

## COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

March 7, 2018

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

Niles City Council held its regular meeting on March 7, 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-NP, Steffey-P

It was moved by Lastic, seconded by Marchese to excuse Mr. Kearney from the meeting. Motion carried.

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

Motion carried.

## REPORTS AND COMMUNICATIONS

**FROM** – Service Director  
Monthly Overtime Report – February 2018

Mr. Mientkiewicz explained that he asked the Service Director the report council previously received so that it would show the yearly budget per department and what is being used. President Steffey agrees and likes that the report measures the budgeted overtime. Mr. Mientkiewicz did state that he does have a concern about the street department. Mr. McNaughton agrees and points out that this is where the mid-year budget reviews would come in and be beneficial.

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

## MEMBERS OF THE AUDIENCE TO ADDRESS COUNCIL

(Public comments began at 4:24 into the recording)

President Steffey once again reminded everyone that drinks and food are not permitted in council chambers.

Jory Ramer: 111 East Madison Niles. Jory is the President of the Local 320 Fire Department for the city. Jory went over a list of events that happened at the fire department in regards to roof. On March 1<sup>st</sup>, the news was called about the conditions of the fire department. A meeting was held that day and it was determined that the conditions were not livable at the fire department. Friday morning, the Mayor, Service Director, the co-chair of the Safety and the architect were at building. The architect felt that time frame it has taken to do the job was reasonable due to weather.

According to Jory, Firefighter Ben Reed suggested they be moved to the SCOPE center. There were questions as to who owns the building, what would happen to the seniors and where would they go? These discussions happened over the weekend and on Monday the decision was made to move the firefighters temporarily to the SCOPE center. Jory wanted to point out that the fire station is their home away from home. Jory said in the 22 years of service, he has never seen some of the issues they have right now. They are grateful for the concerns from the chair, co-chair, and the safety committee. He also wanted to thank the Mayor, Service Director and other officials for the quickness of their response. All they ask is that the city makes their home clean, dry and safe again.

Ms. Marchese asked Service Director Stredney if the city was bringing in Serveclean to clean the department as they have done to the other buildings, and not have the firemen do it. Service Director Stredney said the city is going to bring in a private contractor to address the ceiling tiles and to rip out the carpet. He will be receiving 2 quotes; one to replace the damaged tiles and one to replace all of them. Ms. Marchese feels that all of the tiles should be replaced. Ms. Marchese wanted to make sure that there will be contractors coming in to do this work for the fire department and also the police department. President Steffey asked if Ms. Marchese would be calling a Safety Committee meeting to go over these items and she stated she will be calling one.

Mr. Mientkiewicz asked Service Director Stredney what the time frame is for the completion of the roof. Service Director Stredney said he hoped it would be this week based on the conversations they have had. He hated to say this but said he hopes it rains again so that it can be verified that no more water can come in there so they can install the new tile. He doesn't want to install new tile if there are leaks.

Ms. Marchese asked if this is the same crew that will be continuing work on our other buildings, based on the contract that was signed. She is not happy with them and would like to get rid of

them. Law Director Swauger stated that the city did public bidding and since they submitted the lowest, qualifying bid, we accepted it. When the project is over, we can sit down with the architects and determine if there is anything we can or cannot do based upon the law and the contract. Their contract and the laws of Ohio allows for them to have extensions if certain conditions are met and are requested.

Ms. Marchese does not feel that the firefighters were unjust in making their complaints. She knows people were upset that they moved into the SCOPE center, but it was the best option for now. She does not feel that the architect should be making statements unless they are to the Mayor or Service Director. Law Director Swauger pointed out that the weather temperature has to be over 40 degrees in order for the roof to have a warranty. The city put this job out for bid and solicited bids.

Mr. Cantola said that it was asked multiple times in the past if the company could complete this job in a timely manner. His concern is instead of waiting for it to rain is there anyone who can inspect it from the city and what is the warranty? He also has questions that need to be answered before we allow them on roof number 2. Law Director Swauger told him they already have a contract in place. They have already been awarded a contract. As long as they have complied with the terms of the contract, even though you might not be satisfied with them, they have complied with the contract and you have honor it. Mr. Cantola questioned the quality of work and worries about having to redo this work in the future.

