

COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
February 5, 2020

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

Niles City Council held its regular meeting on February 5, 2020 at 6:00 p.m. in Council Chambers Safety Service 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 by Marchese, seconded by McNaughton to accept the Minutes from the January 22nd meeting and place them on file.

Motion carried.

REPORTS AND COMMUNICATIONS

FROM – Ohio Division of Liquor Control

Notice to Legislative Authority- Azteca Castillo DBA Piazza Azteca

It was moved by Marchese, seconded by Smith to refer to the Police Chief for his recommendation.

Motion carried.

FROM – Trumbull County Health Department

Packet in regards to Tobacco near schools

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

Motion carried.

FROM – Fire Chief

Incident Report for 2019

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

Mr. McNaughton asked Fire Chief Danielson how 2019 compared to previous years and Fire Chief Danielson said it is about 100 calls more last year than the previous year. Every year they are getting more calls.

Motion carried.

FROM – Auditor’s Office

Statement of Cash from Revenue and Expense- December 2019

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

Motion carried.

FROM – Auditor’s Office

Check Report by Check Number- December 2019

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

Motion carried.

FROM – Auditor’s Office

Year End Cash Balance Trend- 2012 through 2019

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

Auditor Merlo explained that this report came from discussions in finance committee meetings. He wanted to show council where the fund balances were in the four main funds (General, Water, Light and Sewer) Where the city was in 2012 to present, the city is trending in a positive way. Auditor Merlo will continue to monitor the revenue collections for the city.

Motion carried.

MEMBERS OF THE AUDIENCE TO ADDRESS COUNCIL

(Public comments began at 4:35 into recording)

Shawn Crank: 335 McEvoy Court. Mr. Crank started by stating he wasn’t here to rattle anyone’s cages. He was here this evening, with a lot of others, to support the administration for the ordinance around annexation. Speaking on behalf of his in-laws, the property they live on in Niles is adjacent to township property. They have been having problems since a business came in and stripped the land and they are now having flooding issues.

This company receives City of Niles utilities. They should follow the same rules everyone else does. When Mr. Crank went to make a complaint, there was nothing the City of Niles could do because the business property is in a township. He went to the township and their laws and ordinances are much more lax. He was told by both sides there is nothing that can be done and to file a law suit.

If this ordinance would have been in place, it would have stopped this from happening. If they want the city’s utilities, then they should come into the city and abide by our ordinances and zoning rules. His in-law’s property will never be the same. Mr. Crank said he hopes the administration moves forward on this and there are a lot of people backing them on this. They are watching and don’t want them to give up.

James Sheely: 31 Belmont Ave. Mr. Sheely said he has seen some people in the past complain about their utilities and he always thought they were crazy because he always watching his. He recently received a bill from his other home that his son lives in that was wrong. The bill said they used 12,000 gallons a water. To him, that seems extreme because on average it was between 4000-6000 gallons a month. He did call the billing office and he was told it was incorrect and they only used 10,000 gallons. He doesn't know how they messed up his bill and he still thinks it is wrong.

President Marino asked Mr. Sheely if he has been to the billing office to talk to the billing manager and he said he has not due to his work schedule. Mr. Sheely said he thinks this water bill is the amount that it takes to fill a pool. Mr. Sheely knows for a fact that other residents are receiving estimated bills. One of those residents, the city owed them over \$1000.00 because they overpaid. Mr. Sheely doesn't know why we still have estimated bills. He says there is still something wrong even after reviewing the print out that was emailed to him.

Mr. Sheely said he was at a friend's house on Garland Drive a little over a year ago. His friend was getting estimated bills and then all of a sudden he got zero usage with the minimum usage charges. Mr. Sheely stated while him and his friend were talking about this, a meter reader came by and they stopped the employee to ask him. Mr. Sheely says the employee told them there is no reason for him to be getting an estimate bill because he comes out there to read the meter every month. He says there is really something wrong down there.

President Marino suggested that Mr. Sheely make an appointment to go there and see if they can accommodate his work schedule. He should make an appointment with the Service Director and the Billing Office Manager.

Barb Armeni: 667 Garland Drive. Ms. Armeni wanted to go on record that she is against the annexation. She has lived on Garland Drive for over 30 years and she doesn't think it is right the way in which things are being done. If she wanted to live in Niles, she would have bought a house in Niles 30 years ago.

