MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
MASSILLON CITY COUNCIL
HELD MONDAY, NOVEMBER 2, 2026

COUNCIL PRESIDENT SLATER – Good evening. Welcome to the Massillon City Council meeting for Monday, November 2, 2026. We have in attendance the following City officials: Mayor Jamie Slutz, Safety Service Director, Dave McConnell, City Engineer, Alex Pitts, Director of Development, Ted Herncane, Police Chief, Jason Saintenoy, Fire Chief, Matt Heck and Income Tax/Budget Director, Lori Kotagides-Boron. Under #5 on the agenda is where the public can speak on any topic that appears ON tonight's agenda and under #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, including Council 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, Ed Lewis, John Paquelet, Mandwel Patterson, Eric Ray and Tony Townsend

Roll call of 8 present

COUNCIL PRESIDENT SLATER – Councilman Gregg.

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

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

8 yes to excuse Councilwoman Harwig Smith

2. INVOCATION

COUNCILMAN MANDWEL PATTERSON

3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

LED BY COUNCILMAN PATTRSON

COUNCIL PRESIDENT SLATER – Thank you, Councilman Patterson.

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

AMANDA STAHL – Hello. Thank you so much for having this opportunity to speak, Members of Council, President of Council, Administration. I live at 837 – 17th St. N.E. I'm in Ward 3 and I will be speaking about Ord. No. 106 – 2026 about rezoning the Light Industrial District to the Heavy Industrial District. Honestly, I would like to strongly encourage you to say "no" to rezoning that parcel in question on Harsh and 16th. In rezoning that section, you are opening the door for the developers who have come forth to move forward with their data center. I urge caution in allowing these types of structures before the guardrails, accountability and testing the full scope of the impact on our community can be measured. No matter how many temporary jobs that might be bringing to us. We've heard horror stories of other communities that have been devastated by data centers. Sediment in the water, skyrocketing electric and water rates and sound pollution. Often a hummer noise that can physically affect our bodies even though you can't necessarily hear it. I heard in the Work Session last week that noise levels would be kept at about 40 decibels by the time that sound reaches the schools across the street; around the sound of a truck, as it was described. But now imagine that that truck noise is 24/7; 365, constant and that that truck is next to you. When you are sitting in second grade, when you're sitting in the eleventh grade at our high school or you're trying to concentrate on your school work. Imagine that that truck is in your ears as you're attempting to play on the playground or while you're cheering on the Massillon Tigers at Paul Brown Tiger Stadium. Now, my son attends East Elementary and he is in second grade and he has asked me to read this, because he is at home doing homework and eating dinner. He wrote it from my perspective which I thought was adorable: "My son does not want a data center next to his school because he does not want it humming and humming all day." So, he is asking you to vote "no" in this rezoning. We don't know enough yet, but we do have enough data to know that that kind of data center in heavy industrial does not belong in the neighborhood next to our schools and next to our stadium. Thank you.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT SLATER – Thank you.

DEELA MCCREERY – I live at 155 – 25th St. S.E. I'm in Ward 3 and I'm thirteen years old. I'm here to talk about the zoning change next to the high school for a data center. I live just a little over a mile away from where the data center is intended to be built and I only have one more year until I'm at the high school. I've heard a lot of adults speaking about this issue, but who else is more qualified to talk about our worries for this zoning change than us the youth who have to learn there. Our lives, health and peace of mind should matter deeply to the Council. Our youth already face many stresses at school. From fitting in and making friends to passing tests and learning to follow our dreams, our footsteps in our school system help shape who we will become. We should not only have to worry about distractions from a data center or any other industrial building that could create loud noises, cause pollution or any other negative environmental impact. Changing this zoning leaves my classmates and I vulnerable to negative impacts of the data center or anything else that could go in its place. With our school working hard to improve its academics, we need a distraction free environment where we can focus. A vote for this zoning change is a vote telling us that our safety, peace of mind and education just don't matter as much as business and money. Are you telling me that

you have no place else to put this data center other than right by our school? Are telling me that I should have to lose my peace of mind over a zoning decision? Are you prepared to tell us our lives and education just don't matter? Please vote to protect our schools. Thank you.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT SLATER – Thank you.

JANE SCHULTZ – I live at 1221 Providence Rd. N.E., Massillon. I know we can't ask questions and you don't have to answer, but I'm going to ask the question; do any Council Members have grandchildren or children attending the high school or the elementary school? Don't have to answer that. Is the property owner a Massillon resident? Mr. Patterson, while I appreciate your research in ways for Massillonians to make money on the project, I'm not counting on reimbursement that would be possibly ten years away and it is unknown if a data center will be profitable for the community. Additionally, who knows what amount of money Massillon will have to shell out in electrical cost in than ten years while we wait for that proposed dividend? Again, I would ask that the Council please agree not to sign a NDA if you do go ahead with this. If the owners of a data center truly care about our community, they should be willing to share, provide full disclosure. And finally, again, I would encourage Council Members and Members of Planning Commission to do your research on what Apple is proposing. It is less invasive, completely bypasses massive energy grids, cooling towers and land footprints. It's staying on tract with Apple's aggressive climate controls. While it will be a bit further down the road, it could demonstrate Council's force site to provide the community with a wise decision. And there is a site you can go to; Apple Quietly Killing AI Data Centers. I listened to it earlier and it's interesting. Thank you.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT SLATER – Thank you.

RICHARD MCCLAIN – I live at 333 Independent St. S.E., Massillon; Ward 3. A little background; I'm a retired mechanic engineer. I carried a professional engineer's license at the time I retired and in the mid-'70's. I worked for a local manufacturer building heat exchangers for the Alaskan pipeline. Spent over six months doing noise study for that. So, they built fan cooled heat exchangers and they did a lot of work to make them quiet. These air cooled or liquid to air exchangers and data centers are not bad. First, I'd like to explain a little bit about noise levels. Everything you read about is going to say "dba". DBA is a sound scale and its different than "DBC". DBA goes from like 1,000 to 5,000 hertz. It totally ignores anything below 1,000 hertz. "EBC", it measurers the hertz below 1,000 down to 20 hertz and it can be a massive, massive difference. Kind of an example; you're gonna have a data center running at 70 hertz or at 70 decibels DBA. You have a train going by at 80 DBA, you will still hear that data center over top of that train. Several cities around have an ordinance. Canton's got a 70 decibel day and 70 decibel night for commercial. Summit County got 65 decibels day, 63 decibels as night. Massillon does not have an ordinance like that, but they have an ordinance that says its "prohibited making, permitting or causing any unreasonable or unnecessary noise that disrupts the peace and quiet of the City is illegal". That's on your books. That makes Massillon probably one of the most restrictive ordinances available. One of my references that I found, it's called "Quiet Communities" by Peter Wilson. He's a well-known authority on noise levels. He says that "the DBA sounds scale discards frequencies over 250 hertz". That's been debated; some of them say that it's below 1,000. These fans in the cooling systems generate noise levels of 63 hertz to 250 hertz. St. Louis recognized this with the influx of data centers and they passed an ordinance due to this. One thing that they found out is that this noise can be disturbing for up to a mile very prominently at 3,000 ft. So they passed an ordinance that limits the noise level at their property line to 5 level C above ambient. Ambient is very quiet. So they don't allow much. They've also, something I haven't heard anything talked about,

these data centers generate a tremendous amount of heat. St. Louis is requiring them to dissipate all that heat before it passes off their property. So all those cooling towers or whatever they're cooling with and this proposed one is a closed loop system which means it's going to be fans; St. Louis requires them to discard all that heat on their property.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT SLATER – I need you to wrap it up, please.

