

MINUTES
MARCH 19, 2014

Niles City Council held its regular meeting on March 19, 2014 at 6:00 p.m. in Council Chambers Safety Service Complex in Niles, Ohio.

The meeting was called to order by President Robert Marino, and the Clerk, Lori Kuszmaul, called the roll:

Lastic-P, Papalas-P, Giancola-P, McCormick-P, Stredney-P, Merlo-P, Pezzano, P, Marino-P

It was moved by Stredney, seconded by Merlo to accept the Minutes of the regular meeting of March 5, 2014 and place them on file.

Motion carried.

REPORTS AND COMMUNICATIONS

FROM The Auditor's Office

The Revenue vs. Expenses thru February 2014.

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

FROM The Niles City Income Tax Department

The Monthly Receipt Totals thru February 2014

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

Motion carried.

FROM Chief Hinton

Correspondence from Sophia Rintala concerning Grant Writing.

It was moved by Stredney, seconded by Pazzano to accept the correspondence and place it on file.

Mr. Papalas: Chief, are we going ahead with this?

Chief Hinton: I wanted to bring it back to you and see whether this is what you wanted.

Mr. Papalas: Do you have a recommendation, Chief?

Chief Hinton: They have been successful with Warren and they are happy with them.

Mr. Papalas: Chief, this is the first time I have seen this. What else have they done in Warren? What have they done other than the police?

Chief Hinton: They have gotten them grants citywide. I can't tell you more than that. They have a web site. Maybe what they have done before might be on there.

Mr. Papalas: Anything for sidewalks, streets, bridges; do we know? Does anybody know? Has anybody seen this before?

Mr. McCormick: Maybe the best thing is, they have offered to come talk to us. Maybe we can have a roundtable and bring them in to talk or something like that. Council as a whole, safety, finance, everyone, community development. Who is community development?

Mr. Pezzano: I am.

Mr. McCormick: Do you want to call a meeting and look into this and decide whether we want to go with just the safety forces or citywide. Safety also?

Mr. Pezzano: Okay.

Mr. McCormick: Then come back to us with a report next meeting?

Mr. Pezzano: Okay.

Mr. McCormick: Okay. We will wait for your report.

Mr. Marino: I would also encourage you to reach out to Chris Litton from McDonald & Harden of Washington DC. That's who I am familiar with. My experience with grant writers is that they will not take retainage unless they are successful of getting the grant, so your capital outlay is less. Your exposure is less. You don't pay, what is it, \$85 per hour for this? Some grant writers will write the grants and if you are successful in retaining it, they will take a percentage of the award. So Frank, I will e-mail you the information for Chris Linton from McDonald Hardin. Ed?

Mr. McCormick: I just wanted to ask Mark. Have you looked at this? You have done a lot of our grant work and I was wondering what you thought.

Mr. Hess: The majority of the grants that I get are -- I am really not a grant writer, they are more of the application process that goes through either regional council and governments or some State of Ohio -- mostly just grant applications and following through with grant applications are some of the stuff that I do with regard to the streets, highways, sewers and that kind of stuff. So I'm not technically a grant writer. I know that that's out there, but I am involved in the discussions and the application process.

Mr. McCormick: In your experience, you might know how we might get into the system and things like that?

Mr. Hess: Well, I think I should probably be involved if you are going to meet with them and decide if you're going to go with roads, streets, bridges and that sort of thing.

Mr. McCormick: Okay. Is that okay with you, Frank?

Mr. Pezzano: It's Mr. Stredney.

Mr. McCormick: Okay.

Mr. Guarino: Chief, I have one question here. It says a rate of \$85.00/hour and then it goes on to say if they write the grant and we pay them for x amount of hours and we don't get the grant, do we still owe them?

President Marino: Yes.

Chief Hinton: Yes. That has happened with the Fire Department already.

President Marino: I'll copy you with Chris Linton information from McDonald Hardin as well. There are host of grants from the federal government and it's free.

Mayor Infante: I get them every week.

President Marino: You get them too?

Mayor Infante: Every month.

President Marino: From Chris?

Mayor Infante: Yes.

Mr. Stredney: Could you forward me those e-mails?

President Marino: It goes to you?

Mr. Stredney: Yes.

President Marino: I will get them to you.
Motion carried.

MEMBERS OF THE AUDIENCE TO ADDRESS COUNCIL

President Marino: Members of the audience, this evening we have two guests with us. We have the Superintendent of the Trumbull County Technical Center, Mr. Jason Gray, and Board Member, Susan Longacre. Mr. Gray would like to address city council. Mr. Gray, you have the floor and welcome to our chambers.

