL PRESIDENT ISTNICK** – Councilman Lombardi.

**COUNCILMAN LOMBARDI** – Thank you, President Istnick. This is a \$500 donation being donated to the Police Dept. for National Night Out from the Eagles #190 here in Massillon. Are there any questions? Seeing none, I make a motion that we suspend the rules requiring three readings and bring Ord. No. 68 – 2023 forward for a vote.

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

9 yes for suspension

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

9 yes for passage

**COUNCIL PRESIDENT ISTNICK** – Thank you, Madam Clerk. Ord. No. 68 – 2023 has passed. Ord. No. 69 – 2023.

**ORDINANCE NO. 69 – 2023**

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

AN ORDINANCE authorizing the payment of the Ohio Supreme Court Attorney Registration Fees for the attorneys of the Massillon Law Department for each Attorney Registration Biennium period from the 1227 FORFEITED FUND, and declaring an emergency.

**COUNCIL PRESIDENT ISTNICK** – Councilman Gregg.

**COUNCILMAN GREGG** – Thank you, Madam President. As we discussed in our Work Session, an ordinance requesting the payment of our fees for our City attorneys for the State of Ohio. Is there any further discussion, questions or concerns? Seeing none, I'd like to make a motion that we waive the rules requiring three readings of this ordinance and bring Ord. No. 69 – 2023 forward for a vote.

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

9 yes for suspension

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

9 yes for passage

**COUNCIL PRESIDENT ISTNICK** – Thank you, Madam Clerk. Ord. No. 69 – 2023 has passed. Ord. No. 70 – 2023.

**ORDINANCE NO. 70 – 2023**

**BY: FINANCE COMMITTEE**

AN ORDINANCE making certain appropriations from the unappropriated balance of the 1227 Forfeited Fund, for the year ending December 31, 2023.

**COUNCIL PRESIDENT ISTNICK** – Councilman Lewis.

**COUNCILMAN LEWIS** – Yes. This is the appropriation that goes along with the last ordinance. Are there any questions or discussion? Seeing none, I make a motion we suspend the rules requiring three readings, bringing Ord. No. 70 – 2023 forward for a vote.

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

9 yes for suspension

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

9 yes for passage

**COUNCIL PRESIDENT ISTNICK** – Thank you, Madam Clerk. Ord. No. 70 – 2023 has passed. Ord. No. 71 – 2023.

**ORDINANCE NO. 71 – 2023**

**BY: FINANCE COMMITTEE**

AN ORDINANCE making certain appropriations for the un appropriated balance of the 3112 Donation Fund, for the year ending December 31, 2023, and declaring an emergency.

**COUNCIL PRESIDENT ISTNICK** – Councilman Lewis.

**COUNCILMAN LEWIS** – Yes. This is a \$500 donation as previously discussed. This is appropriation for the National Night Out. Are there any questions or discussion? Seeing none, I make a motion that we suspend the rules requiring three readings, bringing Ord. No. 71 – 2023 forward for a vote.

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

9 yes for suspension

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

9 yes for passage

**COUNCIL PRESIDENT ISTNICK** – Thank you, Madam Clerk. Ord. No. 71 – 2023 has passed. Ord. No. 72 – 2023.

**ORDINANCE NO. 72 – 2023**

**BY: FINANCE COMMITTEE**

AN ORDINANCE making certain appropriations from the unappropriated balance of the 1212 Summer Concert Series, for the year ending December 31, 2023, and declaring an emergency.

**COUNCIL PRESIDENT ISTNICK** – Councilman Lewis.

**COUNCILMAN LEWIS** – Yes. This is for the Summer Concert Series. These are donations that are used to keep the summer concert series going. At the Work Session there was a question. Have all questions been answered and satisfied? Or is there any discussion this evening? Seeing none, I make a motion that we suspend the rules requiring three readings, bringing Ord. No. 72 – 2023 forward for a vote.

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

9 yes for suspension

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

9 yes for passage

**COUNCIL PRESIDENT ISTNICK** – Thank you, Madam Clerk. Ord. No. 72 – 2023 has passed.

**8. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

**COUNCIL PRESIDENT ISTNICK** – At the beginning of the year, I had Bill DeWalt come in and talk about our speaker system. I'm going to ask him to submit the final estimate and we'll look into that.

