

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
MASSILLON CITY COUNCIL
HELD MONDAY, DECEMBER 16, 2024**

COUNCIL PRESIDENT SLATER – Good evening. Welcome to the Massillon City Council meeting for Monday, December 16, 2024. We have in attendance the following City officials: Mayor, Jamie Slutz, Safety Service Director, Renee Baker, Chief Deputy Auditor, Stefanie Myers, Chief Counsel, Earle Wise Jr., Director of Development, Ted Herncane, 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 #17 is where the public can speak on any topic that does NOT appear on tonight’s agenda. I’d like to remind you that if you have a cell phone, please set it to mute, vibrate or turn it off. Thank you.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT SLATER – Roll call, Madam Clerk.

1. ROLL CALL

Roll call for the evening found the following Council Members present: Holly Bryan-Huth, Jill Creamer, Sarita Cunningham, Mike Gregg, Julie Harwig Smith, John Paquelet and Eric Ray

Roll call of 7 present

COUNCIL PRESIDENT SLATER – Councilman Gregg.

COUNCILMAN GREGG – Thank you, Mr. President. At this time, I make a motion that we excuse Councilman Lewis and Councilman Lombardi.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT SLATER – Seconded by Councilwoman Creamer. Roll call.

7 yes to excuse Councilman Lewis and Councilman Lombardi

COUNCIL PRESIDENT SLATER – Thank you, Mr. Gregg. Councilman Lewis and Lombardi have been excused. Councilman Gregg.

2. INVOCATION

COUNCILMAN MIKE GREGG

3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

LED BY COUNCILMAN GREGG

COUNCIL PRESIDENT SLATER – Thank you, Councilman Gregg.

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.

COUNCIL CLERK ROLLAND – You are welcome.

5. **REMARKS OF DELEGATIONS AND CITIZENS TO MATTERS ON THE AGENDA**
6. **NEW AND MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS**
7. **INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS**

COUNCIL PRESIDENT SLATER – Ord. No. 124 – 2024.

ORDINANCE NO. 124 – 2024

BY: COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

AN ORDINANCE authorizing, directing and ratifying the disposition of certain nonproductive land not needed for municipal purposes under the “LAND REUTILIZATION PROGRAM”, CHAPTER 166 of TITLE FIVE – ADMINISTRATIVE of PART I – ADMINISTRATIVE CODE of the Codified Ordinances of the City of Massillon, Ohio.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT SLATER – Councilwoman Creamer.

COUNCILWOMAN CREAMER – Thank you, President Slater. This ordinance includes seventeen parcels that are owned by the City. They’re nonproductive land not needed for municipal purposes. This is round three that are a mixture of both new parcels and previous parcels that were not sold. Does anyone have any questions regarding this request? I’d like to move forward if there are no questions. So, I’d like to make a motion to waive the rules requiring three readings and bring Ord. No. 124 – 2024 forward for a vote.

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

7 yes for suspension

COUNCIL PRESIDENT SLATER – And for passage.

7 yes for passage

COUNCIL PRESIDENT SLATER – Thank you, Madam Clerk. Ord. No. 124 – 2024 has passed. Ord. No. 125 – 2024.

ORDINANCE NO. 125– 2024

BY: FINANCE COMMITTEE

AN ORDINANCE amending PART ONE – “ADMINISTRATIVE CODE” under CHAPTER 181 “INCOME TAX”, Section 181.0141, “ALLOCATION OF FUNDS” of the Codified Ordinances of the City of Massillon, Ohio, and declaring the same to be an emergency.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT SLATER – Councilman Gregg.

COUNCILMAN GREGG – Thank you, President Slater. This is something that we evaluate each year and amend, if necessary, the legislation to create the split between the money appropriated for the General Fund versus the Capital Improvement Fund. This year we amending that to be; it was at 94% to 6% split, so now it's going to be 93% to 7% split. Any questions or discussion? Seeing none, I move that we waive the rules requiring three readings of this ordinance and bring Ord. No. 125 – 2024 forward for a vote.

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

7 yes for suspension

COUNCIL PRESIDENT SLATER – And for passage.