Ms. Marchese asked if the city is able to sue this company for the damages that have occurred. Law Director Swauger told her that the company has paid for all of the damages in the court that they caused. They city did not pay for the tiling and the carpet in the court. The city has to discuss damages with the company as issues come up. Mr. Profato asked if the company put a bond up and if we can secure the bond if they do not fulfill their obligations. Law Director Swauger said yes. We would have recourse but he also pointed out that the building had leaking roofs and damages prior to the company beginning work. There was a concern if there is mold in the building and asbestos in the ceiling tiles. The city did do a test and the sample results came back clean. There are no traces of asbestos in the samples of the tiles.

Andy Bickerstaff: 38 Wayne St. Niles Ohio. Mr. Bickerstaff informed council that on Monday, one of the new firefighters, Dave Blados, worked his last shift for the city. Mr. Blados took a job closer to home in the Painesville area. Mr. Bickerstaff feels that this situation did not help. Between the low morale, bad buildings and low pay, he thinks moving forward these things need looked at. He understands that the pay is contractual and hopes that can be addressed down the road, but what is there to entice the younger generation to stay. We have to make sure our city is safe.

Aimee Cantola: 208 Vienna Ave. Mrs. Cantola had a question about the company that is doing the work on the roofs. Did the city put out bids on the roofs and how many people or companies bid on it? President Steffey did confirm that the city go out for bid but was unsure of how many submitted bids. Service Director Stredney said he thought it was 5-6 companies. Mrs. Cantola remembers the architects making a comment about interviewing companies and they liked this one out of Twinsburg the best. Why didn't we go with a local company?

Law Director Swauger stated that was not how the process worked. We did public bidding, advertised in newspapers for two weeks. We received 7 bids, and one was rejected for not filing the proper paperwork. So he believes there were 6 qualified bids, and we took the lowest responsible bid. This was not a selection by an interview process.

George Kuriatnyk: 1206 Mason St. He asked Law Director Swauger how many government jobs has he ever had with bidding with city, county or state jobs? Law Director Swauger said none as far as doing the bids to complete the work, he has been involved with multiple on the legal side. Mr. Kuriatnyk stated that he has done many and he would have been off the job 2 months ago for doing the work that this company has done. He has been following this company 9 days after they started. There was no rain in the forecast today and there were only 2 guys on the roof working. He does not feel the city is doing the right thing in regards to this construction company. He feels the city needs to let them go. He asked where the Mayor was tonight and why he didn't show up to council.

Mr. Kuriatnyk wants to know why he isn't allowed to rent out the Wellness Center or the park. He was told that the Service Director instructed the Park Director not to allow him to rent the facility. Mr. Kuriatnyk told Service Director Stredney to stand up and defend himself. President Steffey stated that he does not know all of the terms, but he should have the same rights as anyone who wanted to rent the facility. He offered to review the policy and schedule a meeting downtown with Mr. Kuriatnyk to go over everything. Mr. Burke clarified that Mr. Kuriatnyk has asked to run camps that are similar to camps and clinics that are already going on at the center. Mr. Burke has advised him to reach out to those local youth programs to work with them. Mr. Kuriatnyk said he has not heard back from them in four weeks. They are not returning his calls.

Mr. Kuriatnyk was out of time and asked for council to grant him an extension. Ms. Marchese and Mr. Cantola agreed to give him more time to speak. He was given three extra minutes to address city council. He asked President Steffey to ask the Safety Director about the impound lot. He refers to a quote in the paper about the impound lot being a great idea but he gives free rides to people. President Steffey told Mr. Kuriatnyk that he cannot impugn someone's integrity. Mr. Kuriatnyk repeated asked for the Safety Director to stand up and defend himself and called the administration a joke. President Steffey cut Mr. Kuriatnyk off and told him his time was up. Mr. Kuriatnyk told Service Director Stredney that someone was going to wipe his smile off his face. At this time, Police Chief Holland escorted Mr. Kuriatnyk out of council chambers for threatening Service Director Stredney.

Mr. Lastic ask for clarification on granting the public extra time to speak. Law Director Swauger did say this requires majority vote by council, not just two members. It is in council's rules to do this. The next time this happens, council will have to vote on this.

Mr. Profato asked Law Director Swauger if there has even been a response for a meeting with the CIC. Law Director Swauger has yet to receive a response from anyone that was emailed in regards to the CIC. Mr. Profato expressed his concerns with the CIC not meeting. He feels this is having a direct impact on his committee (Community Development). Law Director Swauger stated that the CIC has been inactive for more than 5 years. Mr. Profato asked if they can be

abolished. However, they do still assets remaining. Mr. Profato asked if they can remove the chairman and Law Director Swauger responded that the members still need to get together for a vote. That seems to be the issue. Law Director Swauger still has the ballots and results from the last meeting. A meeting needs to be scheduled with the majority of the members. The bi-laws of the CIC state that the President of council and one member from council (that is appointed) will be assigned to the CIC. Council rules state that the chairman of the Community Development committee is assigned as a member to the CIC. This would be Mr. Profato.

