

COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

January 3, 2018

Audio recording of full meeting will be available on line on the city's website

Niles City Council held its regular meeting on January 6, 2018 at 6:00 p.m. in Council Chambers Safety Service Complex in Niles, Ohio.

The meeting was called to order by President Barry Steffey, and the Clerk, Nicole Bacak, called the roll:

Lastic- P, McNaughton-P, Profato-P, Cantola-P, Marchese-P, Mientkiewicz-P, Kearney-P, Steffey-P

It was moved by Marchese, seconded by McNaughton to accept the Minutes from the December 20th meeting and place them on file.

Motion carried.

REPORTS AND COMMUNICATIONS

FROM – Treasurer's Office

Monthly Receipt Totals- Income Tax Department - December 2017

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

Motion carried.

Mr. Mientkiewicz did ask Treasurer Rizer-Jones as to why the refunds in the tax department were so much higher this year compared to last year. However, Treasurer Rizer-Jones was not in attendance at the meeting to answer this question.

Auditor Merlo did state that the Income Tax Department did come to council twice last year for additional refunds but he did not know the reasons behind that.

FROM – Auditor's Office

Check Report by Check Number- December 2017

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

Motion carried.

(2:55 into recording) President Steffey turned the council meeting over to Mayor Scarnecchia for a special proclamation that the Mayor was to present. Mayor Scarnecchia asked if Councilman McNaughton would assist him in reading and presenting the proclamation.

On behalf of City Council and the administration, Mr. McNaughton called Bo Marchionte to step forward and be recognized for his outstanding running accomplishment. January 4, 2018 marked 20 years of non-stop running for Mr. Marchionte. And with that, Mayor Scarnecchia proclaimed January 4, 2018 Bo Marchionte Day.

MEMBERS OF THE AUDIENCE TO ADDRESS COUNCIL

(Public comments began at 7:00 into the recording)

Paul Davis: 44 Hartzell Ave. Niles, Ohio. Mr. Davis stated that he was not at council to complain about his water and light bill but did have some concerns about the system. He spoke to Stephanie at the last council meeting about a bill he received for 57 days. He thinks it was determined that he did not receive a bill for the month before. Mr. Davis stated for that bill, he used 4 units of water for 57 days. On his next bill of 31 days, it said he used 7 units of water. Mr. Davis wants to know if there is something still wrong in the system or is something being read wrong by the meter readers.

Ms. Ford did say that she did look into the first bill for him. She did confirm that for some reason, he did not receive a bill for the month prior, which is why he received the bill for 57 days. She is not sure what caused this.

President Steffey did confirm with Ms. Ford that there are no estimates being done. He wanted to make sure that all bills are actual reads. Ms. Ford did confirm that there are no estimates. Ms. Ford did state that the bill for 57 days was a two month bill. Ms. Ford stated that Mr. Davis does have a new meter at his house. The meter was installed sometime between of the beginning of 2017 and Spring of 2017.

Mr. Davis is concerned that there is nothing accurate about the new meters or systems. Service Director Stredney did offer to print out his bills and to sit down with Mr. Davis and go through them. Mr. Davis does not feel that going through the bills would be helpful at this point. Mr. Davis did ask if he could put his payment in escrow legally and send his escrow payment to city. He was told by Law Director Swauger that he cannot do that.

Ms. Marchese did question Service Director Stredney about the accuracy of the guns that the meter readers use. Service Director Stredney said that they can go back and pull up everything for the last two years and see what information was loaded.

President Steffey and Mr. Mientkiewicz did question Mr. Davis about the accuracy of bill, wanting to ensure that the money is correct. Mr. Davis is not disputing the charges on the bill in regards to money owed, he is disputing the accuracy of the system. President Steffey did ask Ms. Ford why Mr. Davis was missing a bill. Ms. Ford cannot answer this because she does not know why this happened. President Steffey is requesting that Ms. Ford and administration look into this issue because a 57 day bill is unacceptable and hopefully have an answer for him at the next meeting.

COUNCIL COMMITTEE REPORTS

None

ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS

(Legislation began at 15:06 into recording)

ORDINANCE NO. ____ (Draft No. 184-17)

AN ORDINANCE CREATING A DUMPSTERS CHAPTER

It was moved by Mientkiewicz, seconded by McNaughton to give a 2nd reading to this Draft No. 184-17.

YEAS: 7 NAYS: 0

This Draft No. 184-17 has received its second reading on the 3rd day of January 2018.

