

COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
August 17, 2022

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

Niles City Council held its regular meeting on August 17, 2022, at 6:00 p.m. at the Niles Senior Center in Niles, Ohio.

President Marino wanted to observe a moment of silence and remembrance for Mr. Depasquale, since this was the first regularly scheduled council meeting since his passing.

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

Julian- P, Lastic-P, Devorich-P, Marchese-P, Smith- P, Sollitto-P, Marino-P

It was moved Marchese, seconded by Smith to accept the minutes from the July 6th Public hearing meeting and place them on file.
Motion carried.

It was moved Smith, seconded by Sollitto to accept the minutes from the July 6th meeting and place them on file.
Motion carried.

It was moved Sollitto, seconded by Julian to accept the minutes from the August 1st special meeting and place them on file.
Motion carried.

REPORTS AND COMMUNICATIONS

FROM- Treasurer's Office

Tax Revenue update 2022- first 8 months

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

Motion Carried.

FROM- Ohio Division of Liquor Control

Notice to Legislative Authority- King Cajun Seafood LLC

It was moved by Marchese, seconded by Julian to refer to the Police Chief and Safety Director for their report and recommendation.

Motion Carried.

FROM- Planning and Permitting Department

Letter from the Planning Commission regarding petition to amend the zoning map for 836 Youngstown Warre Rd.

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

Motion Carried.

FROM- Auditor's Office

Statement of cash from revenue and expense- June 2022

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

Motion Carried.

FROM- Auditor's Office

Check report by check number- June 2022

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

Motion Carried.

FROM- Ms. Kim Dawkins

Email/Letter addressed to President Marino

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

Motion Carried.

FROM- Mr. David DeChristofaro

Email/Letter addressed to President Marino

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

Motion Carried.

MEMBERS OF THE AUDIENCE TO ADDRESS COUNCIL

(Public comments began at 4:34 into recording)

Judee March: Ms. March wanted to thank everyone who attended the services for Mr. Depasquale. Mr. Depasquale's experience, knowledge, and love for the residents of this town, they will never experience that again in their lifetime. He always said they are here to provide services to the residents, not a servant to one person. Whoever is going to fill that seat, has big shoes to fill. Every single council member promised when they campaigned that they would take care of the residents. She asked that they be people of their word and take care of the residents.

She goes through the mayor's Facebook page and sees the posts. She thanked Mr. Sollitto for Kennedy Park because now they have somewhere to go. She saw pictures of the mayor throwing out the first pitch. Her cousin/her best friend/her brother and Mr. Depasquale and his family didn't get one sentence on his page. It is very sad and hurtful.

James Sheely: Mr. Sheely said it is his personal opinion that we live in the greatest country in the world. He loves this country, and this country stands for freedom, and we are losing it. It disturbs

him that the city building is locked up the way it is. He can go to the bank, and grocery store with no problems. He can go and pay his taxes and all he has to do is go through a metal detector. He doesn't know why they can't walk into the city building that belongs to them. It is we the people, not we the governing body. Their tax dollars pay for that building and paid for the renovations. They can agree to disagree, but the building belongs to the people, and it should be fully opened. He is sorry is he is offending anyone, and he respects them all for the public service that they do. However, the building belongs to the people of the community, and they demand that it be open.

Mrs. Devorich asked Mayor Mientkiewicz how the administration and staff get into the building. He said they will be using a key fob system when the door locks are complete. Right now, they are coming in at certain times of the day when the doors are accessible, and they staff have keys. Mrs. Devorich said as council members she thinks they should have the same access to the building. They should not have to ring buzzers to enter the building. They should be able to enter it like the staff does. Mayor Mientkiewicz again stated that the building is open via the west entrance. He said they can certainly look into getting her a key fob. It can be a discussion to get council a discussion. President Marino said he would like to be mindful to the group that is here, and they can continue this discussion during council remarks.