Chuck Johnstone: 145 Sheridan Ave. Mr. Johnstone wanted to know what the definition of an abandoned house is and what can be done about it. President Marino said he didn't know and asked for more information. Mr. Johnstone said he has abandoned homes in his neighborhood that have been vacant for years. This lowers his property value. He has contacted Mr. Crowley in the past and he comes out but nothing ever gets done. He hears that it takes time to go through the courts and takes time for this and that. Mr. Johnstone doesn't understand how long this takes to go through the court system.

Mr. Johnstone stated there is a house on Sayers Avenue that has a pillow stuck in the front window on the house. That house is owned by someone who works for the city. He is very frustrated because he comes back here time and time again and nothing is done about it. He asked how long people get to keep a permit on a house because there are houses with permit signs up and do nothing to fix the house.

President Marino asked Mr. Johnstone if he is available in the afternoons for a meeting about this. Mr. Johnstone said he is because he is retired. President Marino would like to have a meeting with Mr. Johnstone, the Council Member of his ward, Mayor and the administration. President Marino is familiar with the one home they had issues with years ago. He would like everyone to get together to get him answers and solutions because he does not know what the answers are. Mr. Johnstone doesn't know why if you keep bringing things to people's attention that nothing happens. Mr. Johnstone appreciates that and would love to have the meeting.

Mr. Johnstone understands that Mr. Crowley is one man doing this job. He doesn't understand why council doesn't drive through their ward and find these issues and bring them up to Mr. Crowley. Our city in certain areas is really bad. President Marino asked Mr. Pezzano if he had any comments. Mr. Pezzano said if Mr. Johnstone has those addresses, to give those addresses to Mr. Crowley. President Marino said he would rather get everyone in a room together instead of having this conversation here. Mr. Cantola will be coordinating this meeting.

Mr. Sollitto wanted to know why the Law Director could not answer these questions right now. Law Director Zuzolo said he doesn't believe we have a specific definition about vacant homes. He knows the issue is going into Common Pleas Court and getting injunctions. Mr. Johnstone said he has read it is 90 days and then you have to pay a fee. President Marino interjected and again reiterated that they need to have a meeting to get these answers.

Ms. Smith stated that all of council should be involved because they all have these issues. President Marino agreed and said that is why they need to have a meeting. Mr. Sollitto said he finds it concerning that Mr. Crowley has been contacted and nothing is done. He will need to be more proactive to address their concerns and to be out and finding these issues out himself. Mayor Mientkiewicz stated that Mr. Crowley is out on a daily basis on the road, as is Mr. Pezzano. If a complaint is received, they are sent immediately to the Housing/Zoning department. The problem is when it is going through the courts. A homeowner/ property owner does not show up, the case is dismissed, and we have to start at square one in rebuilding that case all over.

Mayor Mientkiewicz said they are trying to be more proactive with their demolition program. There is a vacant property registry that they are adding properties to all of the time. A home gets put on this list if there are code violations and fees are assessed. But the housing department is addressing these concerns on a daily basis. Mr. Sollitto thanked the Mayor for clearing up a lot of things, he just thinks there needs to be better communication.

Dee Seeban: 611 Warren Ave. Mrs. Seeban asked who gets billed for water from a water break. Mr. Catanzarite explained it goes to the city's lost water. Water that comes into the system before it gets to a house is lost water. Mrs. Seeban thanked him. Mr. Cantola asked if this is tracked monthly or quarterly and shared with Council. President Marino said in the past he has asked for this in comparison to what the billing office is charging and what we pay to MVSD. He would like to see if our losses are within industry standards. They were able to provide him with that. They have also given him this number for electric also.

Tina Collins: 79 Royal Mall. Ms. Collins wants to know who approves the work for the inmates. Mayor Mientkiewicz stated there was a list of work submitted to the inmate's supervisors. The administration approves the work on that list. Ms. Collins thought the work they were doing was seasonal. Mayor Mientkiewicz said it is not seasonal. Certain jobs that they would be doing are seasonal. Ms. Collins asked if there was a 2020 contract with the inmates and Mayor Mientkiewicz said there was a letter of support that was sent in. It is not a contract.

