

## COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

October 5, 2016

Niles City Council held its regular meeting on October 5, 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-P, Marchese-P, Mientkiewicz-P, Pezzano-P, Marino-P

It was moved by Steffey, seconded by Marchese to accept the Minutes from the September 21, 2016 regular council meeting and place it on file.

Motion carried.

### REPORTS AND COMMUNICATIONS

**FROM** The Niles City Auditor

Check Report by Check Number for the period 09/01/16 to 09/30/16

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

Motion carried.

**FROM** The Office of the Treasurer

Monthly Receipt Totals through September 2016

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

Motion carried.

### MEMBERS OF THE AUDIENCE TO ADDRESS COUNCIL

Mark Joseph, 1227 North Road, Niles, Ohio. I realize there is a lot the Mayor and the Council must consider when planning our town's future, but there's some basic concerns that I must address. While I appreciate the city's leaders seeking assistance from an organization such as the Regional Chamber of Commerce, my concerns are as follows. Do we really want an outside firm creating a marketing plan and spending our money? To me it's outsourcing. If we accept their proposal and, as I understand it, it is a nine year plan. Can we afford to wait that long? If you look at our demographics, our demographic numbers, we see an alarming trend. Our population is decreasing and our rental properties are on the rise. How are we going to keep this city afloat and stop the hemorrhaging if we don't find ways to market our city now? Last week, one city council members, to his credit, admitted he was new to Niles, but he asked a great question. Why don't we have William McKinley banner or flag, something like that, flying in our downtown area? That's a good question. It's a simple inexpensive idea and if any of you are interested, I have compiled a small list of items that will promote our town and make it an extraordinarily unique community. So thank you for your time. Finally, has or do all of you have one of these books by the way? Some may or some of you may have never seen this

before. This goes back a long way I know that, but if you haven't seen this book or – I'll be more than happy to let you look at it. It's not going to leave my presence, but I would be more than happy to show you and if you get your hands on one and you want to find out about Niles, look at his book. Once again, thank you for your time.

President Marino: Thank you. Anyone else in the audience wish to address Niles City Council?

Wanda Burns, 562 Wyoming, Niles. I have some questions on the Board of Control minutes. What is Iron City?

Mr. DePasquale: Iron City is the company that supplies floor mats in the city building, fire department, police department and so forth.

Wanda Burns: Rugs? Is that what you mean?

Mr. DePasquale: Yes.

Wanda Burns: \$2,500.00 worth of rugs.

Mr. DePasquale: We negotiated a contract with them months ago. Mr. Merlo and I did months ago.

Wanda Burns: August 31<sup>st</sup>, 2016.

President Marino: Wanda, I think that's more than rugs.

Mr. DePasquale: Yes, there are other things, but that's what that company does.

President Marino: If you stop up and see the Auditor, I'm sure he can show you the invoicing.

Auditor Merlo: Some of the invoices on that expenditure were ones that were paid in the previous year.

Wanda Burns: Okay. Then looking at the Board of Control minutes, also, on the impound lot I notice that you paid White's Towing \$941.00 and Pantalone \$1,104.00. Now, the figures we have been receiving as the amount of money we have made there, has that already been taken out of there or has it not?

Chief Holland: (inaudible)

Wanda Burns: So is there a way at the next meeting or the meeting after get that minus our expenses what we making at the impound?

Auditor Merlo: You should be able to get that online. We put that online after the last meeting. The statement of cash position. It shows you every fund, what the beginning balance, our revenues, our expenditures and our –

Wanda Burns: On the City of Niles?

Auditor Merlo: Yes.

Wanda Burns: I never noticed that. I will definitely look for that.

Auditor Merlo: That was one that we added after the last meeting.

President Marino: You have been asking for that information, so John had it put on.

Wanda Burns: Okay. Also, Baldwin and Sons, amplified card with timing?

Mr. DePasquale: That was the electric department (inaudible)

Auditor Merlo: It was for traffic control.

