

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
MASSILLON CITY COUNCIL
HELD MONDAY, OCTOBER 5, 2026**

COUNCIL PRESIDENT SLATER – Good evening. Welcome to the Massillon City Council meeting for Monday, October 5, 2026. We have in attendance the following City officials: Mayor Jamie Slutz, Safety Service Director, Dave McConnell, Director of Development, Ted Herncane, Fire Chief, Matt Heck, Health Dept. Commissioner, Terri Argent 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, Julie Harwig Smith, Ed Lewis, John Paquelet, Mandwel Patterson, Eric Ray and Tony Townsend

Roll call of 8 present

COUNCIL PRESIDENT SLATER – Councilman Lewis.

COUNCILMAN LEWIS – I'd like to make a motion that we excuse Mr. Gregg.

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

8 yes to excuse Councilman Gregg

COUNCIL PRESIDENT SLATER – Thank you, Madam Clerk. Councilman Gregg has been excused.

2. INVOCATION

COUNCILMAN ED LEWIS IV

3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

LED BY COUNCILMAN LEWIS

COUNCIL PRESIDENT SLATER – Thank you, Councilman Lewis.

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

6. NEW AND MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS

COUNCIL PRESIDENT SLATER – Mayor Slutz.

MAYOR SLUTZ – Good evening, Council, Council President, Council Clerk. I just wanted to take a minute to introduce the City's new Safety Service Director, David McConnell. I'll have him step up to the podium and say a few words. Thank you.

DAVE MCCONNELL – I just want to thank everybody. I'm really excited about being back in the City of Massillon. I was born and raised here. I think I know just about everybody in this room, to be honest with you. I worked here for over twenty years in law enforcement. Over at Indian River throughout the years, serving the community. So, I'm really excited about being back and to continue to do that. So, thank you guys very much.

7. CONSENT AGENDA

COUNCIL PRESIDENT SLATER – Ord. No. 93 – 2026.

ORDINANCE NO. 93 – 2026

BY: POLICE & FIRE COMMITTEE

AN ORDINANCE authorizing the Fire Chief of the City of Massillon Fire Department to accept an Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG) from the Department of Homeland Security, and declaring an emergency.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT SLATER – Ord. No. 94 – 2026.

ORDINANCE NO. 94 – 2026

BY: FINANCE COMMITTEE

AN ORDINANCE making certain appropriations from the unappropriated balance of the 3106 Massillon Bicentennial Fund, for the year ending December 31, 2026, and declaring an emergency.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT SLATER – Councilman Lewis.

COUNCILMAN LEWIS – I'd like to make a motion that we suspend the rules requiring three readings and bring all items on the Consent Agenda forward for a vote.

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

8 yes for suspension

COUNCIL PRESIDENT SLATER – And for passage.

8 yes for passage

COUNCIL PRESIDENT SLATER – Thank you, Madam Clerk. Ord. No. 93 – 2026 and Ord. No. 94 – 2026 has passed.

8. INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS

9. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

10. PETITIONS AND GENERAL COMMUNICATIONS

11. BILLS, ACCOUNTS AND CLAIMS

12. REPORTS FROM CITY OFFICIALS

COUNCIL PRESIDENT SLATER – Health Commissioner Terri Argent.

TERRI ARGENT – I'm here to give my annual grant report that I'm required to give the first meeting in October of every year and I think you have that grant report in your hands. This is the Workforce Development Grant. As of October 1st, we have \$510,000.00 total grant funds. \$177,122.39 total funds have been spent. \$187,956.00 will be billed as of October 10th in personnel and \$202,579.00, which is what is left over, to spend on personnel and training and that goes to the end of 2027.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT SLATER – Any questions? Councilwoman Cunningham.

COUNCILWOMAN CUNNINGHAM – Thank you, President Slater. Every year you apply for different grants. Do any new grants ever become available?