Mr. McNaughton also pointed that approximately 18 months ago there was a meeting with the CIC. Law Director Swauger confirmed there was a meeting and a voted to elect new board members. He has those results; however, there has not been a meeting since then. He will continue to try and get of hold of the members to get a meeting scheduled.

### **COUNCIL COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Mr. Mientkiewicz wanted council and the public to know that the finance meeting met last week for the second time this year. The items on the agenda are items that came from that finance meeting. He did ask that the next time there is a finance meeting that all department heads are informed.

### **ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS**

(Legislation began at 34:37 into recording)

**RESOLUTION NO. \_\_\_\_ ( Draft No. 23-18)**

**A RESOLUTION COMBINING THE WELLNESS CENTER BUDGET ITEMS WITHIN THE GENERAL FUND INTO THE PARK FUND; AND, DECLARING AN EMERGENCY**

It was moved by Mientkiewicz, seconded by McNaughton to give a 3<sup>rd</sup> reading to this Draft No. 23-18.

**YEAS: 6    NAYS: 0**

It was moved by Mientkiewicz, seconded by McNaughton to adopt this Draft No. 23-18.

**YEAS: 6    NAYS: 0**

This Draft No. 23-18 has been adopted on the 7th day of March 2018.

**RESOLUTION NO. \_\_\_\_ ( Draft No. 26-18)**

**A RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF OHIO DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION (ODOT) TO DESIGNATE U.S. and STATE BIKE ROUTE NETWORK.**

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

**YEAS: 6    NAYS: 0**

Rules are suspended.

It was moved by McNaughton, seconded by Mientkiewicz to adopt this Draft No. 26-18.

**YEAS: 7    NAYS: 0**

This Draft No. 26-18 has been adopted on the 7th day of March 2018.

**RESOLUTION NO. \_\_\_\_ ( Draft No. 27-18)**

**A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE SALE BY INTERNET AUCTION OF CERTAIN OBSOLETE ITEMS NO LONGER NEEDED FOR ANY MUNICIPAL PURPOSE BY THE CITY; AND, DECLARING AN EMERGENCY**

Mr. Cantola just wanted to clarify that there are no vehicles to be disposed of and all items are going out to GOVDEALS. Law Director Swauger confirmed no vehicles are being disposed of in this legislation.

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

**YEAS: 6    NAYS: 0**

Rules are suspended.

It was moved by Marchese, seconded by Mientkiewicz to adopt this Draft No. 27-18.

**YEAS: 6    NAYS: 0**

This Draft No. 27-18 has been adopted on the 7th day of March 2018.

**RESOLUTION NO. \_\_\_\_ ( Draft No. 28-18)**

**A RESOLUTION DECREASING THE APPROPRIATIONS FROM THE MAYOR CONTRACTED LABOR ACCOUNT; AND, DECLARING AN EMERGENCY**

Mr. Mientkiewicz explained that this money will be going back into the general fund.

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

**YEAS: 6    NAYS: 0**

Rules are suspended.

It was moved by Mientkiewicz, seconded by Lastic to adopt this Draft No. 28-18.

**YEAS: 6    NAYS: 0**

This Draft No. 28-18 has been adopted on the 7th day of March 2018.

**RESOLUTION NO. \_\_\_\_ (Draft No. 29-18)**

**A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE APPROPRIATION OF FUNDS FROM THE UNAPPROPRIATED POLICE AND FIRE 1% FUND TO THE POLICE DEPARTMENT EQUIPMENT PURCHASES ACCOUNT; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY**

Mr. Cantola asked Chief Holland how belts will be purchased. Chief Holland replied that it should replace about 20 belts. Any officer who has been there more than five years will need new ones, except for detectives.

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

**YEAS: 6    NAYS: 0**

Rules are suspended.

It was moved by Lastic, seconded by Cantola to adopt this Draft No. 29-18.

**YEAS: 6    NAYS: 0**

This Draft No. 29-18 has been adopted on the 7th day of March 2018.