Ms. Collins wanted to know why the inmates were being used in Sunny Estates when there are other wards and areas that need cleaned up. Mayor Mientkiewicz said if she was referring to the inmates cleaning out catch basins, that is a job that they have been doing since summer throughout the entire city. They have a map of the city and wards and when there is no work to be done in the park and cemetery, they were to clean out catch basins to reduce flooding in the city. Ms. Collins said she saw them in Sunny Estates the other day and if she wasn't mistaken Mr. Crowley has relatives there, Mr. Flarey lives there. President Marino stated that he also lives there. Ms. Collins wanted to know if we were using the inmates over the summer to cut lawns still. Mayor Mientkiewicz explained they do not have the equipment to cut lawns. They clean vacant properties. This was stated from day one. They do not have the equipment to cut lawns. The city would have provide them with equipment and we do not have extra equipment to give them.

Ms. Collins thought they were supposed to and clean up areas. Mr. Sollitto said the intent was to go high grass areas and clean out bottles and garbage so that the city could go in with a brush hog or mower to cut the area. There seemed to be a misunderstanding. Mr. Sollitto's part was to get the workers to them. There wasn't a contract. He didn't have a roll other than getting the services to the city to help with the cleanup. President Marino informed Ms. Collins that her time was up. Ms. Collins asked for more time.

It was moved by Cantola, seconded by Marchese to grant Ms. Collins an additional three minutes of time.

Motion carried.

Ms. Collins just wanted to finish up and give Ms. Marchese her time to talk. This was about all she had and wanted to let Ms. Marchese speak. Ms. Cantola said what he remembers is that this was all about blight. It was not about picking up sticks around the sewers and go to the better neighborhoods, it was all about taking care of blight in the city. Mayor Mientkiewicz reminded everyone that this is free help. Mr. Cantola agreed but it shouldn't be used where it was. It is a very very bad image that we are touching on and it is very frustrating because they get the phone calls and don't have the answers.

Mr. Cantola said he doesn't think the guys were ever on the southside and Mayor Mientkiewicz said they certainly have. They have been over the city. Mr. Cantola says the perception is that the city is picking and choosing. Mayor Mientkiewicz said that is not true. President Marino said he was called yesterday about this and he knows there were meetings yesterday to discuss solutions. President Marino deferred to Mr. Sollitto.

Mr. Sollitto explained that he was called by the union about the situation with the inmates doing bargaining union work. Mr. Sollitto said that was not the intent. Regardless of the reality, if they

are seen in the best neighborhood, they are saying there is a lot of city that needs done and when they are seen up there people feel like they are being utilized for personal favors. Even if that isn't what's happening. That is the perception. Mayor Mientkiewicz again said they have been working all over. And if this is going to be an issue, he will pull the plug on the whole thing.

Mr. Sollitto said they are meeting on the 18th with the state about how to use them. If the Mayor wants to threaten to pull the program, that is fine. He is trying to help the city. Mr. Sollitto thinks they can be used the right way but it has to be structured. President Marino stated there was a meeting yesterday and there are solutions moving forward. The solution is they will follow a process moving forward and get approval on where they will go.

Ms. Marchese interjected and wanted to go back. When this started, she had grass on Scott street that was so high. The sheriff department always took care of this. Ms. Marchese said she doesn't care where anyone lives because everyone pays taxes. It was supposed to be there for the summer and early fall. It wasn't supposed to continue after that until it went for review in 2020. Mayor Mientkiewicz said that was not true. Ms. Marchese was upset that they were in that area because she was in areas near school bus stops that need attention. Mayor Mientkiewicz asked who cleaned the catch basins and Ms. Marchese said she assumed city workers. Mayor Mientkiewicz said when he contacted her about this, he told her the inmates were cleaning them and he would send them over there. They are the ones who cleaned the catch basins in the fall.

President Marino asked Law Director Zuzolo what council committee this falls under and Law Director Zuzolo said Public Grounds. President Marino suggested an express meeting to be held for this topic. As a result of this meeting, they decide on what the rules will be and how to use them. This is not the appropriate forum to be having this conversation and bickering back and forth. He is not familiar with any of this. Mr. Sollitto said there is a Public Grounds meeting on Tuesday, February 11th and he will add this to the agenda. Ms. Marchese again stated we should not be focusing on where anyone lives. Mr. Sollitto said he doesn't believe anyone is attacking anyone. There seems to be some confusion.

Barry Steffey: 3636 Boston Ave. Howland. Mr. Steffey is here to reinforce his feelings on not wanting to be annexed. Mr. Steffey said the people here tonight have just solidified their reasons for wanting to stay in their township. He said they can't run the city they have and now they want to be a sponge and soak up Weathersfield and Howland. President Marino said he respects Mr. Steffey but he also thinks that deliberating public interests in public is a healthy process. Some might think it is arguing. Others might infer it as government working and residents expressing concerns. The administration and council will deliberate and do their work and send it to council and hopefully we end up with a better city. We will agree to disagree but never be disagreeable.