ORDINANCE NO. _____(Draft No. 190-17)

AN ORDINANCE REPEALING AND REPLACING CODIFIED ORDINANCE NO. 901.06 “TREES; TRIMMING REQUIRED” TO CLARIFY THE RESPONSIBILTY OF THE HOMEOWNER AND THE CITY OF NILES; AND THE DECLARING OF AN EMERGENCY

It was moved by Mientkiewicz, seconded by Lastic to give a 2nd reading to this Draft No. 190-17.

YEAS: 7 NAYS: 0

This Draft No. 190-17 has received its second reading on the 3rd day of January 2018.

ORDINANCE NO. _____(Draft No. 01-18)

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND THE SAFETY DIRECTOR TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS FOR INDIGENT LEGAL SERVICES; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

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

YEAS: 7 NAYS: 0

Rules are suspended.

It was moved by Mientkiewicz, seconded by Lastic to adopt this Draft No. 01-18.

YEAS: 7 NAYS: 0

This Draft No. 01-18 has been adopted on the 3rd day of January 2018.

RESOLUTION NO. _____(Draft No. 02-18)

A RESOLUTION APPROPRIATING AND TRANSFERRING FUNDS FROM THE UNAPPROPRIATED BRT CLEAN UP FUND TO THE GENERAL FUND; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

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

YEAS: 7 NAYS: 0

Rules are suspended.

It was moved by Mientkiewicz, seconded by Lastic to adopt this Draft No. 02-18.

YEAS: 7 NAYS: 0

This Draft No. 02-18 has been adopted on the 3rd day of January 2018.

MISCELLANEOUS REMARKS

(Miscellaneous remarks began at 19:19 into recording)

Mayor Scarnecchia welcomed everybody to 2018. He asked if he could have a roundtable with council to discuss streets, finances, safety and other items on any Wednesday that there is no council meeting so that they are not rushed and have an open discussion. Mr. McNaughton asked the Mayor if he was looking for each committee to have a different meeting. President Steffey explained that his understanding was to have all of the committees present so that the Mayor can seek sponsorship at that time, once the items are discussed at the roundtable.

Service Director Stredney did let council know that on the advice of the law director, they will need legislation to seek eminent domain for a water loop project that they are having issues with cooperation from the property owner. The funding is already in place for this water loop. They are seeking additional funds for street resurfacing, possibly raising housing fees, renewing the chamber contract and depositing old vehicles.

It was decided that the meeting would be held on Wednesday, January 10, 2018 at 5:00 P.M. in the lower level conference room of the administration building.

Safety Director Kaniclides welcomed the new council members and is looking forward to keep moving ahead with them.

Mr. Catanzarite did want to inform every one of the rash of water breaks that have been happening due to the weather. It is not just happening in the City of Niles but in other surrounding cities as well. Mr. Catanzarite did ask that people be more cautious when driving while employees are working. They were working on a break on Hartzell Ave. and cones were knocked over and people were driving too fast down the street. He does not want anyone to be hurt.

Auditor Merlo congratulated Bo Marchionte on his achievement.

Mr. McNaughton thanked the city crews for the work that they have done with the weather that we have faced. He asked for his appreciation to be passed on to the employees for all of the hard work they have done. He also congratulated Bo for his achievement. Mr. McNaughton also welcomed his new colleagues and offered his help.

Ms. Marchese wished everyone a happy new year.

Mr. Mientkiewicz asked Service Director Stredney if they would still be expecting to receive the overtime report. Mr. Stredney did confirm that they will still receive the report. He does have it but did not have time to get it ready for the meeting. Mr. Stredney did say that he believes the city is down about \$200,000 overall. Mr. Mientkiewicz asked if the file could be emailed to them. He welcomed Mr. Burke and his new council members and congratulated Bo on his accomplishment.

Mr. Kearney stated that he was very humble and very excited to be at his first council meeting. He is looking forward to working with everyone and moving the city forward.

President Steffey did ask Chief Holland if the parking ban was still in effect and if it was being enforced because he was having some issues. Chief Holland did confirm it is still being enforced. Chief Holland said this last storm did not have enough snow but the one before did and the officers did enforce it and wrote about 20-25 tickets for violations.

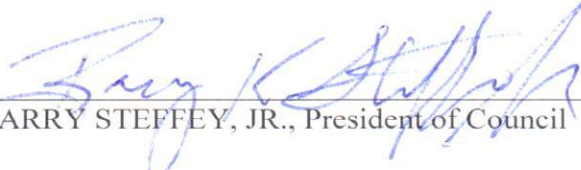
President Steffey congratulated Mr. Marchionte on his accomplished. He stated that he is one of the finest men he knows and he does the city of Niles proud. It is an honor to honor Mr. Marchionte.

ADJOURN

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



Nicole Bacak, Clerk of Council



BARRY STEFFEY, JR., President of Council