

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
MASSILLON CITY COUNCIL
HELD MONDAY, AUGUST 3, 2026**

COUNCIL PRESIDENT SLATER – Good evening. Welcome to the Massillon City Council meeting for Monday, August 3, 2026. We have in attendance the following City officials: Mayor Jamie Slutz, Chief Deputy Auditor, Stefanie Myers, Police Chief, Jason Saintenoy, Lori Kotagides-Boron and Street Superintendent, Josh McClay. Under #5 on the agenda is where the public can speak on any topic that appears ON tonight's agenda and under #18 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, Sarita Cunningham, Mike Gregg, Julie Harwig Smith, John Paquelet, Mandwel Patterson, Eric Ray and Tony Townsend

Roll call of 8 present

2. INVOCATION

COUNCILWOMAN HOLLY BRYAN-HUTH

3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

LED BY COUNCILWOMAN BRYAN-HUTH

COUNCIL PRESIDENT SLATER – Thank you, Councilwoman.

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.

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

JAYNE SCHULTZ – I live at 1221 Providence Rd. N.E., Massillon. I had a couple of concerns. If the zoning is provided for the data center, what provisions are being made to protect citizens with regard to water usage, safety of electricity and the safety of the water as well as the heat

index? I've heard that water recycling is an issue. Can that work on a large scale or on a small scale? The other concern that I have is the changes that are occurring with regard to data centers are so rapid. In fact, I just read before I came here today that Microsoft is aiming to run a water positive zero waste center by 2030. So, I feel like the changes are happening so rapidly, I want to be careful that we don't get sucked into something for a long time that we can't change. I was curious whether anyone on Council has had an opportunity to meet with their wards or meet with their constituents? I haven't heard of any other than I know you met at the church on Lake to introduce this issue which was great. But I just wondered if anybody's done any meetings with their ward to get response and reaction from folks in their area? And also, if there is an agreement with a company; let's say they decide to build this data center, who will be held responsible if it becomes obsolete, to get rid of the structures? All of them, so that it's available for some other business? And the biggest question is, what's the benefit? For schools, for fire department, the police department, for the museum, for the library? What are we getting out of it if we have it? And they say it brings jobs. The only concern that I have about that is a lot of times these companies bring in folks to do this work because they're familiar with it. They've done them all over the state, all over the country. So, will it really provide jobs for people locally? That was a question I had. So, I'm hoping you'll make me feel good about this because I'm here to get educated. I appreciate your serving, but I want to know that we're doing the right thing here. Thank you.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT SLATER – Thank you.

WILLIAM STEVENSON – I live on Irvington, Ward 2. My concern is with the data centers as I've been reading and also all the elections and stuff that are coming up, is that it takes at least 400 acres in order to have one of these data centers. It also takes a lot of water which here in Massillon, we don't have a lot of water. The Tusk (river) is the only thing we have as far as water source and the electric has gone up in the last year. What's it going to do once these data centers get put in? And a lot of these data centers, if you look at them, are from foreign countries and stuff like that. And the workers that they're saying they're going to bring in, that's just to build the data center. That's not for those that work at...wants going to happen after those data centers open up? There's no jobs for Massillon after those data centers open up. It's for the people to come in and work and build these data centers. It's not going to help the City of Massillon unless we decide or Council decides, who does the voting. Council decides what taxes they're going to put out there for these data centers and how much revenue is going to come into this city and how much they're going to put in, like she said; to the schools, the police force, the fire department or streets that we're still working on? We've been working on them for five years. The reservoir that was taken out and now they're deciding to put it back in. Where's all this revenue coming from? Is it coming from these data centers? Thank you.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT SLATER – Thank you.

RUTH ANN CHAFFIN – I currently reside at 8773 Lake Bluff Dr., Massillon. Tonight, I thank you all for giving us the opportunity to speak. As I come to these meetings, there's much talk of zoning and what is the safe distance for people to live and thrive in relation to the data centers? Right now, I ask you to please consider the health and well-being of yourselves, your children, your constituents and all the generations to come. Air and water do not reflect zoning regulations. A prime example of this is a few weeks ago when the wild fires in Canada affected all of us in Massillon. Thousands of miles away. Because of the smoke, events were cancelled and it affected all of our lives. We need to protect our families and our environment by heeding the advice of experts who are trained in the environment, health and chemistry

involved in operating the data centers. All environmentally educated individuals are concerned about the forever chemicals which do not go away. If you talk to these people, they cannot get rid of them, which are produced by the data centers. It doesn't matter if they're closed loop or if they are not. They eventually have to blow them down. That water has to go somewhere and even if it goes into the injection wells, which is the best case scenario, they're still there. They still can escape. Whether these are released into the water or the air, they are linked to a range of serious health problems, such as cancer, liver disease, kidney issues, high cholesterol, birth defects, decreased immunity, asthma, lung problems, etc. This information was put out by the US News and came from a coalition of 17 environmental groups. The same concerns and warnings were addressed by Randy Poplodnic, Ph.D. and MA in environmental studies; BA in chemistry and AAS, an environmental engineering and Hazmat certified. We cannot depend on the EPA as they can bypass the current laws for safe water and safe air. They can do that. We have the information here about all of this. It has been validated. I just ask that we listen and at least postponed the construction of these data centers until safer methods are developed. Thank you very much for your time.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT SLATER – Yes ma'am. Thank you.

SHERRY FRENCH – I do not know my ward number, sorry, but I live at 4838 Sherman Church Ave. S.W., in Canton, but this concerns all of us. What she said is very much in the packets that you all got at your tables, that was me. I printed those up. We did not make that up. That is from a person who studies environmental effects. The data center fact sheet, that is not from us. We are gathering petitions to try to limit the size of data centers because we can't control what's happening with these data centers. The one that's on Perry is so close to a school. People, I mean, there's already been damage done from these things where they're constructed it to peoples' properties right behind it. Not only that, but Petros Park. They've damaged the ponds. We can't control these things. If you don't have things in place, we're not going to be able to have any say so. We're human beings. We have a right to clean air, clean water and to be able to live in peace and quiet. We moved to rural areas because we wanted to be away from all the noise and the pollution and everything that's going on. So we ask you, respectfully to please put a moratorium, get special zoning in effect to protect the constituents that you serve. Thank you.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT SLATER – Thank you.

ANTONIA CARBONE – I live in Ward 3. Debated on coming tonight, but this is such an important issue. It should matter to everybody. It should really matter to you guys because you guys hold the power to make the decisions. I wrote something, deleted it. Thought I wasn't going to come. Sent an email, I hope everybody got my email. But then I decided it is so imperative to hear from your constituents. So, I am here on behalf of others that can't make it, but also just myself. I decided to move back to Massillon because I want to be here and I have two children and I have a family and I want to create a good, healthy, safe environment for them. So, I just want to say a little bit and say my piece. Good evening, Council. Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to speak tonight. It's my understanding that the zoning legislation regarding data centers is expected to pass this evening. While I appreciate the time and effort that has gone into developing this legislation, I respectfully ask that you also consider extending the current moratorium. There are still too many important questions that remain unanswered. Ohio has not yet established comprehensive regulations to address the long term impacts that data centers can have on local communities. Until clear State and local guardrails are in place, our community remains exposed to potential risks including increased strain on our electrical grid, higher utility costs for residents, impacts on our water supply and

water quality, increased infrastructure demands and other unintended consequences that could affect our communities for decades. These impacts would not be felt equally. They would affect every resident, but especially those who are already the most vulnerable. I understand the importance of economic development and I support responsible growth. But economic development should never come at the expense of protecting our community. Before approving the project of this magnitude, we should have confidence that the appropriate safeguards are in place. Once a facility of this scale is approved and built, any mistakes or oversights cannot be undone. Tonight, I ask you to listen to your constituents. Extend the moratorium until Ohio establishes meaningful regulations and until our community has the protections it deserves. It is imperative that Council takes the time to get this right as it is, like I said, it could impact future generations for decades to come. Please do what is in the best interest of the people who you were elected to serve. Extend the moratorium. Protect our community and ensure that any future decisions are made with the information and safe guards necessary to move forward responsibly. Thank you for your time, your service and your thoughtful consideration.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT SLATER – Thank you.