RICHARD MCCLAIN – Yes, okay. Real quick, the NEA, they oppose data centers due to the students being affected by noise pollution. Educational Week has found over 18,000 data centers and then the students in third grade have lower test scores in math than the students that are outside of that one-mile radius. Thank you very much.

CHIARA POWER – I live at 59 Lincoln Way E., Apt. 802, Ward 2 and I'd also like to speak on Ord. No. 106. I'm concerned about these long term implications of having the rezoning into a heavy industrial district next to the elementary school. Even if the data center does not go in, we've opened the door to heavy industry being right next to the elementary school, the high school, the stadium where numerous members of our town go every Friday. I'm also concerned about the long term planning of investing in data centers in Massillon. The short term construction jobs may be high, but the long term jobs are extremely low. I believe that the Rezoning Commission, they were talking about only maybe 8 to 20 long term jobs like the security. This money will primarily be leaving Massillon, even with the school taxes. Most of that area the school taxes go to Perry Twp., not to Massillon. Yet Massillon students will be bearing the brunt of the noise, the disruption to their learning. I'm also concerned that data centers are being treated like industry that is being brought to Massillon. I understand wanting jobs and industry brought to Massillon. This is not necessarily jobs. They primarily run themselves. This is extraction. They need land that is considered useless, not being used that has electricity and water for something that will run itself. These are companies that want to mine our community, not necessarily contribute to it. This is not going to employ hundreds of people for long term and will generate a lot of money short term and then leave us to bear the consequences. Thank you for your time.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT SLATER – Thank you.

DAPHNE MCCREERY – I live at 155 – 25th St. S.E. I'm in Ward 3 and I would also like to address the zoning change. The Council is intended to be the voice of the people and we trust you in that tonight. Data centers may not be necessarily new, but they are new here and as everything has its place, I'm not sure that next to a school is a great idea. As my daughter already shared, they have very real concerns. Our school is in the 43rd percentile. It's not exactly great. With places like 411 Oberlin S.E. where Ohio Edison has electrical connections with existing 138 kilo volt lines capable of expanding to 100 megawatts of capacity and Aqua offering one million gallons per day with two million excess, why are we even considering next to the school? I know we failed these kids when I have to drive my daughter pass the school where the data center is supposed to be, she's like "Mom, can our school catch on fire?". Which is a real logical fear. As Bitdeer has did in November 2025. Would it? No, it's across the street and I showed her that. I can understand her fear. And even if the noise doesn't bother the school, the stress of it can. Stress is a real thing and these kids face it every day. They're fighting to fit in, they're fighting to find their path in this world and these are our children who shape our future. They're going to be future doctors, future lawyers, future council members and when you take this vote into consideration, just think of what kind of legacy you're telling them. There is a time and place for things. I'm not saying that data centers are horrible, I hate them, never in Massillon. That's not what I'm getting at. I'm just

saying that next to a high school and a grade school that you guys just put in there; these are our precious children. They do deserve the same chance that I had in Massillon; to learn distraction free, worry free. There are places for it. Next to a high school is not. I ask you to consider that. Thank you.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT SLATER – Thank you.

SANDRA CRIGGER – I live at 61 Tremont Ave. S.E. and I would also like to discuss the rezoning that you guys are planning near a high school and an elementary school and I don't know if you guys realize, but a heavy residential area, as well, of how far that noise will go. Many of the previous people have discussed all of these issues I'll be bringing up. But, I do have a very important thing that I would like for all of us to consider. Our children, like many of us have mentioned, will be right by that sound all day, every day. All of your workers will be by that sound. Not just during the eight to eight and a half-hour our children are at that school, but when they go home. They'll be hearing that when they're trying to sleep. When they're trying to spend time with their family. Have any of you tried listening to that noise for just two hours constantly and asked yourself how you felt? There are known long term affects to the cardiovascular system for having that noise. Now image these kids are going there for preschool and they're going throughout their entire elementary school. They might get a small break when they hit middle school. But what's going to happen when they go back to high school and have that noise again? What about our children that have psychological disorders? ADHD, depression, anxiety, PTSD. How will that help them in their education and just being able to interact with their classmates? I want you guys to think about that because we're trusting these same people to follow us in leading and taking care of each other. But, they're already going to be suffering in their grades and just being able to learn. What about the rest of their bodies? The rest of their minds, the rest of their lives?

COUNCIL PRESIDENT SLATER – Thank you.

ANTONIO GUILLAN – I live at 772 Starr Ridge in Ward 3 here in Massillon. Now, I could start off by going over all of the stuff that you read on the internet; noise, water and stuff like that but I'll just briefly touch the fact that 50 decibels might be louder than Canton McKinley fans cheered a week ago, start there. Next, as far as the electrical goes, I see a lot of like him-hawing that this is not that big of a deal, this is not that big of a deal. Well, I used to be a member of the United Electrical Workers Union and I was a chief steward of the National Production Workers Union and I can tell you right now, I.B.E.W. members do not come to Planning Commission meetings and do not come to Council meetings because they get a six-week contract changing out some breakers. You're talking a heavy load job that there here to talk you into. So, outside of those things or the internet scary things, I have a real scary thing. That area is industrial one and it was industrial one before the high school existed, it was industrial one. Before the elementary school existed. The only thing that was there was a parking lot and Tiger stadium. It's grandfathered in for that reason. You're talking about making it I-2 which is heavy industry and you're talking about putting a small scale data center in it. Well, if you've seen what's going on in Perry Twp., Canton South and beyond, you're about to put Demmer Hardware in the middle of five Lowe's and five Home Depots. When it goes out of business and it's I-2, let's say Canton Drop Forge wants to expand. They can without a vote because it's already I-2, directly across the street from your high school. Anything industrial can go is what you are putting down. That scares the daylight's out of me and it should scare the daylight's out of anybody who has a child or potentially has a child going to that school. Outside of that, all I'm going to do is remind you that last fall, you guys worked as hard as you could to fight a sensory playground because you were scared to death

that in ten years if that sensory playground went out of business that they might build a Wendy's. If you're scared of Wendy's, what can they put on I-2 across from the high school? Thank you very much.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT SLATER – Thank you.

ROBIN LANTZER – I live at 1738 – 16th St. S.E. in Massillon. I'm in Ward 4. I'm less than a mile from the high school or from where this is going to be. My main concern is what this is going to do to our electric bills? Our electric bills have already skyrocketed. Mine, for one, has doubled in the past year. I don't know why. I don't use any more electric than I ever have, but that's what's happened. I'm also concerned as to what's it's going to do to our taxes as homeowners and whether or not it's going to bring the value down on our property's with this being built right there. The noise levels, as far as I'm concerned, with the noise levels, the schools, the students, they don't need the distractions. They have enough to worry about when they're at school as opposed to trying to concentrate while hearing this in the back of their minds. As far as the rezoning from light to heavy industrial, it doesn't belong in our neighborhoods or by our schools. Thank you.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT SLATER – Thank you.