Traci Kempe: Mrs. Kempe is at council this evening to represent the Niles teachers. She wanted to thank Mayor Mientkiewicz, Mr. Julian, Ms. Marchese, and Mr. Sollitto for their support Monday evening at the Board of Education meeting. She thanked Mr. Sollitto for speaking so kindly on their behalf that evening. Secondly, if council hasn't received one, they will be getting a press release titled "Niles School Board has money for Huffmasters, but not teachers." Mrs. Kempe read the opening sentence to this press release. (Press release is on file) Mrs. Kempe said the residents do not want this company in their town and they want their teachers.

Mr. Sollitto wanted to make a quick comment. He doesn't believe you can cut from security in the police department. He has been involved with the prisons for 30 years and you can argue that it is every bit of dangerous going in as a teacher. Students are coming in with weapons whereas they cannot come into prison with a gun. It is absolutely heart wrenching to see what is going on. He hopes that everyone stands firm because he has direct representation for over 12,000 people and they will be standing with them.

David DeChristofaro: Mr. DeChristofaro is a resident of Shadowridge and is also the property manager representing 89 homes. He is here to speak again about the rezoning petition. He said while some people might not have liked that so many residents came out to the public hearing to object to the rezoning, sometimes these objections can lead to better solutions for both the applicant and the residents. He believes that is what happened here.

At the last meeting, he objected and expressed concerns over 3 major items. The first concern was that the B1 zoning was encroaching to close to their property. Second, the commercial use would become visible from their property. And lastly, flooding of their property could become an issue again if storm water management is not properly addressed.

The first concern was addressed at the last meeting when they learned that the commercial zoning would not be about their property but would be located 236 feet away from it. The second concern about visibility was worked out between Goldstein's attorney, Mr. Ross, himself, their attorney, Mr. Neuman, and the approval of their board of trustees. Mr. DeChristofaro did pass out a sketch showing what the agreement was. They agreed to a 150-foot-wide preservation area against their property, to screen Shadowridge's property from their use. This is in addition to the tree buffer already in the zoning rules. In exchange, Shadowridge agreed not to oppose Goldstein's request for a variance to locate a 50-foot-wide buffer he just described on the residential side of the zoning line instead of the commercial side.

Additional, Shadowridge agreed to consent to a request by Goldstein's for a variance to reduce the required buffer on the sides of their property from 50 feet wide to 10 feet wide since it has no direct impact on them. (This has not been presented yet). As a result of these discussions, Shadowridge has gained an additional 100 feet of permanently protected tree buffers adjacent to their property. Goldstein's is gaining an additional 40-50 feet of usable property in the back of the property as a result of the reduction of some of the buffer. He believes this is a win win for everyone. This is what can happen when you allow for public input.

For their third concern with flooding, they can only hope that the City of Niles enforces its storm water mandates for this property. In conclusion, as it relates to the zoning request from Goldstein's that may be before council this evening, Shadowridge now consents to the recommendations made by the planning commission for the rezoning of the Goldstein's property. Finally, he would like to thank council for the opportunity to work this out.

Larry Carbone: Mr. Carbone said he might be jeopardizing a lawsuit but the last thing he would ever want to do is sue the city he grew up in and has always done business in. Not knowing the point of contention between the mayor and city council about the city building not being open, he had no idea because he is not involved in city politics.

Mr. Carbone stated he was working for a company called OTCO and they were hired by the city to put the water department in compliance with the EPA. He was doing surveys and getting paid for it and completed about 70% of the surveys. On June 30th, he posted on Niles Nation (which he was previously kicked off of this site for defending the water department) complaining about the access to the building. He thought it was an innocent complaint. The next day at noon, he received a call from OTCO saying that the director sent an email at the request of the mayor for him to not complete anymore surveys for the city, all because of this post.

All Mr. Carbone wants is to be back on the survey program and wants to keep working for the city. He doesn't really need the work. But to cut him off from the work because of that. Mr. Sollitto clarified that he is saying that he was let go due to a Facebook post. Mr. Carbone said yes. He got a call from his employer, since he is a subcontractor for the city, that he is no longer allowed to do work for the city. He was told that it was because the program was ending, but later on OTCO told him that they just got 90 surveys from the city, and he has no chance to do them. This is his reputation and his ability to make money in his hometown. Mr. Sollitto asked Mayor Mientkiewicz what can Mr. Carbone do to fix this and Mayor Mientkiewicz said he works for OTCO and they have the right to pick and choose who they subcontract.