ANN PALASKI – I live at 2235 Colonial Parkway. I believe it's Ward 3 and I'm a science teacher at Massillon High School. I have come here tonight to ask you to kindly think about the future and do what's right. Only you have the power to do it. I was just looking up some facts. 94% of Ohioans are concerned about raising electric cost. 86% of Ohioans have concerns in polls about safe drinking water and you know that data centers impact these things. There is no revenue that is worth the price of clean air and clean water and if we have contaminated ground water, it's impossible to clean. We are a City of Champions and we deserve to have nice things here. It is in your hands, Council, I'm asking you, please take this seriously. Put a moratorium, give it more time. We don't have to be the first ones. There's always things improved and they get better as technology improves. Let's just be smart and be prudent with our resources. Thank you.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT SLATER – Thank you.

GINA RISHER – I live at 5394 Faircrest St. S.W., Canton, Ohio. I currently live next to the Perry data center and I'm here tonight to, first of all, just to say at least thank you, for trying to make some zoning for your constituents because Perry doesn't care enough about Perry constituents to even consider a zoning law. So, with that being said, I will say we are constantly being told that we need more data centers to compete with China. But no one mentions that the USA has, to date, approximately 5,427 data centers while China has 449. The competition is not between ordinary American citizens. It is among the CEO's and the tech bros who want to gain control over artificial intelligence and are rigorously in competition with each other. In order to keep ahead of the pack, these CEO's are gobbling up land, energy, water to build out massive, hyper-scaled data centers. This greed along with complacent politicians and haphazard tax and environmental regulations laws leave US citizens fighting for their communities. Governor DeWine placed a pause on data center tax breaks after a 2025 investigation showed taxpayers lost out on \$1.6 billion dollars. Ohio politicians have been especially guilty of throwing Ohioans under the bus in order to supplicate to the hyper-scaled data center developers. With promises of jobs, local and State politicians signed non-disclosure agreements months and often years in advance before anyone in the community is aware of the coming destruction of land, water and rural character. Some of the concerns expressed by communities located close to the data centers include noise, water usage, acres of land transformed into industrial centers, exposure to air pollution from power

generation, high voltage transmission lines, cutting through communities and farmlands and probable increases in their utility bills due to increases in power demand. A majority of data centers proposed will use some form of fossil fuels to generate the needed electricity. This means more fracking in southeast Ohio. More climate change in carbon dioxide emissions. Some centers will tap into existing energy resources while others will build behind the grid. Recently, some data centers, including one in Ohio, has begun employing air plane engine bolted to trailers as primary energy source because gas turbines remain in scarce supply. Their engines generate extreme noise levels up to 90 to 105 decibels and massive thermal exhaust. That demands advance cooling infrastructure. Water use for cooling is a major concern. Even the closed loop system requires a blow down to perch the system of the build- up of bio sized glycols, nitrates and corrosion inhibitors. Municipal sewer treatment plants lack the ability to remove most of these additives. Especially the compounds that can be found in data center components and fire retardants. Another issue coming to light is the lack of funds and equipment for local fire fighters, often volunteers, who deal with data center emergencies. Contributing cause of such fires include electrical faults, battery failures, cooling system malfunctions and human error. In some cases, these first responders are locked out of emergency planning. As fast as technology changes in ten or so years, will these massive centers become obsolete? It seems that Ohio's communities are being asked to assume all the risk of hyber-scaled data centers with only real benefits to us being a few long-term jobs, temporary construction jobs and a possible tax benefits. Are we sacrificing our right to use and enjoy our homes so billionaires and politicians can profit? Thank you.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT SLATER – Thank you.

DANNY CHAVLINA – I live at 804 – 16th St. N.E. I'd just like to point out a few things that all of these people have pointed out already; very good points. I worked in the computer industry in Silicon Valley in the late '70's and early '80's and how fast that industry changes, these data centers could be obsolete by the time you build them. Look at your phones. Twenty-years ago you had this little phone now you have all of this. They could be obsolete or the builder is just going to run away and leave you with a mess. Also, when talking about people being brought in to work. During the fracking, I worked for the post office and down in Tuscarawas County, they were told all the fracking people that they brought up from Texas and Louisiana and Arkansas, were told not to rent an apartment. They'd stay in a hotel or that's why you saw them with trailers because that way we could tax them as being working here and they would send their paychecks to them in their states so they didn't have to pay state income tax. It's a lose-lose situation. Not to mention the water; big companies really do have a history of not being very good neighbors. If you remember the Tuscarawas River years ago and what colors it would change and you remember the black soot on the snow because we used slag for traction and that all ran into the river; killed the river. If you heat up the water in the river, that kills the fish, that kills everything else. And these things put out, a friend of mine had a tape drive computer. It was about this tall and about that wide and about that deep and he wanted to sell it to me when I was thinking about buying a 284, the first desktop computer out there and he says "Well, actually, yours has more power than mine does". And he had to put an air conditioner in that room that he had because it got so hot, plus fans blowing it out and that was just a little thing. Can you imagine the heat that these things are going to put out? Plus, if these people have enough, some of these CEO's; make more money than everybody in Massillon and they want tax breaks? They can pay for it themselves and maybe we should get a guarantee of taxes for forty years. Thank you.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT SLATER – Thank you, sir.

AUBURY MILLER – I'd like to thank you for allowing us to share our thoughts and opinions here and thanks to everyone who's already shared, gives me courage to speak. I live 10850 Barrs St. S.W., Massillon, and I come as a neighbor. Whoever it was that mentioned the air, the sound, the water; it doesn't pay attention to these lines that we draw on amounts. I live just under two miles from that paper mill on Warmington and about two miles from the Bitdeer data mining center in Ward 5. I was doing a little bit of research to offer my perspective here. I learned that it's already built. It's already there. So I drove by on the way just to check things out. I didn't even know and I think that's one of the things that's been so frustrating as a resident. We are recent transplants to the area. We lived in Canton for about ten years and then my husband and I with our small children moved to the country. Because we want to see the stars at night. We want to hear the crickets and the birds and every morning, it's very unpredictable, sometimes it's quiet and sometimes we hear this loud hum. I had never noticed it until a couple of weeks ago and are coming back from vacation, you like notice things differently. We just sort of assumed it was coming from the paper mill, but now, I'm like "Oh, maybe we're noticing this more because there's additional sound pollution that is present. So, I wanted to offer that. I know that one of things that you are being thoughtful about is the zoning, but to remember that even, because Massillon is a city and even in the heavy industry zones, there still are residents that live very close and we feel that. And so, personally, my preference would be that we just "no". I'm sorry. This is not what we want as a town, as a community, as neighbors. So, I just offer that. I mean, it's here and think that feels really frustrating. So, thanks for listening.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT SLATER – Thank you.

