

## MINUTES

Niles City Council held its regular meeting of December 3, 2008 at 6:00 p.m. in Council Chambers, Safety-Service Complex in Niles, Ohio.

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

Lastic-P; Papalas-P; Scarnecchia-P; McCormick-P; Stredney-P; Papas-P; Wilkerson-P; Marino-P  
A motion was made by Councilman Lastic and seconded by Councilman Stredney to excuse the absence of Law Director Dull. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Papalas, seconded by Papas to accept the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of November 18, 2008 and place them on file. Motion carried.

## REPORTS AND COMMUNICATIONS

FROM The Auditor's Office

The Estimated Versus Actual Revenues thru November 2008

A motion was made by Stredney, seconded by Papas to accept the report and place it on file. Motion carried.

FROM The Cemetery Department

The November 2008 Cemetery Sales Report

A motion was made by Stredney, seconded by Papas to accept the report and place it on file. Motion carried.

FROM The City Income Tax Office

The November 2008 Monthly Receipts Report

A motion was made by Stredney, seconded by Wilkerson to accept the report and place it on file. Motion carried.

FROM The Municipal Court

The Probation Report for 2008

A motion was made by Stredney, seconded by Scarnecchia to accept the report and place it on file. Motion carried.

FROM The Ohio Division of Liquor Control

A permit transfer for Summit Cafe

A motion was made by Stredney, seconded by Papas to refer the permit to the Chief of Police and Safety Director for their report and recommendation. Motion carried.

Councilman Papalas: Chief do you know the individual?

Chief Simeone: Yes we are looking into it now.

Councilman Papalas: Okay.

A budget hearing schedule was submitted by Auditor Nader but withdrawn. Auditor Nader will revise the report to allow for more flexible hours for all the councilmen to attend.

## **REPORTS AND COMMUNICATIONS**

None

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

A Finance and Utility Committee Meeting was scheduled for November 17, 2008 at 3:00 p.m. in the Conference Room 1 at City Hall.

## **ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS**

None

## **MISCELLANEOUS REMARKS**

President Marino: I wanted to express my sadness in the Tribune Chronicle closing the Niles Office. I saw Kathie's editorial and I recall being a new councilman and Tom speaking to the fact the importance to having a hometown newspaper and maintaining a presence in Niles. We were very excited Kathie and Amanda when the Tribune opened the downtown office. I know that I spoke to both of you about the Niles Community Services extended a place to hang your hat, so to speak. It is with sadness that we see that office closing.

Mayor Infante: Which hearings is the Finance Committee interested in so that we can get everything else done and we don't hold this up to the eleventh hour?

Councilman Papalas: General Fund.

Mayor Infante: That is every department there is, the general fund. Are you interested in the big ones?

Councilman Papalas: Fire, Police, Light, Park, and the Historical House are the most important ones. Please keep us posted on the others.

Mayor Infante: This way we can schedule those in the afternoon, we will get a new schedule worked out.

Councilman Papalas asked to be excused from December 17<sup>th</sup> Council Meeting.

Councilman Scarnecchia: Chief, I know that we have until December 31<sup>st</sup> on this 911 money and that you are doing a good job in fighting for what is ours, are we going to lose that?

Police Chief Simeone: The original plan was to spread the money out over the whole county all the PSAPs (Public Safety Answering Point). It is reducing the number of trunk lines that we can accept from Trumbull County 911 calls. The Mayor and Mayor Layshock from Newton Falls have done a tremendous job in trying to help us through this. Niles has been designated as one of the three primary PSAPs. It is going to add more pressure to our dispatchers and more pressure to Trumbull County as a whole. If there is a problem with one it is just going to roll right down the line and when it gets to us, then there is no one else to call. They are going to take most of the money to upgrade Warren's dispatch. Warren's dispatch right now has four consoles and one of them now is completely down. They are looking at buying a brand new one

for that plus two more to be able to use in an emergency. So you are talking \$150,000 to \$200,000 just to do that. On top of that they have to add a whole new radio system because they are on an eight hundred megahertz and the rest of the county is on a high band frequency. They can't even talk to us they have to add a whole new frequency to this. It creates a problem as far as some one making a call. Most of the PSAPs have already upgraded their equipment to be able to be Phase 1 and Phase 2 compliant. In Phase 1 whenever you use a cell phone it would go to a tower and that tower would pick up and send it to the closest PSAP. Phase 2 means that once you use the cell phone it puts you within so many feet. It would come up on a map that would show that the calls coming from this building out in the parking lot. That is how good it would be. The whole idea of 911 and the use of cell phones with Phase 1 and Phase 2 is that is all they have is cell phones. 911 are supposed to make it the fastest and easiest way for people to dial in case of an emergency. What this is doing now is adding one or two middlemen. After that phone rings eight times and nobody answers it, it is going to roll to Warren. If Warren is busy it is going to ring another eight to ten times and then it is going to roll to us. If we are busy then after the tenth ring it is going to roll to a ten digit number somewhere. That has added nothing but pressure on all the PSAPs. I keep saying that it is like playing Russian roulette, they keep spinning that cylinder and one of these days it is going to come up a live round and someone is going to get hurt. I just hope some one doesn't lose their life over it.

Councilman Scarnecchia: The money that was to be distributed December 31<sup>st</sup> where exactly did that money come from?

Chief Simeone: That came from a thirty two cent surcharge that they put on all the cell phones.

Councilman Scarnecchia: It is all that counties from around here, it doesn't belong to one single county and yet some counties are able to claim how much money they want and get it?

Chief Simeone: Trumbull County is the only county in the state of Ohio that has not adopted a plan and started drawing down on this money. It is all about the money, it is not about what is better for the people, and not about what is better for the police officers. When we need to talk to somebody that is our life line sometimes being able to talk to a witness and we won't be able to do that.

Councilman Scarnecchia: Did you ever pressure the commissioners?

Chief Simeone: Yes we have. Two of the commissioners that are Niles people are against us.

Councilman Scarnecchia: Is there nothing that council can enforce or recommend to help with this at all?

Chief Simeone: We are going to try one more thing tomorrow when we meet again. The mayor has got support from council, I don't think you were here at the last meeting.

Safety Director Guarino: When you said the commissioners are against us what did you mean?

Chief Simeone: I am talking about the plan, they want to bail out the county center and also Warren. When I say us I mean all the other PSAPs. With that some of the communities are going to lose their dispatch centers.

President Marino: Mayor if the original plan goes through, the money that the chief spoke to about Warren's upgrades are we eligible for reimbursement?

Mayor Infante: Yes, the 911 centers in Warren and Niles.

President Marino: Correct but we invested a lot of money two years ago.

Mayor Infante: They will have to pay the additional for the wireless for our center, but we thought the better plan was for county wide.

President Marino: Whatever you think is best but if the second plan that is not beneficial to us does go through, if I hear the chief correctly they are getting substantial upgrades. But, we invested a lot of money two years ago.

Chief Simeone: The upgrades we did on Phase 1 and Phase 2 are not entitled to reimbursement.

President Marino: Well Warren will enjoy the benefit having that covered where we funded it and will not.

Chief Simeone: With upgrades we are close to a hundred thousand dollars or more.

It was moved by Papalas, seconded by Stredney to adjourn the meeting at 6:20 p.m. Motion carried.

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Linda A. Yuhasz, Clerk of Council

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Robert Marino, Jr., President of Council