**9. PETITIONS AND GENERAL COMMUNICATIONS**

**10. BILLS, ACCOUNTS AND CLAIMS**

US Bank Equip. Finance - 133.35 July Payment for Copier

**COUNCIL PRESIDENT ISTNICK** – Councilman Lewis.

**COUNCILMAN LEWIS** – I make a motion to pay the bills.

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

9 yes to pay the bills

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

**11. REPORTS FROM CITY OFFICIALS**

Auditor's Report - June 2023

**COUNCIL PRESIDENT ISTNICK** – Councilman Lewis.

**COUNCILMAN LEWIS** – I make a motion to accept the Auditor's Report.

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

9 yes to accept the Auditor's Report

**COUNCIL PRESIDENT ISTNICK** – Thank you, Madam Clerk. The Auditor's Report has been accepted.

**12. REPORTS OF COMMITTEES**

**COUNCIL PRESIDENT ISTNICK** – Our next Work Session will be Monday, July 17, 2023, at 6:30 p.m.

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

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

**COUNCILWOMAN HARWIG SMITH** – Thank you, Madam President. I just wanted to notify the public that we are having a Parks Master Plan meeting to be held at the Rec. Center on Tuesday, July 11, 2023 in Community Room A & B. It's from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. We're looking for additional input from the community as far as recommendations for the parks and where we proceed over the next several years. Thank you.

**COUNCIL PRESIDENT ISTNICK** – Councilman Snee.

**COUNCILMAN SNEE** – Thank you, President Istnick. I'd like to reschedule the Streets and Highways Committee meeting from July 17<sup>th</sup> to July 31<sup>st</sup> at 5:30 p.m.

**COUNCIL CLERK ROLLAND** – 5:30 p.m.?

**COUNCILMAN SNEE** – Yes.

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

**COUNCILMAN LEWIS** – Yes. We have a transfer due to the adjustments in our weeks this month. This transfer needed our attention a little bit quicker than next week. It is just from The Legends. It's just a transfer out of supplies and materials by \$7,500 and put into the Pro Shop Supplies. I'll be signing off on it and passing on the other Finance Committee members to have them sign off on it if they would desire as well.

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

**COUNCILMAN GREGG** – Thank you, Madam President. I just wanted to mention for the record that we had a "walk-thru" in my Ward; the Wellman Neighborhood on the 29<sup>th</sup> of June, it was before the Fourth of July, of course. And we identified several issues. There were a number of city officials that joined us, which I was happy to see. The Mayor was there, Barb Sylvester was there, Code Enforcement Officer, Jimmy Johnson was there and like it said, we identified many issues that need to be addressed and I'll be following up with the City on them and I just wanted to make mention of that for the record. Thank you.

**COUNCIL PRESIDENT ISTNICK** – Thank you. Anyone else? Mayor.

**MAYOR CATAZARO-PERRY** – Good evening, Madam President, Members of Council. A couple of announcements tonight; Erie St. began last Friday, so Erie St. S. from Lincoln Way to Tremont, we're going to be working on that this summer. Charles St., as you all have seen, is under way. National Night Out that you spoke of about earlier tonight, August 1<sup>st</sup> is the date out at Community Park from 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Just a quick update about the 720 Market that was held recently. Wonderful turnout, wonderful day, so I hope everyone that is here tonight attended that. It was just great. You saw thousands of people downtown. And then the Museum's Island Party is Friday night. And then on July 27<sup>th</sup>, OneOhio, a board I sit on for the opioid money for Ohio, we're going to have a presentation at 6:00 p.m. on July 27<sup>th</sup> at the Rec. Center. So, if you'd like to come and learn more about the Ohio One Fund, you're welcome to do so. Thank you.

**COUNCIL PRESIDENT ISTNICK** – Thank you.

14. **CALL OF THE CALENDAR**

15. **THIRD READING ORDINANCE AND RESOLUTIONS**

**COUNCIL PRESIDENT ISTNICK** – Ord. No. 55 – 2023.

**ORDINANCE NO. 55 – 2023**

**BY: COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE**

AN ORDINANCE amending Section 1137.08 “Frequency of Applications” under CHAPTER 1137 “CHANGES AND AMENDMENTS” of TITLE THREE – ZONING ADMINISTRATION, PART ELEVEN – PLANNING AND ZONING CODE of the Codified Ordinances of the City of Massillon, Ohio.