CHRISTINE GINGERICH – I live at 311 – 14th St. N.W., Canton. First of all, thank you for holding this meeting tonight and hearing our concerns; we appreciate it. It goes without saying that most of us do not want hyper-scaled data centers in Stark County or in Ohio, for that matter. You've heard our concerns. We already have too many. Why do we need four of them within a four-mile radius? Why are citizens, many citizens are not being notified when a center is proposed to be built near them? That seems very suspicious to a lot of us. However, if they do need to be built, they need very high standards for safe guards when it comes to the rezoning. They need to be further away from the citizens and the sound barriers need to be much higher. If they're going to be built, we ask that they provide their own power source, but yet, even with the many safe guards, many of us still have lots of concerns. What about the frequency that is emitted into the atmosphere? What about the land that is hotter than normal around the centers? Will we have to worry about those components after hearing of experiences in other states? For those of you who are researching the negative effects of data centers, thank you. For those of you who are not, I would strongly suggest do so. I've talked to individuals who live near hyper-scale data centers and even visited those out of state and hear of their experiences. Many of us have watched videos and seen footage of the experiences of those who live close by. My main challenge is to you Council Members. You call these meetings to hear of our concerns, we're very grateful. We speak up. We might be angry. I would encourage you to make the decisions not for what you deem is best for the City, but what for we the people would like. A lots of times, those decisions unfortunately are fueled by money. Let that not be the case. I ask you to do the right thing for what we the people are requesting. Thank you for listening.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT SLATER – Thank you.

GAGE BARRETT – I live in Ward 1 and my address is 417 – 10th St. and I'll be speaking on the data center zoning ordinance. As it stands, the data center zoning ordinance does not

meet the standards of the people of the City. The people of the City want data centers to be banned and the State has not given municipalities that right. Therefore, it is your job to come as close as legally as possible to banning data centers. Even then, this ordinance does not come to that. It doesn't have standards; it doesn't have penalties or enforcement of those penalties. The amendment that comes before it should be passed, provide a better standard and once the ordinance is passed, you must continue discussions and making amendments. The Council agreed that this is step one of one hundred. What matters is that you continue walking the rest of those steps. Thank you.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT SLATER – Thank you.

STEVEN SLAGLE – I live at 615 – 3rd St. I believe that's Ward 2; I'm right on the line. I think everybody's talked about the concerns that we have with having these in our communities. There's certainly going to be noise issues. Pretty much everybody that's already has these data centers and has experienced them for a while have increases in their utility bills. I think we've covered those concerns. My concern is what happens if we don't proceed with this? I don't think we miss anything by letting this go, because once it's here, it's here and what are we going to do about it? This is not a regular business that as citizens, if we don't like it; we don't like their product. We don't like their service. We can stop using it and they do away. This is completely independent of anything the citizens of Massillon do. So we can't make it go away. I don't even think that if we voted everyone off of Council on every other elected official in Massillon that we could get rid of it once it's here. So, I don't think we lose anything by waiting. We need to see what these things are going to do to our community and the greater community. Because it's not just our section. The power grid is a massive thing and it's all independent. So if we do it, what we do in Canton is tied to it and Akron and if we're all, "Whew, we got to have data centers", we're going to start having brown-outs, we're going to have serious problems and the things are going to be here if we don't do something now to say "Whoa, we can hold off". If these are such great things, there's going to be other people later on when we have better technology. Where they seem to be concerned about is "Oh, hey, maybe we should improve your power grid". Maybe we should have renewable energies built into our data centers. Maybe we shouldn't depend on your community to make us money. I mean, if we can't have kids in this country have their healthcare paid for because of socialism; why should we give socialism to millionaires. To people that are just concerned about profits and don't care about Massillonians. Thank you.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT SLATER – Thank you.

SHERRY FRENCH – I know I've already spoken to you all, but would you indulge me for just one more moment? Would that be okay? Okay.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT SLATER – You get one minute.

SHERRY FRENCH – Okay. This is a data center (sound from her phone). And my phone doesn't even go up very loud. This is what we're letting ourselves into. Not only are we letting ourselves in for that, but there's a lot of cattle ranchers that are complaining because since the data center has moved in near to them, they have not had a live birth on their property. There cows are being still borned. Now down in Canton where I've from, I am like less than two miles away from the Perry Center. Then just less than two or three miles away is the Central and Millerton property. They're building that right up against my friend's property. They raise cows to feed their family. She has show horses. The EMF's is what's causing all of this problem. It's just unbelievable what it can do to a human being. It's going to destroy our

wildlife. It's destroying the aesthetic of our property because they're going after all of our farms so we can't even grow our own food. They want to stop that. We've got to do something and it's in your hands. Thank you.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT SLATER – Anyone else?

6. NEW AND MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS

COUNCIL PRESIDENT SLATER – At this time, Chief Saintenoy.

POLICE CHIEF SAINTENOY – Good evening, Council. First of all, I want to thank Councilman Ray who's reached out to me to basically address a hot button or a hot topic in the community. It's not specifically just in our community, but actually nationwide and what I want to talk about tonight are these what's referenced as "flock cameras". I think it's created quite a bit of concern from the community and to be quite honest, if it's a concern of the community, it should be a concern of Council Members and it should be my concern, as a public servant. And so, I'm hoping that I can dispel maybe some non-truths and maybe add some transparency to kind of what flock cameras are and what they are not. So, with that being said, before I go into it any further, I just wanted to say and I want to be clear on this; I speak as a public servant, as the Chief of Police. As the Chief, it's my responsibility to push forward effective measures to make our community safer, as long as it's within the confines of the law. I don't make the law. I don't make ordinances; that's your guys' job. It's my job to ensure that they're followed and to be quite honest, just to keep the peace. I think that's what our community wants, first and foremost. So with that being said, before I get into these flock cameras, also I wanted to talk about a couple of things and then I'm going to come back to these things. I just want you guys to remember these things in your mind as I go through my speech here. Law enforcement is constantly evolving, just like technology with all of these discussions and all these passionate speeches that the members of this crowd had to say tonight. We constantly deal with it in this country and in law enforcement we deal with it as well. There were several controversial things that have come forward over the course of my short career. I'm in my twentieth year working for the City of Massillon Police Dept. When I first came on, we did not have Tasers. We had them in a box in the Chief's office and he wasn't ready to let them be used because they were somewhat controversial. They're a standard staple of every police officer working in a modern agency today. They're a less than lethal force option. Body worn cameras, at first, were controversial, believe it or not. Members of the public thought that it was somehow an infringement on their rights to be videoed when they called for police and were not necessarily consenting to that. But as things changed and in the age of transparency, I think the public has seen that they're a great accountability tool for both the public and for public officials. And then, one of the new ones that I embrace in our department is drones. We've used drone technology and by no means am I a very skillful operator. Thankfully, we have people that practice with our drones. But, we've utilized our drone technology to find missing autistic children. Folks with dementia who have wandered away in the dead of winter wearing nothing more than a nightgown and slippers. And they have all been to the benefit of our community. So with that being said, what was once controversial may not be now. The City of Massillon does not utilize flock cameras. That statement alone would be somewhat disingenuous if I didn't go further by saying we do utilize cameras in the City for the purposes of law enforcement and for public safety. We do not utilize flock. "Flock" is a brand. The easiest way for me to kind of explain this is, you know, if I were to ask for a "Kleenex" right now, it's really not a "Kleenex" it's a tissue. But we refer to it, commonly, as a Kleenex. Flock has a specific set of proprietary software features that make it different from what we use. Currently in the City of Massillon we actually have ten cameras