7 yes for passage

COUNCIL PRESIDENT SLATER – Thank you, Madam Clerk. Ord. No. 125 – 2024 has passed. Ord. No. 126 – 2024.

ORDINANCE NO. 126 – 2024

BY: FINANCE COMMITTEE

AN ORDINANCE making certain transfers in the 2024 appropriations from within the 1100 General Fund, for the year ending December 31, 2024, and declaring an emergency.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT SLATER – Councilman Gregg.

COUNCILMAN GREGG – Thank you, President Slater. This legislation is a transfer to zero out the budget for the year. In this case, transferring in from the disability pension transfer into the transfer in account to pay the fire pension through the year end 2024. Any questions or discussion? Could you please come forward?

STEFANIE MYERS – I just noticed something. The transfer in account should be the 1210 fund if you look at the request for legislation. It's not going from general fund to general fund. It's going from general fund to the 1210. That's the only thing.

COUNCILMAN GREGG – So the ordinance, the fund number on the ordinance is incorrect?

STEFANIE MYERS – Correct. So the transfer in should be the 1210.

COUNCILMAN GREGG – But the request for legislation is correct?

STEFANIE MYERS – Yes.

COUNCILMAN GREGG – Do we need to amend the ordinance?

COUNCIL CLERK ROLLAND – No. That would just be a typo.

COUNCILMAN GREGG – Okay. Thank you.

COUNCIL CLERK ROLLAND – As long as it doesn't change the amounts.

COUNCILMAN GREGG – Yes. That's covered by Section 2 that the "Clerk of Council is authorized to correct any typographical errors". Okay. Any questions or discussion? Seeing none, I move that we waive the rules requiring three readings and bring Ord. No. 126 – 2024 forward for a vote.

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

7 yes for suspension

COUNCIL PRESIDENT SLATER – And for passage.

7 yes for passage

COUNCIL PRESIDENT SLATER – Thank you, Madam Clerk. Ord. No. 126 – 2024 has passed. Ord. No. 127 – 2024.

ORDINANCE NO 127 – 2024

BY: FINANCE COMMITTEE

AN ORDINANCE making certain transfers in the 2024 appropriations from within the 1201 Street Construction M & R Fund and the 1234 Parks and Recreation Fund, for the year ending December 31, 2024, and declaring an emergency.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT SLATER – Councilman Gregg.

COUNCILMAN GREGG – Thank you, President Slater. This, as stated, this legislation is making transfers within the budget for the departments concerned. Any questions or discussion? Seeing none, I move that we waive the rules requiring three readings and bring Ord. No. 127 – 2024 forward for a vote.

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

7 yes for suspension

COUNCIL PRESIDENT SLATER – And for passage.

7 yes for passage

COUNCIL PRESIDENT SLATER – Thank you, Madam Clerk. Ord. No. 127 - 2024 has passed. Ord. No. 128 – 2024.

ORDINANCE NO. 128 – 2024

BY: FINANCE COMMITTEE

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

COUNCIL PRESIDENT SLATER – Councilman Gregg.

COUNCILMAN GREGG – Thank you, President Slater. This is a request to move monies so that it's available for income tax refunds that we receive by the end of the year. Any questions or discussion? Seeing none, I move we waive the rules requiring three readings and bring Ord. No. 128 – 2024 forward for a vote.

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

7 yes for suspension

COUNCIL PRESIDENT SLATER – And for passage.

7 yes for passage

COUNCIL PRESIDENT SLATER – Thank you, Madam Clerk. Ord. No. 128 – 2024 has passed. Ord. No. 129 – 2024.

ORDINANCE NO. 129 – 2024

BY: FINANCE COMMITTEE

AN ORDINANCE making certain appropriations from the unappropriated balance of the 1210 Fire Pension Fund, for the year ending December 31, 2024, and declaring an emergency.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT SLATER – Councilman Gregg.

COUNCILMAN GREGG – Thank you, President Slater. As indicated, this is a request to move money from the 1210 Fire Pension Fund to Fire Pension disbursement fund. Any questions or discussion? Seeing none, I make a motion that we waive the rules requiring three readings and bring Ord. No. 129 – 2024 forward for a vote.

