

COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

March 16, 2016

Niles City Council held its regular meeting on March 16, 2016 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, McNaughton-P, Steffey-A, Marchese-P, Mientkiewicz-P, Pezzano-P, Marino-P

It was moved by Papalas, seconded by McNaughton to excuse Councilman Steffey due to personal illness.

Motion carried.

President Marino: Mr. DePasquale?

James DePasquale: I have a statement to read. The Mayor has had a small health problem and his family thought it was best for him to get it checked out at this time and he should be back in a day or two. He has asked me to thank everyone for their support of the income tax and the park levy and he wants to say that the number one priority of this administration is to return our police and fire back to work as soon as possible and he wants you to know that this administration is transparent and you will know when, what and where your tax dollars are being spent. Thank you.

President Marino: A motion to excuse the Mayor.

It was moved by Lastic, seconded by Papalas to excuse Mayor Scarnecchia from the meeting. Motion carried.

President Marino: Generally what happens when the Mayor is absent, I assume the Mayor's position and Mr. Papalas assumes President of Council. I choose to remain in my seat as President of Council this evening due to the fact that we have an absent council member so the Mayor will sign the legislation tomorrow or this evening.

It was moved by Pezzano, seconded by Lastic to accept the Minutes from the March 2, 2016 regular council meeting and March 8, 2016 special council meeting and place them on file.

Motion carried.

REPORTS AND COMMUNICATIONS

FROM The Income Tax Department

The Monthly Receipt Totals through February 2016

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

Motion carried.

FROM The Niles City Auditor

Check Report by Check Number from 02/01/16 through 02/29/16

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

President Marino: Mr. Swauger, when is the Ohio Checkbook online going to be active?

Mr. Swauger: We are active – I received an e-mail from state that our account is accurate and now I just have to load everything, but our account is now active and ready to go.

President Marino: What we are doing is putting our checkbook online through the State Treasurer's Office for an additional level of transparency. When will that be accomplished?

Mr. Swauger: They should be on by the end of the week. I just got the e-mail. We ran a test and our account is ready to go. I just have to send the whole thing down to them.

President Marino: Ok.

Mr. Swauger: We'll have January and February on there.

Mr. Mientkiewicz: Quick comment. Mr. President, just for the people in the audience, we are putting these on our city website as well. It's a little delayed right now because our IT guy has been swamped with other issues these last couple weeks, but it is a process that is moving along so hopefully by the end of the month, I am hoping, we will be current on all our check runs, all our Minutes, all our financial reports and things like that.

President Marino: Thank you.

Motion carried.

FROM Office of Superintendent Water and Wastewater Andy Catanzarite

Letter updating the Council and other city officials as to the status of the Wastewater Treatment Plant.

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

Mr. Papalas: Andy, I want to thank you again for sending that to us. It was very detailed and very informative.

Motion carried.

MEMBERS OF THE AUDIENCE TO ADDRESS COUNCIL

Wanda Burns, 562 Wyoming, Niles, Ohio. First I want to say congratulations to everyone here. It is important that we are going to have adequate coverage now from the Fire and Police Departments. There is now trust in the administration and that is what I would like to address now. I actually had very good notes and left them at the office, so bear with me. I believe I understand that out of the 2% income tax 1% will go to police and fire, yet that will not totally cover it. There will be additional funds out of the additional 1%; however, I'm positive it won't

be the whole 1%. It's that remaining money that I'm worried about. I listened to the news and I heard that we're thinking about businesses and the Wellness Center. For myself I just want to make it clear I am totally against taking any of that general fund for the Wellness Center until some of these things are taken care of. That being, even when three policemen and three fire fighters are called back, we're still not at minimal manning. Ninety fire hydrants in the City of Niles don't function. I don't know why but I decided to sort of drive around and some of these addresses are right next to each other. I encourage council, if you would like copies of this, you're going to be shocked if you live at certain places, you don't have fire hydrants. I think I'm correct and Chief Danielson can help me, but we don't have one of those pumper trucks or whatever they're called to bring water to the sites?

