

MINUTES

Niles City Council held its regular meeting Wednesday, January 3, 2007 at 6:00 p.m. in Council Chambers, Safety-Service Complex, Niles, Ohio. The meeting was called to order by President Pro-Tem Stephen Papalas, and the Clerk; Linda A. Yuhasz called the roll:

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

There was a moment of silence for Mr. Richard Alberini who passed away this week.

It was moved by Scarnecchia, seconded by Papas to accept the Minutes of the regular meeting of December 20, 2006 and place them on file. Motion carried.

REPORTS AND COMMUNICATIONS

FROM: The Office of City Income Tax
The monthly receipts through December, 2006
A motion was made by Scarnecchia, seconded by Lastic to accept the report and place it on file. Motion carried.

FROM: The Office of the Building Inspector
The Housing Code Monthly Report for December, 2006.
A motion was made by Scarnecchia, seconded by Papas to accept the report and place it on file. Motion carried.

FROM: Law Director, J. Terrence Dull
A letter appointing Atty. Terry A. Swauger to the position of Prosecutor in the Niles Municipal Court effective January 16, 2007
A motion was made by Scarnecchia, seconded by Lastic to ratify Mr. Dulls nomination of prosecutor with a vote.

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The nomination was ratified.

MEMBERS OF THE AUDIENCE TO ADDRESS COUNCIL

None

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Mr. Scarnecchia: Last week there was a meeting, I was unable to attend because of a family emergency, but Terry Dull ran the meeting with the representative of the owner of the Royal Mall. Could you enlighten us, Terry as to what was discussed?

Mr. Terry Dull: We spoke of the primary concern out there being the problem of reports of drug activity and also trespassing which is going on from places inside the development to homes in the neighborhood. Also at that meeting was Attorney, Doug Neuman who represents the property owners locally and the local manager and we also had the property manager from out of town there available on the phone. Attorney Neuman explained to us that they do have some pretty serious screening procedures in places for tenants themselves that come in. The problem sometimes becomes that the tenants start to invite other people in and those other people aren't prescreened and that is where a lot of the problems come up. However the short of the meeting was we are going to find ways that we can have more communication that comes between the administration, police department and the owners of the property there to see of ways that we can cooperate and weed any criminal element that is inside there out. They pledged that they would assist us in that. They did indicate that there was someone else very seriously looking at purchasing the place but again that is not guaranteed and may take a number of months for that process to be finished. We did get a promise from them that if someone was not going to purchase the place that they themselves would come in and start to make some improvements to the property to improve its appearance and (inaudible) activities to try to assist us in eliminating problems there and they also indicated that they would do whatever it took to try to make us happy. The one thing that I was happy with that they did explain to us the procedures they go through in screening folks plus the requirement they have with the federal government in maintaining that property. They assured us that if they let the property go in terms of the appearance that the federal government will be after them and they would end up losing the money that they get every month. I think it was a good exchange of ideas and hopefully from this point forward we will be getting things improved rather than having the situation that we have out there now.

Councilman Scarnecchia: Terry do you feel we need to set up a meeting as soon as possible or wait maybe a month to set up the meeting?

Mr. Terry Dull: We did discuss another meeting. They are getting some information for us that we will have to review. I will be talking to the police chief and the safety director about that and shortly after that we can have our next meeting.

Councilman Scarnecchia: Thank you, Terry.

President Pro-Tem Papalas: I have a question about that meeting. I didn't know there was a meeting.

Councilman Scarnecchia: It wasn't a Safety Meeting.

President Pro-Tem Papalas: What kind of a meeting was it?

Councilman Scarnecchia: It was a meeting of the law director and their attorney and their manager.

President Pro-Tem Papalas: Well I have a feeling that our law director was the only person there on behalf of the City of Niles.

Councilman Scarnecchia: No Frank Fuda was there too.

President Pro-Tem Papalas: Was the police chief there or the safety.....?

Councilman Scarnecchia: No.

President Pro-Tem Papalas: Or the Mayor?

Councilman Scarnecchia: No this was a preliminary meeting to let them know what position we are in, how we feel what is going on. From here on in I am sure all will be involved and we will be doing it through a safety committee meeting.

President Pro-Tem Papalas: I don't think we need to have a big publicity with all the councilmen but I do think that the police chief needs to be there, I think the safety director needs to be there and I think that the mayor needs to be there. Without those three people there I don't think it means much. I think if we are going to be effective in the future you need to make sure that if you call these meetings and organize it that these people are there. We don't need to be there that is fine. If you are there I am satisfied. By all means these fellows need to be there and they need feedback.

Councilman Scarnecchia: A point well taken Mr. President Pro-Tem.

President Pro-Tem Papalas: I would like to call a Finance Committee Meeting for next Wednesday, January 10th at 3:15 p.m.

Councilman Papas: I won't be here.

President Pro-Tem Papalas: Can I get back to you, Ted? It deals with some information that Randy Fabrizio wants to bring forth and requests.

Councilman Papas: Okay.

ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS

None

MISCELLANEOUS REMARKS

Mayor Infante: At January 11th 6:00 p.m. in Council Chambers the First Ward seat will be selected.

Chief Gary Brown: There will be a retirement party for retired Chief Semple on January 26th 6:00 at Vernon's. If any one is interested contact the fire department.

Mr. Terry Dull: I want to thank council for ratifying Terry as prosecutor. He has shown an awful lot of interest in that position and I think he will do a great job.

President Pro-Tem Papalas: Terry, have you done any more research on the possibility of sheriff's sales on the properties that the city now seems to own in condemning the homes and having them torn down?

Mr. Terry Dull: I did get the list of information from Steve regarding all those properties. I need to move that forward, I need to talk with him and make sure that (inaudible).

President Pro-Tem Papalas: Okay Terry in your time frame how soon do you think that we can get this moving?

Mr. Terry Dull: Well let me explain that at the next meeting to see what the procedure is or what our opportunities are on that. I'll have something the next meeting.

President Pro-Tem Papalas: We tear down more and more of these homes, your answers become more important to us, so we have been waiting a couple of months and I am anxious to get that started. I know the mayor is too.

Councilman Scarnecchia: I would like to wish Terry the best of luck and we know that he will do a good job.

Councilman Papas: I would like to wish Terry good luck.

It was moved by Lastic, seconded by Papas to adjourn this meeting at 6:15 p.m. Motion carried.

Linda A. Yuhasz, Clerk of Council

Stephen Papalas, President Pro-Tem of Council