**RESOLUTION NO. \_\_\_\_ (Draft No. 30-18)**

**A RESOLUTION APPROPRIATING FUNDS FROM THE UNAPPROPRIATED GENERAL FUND TO THE TREASURER GENERAL FUND – CONTRACTED LABOR ACCOUNT; AND, DECLARING AN EMERGENCY**

Mr. Mientkiewicz explained that this money is for the new treasurer and the two clerks for training on the reconciliation process. Mr. McNaughton also feels that it should be council's expectation that all department heads be cross trained in order to get the job done, regardless of how many employees are there.

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

**YEAS: 6    NAYS: 0**

Rules are suspended.

It was moved by Mientkiewicz, seconded by Lastic to adopt this Draft No. 30-18.



**YEAS: 6    NAYS: 0**

This Draft No. 30-18 has been adopted on the 7th day of March 2018.

Mr. Mientkiewicz confirmed that the treasurer's office will be trained in both the SSI software and the way the State does the reconciliation. Ms. Marchese wanted to make sure that even if an employee was off sick, the job would still get done. Treasurer Telago did confirm that someone would be able to do the reconciliation.

**RESOLUTION NO. \_\_\_\_\_ ( Draft No. 31-18)**

**A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE APPROPRIATION OF FUNDS FROM THE UNAPPROPRIATED GENERAL FUND TO THE GENERAL FUND COUNCIL EDUCATIONAL ACCOUNT; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY**

It was moved by Profato, seconded by Cantola to amend the dollar amount of the appropriation from \$1000.00 to \$1200.00.

Motion carried.

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

**YEAS: 6    NAYS: 0**

Rules are suspended.

It was moved by Profato, seconded by Lastic to adopt this Draft No. 31-18.

**YEAS: 6    NAYS: 0**

This Draft No. 31-18 has been adopted on the 7th day of March 2018.

**RESOLUTION NO. \_\_\_\_\_ ( Draft No. 32-18)**

**A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE APPROPRIATION OF FUNDS FROM THE UNAPPROPRIATED GENERAL FUND TO THE GENERAL FUND MISCELLANEOUS CONTRACTED LABOR ACCOUNT; AND, DECLARING AN EMERGENCY**

It was moved by Mientkiewicz, seconded by Cantola to give a 1st reading to this Draft No. 32-18.

**YEAS: 6    NAYS: 0**

This Draft No. 32-18 has received its first reading on the 7th day of March 2018.

**RESOLUTION NO. \_\_\_\_ (Draft No. 33-18)**

**A RESOLUTION AMENDING RESOLUTION NO. 14-18 APPROPRIATING FUNDS FROM THE UNAPPROPRIATED PARK FUND TO THE PARK DEPARTMENT FUND ACCOUNTS TO REFLECT THE CORRECT AMOUNTS; AND, DECLARING AN EMERGENCY**

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

**YEAS: 6    NAYS: 0**

Rules are suspended.

It was moved by Mientkiewicz, seconded by Lastic to adopt this Draft No. 33-18.

**YEAS: 6    NAYS: 0**

This Draft No. 33-18 has been adopted on the 7th day of March 2018.

**RESOLUTION NO. \_\_\_\_ (Draft No. 34-18)**

**A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE APPROPRIATION OF FUNDS FROM THE UNAPPROPRIATED PARK FUND TO THE PARK DEPARTMENT CONTRACTED LABOR ACCOUNT; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY**

Mr. Mientkiewicz asked Mr. Burke, Park Director, to explain this legislation. Mr. Burke explained that the emergency lights at the Wellness Center due not work due to a wind storm that occurred last year. These lights have been out for some time. Mr. Burke said that last week during a wind storm, the lights went out again and no emergency lights came on.

Mr. McNaughton asked if he knew approximately when this happened last year. Mr. Burke is not sure when this occurred. He believes near the end of the year. Mr. Cantola asked if this could be a monthly check, possibly through the fire department, to make sure that the emergency lights

are working. Mr. Burke said as soon as the full time maintenance person is on board, this is something he/she can handle. It was confirmed that three quotes were obtained for this.

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

**YEAS: 6    NAYS: 0**

Rules are suspended.

It was moved by McNaughton, seconded by Lastic to adopt this Draft No. 34-18.

**YEAS: 6    NAYS: 0**

This Draft No. 34-18 has been adopted on the 7th day of March 2018.

### MISCELLANEOUS REMARKS

(Miscellaneous remarks began at 49:18 into recording)

President Steffey wanted to thank Conner and Ginger from TCTC for attending the meeting this evening. He wanted to thank them for taking part in their local government.

