

COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
November 18, 2020

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

Niles City Council held its regular meeting on November 18, 2020 at 6:00 p.m. at the Niles Senior Center Complex in Niles, Ohio.

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

Lastic- P, McNaughton-P, Profato-P, Cantola-P, Marchese-P, Smith- P, Sollitto-P, Marino-P

It was moved Marchese seconded by Smith to accept the minutes from the November 4th meeting and place them on file.

Motion carried.

REPORTS AND COMMUNICATIONS

FROM-Auditor's Office

Statement of Cash from Revenue and Expense- October 2020

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

Motion carried.

FROM-Auditor's Office

Check Report by Check Number- October 2020

It was moved by Smith, seconded by Lastic to accept and place it on file.

Motion carried.

MEMBERS OF THE AUDIENCE TO ADDRESS COUNCIL

(Public comments began at 1:47 into recording)

NONE

COUNCIL COMMITTEE REPORTS

NONE

President Marino reminded council to submit their committee meeting minutes to the clerk as soon as possible so they can be kept on file.

ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTION
(Legislation began at 2:12 into recording)

RESOLUTION NO. ____ (Draft No. 125-20)

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE SERVICE DIRECTOR TO ADVERTISE FOR BIDS FOR TWO YEARS OF SLUDGE DISPOSAL AND FOR ONE YEAR OF CHEMICALS FOR THE WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

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

YEAS: 7 NAYS: 0

Rules are suspended.

It was moved by Smith, seconded by Lastic to adopt this Draft No. 125-20.

YEAS: 7 NAYS: 0

This Draft No. 125- 20 has been adopted on the 18th day of November 2020.

ORDINANCE NO. ____ (Draft No. 126-20)

AN ORDINANCE APPROVING A THEN AND NOW PAYMENT REQUEST AUTHORIZING THE AUDITOR TO MAKE PAYMENT TO MJR CONCRETE IN THE AMOUNT OF FOUR THOUSAND EIGHT HUNDRED DOLLARS AND 00/100 (\$4,800.00) FOR ADDITIONAL WORK THAT WAS DONE WHICH WAS LABELED “OUTSIDE THE INITIAL SCOPE OF WORK” AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

It was moved by McNaughton, seconded by Smith 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. 126-20.

YEAS: 7 NAYS: 0

This Draft No. 126- 20 has been adopted on the 18th day of November 2020.

RESOLUTION NO. ____ (Draft No. 127-20)

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE SALE BY INTERNET AUCTION OF TWO 2008 FORD EXPLORER SUV'S WHICH ARE NO LONGER NEEDED BY THE NILES CITY FIRE DEPARTMENT AND/OR FOR ANY MUNICIPAL PURPOSE BY THE CITY; AND, DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

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

YEAS: 7 NAYS: 0

Rules are suspended.

It was moved by Marchese, seconded by Smith to adopt this Draft No. 127-20.

YEAS: 7 NAYS: 0

This Draft No. 127- 20 has been adopted on the 18th day of November 2020.

ORDINANCE NO. ____ (Draft No. 128-20)

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE APPROPRIATIONS FROM THE UNAPPROPRIATED CORONAVIRUS RELIEF FUND 220 AND AUTHORIZING THE CITY AUDITOR TO CORRECT CERTAIN DESIGNATED EXPENDITURES TO THE CORONAVIRUS RELIEF FUND AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

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

YEAS: 7 NAYS: 0

Rules are suspended.

It was moved by Marchese, seconded by Lastic to adopt this Draft No. 128-20.

YEAS: 7 NAYS: 0

This Draft No. 128- 20 has been adopted on the 18th day of November 2020.

ORDINANCE NO. _____(Draft No. 129-20)

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING APPROPRIATIONS FROM THE UNAPPROPRIATED CORONAVIRUS RELIEF FUND 220 FOR THE PURPOSE OF PROCURING EQUIPMENT, MATERIALS, SUPPLIES, OR SERVICES TO PREVENT FURTHER SPREAD OF COVID19 AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

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

YEAS: 7 NAYS: 0

Rules are suspended.

It was moved by McNaughton, seconded by Sollitto to adopt this Draft No. 129-20.

YEAS: 7 NAYS: 0

This Draft No. 129- 20 has been adopted on the 18th day of November 2020.

ORDINANCE NO. _____(Draft No. 130-20)

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING APPROPRIATIONS FROM THE UNAPPROPRIATED CORONAVIRUS RELIEF FUND 220 FOR THE PURPOSE OF PURCHASING TECHNOLOGY EQUIPMENT TO PREVENT FURTHER SPREAD OF COVID19 AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

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

YEAS: 5 NAYS: 2 (McNaughton and Smith)

Rules are not suspended.