DIANA PACHIS – I live at 1343 – 16th St. S.E. All I can do is echo the same concerns of everybody else that has spoken. The detrimental events that could happen. They're changing the zoning and like we all have said, you change it to heavy industrial, you're opening up to something else worse than this small data center. They leave or close, which I've been doing a lot of research and it seems like some of these are very short term in keeping these businesses. But my concern mostly is the children in the school. There's so much unknown about the effects of the noise, pollution to our water, to our air. I don't know, most of you have been very silent about any comment. Did you do research? Have you studied it? Are you thoroughly informed of what's going to happen? I don't know that. We don't know that because we haven't been told. I think that risking our children's health and welfare and like everybody else said, they're trying to learn and we are already on the bottom of the scale as far as level of education. You put that there, you're going to put new homes where Whittier was; those kids are going to go to East Elementary. How many of them who quoted before that their kids will not go there? They will home school them. You're going to have declining enrollment. Our programs will suffer; our sports will suffer. But most of all, I think my discouragement is with the Board of Education, with teachers, with anybody that this is going to affect are silent about it when it's going to affect their jobs. I have two children in education and they take their jobs seriously and I have a daughter who is head of disabilities and autism. So what she's telling me is that there is long term affects. There's not enough data yet. They haven't been studying the data of what happens to children. But there are a lot of autistic kids that these noises could really, really upset. Also, to Council, you were all elected by your constituents in your ward and you are here to represent what the people want and hopefully you will consider that and do the right thing and not change the zoning. And, you know, I just have a couple of comments because, to the Mayor, when he was running, out campaigning, I asked him "What made you want to be the Mayor?". And he said "I've wanted to be the Mayor since I was a small kid and to make a difference". I hope that still holds. To Ted Herncane, I asked the same question years ago at a fundraiser, "When are you going to throw your hat in? When are you going to take the big step?". He said "No, I want to stay where I'm at so I can make a difference and do some good". Those words stuck with me and I hope they stick with your idealistic ideas of what can happen to Massillon. There's so much more we can do. We have a deteriorating downtown. We have new businesses that could come in. We're booming

and we can feed off of that. But you put that data center up there next to our schools and in our city, we will no longer be the City of Champions. Thank you.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT SLATER – Thank you.

DAKOTAH ARNOLD – Good evening fellow Massillonians, City Council Members and Mayor Slutz. I live in Ward 3. I was born and raised here in Massillon. I grew up on the northwest side and I've been a homeowner on the southeast side for nearly a decade. I'm sure you all have heard it before many times up here that we are here because we have major concerns about a data center development being processed in our community next to facilities that have children of this town, including my nephew, nearly eight to ten hours a day. I'd like to start with a quote by a city council member during a campaign that stated "I'm concerned with people, not politics. I want to roll up my sleeves and help our City prosper and be a place that young families want to come and put down roots". That reasoned with me as a young who has not just been born here but has now stuck his roots in here and building a future for his family. But what's happening all over the country, many communities have been taken over by massive and small scale AI data centers. Not to mention the major negative effects, like we've all said over and over and over again. The more we repeat it we're going to believe it. Effects that are concerning are higher electrical bills, air pollution, water pollution, short term economic gain. Most importantly the potential short term and long term health effect for the people. Knowing negative effects of this can have on the city, currently and for the future, that this proposal will no longer keep the City of Massillon safe. We all have busy lives trying to stay up with the high cost of living, but meanwhile, we still read about it. We listen to it on the radio and we see it on the TV and social media platforms. Many municipalities around the country have sold out their residents to big tech developers but ignore their residents. Back in August you guys did a 7-1 approval for zoning for industrial districts, which we've all talked about. These areas are for heavier industrial uses. This new proposal area for the data center is only steps away from families' homes. Reasonable people can favor fast permitting, but fast permitting should mean building first and asking questions later. The balance between pros and cons are questionable. Our Federal government is fast tracking AI development without any safety nets and ignoring existing regulations and investing more into these data centers than its citizens. I'm not blinded by the mass boom of data centers that generate AI, things that don't help every single person in everyday life. I surely hope that when they ask us years from now, "Where were you when the City of Massillon sold out its citizens to futile tech firms and pollutorcrats for profit and self-interest?". I expect that I can probably say "The City of Massillon did not sell out". I hope I can say that. That they allowed the people to decide say what they wanted in their community based on proper resources and information by voting as a collective and not allowing the few to decide for the many. Ohio voters decided twenty-one different locations on ballots issues this month. More than any other state in the nation. Buckeye voters are considering bans, regulations and zoning safety around the country. The government leaders of Massillon have made it clear in many statements; the biggest concern is protecting its residents. I really hope that's true because we live in a society where politicians' words don't mean anything until weight is behind it. We must watch safeguards and uphold and ignore. We much watch how they are monitored and enforce laws. I want to thank the Council and the town for being present as well as the City Council Members for taking your time. Thank you.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT SLATER – Sure.

ERIC PAULEY – 2021 Vermont, I live about three blocks up the road from where you're going to be putting that data center. Right now, when I take a walk with my dog in the evening, it is so peaceful. The only thing that I hear in the evening is when the train goes by. I can deal

with the little smell coming from the pig farm up on the top of the hill. I breathe it every morning and sometimes it makes me hungry. What's that going to do to the value of home? I bought that thirty-five years ago. I've paid hundreds of thousands of dollars. I'm about to retire. The last thing I want to do is sit out on my front porch drinking a cup of coffee listening to a hum. Does anybody else want to do that? You come on up and we'll drink a cup of coffee together. The dogs have three times the hearing that we do. What's it going to do to our animals? My little puppy right now, he can't even stand the fireworks that go off. So half the time I have to come home at half time just to make sure he's okay. So, am I going to have to cuddle him, snuggle him because he can't stand the noise. We shouldn't have to do this. Our kids are more important than this. Let's stand up. Let's be that city above all the other cities. Thank you.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT SLATER – Thank you.

CHERYL WOODS – I live at 1821 Wales Rd. and I'm in Ward 1. I am here, basically, for the rezoning of the light industrial to the heavy industrial zoning. One of my biggest concerns is going to be the noise issue and this deserves special attention for these data centers. Now the data centers, they say there's continuous humming. That could be a distraction day in for these students at the new elementary school and at the high school. Not only is the continuous humming, there's also the high pitch fan noise that is uncomfortable for the sound sensitive students and teachers. There is a low frequency vibration that can happen and that can be heard inside the classrooms. People don't talk about the generator testings. These generator testings have to be done frequently and they produce more sudden loud noises than expected. And then there's the evening and night time operations; a continuous, even after school activities. So, I am addressing my concerns to Massillon citizens, especially the students of Washington High School and the new elementary school. My concern is those with sensory and auditory sensitivity as my granddaughter has. We need to protect the students learning environment and we must take top priority over economic development. Those with sound sensitivities deserve consideration in this planning progress. Not when it's too late after this data center is already operating. So look for different locations. I understand the economic development new business is important to Massillon, but health, education and the quality of life for the people of Massillon and our children who live here and those attending the schools is more important. I'm a realtor and once I know a zoning change is approved from light industrial to heavy industrial, reversing that decision may be extremely difficult. And also, homes close by this data center, you will lose value in your homes. City Council, look at the consequences of this zoning decision for our children and their families and for the future of Massillon. Thank you.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT SLATER – Thank you.

DOMINIC SALVINO – I live 1616 Oberlin Ave. S.W. I just recently graduated from Massillon in 2022 and I just want to talk about the impact that the trades have had on me along with Ord. No. 106 – 2026 bringing in more union work for us. Local #94 has been a blessing to me for the plumbers and the pipefitters. I'm in year five of my apprenticeship and I have had a really good opportunity to meet very good and supporting guys on the job sites and we've all talked about these issues. I just want to say that any work that can keep my fellow union brothers and sisters fed, I do support. I don't know if anyone knows this or not, but I did lose my brother about a month and a half ago and just seeing the brotherhood that came from my union hall, day and night, it was just absolutely amazing and for that I will forever back my brothers and sisters. Thank you.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT SLATER – Thank you.