Mr. DePasquale: Traffic control. I don't know what street it's on, but (inaudible)

Wanda Burns: Okay. The next thing is Nextor Cleaning Kits.

Mr. DePasquale: Nextor Cleaning Kits is what the light department uses to clean (inaudible) They go into a transformer and you have reskin it and redo and put it back together again or it will blow. So that's a cleaning kit that cleans down to the bare plastic.

Wanda Burns: Some of these I even looked online for them before I asked, but I couldn't find them. Then \$2,066.00 for Christmas bulbs. What is that?

Mr. DePasquale: The Christmas lighting, the bulbs need replaced.

Mayor Scarnecchia: We are only using the old lighting fixtures because we don't have money to buy new ones and we have to pay for the new bulbs.

Wanda Burns: Okay. Then one more question. The Acting Police Chief might be able to help me. You bought a Ford Explorer, correct?

Chief Holland: Yes.

Wanda Burns: However, you received a bid from only one company for a Ford Explorer. The other bids I see are for Taurus Interceptor.

Chief Holland: (inaudible)

Wanda Burns: I'll wait and give you a call. When we get the other vehicles, are we going to give the other dealerships the opportunity to bid on Explorer?

Chief Holland: (inaudible)

Wanda Burns: So if you buy them one at a time, they will all be through the company that you went with, which is –

Chief Holland: Liberty in Solon. They deliver the car for free and they are a couple hundreds more, but they can get us a car within a few months. With the state (inaudible)

Wanda Burns: All right. I'll talk to you later. Thank you.

President Marino: Thank you. Anyone else? In the opinion of the chair, there being none, Committee Reports.

### **COUNCIL COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Mr. Papalas: Mr. Chairman, I would like to see if we could schedule a roundtable for just before the next council meeting in two weeks. Jeff Crowley is going to give a presentation. I understand there is a possible meeting that evening at 5:00 or 5:30.

President Marino: The CIC meeting is at 4:30.

Mr. Papalas: How long will that last?

President Marino: Half hour. Mayor, what do you think?

Mayor Scarnecchia: Half hour.

Mr. Papalas: Jeff, how long do you think your presentation will take?

Mr. Crowley: Probably no more than half hour. 15 – 20 minutes.

Mr. Papalas: Let's see if we can schedule this at 5:15, will that work?

President Marino: 4:30 CIC meeting and 5:15 there will be a council roundtable for the Neighborhood Stabilization Initiative. Any other committee reports? There being none, will the Clerk please present tonight's legislation?

### **ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS**

**RESOLUTION NO. \_\_\_\_\_ (Draft No. 121-16)**

**A RESOLUTION APPROPRIATING FUNDS FROM THE UNAPPROPRIATED GENERAL FUND TO THE INCOME TAX POSTAGE AND OFFICE SUPPLIES ACCOUNTS; AND, DECLARING AN EMERGENCY**

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

**YEAS: 7    NAYS: 0**

Rules are suspended.

It was moved by Steffey, seconded by Lastic to adopt this Draft No. 121-16.

**YEAS: 7    NAYS: 0**

This Draft No. 121-16 has been adopted on the 5<sup>th</sup> day of October 2016.

**RESOLUTION NO. \_\_\_\_\_(Draft No. 128-16)**

**A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE TRANSFER OF FUNDS FROM THE POLICE DEPARTMENT EDUCATIONAL ACCOUNT TO THE POLICE DEPARTMENT EQUIPMENT PURCHASES ACCOUNT AND, DECLARING AN EMERGENCY**

It was moved by Pezzano, seconded by Steffey to suspend the rule requiring three readings.

Mr. Pezzano: Mr. President, this is to purchase an additional seven more vests, right Chief?

Chief Holland: Seven more vests (inaudible) and replace tasers. The educational account was suspended by Chief Hinton during the layoffs (inaudible)

Mr. Pezzano: Auditor Merlo, you got the okay on this?