Law Director Swauger informed council that Friday is Civic Day in Trumbull County. If council was around, they are more than welcome to stop and talk to the students. The students are in the city all morning and then attend a lunch at 11:30 A.M.

Chief Danielson clarified some concerns around response time with the fire department being displaced. The response time with medical calls will not be affected. The only possible delay would be with a structural fire or alarm drops.

Service Director Stredney asked Ms. Marchese if she was planning on scheduling a safety committee meeting because he was going to ask for one. Ms. Marchese said she was looking at maybe next week because she wanted to see the architect and the roofing company in attendance.

Mr. Crowley updated council on the housing inspector that was put in the budget. They did wait for the increase in fees to happen. They did advertise for the job on the website and complete interviews with the three applicants. Frank Pezzano was awarded the job and he has already started completing inspections.

Treasurer Telago gave council a quick update on the treasurer's office. Holly Money has been awarded one of the tax clerk positions and Kim Bonacci has been given the other job. He had a meeting with them and his goal is that all three of them are cross trained to help each other. They are working on the daily procedures. The state auditor's office has been there for a couple of days and is almost complete with January reconciliation. Treasurer Telago and his staff will begin working on the Feb reconciliation here shortly. The office will begin working on the reconciliation with the excel format that the State developed. He has also been working with Auditor Merlo on getting SSI out to the city for training on their software. They will run both reconciliation processes parallel for a couple of months and decide which works best for them. He feels he has a great staff in that office.

Mr. McNaughton asked that the chief relay to Mr. Bickerstaff that he feels that this city council has been working on keeping qualified individuals. This group decided that the rotting of the buildings needs to change now. They recognized a need to update equipment and are giving money for new fire trucks. They are doing their best to provide the resources and infrastructure to keep everyone safe. Secondly, he wanted to really commend the team that helped get Niles into the capital budget from the State of Ohio last week.

Tentatively, the city is set to receive a couple hundred thousand dollars for the project that him and Mr. Profato drove to Columbus for. It was a full team effort, from the regional chamber, to the advocacy group, Dr. Grahn from Kent State Trumbull, Mark (Executive Vice President from Farmers National Bank), etc. He is glad that he was able to play a small part in this. One of the senators that they spoke to wrote a hand written letter back saying congratulations. He wanted to commend everybody who worked on this and also pointed out that less than 25% of those who apply receive funding. Finally, he welcomed the young folks. He said they were able to see both ends of the spectrum from the firefighters who spoke and were very respectful to the other end. This is something they see every day. He hopes that they got something out of what happened tonight. They are welcome at any time.

Mr. Profato said that we need to thank everybody that was in on this deal in Columbus. There were other legislators, senators, house representatives. President Steffey asked Law Director Swauger if they could prepare a letter on behalf of council thanking as a whole that we were appropriated money. Mr. Profato points out that the Scrappers were a big part of this also. He read a list of names of people that should be personally thanked with this letter. He is tired of the talking when it comes to the fire people and we need to start doing something.

Mr. Cantola wanted to follow up with Law Director Swauger in regards to Verizon and the digital storing of the vehicle information from the GPS systems. Service Director Stredney said it depends on the volume of storage. If you are looking to access one vehicle, it can go back 365 days. If you are looking for the entire fleet of city vehicles, then it only goes back 24 hours. Mr. Cantola thanked Service Director Stredney for his assistance with a business owner. He sent Service Director Stredney an issue with a business owner and within the hour, Mr. Stredney had responded and the situation was taken care of.

Mr. Cantola asked Mr. Catanzarite to provide an update with the new Waste Water Treatment Plant. He wants to know how it is coming and are we in line with the budget. Mr. Catanzarite

estimates that about 90 % of the brick and motor is complete and about 50% of the electronics is complete. All of the major components are built and installed. They are in the process of trying to start the new wet stream, but unfortunately the weather has not been conducive to a waste water plant. They are running rain water right now through it. The total budget about is approximately \$35 million and \$3 million in contingency. They have gone through about \$2.8 in contingency with change orders.

He did state that the EPA thought we would be over budget by \$4-\$5 million; however, that is not the case. We will not be over budget. He is hoping to have somewhere between \$1 - \$1.5 million left over. There are some things that were not included in the original plans that need to take place and be replaced. This project started off at approximately \$ 30-\$32 million and then ballooned up to \$ 46 million. At that point, they sat down and started cutting things. The EPA required money to be put into contingency. The interest rate is very low (0.73%) and saving the city approximately \$2 million in interest. He is hoping to be done late fall. The permit is until Dec 31<sup>st</sup>. He does not foresee any major issues.

