

COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

January 6, 2016

Niles City Council held its regular meeting on January 6, 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-A, McNaughton-P, Steffey-P, Marchese-P, Mientkiewicz-P, Pezzano-P, Marino-P

It was moved by Steffey, seconded by Pezzano to excuse Councilman Papalas from the meeting. Motion carried.

President Marino: The next order of business is the acceptance of your Rules of Order for term commencing 2016 to 2017.

It was moved by Steffey, seconded by Mientkiewicz to accept the 2016 Rules of Order and place on file.

YEAS: 6 NAYS: 0

The Rules of Order are adopted.

President Marino: The Law Director will now swear in the Clerk of Council for her term of two years.

Clerk was sworn in by Attorney Terry Dull.

President Marino: In addition, concerning your rules council members, if you would take note of the Committee Assignments per the State Auditor we did establish an Audit Committee. I would be appreciative on behalf of the committee if you could get me some names of business owners, clergy members, Niles civic organizations and a school representatives so we can get that committee established because we have the 2012 audit that we need to share with this group and 2013 will be coming and '14, etc. Again, that was at the recommendation of the State Auditors for transparency concerning city business. I would appreciate it.

It was moved by Lastic, seconded by Marchese to accept the Minutes from the December 16, 2015 regular meeting, December 18, 2015 special council meeting and December 28, 2015 public hearing and place them on file.

Motion carried.

REPORTS AND COMMUNICATIONS

FROM The Niles Municipal Court Judge Thomas W. Townley
Probation Report for 2015

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

FROM The City of Niles Treasurer
Income Tax Division Monthly Receipt Totals through December 2015

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

President Marion: Bob, is there anything in here?

Mr. Swauger: No. We were down from last year due to the reciprocity that was taken away so overall with the reciprocity about \$315,000.00 for each year and we are down about \$145,000.00. Overall we are about \$200,000.00 ahead of where (inaudible)

Motion carried.

FROM The Niles Police Department Chief Hinton
Ordinance Fees Collected in 2015.

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

FROM The Niles Police Department Chief Hinton
Nuisance Abatement Activity for the Year 2015

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

MEMBERS OF THE AUDIENCE TO ADDRESS COUNCIL

Susan Longacre, 36 N. Crandon, Niles, Ohio. I have been reading the press reports regarding farming out the taxes and eliminating the income tax department and I was hoping you would not do that because of the breach of personal information.

President Marino: Thank you. Would anyone else wish to address Niles City Council? In the opinion of the chair, there being none, Committee Reports.

COUNCIL COMMITTEE REPORTS

None

President Marino: The next order of business of tonight's legislation. Councilman Steffey?

Mr. Steffey: I would like to move that we go into executive session to discuss personnel issues.

It was moved by Steffey, seconded by Mientkiewicz to adjourn into executive session to discuss personnel matters. Would the clerk please call the roll?

YEAS: 6 NAYS: 0

President Marino: Council is adjourned at 6:08 p.m. into executive session.

President Marino: Would the clerk please read the roll to reconvene Niles City Council at 6:30 p.m.

YEAS: 6 NAYS: 0

President Marino: There is no legislation.

MISCELLANEOUS REMARKS

President Marino: Mayor Scarnecchia, Service Director DePasquale, Safety Director Hogan, welcome aboard. For the first time, Mayor Scarnecchia?

Mayor Scarnecchia: I just wanted to say what a great looking council we have and I'm looking forward to working with you. As far as my position, this is my third day and I think I have finally found all the light switches. It is really hectic down there, people are coming into the office and I might have to ask them to take a number. That's the way it's going. The people are enthused, the general public, and now we have to work -- now that I've been there for three days I really see where we're broke and now we have to work on that levy so that we don't have to start laying off. That's all I have to say.

Director DePasquale: I echo what the Mayor said.

Chief Hinton: Welcome to everyone . I know we have a lot of hard work ahead of us hard decisions and I want everybody to know my door is always open.

Mr. Dull: Thank you. Mark Hess had been involved in some meetings if you recall, the bike path came into town and stopped. There have been some meetings where they are looking at starting to move that project forward. The state has asked us to pass some preliminary legislation which would allow us to begin on that path. From what I understand at this point anyway, there is no cost to the city. At least that's the initial program. The only cost that there would be that is discussed in this legislation is if the city wanted something specific in the plan. So what I am doing is bringing this to your attention and if it is possible we could possibly look at bringing some legislation in for at least a first reading or whatever you desire at the next meeting. This is just the first page and the second page doesn't really have any further information in it. You can see it really doesn't say very much. It authorizes ODOT to start working on this. That's all I have and if you want to have a committee sponsor this or we can pass it as a whole or have a committee meeting. Just let me know what you want to do.