Mr. Carbone said OTCO told him there was an email from the director that the mayor said he wasn't allowed to do the work. It was not OTCO's decision. It was the mayor's decision. Mr. Sollitto asked if he has the email and Mr. Carbone said he does not. They told him they believe he has to file a public information act. But he can get it, but then he will have to get an attorney and he doesn't want to do that. But the mayor knows.

Tina Collins: Ms. Collins told council they are in those seats today because all the people behind her voted for them. Some of them are here for the right reasons, and some are here for the wrong reasons. Ms. Collins said she was at a function and stood behind a council member and overheard them talking about how they were going to vote. She said they stated they were going to vote however Steve wants me to vote. All of the stabbing behind each other's backs and tricks, it needs to stop. They should be working together.

Ms. Collins thanked Mr. Sollitto for the bathrooms. She said Mayor Mientkiewicz received emails about the bathrooms and one of the bathrooms moved because it was in someone's backyard. However, they can't get the city building open. She wants to know what he is scared of. If he wants security, council will get him security. She said they are tired of the lies and being brushed off.

Dee Sebben: Mrs. Sebben wanted to know why the electric bill is over 30 days. Her bill was for 38 days. Mayor Mientkiewicz said the range is usually anywhere from 25-35 days. Mrs. Sebben remembers when the mayor was on council, and it was unacceptable for the bills to be past 30 days. Mrs. Sebben said they are not averaging out and she wants to bring them down and show the mayor. He said absolutely for her to make an appointment and come down to the building.

Mrs. Sebben said she spoke to employees in McDonald about their splash pad and it uses 35,000 gallons of water a day. She wants to know who is paying for it. President Marino said all of us are. Mrs. Sebben said that is not fair to any of them. President Marino said they have to ask themselves that because it is a quality-of-life issues. It is for the quality of life for their kids, and his grandson to be able to go to the park to able to enjoy that. They all need to reflect on that. He is okay with it. If it is going to help give a place to give kids to go and enjoy themselves. It is safe and a proper environment. She is all for the splash pad, but it will not benefit her grandchildren. Her grandkids are 20 and 17. She wants to know what they have for the older kids to do. There is nothing for teenagers to do.

Next, over by the Niles convenient it is a traffic jam. There are no signs that say roads closed or anything. She wants to know why there aren't any road closed signs out. From Farmer's National Bank all the way up Vienna Rd, traffic was backed up. She can see the road is being resurfaced and she saw the mayor's press release on it but there are no signs. Mayor Mientkiewicz said that is an outside company this work. The city crews are not involved in this project. He will pass this information on to them.

Mrs. Sebben said she may have bumped heads with Mr. Depasquale, but he ended up being her friend. He is one man that will be missed. There are big shoes to fill.

COUNCIL COMMITTEE REPORTS

Special meeting minutes on 6/8/2022

It was moved by Julian, seconded by Lastic to accept, and place on file.
Motion carried.

ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTION
(Legislation began at 33:03 into recording)

Ms. Marchese wanted to add amended draft no 131-22 to agenda, which was sponsored as council as a whole.

It was moved by Marchese, seconded by Julian to add this draft to the agenda as item 19.
Motion carried. It was noted that the vote was unanimous.

The following drafts will be part of the consent agenda and passed together with suspension of three readings and as an emergency

Draft No. 133-22

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

Draft No. 134-22

**AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE APPROPRIATION OF FUNDS FROM
THE UNAPPROPRIATED LIGHT FUND 502 TO THE ACCOUNTS LISTED
BELOW AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY**

Draft No. 135-22

**AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE APPROPRIATION OF FUNDS FROM
THE UNAPPROPRIATED VARIOUS FUNDS TO THE ACCOUNTS LISTED
BELOW AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY**

