

## **COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES**

**February 18, 2026**

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

Niles City Council held its regular meeting on February 18, 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 Julian to accept and place on file the General Consent Agenda.

Motion carried.

There was discussion among council members in regard to the time limit for public remarks to allow for efficiency by eliminating the vote for extension of time. Ultimately it was moved by Stredney and seconded by Sheely to suspend council rules for a 6 minute time limit for public remarks for this meeting. Motion to adopt was moved by Lastic and seconded by Stredney. Motions carried.

### **PUBLIC REMARKS**

(Public comments began at 8:02 into recording)

Mr. Richard Strong addressed council regarding multiple concerns. First, referencing back to Bernie Profato's issue with the kids playing in the street, he wanted to know the status update on that issue. Secondly, he addressed the lack of sidewalk clearance of snow as it pertains to Niles residents walking to work, school, etc. Third, Mr. Strong asked about the safety of the trees in the parks, referencing an issue that came up a few meetings ago when a tree fell on a resident's house and inquired about the City hiring an arborist. Mr. Strong inquired about the lack of a Public Safety Meeting that Councilmember Julian was supposed to call last week. Finally, Mr. Strong addressed the light pole outside of his house that still has a brace on it with other utilities on it as well.

Julian addressed cancelling the Public Safety Meeting as the issue was with disorderly children which is ultimately an issue for the Niles Police to address. Mayor Mientkiewicz addressed the double pole outside of Richard Strong's house, but he will inquire with the Light Department about the status of it. Mayor Mientkiewicz also addressed the removal of unsafe trees in the parks, and the Tree Department just removed 8 unsafe trees near Stephens Park and in the summer the plan is to contact a tree company to give an assessment of the trees in the parks for further removal of unsafe trees.

Mr. Dave Petrilla first discussed the passing of Chase Miller, a local Niles resident who passed away as a result of his tough battle with cancer. Mr. Petrilla also presented an update on the organizing of his 4<sup>th</sup> of July car show event. Mr. Petrilla also inquired council about the replacement of the basketball hoops at Waddell Park. Sheely stated that he was going to talk with Park Director Mark Pallante to see what funds are available to add a half court to Murphy Park but otherwise there will be a new multi-use court being installed at Waddell Park that includes a bank shot court, pickleball, bocce, etc. Sheely added that before anything goes in at Murphy there needs to be a camera installed because there continues to be property damage to the playground. The Mayor addressed the plan for the multi-use court at Waddell Park – design will be completed this year with construction to begin next year. The Mayor also added that a camera has already been ordered for Murphy Park. Mr. Johnstone is excited for working with Dave Petrilla again this year and with the potential for more events at the Niles Public Square opening this summer.

Mr. David DeCristofaro as Trumbull County Engineer presented to council the status of the Salt Program that the City of Niles is enrolled in with Trumbull County. In April, Mr. DeCristofaro will be submitting his order to ODOT for the 2026-2027 year. He addressed council, correcting previously made statements, that the same contract price will be honored to the City of Niles if they decide to contract directly with ODOT versus contracting with Trumbull County. He added that the City would save money on delivery of salt if they contracted with ODOT directly as Trumbull County charges a fee to store and deliver the salt to the City. The benefit of contracting with Trumbull County is that they have the available storage for the salt that they order on behalf of cities, townships, and other municipalities. Mayor Mientkiewicz thanked Mr. DeCristofaro for presenting on this and he voiced his concern for reliability and availability to deliver on behalf of ODOT if they had to deliver to all of these municipalities individually versus one centralized location at Trumbull County. Mayor Mientkiewicz added that they contracted with Trumbull County for the Salt Program as required by terms in a grant agreement.

### **ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTION**

(Legislation began at 45:05 into recording)

#### **ORDINANCE NO. \_\_\_\_ ( Draft No. 35-26)**

**AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE NO. 16-26, KNOWN AS THE AUTHORIZED STRENGTH ORDINANCE; AND, DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.**

#### **ORDINANCE NO. \_\_\_\_ ( Draft No. 38-26)**

**AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE SERVICE DIRECTOR TO APPROVE AND AUTHORIZE THE EXECUTION OF THE BRIGHT MOUNTAIN SOLAR SCHEDULE WITH AMERICAN MUNICIPAL POWER, INC. AND TAKING OF OTHER ACTIONS IN CONNECTION THEREWITH; AND, DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.**

It was moved by Julian, seconded by Weddell to give a first reading to Draft No. 35-26 and Draft No. 38-26.

**YEAS: 7      NAYS: 0**

Draft No. 35-26 and Draft No. 38-26 have received their first reading on the 18<sup>th</sup> day of February 2026.