Chief Danielson: No, we don't have one.

Wanda Burns: So this is something that certainly needs to be addressed with extra money. I know why they haven't been. I know we don't have any extra money. I'm not pointing fingers at anyone. I'm not here for publicity. I'm here to try to address it saying it should be addressed. We have buildings that the City owns that have tarps on them. Tarps. Water runs in them. We need to have a plan for infrastructure. A formal plan. Do we have formal goals and visions? I'm sure you folks didn't run on Council just to come here every other Wednesday night. I'm sure you had goals and visions that you wanted to bring forward. We have to have goals and visions before we decide how to spend this money and we are still 1.5 million dollars in the hole as of today and we're already talking about spending money. We've got to quit spending, spending and spending. My understanding is we don't know how much we are going to collect yet, so I don't think we should be making plans on how to spend the money until we have our safety forces one hundred percent back. It's almost April and the vacations are going to start. Overtime is going to be rampant and I can't see paying more in overtime than what it would to bring three guys back. So I think that needs consideration. I guess what I'm saying is, believe me, I am thrilled. I am very excited that both levies passed. Now I just ask that we be responsible and get together with council and come up with a plan instead of just thinking how can we spend this? That's the message that I wanted. I need to say that because that is the message that I believe. I thank you for your time. If anyone wants addresses of the hydrants, I would be happy to share.

Mr. Papalas: Mr. President, I want to respond to the remarks about the fire hydrants. Wanda, I brought that up concerning fire hydrants a year or maybe a year and a half ago and I did drive around and know where some of those hydrants are that are not functioning. We discussed it in here. We argued about it in the Mayor's Office and we got nowhere. I think they replaced a handful of them and repaired a few.

Chief Danielson: We fixed about 70 to 80 of them.

Mr. Papalas: They started to make headway and the Chief was supportive in that effort, but then it just died away.

Wanda Burns: Like I said, I'm not here to point fingers. The past is the past. We've got to start moving forward and the citizens just gave all of you permission to do that.

Mr. Papalas: I just want you to know that we are aware of the fire hydrants.

Wanda Burns: I'm not going to name the street because – here's an example 1260, 1225, 1223, 1286, 1180, 1146, 990 and 937. I drove past there, there's only about three more houses in those addresses, so if a fire happens there – truly, the dispatchers should have this list. I don't know who has a tanker truck.

Mr. Papalas: I would guess the fire department already has that. The fire department has that list.

Wanda Burns: Ok.

Mr. McNaughton: In regards to one of your points about the said interview last night on television. My phone, e-mail blew up. I used to do what these people do for a living so I think I have a little bit of knowledge on it. You go out and shoot about 55 minutes of video and bring it back. I am not going to speak for the Mayor. I won't speak for anybody. My guess is that people are taking a two second comment out of a 2 minute and 22 second story and blowing it out of proportion. And in his defense, the Mayor did not say it, the reporter said it. I will let the Mayor answer anybody's concerns, but don't anybody think we are all up here salivating wanting to spend a boatload of money that A) we don't have yet and B) we don't know what we're going to have and C) these fine folks from the State of Ohio are breathing down our necks and I say that with respect and I'm glad you are. If there's any time to trust us, it's now. We can't mess up. They will call us out the second we do. A massive bullseye is on our back and I'm glad it is. It's about time that it is in the city, so there's a reason why many of us do not respond to a ton of people who are worriers in this town. You can present all the facts you want and you're just called a liar. You're called this or called that. Whatever is the response you get when you present the facts, so please know and ask the Mayor what he meant or did not mean by that comment. It was two seconds of a 2 minute and 22 second story and I was responding to so many messages and maybe some others up here were as well today and there is no cause for alarm. Thank you.

President Marino: Mr. Santell.