mounted throughout the City that are a combination of live view cameras and LPR's which is a license plate reader. If any of you are familiar with that term or heard the LPR or watched any Cops show recently, you would recognize that term. Every police car in the City of Massillon that utilizes dash cameras has a built-in LPR into that camera. Every time they're traveling and patrolling your neighborhood, if they come across a car and it reads a plate that comes up as stolen, is wanted for an Amber Alert, as a person with a felonious warrant that it's registered to, it alerts that officer driving and then they take the next steps to try to make the community safer by finding out why it's there, who's driving it. That happens all of the time. It's been happening ever since we agreed to a contract with Axon which provides us our body cameras. So with that being said, these pole-mounted cameras, we have two different kinds; one of live view and one LPR's. They are run by a company called Genetech. Genetech is the maker of the software much like Flock is, but there's a very significant difference in our cameras as compared to Flock. I'll give you an example here; Flock is a chain of cameras that all of those cameras send their data to a "cloud-based" server throughout the country. It's that server and that access to all that data is maintained by Flock. The people who subscribe to Flock have access to go on there and get it, but Flock hosts it. They maintain it. We are in a closed-loop system with multiple agencies in Stark County. We maintain the server. Stark County Sheriff's Office is the host. They pay for all of these cameras and the maintenance of that hosting fee for the servers that only we have access to through a grant. It cost the taxpayers in the City of Massillon zero dollars. Never once I have I sent a single dollar of the Council approved budget towards that. The LPR readers only read license plates; that's all they do. They are constantly reading license plates no different than somebody who has an EZ pass and gets on the turnpike. It reads your plate and it sends you the bill or it logs when you pass through without even stopping. After thirty days if there's no reason for reason for us or there's no hit on that license plate, it disappears. Just almost like a surveillance system that constantly rewrites and rewrites and rewrites. If we put in a license plate for say for somebody who just abducted a child and the neighbor comes out and says, for example, it was a red Honda Civic and I only got the first three digits of their plate; it was Adam, King, David. We can put that into our system and if any car matching that description hits on any of our LPR's within the county, it will notify us immediately of the location and send us that picture. Nobody actively views these cameras. Even our live view cameras which records video data, it records constantly as cars go through. It also takes stills of the license plates as the cars go through. After fifteen days, it rewrites. We only have a fifteen-day capability to go back because recording that data takes a long time. No one officer at the Massillon Police Dept., at the Stark County Crime Center sits and watches that all day. I wish we had the staffing levels of like the FBI who has endless amounts of money to maybe have people that look into these certain things of high crime areas, but we just don't have that luxury. These cameras don't prevent crime; they help us solve them. They're all retroactively used. If we had a child taken from a park and we had a partial make and model or a partial plate, we would immediately put it into the system and we would hope that we would get a hit. The LPR hits, when we do get them will be saved for one year, but after one year they also go away. It's our responsibility as law enforcement to take that data and see if we can close a case and if we can't it goes away. Once again, the live view is only fifteen days. Once we save a live view for, if we put a hit on that, we can catch a car coming through an intersection. We do not have the ability to use AI like facial recognition or anything. Just because a car is listed and put in a hit list for us for a possible crime, does not mean that the person driving the car, that we can identify them. We don't use, Genetech doesn't use any AI tools and they also don't have access to sell any of that data. It's only the user that has engaged into the agreement and that's the Stark County Sheriff's office. They hold the grant so they allow us access along with the other agencies in Stark County to use these cameras. So, with all of that being said, the concept of a safe community, it really relies on the trust of the community. I think that everyone in this room and the community needs to

know about these cameras; that we do utilize them. They're just another tool. They are somewhat controversial to some folks, the 4th Amendment. I'm a strong supporter of the Constitution. As the Chief of Police, I firmly believe in people's rights. I also believe that we all give up a little bit to add to the greater good of our community by allowing police officers to patrol and do some of the things that they do and it is imperative that they not cross that line. Let me go back to what I said; I'm expected to operate within the confines of the law. As of my research before these were installed in the City, there are no laws or ordinances that says that we cannot have these cameras. There's been a camera up on our Obie statue downtown since it was put in to ensure its safety and we utilize that from time to time if there's anything that happens in that intersection. I can assure you. If it was somebody in your family, if you were the victim of a violent crime and your neighbor was lucky enough to get a partial plate or a description of a vehicle and they had taken off with either your property or god forbid one of your family members, we would be able to use this as another tool to try to retroactively go back, locate them and hold them accountable. So, I'll try to wrap this up; there's just a couple of points that I think are really important and think they put things into context. In today's world it's hard to escape being caught on camera, on microphone, some form of digital media. Countless Ring doorbells in every neighborhood in this City are used by police when we have a crime and we look around, the first thing that we do is we look around and see if there's Ring doorbells and we go knock on the door and say "Hey, did your camera catch that car fleeing or speeding? Or last night when we got called out here and didn't realize that someone had broken into a home?". I haven't heard any major public outcry about Ring doorbell cameras. Most people in here and I've seen them because I sat in the back and I see some of them right now are on this. Your cell phone, if you think for one second is not tracking you, knows your political affiliation, your ideologies, knows which rug your searching for on Wayfair because if you talk about it, it's listening. It's not a coincidence that when you pull up your social media, there's twenty ads for that rug in particular that you were looking at. We all give up a little bit for convenience. I'm way more concerned about these. I'm only speaking on behalf of the Chief, as being the Chief of Police, but, if you had to ask me as the Chief, are we safer with the cameras that we do have in the City or are we safer without them? It is a unanimous I think we are safer with them. It's incumbent on me and people in the City that work for the Police Dept. to not abuse these technologies. That's my responsibility and I take it seriously. We only use them when they're necessary to be used. So, as a husband, as a dad, as a citizen I think we're safer with them. So with that being said, I'll of course take any questions.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT SLATER – Councilman Townsend.

COUNCILMAN TOWNSEND – I want to say that I agree with him about the officers stopping at homes checking their Ring cameras because I've had a few visits and unfortunately, it didn't catch anything but they do stop by. Last Saturday I heard Annette Blackwell, the Mayor of Maple Heights tell us a story about a young man, twenty-eight years old who had went to Giant Eagle for his mother to purchase some groceries and so when he came out the supermarket, there were two guys waiting on him because they liked his car; they killed him. Gunned him down, didn't take the car. Hopped in their cars and took off. The flock cameras caught the two guys sleeping their car. So I just wanted to bring that up and initially she was against it and now she is so happy that she did get from the City of Maple Heights.

POLICE CHIEF SAINTENOY – Well, since you opened that door, I'll respond. That's a great story and that's a great example. Just this year alone, we had a gentleman walk into our McDonald's downtown. Demanded money and portrayed himself as having a weapon under a shirt. He was caught using our cameras because we got a direction of travel and then we reached out to anyone with a flock camera. He was caught in Akron by the Summit County's

Sheriff's Office. Had multiple warrants, had fled, fought with the police up there, but he was taken into custody. And let's not forget about the young girl who was abducted here in Massillon several years ago. Was raped and they caught the individual because we were able to get surveillance footage from Shearer's downtown, their headquarters. They have a camera that shines on their courtyard but catches the road. It catches her walking from the library, turning around the corner and her getting into a pickup truck. We blasted that pickup truck all over every media outlet that we could and somebody knew the truck and it lead to an arrest. Once again, I cannot reiterate enough that nobody is taking this data at least from our cameras, compiling a list or using it for nefarious activities and the second that I find out that they are, we'll pull out of that until we correct the problem.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT SLATER – Councilwoman Cunningham.

COUNCILWOMAN CUNNINGHAM – Thank you, President Slater. I want to thank Councilman Ray for asking you to come and thank you for coming and I had had several calls, people really concerned about this. That it's take their responsibilities and their citizenship and keeping track of everybody and they don't like that. But with what you've said and how we're using them here in Massillon, I want to thank you for your responsibility of what you're doing. And again, Councilman Ray, thank you for having him come and explaining very clearing to us what you're actually doing with the flock cameras. Thank you.

POLICE CHIEF SAINTENOY – Thank you.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT SLATER – Councilman Paquelet.

COUNCILMAN PAQUELET – Thank you, President Slater. Thank you, Chief Saintenoy. You've answered a lot of my questions. I've had friends, family members, myself with questions regarding Flock. That's the Flock brand.

