

COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

January 21, 2026

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

Niles City Council held its regular meeting on January 21, 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- P, Johnstone-P, Sheely-P, Leskovec-P, Julian-P, Lastic- P, Stredney-P, Sollitto- P

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

Motion carried.

PUBLIC REMARKS

(Public comments began at 3:10 into recording)

Mr. Richard Strong addressed council regarding the recent tree fall incident in Waddell Park that fell on a residents home. Mr. Strong presented the idea of arborists taking care of the bad trees in Niles because our Tree Department is not doing enough. Mr. Strong wants to see better action taken to prevent future tree fall incidents. Mayor Mientkiewicz stated that this specific incident has been handled and submitted to insurance. The Mayor added that our budget allows for the removal of unsafe and dead trees in public grounds and our Tree Department addresses issues as they become aware of them.

Mr. Bernie Profato addressed council on behalf of his daughter in regard to children playing basketball in the streets on Ohio Ave where the children are being disruptive to the flow of traffic and disorderly to the other residents on the street with name calling and profanity. Mr. Profato presented a petition signed by all of the residents on Ohio Ave and submitted it to council [this will be on the General Consent Agenda for the February 4, 2026 Regular Meeting].

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

YEAS: 7 NAYS: 0

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

Mr. Profato added a solution to this problem could be a community center that allows for an outlet for the youths to enjoy to alleviate the issues similar to his daughters on Ohio Avenue.

Doug Sollitto addressed the idea that a single outdoor hoop may be installed at Waddell to allow the neighborhood to use. Mayor Mientkiewicz elaborated on this idea stating that in the area where the playground is currently in Waddell Park, they will be adding a bankshot basketball

court as well as a pickleball and bocce court to potentially alleviate similar issues related to Mr. Profato's concern.

Mr. Julian inquired about the issues and whether there has been an escalation since the last meeting Mr. Profato attended and addressed council. Mr. Profato stated the issue is still just as bad.

Philip Zuzolo added that if these juveniles are being disorderly, the police department needs to be involved.

Doug Sollitto proposed the idea that the Public Safety Committee call a meeting with the Police Chief to address these concerns on Ohio Ave; Julian stated he would get with his committee members and set a time up to meet with the Police Chief and if Mr. Profato and other neighbors would like to attend, they are welcome.

Ms. Betty Sigley Tedesco addressed council regarding the utility deposit of \$500 for lessors of property even though she is in the process of purchasing the property via a land contract. Ms. Tedesco would like a one-time waiver of this deposit as she is on a fixed income.

Phil Zuzolo told Ms. Tedesco to meet with him to discuss this.

ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTION

(Legislation began at 28:04 into recording)

ORDINANCE NO. ____ (Draft No. 18-26)

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 Johnstone, seconded by Stredney to give a first reading to this Draft No. 18-26

YEAS: 7 NAYS: 0

This Draft No. 18-26 has received its 1st reading on the 21st day of January 2026.

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

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

It was moved by Julian, seconded by Weddell to give a second reading to this Draft No. 12-26

YEAS: 7 NAYS: 0

This Draft No. 12-26 has received its 2nd reading on the 21st 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.

ORDINANCE NO. ____ (Draft No. 13-26)

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE NO. 156-25, KNOWN AS THE AUTHORIZED STRENGTH ORDINANCE; AND, DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

ORDINANCE NO. ____ (Draft No. 14-26)

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

RESOLUTION NO. ____ (Draft No. 15-26)

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO OPEN A REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP) TO OBTAIN A GRANT ADMINISTRATOR ORGANIZATION TO PREPARE, SUBMIT, AND IMPLEMENT AN APPLICATION FOR THE PY 2026 COMMUNITY HOUSING IMPACT AND PRESERVATION (CHIP) PROGRAM WITH THE OHIO DEPARTMENT OF DEVELOPMENT TO BECOME ELIGIBLE FOR FUNDING ASSISTANCE FOR HOUSING PRESERVATION PUPOSES; AND, DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

ORDINANCE NO. ____ (Draft No. 16-26)

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING APPROPRIATION OF FUNDS FROM THE UNAPPROPRIATED GENERAL FUND FOR EQUIPMENT RENTAL; AND, DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

ORDINANCE NO. ____ (Draft No. 17-26)

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE SERVICE DIRECTOR TO ISSUE A REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS FOR A UTILITY RATE STUDY FOR THE CITY OF NILES; AND, DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

RESOLUTION NO. ____ (Draft No. 19-26)

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE SERVICE DIRECTOR TO ADVERTISE FOR REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS AND ENTER INTO CONTRACT FOR INSPECTION SERVICES FOR THE 2026 STREET RESURFACING PROGRAM; AND, DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

ORDINANCE NO. ____ (Draft No. 20-26)

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE TRANSFER OF MONIES FROM VARIOUS ACCOUNTS TO THE UNCLAIMED FUND 663 AS SEVERAL CHECKS REMAIN

**UNCASHED FOR MORE THAT ONE HUNDRED AND EIGHTY (180) DAYS; AND,
DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.**

ORDINANCE NO. ____ (Draft No. 21-26)

**AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING DIRECT CONTRACTING WITH ENVIRONMENT
COLLABORATIVE OF OHIO FOR MS4 COMPLIANCE SERVICES; AND,
DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.**

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

YEAS: 7 NAYS: 0

Rules are suspended and the consent agenda has been adopted on the 21st day of January 2026.

MISCELLANEOUS REMARKS

(Miscellaneous remarks began at 32:32 into recording)

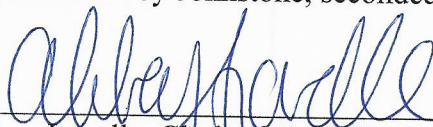
Mayor Mientkiewicz stated that our CRA Program is live, and all materials and application can be found on our city website, along with the Natural Gas Aggregation Program. Mayor added that Phase 3 of Pump Station Project was pushed out of the congressional committee and to the House for a vote and hopefully to the Senate in order for the project to be funded. Mayor congratulated the long-time city employee, Jeff Tate, on his upcoming retirement. Also, the 2026 Hometown Heros Banner Program will be released on Monday January 26th, and information will be on the city website along with the application. Mayor Mientkiewicz acknowledged Mr. Marino's recent family member passings and Doug Sollitto added a moment of silence for the Marino family.

Mr. Johnstone spoke on Chase Miller, a local resident, and his battle with cancer and how the family did not receive the news they expected and for anyone to reach out to them during this tough time.

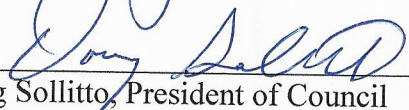
Mr. Leskovec stated he was grateful no one was when the tree fell on the home, in reference to Mr. Strong's public remark.

ADJOURN

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



Abbey Lavelle, Clerk of Council



Doug Sollitto, President of Council