Mr. Gray: I just wanted to thank you for allowing me to have a few minutes. I just wanted to talk to Niles City Council as part of TCTC's responsibility of our shared service of Trumbull County. We need to allow people to know what we are doing for you and to highlight some of the things that have been going on since the last renewal 10 years ago. A lot of times we don't get a lot of people in our buildings. We have to invite them and not until they are in the

buildings do they see the great things that are going on. This year we are celebrating our 35th anniversary. The building opened in September of 1978, so we have been highlighting a lot of the history of the building since then. One of the things that career and technical education -- if you've been watching the news, the Governor has spoken of the importance of career and technical education. We have a skilled workforce who we are training who are meeting the demands of labor. We have people in manufacturing and shale. Our students are being hired. One of the things that people forget is that 40% of our students are going onto college. When they are in any of our career and technical programs today, they are also acquiring college credits in their field. A perfect example is a student in biotechnology will leave with up to 16 college credits. If the parents are paying for college, that is usually a pretty good selling point. We currently have 30 career and technical programs and we are adding two more in the fall. We wrote a grant, the Straight A Grant, where we would receive \$297,000. Part of that would be starting an exercise science lab. This would be for fitness trainers and nutritionist and to then go onto college for nutritionist and rehab therapists and occupational therapists. So it will be a great program and we are excited about it. The adult training is very instrumental in getting dislocated and workers retrained for back to work. One of the things that we are very proud of is our student success. We have had over 400 state, regional and national merits in just the last five years. We have four Niles students from 2009 to today on our Hall of Fame with their pictures hanging of our wall. We are very proud of our Niles students. We currently have 91 Niles students in our building. That is second only to Warren. Niles is a huge contributor to the TCTC population. One of the highlights of the 35 years is that it reminds us that we were last awarded the highest outstanding career center in Charlotte. We are now a nationally recognized career and technical center. We can actually say with validity that we are one of the best career centers in the State of Ohio. With that, that only comes with the support of Trumbull County. We are operating on a ten year renewal, which will be up November of next year. That mileage is the same since the day we opened 35 years ago. That is simply a renewal. We never have gotten additional money. We credit that to our fiscal responsibility. We try to reassess everything we can to stay current. Programs that have gone on the wayside, we stop them and start with a new one. I am here today to, hopefully, get the endorsement of Niles Council because you are an important part of the school and I hope you will continue to be an important part of our school. Thank you very much. I appreciate your time. Also, with me today is Susan Longacre who is our TCTC representative of our Board of Education. She is also on the Niles Board of Education.

President Marino: Any questions? Anyone else like to address Niles City Council this evening?

Juan Fuentes: I live at 310 N. Cedar Avenue, Niles, Ohio. I'm here to say thank you. Most human beings that we are never only look at one piece of pie that we have in front of us. People on council manage to see the whole pie. People don't take time to say thank you. It's always to raise a complaint about something and I'm here on behalf of many silent citizens from this city that would like to thank not only the council, but the mayor, for all that you do for us. People don't realize that you are not just members of council, but you are members of this community. You live here. When you do something and reach a decision, you are also making that decision because it also affects you and your family. Some people don't understand that. So from the bottom on my heart, I want to say thank you very much for the many hours all of you put in and all the effort you put in to provide us in the city, the road crews, the salt removal, and on and on

and on. From the silent majority, I again want to thank you very very much for all you guys do for us.

President Marino: Would anyone else like to address Niles City Council?

Jim Sherock: 1510 Stepney, Niles, Ohio. I am here because of the cape cod house on S. Rhodes. It's a mess. There are leaves all over the place and branches. There's a big hole back there that's full of weeds and branches. I've seen a rat come out of there. It's a mess. A big mess. You have to be there to see it. There are leaves and branches, I mean, he just piles it up and waits for the southwest wind to come over into my yard so I get all the leaves along my drive and that's the way it is.

Mr. Papalas: Jim, I did talk to the Mayor today. We discussed this. There really is no ordinance on the books about racking up leaves. But we will have Mike go over there and look at the property. I don't think anyone is living there.

Mr. Sherock: No, there isn't. There hasn't been anybody there for 15 years. My point is, the guy who takes care of the place, who mows the lawn, he comes about once every six weeks or every two months, and he waits on that southwest wind to come my way, and I'm getting all the leaves. I want the place cleaned up and I want them there to do his job and I want whoever is supposed to take care of this to do that. I'm getting up in age and I can't keep going out there racking. I must have racked, I don't know how many bags myself. That's just not right. I mean, you have to see the place to believe it. It's a pig pen. I take care of my yard.

Mr. Papalas: We are going to talk to Mike. Is Mike going to be here tonight, Mayor?

Mayor Infante: I didn't see him.

Mr. Sherock: He didn't do his job, that's all I ask.

Mayor Infante: I'll talk to him in the morning.

President Marino: Anyone else wish to address Niles City Council? Committee Reports.

COUNCIL COMMITTEE REPORTS

Mr. Giancola: A Safety Committee meeting was held on March 10th and March 11th 2014. The reports were presented to the Clerk to be kept on file.

President Marino: I would like to remind the committee chairs that under the Ohio Public Record's law, you are required to keep accurate notes of your meeting including who is there and they are to be turned into our clerk to be kept on file. I e-mailed you the new updated Ohio Attorney General Sunshine Law booklet. There is a special notation of what is and isn't a public record with respect to e-mail communication. I encourage all of you to look at it. Reggie and Mr. Lastic, I have hard copies for you. I forgot them, but I will get them to you.