POLICE CHIEF SAINTENOY – Right.

COUNCILMAN PAQUELET – That was interesting to know and I thought we had a different brand because they don't look the same as the same one's you see in front of the Home Depot in their parking lot. And it's nice to know that these cameras are not collecting data, storing the data, running it through AI and sending it throughout the country and using it however they feel fit and/or selling the data. Because I think some people are concerned with that for their civil liberties and extra tracking. Soon with your phones they're going to do your Wi-Fi, or your blue tooth and then the facial recognition is coming. Everything we criticize China for doing for their citizens. We're going to get close to that someday; being pressured with that. But I appreciate that. One question; I had about eight of them, but you debunked about seven of them. So if someone came to the City for freedom of information for the data that that live camera collected, is the City able to obtain that image that if one of these people who want to see if they can get the information and if they can't get it then they try to sue the City?

POLICE CHIEF SAINTENOY – So I think that we would be able to pull it as long as we actually had it and then present that to them, but they'd have to be specific. It can't be a general; I want every single car that's passed because then we're divulging information from other people that weren't necessarily akin to that. They weren't one party in that investigative request. So with that being said, maybe this will help; part of this closed loop system is that any other community, and there's multiple communities in Stark County that uses the Genetech closed-loop system, I don't have the ability or none of our officers in Massillon could

say for instance, "Go on live view and watch North Canton's". Only North Canton has access to that. When we put a hit in, it goes into the data base and it'll hit somewhere and then let us know. But we don't have the ability to use the LPR's in other communities.

COUNCILMAN PAQUELET – Okay. You're doing great in my opinion, great. And then with the LPR's how is the false/positive rate of those?

POLICE CHIEF SAINTENOY – For me to be able to sit up here and give you a perfect statistic as to that; in our experience I would say roughly 75% percent of the time, we're very accurate, even on partial plates. It's even higher when we have a full plate. We also don't just use a plate alone. We have to use the physical descriptors of the car itself. And a lot of times that has to do with stolen license plates. People will steal a license plate to commit a crime, next thing we know, we're chasing down a car and it's just a stolen plate on a different vehicle. Does that make sense?

COUNCILMAN PAQUELET – Yes.

POLICE CHIEF SAINTENOY – So, we don't rely alone on just what the software is telling us. Where there's more into it than that.

COUNCLMAN PAQUELET – Well, thank you very much. You did great and I appreciate how you're managing it here in the City of Massillon and the County.

POLICE CHIEF SAINTENOY – I appreciate all of your questions and your concerns.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT SLATER – Councilwoman Bryan-Huth.

COUNCILWOMAN BRYAN-HUTH – Thank you, Mr. President. Chief, should the idea of gaining Flock entertain your desk, is that something you would come before us or is that something that would be under your own purview to accept.

POLICE CHIEF SAINTENOY – You mean utilizing Flock brand camera systems?

COUNCILWOMAN BRYAN-HUTH – Yes.

POLICE CHIEF SAINTENOY – Well, first of all, I would have to get that into the budget because it is not cheap and budget, as we all know, goes through all of the individuals in front of me.

COUNCILWOMAN BRYAN-HUTH – I like that answer.

POLICE CHIEF SAINTENOY – So, with that being said, Genetech's system I consider to be a fairly safe system and it's doing exactly what we need it to do here. I understand the concerns that some folks have with Flock. I'll just leave it at that.

COUNCILWOMAN BRYAN-HUTH – Thank you.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT SLATER – Councilman Ray.

COUNCILMAN RAY – Thank you, Chief. Thank you, President Slater. Thank you, Chief for coming out. I think when we first discussed this I was telling you about the emails that were

rolling in and they gave us the website and we can kind of look and see where all the Flock cameras were and I was like “Whoa, that’s a lot of cameras”. But I think you covered everything, all the questions that were had. We pretty much discussed it earlier, but I really appreciate you for coming out and speaking from the heart and also speaking of the way that technology transitions. I think we’ve had a lesson, multiple lessons today as how technology grows and changes and ever changing. I think we heard a guy say today that might build a data center and then it’s not even in existence anymore, like it’s not even needed anymore. So with that being said, I really appreciate your transparency and thank you for speaking from the heart.

CHIEF POLICE SAINTENOY – And just to touch on that; not all technology just because it is new and it is the newest thing also equates to it being good. I think we should look at things as a skeptic first and do our own homework. Just because it’s new doesn’t mean it’s great.

COUNCILMAN RAY – Totally agree; thank you.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT SLATER – Thank you for what you do.

POLICE CHIEF SAINTENOY – I appreciate your time. Thank you, Council.

7. **CONSENT AGENDA**

COUNCIL PRESIDENT SLATER – Ord. No. 76 – 2026.

ORDINANCE NO. 76 – 2026

BY: FINANCE COMMITTEE

AN ORDINANCE making certain appropriations for the unappropriated balance of the 1222 Waste Management Grant Fund, for the year ending December 31, 2026, and declaring an emergency.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT SLATER – Res. 26 - 2026.

RESOLUTION NO. 26 – 2026

BY: FINANCE COMMITTEE

A RESOLUTION accepting the amounts and rates as determined by the Budget Commission authorizing the necessary tax levies and certifying them to the County Auditor as listed on the attached Exhibit “A”, and declaring an emergency.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT SLATER – Councilman Gregg.

COUNCILMAN GREGG – Thank you, President Slater. Is there any discussion on ordinances that are on the Consent Agenda? Seeing none, I make a motion that we waive the rules requiring three readings and bring Ord. No. 76 – 2026 and Res. No. 26 – 2026 forward for a vote.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT SLATER – Seconded by Councilwoman Bryan-Huth. 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. 76 – 2026 and Res. No. 26 – 2026 has passed.

8. INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS

9. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

10. PETITIONS AND GENERAL COMMUNICATIONS

COUNCIL PRESIDENT SLATER – Councilman Paquelet.

COUNCILMAN PAQUELET – Thank you, President Slater. I will not be in attendance for the Work Session next week. I'll be out of town.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT SLATER – Thank you. Anyone else? Councilman Ray.

COUNCILMAN RAY – Thank you, President Slater. I will more than likely be absent on the 17th. Yes, the 17th. I'm getting a tooth pulled on the 13th. You never know.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT SLATER – Anyone else?

11. BILLS, ACCOUNTS AND CLAIMS

Office Depot - \$ 96.24 Office Supplies

COUNCIL PRESIDENT SLATER – Councilman Gregg.

COUNCILMAN GREGG – Thank you, President Slater. I make a motion that we pay the bills.

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

8 yes to pay the bills

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

12. REPORTS FROM CITY OFFICIALS

13. REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

COUNCIL PRESIDENT SLATER – Our next Work Session will be Monday, August 10, 2026, at 6:30 p.m.

14. RESOLUTIONS AND REQUESTS OF COUNCIL MEMBERS

15. CALL OF THE CALENDAR

16. THIRD READING ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS

ORDINANCE NO. 60 – 2026

BY: COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

AN ORDINANCE amending PART ELEVEN “PLANNING AND ZONING CODE”, TITLE THREE, “ZONING ADMINISTRATION, Chapter 1121 “Construction of Language; Definitions”, Section 1121.02 “Definitions”, TITLE FIVE, “ZONING DISTRICTS”, Chapter 1171 “I-2 General Industrial District”, Section 1171.04 “Principal Uses Permitted Subject to Special Conditions”, and TITLE SEVEN “ZONING REGULATIONS”, Chapter 1187 “Supplemental Zoning Regulations”, Section 1187.09 “Site Plan Review” of the Codified Ordinances of the City of Massillon, Ohio.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT SLATER – Councilwoman Harwig Smith.