Mr. Cantola asked if there was a meeting set up in regards to the surveys from the Chamber. The survey wasn't favorable to the city. He feels that we owe the residents the time to fix these issues. The city needs to put something on paper now and put a plan in place. Mr. Profato said that he chairs that committee and he has been in contact with the chamber and there has already been a game plan put in place. The chamber will show them things once a month. Mr. Profato stated that this is why committees are formed so that the committees can approach these things. Mr. Cantola would just like for the committee and the chamber to convey what their plan is so the rest of the council and the residents know what's happening.

Ms. Marchese thought the Mayor already had a meeting about this scheduled. Service Director Stredney confirmed that he does have a meeting scheduled. There is a public meeting scheduled for Thursday, March 29<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 P.M. to go over the survey results. Mr. Cantola is happy this happening and thinks this is the first part at moving forward with this plan. Mr. Profato stated that he worked 4 years on this plan to which Mr. Cantola stated not much has been done in four years. Even though he hasn't been a council member, Mr. Profato said he has been working on this and people do not know what's been going on.

Ms. Marchese also wanted to address her concerns over the last couple of weeks in regards to the construction taking place at the safety service complex. She is disgusted with this company and what is happening. She hopes moving forward that things get better and she would still like a meeting with both of them so council can relay their concerns. She does not want them starting another building until this roof is finished.

Mr. Mientkiewicz again expressed his concern over the overtime in the street department. He wants to make sure that they are within their budget. Service Director Stredney stated he cannot control what will happen next winter. The street department's bulk of overtime is in the winter time. He thinks they will be okay because they do go to a midnight shift. Mr. Mientkiewicz is worried about next December. Service Director Stredney said they will review this as they go and address it as need be. It holds everybody accountable. Mr. Mientkiewicz asked for a report at the end of first quarter where the city is with emergency repairs with contracted services in the

water and sewer department. Service Director Stredney said there are two major issues that he knows of right now, one on North Rd and the other on Roosevelt and Taft. He cannot think of any others.

Mr. Mientkiewicz did bring up a billing issue and thanked Service Director Stredney for his assistance. He wants to know if the issue was related to carelessness. Service Director Stredney does not think it is carelessness. With 22,000 accounts read monthly, there will be a margin of error. People are not perfect and this was a human error. Mr. Mientkiewicz says it seems like there a lot of human errors. Service Director Stredney disagreed and does not feel there is a lot. He has no problem sending out employees to do a re-read if there is an error. He assured they are not estimating the bills. Sometimes the reads may go 35-40 days but they are accurate. Mr. Mientkiewicz's concern is that if the same employee is having a pattern of issues, that they are being addressed with that employee (s).


Mr. Mientkiewicz wanted to clarify that we are not estimated bills. Service Director Stredney stated that unless there is a reason they cannot get to the meter, they are not estimating the bills. They would estimate a bill if the meter is broke or they cannot get to it. Mr. Mientkiewicz did have two bills for a resident that had estimated water. He asked if the next bill that is an actual will show the actual read and the difference from the estimates. So if the bill was estimated at 2 units and the actual bill shows 9, they will receive a bill for the difference. Mr. Mientkiewicz wanted to make sure that if this does happen and a read is rejected that we do make attempts to notify the homeowners.

Ms. Ford said she would look at the error report. President Steffey asked Ms. Ford when there is an error report, what is the process that happens? Ms. Ford explained that there are several homes where they cannot access the meters. The meter readers do have phone numbers of the homeowners and try to contact them to let them know they are trying to read the meters. They do set up appointments to try and go back and read the meters. However, if the homeowner does not return the call, the bill will go out estimated. President Steffey stated that he has seen the meter readers attempting to get back to the meters that are blocked by fences. He asked how long they wait until they send out estimation. Ms. Ford said generally the reads are received a couple of days before the bills are sent out. There is a few days where they try to contract the homeowners before they send them a bill.

Mr. McNaughton asked if the newest city employee could say a few words. Mr. Pezzano wanted to thank the administration and Mr. Crowley and everyone who believes in him. And he definitely give 100% on this job.

**ADJOURN**

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

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Nicole Bacak, Clerk of Council

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
BARRY STEFFEY, JR., President of Council