Bill Santell, President IFF Local 320. 233 Moreland, Canfield, Ohio. First and foremost, I want to thank the residents of the City of Niles who supported the passage of the income tax as well as the park levy. We cannot thank you enough. I wish John Stevens could be here tonight, but he did deserve a night off. For you guys that don't know, John headed the tax levy committee and without his leadership, I truly do not think this would have passed. I for one thank the ASCME workers, police, dispatch, council members, everyone that participated. It was a total community effort to get this done and we cannot thank you enough. Thank you.

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

James Sylvester: I want to address the City Council. As you probably know, my term as your representative to Mahoning Valley Sanitary District will be terminating on May 1st and I just

want you to know that I thank you very much for the confidence that you have shown to me for the past 12 years. I do have a bit of good news, however, and that is over the past 12 years the Board of Directors and a talented administration and staff, we changed a 75 year old water plant into a state of the art facility which is now offering you the best product in the State of Ohio and I can back that up. I think the people of the City of Niles and the Mahoning Valley for that matter should be very proud of the product we have given them. I again thank you for the confidence you have shown in me over the last 12 years and I can only say this, with the ongoing capital improvements that will continue, I think you will receive the same product just as well for the next 75 years. Thank you very much.

President Marino: Mr. Sylvester, I say this with all due respect, your service has been wonderful. You served our community with integrity and we certainly appreciate all that you have done regarding service on the MVSD Board. I know it hasn't always been easy, especially when you come in here and ask for rate increases, but you've always done what was right and best for the District, Jim, and hence your noble career of 12 years. I know I speak for all members of council, we certainly appreciate it.

Jim Sylvester. Like I said, you do have a very very good product. I stand by that.

President Marino: Lastly, for the members of the audience, I have spoken to Mr. Sylvester and he told me that this was coming so I asked the Law Director to prepare and provide the members of council with the procedure on the replacement for Mr. Sylvester. That will be handled through the Utilities Committee and Mr. McNaughton, so as the process unfolds we'll have Ryan through his leadership relative to the selection of a new member at the MVSD to represent council. Thank you, Mr. Sylvester.

Rich Bailey, 1476 Butterfield Circle. I'd like to make (inaudible) As a union steward and member of the healthcare costs committee, (inaudible) the members of the city were threatened by the Mayor that if they did not allow his friend, John Ruberto, to take over as health care broker, they would pay come negotiations. My union is in the process of filing an unfair labor charge against the Mayor. As a union rep, employee and a tax payer, I regret caving to the threat, but I did. I changed my vote for fear of unfair treatment to my members down the road. Even giving into the Mayor's demands it appears not to be enough. We will be (inaudible) John Ruberto as broker for the City of Niles health plan. Violating the entire process set (inaudible) It appears (inaudible) I would ask City council to keep a watchful eye on this issue to avoid any further embarrassment to the City. I would also like to acknowledge Auditor Merlo and Deputy Auditor Bacak for having the integrity to stopping the Mayor's efforts to hire his friend, John Ruberto not once, but three times.

President Marino: Thank you, Mr. Bailey. Mr. Marchionte.

Bo Marchionte, (inaudible) Thanks again for supporting us (inaudible)

President Marino: Anyone else?

Al Cantola, 208 Vienna Avenue, Niles. My question is on today's Agenda. Draft No. 29-16 Item 4, I would like some clarification and a little more detail than what I am seeing on the Agenda. I don't really understand it so I'm looking for a little more in-depth explanation.

Mr. DePasquale: That is pertaining to the CHIP Grant that Niles and Girard share. That is what that ordinance is about. Community Housing Improvement Project for people who qualify to funding some 100% and some co-funds and that includes rental properties also. That's to help people in need.

Al Cantola: Is the City funding part of this along with Girard? Is that how it works? I'm just trying to understand.

Mr. DePasquale: No. That is a grant.

President Marino: Mr. Cantola, we have had this for several years.

