

MINUTES

Niles City Council held its regular meeting Wednesday, January 17, 2007 at 6:00p.m. in Council Chambers, Safety-Service Complex, Niles, Ohio. The meeting was called to order by President Robert Marino, and the Clerk; Linda A. Yuhasz called the roll:

Lastic-P; Papalas-P; Scarnecchia-P; Cox-P; Stredney-P; Papas-P; Wilkerson-P; Marino-P

It was moved by Scarnecchia, seconded by Papas to accept the Minutes of the regular meeting of January 3, 2007 and place them on file. Motion carried.

Councilman Scarnecchia: Do these minutes still go to the library, are they still recording them? They did for years. Does anybody know?

Clerk Yuhasz: I have never given them to the library.

Councilman Scarnecchia: I will go ask.

President Marino: They are available in the Clerk's office for any one who would like to read them.

REPORTS AND COMMUNICATIONS

FROM: The Cemetery Department
The December 2006 Sales Report and the Year-to-Date 2006 Sales Report
It was moved by Papalas, seconded by Lastic to accept the report and place it on file.
Motion carried.

FROM: The Niles Municipal Court
The Annual Report for the year 2006
It was moved by Scarnecchia, seconded by Papalas to accept the report and place it on file. Motion carried.

MEMBERS OF THE AUDIENCE TO ADDRESS COUNCIL

None

COMMITTEE REPORTS

None

ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS

RESOLUTION NO. ___ (Draft No. 1-07)

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE APPROPRIATION OF FUNDS FROM THE UNENCUMBERED SEWER FUND TO THE SEWER FUND'S CONSULTANT FEE ACCOUNT, AND, DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

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

YEAS: 7 NAYS: 0

Rules are suspended.

It was moved by Papalas, seconded by Stredney that this Draft be adopted.

YEAS: 7 NAYS: 0

This Draft No. 1-07 has been adopted this 17th day of January, 2007.

RESOLUTION NO. __ (Draft No. 2-07)

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE APPROPRIATION OF FUNDS FROM THE UNENCUMBERED CAPITAL PROJECTS FUND TO TWO CAPITAL PROJECTS 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 Papalas, seconded by Stredney that this Draft be adopted.

YEAS: 7 NAYS: 0

This Draft No. 2-07 has been adopted on this 17th day of January, 2007.

Motion was made by Papalas, seconded by Papas to place Draft No. 3-07 on the agenda.
Motion carried.

RESOLUTION NO. __ (Draft No. 3-07)

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF THE HOUSING REVOLVING LOAN FUND ADMINISTRATION AGREEMENT WITH THE OHIO DEPARTMENT OF DEVELOPMENT (ODOD), 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 Papalas, seconded by Stredney that this Draft be adopted.

YEAS: 7 NAYS: 0

This Draft No. 3-07 has been adopted this 17th day of January, 2007.

MISCELLANEOUS REMARKS

President Marino: On behalf of myself, Mr. Swauger I would like to congratulate you. I didn't have the opportunity to do so earlier. I hope that your first few days on the job have been eventful; I am certain that in Niles Municipal Court they are. I am sure you are doing a fine job on our behalf and the law director's behalf and the judge's behalf.

Law Director Dull: A couple things that Steve had asked me to check on, the issue regarding the recoupment of the demolition costs. I spoke with the Trumbull County Prosecutor's Office and the Treasurer's Office. The Treasurer's Office is reviewing all the parcels that we had demolitions on. They are going to give us an idea if they think it is going to be worthwhile to do a foreclosure on those parcels or not. He was somewhat cautious because he said typically once the property is down the lot itself doesn't have a whole lot of value. But, he is going to take a look at what they are showing as values on the property and let us know what they think. He also suggested that I talk to Michael Keys over at Warren's Community Development. They have a program over there that is called Land Bank, where he is trying to work with some of these properties to see if they can get them on the market. He is trying to get them back on the tax payers (inaudible) and try to use that as a way of raising funds. I spoke with Mr. Keys in putting a packet together of his program and he is going to send it over and show me what he has done. We could see if it is something we could support.