BRETT MCELFRESH – I live at 9000 James St., Massillon, Ohio. I'm the Business Manager of Plumbers and Pipefitters Local #94. I'm also President of East Central Ohio Building and Construction Trades Council. Let it be known that it isn't just one trade that comes to speak; it is all trades. We represent almost 10,000 people in this local area of our Council. I'm a former U.S. Army veteran who returned to Massillon after my service. I'm also a graduate of Washington and R.G. Drage. I raised my family here in this community. I found a career with the local plumbers and pipefitters and HVAC techs for over twenty years now. Without strong industrial development in East Central Ohio I couldn't support my family here after the Army. Building trades represents, like I said, over 10,000 trades people including over 650 alone in just Local #94 that I am directly responsible for on top of the rest of the council. They live, work and raise families in East Central Ohio. East Central Ohio Building & Construction Council supports economic and workforce developments in Stark, Carroll, Coshocton, Holmes, Tuscarawas and Wayne counties by facilitating responsible private and public construction investment in our region. Our council supports policies that promote the security welfare of the general public and seek to improve the health, safety and economic conditions of all buildings that construction trade workers. Our unions and signatory contractors operate the leading registered apprenticeship programs in our region; projects like this that can provide opportunities just like Mr. Salvino. Our members fully support building data centers in the counties where we live, work, own land invest and spend our paychecks and our children also go to those same schools and we do support data centers being built. Our family fully supports. East Central Ohio's Building Trades council gives our economic region a competitive edge in winning site selection and private and public investments. I hope you with weigh our regional perspective on the issues and misconceptions around data center development in Ohio seriously. It's the position of Local #94 and East Central Ohio Building Trades that bottom-up growth in these local economies begin with long-term, stable union construction jobs on data center projects like this we're speaking about. Opponents of data centers dismiss thousands of construction jobs being temporary. They're temporary than every engineer, architect and anybody else connected to the construction industries is also temporary. Opponents of data centers cost livable wages, benefits and a future for our youth. The reality for our members is that these just temporary jobs are how we build our communities and state. It's how we put food on our table, keep the heat on in the winters. We take care of our children and if that's not important then I don't know what to tell somebody else. Data centers generate millions of construction man hours across the State. Paying on the average of $55/hr. up to $90/hr. That's not the whole package. That is just talking about hourly wage of a journeyman or journeywoman. The typical data center will retrofit mechanical, electrical and technological systems over several year cycles. These continuous maintenance and upgrade cycles create constant long-term demand for skilled electricians, pipefitters, finishing tradespeople and HVAC technicians and more. Data center construction last an average of 4-6 years. That's not including the maintenance that's going to come afterwards and continue. Proximity to a data center attracts adjacent industries, creating an ecosystem effect that extends beyond a single data center facility. That's talking about businesses that will come and follow and also tag along with these businesses that come. Local construction workers' payroll taxes feed into our tax base of host communities. They support local schools, police, fire, emergency services, community programs and infrastructure. Not to also mention the money that we paid into your local building department on fees alone that will be rounded up from the permits that are pulled. East Central Ohio Building Trades JATC Apprenticeships train most apprentices in our region, where access to work-based learning and affordable college is severely limited. Data center development is driven by the greatest demand for skilled trades apprentices in the region's history.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT SLATER – I need you to wrap it up.

BRETT MCELFRESH – Yes sir. I'll leave you with this; one, we build things and that's what we're going to do. We're here to build things and take care of our community. We advocate as you've seen us come before this City Council before to advocate for this community and insure its prosperity and safely. I understand all of the different numbers that everyone wants to throw around. If they want to see these, I have them for Council. They can look, and I actually took these readings myself with a decibel reader I bought off of Amazon. I did my own research a little bit. It's not exactly accredited, I'll say. And then day, I guess nobody on the other side wants to talk about. The industry that sits right next to the high school as it is now, from Crown, Cork & Seal. A retired steel mill across the train tracks and nobody else is wanting to develop this land in the twenty plus years. Have a good evening.

KATHY SOMMERS – I live at 51 – 5th St. S.E., Massillon. The first thing I want to say is this really is not about the data center. It's about the rezoning and the rezoning in my understanding is that if the community comes and tells you they don't want that rezoned, that the community's say so imparts that decision. It's my understanding of how the law reads. I feel like we're all saying that we don't want that rezoning. Everybody's talking about they're upset and insecurity and all of that about the data center, but the data center, at this point is not even really the issue. It's the rezoning and so, I think everybody has pretty much said "no". We don't want that rezoned for whatever reason. I understand that everybody wants jobs. We all want to make a living. We all want to pay our bills. That's important to all of us. But we've got to make decisions on what's best for the community and for the people. And to rezone that is not. So I say "no" to the rezoning.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT SLATER – Not to cut anybody off, I'm going to make this our last speaker, only because we're going to have continuous conversations on this topic for quite some time. So, if you all want to come back at another time and speak, it would be great. Loved to have you back. Every opinion, every comment is valuable. We need to understand what you guys are saying. I'm not trying to cut anybody off, but there's a lot of conversations that are going to be going around. So, I'll make this the last one and if you guys would like to come back here in the next couple of weeks and we go at it again. I'd deeply appreciate it. Go ahead.

MIKE BUSHMAN – I live at 2522 Wildflower Lane N.E. in Ward 3. I am a lifelong construction professional. I grew up in Massillon, I live in Massillon and I spend a lot of time up at the high school. I do support the rezoning for the data center on Harsh Ave. because it utilizes the existing unused, abandoned property and breathes new life into it. A new development that replaces an abandoned facility is a win for the City. I have worked with data centers in the past and I don't find them as scary as everybody else does. The other thing I wanted to say is that I'm an avid outdoorsman and I've been involved in a lot of construction projects throughout the course of my life. Anytime that I can see a project that takes on where an existing abandoned project was or building was, it's a win for our environment also. Thank you.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT SLATER – Thank you. Everybody who spoke today, sign the paperwork down there and leave your information behind. We're going to move forward with the agenda. Again, if you'd like to come back again in a couple of weeks, we have a Work Session next week. You can sit in if you want to and listen and observe. That's perfectly fine. No comments, of course, because it is a Work Session and we are digging deep to find out the best answers for this particular topic. With that being said, we're going to move forward. You can leave if you like or you can hang out for the rest of the meeting. That's up to you.

CONCERNED CITIZEN – When's the next time that people can speak on this?

COUNCIL PRESIDENT SLATER – It'll be in two weeks.

COUNCILMAN LEWIS – It's a five Monday month. So it will be three weeks.

CONCERNED CITIZEN - Quick question; for those of us that have to work and can't keep coming back, is there somewhere we can write?

COUNCIL PRESIDENT SLATER – You can email the City and we can respond that way.

COUNCIL CLERK ROLLAND – You can send it to my email and I will make sure that your councilperson gets it. It's drolland@massillonohio.gov.

CONCERNED CITIZEN – You're just cutting off the community right now and it's not a good look for you guys. Not a good look.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT SLATER – Councilman Lewis.

COUNCILMAN LEWIS – I was just going to say that in my opinion as according to the Rules of Council, we do not have the ability to cease public speaks if there are more people that want to speak.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT SLATER – Okay.

COUNCILMAN LEWIS – With that said, I would also say, I have to correct myself; our next chance for public speaking for anyone that doesn't speak tonight is November 16th. We will also have another opportunity December 2nd and I believe we are intending a public hearing on December 14th. As a point of order, I do not believe we have any mechanism that would cease public speaks for those who want to speak.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT SLATER – I don't want to cut anybody off. But if you guys want to come forward, come back up and finish off, come on.

