

COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

January 7, 2026

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

Niles City Council held a caucus meeting on January 7, 2026 at 5:30 p.m. at the Niles Senior Center in Niles, Ohio to discuss pending legislation prior to the regular council meeting.

Niles City Council held its regular meeting on January 7, 2026 at 6:00 p.m. at the Niles Senior Center in Niles, Ohio.

The meeting was called to order by Council President, Doug Sollitto and the Clerk, Abbey Lavelle called the roll:

Weddell- NP, Johnstone-P, Sheely-P, Leskovec-P, Julian-P, Lastic- P, Stredney-P, Sollitto- P

It was moved by Julian, seconded by Sheely to excuse Councilman Weddell from the meeting. Motion carried.

It was moved by Stredney, seconded by Julian to accept and place on file the General Consent Agenda.

Motion carried.

PUBLIC REMARKS

(Public comments began at 3:43 into recording)

Mr. Jordan addressed council about a water leak in his neighborhood that began on December 15, 2025. On December 22 and December 24, Mr. Jordan called the City and was unable to reach anyone. On December 26, he spoke with someone who sent the Water Department out to address the water leak issue. The City employees stated they would stop back out to check on the leak but never returned. Mr. Jordan expressed his concern that the water leak has been running for over 3 weeks and could lead to erosion and other complications with the roadway.

It was moved by Sheely, seconded by Johnstone for an additional 3 minutes of time for Mr. Jordan.

YEAS: 6 NAYS: 0

Motion carried unanimously and three additional minutes were approved for Mr. Jordan.

Mr. Jordan would like the Water Department to come out and resolve the issue to avoid further water leaks in the neighborhood. Mr. Jordan lives in the First Ward and, in the absence of Mr. Weddell, Mayor Mientkiewicz addressed Mr. Jordan stating that he would look into it.

ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTION
(Legislation began at 8:38 into recording)

ORDINANCE NO. ____ (Draft No. 12-26)

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING NILES CODIFIED ORDINANCE 143.02 AUXILIARY POLICE; AND, DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

It was moved by Sheely, seconded by Johnstone to give a first reading to this Draft No. 12-26

YEAS: 6 NAYS: 0

This Draft No. 12-26 has received its 1st reading on the 7th day of January 2026.

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 adopted as an emergency.

RESOLUTION NO. ____ (Draft No. 01-26)

A RESOLUTION ADOPTING NEW COUNCIL RULES FOR THE FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING JANUARY 1, 2026 THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2027; AND, DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

ORDINANCE NO. ____ (Draft No. 02-26)

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE SERVICE DIRECTOR TO ADVERTISE FOR BIDS AND ENTER INTO CONTRACT FOR THE FIRST STREET & BROWN STREET WATERLINE REPLACEMENT PROJECT; AND, DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

ORDINANCE NO. ____ (Draft No. 03-26)

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE SERVICE DIRECTOR TO ADVERTISE FOR BIDS AND ENTER INTO CONTRACT FOR THE LEAD SERVICE LINE IDENTIFICATION POTHOLING PROJECT; AND, DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

ORDINANCE NO. ____ (Amended Draft No. 04-26)

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING APPROPRIATION BUDGET TRANSFERS; AND, DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

ORDINANCE NO. ____ (Draft No. 05-26)

A ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE TREASURER TO CONTRACT WITH THE OHIO AUDITOR OF STATE FOR ASSISTANCE WITH RECONCILIATION AS NEEDED; AND, DECLARING AN EMERGENCY. (FINANCE - JOHNSTONE)

ORDINANCE NO. ____ (Draft No. 06-26)

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE SALE BY INTERNET AUCTION OF CERTAIN OBSOLETE ITEMS NO LONGER NEEDED FOR ANY MUNICIPAL PURPOSE BY THE CITY; AND, DECLARING AN EMERGENCY. (FINANCE - ALL MEMBERS)

ORDINANCE NO. ____ (Draft No. 07-26)

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY OF NILES TO PARTICIPATE IN THE STATE OF OHIO COOPERATIVE PURCHASING PROGRAM; AND, DECLARING AN EMERGENCY. (FINANCE - ALL MEMBERS)

ORDINANCE NO. ____ (Draft No. 08-26)

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY OF NILES TO APPLY FOR THE OHIO DEPARTMENT OF DEVELOPMENT'S RESIDENTIAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT PROGRAM GRANT FUNDING, AWARDED TO SUPPORT THE CREATION OF WORKFORCE HOUSING NEAR MAJOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS ACROSS THE STATE.