TERRI ARGENT – This is the newest grant that we've had and it's been three years. So, we haven't had anything new for quite a while. Since COVID, basically.

COUNCILWOMAN CUNNINGHAM – Thank you.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT SLATER – Any more questions? Thank you.

TERRI ARGENT – Thank you.

13. REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

COUNCIL PRESIDENT SLATER – Our next Work Session will be Monday, October 12, 2026, at 6:30 p.m. Council does not observe Columbus Day.

14. RESOLUTIONS AND REQUESTS OF COUNCIL MEMBERS

15. CALL OF THE CALENDAR

16. THIRD READING ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS

COUNCIL PRESIDENT SLATER – Res. No. 29 – 2026.

A RESOLUTION delineating one or more overlays in relation to the proposed Alpha Pointe incentive district within the City of Massillon, Ohio; adopting a written economic development plan as to same; setting the time and place of a public hearing; authorizing and ratifying the giving of notice to the Tuslaw Local School District, the Stark County Area Vocational School District, all pursuant to Ohio Revised Code Section 5709.40(C) and its related rules and laws.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT SLATER – Councilman Paquelet.

COUNCILMAN PAQUELET – Thank you, President Slater. With regards to this subject matter, and Mr. Gregg, he's unable to attend this evening's meeting and he'd like an opportunity to speak about this further in the future. So I want to make a request that we table it for two weeks for the final vote on this resolution. Does anyone have any questions regarding that or concerns? And then with that, if it were to be tabled there was a public meeting, I believe, that was scheduled for next week. That would have to be reassigned, the public meeting that the property owners would then have. So that would be scheduled at a later date not knowing at this time exactly when that would be.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT SLATER – Councilman Ray.

COUNCILMAN RAY – Thank you, President. I believe he mentioned at the last meeting that he would be the only one in attendance to the public hearing.

COUNCILMAN PAQUELET – He would be the only one notified because he's the only property owner.

COUNCILMAN RAY – He's the only one in that thirty or three-hundred-mile radius? I think he's the only one. There's a certain radius you have to mail out to.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT SLATER – Councilwoman Cunningham.

COUNCILWOMAN CUNNINGHAM – Thank you, President Slater. Why could we still not have the public hearing prior to voting?

COUNCILMAN PAQUELET – Because it's the requirements; you have a timeframe that you have to have a public meeting so far after the vote occurs.

COUNCILWOMAN CUNNINGHAM – Not prior?

COUNCILMAN PAQUELET – Mr. Herncane.

TED HERNCANE – Good evening, Mr. President, Members of Council. This public hearing is different than the other public hearings you're used to in terms of rezoning or other things. It is a legal requirement that if we're going to table this for two weeks, we do have to reschedule the public hearing. It's just part of the legislative process set forth by the revised code.

COUNCILWOMAN CUNNINGHAM – That's why I was confused. Okay, thank you.

TED HERNCANE – Thanks.

COUNCILMAN PAQUELET – Any other questions? So do we make a motion that we table Res. No. 29 – 2026?

COUNCILMAN LEWIS – Point of Order. The motion has to state the date. So your motion would be that you want to make a motion to table Res. No. 29 – 2026 until October 19th and then you need a second and then we vote.

COUNCILMAN PAQUELET – I would like to make a motion to table Res. No. 29 – 2026 until October 19th. We don't know when the public hearing is going to be.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT SLATER – Councilman Lewis.

COUNCILMAN LEWIS – Look, the public hearing cannot occur until after a vote. It says it in the very first, it says right here “setting the time and place of a public hearing”. It's right in the language. So you guys will table it tonight to the 19th. After the 19th, if it passes, then they will set a public hearing and we will continue.

COUNCILMAN PAQUELET – Correct. Well said.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT SLATER – Mr. Herncane.

TED HERNCANE – So, if you table until the 19th, two weeks from today, we will then ask for a motion to amend the resolution to insert a new public hearing date a couple of weeks after that.