Mr. DePasquale: That is a grant. It's been ongoing for years for Niles and Girard.

Al Cantola: I was just unclear.

Mr. DePasquale: The costs to the City is zero dollars.

President Marino: I appreciate your asking.

Mr. Papalas: That is one of the few grants we have left. We'll take it.

President Marino: Please state your name and address for the record.

James Sheely, 627 Fenton Street. We have a problem in the City of Niles with poorly maintained rental properties. Where are you on this? I understand Jeff Crowley is one person and only works about 20 hours per week part-time. We have a serious problem. You start looking into some of these properties, the same names come up over and over again and they own multiple properties not only in our vicinity but in every vicinity. They are all run down. I know before I have come to these meetings about issues of rental properties around me. Things don't get resolved very well. I know that they have certain standards that they are supposed to maintain. They're not supposed to have holes in the siding when I look everything up and some of that got bypassed from the former guy. I don't know what was going on there. He may have just done the minimal (inaudible) I can understand if the tenants is tearing up the inside, but the outside, if I'm renting the property, it's on me. I spend a lot of money on maintaining my property. I probably spent in a year's time \$40,000.00 and these people are continuing to just let their properties go downhill and whenever I make a complaint nothing is really done. I know the former person, a tenant actually approached me, she was there when he came out and she knew details of our conversation that she could only have gotten from him being there. I know that's all behind us and we have to look forward on this because there are so many properties that are in really bad shape. There are people who work for the City who own rental properties and I think it's ridiculous (inaudible)

President Marino: Mr. DePasquale.

Mr. DePasquale: We are on this. Again, that's a general fund department. Part-time and just one man. I would like to see that go full time. I would like to see him get an assistant. We're raising the inspection rates on that. We're starting to fund the department. That's going to get better, but again it's one guy. He goes out every day and he does a heck of a job in regards to making improvement. He has a lot going on.

James Sheeley: We also have another problem over there –

President Marino: I'm sorry, Mr. Pezzano wanted to make a comment.

Mr. Pezzano: I want to respond to that on behalf of Mr. DePasquale, and Jeff Crowley does a fantastic job, however, he is trying to form a team within the City and he's going to have a committee meeting shortly with several members of the City, the Council, whoever wants to be part of it and we're going to walk the neighborhoods and go off of like a survey list, a check list, and present it to him and he's working in conjunction with YSU so give us some time on that. Mr. Crowley is working on that process so it might be a month to a month and a half. It all depends on when he wants to start this process.

James Sheeley: We also have a problem over there with these guys with four wheelers and stuff. They fly up and down the streets at breakneck speed riding wheelies and stuff. (inaudible) There are outsiders coming in and you have these guys driving those little bikes, these little Hondas. Flying up and down the streets the other day, it's insane. There are certain houses – they kind of all congregate at certain houses. There's one over –

President Marino: If you know where those homes are, our Safety Director Mr. Hogan, can speak to you after the meeting. I would meet with him and Acting Chief Holland as well and you can coordinate and if you have specific information I would share it with them privately rather than in a public venue.

James Sheeley: Thank you very much.

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

George Kuriatnyk: 1206 Mason Street, Niles, Ohio. The park levy passed. I asked about (inaudible) The last tax we had for the park, the park never closed with that tax, correct? I don't remember the park ever closing. I don't think so. Did it Carmen?

Mr. Vivolo: I'm not sure what your question is.

George Kuriatnyk: With the old tax that we had for the past 20 years in the parks, did the parks ever close with that amount of money? In the last several years – did the parks ever close with that amount of money coming in is all I'm asking? It's a yes or no question.

Mr. Vivolo: Which park?

George Kuriatnyk: Wadell Park. The parks. They didn't, so what I'm asking now – at the end of the meeting we're not allowed to say anything.

President Marino: Correct.