STACY HUDSON – I am in Ward 2. 700 – 8th St. N.E. To me, this is not about the data centers. This is about rezoning into a heavy industrial by school. It's a common sense decision to me in my opinion. Everyone has all this data; that's great. Future…what else could this land become as heavy industrial with your children right there. Chemicals, that could come in to play at some time. It's just common sense. You don't put heavy industrial by your children. The schools, hundreds of children. Thank you.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT SLATER – Thank you. Anybody else?

ANN PALASKI – A lifelong resident and high school teacher at Washington High School and we've talked about this, all the sound pollution and everything else. It's clear by the volume of constituents that are here that this a wildly unpopular issue. I just want to make sure as a science teacher that we're also considering the air pollutants that come from fossil fuel powered industry. It is nitrogen oxides, methane, voltaic compounds, fine particular matter and according to a study in September, these pollutants increase rates of respitory disease, cardio vascular conditions and they elevate cancer risks, especially in growing children in all the nearby surrounding communities. There is no amount of money that is worth the health and

well-being of our children. So Council, do the right thing. We all want development but not at the cost of our children's health and well-being and education. And as an educator, it's very personal to me. You hear us. You see us. Please do the right thing. Thank you.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT SLATER – Thank you.

JENNIFER SOLEY – I just want to give you some background. I am in the process of moving back to Massillon which is why I wanted all of the Massillon residents to speak first. I'm an ICC certified zoning technician and a permanent technician. I just lived in Colorado for ten years and we have 57 data centers out there and they have drained our reservoirs. So I want to start off by saying good evening to the Members of City Council. I hope you guys are trying to stay awake tonight. I'm here tonight as a concerned future member of Massillon. I formally lived here. Graduated from Massillon Washington High School. Was in the Swing Band. Ted Herncane, where you at? I want to begin by saying that I'm not opposed to technology, economic development or bringing new opportunities to the City. I understand that data centers are becoming an increasingly important part of the economy. But, economic development should never come at the expense of the people who already call this community home. Tonight we are discussing changing approximately ten acres of land from I-1 Light Industrial to I-2 Heavy Industrial to accommodate for a proposed data center. That distinction matters. Massillon's own zoning ordinance recognizes that I-1 is intended to accommodate industrial activities while restricting detrimental effects on surrounding districts. I-2, however, specifically accommodates larger industry operations whose external physical effects may reach the surrounding areas. So, I ask, what exactly are we changing and who will bear the consequences. Data centers are simply not large buildings filled with computers. They require enormous amounts of electricity, substantially cooling infrastructure and potentially significant water recourses. According to the Ohio Consumer Council, large data centers can consume as much electricity as one hundred thousand homes. Some facilities use millions of gallons of fresh water daily for cooling. There are also legitimate concerns about increased pressure on electrical infrastructure and the potential cost passed along to the residential customers. What about the noise? Industrial cooling systems, backup generators and other mechanical equipment can operate around the clock. This isn't a business that closes at 5:00 p.m. We need to understand that 24-hour operations could mean for nearby residents, the students, teachers and the families. The proposed property is near Washington High School. That proximity deserves serious consideration. We should be asking questions about the noise, air quality, emergency preparedness, traffic, water consumption and the long term effects on surrounding property values. We also need to examine the economic promises. Construction jobs are important. They are. But construction is temporary. Data centers generally require relatively few permanent employees compared to the scale of the investment. We need transparent projections showing what this development will actually contribute to Massillon over the long term. I respectfully ask Council to consider whether the proposed rezoning is supported by sufficient independent environmental infrastructure, economic and public health assessments. Such as the impact studies, soil reports; all that good stuff. Is there an aquafer below the property? That's a big deal. Have residents been given enough information to understand what they are being asked to live beside? Have we established who pays for the infrastructure upgrades? And, have we adequately considered alternative locations already designated for heavy industrial development? Members of the Council, economic development should improve the quality of life in Massillon. Not leave residents wondering what they have sacrificed to achieve it. We have one opportunity to make thoughtful land use decision before development begins. Once that decision is made, reversing its consequences may be extraordinarily difficult. Please give the residents of Massillon and future residents the transparency research and consideration they so deserve. Thank you for your time.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT SLATER – Thank you.

GINA RISHER – I live at 5394 Faircrest. I actually live next to the Faircrest data center. I will say that I respect the fact that the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers on concern about jobs, but thanks to our Commissioners and Canton City Mayor, there's plenty of opportunities for work in Stark County in your near future. You don't need to come into Massillon. But anyhow, Council Members, the last time I was here you were voting on zoning for data centers. You stated that it was important that on future data centers would be place in what I believe you called "brown areas". Some of you felt that it was important not to allow these data centers to be near residential areas etc. Since it was important enough to make zoning regulations, why would you consider changing zoning to allow a data center where it previously would not be allowed? Especially when it is close to residential areas a major high school which I did not know that you guys are also going to be having an elementary school nearby. So there you go.

AUDIENCE – It's already there.

GINA RISHER – Oh, it's already there? Okay, well there you go. So we have a high school and an elementary school. We're talking about children here. My concerns are that we don't have enough information about the effects of what these centers have on our health, our environment. Putting it so close to a school, what effect will it have on learning, health, well-being of students. So students suffer with autism and sensory issues. How will the noise and frequencies put off by the data centers effect their learning, health and well-being? Please stick with your original plan to keep these centers in "brown areas". Let's not change the zoning to fit the agenda of these multi-billion dollar companies and compromise the well-beings of Massillon students. Children are our future, not data centers. Thank you.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT SLATER – Thank you.

GAGE BARRETT – I live at 417 – 10th St. N.E. and I'm in Ward 1 and I have a little bit of a prepared statement for you guys. It's disappointing that I have not seen any continued discussions on the subject of data centers after the ordinance of a couple of weeks ago as was promised. I think the exact phrasing was "This ordinance is step one of one hundred". I strongly encourage Council to engage with the constituency, hear their concerns, do research and publicly explain your findings and what you personally think of data centers. The lack of engagement coming from Council to the constituency publicly causes misinformation and makes what's doing best for Massillon harder. I also want to talk about Ord. No. 107, coming from Mr. Patterson, who said last week that he has been working on this ordinance for months. I want to make it absolutely clear, the City doesn't want data centers. Him taking months to put this together shows a lack of understanding the constituency. You can put so many bandages on a giant gash to the chest. To be more explicit, giving everyone in Massillon a few dollars from the data centers isn't enough. I also want to bring forward to light, again, the Mayor's letter of recommendation for the bitcoin mining facility. I call on him to publicly address this letter. The silence for months since April shows a lack of understanding of the constituency as well. Thank you.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT SLATER – Thank you.

