

**COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES**  
**March 19, 2025**

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

Niles City Council held its regular meeting on March 19, 2025, at 6:00 p.m. at the Niles Senior Center in Niles, Ohio.

The meeting was called to order by Pro Tem Council President, Doug Sollitto and the Clerk, Nicole Bacak, called the roll:

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

It was moved by Julian, seconded by Johnstone to excuse President Marino from the meeting. Motion carried.

It was moved by Julian, seconded by Sheely to accept the minutes from the March 5<sup>th</sup> regular meeting and place them on file. Motion carried.

**REPORTS AND COMMUNICATIONS**

**FROM-** Ohio Division of Liquor Control

Notice to legislative authority- Country Fair INC 60 DBA Country Fair Food Store

It was moved by Sheely, seconded by Julian to accept and refer to the police chief and safety director for their recommendation.

Motion carried.

**FROM-** Auditor's office

Statement of cash from revenue and expense- February 2025

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

Motion carried.

**FROM-** Auditor's office

Check report by check number- February 2025

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

Motion carried.

**FROM-** Billing Department

Adjustments for February 2025

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

Motion carried.

**MEMBERS OF THE AUDIENCE TO ADDRESS COUNCIL FOR AGENDA ITEMS**

(Public comments began at 5:43 into recording)

George Kuriatnyk: Mr. Kuriatnyk asked about Draft. No 35-25 since it mentions security officers if it had to do with Maddens or another place having to use our officers. Law Director Zuzolo said it had nothing to do with it at all. It is updating the old ordinance and changing the permit fee.

**COUNCIL COMMITTEE REPORTS**

NONE

Prior to legislation beginning, there was a motion made to remove a draft from the consent agenda.

It was moved by Julian, seconded by Sheely to remove Draft No. 60-25 from the consent agenda and give it a first reading.

Motion carried.

**ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTION**

(Legislation began at 7:31 into recording)

**ORDINANCE NO. \_\_\_\_\_ (Draft No. 35-25)**

**AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 143.04 “SECURITY OFFICERS AND PERSONNEL” OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF NILES, IN PART, TO DEFINE ‘OFFICER’ AND ADJUST THE APPLICATION FEE; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY**

It was moved by Julian, seconded by Sheely to give a third reading to this Draft 35-25.

**YEAS: 7      NAYS: 0**

It was moved by Julian, seconded by Lastic to adopt this Draft 35-25

**YEAS: 7      NAYS: 0**

This Draft 35-25 has been adopted on the 19th day of March 2025.

**RESOLUTION NO. \_\_\_\_ ( Draft No. 37-25)**

**A RESOLUTION IN OPPOSITION TO THE PASSAGE OF SENATE BILL 56**

It was moved by Johnstone, seconded by Devorich to give a third reading to this Draft 37-25.

**YEAS: 7      NAYS: 0**

It was moved by Julian, seconded by Johnstone to adopt this Draft 37-25

**YEAS: 7      NAYS: 0**

This Draft 37-25 has been adopted on the 19th day of March 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. 48-25)**

**AN ORDINANCE APPROVING A THEN AND NOW PAYMENT REQUEST FOR REPUBLIC SERVICES FOR EMERGENCY SLUDGE HAULING AT THE WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY**

**ORDINANCE NO. \_\_\_\_ ( Draft No. 50-25)**

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

**ORDINANCE NO. \_\_\_\_ ( Draft No. 51-25)**

**AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING APPROPRIATION OF FUNDS FROM THE UNAPPROPRIATED STREET FUND FOR THE SCRAP TIRE GRANT; AND, DECLARING AN EMERGENCY**

**ORDINANCE NO. \_\_\_\_ ( Draft No. 52-25)**

**AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING APPROPRIATION OF FUNDS FROM THE UNAPPROPRIATED PARK FUND FOR BANK SERVICE CHARGES; AND, DECLARING AN EMERGENCY**

**ORDINANCE NO. \_\_\_\_ ( Draft No. 53-25)**

**AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING APPROPRIATION OF FUNDS FROM THE UNAPPROPRIATED CAPITAL PROJECTS FUND FOR THE RIVERFRONT AND DOWNTOWN PROJECTS; AND, DECLARING AN EMERGENCY**

**ORDINANCE NO. \_\_\_\_ ( Draft No. 54-25)**

**AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE SERVICE DIRECTOR TO CONTRACT WITH OMNI FIBER FOR BROADBAND SERVICES FOR THE CITY OF NILES; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY**

**ORDINANCE NO. \_\_\_\_ ( Draft No. 56-25)**

**AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING APPROPRIATION OF FUNDS FROM THE UNAPPROPRIATED WATER AND LIGHT FUND FOR THE ENBRIDGE SETTLEMENT; AND, DECLARING AN EMERGENCY**