COUNCILMAN PAQUELET – Is everyone good?

COUNCIL PRESIDENT SLATER – Councilman Ray.

COUNCILMAN RAY – After we table it, does it go back to first reading?

COUNCIL PRESIDENT SLATER – Yes. Councilman Paquelet.

COUNCILMAN PAQUELET – I would like to make a motion to table Res. No. 29 – 2026 until October 19th.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT SLATER – Seconded by Councilwoman Bryan-Huth. Roll call.

6 yes; 1 no; 1 abstention to table Res. No. 29 – 2026 until October 19th.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT SLATER – Thank you. Res. No. 29 – 2026 has been tabled until October 19, 2026.

17. SECOND READING ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS

COUNCIL PRESIDENT SLATER – Ord. No. 92 – 2026.

AN ORDINANCE amending Ordinance No. 79 – 2020 pertaining to authorizing credit card use by various departments within the City of Massillon, Ohio, in compliance with the credit card policy established by the City of Massillon, Ohio, and declaring an emergency.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT SLATER – Councilman Paquelet.

COUNCILMAN PAQUELET – Second reading. Now, have we gotten the new language on this? There was some language that Mr. Lewis had mentioned.

COUNCIL CLERK ROLLAND – Yes.

COUNCILMAN PAQUELET – If we could have that prior to that and then what we would do is just amend the ordinance and presumably vote on it the next City Council meeting.

COUNCIL CLERK ROLLAND – Well, this is an ordinance and it was per what Mr. Lewis suggested “An Administrator/Director/Department Supervisor or Chief or their designee who has been empowered to purchase goods within preset limits on behalf of the City of Massillon”.

COUNCILMAN PAQUELET – So that’s in what we have here? I didn’t know.

COUNCIL CLERK ROLLAND – Yes.

COUNCILMAN PAQUELET – What paragraph is that in?

COUNCIL CLERK ROLLAND – It would be in the Exhibit “A”. Do you now have that?

COUNCILMAN PAQUELET – No.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT SLATER – Councilman Lewis.

COUNCILMAN LEWIS – Diane, just for the sake of time tonight I think, since he’s giving this second reading; could we just have that emailed out to us.

COUNCIL CLERK ROLLAND – Sure.

COUNCILMAN LEWIS – And then, do you by chance have, did you receive that update prior to it actually coming to us for first reading two weeks ago?

COUNCIL CLERK ROLLAND – I did.

COUNCILMAN LEWIS – Thank you. So that means we wouldn’t have to amend since it was submitted prior to the first reading.

COUNCILMAN PAQUELET – So, second reading. Thank you.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT SLATER – Ord. No. 92 – 2026 has received its second reading.