COUNCILWOMAN HARWIG SMITH – Thank you, President Slater. Ord. No. 60 – 2026; we worked very hard on this. There’s been a lot of discussion. I appreciate all of the comments and all of the research, our citizens and all of their concerns. I have and many other Council members, share these same concerns. This legislation is our best way of protecting us at this time. We started out with this legislation and it allowed it on Industrial 1 and 2. We have changed it to be pretty much the most restrictive we can be without outlawing, which we can’t all together from our City at this point. So what this does, it will allow data centers to only be on I-2 General Industrial land. Most of the industrial land in the City that is I-2, a lot of it is what they consider “brown land”. Data centers are allowed to be in the State. They actually recommend that is the best place for them to be because we don’t want them built in agricultural land, in rural land and tearing down trees and cities. We have limited I-2 land in the City, but we do have some very large spaces that have been sitting empty that are very much brown like waste land. But all the concerns for the environment, we are very concerned. In this legislation, we moved the setback to 400 ft. We’re only going to allow it on full industrial. The Site Planning Committee is going to be the big reviewers who are going to keep up on the State and Federal laws with the concerns to water, electricity, pollution, particles, sound, decibel levels, all that stuff. With that being said, does anyone want to reply to anyone who spoke tonight or have any concerns?

COUNCIL PRESIDENT SLATER – Councilwoman Bryan-Huth.

COUNCILWOMAN BRYAN-HUTH – Thank you, President. Thank you, Councilwoman Harwig Smith. This has been intensive. I will start by saying that this zoning legislation needs to be done, in my perspective, now. Because we’ve learned from other communities who don’t have it in place what happens. When you don’t tell them where they can go, they will go where they wish. That’s just part of a free economy where you can do as you wish as long as your state has said that this is an okay industry for you to entertain. I don’t think we’re ready. I don’t think we’re ready as a State and I don’t think we’re ready as a town to go further. I would really encourage this body to consider renewing the Stay for another 60-days, continuing the work that we’re doing after voting on this zoning ordinance. I think the two of those can happen in tandem. We can vote the zoning ordinance, however the outcome lands and then renew the Stay as it was set to be renewable at the same time. There are more than a dozen bills in the House right now at the State level for data centers on everything from the environment to utilities, to consumer protections regarding AI and privacy. The House is not set to resume until after the election. So, nothing is going to be done now. Some things might be done before the inauguration of January’s new administration whomever that may be statewide. I really look to those leaders to guide us. They have more resources, more time,

more talent, more money, more investment than we can pour into this as a small municipality. I do believe we've done our best efforts that we can hear, but I do know that there's more to be done and to continue to be done with or without the Stay renewing and things of that nature. So, I do appreciate everyone who has contacted any of us, who has had a conversation, who came this evening; all of that matters. Your voice does matter.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT SLATER – Thank you.

COUNCILWOMAN HARWIG SMITH – Councilman Patterson.

COUNCILMAN PATTERSON – Thank you. Well, first of all, I just want to commend Council on the fierce debates that we've had over this legislation and data centers in general and thank you, Councilwoman Smith, for your efforts in drafting and helping draft this legislation. I come from a little different perspective. I'm a political science major, so, a lot of you may not know that and typed up on my computer creating the greatest good for the greatest amount of people. That's something I learned in college at the University of Dayton and what that means is that fortunately, I've had the blessing of living in both Canton and Massillon. I moved here when I was in the eighth grade. Lived here, moved back here, lived in other cities. I was an economic development professional in the City of Canton for four years. Prior to that, in the City of Dayton, so, you always have to weigh what everyone thinks, right? I have relatives, friends, both white, black, Puerto Rican, whatever, that are against data centers. But I also have relatives, friends, both white, black, whatever, who work on these data centers. So, am I supposed to tell a construction worker that I'm going to get rid of his job because of fears that are rightfully so. My son is against data centers, by the way. I have to weigh everybody's opinion. In my opinion is that this is pretty good legislation. All economic development is regional. So therefore, I would encourage the Administration to work with the other economic development offices whether it's in Perry, Massillon, Jackson or whatever to continue to come up with regional legislation that would affect the building of these data centers. I've been around since fracking. I know a lot of people were against fracking back in the day, but the people who had the farmland were for fracking. Why? Because they could sell their land and have life changing income come to them. So am I supposed to legislate that out? I don't know, in the United States the Constitution says "You have the right to liberty" and it also says "You have the right to take your land do what you want to do with your land" within reason and that's why we have this legislation in place is so that we can protect or put some safeguards in place when and if the data center does come into the City of Massillon. I grew up on the northeast side of Canton initially. I was there when Ford left, all the other companies left and then I spent a lot of time on the southeast side of Massillon. All those neighborhoods still look the same. I'm fifty-years old. There's no revenue that's coming to these cities and if I can get revenue into these cities to improve these neighborhoods, that's what I'm going to vote on. Vote me out. Do what you need to do, but I'm going to vote to pass this legislation and go from there. But I do applaud everybody's opinion. That's where I come from and again, thank you Council. This has been pretty great. We have different political views, of course. Canton has different political views than we do, but in my opinion, we're all in this together. They're coming regardless whether we pass this or not and we need to pass this. Thank you.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT SLATER – Councilwoman Cunningham.

COUNCILWOMAN CUNNINGHAM – Thank you, President Slater. Councilwoman Julie Harwig Smith, I want to thank you. You worked very, very hard on this and I believe we, as a Council, worked very, very hard on this. We did our due diligence. We want to do what's best for the City. We, like I've said before, we as Council folks also live in this City. I've had a

business in Massillon come August 5th, my print shop will be 51 years old. I did not want to go anyplace else but downtown Massillon and that's where I've been. Through deaths of my husband, through a fire; I still stayed here because this is my home. We do not want to destroy our City, but we do want to improve it, we want to help it economically. These are gonna come. The fact that we want to only put it in I2 which is brown, which is Republic Steel, you couldn't even grow a sunflower there if you wanted to. Again, we haven't even been approached by any data centers, but we want to do our due diligence with the zoning to save our City to do the best for our citizens and like Councilman Patterson said, we want to do the best for the most involved and concerned. And again, I want to thank all the citizens that have come. There's a lot that goes on with the social media and again, how many of them are willing to give up their telephones because they don't want a data center and like I said, there's no such thing as an icloud. It has to be taken somewhere. It has to be stored somewhere and that's what these data centers are all about. So again, Council, I want to thank all of you and I think we've really worked hard as a group together. Thank you.

COUNCILWOMAN HARWIG SMITH – Councilman Townsend.

COUNCILMAN TOWNSEND – Thank you, Councilwoman Julie Harwig Smith. First, I want to thank you for all the work you've put into this. Actually I was getting hit with all the bullets that you were sweating. So, I can appreciate all the hard work you have put into this. I have spoken to many of my constituents in Ward 4 and many constituents or people in every corner of the county and many bring up some really good ideas tonight. Some of the people who brought up who came and brought up some excellent points that I agree with and just to make a long story short; I was elected to be the voice for the people and I was out of City Council for about ten years and when I returned, they made it clear that's what they wanted me to be; the voice for the people. And so tonight, I will be the voice for the people and I will be voting "no". Thank you.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT SLATER – Councilman Gregg.

COUNCILMAN GREGG – Thank you, President Slater. Again, as been said, thank you to everyone on Council for the hard work especially Councilwoman Julie Harwig Smith for the hard work put on this legislation. I believe this is really good legislation. It's a first step, as we've said; it's one of a hundred or whatever number, but it's a first step, but it's good legislation. It's not a "yes" or "no" on data centers. If we don't vote this in, then we have no control over the data centers. The purpose of this document, of this legislation is to give us control. Is it complete? No, probably not. But it's a step and we need to take that step and I don't support extending the moratorium or the stay. I think we've done a lot of work on this and we're at the point now where we're ready to put it into play, to put it into use. And so, I support this legislation. I support moving forward. Thank you.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT SLATER – Anyone else?

