

## MINUTES

Niles City Council held a special meeting on May 28, 2008 in Conference Room No. 1 located on the first floor of City Hall, 34 West State Street, Niles, Ohio.

The subject of the special meeting was to review all letters of interest submitted for the appointment of the First Ward Councilman or Councilwomen prior to making the selection for the vacant seat.

The meeting was called to order by President Robert Marino, and the Clerk; Linda A. Yuhasz called the roll:

Lastic-P; Papalas-P; Scarnecchia-P; McCormick-P; Stredney-P; Papas-P; Marino-P

President Marino told the candidates that they would be called to speak in alphabetical order and that the first candidate to speak would be Brenda Claypool.

Brenda Claypool: I have been a resident of Niles for forty eight years. I grew up on the east side and have lived on the north side for the last thirty years. I am a Nuisance Board member and have been attending the meetings. I am getting involved and asking questions and I thought that there is no better way to get involved than to sit on a position and learn as much as I can learn to help the City of Niles.

Councilman McCormick: Brenda have you ever sought a political office before?

Brenda Claypool: No sir.

Councilman Scarnecchia: Why would you want to be councilwomen?

Brenda Claypool: I am already getting neighbors and friends contacting me because I attend the council meetings to try to help with things going wrong in our area such as the Schimley's excavation that we had problems with. I had neighbors contact me for a water main break on Fairlawn and I brought that to your attention at the last council meeting. I am the person that worked with the mayor to get the No Parking signs up and down Main Street in front of the bank because business people were parking there and there was no room for customers. The Dollar Store was losing business and the bank was losing business. I went and had a meeting with the mayor because I heard complaints. The mayor and I worked together and got the signs up so that customers come to downtown Niles and not go to other stores outside of Niles because of the parking problem. I also took up a petition for the No Parking signs up on North Road and the fact that the apartments had to cut down their hedges because it was a safety hazard for the people pulling in and out of Fairlawn and Lawnview. The signs are no longer needed because we have curbs now. I am a person that lives in Niles but already have taken steps in the past ten years trying to make it safer, more productive, and bring more people to town. I opened up my business in downtown Niles.

Councilman Lastic: Why didn't you decide to run for this position when it became available last spring?

Brenda Claypool: I was just starting my business. I was very busy working with the State of Ohio. My business goes through Homeland Security and it took me nine months working with Homeland Security to get it up and running. That is what I was doing when the position became available.

Councilman Scarnecchia: What party affiliation are you?

Brenda Claypool: I am a registered Republican.

The next candidate introduced was Larry Connelly.

Mr. Larry Connelly: I spent a lot of time volunteering in Niles. I ran as a write in candidate against Mr. Smith. The only difference between myself and the others sitting here is I actually ran. Mr. Smith got 138 votes, I got 109 and the other gentleman got 40. That gives me some leg up because I have actually run for this position. I have lived in the First Ward for forty years. I lived there when it was annexed into Niles. I spent a long time in the ward and worked with Mr. Fuda when Tops was brought in and we worked on the flooding situation there. We had retention tanks put in and sewer lines put across and most of it was at no cost to the city. I also was one of the people that formed the Mosquito Creek Development Committee. We put on fishing derbies, we had outdoor shows, nature shows, nature walks and we also were the ones that discovered the dump at the Eastwood Mall. We fought to get it cleaned up. (At this time Mr. Connelly passed around newspaper articles of the fishing derby).

Councilman Scarnecchia: Why do you want to be First Ward councilman, Mr. Connelly?

Mr. Connelly: I have always had a goal in helping the city; Niles has been good to me all my life. I grew up here, I love the city and I have a deep commitment to it and I have never been any where else. I know some of the people in the First Ward very well. I have talked to them and I know some of the problems.

Councilman Scarnecchia: I think that all the candidates know to be prepared; it is twenty four hour phone calls sometime and that is part of the business. What party are you affiliated with?

Mr. Connelly: I have been a Democrat all my life. I also was a member of the Niles Moose Club.

Councilman McCormick: The election that you participated in, was that as an Independent or as a Democrat?

Mr. Connelly: I am a Democrat and that was a write in and I don't think you have a party affiliation.

The next candidate introduced was John DeFalco.

Mr. DeFalco: My name is John DeFalco and I have never run for city office before and have always been on the fence as far as getting involved. The current councilmen and city government has done some great things for the city. I just feel it needs some more youth in the city government to help further the city's infrastructure and to get more youth involved on the community.

Councilman Lastic: Why did you decide now and not eight months ago to run for office?

Mr. DeFalco: At the time eight months ago with my job I was traveling quite a bit and I wasn't sure if I was going to have the time to devote to phone calls, and making the meetings every Wednesday. I am at a point now in my job to devote the time to it.

Councilman Scarnecchia: Are you affiliated with a party, Mr. DeFalco?

Mr. DeFalco: Yes I am a democrat.

The last candidate to be introduced was David Wilkerson.

Mr. Wilkerson: I was a councilman at one time for one year. My simple mistake caused all this ruckus. It was an honest mistake, it was a simple mistake. I did serve one year as a councilman and in that one year I got to work with a lot of department heads, people in the departments and all you folks on council except Mr. McCormick. I think we developed a good relationship and there were projects that I did start that I would like to see continue. I was actively involved on the Nuisance Ordinance in some way or form. When a problem comes up or a question comes up or a situation comes up I would fully research or investigate it and try to come up with proper answers to the questions that people may have to help with their problems. Sewers have always been an issue in the First Ward, it is an on going problem and it will always be addressed. I think with the thirty years construction background that I bring to the table that I could help with that. I currently live on Morris Place and have lived there for five years. It is the same street that I was born and raised on in 1962 when I was born. I lived there until I was seventeen and moved on and came back to the city. I, for the last four years have been one of the founders of the Niles Mosquito Creek Preservation Club where our goal is to clean up the creek, bring youth to the creek and start like Mr. Connelly had said fishing derbies back there. Kennedy Park was brought out of the dormancy, it was hardly ever used. We took over a hundred volunteers, thirty five to forty businesses and raised over eighteen thousand dollars to put a pavilion and building back there. It is a beautiful place. Those are the things that I like to do, those are things that interest me. This is a job that I have had a desire for many years and I would like to continue doing.

Councilman Scarnecchia: Are you affiliated with a party?

Mr. Wilkerson: Democrat.

President Marino explained that Council can nominate a member with a motion, a second and a vote to the appointment to the First Ward.

It was moved by Councilman Scarnecchia, seconded by Councilman Papalas to appoint Mr. David Wilkerson to the vacant First Ward seat.

**YEAS: 6    NAYS: 0**

By the action of Niles City Council, Mr. David Wilkerson was appointed to the vacant First Ward council seat.

Councilman Papalas: I want to thank all the people for showing an interest, all strong candidates and I know all of you one way or another. We could only select one and we are sorry about that. I would enjoy working with any one of you. I voted for Dave because I worked with him and he has the experience on council and he does have some unfinished projects. I want to thank you personally for your interest.

Councilman Scarnecchia: I would like to thank all the candidates, keep the interest because there will be openings sooner than we might think.

Law Director Terry Dull administered the oath of office to Mr. David Wilkerson.

It was moved by Councilman Papalas, seconded by Councilman Lastic to adjourn the special council meeting. Motion carried.

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Linda A. Yuhasz, Clerk of Council

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Robert Marino Jr., President of Council