

COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

February 4, 2026

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

Prior to the regular council meeting, AMP provided a power supply update at 5:00 p.m.

Niles City Council held its regular meeting on February 4, 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 Lastic and seconded by Julian to allow Dee Saben to present a plaque to NPD prior to public remarks. Motion carried unanimously. On behalf of Shepard's House Ministries, Dee Saben presented a plaque to Police Chief Holland for the Niles Police Department for their help this past December with their Veterans Christmas Tree.

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

Motion carried.

Doug Sollitto addressed council for a status update on the Safety Committee meeting regarding Mr. Profato's concern from last meeting. Julian stated he was waiting to coordinate a time with Mr. Profato if he were to be here tonight but they will go ahead and schedule a meeting for Tuesday February 10, 2026 and Mr. Profato is free to join.

PUBLIC REMARKS

(Public comments began at 6:53 into recording)

Mr. Richard Strong addressed council regarding the alley behind his house which does not appear to be a priority street for the Niles Street Department. He also addressed the lack of snow clearing on the sidewalks on Robbins Ave considering how many residents use the sidewalks to get around – even in the winter time. Mr. Strong suspects that the lack of snow clearing is beyond the Street Departments control as he believes the Mayor is at fault for this issue.

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

YEAS: 5 NAYS: 2 [WEDDELL AND JULIAN]

Motion carried by majority vote and three additional minutes were approved for Mr. Strong.

Mr. Strong added that are other issues not being resolved by the City administration or appropriate Council members.

Ms. Dee Saben addressed council in regard to Hunter Street not being a priority street for snow plows as semi-trucks use Hunter Street and it is not cleared for them. Dee Saben reached out to 2nd Ward Councilman Johnstone about the street priority for plowing and Johnstone responded that sometimes the priority is based on how heavy traffic is for a certain street – but this street should take a higher priority for the semi-trucks. The Mayor responded that he will look into it with the Street Department supervisor.

Dee Saben also addressed council regarding her electric bill as it was for a longer billing period than normal. Hers was 36 days but others have received 45 day billing period. She understands that the snowstorm may effect the readings of the electric meters but these longer periods are unacceptable. The Mayor responded that because the electric meters are still manually read there are a few times out of the year where staffing and weather have effected how quickly the readings can be done but the new smart electric meter installation will help resolve this billing period problem as they can set the readings to be 30 days. Mr. Johnstone inquired about the billing software and whether it can be adjusted to cap the billing period at 30 days even though the reading for the meter is for a longer period for those on lower income. The Mayor responded that the billing office has hardship payment plans for this scenario to ensure the bills are still getting paid and there is no fear of electric being shut off for failure of payment. Doug Sollitto suggested a Utilities Committee meeting to discuss resolutions for capping the bill at 30 days. The Mayor responded that this will be resolved with the smart meters as the physical meter readings will no longer be necessary and this issue only arises periodically in situations similar to this where weather plays a big part in the physical meter readings. The new electric smart meters are to be installed by the end of this year.

On the topic of utility rates, Johnstone was approached about abnormally high sewer rates from a resident and is curious if this problem is City wide. The Mayor answered this stating that the City of Niles has lower utility rates than neighboring cities and the county rates for similar services. Johnstone appreciates conversations like today where AMP was able to present an update on their power supply and rates.

ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTION

(Legislation began at 29:58 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 Lastic to suspend the rule requiring three readings and adopt this Draft No. 18-26.

YEAS: 7 NAYS: 0

Rules are suspended and this Draft 18-26 has been adopted on the 4th day of February 2026.

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

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

It was moved by Julian, seconded by Sheely to give a third reading to this Amended Draft No. 12-26.

YEAS: 7 NAYS: 0

It was moved by Julian, seconded by Stredney to adopt this Amended Draft No. 12-26.