Mr. Merlo: It's already budgeted for. We are just transferring from one line item to another line item.

President Marino: Steven, do you have a question?

Mr. Mientkiewicz: Yes. Chief, real quick, with the vests, is this the same company we purchased vests from back in February or March?

Chief Holland: (inaudible)

Mr. Mientkiewicz: We got 22 the last round; 22 vests?

Chief Holland: Low 20's. Some officers didn't receive some (inaudible)

Mr. Mientkiewicz: We got reimbursed 50%? That's all reimbursed from the first round?

Auditor Merlo: Yes.

Mr. Mientkiewicz: This is another 50% grant, right?

Chief Holland: Yes.

**YEAS: 7    NAYS: 0**

Rules are suspended.

It was moved by Papalas, seconded by Lastic to adopt this Draft No. 128-16.

**YEAS: 7    NAYS: 0**

This Draft No. 128-16 has been adopted on the 5th day of October 2016.

**ORDINANCE NO. \_\_\_\_ (Draft No. 129-16)**

**A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING ENTERING INTO CONTRACT FOR THE GYPSY LANE STORMWATER IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT, TO BE FUNDED THROUGH THE PY 2015 COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT (CDBG) CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE PROGRAM, AND THE CITY OF NILES REVOLVING LOAN FUND; AND DECLARING IT AN EMERGENCY.**

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

**YEAS: 7    NAYS: 0**

Rules are suspended.

It was moved by Pezzano, seconded by McNaughton to adopt this Draft No. 129-16.

**YEAS: 7    NAYS: 0**

This Draft No. 129-16 has been adopted on the 5th day of October 2016.

**RESOLUTION NO. \_\_\_\_ (Draft No. 130-16)**

**A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE APPROPRIATION OF FUNDS FROM THE UNAPPROPRIATED LIGHT FUND TO THE BANK SERVICE CHARGES ACCOUNT IN THE LIGHT DEPARTMENT; AND, DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.**

It was moved by Papalas, seconded by Lastic to give this Draft a first reading.

Mr. Mientkiewicz: John, is this because of those overpriced charges?

Auditor Merlo: Correct.

Mr. Mientkiewicz: Are those coming down at all?

Auditor Merlo: They will be as soon as Janet makes her recommendation. She's still working on it.

Ms. Rizer-Jones: We started testing banks (inaudible) We have met with them. (inaudible)

**YEAS: 7    NAYS: 0**

This Draft No. 130-16 has received its first reading.

**RESOLUTION \_\_\_\_ (Draft No. 131-16)**

**A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE APPROPRIATION OF FUNDS FROM THE UNAPPROPRIATED GENERAL FUND TO VARIOUS ACCOUNTS; AND, DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.**

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

Mr. Steffey: Would you please explain this.

Auditor Merlo: The first appropriation is for the accident on McKees Lane where the at fault driver's insurance paid the city so we received the check from the insurance company and we need to appropriate to get the McKees Lane guardrail, culvert and wall fixed. The second one was an insurance property and casualty for the City of Niles, which we changed our policy to save money and by doing so, we received a refund and a portion of that is being sent to our policy. The third one of building and zoning and electrical.

**YEAS: 7    NAYS: 0**

Rules are suspended.

It was moved by Steffey, seconded by Papalas to adopt this Draft No. 131-16.

**YEAS: 7    NAYS: 0**

This Draft No. 131-16 has been adopted on the 5th day of October 2016.

**RESOLUTION NO. \_\_\_\_ (Draft No. 132-16)**

**A RESOLUTION APPROPRIATING FUNDS FROM THE UNAPPROPRIATED SEWER AND WATER FUNDS TO PROVIDE FUNDS FOR EQUIPMENT MAINTENANCE AND CONTRACTED LABOR ACCOUNTS; AND, DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.**

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

**YEAS: 7    NAYS: 0**

Rules are suspended.