BETTY YOUNG – I live at 1928 Tremont Ave. S.E., Apt. 207. I think I'm in Ward 3. With the notes that I have put down, everybody here has practically went over it. But the thing I want to

bring to you guys attention is will this data center carry its responsibilities with the idea that they us so much electricity with the straining on the local and national power grids, when one of those goes out or a bunch, is it going to be the City and the people that pay for it for their abuse of usage or is it going to be them? The same with the water, the use of the water. Like they said, over a thousand gallons a day to keep that refrigerated system cool. But when your city water system breaks down or has pollution or something happens that it cannot work because of the big demand from that one little company, who is going to pay for the repairs? Are they going to pay their fair share? And another thing was the thing with the health. We have a lot of kids and even adults that have trouble. How many people, even in this room have hearing aids? You get that humming and it's going to bother the young, the old and pets and all the wild animals out there. Who is going to take care of this? And more noise and obstruction that goes to the health; what about these kids that have the ADHD that everybody complains that their so active. They can't stand still. What is that going to do to those kids? You've got to think of who you guys are representing and what you are trying to get in here. Is it more money just your guys' pockets for a deal to bring them in here or are you working for the people that voted you in? And the other things are that all of us, I didn't grow up here; I never had family in that school, but I am a big Tiger supporter. Now, the whole history of Paul Brown Stadium with that data center, that humming, is going to interfere with that brand new score board you guys paid for. It will drown out the sound, the announcements, telling the plans. The referees will not be able to use their mics to let the people in the press box know the foul and then, in those schools, that sound system will drown out any announcement. You will have to take and redo the entire sound systems in those schools to put a block where that humming will not interfere. And the same with your desperate fantastic scoreboard that you couldn't even put a time clock for the game run. Now think of all the things to get something to come here and don't know if it will definitely stay, but the interruption that that one thing will do while it's here and who will pay because I still don't understand. They use so much water and electricity, but who pays the bill with way our senators, our governors, have made them special deals, half price. But everybody else, sky high to make up the difference in our own electric and water bills. All of us have cell phones, but with that thing there, half of you won't be able to use it when your around it or around the school. So think about it. Who is going to hold the responsibility of the destruction that place makes with people, with our atmosphere, with our facilities that we're living with right now. Thank you.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT SLATER – Thank you.

SANDY HARPER – I live at 145 – 22nd St. S.E. 7/10th of a mile from the high school. I did not plan on talking today, however, I have a child that was ADHD and it was very hard for her to focus on a good day. I can't even imagine what it would be like for her to have been sitting the school with that constant drone. That's all I wanted to say. Keep it at level one and not level two.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT SLATER – Thank you.

MATT MCELFRESH – I live in Ward 2 over on Harvard Ave N.E. I just want to address to Council that I hope and I believe that you guys will make your decision based on facts and the research you've been given and I trust in the Council to do the right thing as far as how we're going rezone this or not rezone this and I believe in you.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT SLATER – Thank you. Would anyone else like to speak?

STEPHEN MACKENZIE – I'm the President and CEO of the Stark Economic Development Board, the lead economic development organization for Stark County. Mr. Mayor, Mr. President, Council, it's a pleasure to be here tonight. I'm here to speak in support for the proposed zoning change from I-1 to I-2 for the Harsh Ave. data center. I spent much of my career working with businesses and communities to understand what drives economic growth, if it matters, in three countries and two states and three providences. Maybe that's worse because I'm not from here, I'm not sure. But one thing that I've learned is that some of the most opportunities aren't always ours when we first look at them and that's particularly true of data centers. When tend to judge economic development projects by the number of jobs created with the facility. But that overlooks what these investments can mean for the business already operating in our communities. Some of you might be familiar with the company Duck Bank One right here in Massillon. Their about 18 months old and they went from zero to 175 employees already serving electrical infrastructures. These are industries including data centers and their looking at even more expansion. We see similar opportunities among Stark County companies producing electrical components, security, locking systems and other specialized equipment. There are at least 14 companies that are supplying this industry and creating jobs in addition to the trades. That's the broader economic story. These investments create demand for the very products and services our existing businesses provide. That brings me to the property before you. The Harsh Ave. property is an older manufacturing site that would require significant investment to accommodate modern manufacturing. I cannot overstate how difficult it is to attract investment to an aging industrial property like this one. Today's manufacturers have choices and they're generally looking for modern facilities, suitable infrastructure and sites where they can begin operations quickly without spending millions of dollars overcoming limitations of an aging property. We compete with communities across the region and countries for these investments and older industrial sites often find themselves at a significant disadvantage. Some remain vacant or underutilized for years because of the economics of redevelopment that simply don't work for prospective employers. Here, however, we have something that communities spend years trying to secure. A prospective investor with a specific plan to put a challenging and brown field industrial property back into productive use. That's an opportunity that shouldn't be taken for granted. For these reasons, I strongly encourage City Council to vote in favor of rezoning this property from I-1 to I-2. This is an opportunity to attract private investment, give an aging industrial property a productive future and strengthen the businesses and industries that already employ residents. Massillon has an opportunity before it and I urge you to seize it. Thank you for consideration. As the economic development group, we participate in a lot of workshops and working session with other municipalities. We have a lot of resources, third party studies, Ohio jobs roundtable. It's okay to not want a data center but what my concern is, don't want it for the right reasons and the facts and anything that we can do to provide information to Council, I'm happy to do that. Thank you.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT SLATER – Thank you.

GARRETT KLOOTS – I'm a business owner in Massillon. As Mr. MacKenzie just mentioned, our company named Duck Bank One. We are located on the former Republic Steel Mill site at 411 Oberlin Rd. This time last year, we had a whopping five employees. Our product does supply data centers throughout the entire country. It's precast concrete. We now have 180 employees less than a year later. We look to double that again by this time next year. Good paying jobs. People are making a minimum; medium salary right now is $90,000 at our facility. I know change can be difficult especially in small towns. I've grown up in one, live in one. What I think about with this decision is the opportunity that's before us to take something that doesn't look so great now and put something the state-of-the-art on it that creates job

opportunities not only for the people in this room but also kids in the room. You look at the businesses that have come and gone over the period of time. Republic Steel is one of those, right? Our site, not so pretty right now. We've reinvested into the building, tens of millions of dollars. We're adding onto it. Those buildings created challenges for all of us that are lasting legacies. This site is one of them. It's a brown field. It'll never be green field again, but it usable space that can be revitalized and a state-of-the-art facility. I think it's a great opportunity for Massillon. I've seen this happen throughout the entire country. Our product goes as far as West Texas, the deep south, Michigan. All kinds of places where towns very much like ours where they're in a position to be redeveloped. They've welcomed that change and because of that you've got now ancillary businesses that are here to stay. There are opportunities to redevelop the downtown and these areas because they are businesses to feed thousands of workers. There are opportunities to create, whether it's "mom and pop" or chain stores for industrial supply, machinery rentals. The list goes on. The ripple effect that these are quite astonishing when you really get into it. As far as the water consumption goes, it's a closed loop system. We use more to wash our sand and gravel at our facility. The Legends uses more to water the golf than these places will use. It's recycled water. The sound, I work right across the street from the bitcoin facility. We could go over there right now and stand right against their fence and have a conversation, the same level that I'm talking right now and we'd be able to hear each other just fine. So I encourage everybody to make a decision, make it in fact and not just what you may hear on the internet. I appreciate your time. Thank you.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT SLATER – Thank you. Anybody else want to speak?

MIKE CRANE – I live in Massillon. I was down here a few years ago when a car lot wanted to put some speakers and some lights in some your backyards and your opposition to it swayed me to come down and speak and I did. That to me seems like a much bigger deal than this to you and it's not. It's way different. This isn't a car lot with some speakers and some lights. This is heavy industry right next to the school. Just think about that when you're voting. You see everybody here that is against it. I a member of IBW for years. I am currently a teamster and I want you to think. You heard the union brothers talk. Just think about that there isn't a union in this great nation of states that can only work on data centers next to schools. Put it somewhere else. Find somewhere else for them. Thanks.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT SLATER – Thank you.