**The following drafts will be part of the consent agenda passed together with suspension of three readings, and adopted as an emergency.**

**ORDINANCE NO. \_\_\_\_ (Draft No. 32-26)**

**AN ORDINANCE APPROVING A THEN AND NOW PAYMENT REQUEST FOR CIVIC PLUS FOR LAW OFFICE SOFTWARE; AND, DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.**

**ORDINANCE NO. \_\_\_\_ (Draft No. 33-26)**

**AN ORDINANCE APPROVING A THEN AND NOW PAYMENT REQUEST FOR SUMMIT SUPPLY FOR REPAIR OF EMERGENCY WATER MAIN BREAKS; AND, DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.**

**ORDINANCE NO. \_\_\_\_ (Draft No. 34-26)**

**AN ORDINANCE APPROVING A THEN AND NOW PAYMENT REQUEST FOR Z TECH BUILDERS AND EXCAVATIONS FOR REPAIR OF EMERGENCY WATER MAIN BREAKS; AND, DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.**

**ORDINANCE NO. \_\_\_\_ (Draft No. 36-26)**

**AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING APPROPRIATION OF FUNDS FROM THE UNAPPROPRIATED GENERAL FUND AND THE POLICE & FIRE FUND FOR EQUIPMENT PURCHASES; AND, DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.**

**ORDINANCE NO. \_\_\_\_ (Draft No. 37-26)**

**AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE SAFETY DIRECTOR TO PREPARE AND EXECUTE ON BEHALF OF THE LOCAL PUBLIC AGENCY (LPA), CITY COUNCIL OF NILES, AN APPLICATION FOR SRTS FUNDS FOR THE SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL PROJECT AND TO SUBMIT TO THE STATE OF OHIO, DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION; AND, DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.**

**ORDINANCE NO. \_\_\_\_ (Draft No. 39-26)**

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

**ORDINANCE NO. \_\_\_\_ (Draft No. 40-26)**

**AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING AN APPROPRIATION BUDGET TRANSFER FOR THE LEAD SERVICE LINE IDENTIFICATION WSRLA LOAN; AND, DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.**

**ORDINANCE NO. \_\_\_\_ (Draft No. 41-26)**

**AN ORDINANCE ACCEPTING A DONATION FROM THE NILES YOUTH LEAGUE AND AUTHORIZING THE APPROPRIATION OF FUNDS FROM THE UNAPPROPRIATED PARK FUND FOR PARK PURCHASES; AND, DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.**

**ORDINANCE NO. \_\_\_\_ (Draft No. 42-26)**

**AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE SERVICE DIRECTOR TO ENTER INTO CONTRACT WITH WIRING UNLIMITED, INC. FOR UPGRADE OF SCADA; AND, DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.**

It was moved by Julian, seconded by Johnstone 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 18<sup>th</sup> day of February 2026.

**MISCELLANEOUS REMARKS**

(Miscellaneous remarks began at 48:32 into recording)

Mayor Mientkiewicz recognized Nina Thomas on her upcoming retirement from the City of Niles and wished her luck in her future endeavors. The City of Niles' federal earmark was approved by the House and Senate and presented to the President for approval. This is the second federal earmark approved for the City, this one being for \$600,000 for our sanitary pumpstation project phase 3. Mayor also addressed the news regarding a water advisory, stating that the City has had no communication with Trumbull County that would otherwise prompt the City to be named in the advisory. Gas aggregate opt-in letters were sent out so if residents are calling concerned about the legitimacy of the program they can be directed to the website for more information.

Mr. Johnstone addressed the issue with the meter reads, stating that the software will not allow a cap on meter read days, but the City will allow residents to make partial payments on their bills. Mr. Johnstone attended a school board meeting last night and they are working on a five-year projection of property taxes. He encourages residents to attend school board meetings considering the variability of property taxes in the next coming years. Johnstone also paid his respects to Chase Millers family following his passing.

Mr. Sheely thanked the City for working with residents on the meter read issue and high dues. He is looking forward to the new smart meters that will help resolve some of the issues.

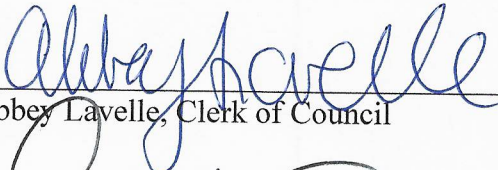
Mr. Stredney asked council about the March 18<sup>th</sup> meeting being moved or cancelled as quite a few members of council and City administration will be out of town at a conference. It was discussed amongst council members and agreed upon to cancel the March 18<sup>th</sup> council meeting. Mr. Stredney added that he would like to present to council next week legislation for CIC to

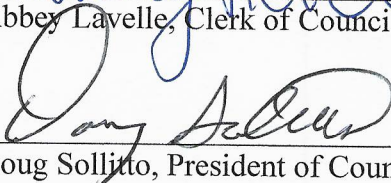
enter into a lease agreement with Von Isley Estate for vacant property located at Third Street. The proposal has been presented to CIC and the next step would be council legislation.

Mr. Sollitto also paid his respects to Chase Millers family following his passing. Mr. Sollitto wanted to discuss more by next meeting about the bank shot court being put in Waddell Park as he was under the impression that a half court would be put in.

**ADJOURN**

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

  
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Abbey Lavelle, Clerk of Council

  
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Doug Sollitto, President of Council