

**COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES**  
**FEBRUARY 5, 2025**

**\*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, 2025, at 6:00 p.m. at the Niles Senior Center in Niles, Ohio.

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

Weddell- P, Johnstone-P, Sheely-P, Devorich-NP, Julian-P, Lastic- P, Sollitto- P, Marino-P

It was moved by Sheely, seconded by Johnstone to excuse Devorich from the meeting.  
Motion carried.

President Marino said if Devorich does show up, she will be marked as present. If not, she is considered excused.

It was moved by Julian, seconded by Sollitto to accept the minutes from the January 29<sup>th</sup> regular meeting and place them on file.  
Motion carried.

**REPORTS AND COMMUNICATIONS**  
**NONE**

**MEMBERS OF THE AUDIENCE TO ADDRESS COUNCIL FOR AGENDA ITEMS**  
(Public comments began at 5:00 into recording)

**NONE**

**COUNCIL COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Council Roundtable meeting minutes- January 27, 2025  
Utilities committee meeting minutes- January 29, 2025

It was moved by Sollitto, seconded by Shelly to accept the minutes and place them on file.  
Motion carried.

**ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTION**  
(Legislation began at 5:38 into recording)

Prior to legislation, Law Director Zuzolo informed council they need to break into executive session pursuant to ORC section 121.22, G for public official compensation.

It was moved by Julian, seconded by Shelly to adjourn into executive session pursuant to ORC section 121.22, G for public official compensation.

**YEAS: 6      NAYS: 0**

Motion carried.

Council adjourned into executive session at 6:02 P.M.

Council reconvened from executive session at 6:15 P.M.

**YEAS: 6      NAYS: 0**

**ORDINANCE NO. \_\_\_\_ ( Draft No. 2-25)**

**AN ORDINANCE APPOINTING AND REAPPOINTING MEMBERS TO VARIOUS BOARDS AS REQUIRED BY THE OHIO REVISED CODE AND/OR NILES CODIFIED ORDINANCE, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY**

It was moved by Lastic, seconded by Sollitto to give a third reading to this Draft 02-25.

**YEAS: 6      NAYS: 0**

It was moved by Julian, seconded by Lastic to adopt to this Draft 02-25.

**YEAS: 6      NAYS: 0**

This Draft No. 02-25 has been adopted on the 5th day of February 2025.

**The following drafts will be part of the consent agenda, being brought to the floor for the second time to receive their second reading.**

**ORDINANCE NO. \_\_\_\_ ( Draft No. 15-25)**

**AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE DISPOSAL OF OBSOLETE VEHICLE BY INTERNET AUCTION ON GOV DEALS AS IT IS NO LONGER NEEDED FOR ANY MUNICIPAL PURPOSE BY THE CITY; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY**

**ORDINANCE NO. \_\_\_\_ ( Draft No. 16-25)**

**AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE DISPOSAL OF OBSOLETE VEHICLE BY INTERNET AUCTION ON GOV DEALS AS IT IS NO LONGER NEEDED FOR ANY MUNICIPAL PURPOSE BY THE CITY; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY**

**ORDINANCE NO. \_\_\_\_ ( Draft No. 18-25)**

**AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE SERVICE DIRECTOR TO ENTER INTO A PURCHASE AGREEMENT WITH TRUMBULL COUNTY LAND REUTILIZATION CORPORATION FOR REAL PROPERTY AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY**

**ORDINANCE NO. \_\_\_\_ ( Draft No. 19-25)**

**AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE TRANSFER OF UNUSED LANDS OWNED BY THE CITY OF NILES TO THE COMMUNITY IMPROVEMENT CORPORATION OF NILES, OHIO (“CIC”).**

**ORDINANCE NO. \_\_\_\_ ( Draft No. 22-25)**

**AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE APPROPRIATION OF FUNDS FROM THE UNAPPROPRIATED GENERAL FUND ACCOUNT 101 TO THE GENERAL FUND MISCELLANEOUS ACCOUNT FOR THE CITY FUNDED BUSINESS GRANT APPROVED BY THE COMMUNITY IMPROVEMENT CORPORATION OF NILES AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY**

**ORDINANCE NO. \_\_\_\_ ( Draft No. 23-25)**

**AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE APPROPRIATION OF FUNDS FROM THE UNAPPROPRIATED GENERAL FUND ACCOUNT 101 TO THE GENERAL FUND MISCELLANEOUS ACCOUNT FOR THE CITY FUNDED BUSINESS GRANT APPROVED BY THE COMMUNITY IMPROVEMENT CORPORATION OF NILES AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY**

