

MINUTES

Niles City Council held its regular meeting of January 20, 2010 at 6:00p.m. in Council Chambers Safety-Service Complex in Niles, Ohio.

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

Lastic-P; Papalas-P; Scarnecchia-A; McCormick-P; Stredney-P; Papas-P; Wilkerson-P; Marino-P
It was moved by Stredney, seconded by Wilkerson to excuse the absence of Councilman Scarnecchia. Motion carried.

President Marino read Councilman Scarnecchia's letter of resignation to Niles City Council. Councilman Papalas made the motion to accept the letter and refer it to the law director who will refer it to the Trumbull County Board of Elections. Councilman Papas seconded the motion. Motion carried.

It was moved by Stredney, seconded by Lastic to accept the Minutes of the regular meeting of January 6, 2010 and place them on file. Motion carried.

REPORTS AND COMMUNICATIONS

FROM The Niles Municipal Court
The Annual Report for the Year 2009

It was moved by Stredney, seconded by Papas to accept the report and place it on file. Motion carried.

FROM The Niles Historical Society
A letter informing city council of the condition of the Ward-Thomas Museum

Councilman Papalas: Has anyone looked at this building?

Mayor Infante: We just spent about three thousand to repair the back roof and porch. Mr. John said that he would repair it so we met with Fremont and we got that passed last year. Is it completed yet, Audrey?

Mrs. John said that it wasn't completed yet due to the weather.

Mayor Infante: Mark is working on applying for a grant that is all we can do.

Councilman McCormick: There was a question on it during our meeting when we were trying to decide what the license money should be used for and Terry I don't know that we got the final complete answer, but is it appropriate to use that money for this or does it have to be used for roads?

Mr. Dull: It does have to be used for roads.

Councilman McCormick: It would be nice if we could, but we are restricted as to how we can use that money. Do I understand that we couldn't use it on a project like that if we wanted to anyway?

Mr. Dull: That is correct.

It was moved by Papalas, seconded by Stredney to accept the letter and place it on file.
Motion carried.

MEMBERS OF THE AUDIENCE TO ADDRESS COUNCIL

Mr. Rudy Gallucci of 1937 James Street: I have a question regarding the license plate tax, reading in the paper it says that you are taking a hundred and seventy thousand dollars from that and putting it towards roads. You originally had budgeted three hundred thousand dollars for the roads so now you are only budgeted a hundred and thirty thousand. You are taking a hundred and seventy thousand from the tax, is that how it is working?

Mayor Infante: All three hundred thousand is out, not out of the General Fund but Permissive Fund. It brings in ninety thousand a year. The new one will bring in a hundred and eighty thousand a year and we will put the balance in the General Fund (inaudible).

Mr. Mark Hess: We are taking a hundred and seventy thousand out of Permissive and a hundred thousand out of General Fund. We are going to do a two hundred seventy thousand resurfacing program.

Mr. Gallucci: Now if you had not gotten this tax you would have spent the same amount of money.

Mr. Hess: Last year we did a three hundred thousand dollar resurfacing program, two hundred and twenty five thousand came from the General Fund.

Mr. Gallucci: The way this is working this year you are taking the money from the license plate tax and saving money from the General Fund which to me is like a shell game, I am not getting anything from the sixty extra dollars I just spent for license plates on my car.

Mayor Infante: It is going to the roads and you use the roads every day and that is what you can only use it for.

Mr. Gallucci: What I am saying is you would have paved twelve miles of road if you had not of done that.

Mayor Infante: No that is not true, we probably would not have done a three hundred thousand dollar program from General Fund.

Mr. Gallucci: Well that is what you did last year.

Mayor Infante: We are down five hundred thousand in 2008 and almost four hundred thousand in 2009 General Fund and down a million dollars of interest.

Mr. Gallucci: (Inaudible) twenty five percent and my property tax are doubled in four years.

Mayor Infante: Your income tax stayed the same, we try to use the money the best we can.

Mr. Hess: I don't think there are any areas that we aren't maintaining the roads.

Mr. Gallucci: I don't want my extra sixty dollars going for, I am sorry but the Thomas House. If we can get a grant for that it is fine but I like the idea of the bicycle trail. I vote for all the school

taxes and I don't have kids except the one where they wanted to spend a couple million to build a stadium. I actually voted for the license plate tax because I trusted Dave DeChristofaro to spend it properly. I just didn't like seeing what I am seeing there because you got it and you can spend it on whatever you want.

Mr. Hess: It enables us to use other General Fund money to match grants with. We will be resurfacing the rest of Route 422 this year.

Councilman Papalas: That also is in conjunction with the fact that we try to reduce every budget by five percent, we do have less revenue this year than we did last year.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

None

ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS

ORDINANCE NO.____(Draft No. 04-10)

AN ORDINANCE TO APPROVE THE FORM AND AUTHORIZE THE EXECUTION OF POWER SALES CONTRACTS WITH AMERICAN MUNICIPAL POWER, INC. AND TAKING OTHER ACTIONS IN CONNECTION THEREWITH REGARDING MELDAHL AND GREENUP HYDROELECTRIC PROJECT PARTICIPATION

It was moved by McCormick, seconded by Lastic to suspend the rule requiring three readings.