There being no more committee reports, the next order of business is miscellaneous remarks.

MISCELLANEOUS REMARKS

President Marino: Terry, where are we with the agreement with the CIC and the Regional Chamber of Commerce relative to seeking their assistance on economic development? Have we done anymore with that?

Mr. Dull: I need to talk to some folks in Columbus to get some guidance on how we are able to do that. I need to get that done.

President Marino: Well, the sooner the better. I ask the Treasurer if he would be kind enough to share with me the number of businesses in Niles, and I believe Bob on that list there are 900 and some business in town.

Mr. Swauger: 976, I think.

President Marino: When you look through the list it is shocking the number of businesses that have disappeared from our community. I know that we are working on the JED and economic development for industry but the CIC had been looking at commercial economic development and I think that is important, so that is why I asked Terry to look into that with regard to the CIC.

Mr. Dull: Just to mention the Pruski matter, the court had a hearing last week. A decision was announced that he was found guilty. At this point, there hasn't been an actual sentencing yet. That will take place on April 14th, but the court did feel that there was enough evidence to find him guilty. I will keep you posted on what develops with the sentencing.

Mr. Lastic: Is there anything on the audit? How far away are we?

President Marino: I thought it would be April.

Mr. Papalas: Two things. One is I want to thank Steve Yovich for looking into that situation for me on Russell Avenue. Those of you who don't know Mr. Yovich, he is sitting here tonight and he's the person who is most responsible for cleaning up our problem areas as far as careless landlords are concerned and he has done a great job and has never lost a case in court. We appreciate his work.

I also had a question to direct to Mike Burke. Again he is not here. He wasn't here last meeting. The recycling bins are turning into garbage bins. I went Sunday and I could hardly put anything in there and he told me they empty those every Monday? Well, I checked just before the meeting and everything that was in there on Sunday is still in there today. Mayor, could you please let him know?

Mayor Infante: Yes, I'll let him know.

Mr. Papalas: What else can we do?

Mayor Infante: Switch companies. I don't know. It's through a grant, so the next thing is to just get rid of them. I won't have to hear about that headache.

Mr. Papalas: That might work too, Mayor, but other communities, smaller than ours, have more than that available and they don't have a problem.

Mayor Infante: It's the people who dump in there. That's the problem. They just dump on the ground. They dump everywhere.

Mr. Papalas: Mayor, right now there is only a tire there.

Mayor Infante: Yes, but you've seen what we have had in the past. I think this way is better than the other way with the big dumpster and people opening it. Separate ones now I think are better. I mean they can be filled in one day and if you don't have a contract to dump once a week, there is nothing we can do.

Mr. Papalas: They were supposed to empty them up to two times a week.

Mayor Infante: I don't know what the contract is. I know I'm tired of coming to council meeting and hearing about the same thing with the dumpster. Maybe what we can do is get rid of them or move them to a different location.

Mr. Papalas: If we had cameras, we wouldn't have some of the dumping. Getting rid of the program doesn't solve the situation. People want to be able to recycle.

Mayor Infante: People aren't responsible enough to recycle. We have seen that.

Mr. Papalas: Mayor, go look at those things.

Mayor Infante: I look at them every morning.

Mr. Papalas: They are full of material that is recyclable.

Mayor Infante: I understand that.

Mr. Papalas: They're working. All we need to do is empty them.

Mayor Infante: They're working now, but during the course of a week, I have to have the street department go pick everything up and that's not their job. The people won't put it in the dumpster.

Mr. Papalas: How many times have we asked, put a camera up there and you'll see.

Mayor Infante: I'm not going to spend \$5,000 on a camera for dumpsters.

Mr. Papalas: I don't think you need \$5,000.

Mayor Infante: Grocery stores have cameras up and they can't even pick up who is robbing the store.

Mr. Papalas: Those are all weak excuses. Actually, they don't even hold water.

Mayor Infante: They hold water.

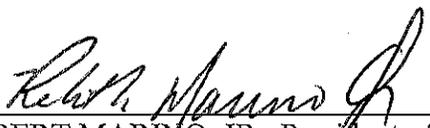
President Marino: I do believe you have brought up a point that has been on my mind. Department heads, Ralph, there is an expectation that they are to be here at our council meetings. I know Mr. Hess is here regularly and the others are sporadic. You know, I don't think we ask too much from them, but their attendance here is your rules; it's in your rules that they are to be here. So this is the time when questions are able to be answered and I know we excuse some of them like Tony, who has a meeting a month. It might not be a bad idea to remind them. I would gladly do it, but they don't work for me, they work for you. Remind them that their attendance here would be appreciated a little bit more frequently. For some of them it's never.

ADJOURN

It was moved by Giancola, seconded by McCormick to adjourn the meeting.



LORI KUSZMAUL, Clerk of Council



ROBERT MARINO, JR., President of Council