President Marino informed council that a motion to table would be in order since there is no availability to move forward. President Marino asked Auditor Merlo for his guidance on this. Mr. Cantola asked if they could do a first reading on it. President Marino explained they cannot

because the timeline will be missed. We would not be able to spend the money within the time frame.

Ms. Marchese asked if they could talk to the two no votes about this but President Marino no because they have already voted. Mr. Sollitto asked if we will lose the money. Auditor Merlo explained that council will need to increase the dollar amount on the Draft No. 132-20 by the \$36,500, this way those dollars can be expended through wages. Per the Ohio Office of Budget and Management, Police and Fire wages can be used for expenditures. By doing a first reading, it would be moot because the funds have to be encumbered before November 20th.

President Marino told council he has the new dollar amount, and they will need to amend Draft No. 132-20 when they get to it. The money will be re-appropriated. It will not be spent on technology and it will be spent on wages.

It was moved by Marchese, seconded by Sollitto to table this Draft No. 130-20.

YEAS: 7 NAYS: 0

This Draft No. 130- 20 has been tabled on the 18th day of November 2020.

ORDINANCE NO. _____(Draft No. 131-20)

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE SERVICE DIRECTOR/OR HIS DESIGNATED REPRESENTATIVE TO ACCEPT THE REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS FROM MNJ TECHNOLOGIES FOR THE PLANNED NETWORK CORE UPGRADE, AND APPROPRIATE FROM THE UNAPPROPRIATED CORONAVIRUS RELIEF FUND 220 FOR THE PURPOSE OF PROCURING EQUIPMENT, MATERIALS, SUPPLIES OR SERVICES TO PREVENT FURTHER SPREAD OF COVID19, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

It was moved by McNaughton, seconded by Sollitto to suspend the rule requiring three readings.

YEAS: 7 NAYS: 0

Rules are suspended.

It was moved by McNaughton, seconded by Marchese to adopt this Draft No. 131-20.

YEAS: 7 NAYS: 0

This Draft No. 131- 20 has been adopted on the 18th day of November 2020.

President Marino told council the new dollar amount for this legislation will be \$325,435.90.

It was moved by Marchese, seconded by Profato to amend this draft to reflect the new dollar amount of \$325,435.90.
Motion carried unanimously.

ORDINANCE NO. _____ (Draft No. 132-20)

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE APPROPRIATIONS FROM THE UNAPPROPRIATED CORONAVIRUS RELIEF FUND 220 AND AUTHORIZING THE CITY AUDITOR TO APPLY TO THE CORONAVIRUS RELIEF FUND PAYROLL FOR EMPLOYEES AFFECTED FROM CORONAVIRUS AND PAYROLL FOR PUBLIC HEALTH AND SAFETY EMPLOYEES AS OUTLINED BY THE OHIO OFFICE OF BUDGET AND MANAGEMENT AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

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

YEAS: 7 NAYS: 0

Rules are suspended.

It was moved by Marchese, seconded by McNaughton to adopt this Draft No. 132-20.

YEAS: 7 NAYS: 0

This Draft No. 132- 20 has been adopted on the 18th day of November 2020.

ORDINANCE NO. _____ (Draft No. 133-20)

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING APPROPRIATIONS FROM THE UNAPPROPRIATED WATER FUND 501 TO FIRE HYDRANTS ACCOUNT AND OPERATIONAL SUPPLIES ACCOUNT FOR THE PURPOSE OF PROCURING PARTS, MATERIALS AND SUPPLIES AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

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

Mayor Mientkiewicz wanted to make a quick comment on this legislation. It has nothing to do with overspending or budget issues. This is for fire hydrants, valves and parts for the water system. The water crew has done a phenomenal job on preventative maintenance daily. This legislation is giving them more parts to finish out the year.

YEAS: 7 NAYS: 0

Rules are suspended.

It was moved by Marchese, seconded by Lastic to adopt this Draft No. 133-20.

YEAS: 7 NAYS: 0

This Draft No. 133- 20 has been adopted on the 18th day of November 2020.

RESOLUTION NO. ____ (Draft No. 134-20)

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE SALE BY INTERNET AUCTION OF A 1994 FORD F350 LIGHT DEPARTMENT TRUCK WHICH IS NO LONGER NEEDED BY THE NILES CITY LIGHT DEPARTMENT AND/OR FOR ANY MUNICIPAL PURPOSE BY THE CITY; AND, DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

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 Sollitto to adopt this Draft No. 134-20.

YEAS: 7 NAYS: 0

This Draft No. 134- 20 has been adopted on the 18th day of November 2020.

MISCELLANEOUS REMARKS

(Miscellaneous remarks began at 20:27 into recording)

President Marino wanted to wish everyone a safe and Happy Thanksgiving. We have much to be thankful for and we need to pray for better days ahead.