George Kuriatnyk: I can't make any comments. You never once said about the money for the parks going into the Wellness Center, which I'm hearing and what I'm trying to get an answer for. Are you guys trying to move the – instead of the general fund money going to support the Wellness Center, are you trying to move the Wellness Center and take the park money?

President Marino: Can I explain something to everybody in the room regarding the appropriation process and where this money is going?

George Kuriatnyk: That's what I want to know.

President Marino: That's a great question and I've heard it asked 85 ways to Sunday from everybody in the room for the most part. All the same question. How's it going to be spent and where's the fiscal constraints and responsibility of how we're going to spend it. I met with the administration four or five weeks ago, you two and the Mayor, and I asked that you start working on a plan the day after the levy either passes or fails, a strategic plan in terms of moving the City forward relative to the safety forces, relative to infrastructure, relative to all these things. Is that not a fair analysis of our conversation that we had?

Mr. DePasquale: Yes.

Mr. Hogan: Yes, it was.

President Marino: What I would expect from council, and I can't speak for council, I can only speak for myself, is I would expect the administration to develop a plan to address all the things that you folks have shared because the last thing we need is death by a thousand cuts. We're going to go over here and do a little bit of building and zoning, and then we're going to run over here and hire somebody in the Light Department, then we're going to run over here and do this and my phone will blow up every day with things on Facebook and text messages and this and that. I want a comprehensive plan, strategic plan from the administration to be presented to the various members of council for their committee. So for the parks, Mr. Vivolo, the Mayor, you folks will sit and develop a strategic plan on appropriations and how that money is to be spent. It will then go to the Finance Committee and the Building and Grounds Committee and they will vet those decisions out and determine how much money is going to be appropriated into those accounts. The same thing with utilities. The same thing with the finance and you really need to do that. The last thing that I want to see happen is we run all over the place in different directions spending money half hazardously because I'm not a prognosticator, but I can tell you if that happens, we'll be right back in the mess we are right now regardless of whether the Auditors are here or not because council controls appropriations. The administration spends the money. Once council appropriates it, they can't stop them from spending it. Once it's

appropriated. The only way the money is spent is when the Auditor tells us and thank God we have an Auditor who is very transparent and I speak to him not once a day but twice a day discussing things going on in the City. George, until they get plans put together, I can give a very premature start of money going here and money going there because I'm hearing the same thing everybody else is.

George Kuriatnyk: It was never said when all this passes for the kids and if not, the parks will be closed and all this, nobody threw in they are going to try to move this into the park and then take the money out of the park tax.

President Marino: Well, when the Mayor comes up with his plan, with his administration, and that's where it comes from --

George Kuriatnyk: Were you at the meeting about the time to take the Wellness Center and put it into the parks:

President Marino: I've been at several meetings, George, regarding the Wellness Center. I'm on the Wellness Center Board and my job at the Wellness Center as a board member is to make sure that we keep the Wellness Center viable and sustainable for the residents in this town. So the long and short of this is yes, I've been at a lot of meetings. Plenty of them and there have been many options offered regarding sustainability of that facility and making sure that we keep it going because the last thing we need to do is to have it fail because if it fails, not only do we lose the current revenue we also still have the debt obligation so the financial burden of the City only grows exponentially. It is incumbent upon all of us to figure out a solution to keep the place going for the members and for the community.

George Kuriatnyk: So you just said that the Wellness Center is sustaining so I'm hearing false reports that the Wellness Center is losing money every year?

President Marino: That's not a secret, George. The Wellness Center is not generating enough money to support the debt obligation. That's no secret.

George Kuriatnyk: I'm just asking about the tax issue (inaudible)

President Marino: Well, when the Mayor returns or when the Mayor comes back I suggest you make an appointment and you go visit with him because the administrators sitting over there don't work for council, they work for the Mayor so that's where your questions need to go. In his absence, no one can answer for him I'm sorry to say.

George Kuriatnyk: Well, what if I have a question about park employees? Why are they allowed to drive a truck home?