THIS RESOLUTION ALSO AUTHORIZES THE CITY OF NILES TO ACCEPT THE GRANT IF AWARDED. PUBLISH AN RFP AND SELECT CONTRACTOR(S) FOR WORK OUTLINED IN THE GRANT TAKING PLACE AT EACH DEVELOPMENT.

THIS RESOLUTION ALSO AUTHORIZES (IF AWARDED THE GRANT) A 50% REDUCTION ALL PERMIT, PLAN REVIEW, AND INSPECTION FEES FOR PROJECTS SUBMITTED IN THE GRANT APPLICATION; AND, DECLARING AN EMERGENCY. (COUNCIL AS A WHOLE – ALL MEMBERS)

ORDINANCE NO. ____ (Draft No. 09-26)

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE PURCHASE OF TWO 2026 DODGE DURANGO PURSUIT VEHICLES THROUGH STATE PURCHASING FOR THE 2026 CALENDAR YEAR; AND, DECLARING AN EMERGENCY. (FINANCE – ALL MEMBERS)

ORDINANCE NO. ____ (Draft No. 10-26)

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY OF NILES TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH EASTERN POWER AND GAS LLC TO BE THE NATURAL GAS SUPPLIER FOR THE CITY AGGREGATION PROGRAM; AND, DECLARING AN EMERGENCY. (COUNCIL AS A WHOLE – ALL MEMBERS)

ORDINANCE NO. ____ (Draft No. 11-26)

A RESOLUTION DETERMINING TO PROCEED WITH THE SUBMISSION TO THE ELECTORS OF THE QUESTION OF LEVYING A TAX IN EXCESS OF THE TEN MILL LIMITATION; AND, DECLARING AN EMERGENCY. (COUNCIL AS A WHOLE – ALL MEMBERS)

It was moved by Lastic, seconded by Stredney to suspend the rule requiring three readings and adopt this consent agenda.

YEAS: 6 NAYS: 0

Rules are suspended and the consent agenda has been adopted on the 7th day of January 2026.

MISCELLANEOUS REMARKS

(Miscellaneous remarks began at 13:20 into recording)

Mayor Mientkiewicz wished everyone a happy new year and he's looking forward to the continued improvements and progress in the City of Niles. Additionally, he recognized retired Captain Rodney Freel and Captain Dan Adkins for their many years of service and dedication to the City of Niles.

Auditor Merlo addressed the discussion in the news about the cannabis tax, and the City has received their first distribution from the cannabis tax from July 1, 2024, through November 2025, totaling \$167,000.

Mr. Johnstone wanted to thank members of council and the public for not letting the cannabis tax issue go away to ensure we hold our public officials to their word. He reminded Council that a 2025 project was supposed to be funded from this tax distribution and that the money will be allocated accordingly back in the General Fund.

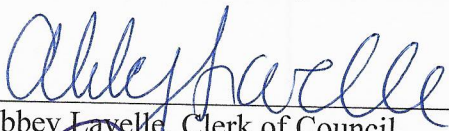
Mr. Sheely welcomed Mr. Leskovec and Mr. Stredney to Niles City Council and looks forward to working beside them.

Mr. Leskovec looks forward to working alongside everyone and feels honored to be apart of Niles City Council.

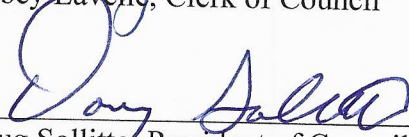
Mr. Sollitto addressed Mr. Jordans water leak issue raised earlier and to ensure the issue is resolved by the next council meeting he would like the appropriate parties to get involved as soon as possible and provide an update.

ADJOURN

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



Abbey Lavelle, Clerk of Council



Doug Sollitto, President of Council