It was moved by Lastic, seconded by Steffey that this ordinance will be brought in as a whole at the next meeting.

Motion carried.

Mr. Catanzarite: Just real brief, the construction of the wastewater plant is well under way as you will see by the amount of the bill that I will be giving you. We've had a lot of rain that has held things up a little, but we actually have the first tank down and they will be pouring concrete. We are actually by early numbers we are about six months ahead of schedule. You never know though because we might get a lot of rain and that would put up behind schedule again. I welcome all the council members to come down. Make sure you wear boots because where the construction is at it is not very easy to move around so you might want to wait a little longer.

President Marino: How's the budget? How many change orders?

Mr. Catanzarite: We really have not had any change orders yet against us. Right now we've got three items that we have agreed upon to change which is money back to us, which is a positive thing.

President Marino: Those are the kinds we want to hear about. Thanks for your leadership, Andy. I understand that Mr. Holloway is no longer with us, is that correct?

Mr. Catanzarite: No, he has assumed a full time job right now at the MVSD, but he did call me and let me know he would be available to meet with me after hours. He has offered his continued services.

President Marino: Very good. Thank you. Members of council, if you did not check, I sent you an e-mail that the State Auditors require me to notify you regarding conflicts of interest. If you perceive there is a conflict of interest relative to anything before council or any matter of which you may have a conflict relative to discussions, you must remove yourself. If you have any questions regarding conflicts of interest, you are to immediately speak to our Law Director. You have all been duly notified per the State Auditors.

Mr. McNaughton: I'd just want to say congratulations and welcome everybody. It's been a long time coming for some of us. Please know that we will work very hard and as quickly as we can, and I will never speak for everybody, but I will speak for myself that we need the public to help us (inaudible). We are not necessarily the smartest people in the room, but collectively we can solve these problems. This will take a lot (inaudible).

Mr. Steffey: I just want to thank everybody for making us feel so welcome. We are definitely going to work hard, work together. I'm very proud of the city that we live in and we want to restore a little transparency and let the public know, as Ryan said, it is a joint effort and we can only be successful if we work together to get through this. I appreciate this opportunity to work for the city.

Ms. Marchese: I'd like to thank everybody also. Also, as the 3rd Ward council person, next Wednesday, January 13th from 6:00 to 8:00, I would like to welcome everybody to a question and answer period with our police and fire departments. I've had numerous questions on the levy that I myself cannot answer, so they are all going to be there directly to answer any questions. Welcome to all the heads of departments. Tell your neighbors and friends any questions and concerns any doubts you can get the facts at the meeting. That will be at the top of

Summit Street at the Niles Presbyterian Church from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. So we hope we will have a lot of people there and get questions answered.

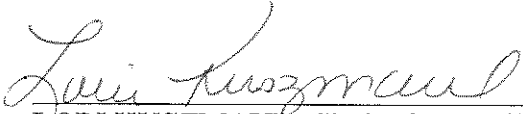
Mr. Mientkiewicz: Welcome to all my new colleagues, Mayor Scarnecchia and his administration and council. Just briefly expanding on what Mr. McNaughton was saying, moving forward into 2016 we have somewhat of a plan to free up this financial mess and it is overshadowed by the state and I think it is very imperative and very important for us to follow the fiscal plan and follow these recommendations to free us up from this mess. It's going to be tough. There are going to be tough decisions coming up this year, but the big picture is that we will be free of this in 2019 -2020. I'm very optimistic that it's going to help everyone and it's going to be the right thing to do for the taxpayers for the City of Niles and that's the number one goal that we have in mind and I have in mind going forward. Again like I said, there are going to be tough decisions that are going to be made. Some people are not going to be happy, but we have to come up with a plan of what's best for the City of Niles and its taxpayers. I think we are on the right track for that and again, it will start in March with this levy, and there are pros and cons but I feel it's the right thing to do. I feel it's the right thing for the people of Niles. This is very important come March for the police and fire our safety forces and the people in Niles. Thank you.

Mr. Pezzano: I want to welcome in colleagues also and I can list everybody's name, but I think I went to very department this past month and mainly this past week for some of the issues I have and I want to thank all the department heads and all the guys that work for you. You guys do a great job and also during the holidays, we had some water breaks and our guys were out there on call and in a minute they were there fixing our water lines and I want to thank them also. Happy New Year and thanks again.


President Marino: Before we adjourn, a reminder that if you hold a committee meeting, there is 24-hour notice and somebody has to take Minutes to be submitted to our Clerk under Ohio's open records law. Make sure you know this. If you have any questions, you can call Lori, Terry or myself relative to your committee.

ADJOURN

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



LORI KUSZMAUL, Clerk of Council



ROBERT MARINO, JR., President of Council