Draft No. 136-22

**AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE APPROPRIATION OF FUNDS FROM
THE UNAPPROPRIATED VARIOUS FUNDS TO THE ACCOUNTS LISTED
BELOW AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY**

Draft No. 137-22

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE APPROPRIATION OF FUNDS FROM THE UNAPPROPRIATED PARK FUND 221 TO THE ACCOUNT LISTED BELOW AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

Draft No. 138-22

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE APPROPRIATION OF FUNDS FROM THE UNAPPROPRIATED GENERAL FUND 101 TO THE ACCOUNT LISTED BELOW AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

Draft No. 139-22

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO PREPARE AND SUBMIT AN APPLICATION TO PARTICIPATE IN THE OHIO PUBLIC WORKS COMMISSION STATE CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT AND/OR LOCAL TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM(S) AND TO EXECUTE CONTRACT AS REQUIRED; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

Draft No. 140-22

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO PREPARE AND SUBMIT AN APPLICATION TO PARTICIPATE IN THE OHIO PUBLIC WORKS COMMISSION STATE CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT AND/OR LOCAL TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM(S) AND TO EXECUTE CONTRACT AS REQUIRED; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

Draft No. 141-22

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR OR SERVICE DIRECTOR TO PREPARE AND SUBMIT AN APPLICATION AND ENTER INTO AGREEMENTS WITH THE APPALACHIAN REGIONAL COMMISSION TO BECOME ELIGIBLE FOR FUNDING ASSISTANCE FOR A WATER LINE REPLACEMENT AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

Draft No. 142-22

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF AN AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE NILES BOARD OF EDUCATION AND THE CITY TO UTILIZE TWO CITY POLICE OFFICERS AS SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICERS; AND, DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

Draft No. 143-22

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE NO. 62-22, KNOWN AS THE AUTHORIZED STRENGTH ORDINANCE, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

Draft No. 144-22

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE SERVICE DIRECTOR TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH MS CONSULTANTS, INC., FOR THE CITY OF NILES COMPREHENSIVE PLAN AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

Draft No. 146-22

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE SERVICE DIRECTOR TO DIRECT HIRE BURGESS & NIPLE, FOR THE PURPOSE OF DESIGN AND ENGINEERING FOR DRAGON DRIVE; AUTHORIZING THE SERVICE DIRECTOR TO ADVERTISE FOR BIDS AND, DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

Draft No. 148-22

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING REIMBURSEMENT TO J. HERBERT CONSTRUCTION COMPANY, INC. FOR EXPENSES RELATED TO THE PERMITS FOR THE NILES MUNICIPAL STORAGE BUILDING AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

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

Ms. Smith wanted the audience to know that all of these items were discussed at several meetings including the finance meeting. There were a lot of discussion on these items.

YEAS: 6 NAYS: 0

Rules are suspended.

It was moved by Lastic, seconded by Devorich to adopt these Draft Nos 133-22 through 144-22, 146-22 and 148-22.

YEAS: 6 NAYS: 0

These Draft Nos. 133-22 through 144-22, 146-22, and 148-22 have been adopted on the 17th day of August 2022.

ORDINANCE NO. _____(Draft No. 128-22)

CREATING RESIDENTIAL TAX INCREMENT FINANCING INCENTIVE DISTRICTS ENCOMPASSING CERTAIN PARCELS OF REAL PROPERTY; DECLARING IMPROVEMENTS TO THE PARCELS WITHIN THE INCENTIVE DISTRICTS TO BE A PUBLIC PURPOSE AND EXEMPT FROM REAL PROPERTY TAXATION; REQUIRING THE OWNERS OF THOSE PARCELS TO MAKE SERVICE PAYMENTS IN LIEU OF TAXES; ESTABLISHING A MUNICIPAL PUBLIC IMPROVEMENT TAX INCREMENT EQUIVALENT FUND FOR THE DEPOSIT OF THOSE SERVICE PAYMENTS; SPECIFYING THE PUBLIC INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENTS TO BE MADE THAT DIRECTLY BENEFIT OR SERVE PARCELS IN THE INCENTIVE DISTRICTS; APPROVING AND AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF A TAX INCREMENT FINANCING AGREEMENT; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

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

YEAS: 6 NAYS: 0

Rules are suspended.