YEAS: 7 NAYS: 0

This Draft No. 12-26 has received its 3rd reading and was adopted on this 4th day of February 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. 22-26)

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE NO. 09-26, KNOWN AS THE AUTHORIZED STRENGTH ORDINANCE; AND, DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

ORDINANCE NO. ____ (Draft No. 25-26)

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE APPROPRIATION OF FUNDS FROM THE UNAPPROPRIATED FIRE LOSS CLAIMS FUND FOR REFUND OF FIRE LOSS CLAIM; AND, DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

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

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY OF NILES TO APPLY FOR AND ACCEPT THE NORFOLK SOUTHERN SAFETY FIRST GRANT FOR A NEW BATTERY POWERED GENESIS CUTTER EXTRICATION TOOL; AND, DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

ORDINANCE NO. ____ (Draft No. 27-26)

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE SERVICE DIRECTOR TO ADVERTISE FOR BIDS AND ENTER INTO CONTRACT FOR THE TRU SUMMIT AVE/OLIVE STREET MILL & FILL PROJECT; AND, DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

ORDINANCE NO. ____ (Draft No. 28-26)

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE SAFETY DIRECTOR TO PURCHASE THROUGH SOURCEWELL COOPERATIVE A HYPERDRIVE LAWN MOWER FOR THE LIGHT DEPARTMENT; AND, DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

ORDINANCE NO. ____ (Draft No. 29-26)

AN ORDINANCE ACCEPTING THE ANNEXATION OF 122.632 ACRES OF CERTAIN PROPERTY IN WEATHERSFIELD TOWNSHIP TO THE CITY OF NILES ; AND, DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

ORDINANCE NO. ____ (Draft No. 30-26)

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND THE SAFETY DIRECTOR TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH THE TRUMBULL COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS FOR INDIGENT LEGAL SERVICES; AND, DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

ORDINANCE NO. ____ (Draft No. 31-26)

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE APPROPRIATION OF FUNDS FROM THE UNAPPROPRIATED GENERAL FUND AND APPROVING A THEN AND NOW PAYMENT REQUEST FOR TRUMBULL COUNTY INDIGENT DEFENSE REPRESENTATION FOR YEARS 2024 AND 2025; AND, DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

It was moved by Johnstone, seconded by Sheely 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 4th day of February 2026.

MISCELLANEOUS REMARKS

(Miscellaneous remarks began at 34:29 into recording)

Mayor Mientkiewicz wanted to recognize and commend the non-profit group and the work they do with our local veterans. The Mayor also wanted to recognize all of the City workers and their responsiveness even in the cold conditions.

Service Director Anthony Flarey added to the Mayor's statement in that our Water Department has been very responsive in the cold conditions in regard to the water main breaks, etc.

Mr. Weddell concurs with the Mayor and Service Director and thanks the City workers for their hard work.

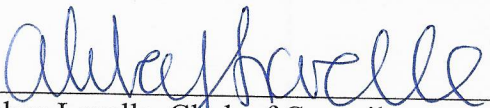
Mr. Johnstone wanted to thank Shepard's House for presenting that plaque tonight and wanted to recognize our local veterans.

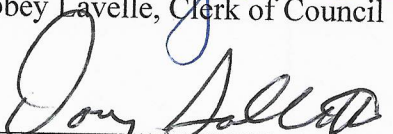
Mr. Sheely also thanked the City workers who endured the harsh conditions to keep the streets clear, etc. He also encouraged those who could get out there and help clear sidewalks for neighbors and residents to do so.

Mr. Sollitto wished Mr. Stredney luck as candidate for County Auditor. Mr. Sollitto was also approached by a resident to add a purple heart to the veteran banners that the City raises for Hometown Heroes and that he is willing to pay the additional cost. The Mayor said that the applicant will have to request this on the application but for Mr. Sollitto to forward the residents contact information to him so he can clarify.

ADJOURN

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


Abbey Lavelle, Clerk of Council


Doug Sollitto, President of Council