**ORDINANCE NO. \_\_\_\_ ( Amended Draft No. 24-25)**

**AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE APPROPRIATION OF FUNDS FROM THE UNAPPROPRIATED GENERAL FUND ACCOUNT 101 TO THE GENERAL FUND MISCELLANEOUS ACCOUNT FOR THE CITY FUNDED BUSINESS GRANT APPROVED BY THE COMMUNITY IMPROVEMENT CORPORATION OF NILES AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY**

It was moved by Johnstone, seconded by Weddell to give a second reading to this consent agenda.

**YEAS: 6      NAYS: 0**

This consent agenda has received its second reading on the 5th day of February 2025.

**The following drafts will be part of the consent agenda, being brought to the floor for the first time, passed together with suspension of three readings, and as an emergency.**

**ORDINANCE NO. \_\_\_\_ ( Draft No. 29-25)**

**AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING APPROPRIATION OF FUNDS FROM THE SEWER FUND FOR THE REPLACEMENT OF A KEYSTONE SLUDGE CONVEYOR; AND, DECLARING AN EMERGENCY**

**ORDINANCE NO. \_\_\_\_ ( Draft No. 30-25)**

**AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING APPROPRIATION OF FUNDS FROM THE GENERAL FUND TO THE BUILDING AND ZONING DEMOLITION FUND; AND, DECLARING AN EMERGENCY**

**ORDINANCE NO. \_\_\_\_ ( Draft No. 32-25)**

**AN ORDINANCE REGARDING NOTICE TO CONFORM THE BOUNDARIES OF CERTAIN ANNEXED PROPERTY; AND, DECLARING AN EMERGENCY**

**ORDINANCE NO. \_\_\_\_ ( Draft No. 33-25)**

**AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE NO. 131-24, KNOWN AS THE AUTHORIZED STRENGTH ORDINANCE, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY**

It was moved by Sollitto, seconded by Lastic to give a first reading to this consent.

Mr. Sheely wanted to say that he is happy to finally see the additional funds being appropriated to get the remains of the Grey Wolf Tavern finally torn down and cleaned up. It has dragged on too long and it is an eyesore.

Mr. Johnstone said he thought these items were time sensitive and they would not want to do first readings on them since they would need to be passed with suspension.

Mr. Sollitto agreed to withdraw his first reading motion. Mr. Lastic agreed and withdrew also.

**YEAS: 6      NAYS: 0**

It was moved by Julian, seconded by Johnstone to suspend the rule requiring three readings to this consent agenda.

Mr. Sollitto stated that it was his understanding that the city would be trying to recoup this money for the demolition of the property. Mayor Mientkiewicz said yes, he was aware of this and the city would do so via a property lien. It would be a similar process to the Steven's house.

**YEAS: 6      NAYS: 0**

Rules are suspended.

It was moved by Julian, seconded by Sollitto to adopt this consent agenda.

**YEAS: 6      NAYS: 0**

This consent agenda has been adopted on the 5th day of February 2025.

**ORDINANCE NO. \_\_\_\_\_ ( Draft No. 31-25)**

**AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE SERVICE DIRECTOR TO ENTER INTO A LICENSE AGREEMENT WITH SERVICE LINE WARRANTIES OF AMERICA (SWLA) TO OFFER THE SERVICE LINE WARRANTY PROGRAM TO CITIZENS OF THE CITY OF NILES; AND, DECLARING AN EMERGENCY**

It was moved by Julian, seconded by Sheely to give a first reading to this Draft 31-25.

**YEAS: 6      NAYS: 0**

This Draft No. 31-25 has received its first reading on the 5th day of February 2025.

**MEMBERS OF THE AUDIENCE TO ADDRESS COUNCIL FOR GENERAL PURPOSE**

(Public comments began at 26:32 into recording)

Becky DePanicis- Mrs. DePanicis stated that the Niles Cemetery board is back together, and they were asked to by the public grounds committee to look into the pricing at local cemeteries and see where the city of Niles stood in comparison. Mrs. DePanicis attempted to get a hold of all of the public cemeteries in the county. She did not receive answers back from everyone, but she feels that she has a pretty good representation. Mrs. DePanicis found out the city's fees are pretty far up there.