President Marino: That would go to the Mayor and his administration, George.

George Kuriatnyk: I've called four times and they don't want to call me back, but somebody has to answer.

President Marino: You have to speak to the Mayor. I'm sorry. Tom has to answer that. The Mayor is the one who administers the policy. That's the way the system is set up. Council legislates, the Mayor and his administration –

George Kuriatnyk: I understand.

President Marino: I'm not passing the buck believe me.

George Kuriatnyk: I understand. Also, the last thing is somebody said that youth leagues donate money to the parks. I believe Mr. Swauger you said you were involved in baseball?

Mr. Swauger: Yes.

George Kuriatnyk: And I've got three years of financials and I don't see no money coming in for the parks. Did you guys write a check for the paint or stuff like that when you gave it to the park?

Mr. Swauger: We gave the park over \$15,000.00.

George Kuriatnyk: By check?

Mr. Swauger: Yes. You can ask the councilmen who have been here, it was in 2014 I believe, we paid the parks for the cost of the fence at that time. I just can't find it. There was a PO and we paid the parks back for the cost of the fence. It was almost \$17,000.00 and we paid them back just over \$14,000.00, I believe it was, because we paid the difference ahead of time. So there was a check written from the youth league to the City of Niles.

George Kuriatnyk: It was \$14,000.00?

Mr. Swauger: It was over \$14,000.00 and then additionally, just so you know George, the dirt that was put down out there we paid the vendors, not the City. We paid the vendors for that, but the park –

George Kuriatnyk: I didn't see that.

Mr. Swauger: I will look for it where it went into the PO and get ahold of you.

George Kuriatnyk: I believe you. Thank you.

President Marino: Thanks, George. Would anyone like to address Niles City Council? In the opinion of the Chair, there being none, Committee Reports?

COUNCIL COMMITTEE REPORTS

None

President Marino: There being none, Mr. Papalas?

Mr. Papalas: Mr. Chairman, I would like to make a motion that Council enter into executive session to discuss contract negotiations.

President Marino: Is there a second to his motion?

Mr. McNaughton: I'll second it.

President Marino: Call the roll to adjourn, please.

YEAS: 6 NAYS: 0

President Marino: Let the record reflect council adjourned at 6:35 p.m. into executive session.

President Marino: Let the record reflect that council reconvened at 7:12 p.m. Would the Clerk please call the roll?

President Marino: Would the Clerk please present tonight's legislation.

ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS

RESOLUTION NO. _____ (Draft No. 21-16)

A RESOLUTION ADOPTING THE PERMANENT BUDGET FOR THE FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING JANUARY 1, 2016; AND, DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

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

YEAS: 6 NAYS: 0

Rules are suspended.

It was moved by Papalas, seconded by Lastic to adopt this Draft No. 21-16.

YEAS: 6 NAYS: 0

Draft 21-16 has been adopted this 16th day of March 2016.

RESOLUTION NO. _____(Draft No. 27-16)

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE FIRST QUARTER CASH TRANSFERS; AND, DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

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

YEAS: 6 NAYS: 0

Rules are suspended.

It was moved by Papalas, seconded by Lastic to adopt this Draft No. 27-16.

Mr. Papalas: This is for the first quarter so we'll see at least three more of these.

Auditor Merlo: Going forward you will see them at the beginning of the quarter so you'll probably see another one in April.

Mr. Papalas: Ok. Thank you.

YEAS: 6 NAYS: 0

Draft 27-16 has been adopted this 16th day of March 2016.

ORDINANCE NO. _____(Draft No. 28-16)

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND SERVICE DIRECTOR TO EXECUTE A CONSENT TO ASSIGNMENT OF THE SUPPLEMENTAL WATER SERVICE AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY OF NILES AND THE VILLAGE OF LORDSTOWN FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE PROPOSED LORDSTOWN CLEAN ENERGY CENTER PLANT; AND, DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

It was moved by McNaughton, seconded by Papalas to suspend the rule requiring three readings.