Mr. Steffey said he is friends with so many people in this room. And as he said before, when he and wife bought a house years ago they looked everywhere. They chose Howland because that is where they wanted to live.

Aimee Cantola: 208 Vienna Ave. Mrs. Cantola has a suggestion about the dumpster in the alley way when you drive to the city building to drop off your payment. That dumpster is full of boxes

and a lot of the time they are not broken down and just stacked up. She wants to know if the city would consider recycling those. She thinks that is something they should look into.

Second, Mrs. Cantola wants to know if there is a budget or a set amount of money that we are going to spend on legal fees for the annexation. President Marino said they would have to go to the administration, finance chairman and auditor for that. Appropriations work through the finance committee. She was just curious on how much they city was going to pay in legal fees. President Marino said that might come up in a finance meeting.

George Kuriatnyk: 52 Morningside. Mr. Kuriatnyk said he has been to every meeting about these prisoners. They quit doing and Mr. Sollitto got them back. They were not supposed to do any basic cleaning because the city filed a grievance and by the Mayor saying that they just won their grievance. Ms. Collins asked who told the prisoners to go there and she never got a direct answer. Who is the supervisor? They are skirting around the answer. He has been to every meeting and there was never anything about them working through the winter and cleaning catch basins. The union would not allow that.

Mr. Kuriatnyk said he can give Mr. Johnstone his answer on abandoned homes. He said it is never going to stop because our ordinances are too weak. City officials and employees probably own half of the rentals here so they aren't going to go after the landlords. Instead of hiring an HR department, the city should have hired a secretary for housing to do the reports. He doesn't know why people get 30 days with these abandoned houses. It should be three days. You give them 30 days, on day 29 they come in and fix it and then in a couple of months the same thing happens. It is never going to change until the housing department and council get together and say let's fix this. It isn't the court's fault, it is the ordinances.

Mr. Kuriatnyk stated he has been inside houses that look nice from the outside and then have buckets under the sink because the landlord won't fix it. If they call the landlord, they are told to move out and some people can't do that. They are stuck. They can't come up with the money to leave. Mr. Kuriatnyk mentioned a home on Mason that has new tenants every months. There is a house on Robbins Ave. that has a tarp which has been like that for years. He was told permits only last 6 months. He doesn't get it. Council has to get together on the houses. Mr. Kuriatnyk closed with he believes the prisoners were not used right and it was abused.

COUNCIL COMMITTEE REPORTS

None

President Marino reminded council to submit their meeting minutes in an appropriate time frame.

ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS

(Legislation began at 48:15 into recording)

ORDINANCE NO. ____ (Draft No. 19-20)

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE APPROPRIATION AND PAYMENT OF FUNDS FROM THE UNAPPROPRIATED WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT DESIGN AND IMPROVEMENT FUND TO THE WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT DESIGN AND IMPROVEMENT FUND NUMBER 403-4848-53980 AND, DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

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

YEAS: 7 NAYS: 0

Rules are suspended.

It was moved by Cantola, seconded by Lastic to adopt this Draft No. 19-20.

YEAS: 7 NAYS: 0

This Draft No. 19- 20 has been adopted on the 5th day of February 2020.

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

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE VACATION A PORTION OF LONG ALLEY

It was moved by Marchese, seconded by Sollitto to refer this Draft No. 20-20 to the planning commission.

YEAS: 7 NAYS: 0

This Draft No. 20- 20 has been referred to the planning commission on the 5th day of February 2020.

ORDINANCE NO. _____ (Draft No. 21-20)

AN ORDINANCE APPROVING A THEN AND NOW PAYMENT REQUEST AUTHORIZING THE AUDITOR TO MAKE PAYMENT TO THE TREASURER OF THE STATE OF OHIO IN THE AMOUNT OF FIVE THOUSAND TWO HUNDRED AND 00/100 DOLLARS (\$5200.00) FOR THE ANNUAL DISCHARGE FEES FOR THE OHIO EPA FROM THE SEWER FUND 503 AND, DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

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

YEAS: 7 NAYS: 0

Rules are suspended.

It was moved by Cantola, seconded by Lastic to adopt this Draft No. 21-20.

YEAS: 7 NAYS: 0

This Draft No. 21- 20 has been adopted on the 5th day of February 2020.