It was moved by Julian, seconded by Smith to adopt this Draft No. 128-22.

YEAS: 6 NAYS: 0

This Draft No. 128-22 has been adopted on the 17th day of August 2022.

Mr. Sollitto stated he just received a message that there are concerns on Draft No. 128-22. President Marino told him it has already been passed.

ORDINANCE NO. _____(Draft No. 130-22)

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING NILES CODIFIED ORDINANCE 1519.04 TO PERMIT POSSESSION AND USE OF CONSUMER GRADE FIREWORKS ON CERTAIN DATES

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

YEAS: 6 NAYS: 0

Rules are suspended.

It was moved by Marchese, seconded by Smith to adopt this Draft No. 130-22.

YEAS: 6 NAYS: 0

This Draft No. 130-22 has been adopted on the 17th day of August 2022.

ORDINANCE NO. ____ (Draft No. 145-22)

AN ORDINANCE ACCEPTING PROPERTY FROM THE NILES SCOPE SENIOR CENTER, AUTHORIZING THE CITY OF NILES TO DISPOSE OF THE OBSOLETE PROPERTY ON GOV DEALS; AND, DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

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

YEAS: 6 NAYS: 0

Rules are suspended.

It was moved by Julian, seconded by Smith to adopt this Draft No. 145-22.

YEAS: 6 NAYS: 0

This Draft No. 145-22 has been adopted on the 17th day of August 2022.

Law Director Zuzolo wanted to clarify the sponsorship on Draft No. 147-22. He said it was sponsored by Sollitto, Devorich, Depasquale and the rest of the council members. When the names were transferred to the agenda, Mr. Sollitto's name was left off, but his name is on the legislation for sponsorship. President Marino wanted the record to reflect that the agenda should have had Mr. Sollitto's name on the agenda.

RESOLUTION NO. ____ (Draft No. 147-22)

A RESOLUTION COMMENDING PLANET FITNESS FOR ITS FREE MEMBERSHIP SUMMER FITNESS PROGRAM FOR CITY OF NILES YOUTH

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

Mr. Sollitto wanted to explain this to everyone. Planet Fitness, unlike the school systems, care about the kids. Once they got out of school in June and through August, all kids ages 13-17 received a free membership. This is in his ward and since it is public grounds, he felt they needed to be recognized. It is a pretty wonderful thing they did to allow them to attend for free.

YEAS: 6 NAYS: 0

Rules are suspended.

It was moved by Sollitto, seconded by Julian to adopt this Draft No. 147-22.

YEAS: 6 NAYS: 0

This Draft No. 147-22 has been adopted on the 17th day of August 2022.

ORDINANCE NO. _____(Draft No. 131-22)

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE ZONING OF PARCEL 25-279330, LOT #34 AND PARCEL 25-399150, LOT #2

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

YEAS: 6 NAYS: 0

Rules are suspended.

It was moved by Julian, seconded by Smith to adopt this Amended Draft No. 131-22.

YEAS: 6 NAYS: 0

This Amended Draft No. 131-22 has been adopted on the 17th day of August 2022.

MISCELLANEOUS REMARKS

(Miscellaneous remarks began at 46:22 into recording)

President Marino said to his friends out there, he was on the picket line with them 30 years ago, a couple of times. He never forgot that. It is his hope that an amicable solution is resolved to the benefit of the community. He prays that is so. So much so that he kept his strike sign, and he still has it to remind him of the importance of what he does and what they do. He still has that, and he just prays that this thing gets settled before the September 1st deadline. He would hate to think what happens after that. He appreciates what they all do and asked them to keep up the good work for the community because Niles is a great place. President Marino thanked them once again. Never did he think we would be here like this, never, but it is what it is.

Mayor Mientkiewicz just had a few announcements. First, the second round of city-wide scrap tire drop off will commence on September 1st and go until September 15th. It is the same procedure as always. There will be a bin located behind the police department at the recycling

center. They are asking for a maximum of 10 tires per household. Second, the touch a truck program, along with a Wellness Center Open House, will be at the Niles Wellness Center on September 10th from 10:00 A.M.-1:00 P.M. He told everyone to come down and bring their families. It was a great event last year.