PAUL BRITTAN – I live 701 Cherry Ave. N.E., Massillon, Ohio. My question is if the people of this city do not want this or maybe there's more that do, is it a possibility to put it on a ballot and have the people vote and that represents the city. The people that it's going to impact, the people that are going to be outside their door, do they have an opportunity to say "yes" or "no". Is that something that could be brought to a ballot and a vote? Is this the voice of the people or the power of the dollar? That is my question.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT SLATER – Anyone else? The door is open. Alright. At this time, if it's okay, I want to take a five-minute recess so that everybody can air out.

FIVE MINUTE BREAK

COUNCIL PRESIDENT SLATER – I'd like to call the meeting back into order, please.

6. NEW AND MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS

7. CONSENT AGENDA

COUNCIL PRESIDENT SLATER – Ord. No. 98 – 2026.

ORDINANCE NO. 98 – 2026 **BY: ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE**

AN ORDINANCE authorizing the Director of Public Service and Safety of the City of Massillon, Ohio, to transfer Parcel No. 681104, a 0.84-acre parcel located at 39 Lincoln Way W., owned by the City of Massillon that currently houses the Massillon Senior Center to the Community Improvement Corporation of Massillon (CIC) for the purpose of economic development.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT SLATER – Ord. No. 99 – 2026.

ORDINANCE NO. 99 – 2026 **BY: HEALTH, WELFARE & BLDG. REGS. COMMITTEE**

AN ORDINANCE authorizing the Clerk of Council of the City of Massillon, Ohio, to certify the list of unpaid and delinquent nuisance abatement services to the Stark County Auditor to be entered upon the tax duplicate to be a lien upon such land from the date of entry to be collected as other taxes and assessments and to delete any property owner's names or adjust the dollar amounts owed, if applicable, prior to certification to the Stark County Auditor provided that the Director of Development provides documentation to do so, and declaring an emergency.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT SLATER – Ord. No. 100 – 2026.

ORDINANCE NO. 100 – 2026 **BY: POLICE & FIRE COMMITTEE**

AN ORDINANCE authorizing the Mayor of the City of Massillon, Ohio, to approve and sign the Amended and Restated Agreement for the Countywide Disaster Services, and declaring an emergency.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT SLATER – Ord. No. 101 – 2026.

ORDINANCE NO. 101 – 2026 **BY: STREETS, HIGHWAYS, TRAFFIC & SAFETY COMMITTEE**

AN ORDINANCE to accept the replat and roadway dedication plat for the First Federal Bank project.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT SLATER – Ord. No. 102 – 2026.

ORDINANCE NO. 102 – 2026 **BY: FINANCE COMMITTEE**

AN ORDINANCE authorizing the Auditor, the Mayor and the President of the Health Department Board of the City of Massillon, Ohio, to enter into a three (3) year contract with REA Business Advisors to compile the basic financial statements for the City of Massillon and the City of Massillon Health Department for the financial years ending December 31, 2026, December 31, 2027 and December 31, 2028, and declaring an emergency.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT SLATER – Ord. No.103 – 2026.

ORDINANCE NO. 103 – 2026 **BY: FINANCE COMMITTEE**

AN ORDINANCE making certain appropriations from the unappropriated balance of the 1219 WIC Fund, for the year ending December 31, 2026.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT SLATER – Ord. No. 104 – 2026.

ORDINANCE NO. 104 – 2026 **BY: FINANCE COMMITTEE**

AN ORDINANCE making certain appropriations from the unappropriated balance of the 1234 Parks and Recreation Fund, for the year ending December 31, 2026, and declaring an emergency.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT SLATER – Ord. No. 105 – 2026.

ORDINANCE NO. 105 – 2025 **BY: FINANCE COMMITTEE**

AN ORDINANCE making certain appropriations from the unappropriated balance of the 2101 Wastewater Treatment Fund and the 1100 General Fund, for the year ending December 31, 2026, and declaring an emergency.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT SLATER – Res. No. 30 – 2026

RESOLUTION NO. 30 – 2026 **BY: FINANCE COMMITTEE**

A RESOLUTION requesting the Stark County Auditor and the Stark County Treasurer to make an advance payment to the City of Massillon, Ohio, of real estate taxes collected by Stark County on behalf of the City during 2027 fiscal year, and declaring an emergency.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT SLATER – Res. No. 31 – 2026.

RESOLUTION NO. 31 – 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. Councilman Paquelet.

COUNCILMAN PAQUELET – Thank you, Councilman Gregg. I would like to pull Ord. No 98 – 2026 and I’d like to propose some language and I spoke with Mr. Patterson on some language to amend that ordinance.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT SLATER – I make a motion that we pull, excuse me?

COUNCILMAN PATTERSON – You don’t need a motion, just pull it from the Consent Agenda.

COUNCILMAN GREGG – Oh, okay. I make a motion waive the rules regarding three readings and give the Consent Agenda up 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. The Consent Agenda minus Ord. No. 98 – 2026 has passed. Councilman Paquelet.

COUNCILMAN PAQUELET – Thank you, President Slater. Ord. No. 98 – 2026 this has to deal with the Senior Center and giving of the Senior Center to the CIC and then the potential sale of this Senior Center for $100,000. I had spoken with Councilman Patterson about it and Director Herncane briefly about it prior to the meeting and I just think that that money should be earmarked toward the Senior Center, not just put it into the General Fund and if we could put some language in there that we could agree on that would earmark it just for the Senior Center so in ten years or five years from now. Most of us won't be on Council then. Maybe Ed Lewis will still be and just so its earmarks that money for the Senior Center. So how would we want to write this language? Mr. Herncane do have any comment? We had spoken before about earmarking it. Mr. Patterson.

COUNCILMAN PATTERSON – I just have the sale proceeds designated for future Senior Center development.

COUNCILMAN PAQUELET – Can we make that change? Councilman Lewis.

COUNCILMAN LEWIS – I would just say I think it's a good idea, but I always recommend running it through legal before we put it into an ordinance and if that's the case, I would give it first reading tonight, run it through legal and then at the next reading, we can make the amendment and get it passed.

COUNCILMAN PAQUELET – Is this going to be a problem?

TED HERNCANE – Good evening, Mr. President, Members of Council, Mr. Paquelet. No, I don't think it's going to be an issue. Today is the 2nd, I think if you want to do that, run it past the Law Dept. and then pass it on the 16th, that would be acceptable. The next CIC meeting I think is going to be Thursday the 19th, so we kind of time this for Council to approve it and then the CIC to approve it and then wrap it up within a month after that.

COUNCILMAN PAQUELET – So if we can get that language and sent to us, and sorry I didn't think of this at the time of the meeting. I thought about it a day or two afterwards.

TED HERNCANE – I can speak with the Law Dept. tomorrow if you like and give you their suggestions at the Work Session.

COUNCILMAN PAQUELET – Thank you, Mr. Herncane.

TED HERNCANE – Thank you.

COUNCILMAN PAQUELET – First reading.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT SLATER – Ord. No. 98 – 2026 has received first reading.

8. INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS

COUNCIL PRESIDENT SLATER – Ord. No. 106 – 2026.

ORDINANCE NO. 106 – 2026 **BY: COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE**

AN ORDINANCE amending the Zoning Map of the City of Massillon, Ohio, by rezoning a certain property from I-1 Light Industrial District to I-2 Heavy Industrial District.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT SLATER – Councilwoman Bryan-Huth.