It was moved by McNaughton, seconded by Papalas to adopt this Draft No. 132-16.

**YEAS: 7    NAYS: 0**

This Draft No. 132-16 has been adopted on the 5th day of October 2016.

**ORDINANCE NO. \_\_\_\_ (Draft No. 133-16)**

**AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO APPOINT TWO ALTERNATE MEMBERS OF THE PLANNING COMMISSION/BOARD OF ZONING APPEALS; AND, DELCARING AN EMERGENCY.**

Mr. Papalas: Mr. Chairman, is this a resolution or an ordinance?

Mr. Dull: It's an ordinance.

President Marino: Changing the commission to add two alternates.

Mr. Papalas: Okay.

It was moved by Pezzano, seconded by Steffey to suspend the rule requiring three readings.

Mr. McNaughton: Has there been any additional conversations with regards to the attendance policy or some sort of caveat to have that in there or is that ongoing?

Mr. Dull: I looked at putting something like that into this ordinance, and I thought we should look at not only this particular board, but other boards within the City. Something we ought to do across the board.

President Marino: Are you going to prepare something for him for the next meeting, Terry?

Mr. Dull: I could do a draft for the Safety Committee meeting.

President Marino: Also, after Council appoints the alternates, does Council have to confirm those two appointees before they can seat themselves? Historically, we have always confirmed Mayoral appointments in January.

Mayor Scarnecchia: I'll give the complete list to Council of the new members who will be on it and they can approve the whole board again.

President Marino: Right, but with those members being seated tomorrow, if you needed them without Council's confirming approval.

Mr. Dull: The statute doesn't specifically require that. Historically, we have done that, but the statute does not specifically require it. I think that if you were to make one appointment for tomorrow, you would not be violating state law.

President Marino: Okay. That's all I need to hear.

Mr. Papalas: One other thing, Mayor, if possible, would you please try to consider primarily Niles residents. I could never understand why the last administration put people on these committees who were not from Niles.

Mayor Scarnecchia: I agree with that.

Mr. Papalas: When I asked about it, I got a remark.

Mr. Mientkiewicz: Mayor, are we having a problem with any other of your appointed boards or just this one?

Mayor Scarnecchia: Not yet. We haven't yet.

Mr. Mientkiewicz: Yet?

Mayor Scarnecchia: See what tomorrow brings.

Ms. Marchese: Have you called everybody to make sure they truly wanted to be on the board? There are people in the audience that probably want to be on it.

Mayor Scarnecchia: Yes, I have.

**YEAS: 7    NAYS: 0**

Rules are suspended.

It was moved by Papalas, seconded by Pezzano to adopt this Draft No. 133-16.

**YEAS: 7    NAYS: 0**

This Draft No. 133-16 has been adopted on the 5<sup>th</sup> day of October 2016.

**ORDINANCE NO. \_\_\_\_\_(Draft No. 134-16)**

**AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE SAFETY-SERVICE DIRECTOR TO ENTER INTO CONTRACT FOR THE LEASE-PURCHASE OF THREE TRUCKS WITH SNOW AND ICE REMOVAL EQUIPMENT FOR THE STREET DEPARTMENT; AND, DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.**

It was moved by Papalas, seconded by Mientkiewicz to give this Draft a first reading.

President Marino: We'll wait to hear back from the Fiscal Supervisors as to which direction.

**YEAS: 7    NAYS: 0**

This Draft No. 134-16 has received its first reading.

**ORDINANCE NO. \_\_\_\_\_(Draft No. 135-16)**

**AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE SAFETY-SERVICE DIRECTOR TO ADVERTISE FOR BIDS FOR ONE YEAR OF SLUDGE HAULING AND DISPOSAL AND FOR ONE AND TWO YEARS OF CHEMICALS FOR THE WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT; AND, DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.**

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

Mr. McNaughton: Suspending this gives Mr. Catanzarite a little more flexibility. We need a couple weeks to get those bids in so time is of the essence.