**ORDINANCE NO. \_\_\_\_ ( Draft No. 57-25)**

**AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING APPROPRIATION OF FUNDS FROM THE UNAPPROPRIATED GENERAL FUND FOR ENGINEERING SERVICES FOR PHASE 2 OF THE SHERMAN AVENUE SIDEWALK REPLACEMENT PROJECT; AND, DECLARING AN EMERGENCY**

**ORDINANCE NO. \_\_\_\_ ( Draft No. 58-25)**

**AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE SERVICE DIRECTOR TO PURCHASE THROUGH SOURCEWELL COOPERATIVE FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF RESTROOMS FOR THE NILES RIVERFRONT LAUNCH; REPEALING ORDINANCE 35-25; AND, DECLARING AN EMERGENCY**

**ORDINANCE NO. \_\_\_\_ ( Draft No. 59-25)**

**AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE 105-24, IN PART, REGARDING CERTAIN LANGUAGE IN THE CITY MORATORIUM PREVIOUSLY IMPLEMENTED UNTIL JANUARY 1, 2026, ON THE ISSUANCE OF ZONING PERMITS AND OTHER LICENSES OR PERMIT APPLICATIONS FOR SMALL BOX DISCOUNT STORES IN THE CITY OF NILES, OHIO; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY**

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

**YEAS: 7      NAYS: 0**

Rules are suspended.

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

**YEAS: 7      NAYS: 0**

This consent agenda has been adopted on the 19th day of March 2025.

**RESOLUTION NO. \_\_\_\_\_ ( Draft No. 49-25)**

**A RESOLUTION TEMPORARILY WAIVING THE PERMIT FEE FOR CITY-WIDE RESIDENTIAL GARAGE OR YARD SALE; AND, DECLARING AN EMERGENCY**

It was moved by Julian, seconded by Lastic to give a first reading to this Draft 49-25.

**YEAS: 7      NAYS: 0**

This Draft No. 49-25 has received its first reading on the 19th day of March 2025.

**RESOLUTION NO. \_\_\_\_\_ ( Draft No. 55-25)**

**A RESOLUTION IN OPPOSITION TO THE PASSAGE OF HOUSE BILL 160**

Mr. Johnstone stated that HB 160 is slightly better than HB 56, but he is still encouraging the residents of the city to call their state representatives. They should express that the change in the state tax for marijuana is frowned upon and discouraged. It doesn't hurt to express our concerns because the new deal only helps for 4 years. After the 5<sup>th</sup> year, we go back to zero. This is the same boat we are in with HB 56.

Mr. Sheely said he has continued to make calls to express his displeasure. However, he does not even get a person anymore. He simply gets voicemail. He has also called the governor's office. He believes that they are tired of getting phone calls about this and we need to keep calling.

It was moved by Julian, seconded by Weddell to give a first reading to this Draft 55-25.

**YEAS: 7      NAYS: 0**

This Draft No. 55-25 has received its first reading on the 19th day of March 2025.

**RESOLUTION NO. \_\_\_\_\_ ( Draft No. 60-25)**

**A RESOLUTION ADOPTING THE UPDATED VEHICLE USE POLICY FOR THE CITY; AND, DECLARING AN EMERGENCY**

It was moved by Lastic, seconded by Julian to give a first reading to this Draft 60-25.

**YEAS: 7      NAYS: 0**

This Draft No. 60-25 has received its first reading on the 19th day of March 2025.

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

(Public comments began at 16:32 into recording)

**NONE**

**MISCELLANEOUS REMARKS**

(Miscellaneous remarks began at 16:46 into recording)

Mayor Mientkiewicz wanted to give a quick update on the downtown riverfront revitalization project. This is a \$3.5 million grant issued through the governor's office that the city was awarded last spring. The engineers and architects are ready to go to bid in April and hopefully award in May. He hopes construction will begin in either June or July. Mayor Mientkiewicz said for the last two weeks near the canoe and kayak launch, debris and trees have been removed and cleared out. The project continues to progress.

Mr. Johnstone wanted to talk about the CIC grant once more. They are really trying to get this information out to the public. It is a little different than how it has worked in previous years. There is a time frame that businesses have to apply for the grant and that is from January 1<sup>st</sup> through April 30<sup>th</sup>. After that if there are funds still available, it will be on a first come, first serve basis. The way to spread this information is word of mouth so he is hoping those in the audience will get this out to the local businesses. The CIC has money available to help foster growth and sustainability for the local Niles businesses. The next meeting is May 13<sup>th</sup> @ 5:00 P.M.

Mr. Sheely wanted to share that he took his grandson to Waddell Park so he could see everything. His grandson is very excited about all of the new things to open up. Mr. Sheely says it is looking great. Lastly, Mr. Sheely mentioned it is that time of year when the housing department gets a lot of calls about properties and problems. He is on the phone with them multiple times a week and also stops down to meet with them. He said they are doing their job and they are doing it very well. People need to start taking pride in their properties.

**ADJOURN**

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

Nicole Bacak  
Nicole Bacak, Clerk of Council

Robert Marino Jr.  
Robert Marino Jr., President of Council