

**COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES**

**May 1, 2019**

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

Niles City Council held its regular meeting on May 1, 2019 at 6:00 p.m. in Council Chambers Safety Service Complex in Niles, Ohio.

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

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

It was moved by Marchese seconded by Smith to accept the Minutes from the April 17th meeting and place them on file.

Motion carried.

**REPORTS AND COMMUNICATIONS**

**FROM** – Office of the Treasurer

Niles City Income Tax Collections

It was moved by Marchese, seconded by Cantola to accept and place it on file.

Motion carried.

**MEMBERS OF THE AUDIENCE TO ADDRESS COUNCIL**

(Public comments began at 1:23 into recording)

None

**COUNCIL COMMITTEE REPORTS**

None

**ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS**

(Legislation began at 1:34 into recording)

**ORDINANCE NO. \_\_\_\_\_ (Draft No. 69-19)**

**AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE SERVICE DIRECTOR TO PURCHASE AN F-250 PICKUP TRUCK FOR THE LIGHT DEPARTMENT; AND, DECLARING AN EMERGENCY**

Mr. Cantola asked if this truck was going to a particular individual or if it is just for the department. Mayor Mientkiewicz explained it is for the department. During budget hearings, they had originally budgeted for a dump truck, which is no longer needed. They would like buy this extended cab truck for a labor crew to use instead. The truck they have now is only a single cab, which is not big enough for an entire crew. The truck will be passed down to the Street Department. The truck will not leave the grounds.

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

**YEAS: 7    NAYS: 0**

Rules are suspended.

It was moved by Smith, seconded by Cantola to adopt this Draft No. 69-19.

**YEAS: 7    NAYS: 0**

This Draft No. 69- 19 has been adopted on the 1st day of May 2019.

Mayor Mientkiewicz wanted to let council know that they did find this truck cheaper at a local dealer. They are going to go with the local dealer. They ran it through the law department and got the law director's opinion. However, they still wanted to send it to council. President Steffey said that is good and every little bit helps.

**RESOLUTION NO. \_\_\_\_\_ (Draft No. 70-19)**

**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**

Ms. Smith explained that this is for a Sewer dump truck that they are going to sell on Govdeals.

It was moved by Smith, seconded by Kearney to suspend the rule requiring three readings.

**YEAS: 7 NAYS: 0**

Rules are suspended.

It was moved by McNaughton, seconded by Smith to adopt this Draft No. 70-19.

**YEAS: 7 NAYS: 0**

This Draft No. 70- 19 has been adopted on the 1st day of May 2019.

**ORDINANCE NO. \_\_\_\_ ( Draft No. 71-19)**

**AN ORDINANCE TO CHANGE THE ZONING OF A PARCEL OF PROPERTY LOCATED ALONG YOUNGSTOWN WARREN ROAD (U.S. ROUTE 422), CURRENTLY OWNED BY DOMINIC D’URSO, TRUSTEE; AND, DECLARING AN EMERGENCY**

Ms. Marchese explained that this has come to council before, and to the zoning board and there have been public hearings. Everything has been passed and approved.

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

**YEAS: 7 NAYS: 0**

Rules are suspended.

It was moved by Profato, seconded by McNaughton to adopt this Draft No. 71-19.

**YEAS: 7 NAYS: 0**

This Draft No. 71- 19 has been adopted on the 1st day of May 2019.

**ORDINANCE NO. \_\_\_\_ ( Draft No. 72-19)**

**AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE NO. 25-19, KNOWN AS THE  
AUTHORIZED STRENGTH ORDINANCE, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY**

It was moved by Smith, seconded by Lastic to amend the attachment to the legislation. There was a clerical error on the Cemetery part time casual laborers. It should read 2 part timers, not 1. Motion carried.

It was moved by Smith, seconded by Kearney to suspend the rule requiring three readings.

**YEAS: 7    NAYS: 0**

Rules are suspended.

It was moved by Smith, seconded by McNaughton to adopt this Draft No. 72-19.

**YEAS: 7    NAYS: 0**

This Draft No. 72- 19 has been adopted on the 1st day of May 2019.

**MISCELLANEOUS REMARKS**

(Miscellaneous remarks began at 8:38 into recording)

Mayor Mientkiewicz reminded everyone that the spring garage sale is being advertised on the city's website. There will be flyers at the Wellness center and at the city building as well advertising for this event. Secondly, the Relay for Life is this weekend at the Wellness Center. It starts this Friday at 6:00 P.M. He will be out there representing the city if anyone else would like to join him.

Chief Holland wanted to thank council for keeping them at their full authorized strength. The city just swore in two new officers this evening prior to council. President Steffey said he thinks it is important to keep them there. He was encouraged by the swearing in of the new officers this evening.

Mr. Burke also wanted to remind everyone of the Relay for Life at the Wellness Center this Friday.