**YEAS: 7    NAYS: 0**

Rules are suspended.

It was moved by McNaughton, seconded by Papalas to adopt this Draft No. 135-16.

**YEAS: 7    NAYS: 0**

This Draft No. 135-16 has been adopted on the 5<sup>th</sup> day of October 2016.

Mr. Steffey: I would like to make a motion that we allow Drafts 136-16, 137-16 and 138-16 to be added to tonight's Agenda. Seconded by McNaughton.  
Motion carried.

President Marino: Would the Clerk please read the next draft by caption?

**ORDINANCE NO. \_\_\_\_\_(Draft No. 136-16)**

**AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE SAFETY-SERVICE DIRECTOR TO ADVERTISE FOR BIDS FOR MASONRY REPAIRS FOR THE NILES ADMINISTRATION BUILDING; AND, DECLARING AN EMERGENCY**

It was moved by Steffey, seconded by Mientkiewicz to suspend the rule requiring three readings.

Mr. Papalas: Only one comment. Barry, I would do the same thing you are doing right now, so I understand, but I just want to remind everybody in the audience and the administration that we do try to avoid bringing ordinances in at the last minute unannounced. In this case, it is necessary. I want to make sure we don't make a habit of it.

President Marino: Additionally, as we have done in the past, we will have the architect come, share all the information and fully disclose exactly what's going on relative to the types of repairs needed and the cost to perform those repairs.

**YEAS: 7    NAYS: 0**

Rules are suspended.

It was moved by Papalas, seconded by Steffey to adopt this Draft No. 136-16.

**YEAS: 7    NAYS: 0**

This Draft No. 136-16 has been adopted on the 5th day of October 2016.

**RESOLUTION NO. \_\_\_\_\_(Draft No. 137-16)**

**A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE VARIOUS APPROPRIATIONS OF AMOUNTS FROM SEVERAL UNAPPROPRIATED FUNDS FOR THE ROOF ON THE CITY ADMINISTRATION BUILDING; AND, DECLARING AN EMERGENCY**

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

**YEAS: 7    NAYS: 0**

Rules are suspended.

It was moved by Steffey, seconded by Lastic to adopt this Draft No. 137-16.

**YEAS: 7    NAYS: 0**

This Draft No. 137-16 has been adopted on the 5th day of October 2016.

**ORDINANCE NO. \_\_\_\_\_(Draft No. 138-16)**

**AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE SAFETY-SERVICE DIRECTOR TO SOLICIT STATEMENTS OF QUALIFICATIONS FROM PROFESSIONAL DESIGN FIRMS TO CREATE A PREQUALIFIED LIST OF SUCH FIRMS FOR THOSE CITY PROJECTS WHERE THE ESTIMATED DESIGN FEE WILL NOT EXCEED \$50,000.00; AND, DECLARING AN EMERGENCY**

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

President Marino: Let the record reflect that the administration will have a member of council participate in the RFP process during presentation.

**YEAS: 7    NAYS: 0**

Rules are suspended.

It was moved by Papalas, seconded by Lastic to adopt this Draft No. 138-16.

**YEAS: 7    NAYS: 0**

This Draft No. 138-16 has been adopted on the 5th day of October 2016.

President Marino: That concludes tonight's legislation.

Mr. Papalas: Mr. Chairman, I would like to make a motion that we go into executive session to discuss contracts, seconded by Steffey.  
Motion carried.

President Marino: Let the record reflect we are adjourning at 6:32 p.m. for contract negotiations. There will be no action following executive session.

President Marino: Let the record reflect that council has reconvened at 6:53 p.m. Would the Clerk please call the roll? Next order of business is Miscellaneous Remarks.

**MISCELLANEOUS REMARKS**

President Marino: How are the policies being received?

Chief Danielson: (inaudible)

President Marino: Did you share with them that they you had an opportunity to review them and to offer input?

