

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
MASSILLON CITY COUNCIL
HELD, MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 2009**

COUNCIL PRESIDENT GAMBER I d like to welcome all of you to Massillon City Council for Monday, September 21, 2009. We have in attendance with us this evening: Mayor Francis Cicchinelli, Wastewater Treatment Plant Superintendent Keith Bledsoe and our Law Director Perry Stergios. On the wall to your left are agendas for anyone who wishes to follow the meeting. Also under item #5 on the agenda is where the public can speak on any item that appears on the agenda and then under item #17 is where the public can speak on any item that does not appear on the agenda. I d also like to remind anyone with a cell phone please turn it off or turn it very far down.

1. ROLL CALL

Roll call for the evening found the following Council Members present: Gary Anderson, Kathy Catazaro-Perry, Dave Hersher, Ron Mang, Paul Manson, Dave McCune, Donnie Peters, Larry Slagle and Tony Townsend.

Thus giving a roll call vote of 9 present.

2. INVOCATION

COUNCILMAN PETERS – Gave the invocation for the evening.

3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

COUNCILMAN PETERS – Chairman of the Streets and Highway Committee led those in attendance in the Pledge of Allegiance.

4. READING OF THE JOURNAL

COUNCIL PRESIDENT GAMBER Madame Clerk are the minutes of the previous meeting transcribed and open for public viewing (Yes, they are) Are there any additions or corrections to the minutes? If not the minutes stand approved as written.

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

KEN JOSEPH – With the Emergency Medical Transport 1118 Main Avenue W., Massillon. I've been working on this since the last council session and of course actually right up to a few minutes before I should have already left to get here. So I'm sorry for when I walked in but I have something I want to give to council to the mayor. What should I do should...

COUNCIL PRESIDENT GAMBER Just hand it to Mr. Manson and is there something on there indicating who it's from and...(yes) Okay. Make sure that a copy makes its way to the Clerk, please.

KEN JOSEPH – Yes, when I'm done I'll actually just give my copy to the Clerk. I'm a strong subscriber I guess to the thought that if you're not part of the solution then you remain part of the problem. So I worked on this well for a while and I guess I'm hoping to accomplish keeping things the way that they are at present. I think Massillon's got one of the best if not the best public/private cooperative partnerships covering fire and EMS anywhere that I'm aware of.

What I came up with I guess was I revisited and have been working with looking what could be covered and what couldn't be covered. The fire chief I remember stating more than once that if he could get by with things the way they were that he wouldn't change a thing. He said it well two or three times in the last several meetings that I've been at. What I came up with I guess is a fee that we would pay back to the city when we are utilizing your personnel. It's going to come out of our budget and go back to you folks but if we craft this right it will allow you to keep your firemen which we have to. It will also allow me to keep my people in place, it will keep right now we've got the fire department we've got both providers are required to keep two ambulances in the city as well. So you've got our four between the two companies and the fire department's units. The present system that was on the table I can't tell you what it would do exactly to us. I heard the other ambulance service was in support of it I read their letter pretty closely it doesn't look they're cheering on its kind of the same answer as us we don't know what's going to happen. I don't want to lose any of my people. In doing this it's probably going to bring us down to on a good day we'll probably going to break even. But I would rather see that than see them the fire department be forced into something or anything or council feel that they're forced into something that might be not be as good. So I just wanted to offer an option which is actually on the front page of this. I also broke down some expenses with the data that's on the paper all I could get together from the last meeting until now was Massillon, Jackson and Plain Townships cost per resident for fire and EMS protection. If you look on there there's Massillon's got a Cadillac system and they've got a Cadillac system on a pretty inexpensive budget compared to the other areas around us. I'm sure I could pull some more numbers together if I could get some of the towns I called just wouldn't give it to us. They wanted us to send a request like a formal request like I think the media has to do. I wasn't prepared for that I didn't know exactly what they were talking about until I researched it a little bit. The ones that I was able to get of course Massillon's, Jackson's and Plain Township was pulled off their website. If you look at the numbers Massillon is in really good shape the fire department has been efficient. The public/private cooperative between the two entities is I think a lot of the savings or a good bit of the savings. I did attach the letter you guys already have this letter it was actually given to me by you but I wanted to make sure that I brought it again. The final page I didn't want to give you a bunch of papers you already had so I just took out of the study that was done in 2006 the page that I felt that was most important which was the recommendation of the panel Rose Ann DaRe, Chuck Maier, Ted Miller, Mike Loudiana, the then Fire Chief Larry Layne, Matt Heck. All reputable intelligent people and I guess I want to caution the city not caution I'm not a person telling anything other than I guess I want to give you an option. Something other than feeling that you're backed in a corner and react because if I didn't have a stake in this with my company and my people and I just lived on 10th Street in Massillon knowing the stuff that I know this is not a good move. The present on the table I think this would help to accomplish what you're trying to financially these numbers could be tweaked. You charging the service I agree to it for EMT ambulance will pay it. Although you don't have to have me agree to it if you begin charging for a service if you began selling pizzas if somebody orders one they pay for it. So you don't have to make sure that the other ambulance service is okay with it if you offer this service. So I guess I can't speak for them other than I did check it out if you start charging this whoever would come into the city if they got the service from the department would have to pay. Again, I brought this I guess because I would like to see things stay status quo. This I mean this is going to infuse back into the city and its not going deteriorate the system I really believe the proposal on the table now would need to be fixed in short order. I don't want to see that happen you do have one of the best systems I've ever seen at present.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT GAMBER May I ask a quick question? (Absolutely) On your second page where you have the \$3,660,000 tell me where that number came from and what that represents.