Mrs. DePanicis stated they were also asked to look into any veteran's programs that cemeteries had in place. They did not find anything when they were asking other cemeteries. She provided a copy of the minutes and a copy of the information she received. The cemetery board's recommendation is that the city offers veteran's families \$100.00 deduction off of burials and \$100.00 deduction from a lot.

Mrs. DePanicis said she knows the mayor has been working very hard on the banner program and the Wreaths across America to show our city's respect to our veterans. They would just like to see something like this in place. Mr. Sollitto said as the public grounds chairman, he is going to call a meeting and go over her recommendations. He likes what they have brought forward and appreciates the work they have put into this. He also likes that they are working with the administration and not being combative. They are also catering to the veterans in a good way. Once he gets the information, he will get with the mayor, and they will go from there. Mrs. DePanicis said she feels that our city is one of the strongest communities for our veterans and she thinks this is a good way to recognize them.

Carl Jordan: Mr. Jordan wanted to show appreciation to the water department. They were in his neighborhood last night fixing a water main break. He doesn't feel that they get the appreciation that they deserve. They do take some flack, and it is not just them. It is other city employees also. Secondly, he wanted to say that there are a lot of things that the council members are working on that the public is aware of. People probably don't know about other things, because they are overshadowed by the guardrail issue that has been going on for the past 10-11 months.

Mr. Sollitto wanted to agree with him on the water department but wanted to disagree with him strongly with the employee not being appreciated and recognized. The administration and council is well aware of their duties and appreciate the work they do. They know most of them by name and are very appreciative of what they do for the city. Mr. Jordan clarified that his comments were not directed towards council or the administration, but to others in the community. They give the employees flack as if they were the ones that caused the power outage or water break, which is simply not true.

Dee Sebben: Mrs. Sebben asked since Trumbull County is increasing water rates, will the city of Niles be increasing their rates also. Mayor Mientkiewicz said the only water increase that is taking place for the city of Niles is an inside residential is a \$0.04 increase. It is very minimal. What their increase seems to be from is a lot of mismanagement as far as the rates go.

Mrs. Sebben wanted to give a shot out to the light department for their work on Cedar St. We have the best power company. She took the workers coffee and donuts because she felt bad for them. Our power is bever out for very long.

President Marino asked Mayor Mientkiewicz to invite members from MVSD to attend a roundtable for council to discuss updates. He would like an update on the district in regard to rate increase projections, capital projects, and fire protection. He is interested in what plans they have for their properties, should we experience a drought or fire there since there is a lot of overgrowth, pine trees, etc.

### **MISCELLANEOUS REMARKS**

(Miscellaneous remarks began at 34:40 into recording)

Mayor Mientkiewicz stated since the weather has been good, people are back to work at Waddell Park. Turk was being rolled out on Stabile Field this week. The splash pad, the playground, and Widler Field are pretty much complete. Once the fields they are working on are completed, they will move to South Field. Paving is scheduled for when the weather breaks, which will probably be around May.

Mayor Mientkiewicz also said things with the Appalachian Community Grant Program are moving along. This grant is for \$3.5 million for downtown revitalization. They are about 80% through the detail design. Eastgate is very involved with this and making sure that the timelines are met. The three items tied to the grant are the Masonic Temple, Urban entertainment area (theater property), and the canoe/kayak launch. Mr. Sollitto asked when the playground equipment was going to be moved to Iowa park and Mayor Mientkiewicz said it will be a summer/fall project once Waddell Park is completed.

Mr. Weddell agreed with everyone and their position on the city workers. They do a great job, and he wanted to acknowledge them as well.

Mr. Johnstone also thanked the service workers for their hard work.

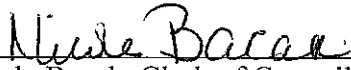
Mr. Sheely stated how happy he was that the Grey Wolf property is finally going to be getting taken care of. It is an eyesore that will be out of sight and out of mind soon. He also commented on the city workers. He said we have top notch services in the city. We have the best fire, police, and street department. You name a department, we have it. He appreciates everything they do.

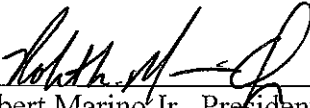
Mr. Julian reiterated that the city workers do a great job.

Mr. Sollitto thanked the mayor and street department for taking care of the issues with the potholes on Camrose. He was told on Saturday that it would be addressed by Monday and it was.

**ADJOURN**

It was moved by Sheely, seconded by Julian to adjourn the meeting.

  
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Nicole Bacak, Clerk of Council

  
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Robert Marino Jr., President of Council