**COUNCIL PRESIDENT ISTNICK** – Councilwoman Creamer.

**COUNCILWOMAN CREAMER** – Thank you, Madam President. We had a short discussion regarding this request and there were a few questions. At this time, I would like to bring up Chief Counsel Earle Wise to give an overview of this. This request is changing the applications of property owners from twelve months to every twenty-four months and I’d like Mr. Wise to expand on that request so that we can clear up any confusion that there may be. Thank you.

**COUNCIL PRESIDENT ISTNICK** – Thank you, Mr. Wise.

**CHIEF COUNSEL WISE** – This is to change Chapter 1137 “Changes and Amendments”. Specifically, 1137.08, Frequency of Application and the proposal is to amend paragraph (a), “Applications by a property owner, pursuant to Section 1137.02(a)(2) for a change in zoning district from twelve months to twenty-four months. What that refer to is 1137.02 are the details of the procedure. Paragraph (a) “Applications for any change in the regulations, district boundaries or clarifications of property shall be made in the following manner”. And then there’s two options for that. The first in paragraph one, “On the initiative of Council” a resolution is passed and it’s then forwarded to the Planning Commission for investigation and proceeding under that fashion. Paragraph two is a separate way to apply. It’s on the initiative of any property owner. Then under two, there are at least six different paragraphs that refer to the process there. What this change in 1137.08 is clarifying that that twenty-four months applies to the application process under paragraph two for the property owner. If there’s any questions with regard to that, I’d be happy to answer them, but that’s the clarification. It changes in .08, but it refers to the process or limits the process in 1137.02(a)(2), the property owner’s application.

**COUNCIL PRESIDENT ISTNICK** – Councilman Lewis.

**COUNCILMAN LEWIS** – So, only two entities can make a zoning request change and that’s either this Council or the property owner; not if a business was on there that they own the property, they couldn’t make it? They’d have to get their property owner to do it for them?

**CHIEF COUNSEL WISE** – Well, there's provisions. It says the property owner. There's a provision in a certain section and I'd have to find that, where if you're not the property owner, you'd need the permission of the property owner. So, I would assume if it's the business owner, they would speak with the property owner and try to do it that way.

**COUNCILMAN LEWIS** – Which would make it fall under this paragraph then?

**CHIEF COUNSEL WISE** – Of the two?

**COUNCILMAN LEWIS** – Yes.

**CHIEF COUNSEL WISE** – Correct. Yes.

**COUNCILMAN LEWIS** – I just wanted to make sure we were on the right page.

**CHIEF COUNSEL WISE** – Yes.

**COUNCILMAN LEWIS** – And then, I looked at some of these exceptions and one of the questions I had is and this isn't necessarily with the twenty-four month so much, but what if they were made a request for light industrial and it got turned down and then they wanted to request commercial, would they have to wait for the twenty-four months; the different type of zoning change?

**CHIEF COUNSEL WISE** – They would. Unless the Planning Commission indicates that that meets one of the exceptions, the five exceptions under (a). The Planning Commission decides whether or not these exceptions; as I read paragraph (b), the Planning Commission, they have to apply to the Planning Commission for a right of hearing and if it meets one of those exceptions then they would forward that on and they'd start the process.

**COUNCILMAN LEWIS** – So regardless of the twenty-four month, if they go to the Planning Commission as frequently as they want and if the Planning Commission decides to let them not wait the two years, then so be it and they reapply and they go through the process.

**CHIEF COUNSEL WISE** – It still, eventually, would have to come to Council.

**COUNCILMAN LEWIS** – Absolutely, but, okay.

**CHIEF COUNSEL WISE** – That's my understanding.

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

**CHIEF COUNSEL WISE** – Thank you.

**COUNCIL PRESIDENT ISTNICK** – Councilwoman Creamer.

**COUNCILWOMAN CREAMER** – Seeing no more questions or discussion, I'd like to make a motion to bring Ord. No. 55 – 2023 up for a vote.

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



6 yes; 3 no for passage – Lewis, Harwig Smith, Snee voted “no”

**COUNCIL PRESIDENT ISTNICK** – Thank you, Madam Clerk. Ord. No. 55 – 2023 has passed.

**16. SECOND READING ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS**

**COUNCIL PRESIDENT ISTNICK** – Ord. No. 63 – 2023.

**ORDINANCE NO. 63 – 2023**

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

AN ORDINANCE to accept the dedication of sanitary sewer easement for Walnut Ave. S.E., for the proposed Walnut Woods development project, Massillon, Ohio.