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

7 yes for suspension

COUNCIL PRESIDENT SLATER – And for passage.

7 yes for passage

COUNCIL PRESIDENT SLATER – Thank you, Madam Clerk. Ord. No. 129 – 2024 has passed. Ord. No. 130 – 2024.

ORDINANCE NO. 130 – 2024

BY: FINANCE COMMITTEE

AN ORDINANCE reducing the appropriations in the 1209 Police Pension Fund and 3105 State Patrol Transfer Fund, for the year ending December 31, 2024, and declaring an emergency.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT SLATER – Councilman Gregg.

COUNCILMAN GREGG – Thank you, President Slater. As indicated, this is a request to move money, I'm sorry, to reduce the account 1209 Fund for Police Pension and also to reduce money in the State Patrol Law Library from the State Patrol Transfer Fund. The total amount of \$2,844.06 for the Police Pension Fund and \$32,874.52 in the State Patrol Transfer Fund. Any questions or discussion? Seeing none, I move that we waive the rules requiring three readings and bring Ord. No. 130 – 2024 forward for a vote.

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

7 yes for suspension

COUNCIL PRESIDENT SLATER – And for passage.

7 yes for passage

COUNCIL PRESIDENT SLATER – Thank you, Madam Clerk. Ord. No. 130 – 2024 has passed. Ord. No. 131 – 2024.

ORDINANCE NO. 131 – 2024

BY: FINANCE COMMITTEE

AN ORDINANCE authorizing the Auditor to pay various 2024 bills that have been received and that will be received by the Auditor's office between January 1, 2025 and March 31, 2025, out of the 2025 appropriations within the various departments of the City of Massillon, Ohio, and declaring an emergency.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT SLATER – Councilman Gregg.

COUNCILMAN GREGG – Thank you, President Slater. This request is to allow the Auditor to pay; we do this each year, allow the Auditor to pay bills that come in and have not yet been paid or that do come in after January 1, 2025 for the year 2024 and allows the Auditor to pay those bills as well. Any questions or discussion? Seeing none, I move that we waive the rules requiring three readings and bring Ord. No. 131 – 2024 forward for a vote.

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

7 yes for suspension

COUNCIL PRESIDENT SLATER – And for passage.

7 yes for passage

COUNCIL PRESIDENT SLATER – Thank you, Madam Clerk. Ord. No. 131 – 2024 has passed. Ord. No. 132 – 2024.

ORDINANCE NO. 132 – 2024

BY: FINANCE COMMITTEE

AN ORDINANCE authorizing the Clerk of Massillon City Council to make the monthly payments to US Bank Equipment Finance for the copier located in Council Chambers.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT SLATER – Councilman Gregg.

COUNCILMAN GREGG – Thank you, President Slater. This legislation is to allow our Clerk to make the payments to US Bank Equipment Finance for the copier as the bill comes in as opposed to waiting for us to pass legislation each time. Any discussion or questions? Seeing none, I move that we waive the rules requiring three readings and bring Ord. No. 132 – 2024 forward for a vote.

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

7 yes for suspension

COUNCIL PRESIDENT SLATER – And for passage.

7 yes for passage

COUNCIL PRESIDENT SLATER – Thank you, Madam Clerk. Ord. No. 132 – 2024 has passed.

8. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

9. PETITIONS AND GENERAL COMMUNICATIONS

10. BILLS, ACCOUNTS AND CLAIMS

LocaliQ Ohio Gannett	-	\$ 872.64	Publication of October Ordinances
American Legal Publishing	-	<u>465.00</u>	Annual Web Hosting Fee 1/25-12/25
	-	\$1,337.64	Total

COUNCIL PRESIDENT SLATER – Councilman Gregg.

COUNCILMAN GREGG – I move that we pay the bills.

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

7 yes to pay the bills

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

11. REPORTS FROM CITY OFFICIALS

Auditor's Report - November 2024

COUNCIL PRESIDENT SLATER – Councilman Gregg.

COUNCILMAN GREGG – Thank you, President Slater. I move that we accept the Auditor's report.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT SLATER – Seconded by Councilwoman Creamer. Roll call.