COUNCILWOMAN BRYAN-HUTH – Thank you, Mr. President. This legislation is regarding the rezoning of the five parcels. There are four on Harsh and one of 16th St. S.E. They are for the intent of a data center to placed there by 47NM Real Estate LLC is the existing owner. This would be first reading this evening as we heard in the public speaks portion. There were many, many community members here to advise us on their feelings and thoughts on both sides of the issue. I will say that the reason that this ordinance has been brought to Council by the developer is because we put Ord. No. 60 – 2026 into place. Had we not developed the ordinance No 60 – 2026 to say that data centers could only go in I-2 situations, the company would not need our permission to establish. So because Council had done research in the year prior and looking into what we could do for our community in the best sense of development and the best sense of preservation of our businesses and our residents and our schools, we can only do what we know at the time and then do better as we learn more. So, because of that work that we did prior is the reason the company needed to come before us to ask for this rezoning. The gentleman is here tonight. Would anyone have any questions at this time? I know that we'll have much more conversation at our next Work Session so this will be first reading.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT SLATER – Councilwoman Bryan-Huth, can you set a Public Hearing?

COUNCILWOMAN BRYAN-HUTH – Thank you, Mr. President. We do need to establish a Public Hearing. That is going to be for December 14th. It will be a 5:30 p.m. here in Council Chambers. The notification of that will be sent through the newspaper as well as posted downstairs.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT SLATER – Councilman Lewis.

COUNCILMAN LEWIS – December 14th, is that a Regular Council Meeting that follows or a Work Session?

COUNCIL CLERK ROLLAND – Work Session.

COUNCILMAN LEWIS – It is a Work Session?

COUNCILWOMAN BRYAN-HUTH – Yes.

COUNCILMAN LEWIS – Thank you. I only ask because we can move a Work Session back if the Public Hearing back if the hearing goes long. We can't move a voting session.

COUNCILWOMAN BRYAN-HUTH – Which is why we thought 5:30 p.m. instead of 6:00 p.m. That is it, thank you.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT SLATER – Ord. No. 106 – 2026 has received first reading. Ord. No. 107 – 2026.

ORDINANCE NO. 107 – 2026 BY: ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

AN ORDINANCE establishing the Massillon Digital Infrastructure Dividend Program; creating a Data Center Revenue Fund; providing for the potential annual distribution of a portion of the Data Center-derived net profit Municipal Income Tax Revenues and negotiated development payments to qualified taxpaying residents subject to annual Council appropriation; authorizing related development agreement terms; authorizing Council, in its discretion, to appropriate program funds to the Community Improvement Corporation of Massillon (CIC) for economic development ad community benefit purposes.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT SLATER – Councilman Patterson.

COUNCILMAN PATTERSON – Thank you, Mr. President. Again, right now this legislation is currently in Law Dept. and they are reviewing it to make sure that all the Constitutional issues are addressed. Again, this is to establish a fund where we take the net profit tax from any data center development that we may get or may have and put it into a fund where we can distribute that revenue to the residents. It sets a minimum of $200. I know that doesn't sound like a lot, but we had to start somewhere. There's no cap on how big that dividend could grow. We are also looking at if that money could be used to pay down water bills, pay down electric bills and also other initiatives. We're looking at whether or not we're going to do it per resident or per household. The Law Dept. is checking in on all of that to make sure that we could do that. Also, 25% of the money would go to the CIC and 25% would go to the General Fund. The remainder would be distributed to the residents. I know that data centers are a very controversial topic right now, however, I believe that economic development is a regional thing. If we would have our high school rivalries, I think we would probably do economic development a little bit better in this region. There's no imaginary line at Whipple Ave. We already have data centers going up in Perry and in Canton. We don't have any here and we may not get any here. But I feel that it's necessary that we have something in place that's going to help the residents. No other city around here is talking about giving the money to the residents. I think it's very important that if we do get a data center or data centers that we have a way to help people and hopefully, I've read legislation in other cities before and hopefully this legislation will be here long after I'm gone. But I think it's a positive thing. Are there any questions or anything right now?

COUNCIL PRESIDENT SLATER – Councilman Lewis.

COUNCILMAN LEWIS – I just think, first off, thank you for putting this together and giving us something to work through and think through and I think it's important distinction of what Councilwoman Bryan-Huth had just mentioned moments before that this legislation is not necessarily regarding the legislation that's in front of us for a zoning change. As the city

currently stands, any I-2 property is open for a potential data center and what this is proposing is that regardless of what this whole zoning thing that we have to discuss is that if a data center were to come in legally, as our laws currently would allow on an I-2 that we would have some kind of benefit guaranteed back to our citizens. So, we got to hash this out and I don't know where I'm going to fall on this but at least enjoy the spirit and appreciate the work that you did.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT SLATER – Anymore comments? Councilman Patterson.

COUNCILMAN PATTERSON – Thank you. First reading.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT SLATER – Ord. No. 107 – 2026 has received first reading. Ord. No. 108 – 2026.

ORDINANCE NO. 108 – 2026 **BY: FINANCE COMMITTEE**

AN ORDINANCE to adopt appropriations for the operating and capital expenditures of the City of Massillon, Ohio, for the fiscal year 2027, and declaring an emergency.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT SLATER – Councilman Gregg.

COUNCILMAN GREGG – Thank you, President Slater. As we all know, this is discussing the budget for the City of Massillon for 2027. Our Budget Director is here and we've discussed this as well and determined that we will have presentations by City Dept. heads over the next few Work Sessions. Starting with two next weeks. So for now, this will be first reading.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT SLATER – Ord. No. 108 – 2026 has received first reading. Ord. No. 109 – 2026.

ORDINANCE NO. 109 – 2026 **BY: RULES, COURTS & CIVIL SERVICE COMMITTEE**

AN ORDINANCE amending the OCCUPATION LIST OF CLASS TITLES of Ordinance No. 10 – 2026 to remove, add and update job titles within the 115-116 "LAW DIRECTOR DEPARTMENT", and declaring an emergency.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT SLATER – Councilman Lewis.

COUNCILMAN LEWIS – First reading.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT SLATER – Ord. No. 109 – 2026 has received first reading.

9. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

10. PETITIONS AND GENERAL COMMINCATIONS

11. BILLS, ACCOUNTS AND CLAIMS

12. REPORTS FROM CITY OFFICIALS

13. REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

COUNCIL PRESIDENT SLATER – Our next Work Session will be Monday, November 9, 2026, at 6:30 p.m.

14. RESOLUTIONS AND REQUESTS OF COUNCIL MEMBERS

COUNCIL PRESIDENT SLATER – Councilman Gregg.

COUNCILMAN GREGG – Thank you, Mr. President Slater. It seems a little anticlimactic, but I want to give a shout out to the Tigers. They did not have a game this past weekend but have a big one coming up against Columbus St. Francis Des Sales which we played a couple of years ago and we're looking to have the same result after this game. So, go Tigers.

15. CALL OF THE CALENDAR

16. THIRD READING ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS

17. SECOND READING ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS

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

ANTONIO GUILLAN – Ward 3. I just want to make a comment as a citizen of Massillon, I have had the opportunity because I had some bushes in my yard die, to use the yard waste facility as well as I had two tires in my shed that I was able to get rid of and I just wanted to say that is well run and excellent and I have used other community facilities and the way you guys are doing it are doing a great job and I just wanted for whoever needs to hear that to hear that and thank you.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT SLATER – Thank you.

19. ADJOURNMENT

COUNCIL PRESIDENT SLATER – Councilman Patterson.

COUNCILMAN PATTERSON – I a motion to adjourn.

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

8 yes to adjourn

COUNCIL PRESIDENT SLATER – Meeting adjourned.

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DIANE ROLLAND, COUNCIL CLERK MIKE SLATER, PRESIDENT