Treasurer Telago briefly touched on the report he handed out. There have been a lot of questions and discussions around which is better to have in the city, an in house tax collection agency or RITA. The numbers that he provided in the report will show that.

In 2017, the City of Niles tax department collected a net of \$8,100,000.00. In 2018, the net was \$8,832,000.00. However, that number will go up to approximately \$9,000,000.00 once RITA processes a refund back to the city of their retainer of \$142,000.00. RITA ended up costing the city less than half of what the tax department did.

The city pays RITA 3% of the gross income taxes that are collected and then RITA does a calculation based on how much time they spend working on your city. President Steffey stated that they also have the ability to get into the Federal returns, which we could never do.

Mayor Mientkiewicz thanked Treasurer for this report because he has been hearing talk around town about bringing back the tax department. He is also hearing talk about bringing back the health department. Mayor Mientkiewicz stated he has been in contact with Mr. Burke, who is the city's liaison from the Trumbull County Combined Health District, and Mr. Mig. The last application for municipalities to be accredited was due last July. The state is taking initiative and is doing away with these city and township health departments because the cost of services is so high. They are leaning toward combined districts. They are also now requiring all health directors to have a master's degree in public health. So, what he is telling his constituents so that everyone is on the same page, it is impossible to bring that service back.

Ms. Marchese asked if there is any way that the city of Niles can work out with health department a way to do shots right here for families at a cheaper rate. Mayor Mientkiewicz said he believes they do provide them but you have to go to the county. Ms. Marchese asked if we could just get them to come here and do them instead of people driving there. She said someone toward her the transit bus does not go there so it is hard to get here. Mayor Mientkiewicz said he will talk to them about it.

President Steffey wanted the record to show that we save \$235,000.00 a year by being a part of the joint health district.

Mr. Profato asked Mayor Mientkiewicz for a status update on the CIC. Mayor Mientkiewicz explained that Law Director Zuzolo has re-established the city for the CIC. Months ago the license for the CIC was let lapse. The city is now registered with Columbus and can begin to meet again. Mayor Mientkiewicz stated that the CIC is totally separate from the city even though there are some members of city officials who sit on the board.

Mr. Profato was curious because it has been awhile since there has been a meeting. He knows at the last meeting there was a vote but we still do not know the outcome of it. Mayor Mientkiewicz said he believes that at the time of that meeting the CIC was unlicensed. So now that it is licensed, himself and Law Director Zuzolo are going to get it moving because outside businesses are contacting himself and the chamber about the CIC. Mr. Profato agreed and said that is his concern also.

Mr. Cantola wanted to start by addressing Garfield school. He said the project is moving along very well. It is taking a little longer but it is a great project. Everyone he talks to is pleased to see that building being removed. We are moving in the right direction by removing that building.

Mr. Cantola said he is getting quite a few calls in regards to truck traffic through Hunter/Chestnut and some of the streets around there. He is asking for help from the police department. He has noticed a lot of corners are being cut short by the trucks. One thing he has seen is other cities are paving from the sidewalk to the curbs to prevent the dirt and mud from gathering up and causing mudholes. He is wondering if that is feasible to do here.

Mr. Cantola would like to call a Technology meeting for May 8<sup>th</sup>. One of the items he would like to address in this meeting is the Park restrooms. He knows the opening and closing of them have been an issue. He knows he we are installing cameras in the parks. Mr. Cantola feels that we should be able to have locks attached to systems that allow them to lock and unlock automatically. Looking at it from his business, he can unlock a door from his phone to let them in. He is sure that we can do that as well. He would like to have a meeting about this. The meeting will be at 5:00 P.M. on May 8<sup>th</sup> in the lower level conference room.

Finally, Mr. Cantola asked for an update at the next council meeting on the progress of the McKees Lane project. Mr. Robertson did state that he is planning on going out for bid in the next two weeks for part of the project. He will get together information for the next meeting or email out information to council.


Ms. Marchese said she was on her way to Warren last night and saw one of our new officers stopped on the side of the road assisting a gentleman change a flat tire. She knows that our officers have been getting a bad wrap lately. She said the gentleman couldn't have been happier that our police officer stopped to help him.

Ms. Marchese asked Mr. Robertson if himself and Mr. Altobelli would go with her to Hillcrest for the reoccurring problem. Mr. Robertson said he has researched it and from his understanding, it was a small cooperation that they had back in the day. We cannot find anything in writing that the city owns the property. He will look again. Ms. Marchese just wants to be sure that we don't have anything in writing stating who this land belongs to.

It was moved by Profato, seconded by Cantola to move the July 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting to July 10<sup>th</sup>.  
Motion carried.

**ADJOURN**

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

  
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Nicole Bacak, Clerk of Council

  
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Barry Steffey Jr., President of Council