ORDINANCE NO. _____ (Draft No. 22-20)

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING MONTHLY CASH TRANSFERS; AND, DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

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

YEAS: 7 NAYS: 0

Rules are suspended.

It was moved by Lastic, seconded by Smith to adopt this Draft No. 22-20.

YEAS: 7 NAYS: 0

This Draft No. 22- 20 has been adopted on the 5th day of February 2020.

ORDINANCE NO. ____ (Draft No. 23-20)

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE APPROPRIATION FROM UNAPPROPRIATED FEMA FUND 229 TO FEMA TRANSFER ACCOUNT 229-2929-59000 IN THE AMOUNT OF THIRTY THOUSAND AND 00/100 (\$30,000.00) AND ALSO AUTHORIZING FEMA FUND 229 REPAYMENT OF CASH ADVANCE COMPLETED IN DECEMBER 2019 BACK TO THE GENERAL FUND 101. FROM FEMA TRANSFER ACCOUNT 229-2929-59000 IN THE AMOUNT OF THIRTY THOUSAND AND 00/100 (\$30,000.00), DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

It was moved by Cantola, seconded by Smith 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. 23-20.

YEAS: 7 NAYS: 0

This Draft No. 23- 20 has been adopted on the 5th day of February 2020.

ORDINANCE NO. ____ (Draft No. 24-20)

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING AN APPROPRIATION OF TWELVE THOUSAND EIGHT HUNDRED NINETY THREE AND 57/100 (\$12,893.57) FROM THE UNAPPROPRIATED PARK FUND TO THE PARK BUILDING REPAIRS FUND 221-2121-53650, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

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

Mr. Cantola wanted to inform the residents that this is a park claim. It is insurance money for the concession stand roof. This is not general fund money. It is going into the general fund and then going back to repair the roof. Auditor Merlo clarified that the money is not going into the general fund. It went to the park fund.

YEAS: 7 NAYS: 0

Rules are suspended.

It was moved by Marchese, seconded by Cantola to adopt this Draft No. 24-20.

YEAS: 7 NAYS: 0

This Draft No. 24- 20 has been adopted on the 5th day of February 2020.

RESOLUTION NO. _____(Draft No. 25-20)

A RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF CADENCE CARE NETWORK

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

YEAS: 6 NAYS: 0 ABSTAIN: 1 (Cantola)

Rules are suspended.

It was moved by Marchese, seconded by McNaughton to adopt this Draft No. 25-20.

YEAS: 6 NAYS: 0 ABSTAIN: 1 (Cantola)

This Draft No. 25- 20 has been adopted on the 5th day of February 2020.

RESOLUTION NO. _____(Draft No. 26-20)

A RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF MAHONING VALLEY SCRAPPERS

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

Mr. Profato wanted to comment on this piece of legislation. 20 years ago, he was fortune enough to be sitting in the same chair. It is more than just a baseball team, it is lifestyle here. It has brought a lot of revenue into the city. It is important that the whole state rallies around this. Mr. Profato also pointed out that the City of Niles named the Scrappers. There was a contest to name

the team and he worked very closely with Congressman Traficant on this. This city has pride in sports and he is asking everyone to help support this.

YEAS: 7 NAYS: 0

Rules are suspended.

It was moved by Cantola, seconded by Lastic to adopt this Draft No. 26-20.

YEAS: 7 NAYS: 0

This Draft No. 26- 20 has been adopted on the 5th day of February 2020.

ORDINANCE NO. _____(Draft No. 27-20)

AN ORDINANCE REJECTING ALL BIDS FOR THE EXHAUST REMOVAL SYSTEM DUE TO NONCOMPLIANCE WITH BID REQUIREMENTS AND AUTHORIZING THE FIRE CHIEF TO ADVERTISE FOR BIDS FOR EXHAUST REMOVAL SYSTEM; AND, DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

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

Ms. Marchese explained that the bids that were received were not in compliance with Ohio Revised Code so they have to be put out for bid again.

YEAS: 7 NAYS: 0

Rules are suspended.

It was moved by Marchese, seconded by Lastic to adopt this Draft No. 27-20.

YEAS: 7 NAYS: 0

This Draft No. 27- 20 has been adopted on the 5th day of February 2020.