COUNCILWOMAN HARWIG SMITH – I also...oh, Councilman Ray.

COUNCILMAN RAY – Thank you. I just wanted to thank everyone, even on social media, everyone who gave their statements today because they made me go deeper. I looked into this, I came into it a little out of sorts. I had no idea about computers and the energy and then they started talking about water, so I started looking it up. They started talking about electric, I started looking it up. I took tours of different facilities and I kind of agree with Councilwoman Cunningham. Data centers are going to be here. We have cell phones. We post "no data

centers” on Facebook and it’s stored in a data center. So, what I’m saying is, what I would say with a stronger movement would be for everyone to throw their cell phones away. That would completely stop data collection. Ultimately, we can’t control that. I’m a business owner here in Massillon as well. I’ve been in business as a general contractor for eight years. No one can tell me what color my uniform should be. No one can tell me which tools I can use, but I am regulated by pulling permits from the Building Dept. So, all we can do is regulate. If we do anything outside of that, that’s discrimination. I can’t tell you what to do with a piece of property that you purchased. That is within the law because that’s not our job. Our job is to write legislation and to protect our community. Now, I heard a person ask if we’ve spoken to our wards? Yes, I have. There’s an entire ward. The ward is of 3,200 voters. I only get a turnout of maybe three hundred, two-fifty, maybe. I have a Ward 2 Facebook page. I ask questions. I don’t vote for Eric Ray. I vote for Ward 2 and most of my ward that I speak to, whom ever comes out or shows up to Council because Council’s open every Monday; every Monday. I can’t express what I don’t know and I appreciate the things that have been brought to my attention and I feel that we have done as much due diligence as we can do in step one of this process. I, with heavy heart, am happy that we took the time to even consider all the changes that we made. I appreciate the fact that we do have different points of views and different sides of partisanship where we challenge one another and it was a very, very trying time and it still will be and it’ll continue to be, but I think that we’re working better and one step closer to doing what we need to do for the people of Massillon. With that being said, I’ll let that go. Thank you.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT SLATER – Thank you.

COUNCILWOMAN HARWIG SMITH – I also would like to call up the Mayor for his opinion on our legislation and changes.

MAYOR SLUTZ – Good evening, Council President. Good evening, Council. Thank you for calling me up here. So you’ve been passed with looking at our zoning laws. You guys have worked diligently to argue back and forth to see what’s best for our community. You went as far as to hire an attorney, Atty. Seeberger, to address these issues. You’ve come to the conclusion that putting a data center in I-2 is what’s best for our community and I agree with that. Some of the issues that people have are the electric, the water usage and the noise. Councilman Ray, I agree with you. We can’t tell a property owner what they can do with their property. The State has opened the doors for data centers. So, they have put this on city councils to address the issues and I think you guys have done a great job. As far as the electrical grid that affects these data centers, it’s not just the City of Massillon. It’s not just Stark County. This power grid goes from New Jersey to Chicago and every city and state in between there. So if a data center was put in Pittsburgh, for instance, from the research that I’ve done is that that will affect our electrical rates here in Massillon, Ohio. So if that’s going to affect us in Massillon, Ohio, if ones built in Pennsylvania, if ones built in Illinois; why not build them here? Julie Harwig Smith, you mentioned a brown field and had mentioned the old Republic Steel site. I met with the owners of that property about two months ago and they said that they have been in talks with somebody’s that’s interested in putting a data center there. So I reached out to Councilman Marcum to try to get ahead of our regulations and our zoning laws to address these issues. So we want to get out in front of that. As far as the water, we meet internally to talk about issues such as electric and water and we talked about if they do put a data center at Republic Steel, our Wastewater Treatment Plant treats about 12 million gallons a day of water that they take from other industrial sites, residential and things like that. So if they are treating 12 million gallons of water a day, why could we not pipe that water that we’ve treated, not exactly to the point of drinking water, but darn close and what we do is once

we've cleaned it we put it in the Tuscarawas River and it goes down stream. Why could we not pipe that water to a data center in Republic Steel which is right across the river and use recycled water instead of our drinking water? We have not had any conversations with any data centers, but when we do, that is something that I am going bring up; using recycled water instead of using our drinking water. But with that being said, if Aqua Ohio tells a company that they can accommodate them and lets says they need 400,000 gallons of water and Aqua Ohio assures them that they can accommodate them and give them 400,000 gallons of water, who are we to say that they can't do that? I heard Councilman Ray talk about his business and uniforms and things like that; all this is today is to regulate the zoning laws to prevent or to regulate what can happen on these properties in these industrial sites. So, I agree; I have questions, we all have questions, but as far as the electric, if that's going to affect us whether it's here, Chicago, New Jersey; you name the city, why not have them here. Are there any questions?

COUNCILWOMAN HARWIG SMITH – Thank you, Mayor.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT SLATER – Thank you, Sir.

COUNCILMAN PAQUELET – I do have a statement.

COUNCILWOMAN HARWIG SMITH – Okay, Councilman Paquelet.

COUNCILMAN PAQUELET – Thank you, Julie Harwig Smith. With this legislation, if it's approved, it gives the authority to the Site Planning Review Committee. So we're giving the Administration the tools to do those next steps that the Mayor just talked about and that's it. We shouldn't legislate every little aspect to City Council should not be doing that and every little detail down the road. So, if this were to pass it gives them to tools to do that and to work on those issues of water, air, sound, electrical. So, I'll just leave it at that. Thank you.

COUNCILWOMAN HARWIG SMITH – Thank you, Councilman Paquelet. Moving forward, I'd like to make a motion to amend Ord. No. 60 – 2026 as per our conversations at the Work Session; I submitted the changes, me and Diane. We got a hold of Atty. Seeberger. He looked over it. You should have all received his recommendation wording for what I wanted to achieve. Basically, Section 1121.02, the amended subsections (91) and (92). So, (91) at the very end where basically this is just definition of a large scale data center, it will say *“Large Scale Data Center” means a facility used or to be used primarily to house computer data center equipment used or to be used in conducting one or more computer data center businesses, said facility’s structure or structures that house or contain Data Center Equipment exceeding one-hundred thousand square feet (100,000 SF) on a single parcel and/or capable of exceeding 25 MW (25,000 Kw) usage per hour.”* And that coincides with State and Federal definitions and then subsection (92) *“Non Large Scale Data Center” means a facility used or to be used primarily to house computer data center equipment used or to be used in conducting one or more computer data center businesses, said facility’s structure or structures that house or contain Data Center Equipment not exceeding one-hundred thousand square feet (100,00 SF) on a single parcel and/or not capable of exceeding 25 MW (25,000 kW) usage per hour.”* Does anyone have any questions on this amendment motion? I'd like to bring it up for a vote.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT SLATER – Seconded by Councilwoman Cunningham. Roll call for motion to amend.

6 yes; 2 no for the amendment

COUNCIL PRESIDENT SLATER – Ord. No. 60 – 2026 has been amended. Councilwoman Harwig Smith.

COUNCILWOMAN HARWIG SMITH – Thank you, President Slater. At this time, I'd like to make a motion to waive the rules that require three readings and bring Ord. No. 60 – 2026 forward for a vote.

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

7 yes; 1 no for suspension

COUNCIL PRESIDENT SLATER – And for passage.

7 yes; 1 no for passage

COUNCIL PRESIDENT SLATER – Thank you, Madam Clerk. Ord. No. 60 – 2026 has passed. Ord. No. 67 – 2026.