Chief Danielson: Yes.

President Marino: Okay. Just make sure that that's being conveyed to them; that all the department heads had an opportunity to offer input and that those policies were a team effort, not a council – I'll accept responsibility, but everybody had an opportunity for input. Don't go running for the hills when the heat in the kitchen gets turned up. Fair enough?

Chief Danielson: Yes.

Mr. Papalas: Absolutely. We're all in this.

President Marino: I'm comfortable with council. It's some others that my feathers are ruffled with.

Mr. Vigorito: Thank you for doing the ordinance on the alternate. Hopefully, we can get our meetings going now.

Auditor Merlo: The only thing is at the next meeting I'll probably have or if we have a finance meeting before that, we do need to talk about the Wellness Center. I mentioned that at the last meeting and we're going to be getting close to that deadline where I need appropriations.

Mr. Mientkiewicz: Even with the increased business coming up, there's not going to be enough to generate enough revenue to get us through this year?

Auditor Merlo: We've budgeted for that already. That's already been budgeted in. It's not the revenue that I'm worried about, we're on pace to hit the revenue, it's the expenditures have to decrease.

Ms. Rizer Jones: I want to thank council for passing for postage and supplies. I would also like to update you regarding online checking with the State of Ohio. I met with Jessica Driver twice and all the city information has been submitted. We are waiting on the formatting and we planning on Friday so I'll be able to go ahead and review everything and check it on the website and hopefully we can (inaudible) online and we'll be up and running.

President Marino: Awesome, Janet. Thank you for doing that. It is greatly appreciated.

Mr. Papalas: I have two things. One is – I'll direct this to Terry first because, Terry, I think you're on that committee or board for the McKinley House?

Mr. Dull: Yes.

Mr. Papalas: I'm hearing things and I can't believe that it's true. Is there a problem with the construction of the house?

Mr. Dull: One of the things that we need to do is waterproofing over there and when we were in the process of doing that, we discovered that there needs to be more reinforcements of basement walls. We obtained a firm that is just about ready to inspect it. We are going to have some reinforcements of the basement walls and then all of that can be closed up.

Mr. Papalas: Wouldn't the contractor that built that have realized that or whoever designed it?

Mr. Dull: Apparently it passed muster at the time so I'm sure those designs had to be approved by the city. It passed muster at the time, but according to what everyone is telling us at this point, we need to have something more in there than what we have now.

Mr. Papalas: Who was the contractor?

Mayor Scarnecchia: ESV. We even invested in that building.

Ms. Marchese: That is my question. I thought – am I wrong, I always thought the McKinley Memorial, their board or their foundation built that.

Mr. Dull: No. That was the library that built that.

Ms. Marchese: So now the library built, are we, the City of Niles, going to pay to repair it?

Mr. Dull: Oh, no.

Ms. Marchese: Okay.

Mayor Scarnecchia: We put in ten grand when it was built. Remember when we were on council. We invested in there.

President Marino: I think we assisted with the property transfer. I believe the property was transferred to CIC and then we transferred, I believe, I'll have to double check what our obligations. There was controversy on the location, and it went back and forth and basically we acquiesced to the Library Board. Does that ring a bell to you, Fremont?

Mr. Camerino: I'm trying to remember.

President Marino: That was a long time ago.

Mr. Lastic: Some wanted it on the corner. Some wanted it someplace else.

President Marino: Yes, it was controversial.

Mr. Papalas: Okay. The second one is talked about the Wellness Center at the last council meeting. Ryan, were you able to make any contacts?

Mr. McNaughton: Yes, sir. I did reach out to some folks at Kent State. Parks and recreations programs and talked to the director. (inaudible) and every single one of them said that absolutely not only could they help with a job description being written, but also candidates (inaudible) Once these programs (inaudible) very involved, so if we can find out (inaudible) as well as helping with the operations at the Wellness Center (inaudible) but they have all been very accessible and willing to help us out.