MISCELLANEOUS REMARKS

(Miscellaneous remarks began at 1:01:29 into recording)

President Marino wanted to reiterate the importance of public dialogue in a respectful manner. Some people think public comments are bothersome or a nuisance. He does not. President Marino thinks it is important for the citizens to have the opportunity to address their elected officials in a respectful manner and get answers to questions. He thinks the city only gets better and stronger with those. He is very comfortable with tonight's meeting. He thinks it's healthy. He wishes Mr. Steffey was still here because he has nothing but respect for him. We are all in this for the public good. He thinks these things can get heated at time but it is important that we shine the light of day on things and discuss them respectfully.

Mayor Mientkiewicz commented on the two pieces of legislation for Cadence Care and the Mahoning Valley Scrappers. He appreciates everyone jumping on board with that. Cadence Care Network (formally Homes for Kids) is going to relocate their administration offices to downtown on Main Street. This is a project that they are seeking grants from State Legislatures for and needed the support of the city. This is just the beginning of the revitalization of downtown.

Mayor Mientkiewicz wanted to recognize the General Manager from the Scrappers, Jordan Taylor, who was in the audience this evening to accept the resolution of support for the Scrappers. Mayor Mientkiewicz echoed all of the comments that Mr. Profato said earlier. He has been working hand and hand with Mr. Taylor on reaching out to get the support they need to keep the Scrappers.

It was moved by Marchese, seconded by Cantola to allow Mr. Taylor to speak.
Motion carried.

Mr. Taylor wanted to say that he really appreciated the support from the city. He knows there is a lot of information out there and he could speak for hours on this. Mr. Taylor has worked for the Scrappers for almost 20 years. He started off at entry level and worked his way up to General Manager. His role is to handle the day to day operations and manages the player development contract for the Cleveland Indians. This is going to be a long process but he feels good where it is right now because of all of the support they have received.

Mr. Taylor did want everyone to know that on February 19, 2020 they are having a community rally at the Eastwood Mall for the Scrappers. Mr. Cantola told Mr. Taylor if there is anything else they need to please let council know and they will lend their support.

Mr. Flarey commented on the water bills. They are playing catch up with the new meters. Some of the new meters have connection issues or wiring issues. They aren't reading the way they should be and that's why they are seeing estimated bills. The billing office is watching this and contacting the customers to let them know there is a misread so they can send out the customer service representative to get the issue fixed. This is creating a lot of headaches and the customer service rep is busy every day.

Mr. Flarey asked if someone notices an estimate on their bill to please notify the city and the billing office so this can be addressed. Any questions please call or come to the billing office or stop and see him.

Mr. Pezzano wanted it on the record that when he or Mr. Crowley receives calls, they address them in a timely manner. If anyone from the city or council would like to see their records or call and speak to them, they can. He knows Mr. Crowley was getting beat up a little bit but he does answer his calls timely.

Mr. McNaughton commended the Niles Schools, especially the basketball team, everyone who was at Fairhaven yesterday. Mr. McNaughton stated that we have some amazing young people in this city and he feels great about our future. We have awesome kids in our schools and that event was spectacular. He just wanted to thank everyone involved.

Mr. Cantola clarified that he could not vote on the Cadence Care legislation. It is a great group and he supports it 110% but he could not vote since he does business with them. He is proud to be a part of that legislation.

Mr. Cantola also informed everyone after comments, council will be going into executive session pursuant to ORC 121.22 G3, pending ligation. There will not be any further action.

Mr. Sollitto said when you look around the community and you see the other problems going on with the police and fire, he wants to make sure we give a shot out to them. He thinks we have the best police and fire, especially led by our chiefs. He doesn't want us to lose sight as to how lucky we are to have the teams that we do have.

Mr. Sollitto piggybacked on what President Marino said about open communication. If you have this many elected officials, appointed officials, and council and no one every debates everything, then there is probably something wrong. Everyone has their own mind. You can't agree on everything. Being proactive and transparent and showing people that you just don't go and sit behind a room and make deals. He thinks it is good that everyone sees it doesn't always go smooth but the goal is to get to where we need to be.


It was moved by Cantola, seconded by Profato to adjourn into executive session pursuant to ORC 121.22 G3, pending ligation.

YEAS: 7 NAYS: 0

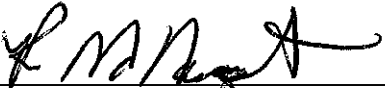
Council adjourned into executive session at 7:15 P.M.
Council reconvened from executive session at 8:13 P.M.

ADJOURN

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



Nicole Bacak, Clerk of Council



Ryan McNaughton, President of Council- Pro Tem