KEN JOSEPH – My vice president called and got these numbers from I don't know if he got this from your auditor or if he got it from the only one gotten off the web was Plain's, Jackson and Massillon's were gotten over the phone in the last seven days.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT GAMBER Okay, did you give a copy to the media representatives?

KEN JOSEPH – No, but I can. Is there any other ones?

COUNCIL PRESIDENT GAMBER Okay, if you don't mind we'll make sure they get a copy. Then also of course you know Mr. McCune, I would suggest that you get with him after the meeting tonight so you can start talking. Then maybe you know between now and next Monday you may have met with the administration officials or maybe not but you know at least have something to follow up on this if that's okay. Mr. McCune?

COUNCILMAN MCCUNE – Absolutely.

KEN JOSEPH – Massillon's important to me. My family from where my ambulance service is located my family has had a business there for nearly 100 years. Farm Fresh Dairy, Sunrise Dairy, Sunrise Equipment and now my ambulance service. Massillon is very important to me that's why I fought hard to get in here. I know my guys bust their butt they do a great job. There hasn't been complaints I hope this helps to fix the city's situation so we can leave service as it is. If anybody has any questions I'm better answering questions than I am doing a public speaker thing.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT GAMBER Does anyone have a question? Okay, like I say if you'd get together with Mr. McCune after the meeting tonight to figure out where you want to go from here he'll be our lead person. Alright, thank you.

6. INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS

ORDINANCE NO. 115 – 2009 BY POLICE AND FIRE COMMITTEE

Amending CHAPTER 711 “AMBULANCE COMPANIES” of the Codified Ordinances of the City of Massillon, by repealing existing Section 711.02 “Description of Service” of CHAPTER 711 “AMBULANCE COMPANIES”.

COUNCILMAN MCCUNE – Yes, this is in regard to the subject that Mr. Joseph was just talking about. We've had numerous conversations about this in past work sessions. I'll be giving this as well as Ordinance No. 116 first reading.

ORDINANCE NO. 115 – 2009 WAS GIVEN FIRST READING.

ORDINANCE NO. 116 – 2009 BY POLICE AND FIIRE COMMITTEE

Enacting a new CHAPTER 967 “EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES” of the Codified Ordinances of the City of Massillon.

COUNCILMAN MCCUNE – First reading.

ORDINANCE NO. 116 – 2009 WAS GIVEN FIRST READING.

ORDINANCE NO. 117 – 2009 BY: FINANCE COMMITTEE

Making certain appropriations from the unappropriated balance of the Economic Development Fund, for the year ending December 31, 2009, and declaring an emergency.

COUNCILMAN MANSON I'm going to read most of this request from Mr. Aaby so everybody has a good understanding we've been talking about this all this year. I believe this comes out of the \$1,570,000 no it doesn't okay I'm sorry. It comes out of the economic development fund well I was wrong about that. Any how, this appropriation is being requested to provide funding for the city to acquire vacant tax delinquent properties through an accelerated tax foreclosure process. Under a recently passed state law the city can request the county to expedite the foreclosure of abandoned property where the fair market value is less than the delinquent taxes and assessments. The city would use the funds being appropriated to compensate the county for their expenses approximately \$1,000 per parcel in doing the foreclosures. Residential parcels being acquired under the program will be offered to neighboring owners to increase the size of their property or advertise for sale to non adjacent buyers for redevelopment. Non residential properties acquired under the program will be conveyed to the Massillon Community

Improvement Corporation for sale for redevelopment. Proceeds from the sale of these properties will be returned to the economic development fund and used to continue this program. So if there's any questions the mayor is here he can discuss this and answer any questions that you may have. Otherwise, I'm going to be asking to waive the rule and move this forward tonight.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT GAMBER Alright, do we have questions on the program? Mrs. Catazaro-Perry?

COUNCILWOMAN CATAZARO-PERRY – I was absent at the work session could we bring the mayor up and he can maybe explain it in detail for me.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT GAMBER Mr. Mayor?

COUNCILWOMAN CATAZARO-PERRY – Thank you. I would just like it the program explained and how we're going to utilize these funds. I understand it's going to go back into the economic development fund but could you start from the beginning since I missed the meeting on Monday, please?