ORDINANCE NO. 67 – 2026

BY: PUBLIC UTILITIES & ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE

AN ORDINANCE to provide for water service to be furnished by Aqua Ohio, Inc. to the City of Massillon, Ohio, and the inhabitants thereof, and to regulate the rates under which water service shall be furnished in the City of Massillon, Ohio, for and during the period from January 1, 2027 through December 31, 2031.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT SLATER – Councilman Townsend.

COUNCILMAN TOWNSEND – Thank you, Council President Slater. This ordinance is to raise the water rates within the City. Currently we are at \$48.62, in 2027 it will be \$51.31, in 2028 it will be \$54.26, in 2029 it will be \$57.38, in 2030 it will be \$60.68, and in 2031 it will be \$64.17. I understand that if we don't vote on this, it goes to the Public Utility Commission and I get that. But one of the problems I had when we called Aqua up here is that it appears to me that Massillon is the only city that received a rate increase. They provide services to people in multiple cities in Ohio, New Jersey and other states, but it seems that Massillon is the only city that received a rate increase. And another thing that bothered me is that many water companies have a discount program for seniors, veterans and people with permanent disabilities. Aqua Ohio does not have that. So with that said, I will be vote "no" to this tonight but I would like to move Ord. No. 67 – 2026 forward for a vote.

COUNCILMAN GREGG – I'd like to make a comment.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT SLATER – I'm sorry. Go ahead.

COUNCILMAN GREGG – Councilman Townsend, I wanted just to clarify a thing. Massillon is not the only city that got a rate increase. Massillon is one of only cities that got a negotiated rate with Aqua Ohio. The other cities got rate increases much higher because they went to PUCO.

COUNCILMAN TOWNSEND – Well, when the gentleman was up here, I asked him about that. He believes Struthers may have been the only city in Ohio that got a rate increase, but he could not tell me any other cities in any other states.

COUNCILMAN GREGG – Again, negotiated rate increase with Aqua Ohio because they don't negotiate with many communities. We're one of the only communities in Ohio or in their service area that they actually negotiated with. So, I think that's what he was referring to is that Massillon was the only one. I mean, everybody got an increase but we were the only one that had a negotiated rate increase which was lower, much lower and will continue to be much lower than the PUCO rate.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT SLATER – Councilwoman Bryan-Huth.

COUNCILWOMAN BRYAN-HUTH – I agree with what Mr. Gregg said. When the gentleman was here, they did speak that the rate increases had already happened in another bargaining cycle. It wasn't this year, but they were on a different bargaining cycle than we are and because we're a municipality who negotiates which talks to them directly maybe is a better term, that we were on a different cycle than what they were. But they did have their increases already last year. They were at that 13ish% and I'm sorry, I don't have my paper in front of me, but it was in the teens that they had negotiated an increase and we were to 7%. So, it was a market difference that we were able to get for our citizens by not going with PUCO. So my decision is going to be based on what is more economical which is going to be to accept this negotiation because it is going to be less of an increase, overall, for our community.

COUNCILMAN TOWNSEND – Alright. Well, I stand corrected on that. But I do know for a fact that they do not have programs for seniors, people with permanent disabilities and veterans. So, really, that is 99.9% behind the reason why I'm voting "no".

COUNCIL PRESIDENT SLATER – Councilwoman Cunningham.

COUNCILWOMAN CUNNINGHAM – Thank you, President Slater. I remember you asking them that, but didn't they say they do speak to them one-on-one and then they make decisions?

COUNCILMAN TOWNSEND – They said it, but it's nothing written. So it's not valid for me. They have a program where if people get behind or water gets shut-off, they have an incentive program where they offer like \$300.00, but they also have a rate increase if your water gets shut-off. If they have to come out and turn it on in the middle of the night, then there's an extra increase. So I ask the question; how does that poor lady, you have this incentive program, but you also have a fee that will charge people when your water gets cut off. I can't recall him ever really giving me an answer that satisfied me. We got a thousand or so people and it's just hard for me to believe that their resources for over a thousand something people to negotiate some deals with their water rates. Councilman Patterson.

COUNCILMAN PATTERSON – Thank you, Councilman Townsend. Doesn't the Stark Community Action Agency have certain programs related to helping people with their water bills? Not for water? Oh, okay. I thought water was roped into that.

COUNCILMAN TOWNSEND – No.

COUNCILMAN PATTERSON – Okay. Thank you.

COUNCILMAN RAY – Just as an FYI, in most cases water typically would elapse a lot longer before someone actually turns their water off. But, not to say that that doesn't still leave you in a financial distress, but with that being said, water is considered a necessity so it's not like number one, come and turn your water off. But I understand where Councilman Townsend is coming from regarding a program. But I do recall, I believe, the Aqua representative did say that they will speak to you on a case-to-case basis; based on your fixed income or something to that aspect he said, but he just didn't have the information up front.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT SLATER – Councilwoman Harwig Smith.

COUNCILWOMAN HARWIG SMITH – I appreciate that and I think that's important to have things or programs that they have for that and he mentioned that. What we're voting on has nothing to do with all their different programs that they have with different communities. What we're voting on is rate increases for the next five years and we're not the only one. Everyone is getting a rate increase it's just some people. We had a contract, I think our contract was up. Other people's contract was up last year or next year they'll be up. It just where our cycle came through. Just to clarify. But I do think that they should, being that their, we always need programs to help people who are in trouble and there's things out there, but this is not what this legislation is about. But if you feel like we need to negotiate or change anything in this, then you don't even have to bring it up for a vote, you could suspend it. Not suspend it.

COUNCILMAN TOWNSEND – No. That would probably will take a longer time then they probably would go to PUCO.

COUNCILWOMAN HARWIG SMITH – It could.

COUNCILMAN TOWNSEND – But I've voting "no" for the simple fact is that their raising their water, increasing the water rates, and yet there's no relief for people on fixed income. And when there are other programs for electricity and gas where they do have programs for people who are on fixed incomes and those are seniors, people with permanent disabilities and some veterans. So, that's why I'm voting "no" because I feel if you're going to increase the water rate, at least have some type of relief for people who are on a fixed income. And so, that's it. That's the only reason why I'm voting "no".

COUNCIL PRESIDENT SLATER – Councilman Townsend.

COUNCILMAN TOWNSEND – Thank you. I would like to move Ord. No. 67 – 2026 forward for a vote.

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

7 yes; 1 no for passage

COUNCIL PRESIDENT SLATER – Thank you, Madam Clerk. Ord. No. 67 – 2026 has passed.

17. SECOND READING ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS

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

SHERRY FRENCH – Hi. It's me again. Still don't know my ward number. I live at 4838 Sherman Church Ave. S.W., Canton, OH 44706. Sir, I've talked to many different people in the tech industry that are working on data centers. The construction jobs are temporary. After that, after that, a gentleman signed my petition against data centers and he said he was so discussed when it was all said and done, three people had a permanent job. Three. So, there's a difference between the kind of data centers that we use for our phone...

COUNCIL PRESIDENT SLATER – Ma'am. Hang on. We're talking about something that's not on the agenda. So in other words, you can talk about something other than the data centers which we've already discussed before. I'm not trying to be rude. I'm being truthful here. That's not a part of this.

SHERRY FRENCH – Okay. Whatever.

COUNCILMAN PATTERSON – I'll be happy to talk with you afterwards.

19. ADJOURNMENT

COUNCIL PRESIDENT SLATER – Councilwoman Bryan-Huth.

COUNCILWOMAN BRYAN-HUTH – I would like to make a motion to adjourn.

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

8 yes to adjourn

COUNCIL PRESIDENT SLATER – Meeting adjourned.

DIANE ROLLAND, COUNCIL CLERK

MIKE SLATER, PRESIDENT