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

CHAD HARTMAN – 47 Lincoln Way W. I believe we're Ward 2. So, I know most of you know about the project that we're working on, the Bloomberg Building. You passed a couple of ordinances to kind of get this thing over the finish line. We ran into some problems. Our appraised value for the project, for the financing came in at \$2.7 million dollars to make this work. The project cost is \$5 million dollars. So we're point \$2.3 million dollars short. We're looking for anywhere we can cut the money, we cut the budget. We've found a couple of options, one of which will be actually...here's our project just so that this presentation has been given to the Rotary Club as well as to the Chamber of Commerce. Kind of an overview of project. The idea is we bring in some high-end rentals downtown. We kind of become that catalyst for downtown. So, to go over that again, if anybody wants to sit down and discuss it, I'm willing to. We are actually meeting with the Administration on Wednesday to discuss some options. One of the options that bring our cost down, believe it or not, about \$800,000 dollars is simply for the elevator. So the elevator is what has or is going to kill this project. The grant money that we have, the historical tax credits expired in June. We got an extension, six-month extension. They expire again in December and this is probably going to be it. So, we're running on fumes. We're going to lose a \$1.5 million and a half in tax credits if we can't make this happen. The hail Mary where we're at right is the attached building, the Senior Center, which is owned by the City of Massillon and we are going to be working on asking the Administration for use of said elevator that is attached to that building. And I understand that the City cannot give us exclusive usage to that elevator. But, there's some legal things that have to happen. I have an attorney; we have the City attorney. We will probably have to have Council to determine that the City does not require exclusive access to that elevator. We're asking to share the elevator which the Senior Center uses I know about once a week; they use that elevator. So we're going to be asking the Council to declare that that elevator is not required for exclusive use. Because the City cannot lease us the elevator if there's still a City use for it. So there's some laws that keep that from happening. So we'll be meeting with the City, I believe, on Wednesday. We'll be meeting on Wednesday, but I didn't want to wait until that date because, as you can quickly see, once if the City is good with that then we need to really quickly; everything we've done is an emergency. I'm sorry, I truly apologize for that, but we need to be real quick because once that's approved then we have to go back to the architect, the engineers, the planners to get all of that together and then go back to the bank and say "now we can make it work" and get them to approve it and redo the appraisal. So, we are literally two months away from this entire thing falling apart. If we lose the tax credits, if we can't make this work, it's done. It's over. We, personally, have broken the number one rule of real estate which is never use your own money. We have invested \$600,000 of our own personal cash which was actually our retirement plan, but we thought we'd do something really cool with it. So, that's where we're at. I want everybody to know that's where we're at. My phone number is on there. If anybody has questions about the project, you want to come see the project, you want to understand what we're trying to do; we believe that our project would be the catalyst along with Gary's project at the Bloomfield. We believe that we can be that catalyst that brings people downtown. We bring people with a higher income to live downtown. We start to build up that business and now more businesses can come down and can afford those rents too. Thank you very much for listening. I know you can't ask questions of me and stuff like that, but my phone number is there; reach out to me and I will answer anything that you have. Thank you very much for your time and all of your support up until now. I know there was a piece of legislation that was like this thick and it was really hard to pass and you passed it and I really appreciate what the Council has done up to this point. Thank you very much.

GAYLE DANZY – 2014 Tennyson Ave. N.E. I believe I'm in Ward 1. I just have comments today to get you to think about some things. One of Councilmen, Tony Townsend, is running for Stark County Commissioner. One of the things that I realized, and let me preference this with because I don't ever want to hear anybody say I did anything wrong; this is the opinion of Gayle Danzy only. This is representing any non-profit because as you know that's against the law. So, this is just my personal opinion about Tony Townsend. Tony is one of the few Councilmen that I know that wrote legislation that changed things in this City. He actually wrote the legislation himself when he was on Council. Presented it in the City and you can look this up and see the changes that he made. Then he became President of Council and then found the need to come back to support his city. So in my opinion, if a man can do that much for a city, write legislation that changes things in the City, certainly, he would be a great person to have as a commissioner. One of my problems with the commissioners is that they meet at a time that no one can come to. I've looked at that and the time that they have meetings, no one can come to those meetings. It's like 1:00 p.m. or 2:00 p.m. and it's an hour meeting. So the public does not get to give their opinion of what needs to be done with the public's money. So I believe that Tony would be a great commissioner to work towards changing that time, open it up so that the public can speak and so that we can do something in Stark County that will benefit Stark County. Please consider Tony for Stark County Commissioner. Please let him know if he can place a sign in yard so that other people can know to consider him for Stark County Commissioner and let me go on record that I am voting for Tony Townsend for Stark County Commissioner. Thank you.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT SLATER – Anyone else?

19. ADJOURNMENT

COUNCIL PRESIDENT SLATER – Councilman Lewis.

COUNCILMAN LEWIS – I make a motion to adjourn.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT SLATER – Seconded by Councilman Tony Townsend. Roll call.

8 yes to adjourn

COUNCIL PRESIDENT SLATER – Meeting adjourned.

DIANE ROLLAND, COUNCIL CLERK

MIKE SLATER, PRESIDENT