MAYOR CICCHINELLI – This is a program that's made possible by really a change in state law. The county has Stark County's bought into it. It allows for properties that have been delinquent for many years it allows the city, municipalities to go in and acquire these properties. Get them pretty much cleaned of any liens, back taxes and basically make an or a non tax producing parcel a producing parcel of tax revenues for the affected entities. We've been wanting to do that or do this for quite some time and we're going to start with around 10 parcels because they estimate that in order to clear to get clear title of the list already compiled be approximately \$1,000 to do that. Then what we want to do is sell those parcels like Mr. Manson explained and we can do that in a couple of ways actually. Either advertise or go through CIC if its an industrial or commercial property but if it's a say its an adjoining residential parcel and it can not be built on by any development then probably what would happen is the adjoining property owner would require or would like to have that to expand their lot. So we're going to work those details out as to making sure and talking with the law department Mr. Stergios and I know Aane's had some discussions with them. But they were going to make sure that things are done properly as far as advertising. But this is a way to get delinquent properties back on the tax rolls and producing tax revenues for like I said for the different public entities. I think it's a great thing. There are some parcels that we're going to start off come right out of the gate with that could produce more revenue than of course the \$10,000 we have in it. Those are the larger parcels that could be used for commercial or industrial. So we're going to pick the first 10 we're going to pick what we think to be pretty revenue producing parcels so we could actually take these dollars and then throw them back into our economic development fund to replace the \$10,000 and actually increase revenue. So I think it's a win, win for everybody.

COUNCILWOMAN CATAZARO-PERRY – I just have one more question. Is there any thought about taking any of those dollars if it is above and beyond what we put into it and putting it into the general fund?

MAYOR CICCHINELLI – Well, since the dollars came economic development and if you look at your cash report we don't have that much money right now in that report. This is a way to actually increase that revenue and that is one fund that does bring jobs to the city helps to bring jobs to the city. So any and we haven't used general fund money really to do that. These dollars that you see in the economic development fund primarily came from the selling of properties. So but we don't own a lot of property in the city and that's remiss by a lot of folks property that we do own we utilize like parks and buildings and things like that. So this is just a way to increase that fund, but technically yes, these dollars could be put into the general fund. But I wouldn't want to see that I would want to see them be recycled back into economic development to build that back up and attract more jobs here.

COUNCILWOMAN CATAZARO-PERRY – Thank you.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT GAMBER Thank you, Mr. Mayor. Mr. Manson?

COUNCILMAN MANSON moved for suspension of the rules and passage, seconded by Councilman Hersher.

The rules were suspended by a roll call vote of 9 yes.

ORDINANCE NO. 117 – 2009 WAS PASSED BY A ROLL CALL VOTE OF 9 YES.

7. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

8. PETITIONS AND GENERAL COMMUNICATIONS

9. BILLS, ACCOUNTS AND CLAIMS

A. REPOSITORY - \$888.80

B. NORLSON - \$67.50

COUNCILMAN MANSON I move that we pay the bills, seconded by Councilwoman Catazaro-Perry.

Roll call vote of 9 yes to pay the bill.

10. REPORTS FROM CITY OFFICIALS

A). POLICE CHIEF SUBMITS MONTHLY REPORT FOR AUGUST 2009 COPY FILE

B). TREASURER SUBMITS MONTHLY REPORT FOR AUGUST 2009 COPY FILE

C). FIRE CHIEF SUBMITS MONTHLY REPORT FOR AUGUST 2009 – COPY FILE

D). INCOME TAX DEPT SUBMITS MONTHLY REPORT FOR AUGUST 2009 – COPY FILE

E). WASTE DEPT SUBMITS MONTHLY REPORT FOR AUGUST 2009 – COPY FILE

F). MAYOR SUBMITS MONTHLY REPORT FOR AUGUST 2009 – COPY FILE

COUNCIL PRESIDENT GAMBER Thank you, we will accept all those and file them

11. REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

COUNCIL PRESIDENT GAMBER Next committee sessions will be Monday the 28th just a mention into October we do have a Columbus Day holiday but city council will have business as usual on that Monday in case the question comes up

12. RESOLUTIONS AND REQUESTS OF COUNCIL MEMBERS

COUNCILMAN MANSON Yes, Monday night after our regular business meeting as far as handling you know the regular business of the city. We'll have the auditor giving us bringing us up to date on her research on the possibility of borrowing money where or if we can. So we'll discuss that Monday night after regular business is over.

13. CALL OF THE CALENDAR

14. THIRD READING ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS

.SECOND READING ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS

16. NEW AND MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS

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

18. ADJOURNMENT

COUNCILMAN PETERS – I move that we adjourn, seconded by all.

MARY BETH BAILEY, CLERK,

GLENN E. GAMBER, PRESIDENT



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