Councilman Papalas: Did he seem to think that we could plug into his program?

Mr. Dull: He said what we have to do is look at the different parcels that you have and the ones that seem to be in a more marketable location than the commercial ones he said are very good. I don't know if we have any commercial ones out there right now. He said let me lay out the program for you and he even offered to come down and speak with Council as a whole and explain what they have done over there. I also spoke with the attorney on that property on South Cleveland and he explained to me what we needed to get done. One of the things that I was a little bit concerned with there is that there was a mortgage on that property. He said that they have already gone through something in bankruptcy court. The mortgage company realizes that it is probably going to be demolished and he doesn't expect any real opposition.

Councilman Papalas: Please stay on this okay? The neighbors are really concerned about it. Mayor, this property (inaudible) dealt with through Mr. Keys's organization, what is the possibility of selling them off at a nominal fee?

Mayor Infante: Yes and getting our money back I don't see why not. Put them up for auction and have somebody bid on them.

Law Director Dull: The concern you have is that they are actually titled and still in somebody's name. The Land Bank is a way of getting that accomplished. It has to go through auditor's sales. The state actually takes titles at one point from what he described to me but then they come back to the county and the city can get involved at that point. It is a lot to explain.

Councilman Papalas: I would like to set up a meeting with him and everyone on council on a Wednesday afternoon. Would that be possible? On January 31st at 3:15 Terry would you see if he could come over and meet with us?

Mr. Dull: I will call him and see.

Councilman Papalas: If he can't maybe the Clerk can notify everybody, otherwise we will go as we are having the meeting.

President Marino: Gentlemen, we meet the first and third Wednesdays of every month, we are off in July and we don't return from our summer break until August 15th. In September we go back to our normal schedule, just to review what our calendar is. The 4th of July happens to fall on the first Wednesday of the month and we obviously aren't going to hold a meeting on that day barring a catastrophe or an emergency.

Building Inspector Vigorito: I want to bring council up to speed on Royal Mall. You had asked for inspections there, so far we have done ten buildings, sixty six units. We are trying to do five buildings a week and get the report wrote up. There are twenty six buildings and a hundred sixty six units. You can see where we are at. It is going to take about five or six weeks. Right now the most predominate issue is batteries out of the smoke alarms. That is a tenant issue, they either didn't know they were dead or they pulled them. We have only found as couple of units with GFI's missing. The remain has been up to par. We haven't found anything major in any of the units. There still is some exterior work that needs to be taken care of. I have had a half of a dozen calls from contractors looking for prices on permits for the upcoming project. This company out of Cleveland is looking at spending about seven million dollars for renovations. It might even take care of a lot of the work that we are showing.

Fire Chief Brown: I would like to welcome Councilman Wilkerson. Something was brought up earlier when we talked about the Wellness Center and a question was asked about Wilder Field and you said that it is not Niles yet. That may be a technicality with the transfer of that area and Weathersfield. I have already directed the fire department that this is our jurisdiction.

Mayor Infante: There is an ordinance on the books that it is police and fire protected.

Law Director Dull: There is one last agreement that has to be approved by Weathersfield and the county commissioners. I met last week and we are trying to get that finalized.

Councilman Papalas: I also want to welcome Councilman Wilkerson to council and Mr. Swauger I hope that every thing goes well with you also.

President Marino: Chief Brown brought up something; Mr. Wilkerson assumes Mr. Fuda's committee assignments, so he is the Utility Chair person. He is also on Safety.

Councilman Scarnecchia: Chief Brown, are you still considering working on the house numbering?

Fire Chief Brown: Among other things.

Councilman Stredney: I just want to welcome Mr. Swauger and Mr. Wilkerson.

Councilman Wilkerson: I want to thank everyone for the welcome and I look forward to a good year.

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

Linda A. Yuhasz, Clerk of Council

Robert Marino, President of Council