Councilman McCormick: We recently had a couple meetings here with representatives of AMP Ohio and they refer to it as the Meldahl Greenup Hydroelectric Project, which are hydroelectric plants on the Ohio River. One is already in production and one is being constructed. We are getting in on the ground floor with the Meldahl Plant. The City of Niles is like an electric broker almost and we have a portfolio where we buy electricity from various places. They are all part of the portfolio, some are coal generated, some are gas generated, some are diesel generated and some are hydroelectric. What we try to do in this portfolio is to get a diverse source of energy so that we can use it to supply the demands of the city and get the best rates that we can get. We can do that by for example, when coal goes up and then coal generated electricity is very expensive we can use the other types of electricity to offset that and keep the price down where it is acceptable to the community. This project that we are looking at right now is called green electricity. It is not burning fossil fuels to generate it; it is generated by water power. It is another thing that we could be directed to do in the future is have a certain amount of green power within our portfolio that we use to provide the power to the city. It also gets us to a point where we are in at the ground floor with this and we are going to pay this money in the beginning, but after twenty years we have this hydroelectric generator paid for and then our price drops in half. This is providing a good source of electricity that should be reliable and it is going to be an acceptable price right now, but soon to be for our children, it will take them into the future and be a great price for them.

Councilman Papalas: We did the same thing with the Bellevue Plant many years ago, it was a big investment then and now it is paying off.

YEAS: 6 NAYS: 0

Rules are suspended.

It was moved by Papalas, seconded by Wilkerson that this Draft be adopted.

YEAS: 6 NAYS: 0

This Draft No, 04-10 has been adopted on the 20th day of January, 2010.

MISCELLANEOUS REMARKS

Mr. Fabrizio informed council that Mr. Tom Holloway of Meander Water would like to discuss a three year rate schedule with city council. A roundtable was scheduled on January 27, 2010 at 3:00p.m. at City Hall in Conference Room 1.

President Marino reminded council that Trumbull County Engineer, David DeChristofaro will be at next month's council meeting at 5:45p.m. to introduce himself and two of his employees to city council.

Councilman Papalas: Mr. Vigorito, a couple of months ago we had a packet full of ordinances to revamp our commercial ordinances...

Mr. Vigorito: The only thing holding out is corrections on the steel siding. I had a meeting with Terry and we need to get together and go over that and then we can bring them in.

Councilman Papalas: So we are moving along with that then?

Mr. Vigorito: Yes

Councilman Papalas: So when do you think we will be seeing it?

Mr. Vigorito: Well I didn't know if the Safety Committee was planning on having a meeting so we were waiting to see if they were going to call a meeting.

Councilman Papalas: They can't call a meeting until you are ready.

Mr. Vigorito: The only thing that we were waiting for is word back from the state, the state said that we can regulate what type of steel panels it's not against the building code. If it was against the building code then we wouldn't be allowed to regulate the type. We aren't disallowing it we aren't restricting it all together. We are allowing only certain types under zoning.

Councilman Papalas: We are going to regulate. So when is it going to be ready then?

Mr. Vigorito: That was the only information that I had to get together and I was hoping that a Safety Meeting was going to be called and I was going to present it there.

Councilman Stredney: Do you want to wait until the next council meeting and we can schedule the Safety Committee Meeting then?

Law Director Dull: That would be better.

President Marino: Did we ever finish that comprehensive plan?

Councilman Papalas: We had wording to work on.

Law Director Dull: This is probably very close to the tail end of the wording. We have made some amendments (inaudible) and they have done the final draft.

Mr. Vigorito: I have the final drafts but they are by wards and I wanted to make sure by the time we pass the rest of the commercial codes is there going to be any more changes to the map before I have the final map drawn.

President Marino: The census is coming out and we will be re-districting when the census is done. Theoretically that map can change.

Councilman Papalas: Well I don't think that changes the zoning.

President Marino: It changes the map, he has had it by wards. We need to get it done.

Mr. Vigorito: It is a slow process.

President Marino extended his gratitude and councils for the 15 years that Councilman Scarnecchia has served in council chambers and the years that he served as safety director. His service has left an indelible impression upon Niles from the baseball stadium to MVSD to the Wellness Center and his countless other accomplishments that we all shared together.

Councilman McCormick: I got a couple calls on snow on the viaduct for when the kids are walking to school. They complained that the kids walked on the road because the sidewalks weren't passable and another area between Maple Avenue and Federal Street.

Mayor Infante: Our brand new snow blower broke in the Street Department and we have to send it back.

Councilman McCormick: I will tell them that.

Councilman Stredney asked council if he could bring in a resolution as Council As A Whole for next meeting in support of fiber optic communications network in Trumbull County. City Council gave him permission to do so.

It was moved by Stredney, seconded by Papas to adjourn the meeting.

Linda A. Yuhasz, Clerk of Council

Robert Marino Jr., President of Council