Next, they have touched based with the contractors for the local street resurfacing project. Shelly and Sands are still guaranteeing them to start the project in September. As it was mentioned earlier, the federal project, East Federal Street and Salt Springs did begin this morning. The fourth and final mosquito spraying will take place on September 1st, weather pending.

September 6th is the tentative date for the demolition of the pool from the Trumbull County Engineers office. Mayor Mientkiewicz said himself, Auditor Merlo, and Park Director Pallante met with the consultant about the preliminary plans for the splash pad. He believes the entire community, city council and most importantly children will be pleased with what they have planned to offer as far as the splash pad goes. There may be one piece of legislation that needs amended through city council so he would like to get that moving sooner rather than later. He has been speaking to Auditor Merlo about a budget on this project. As everyone knows, they do know that the city did receive \$350,000.00 through the federal grant for the splash pad and maybe asking for just a little more in next years budget to get this project completed in its entirety.

Finally, Mayor Mientkiewicz said he wanted to echo President Marino's comments about our teachers and friends in the back. They are following this very closely, as he has expressed to a lot of them. They are hoping for a fair an equable contract for them. He appreciates everything.

Treasurer Telago asked that if anyone had questions on the 8-month revenue report to give him a call. One thing that is for certain, inflation is running high at this point and the feds have said that they will be raising the overnight rates in the next 6-8 months. It will probably go up a few times, which means higher interest rates on mortgages, car loans, etc. However, it will give the city an opportunity to earn money on that we have invested in sweep accounts and CD's. His plan is to invest in short term CDs over the next 6-12 months. For an example, he posted \$54,000.00 in interest from investments.

Safety Director Kaniclides wanted to commend the teachers on how they are handling their negotiations. He told them to stick to their demands.

Mr. Julian wanted to echo what everyone has said for the teachers. Not long ago, he had some of them in school and he definitely thinks they deserve a new contract, and he thanked them.

Mr. Lastic said it wasn't that long ago that he had all of them in school. He wanted to know if Mrs. Sebben was still here because he wanted her to stop in that back row and talk to them. There are a ton of clubs, organizations, athletic groups, and things to do. You just need to go and see those people in the back because that is why they are called teachers. It is going to be a tough one, but he is in their corner. And always remember, once a dragon, always a dragon.

Mrs. Devorich stated she sees a lot of teachers out there that her kids had in school. She also sees people she went to school with. She wanted them to know that herself and her family support them 100%. She is a proud alumni and told them not to give up.

Ms. Marchese wanted to thank the Niles Police Department and their drug task force for their outstanding work they did. She could not believe when she saw those pictures and one of those people was in her ward, so she was happy to see this happen. She thanked everyone who was involved in those arrests and appreciates what they did.

As far as the teachers, one of her biggest problems is when she read that article in the newspaper about Huffmasters. Anyone who knows this organization, she can't believe they did this. We do not need them in our town. She has spoken to Law Director Zuzolo about this and there used to be something on the books on keeping them out and we can no longer do that. But she will be there to support each and every one of them.

Ms. Smith said she hopes that the school board and teachers come to a fair and equitable conclusion.

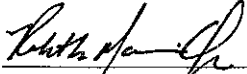
Mr. Sollitto stated he knows a lot of people say they have their back, but he has their front. He will be there front and center because far more than the seat he holds here, he believes the union is important than anything. They built this country. You might not have been in a union, but you reaped the benefit of it. They have the right to hold everyone in this room, including the school board responsible for what they are doing. They are there as collective bargainers, not collective bait. Mr. Sollitto said they will be there with them. They have already put out sign up sheets and there are over 200 state employees that have signed up. He hopes that this thing is peaceful.

ADJOURN

It was moved by Lastic, seconded by Julian, and everyone, to adjourn the meeting.



Nicole Bacak, Clerk of Council



Robert Marino Jr., President of Council