Mr. McNaughton: What this will do with the deal that was struck last month with Lordstown to buy water (inaudible) there was a similar deal with Warren, should something happen to this plant whether bankruptcy or it's sold, the deal will carry over with the new owner, so that's what this will do.

YEAS: 6 NAYS: 0

Rules are suspended.

It was moved by McNaughton, seconded by Pezzano to adopt this Draft No. 28-16.

YEAS: 6 NAYS: 0

Draft 28-16 has been adopted this 16th day of March 2016.

RESOLUTION NO. _____(Draft No. 29-16)

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF THE HOUSING REVOLVING LOAN FUND ADMINISTRATION AGREEMENT WITH THE STATE OF OHIO DEVELOPMENT SERVICES AGENCY; AND, DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

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

YEAS: 6 NAYS: 0

Rules are suspended.

It was moved by Pezzano, seconded by Lastic to adopt this Draft No. 29-16.

YEAS: 6 NAYS: 0

Draft 29-16 has been adopted this 16th day of March 2016.

ORDINANCE NO. _____(Draft No. 30-16)

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE SERVICE DIRECTOR TO ADVERTISE FOR BIDS AND ENTER INTO CONTRACT FOR THE TRU-NILES VIENNA RD/WARREN AVENUE MILL AND FILL PROJECT; AND, DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

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

Mr. Mientkiewicz: Mr. DePasquale, can you explain this briefly?

Mr. DePasquale: This is a Mill and Fill Project for Vienna Road and Warren Avenue. It was funded by the Ohio Public Works Commission.

Mr. Lastic: No cost to the City?

Mr. DePasquale: No cost to the City. There will be a little curb work and a little sidewalk work.

YEAS: 6 NAYS: 0

Rules are suspended.

It was moved by Lastic, seconded by McNaughton to adopt this Draft No. 30-16.

YEAS: 6 NAYS: 0

Draft 30-16 has been adopted this 16th day of March 2016.

Mr. Papalas: Mr. Chairman, at this point I would like to make a motion that we add Draft No. 18-16 to the Agenda.

Mr. Mientkiewicz: Second.

It was moved by Papalas, seconded by Mientkiewicz to add Draft 18-16 to the Agenda.
Motion carried.

President Marino: Would the Clerk please read the ordinance by caption.

RESOLUTION NO. ____ (Draft No. 18-16)

A RESOLUTION RATIFYING THE TENTATIVE LABOR AGREEMENT WITH THE OPBA RANKING OFFICERS UNIT; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

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

YEAS: 6 NAYS: 0

Rules are suspended.

It was moved by Papalas, seconded by Lastic to adopt this Draft No. 18-16.

YEAS: 0 NAYS: 6

Mr. Papalas: I just wanted to make a statement on behalf of City Council to the public that after discussions with the representatives from the State Auditor's Office we have rejected Draft No. 18-16, which was a tentative agreement.

President Marino: Draft No. 18-16 is not adopted. That concludes tonight's legislation. The next order of business is Miscellaneous Remarks.

MISCELLANEOUS REMARKS

President Marino: I would like to extend my thanks to everyone who was involved with the income tax. It is a good day for the community moving forward.

Mr. DePasquale: Thank you for voting for the levy.

Mr. Hogan: Thank you for your overwhelming support of the levy. Everyone in this room played an important role. I thank you again.

Chief Danielson: I want to echo those sentiments. I also wanted Council to know we are in the process regarding the wiring for our trucks (inaudible) We are moving ahead on that schedule getting the computers put in our trucks.

Acting Chief Holland: I'd like to report on Tuesday we went live with the IT network dispatching software. The new software that operates in the police officers cars and the software that the police officers write their reports on. (inaudible) we still have not received our funding for the 911 portion of the upgrade for a 911 that is a decade old. Secondly, the police and fire tax passed and I would humbly ask the administration to work together to possibly bring back the police officers and firefighters for the next pay period. Thank you.

