

**MINUTES OF SPECIAL MEETING
MASSILLON CITY COUNCIL
HELD, MONDDAY, SEPTEMBER 29, 2014 AT 7:00 P.M.**

COUNCIL PRESIDENT TOWNSEND This Special Meeting will come to order. This meeting was called by the Finance Committee for the purpose to discuss the passing of Ordinance No. 129 - 2014. Madam Clerk, roll call please.

1. ROLL CALL

Roll call for the evening found the following Council members present: Milan Chovan, Sarita Cunningham-Hedderly, Michelle Del Rio-Keller, Nancy Halter, Paul Mason, Andrea Scassa, Megan Starrett and Shaddrick Stinson.

Roll call of 8 present

COUNCIL PRESIDENT TOWNSEND – Councilman Manson, I need a motion to excuse Councilman Lewis.

COUNCILMAN MANSON – So made. Seconded by Councilwoman Halter. Roll call to excuse Councilman Lewis.

Roll call of 8 to excuse Councilman Lewis.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT TOWNSEND – Thank you, Madam Clerk. Ordinance No. 129 - 2014

ORDINANCE NO. 129 - 2014

BY: FINANCE COMMITTEE

AN ORDINANCE making certain appropriations from the unappropriated balance of the 1100 General Fund for the year ending December 31, 2014, and declaring an emergency.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT TOWNSEND – Councilman Scassa.

COUNCILWOMAN SCASSA – Thank you, Mr. President. Before I get started, I believe I'm going to have to make a motion to amend this ordinance to include a few other pieces, I was just instructed by the Auditor. So, I'm going to ask for the Auditor to step forward and, if you have more ordinances...No. 121.

AUDITOR JAYNE FERRERO – The first one I would ask you to consider including would be the Domestic Violence salary, PERS, Medicare for Domestic Violence. Right now, it's showing us \$529.49 which is her salary line item and we need to get her paid and that's what --- you passed the last meeting about the Domestic Violence clerk. The street lighting \$175,000, we need to pay October's bill and we need that money to be appropriated; \$18,000 Stark County fees, right now we're over appropriated on that and the \$29,220 State Examination, that's going to be that grant money.

COUNCILWOMAN SCASSA – Okay, okay; if I can stop you right there, thank you. The street lighting the \$175,000 was that due in October. Is that due like the beginning of October or...

AUDITOR FERRERO – Well, we get our bills and they have to be paid by a certain date.

COUNCILWOMAN SCASSA – Okay. And then the Stark County fee is, again, just since we’re sort of doing this on the fly...

AUDITOR FERRERO – I know, I’m sorry.

COUNCILWOMAN SCASSA – That’s okay. You said we’re over-appropriated on that, so we’re in the arrears, I guess. Okay. So we have no choice.

AUDITOR FERRERO - Yes.

COUNCILWOMAN SCASSA – Okay, and then the \$29,000, the State Examination, you said that’s the Leap fund?

AUDITOR FERRERO – That is. We’re getting charged money on that and we’ve got the money in our General Fund to pay it, so that’s why we’re asking you to consider that because we’ll need somewhat.

COUNCILWOMAN SCASSA – Okay, and I guess just to make the connection, but we’re paying it out of the General Fund, but we’re getting it from the Park & Rec Fund? And then we’re getting...

COUNCILMAN MANSON – No,...

COUNCILWOMAN DEL RIO-KELLER – No.

COUNCILWOMAN CUNNINGHAM-HEDDERLY – From a grant.

COUNCILMAN CHOVAN – This is a different piece, isn’t it?

AUDITOR FERRERO – This is money that I had re-certified and so, the money is there. All of this money that we had asked for this funding, all of the money is there.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT TOWNSEND – Thank you.

AUDITOR FERRERO – 50% of our budget goes into the General Fund.

COUNCILWOMAN SCASSA – Okay.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT TOWNSEND – Are we making an amendment to the Ordinance No. 129?

COUNCILWOMAN SCASSA – Yes, but we’re referencing No. 121. (background discussion) Let me back up...No. 129 is what the Special Meeting has been called for. No. 129, the line items on No. 129, were taken out of No. 121. This ordinance was given first reading at last week’s regular session. And that’s what I was saying during the work session. The line items for No. 121 pertaining to our Clerk, it was brought to our attention by the Auditor that we needed to pass those so that we could pay our Clerk; so we had the money to pay our Clerk. What the Auditor brought to my attention a few minutes ago, again, we don’t have to amend it, but had asked for these items that we’re talking about right now, meaning the street lighting, the fee to Stark County, the examination fee for the Leap fund and then the salary, PERS and Medicare for Domestic Violence be amended to No. 129 to pay those items instead of letting them go to second and third reading.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT TOWNSEND – Councilwoman Scassa, here’s the problem that I have. I thought that we were here for a Special Meeting to address Ordinance No. 129 and me personally, really feel a little uncomfortable to make an amendment within Ordinance No. 121 since we are here for Ordinance 129.