7 yes to accept the Auditor's Report

12. REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

COUNCIL PRESIDENT SLATER – Our next Work Session will be Monday, December 30, 2024, at 6:30 p.m. Council is off the week of December 23, 2024. In addition, the Council Clerk will be on vacation that week until Friday, December 27, 2024

13. RESOLUTIONS AND REQUESTS OF COUNCIL MEMBERS

14. CALL OF THE CALENDAR

COUNCIL PRESIDENT SLATER – Ord. No. 111 – 2024.

ORDINANCE NO. 111 – 2024 **BY: FINANCE COMMITTEE**
Tabled December 2, 2024 until December 16, 2024

AN ORDINANCE to adopt the appropriations for the operating and capital expenditures of the City of Massillon, Ohio, for the fiscal year 2025, and declaring an emergency.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT SLATER – Councilman Gregg.

COUNCILMAN GREGG – Thank you, President Slater. This is our annual City budget for the year 2025. We've discussed this over several weeks. Hopefully everybody has gotten their questions, if any, answered. Are there any questions or discussion tonight? I move that we bring Ord. No. 111 – 2024 forward for a vote.

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

7 yes for passage

COUNCIL PRESIDENT SLATER – Thank you, Madam Clerk. Ord. No. 111 – 2024 has passed.

15. THIRD READING ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS

16. SECOND READING ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS

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

CHRISTINA RAY – I live in Ward 2. If there's already be a resolution on this, then disregard. It's been on my heart since the demolition of the buildings was brought up and it was mentioned by Ted that they were going to be doing something for Art Bombs wall after the building was torn down. My immediate thought when I heard that was, and it was a different administration, so I understand that. Duncan didn't get the same. I have not spoken to Brooke. This is just something that's been on my heart, that if Art Bombs is going to have it, the Building for Duncan should have it also. If it's something that can be discussed with the Mayor's office, I know the Mayor tried to reach out to her. Here's my overall thing; you guys

stand up and we all say “Our Father, we are one nation under God”. Try until you can’t try any more to reach people. Because what’s right is right and what’s wrong is wrong. Art Bombs deserves it and so does Duncan. Feelings have been high over the last year, year and a half that this since the buildings have been torn down. I get it. There was something that she said that I agreed, something she said I didn’t agree with. But in the end, right is right and wrong is wrong and her building deserves the same thing that Art Bombs does. It’s still a historical building. Just my thoughts.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT SLATER – Thank you.

TED HERNCANE – Good evening; two things. One, I believe there’s a Committee Meeting scheduled at 5:30 p.m. on the 30th. The second thing is that I would like to address Mrs. Ray’s comment. On Tuesday, November 19th, I called Brooke Longheir and said the Mayor and I discussed this and he was adamant that we do this. I called her and I said that while the demo is going on with the buildings and there are some funds available, we would like to provide some assistance to your building while the crew is there. She informed me that she was not, John Picard actually that day had his structural engineer in town, so it was a perfect time for them to get into the building and look at it. On that day, Brooke told me that she was not leaving the house to come and let anyone in. I said, Brooke, now’s your chance. The City wants to help you. We have no obligation to do anything, but the Mayor was adamant that while the crew was there, we’d try and provide some type of assistance to her side of the building. She didn’t want to come down and let anyone in. I was hoping that the next day I would get a call. Two days, three days; it’ll be four weeks’ tomorrow. So, we have not obligation to do anything. I think it was very fair of Mayor Slutz to suggest some type of assistance while the crew was there. We’ve not heard a peep from her and like I said, that call would be four weeks’ tomorrow. So, we made an effort. We’re not going to force this help on anyone. We’ve extended the opportunity and we were refused. So, keep that in mind moving forward. Thank you.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT SLATER – Thank you, Mr. Herncane. Anyone else?

18. **ADJOURNMENT**

COUNCIL PRESIDENT SLATER – Councilman Gregg.

COUNCILMAN GREGG – Thank you, President Slater. I move that we adjourn.

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

7 yes to adjourn

COUNCIL PRESIDENT SLATER – Meeting adjourned.

DIANE ROLLAND, COUNCIL CLERK

MIKE SLATER, PRESIDENT