Mr. Newbrough: I'd like to thank everyone who worked on the levy as well. I have like to thank Council and the administration and everyone who worked the last three months in order to get that passed. I appreciate that.

President Marino: It's taken a long time to get it there, Jim.

Mr. Vivolo: First, I would like congratulate the police and firemen who pulled the City with their very hard work out of the brink of disaster. I'd like to note for the record that they did the same thing in 1987. They worked their butts off and they did the same thing this time and I know the people of Niles appreciate that. Lastly, I'd like to thank all the good citizens of Niles who not only voted for the police and fire but voted for the park levy which is going to mean that there are going to be a lot of kids who are going to have a lot of fun this summer and we'll do everything that we can with the budget that we have. I'd like to thank particularly our team that worked – some of the guys who work for me in the Park Department and people in other departments that asked people to support it. I commend you and I thank you sincerely. Thank you so very much to everyone.

Mr. Lastic: Thank you.

Mr. McNaughton: First of all, thank you to the citizens of Niles and as seen tonight, it's time for a victory lap. There are very serious things going on in Niles so a very short honeymoon period. This does not get us walking on water. The water is still about up to here and Ms. Burns has stolen my thunder a little bit about on I wanted to talk about. We're not going to tax away prosperity. We need to work on an economic development plan now so it is my hope in working with the administration that we can come up with a five year plan, a ten year plan, that have outcomes and measurables along the way to get business in the City. Work with the current businesses in this City to find out what we can do with them. Let's not forget about the good men and women who have been doing business in our City for many many years. Find out what they want us to do as we go out and work with the Regional Chamber and other partners to bring in more business to Niles. I'd love to do a business summit with a lot of people and I look forward to working with the administration with that. Again, thank you to all. I also look forward to working with police and fire moving forward and ways to avoid ever having to be in this situation again. Thank you so much for supporting the police and fire and supporting the parks and I've said it online and I've said it in person, hold us accountable. Thank you.

Mr. Mientkiewicz: Mr. Hogan, do we have an update on the impound lot?

Mr. DePasquale: It's ready to go. We are starting construction tomorrow.

Mr. Mientkiewicz: Good. Ok. Again to the citizens, we thank you. We thank all the employees. Everyone in this town for their hard work getting this thing passed. You know, the levy is going to save a couple dozen jobs and that is great for our employees, but we still have to watch and we still have to change the way we operate as a city. If we don't do that, we're going to be five years from now, ten years from now, in my opinion, we're going to be steering the same ship. Steering it right to the rocks, so I think tonight Council has done their due diligence in taking one of the first of many steps in changing the way we operate. For the future of this town, things have to change and I think these two gentlemen from the State can confess, especially at tomorrow's financial meeting, that yes, the levy passed and that's great and it's going to save a couple dozen jobs, but we still have to change our daily operations and if we don't do that, it's going to be a struggle not only for the next five years but longer so I'm all for cost-saving measures and again I'm repeating this, but it's something that I ran on and something most of us ran on the platform of cost-saving measures and getting our finances in order before we start spending money and we don't have money that may be coming in, whatever, but we have to balance our books. We have to get our spending under control before anything erratic takes place, and that's what we're going to do. So like Ryan said, please hold us accountable, but we are going to take the necessary steps and the necessary procedures to make sure cost efficient spending takes place. Thank you.

Mr. Pezzano: Thank you everyone.

President Marino: A reminder to our residents, tomorrow at 4:00 p.m. right here is the Fiscal Commission meeting. It's a public meeting and we look forward to seeing you.

ADJOURN

It was moved by Pezzano, seconded by McNaughton to adjourn the meeting.



LORI KUSZMAUL, Clerk of Council



ROBERT MARINO, JR., President of Council