Mr. Papalas: When you are ready, we will sit down and talk more.

Mr. McNaughton: Very good.

Mr. Papalas: Mayor, did you have a possible candidate to operate that facility who had a background in sports management?

Mayor Scarnecchia: I think early on there was a young lady.

Mr. Papalas: What happened to that?

Mayor Scarnecchia: At that time, we weren't in a position to do that. I'm working on this, councilman. We're working on it.

Mr. Papalas: That's good.

Ms. Marchese: We getting a brand new director, correct?

Auditor Merlo: I'm worried about expenditures that are coming up in the next two and half months.

Mr. Papalas: Keep the Auditor posted, also.

Mayor Scarnecchia: I talk to him every day.

Mr. Papalas: I don't have a good feeling about this until we get somebody that's qualified to run the place and get more programs; otherwise, that is going to be our next headache. That and our streets.

Mayor Scarnecchia: Wellness Center has been losing how many years, every year? I don't think it every made a penny.

Mr. Papalas: It reached a plateau and then it leveled off.

Mayor Scarnecchia: It never broke even.

Mr. Mientkiewicz: To clear up any confusion, Mayor, do we have anyone steering the ship currently at the Wellness Center as far as running the day to day operations?

Mayor Scarnecchia: Well, the athletic director, Scott, is still highly involved in that.

Mr. Mientkiewicz: Right. So he is?

Mayor Scarnecchia: He's still there, yes.

Mr. Mientkiewicz: He's still there running things?

Mayor Scarnecchia: Right.

Mr. Mientkiewicz: How long is he going to be there? He's content with being there for the time being?

Mayor Scarnecchia: Right.

President Marino: Is everything taking care of themselves? Are all the internal controls that were put in place, we're good to go with that, right?

Mayor Scarnecchia: Yes.

President Marino: All right. Good.

Mr. McNaughton: A couple things. First, Mr. Joseph I would be very happy to meet with you afterwards and listen to the ideas that you have as far as what you're thinking about to promote the city. I'd be happy to talk to you and I appreciate your time. Second and I don't expect council to join in, but I believe that when big issues are controversial and voted on I need to explain my vote and I will happily do that. So we voted on a roof tonight and it was very back and forth. We heard my comments and questions. One thing that I am learning in term number one here is that sometimes you have to vote for what you can do and not what you want to do. I don't want to spend \$200,000.00 on a roof for a 98 year old building. I don't. But with us being beholden to the general fund, we have to because it's \$29,000.00 out of the general fund. We cannot afford to go anywhere else despite my desire to do that. Sometimes you have to compromise when you are in charge of the taxpayer's money. Guess what? We're taxpayers too. I'm not thrilled with where we're at. You have all heard my thoughts on where we're at and a variety of topics in this city and nothing is – kick the can, kick the can, now we're getting kicked in the rear end now, so it's up to us to right the ship so I wanted to explain it. My vote tonight is what we can do and what we have to do as stewards of the taxpayer's money as best we can with the general fund situation that we are starring at right now. If I have my druthers, we'd be going somewhere else. That's my explanation. Thank you.

Mr. Papalas: I want to respond to what Ryan said. I wholeheartedly agree with that. You know, it's easy for other people who aren't up here to send messages or make other comments to people in town or to the press. Once you're up here and you review the books and listen to the Auditor and other experts, it's a different story. It's a different viewpoint. It's a little more difficult. Certainly none of us are happy with this, but that's what we have and I do want to make one other comment; there was an editorial in the Warren Tribune and I know, Renee, you don't write

those articles, but I just want you to deliver a message politely stated, that we do not know of a letter sent to the Mayor sometime in the past saying that the building needed work. We didn't know the letter existed and nobody told us about it and here we are. It's just like we didn't know who some of the people were who were hired until (inaudible).