Mayor Mientkiewicz has two quick comments. On Sunday, we had a major windstorm and he wanted to recognize the light department for restoring power not only to the city of Niles, but to the lines that extend into Weathersfield and Howland. The most the power was out for was approximately 3 hours. There are other communities that are going on 3 days without power.

Next, Mayor Mientkiewicz scheduled a round table for December 2, prior to the council meeting, for 5:15 P.M. The purpose of this round table will be to discuss Phase two of the city building renovations. He has been meeting with Auditor Merlo and they have reviewed the budget and finalized their plans. Prior to COVID, they did agree to meet with council and the architects to go over a comprehensive review of the plans.

Mayor Mientkiewicz also wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving.

Auditor Merlo wanted to update council that the bid renewal for the bond refunding did go out and today was the deadline. The bid went out to over 30 institutions and they did receive some very competitive bids back. The lowest bid was an interest rate of 1.44% and the highest was a little over 2.6%. After doing the analysis with the financial advisors, we will be moving forward with Chase Bank. They were the lowest with 1.44%. Currently the savings over the next ten years is going to be approximately \$560,000.00 on the refinance and borrowing an additional million dollars.

President Marino thanked Auditor Merlo and his team on accomplishing this.

Safety Director Kaniclides also wanted to commend the light department for their work on Sunday with the windstorm. On top of that, he wanted to recognize the city's dispatch team. They stepped up and were taking all 911 calls from the county due to those employees being off with due to COVID.

They did not have to call any officers off of the road and it did not accrue any overtime. The part time dispatchers really stepped up and took on more hours. They did one hell of a job. The city will be getting reimbursed by the county for this through COVID money. Every once in awhile you need to give them a pat on the back and tell them what a good job they did. You cannot compare them or the light department to anyone else.

Mr. Lastic asked about the brush hog and when it will go for sell. Mayor Mientkiewicz said hopefully it will go on the site tomorrow. They were waiting for the SUV's to get approved and do everything at one time.

Mr. McNaughton wanted to commend the crews also because a lot of the city never lost power for a second. We are beyond fortunate to have the crews that we have in the city of Niles. He commended the auditing team for their work on the refinancing.

Mr. McNaughton wanted to personally thank the folks in dispatch and the police department. There was a minor situation in his neighborhood about a week and half ago. He made a call and within 3 minutes there were three of the city's finest officers there. We are fortunate to have the public servants that we have in Niles. From a personal standpoint, he wanted to thank dispatch and police. He also recognized the fire department for their work.

He also wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving. He wants everyone to be safe.

President Marino wanted to thank Mr. McNaughton for assisting in running the meeting this evening. Earlier in the day, they ran into some difficulties. Between Auditor Merlo, Mr. McNaughton and Ms. Bacak, they were able to get everything set up and working. He is grateful that Mr. McNaughton assisted in running the meeting.

Mr. Profato wanted to wish everyone a Happy Thanksgiving. It's times like this where we really need to appreciate what we have. The employees are hard workers and he wanted to thank them for their work.

Mr. Cantola wanted to start by saying it was a pretty sad day. He hopes that Ms. Bacak, Auditor Merlo and Law Director Zuzolo show up early for the meetings so that they can continue to work with the poor level of technology that we have because we didn't want to spend COVID money that was given to the city for this but we will spend it on wages. He really feels sorry for the residents. Council voted to buy trucks and other items and just voted to put \$300,000 in wages and they won't spend money to make things better for council, the administration, and the residents.

Ms. Marchese wanted to thank the city workers. She goes out and sees what happens in her ward. The crews are doing a fantastic job. She also wanted to commend the dispatchers. They are always on top. It was great that they helped 911 and kept things moving along smoothly. Dispatch doesn't get the credit that they deserve so she wanted to make sure that they were recognized. She also wanted to wish everyone a safe and Happy Thanksgiving.

Ms. Smith asked Auditor Merlo wanted to confirm that the money that went to wages is for public safety employees only. Auditor Merlo confirmed it will cover the public safety employees and it will cover anyone affected by Coronavirus. Ms. Smith wished everyone a Happy and safe Thanksgiving. She is grateful to live and work here.

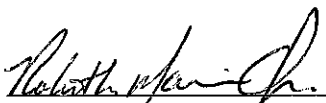
Secondly, Mr. Sollitto said that prior to the meeting he had a call from a resident, Mr. Moran, at 115 Potomac about his sinking driveway. Mayor Mientkiewicz has assured him he will be looking into this situation. He wanted to thank the Mayor for handling this.

ADJOURN

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



Nicole Bacak, Clerk of Council



Robert Marino, Jr., President of Council