COUNCILWOMAN SCASSA – Okay.

AUDITOR FERRERO – All I’m asking is that you amend the...

COUNCILMAN CHOVAN – We can't do that in discussion...we're not doing that. This meeting was called specifically for this ordinance.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT TOWNSEND – No. 129.

AUDITOR FERRERO – But all I'm asking you to do is amend the ordinance so that we can pay the appropriations.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT TOWNSEND – Well, one of the problems is that we sent information out to the public that we were going to address Ordinance No. 129 and so now we're discussing No. 121.

AUDITOR FERRERO – Well, this is part of No. 121.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT TOWNSEND – I'm not disagreeing with you. But we are here today to discuss Ordinance No. 129 and so now we're being told to make amendment. So, we have something else on the agenda. We have No. 129 and No. 121. Now, is it best that we just vote this down and then possibly reconvene in the next couple of days?

COUNCILWOMAN SCASSA – Well, I guess, let me say this. I'm sorry for the confusion. My understanding was that you could amend an ordinance anytime, however, with that being said, if the Council members are not comfortable with the amendment, then we can vote down the amendment and just move forward on No. 129 as it stands.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT TOWNSEND – You can amend any ordinance at any time, if it's on the agenda; No. 121 is not on the agenda, No. 129 is.

COUNCILWOMAN SCASSA – Well, I'm not seeking to amend No. 121, I was just referencing it. I was speaking the amend No. 129. So, that's what I'm saying; I'm sorry for the confusion, but, if Council doesn't feel comfortable amending No. 129, then we can go from there, if that means anything.

AUDITOR FERRERO – Leave it go, Andrea.

COUNCILMAN MANSON – Leave it alone.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT TOWNSEND – Councilman Chovan.

COUNCILMAN CHOVAN – Thank you, and I apologize, I don't have that in front of me, but is No. 129 the one we called the meeting for tonight?

COUNCILWOMAN SCASSA – Correct.

COUNCILMAN CHOVAN – So, I mean, why would we amend that; are those numbers incorrect on that?

COUNCILWOMAN SCASSA – Those numbers are not incorrect.

COUNCILMAN CHOVAN – Okay, so if we vote on that tonight and we vote to pass this, then what we need to do maybe at our next meeting is go back to No. 121 and amend it by removing those line items specific to the Council Clerk and change that. But we don't have to do that tonight.

COUNCILWOMAN SCASSA – No, and that will have to be done pertaining to the items for Council Clerk, but what our intentions to do and apparently pretty poorly, was amend No. 129 to add additional line items that need to be paid.

COUNCILMAN STINSON – So that they can get moved forward faster.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT TOWNSEND – Councilman Manson, did you have a question?

COUNCILMAN MANSON – I'd just like to comment...I thought we were here to do this No. 129. You know, maybe by the broad sense of our rules, maybe we can amend anything at anytime to take care of it, but what we were all told was that we had to get this done for the Council Clerk to be on the payroll and going by the first of October. And I feel very uncomfortable; we have a meeting coming up on Monday (okay; that's fine) I mean it's only another week away; I wished we'd had known these things. I prefer not to do it.

COUNCILWOMAN SCASSA – I withdraw the motion to amend No. 129. Can I proceed?

COUNCIL PRESIDENT TOWNSEND – Yes.

COUNCILWOMAN SCASSA – As No. 129 stands, I'll just go over them very quickly; we're asking to appropriate from the unappropriated balance of the 1100 General Fund:

\$10,025.00 – Salary – Council Clerk
2,700.00 – Hosp/Eye/Den/Pres/Life
1,300.00 – P.E.R.S.
100.00 – Medicare – Council
1,500.00 – Services/Contracts - Council
\$ 15,625.00

With that being said, I make a motion to suspend the three (3) readings for Ordinance No. 129 and bring it for it's passage.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT TOWNSEND – Seconded by Councilwoman Del Rio-Keller. Roll call for suspension.

8 yes for suspension

COUNCIL PRESIDENT TOWNSEND – And now for passage.

8 yes for passage

COUNCIL PRESIDENT TOWNSEND – Thank you, Madam Clerk. Ordinance No. 129 has passed and this meeting is adjourned.

MEETING ADJOURNED - 7:15 p.m.

DIANE ROLLAND, CLERK OF COUNCIL

TONY M. TOWNSEND, PRESIDENT