**COUNCIL PRESIDENT ISTNICK** – Councilman Snee.

**COUNCILMAN SNEE** – Thank you, President Istrnick. This is just the easement for the Walnut Woods development project and having heard no further discussion the past two weeks from any citizen or a member of Council, I'd like to open it up at this time for any questions from Council. Seeing none, I will ask that we waive the rule requiring three readings and bring Ord. No. 63 – 2023 forward for a vote.

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

9 yes for suspension

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

9 yes for passage

**COUNCIL PRESIDENT ISTNICK** – Thank you, Madam Clerk. Ord. No. 63 – 2023 has passed.

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

**JIM RUBIN** – 3927 Ashford St. N.W., Canton, OH. I would just like to clarify several misconceptions concerning Howard's Tiger Rags. First of all, we bought the business from Howard Weinstein in 1978 and at that time, it was an Army/Navy Surplus store. So, we decided to make it a formal wear store and we changed the entire store completely and put considerable money into it to change it. When my brother died in 2004 and I took it over, we had to change it again because I saw business wasn't into formal wear anymore. So we changed it again to informal wear and fan wear. So, it's been a good business, but I've heard it said several times that the store hasn't changed. It looks the same as it always did which is not the case. The next misconception that people have is we put in over \$100,000 in that Howard's Tiger Rags store to fix it up over the last 20 years that I've had it. It just was dated, it was old, it was not compatible to a retail business. So, every year, we put in money into the store as most of you already know that you have to do with your houses, with your property, whatever, you put money into it. So, we did put money into it and we tried to bring it up to code as best we could. According to my accountant, we paid property taxes for the last 45

years at Howard's Tiger Rags. We paid Stark County over \$200,000 in property taxes. So, I keep hearing that we're just using this as a profit making venture because of this grant we received. Well, that's not the case. It's just to minimize our losses. We had three real estate appraisals of the property because we have three parcels at Howard's Tiger Rags. It's just not one parcel, it's three and we just want fair market value for our property as anybody would and I understand that. Our employees over the last 45 years have paid over \$500,000 in Massillon City income taxes. So, again, we've given the City quite a bit and we think we've helped the City immensely as far as our business goes. We've tried to do what's right for the City. We're still operating in a new location after two separate moves. So, that was expensive as well. So, as far as profit goes, I don't think that that's the case in our situation. We're just trying to minimize our losses. Another misconception that I've heard several times is concerning taxpayer money. This grant is from the State from investment revenue that the State has made and Governor DeWine gave thirty counties \$500,000 each to rid areas of blighted buildings that have decayed and just have been eyesores for the city which we received. I just want to say this that I recall distinctly when Mr. Maley called us and notified us of us receiving the grant from the State. I want to quote, he said "This is good for you and bad for the City". I'm not sure exactly what that meant, but, we accepted the grant. We had every promise that we didn't have to repay any money whatsoever and now, that's not the case. So, that's all I have to say and I thank you and have a good evening.

**COUNCIL PRESIDENT ISTNICK** – Thank you. Mr. Rubin.

**MARY DONNA RUBIN** – I just want to add one thing to that. We are not making a profit by this as my husband said. We are the victims here. We lost our buildings. We still have the property. Nice green grass is growing on it as of now. We're just asking you to please be fair with us because we complied to everything you've asked us to do and we thought we've been really good to and for the City of Massillon. Thank you very much.

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

**PATRICK TRUMBLE** – Good evening. 8524 Kellydale St. N.W., Massillon, Ohio. I hate to sound like a broken record but, I'm still having problems understanding the grant and the liens for Howard's. If the grant was designed to demolish those two buildings and the City was reimbursed for covering those costs, why is there even a lien on those buildings? I don't understand it. Is there anybody that can help try to tell me why they want him to pay all that money?

**COUNCIL PRESIDENT ISTNICK** – Patrick, this is not a question and answer session. Perhaps at the end of the meeting someone can talk to you.