Mr. Steffey: I would just like to echo what Ryan said. I thought you said it very well. It was a decision that we have to live with. When you are operating your own personal budget at home, you live within your constraints and that is what we are trying to do. We are trying to be good stewards of the dollars that are coming in. As stated, it is our dollars and I think we are making a good decision for the city. I trust Mr. Sekanick's professionalism, his expertise and I like the fact that he is showing us the way to stay transparent through this process. Secondly, Mr. Joseph, I would like to invite you and any other members that are here, there is a non-profit involved in town called The Avenue and Main. They are having a community meeting tomorrow night at 6:00 p.m. at Ciminero's Banquet Center. The corridors into this city need to be addressed and they are a very progressive group that you may find interesting and you may find some contacts with people that feel very similar to you, so that invitation is open to anybody that is here. Thank you. There will be coffee and some snacks and it's all paid for by the Avenue and Main.

Ms. Marchese: I want to first tell all our council that we are having a problem with the cemetery due to the lack to help. There is grass high around the stones and some are very upset about that. The two gentlemen are trying their hardest. I tried using my weed wacker to do my families graves. I have told people until the end of the year it is going to be a problem and they have asked me to have council come up and look around so they can talk to them. The bigger lawnmowers, the zero turns, can get up and down straightaways. The problem that is happening is they cannot get into between the graves and the grass is growing. I just went around my parents, my aunts and my brother-in-law's. Same thing. I brought the weed wacker up and did it myself. Other than this time, it's been a great help. I wanted to get some volunteers, but I guess we can't do that here due to liability. Is there any way we can ask for a volunteer to come up and could sign a waiver? Can they sign a waiver to volunteer?

Mr. Dull: It's helpful.

Ms. Marchese: All right.

President Marino: There's many moving parts with that. Maybe the administration can meet with the union and see if there are alternatives with a labor pool or something to get this taken care of.

Ms. Marchese: They could really use some help and there is no money left.

Mr. Lastic: (inaudible) what happened to those guys?

Ms. Marchese: I have a huge brochure that I got at the Welfare Department. They do not show up and if they do show up, you get a couple good ones and once they stop coming or they may

come for half an hour and they go home. These guys are really (inaudible) I feel really bad for them.

President Marino: Jim, when does the park transfer back? Are they all moving now?

Mr. DePasquale: We moved two guys already last week and we'll move two more probably the first (inaudible), but the two guys that we moved went to the water and sewage.

President Marino: Well, what I was thinking was this issue is going to extend to our parks. The grass is still growing. We haven't had a hard frost yet. The grass is still growing.

Mr. DePasquale: We need help. That is a 50 acre piece of ground. Two guys cannot do it. We do about 150 to 180 burials a year. So when they are not burying, they are cutting and there is no time for them to do anything else.

Mr. McNaughton: What about bringing them all under one roof?

Mr. DePasquale: You can do that, but you need more guys to do that.

Mr. McNaughton: But if you have a pool of five or six –

Mr. DePasquale: I have four guys in the park and two in the cemetery, cutting grass in those two (inaudible) once that starts in April, March or April, you cut grass until it snows. If you want to put them all under one roof, that's fine, to move them around, but that will take more people to do that. The labor pool has been suggested several times and that would be a great idea, but it would have to be funded to do that. We have a shortage in the park. Personally, for two guys working there, I think the place looks great. I know it's a little rough around the stones, but when you think about two guys in that big of an area, they are doing a great job.

Mr. McNaughton: I agree.

Ms. Marchese: Yes, they are. They really are.

President Marino: Tom, will you be in your office on Tuesday?

Mayor Scarnecchia: Yes.

President Marino: I'm going to come down at 11:30 on Tuesday. We'll try to come up with something.

Ms. Marchese: Thank you.

Mr. Pezzano: I just want to thank Mr. Crowley for attending my block watch meeting last night. He did a fantastic job on his presentation. Thank you.

**ADJOURN**

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

  
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LORI KUSZMAUL, Clerk of Council

  
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ROBERT MARINO, JR., President of Council