**PATRICK TRUMBLE** – Alright. Thank you.

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

**GEORGE GLIBA** – 222 Lake Ave. N.E., Massillon, Ohio. I'm a taxpayer here in Massillon. Anyway, I just wanted follow-up on Howard's Tiger Rags. I don't know this guy from Adam, first of all, I do want to say that. Never met the guy. I don't know him, but I have been to his store before. I will say that. I just want to say that I've been here from the beginning of this discussion and it's about being business friendly. I think we're missing the point here. Yeah, you can slap a lien on his property but then, what's that going to do? Are we going to play

games here now like he's going to hold out and leave it vacant? Do we want development? We had a buyer. But I don't think the buyer wants to buy it if there's a lien on it. It just makes sense. Unless you've got pockets full of money. I was talking to Aaron briefly before this and I'm like, there ain't a lot of people beating down the door to get here in Massillon as far as the downtown area because it's old. It's a hundred years old. You start peeling back the onion, you're going to get into a lot of cost unless the City gives you an incentive to buy old decrepit buildings. Now maybe that may play out fine, but for right now, you've got two buildings torn down next to the engraving place just sitting there. Nobody's really ever talked about that. Because it kind of seems like its dead in the water for some reason. I haven't heard any really discussion about that. I try to come up here every week and the reason I come here every week is because I want to know what I'm talking about and the only way to know is to come up here and listen to everybody, what everyone has to say. So, that's one reason I come up here. So, I listen, decipher what you say and come up with my own opinion. But, the bottom line is you did talk about a percentage. 100%, 80%, 60%, 40%, 20% at one point and like I said before, he does have a pretty good resume. I mean, forty-five years. And I don't like you guys like, just slap that in the face like that. That's disrespectful. Because forty-five years in the business, that's a lot of heart and soul. I mean, you got to really want it to keep it going. A lot of people quit. I talked to Lewis about this. There's not a lot of businesses in this City that have been here that long, small business. I just think it's wrong for the City Council here to drag their feet over a situation where it should have been resolved months ago. But, there's certain people in the body that want to get into people's personal lives and personal income and personal business weighing in on their decision. That shouldn't have anything to do with it. And then, this is an important decision, I get it. Not a lot of decision have been this analyzed since dropping the dam over at Sippo Lake Reservoir. For some reason, this is a lot bigger than it should be. But moving forward, I would like to see you guys get something resolved sooner or later; not put a lien on their property. Because, think about it, you got tax credit to pay for it, it's not costing the city any money, but you want to put a lien on this property to get money from the owners to hold them in account to give to people that need it like a cycle. That's not the way this should work. It should work the way it was supposed to work. They get the money, the City gets the grant and then that's it. That keeps the economic development moving. You start slapping liens on stuff, nobody's going to want to buy it unless you got deep pockets or a big economic development like they have over in Canton. Canton's a fast moving machine over there. They just, front page of the Repository, they got a grant to tear down a building over there, gut it and they're going to put hotels and businesses on the bottom. So they got an idea, somebody's got an idea and its business. That's what we need here in Massillon. Yeah, we're getting a Chick-fa-la; that's great, awesome, love it. But downtown needs to be looked at. It's old, so, we need to get something going. That's all I wanted to say. Thank you for your time.

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

**JEFF DOLL** – I guess there's some talk about downtown Massillon maybe doing some things to maybe get some of the empty moving about empty buildings. So, my end of it is that I am an investor in town and my investments are getting crushed because of all the empty buildings. So, I guess most of the people that come here when this thing comes up for the people with the empty buildings, well, I'm here because I'm the guy with not the empty buildings. I've invested a lot of money in town and when the city's crumbling, so is my investment. So, it's not right for the guy that is putting the money in and watch these empty buildings sit with no recourse. As soon as I go in, fire protection, \$15,000. Architect plans, \$40,000. It's crazy and then these other guys, their buildings sit empty and my investments are just going down the

tubes as buildings come down and empty buildings. So, I don't know the answer, that's not my job, but whatever we can do to get those empty buildings not empty no more. It makes me sick to see all the new sidewalks going in around empty buildings and I paid \$18,000 for my sidewalks. The City gives me a little help, \$4,000; but, I spent thousands and thousands of dollars on sidewalks and I go around the corner before I come in here and there's all these brand new sidewalks in front of empty buildings. I feel like the eel here. I don't have the answer other than my investments are going in the toilet with the town with all these empty buildings. So, think about the guy putting the money in instead of the guys sitting there with empty buildings. Makes much sense to me. Alright.

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

**18. ADJOURNMENT**

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

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

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

9 yes to adjourn

**COUNCIL PRESIDENT ISTNICK** – Meeting adjourned.

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DIANE ROLLAND, COUNCIL CLERK

\_\_\_\_\_  
CLAUDETTE ISTNICK, PRESIDENT