

COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

June 17, 2026

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

Council as a Whole had a roundtable at 5:30 prior to the regular meeting to discuss Council rule changes. Abbey provided an update on recorded Zoom meetings being posted on the City YouTube channel. Discussion was held regarding whether Council would accept anonymous letters to be read by the Clerk into the record. It was decided that Council Rules will be amended to allow written correspondence to be read as a communication if it pertains to an agenda item otherwise anonymous written correspondence will not be read aloud into council.

The meeting was called to order by Council President, Doug Sollitto.

The Clerk, Abbey Lavelle called the roll:

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

A motion was made by Sheely to excuse Councilman Todd Weddell, seconded by Julian. Motion carried.

Ed Stredney raised a concern regarding the General Consent Agenda, specifically the liquor license application from Niles Ohio/Clean Bright Car Wash. Phil Zuzolo clarified that all liquor license applications are referred to the Chief of Police and he may oppose the application.

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 3:30 into recording)

Geo Kuriatnyk was following up with Councilman Sheely on potential code violations that he brought to Sheely's attention for a resident on Lawnview. Geo also addressed the violation he received for high grass as well as the violation for parking a 'commercial' truck in his driveway. He disputes that his pick-up truck is considered a commercial truck. Geo presented numerous other residents who are in violation as well and will be following up with each Council member regarding each property that he finds is in violation. Geo spoke with a representative from the Attorney General's Office regarding the consequences the elected members of council could face if they do not take action for issues being raised to them. Geo raised a perjury accusation for statements made by witnesses in a TPO hearing. Geo also addressed how each time he attends a council meeting he is search by a police officer but not one elected official is searched. Geo then spoke on how people change their names and seal the name change when it's related to something criminal. Geo also made an accusation that the council members and administration are texting each other during the council meeting and it is against the law to do so.

Mr. Boccia raised a concern that he would like to see an ordinance put in place for no hookah bars, vape shops, etc. within 500 feet of a church. He also raised issues that he is dealing with from his neighbors at 15 Beaver. He has called multiple times regarding the disturbances from his neighbors and nothing is being done about it. He also raised the concern of semi-trucks coming down Erie Street despite there being signs prohibiting them. He would like to see more action being done by not only the police but by council members and the elected administrative officials.

Dee Sebben raised the concern that residents only have 7 days to pay their bill from the time they are mailed out. Dee also brought up an issue she saw on Warren Avenue where a garbage truck left debris and broken glass in the roadway and refused to clean it up. She would like to see a contract to be negotiated with a new company when our current contract is up or call Republic to remedy the issue. Administration clarified that Republic was the only bidder when they went out for bid for a contract for trash and recycling services. Doug Sollitto added that Republic's prices are comparable but that does not excuse there lack of cleaning up after themselves, stating that he has heard multiple complaints about this. Mayor Mientkiewicz stated that they can reach out to Republic regarding this issue but he also addressed loose trash not bagged that can to debris being left on the street. Dee stated that she called Republic regarding this and they directed her to the City to resolve it. Aaron Johnstone added that Niles provides a large customer base for Republic and we have to hold them accountable. Doug Sollitto stated that photo evidence of specific events of this happening will help better resolve this issue when the City reaches out to Republic.

Emma Kuznik raised many concerns she has with City Administration for how they are handling her neighbor and the issues she's having with her neighbor. Emma has issues with her neighbor playing loud music, her grass clippings getting on her yard, etc. Emma keeps up with her property and believes her neighbor is violating numerous ordinances despite the City doing nothing about her. She feels she gets no support from the City especially when it comes to the reports she's made for the items stolen out of her house.

Scott Barton, who recently moved to Niles from Weathersfield, has faced multiple issues with Doug Sollitto calling in violations on him. Mr. Barton received confirmation from the Niles Zoning Department that he is not in violation. Doug Sollitto added that there were multiple complaints regarding his property so the inspector was sent out. Doug stated that Mr. Barton was not in compliance and he was given a set amount of time to get in compliance. Mr. Barton clarified that he received a permit to park in his yard for the time he needs to widen and fix his driveway. Scott stated that Doug's behavior is unacceptable for a President of Council and he wants an apology for all of these issues that have been raised since Scott has moved in. Doug Sollitto responded by telling Scott to hold his breath on receiving the apology and wait to see how long it takes.

David Petrilla wanted an update on the Zoom and YouTube access for recorded past meetings. Doug directed the question to Abbey and Chris Hubinsky, the IT for council meetings. Chris does not have access to manage the YouTube account but will be working with Abbey at the City to have the recorded Zoom videos posted to YouTube. Everything is set to be up and running by the next regular council meeting on August 19, 2026.

Carl Jordan wanted to extend his thanks for the efforts from the community and the Niles PD for finding the person who stole a gas can from inside his garage. The Niles PD was very responsive as well as the Court. Phil Zuzolo added that the suspect was also involved in numerous other incidents. Carl appreciates the timely response and efforts by all involved.

Richard Strong addressed the lengthy agenda for tonight's meeting and how many are going forward as emergencies. Mr. Strong encourages three readings for legislation as Aaron Johnstone has brought up before. He addressed a piece of legislation regarding \$1,000,000 bond for improvements to the City building despite the amount of work that needs to be done to sidewalks through the City. Richard then questioned Doug Sollitto if he was involved in a phone call with the data center consultants to which Doug responded that he was not involved. Doug was not informed of it until after. Richard addressed the lack of transparency that the Council gives in regard to making the video available the next day and the agenda available a week before the meeting. Phil Zuzolo added that the agenda is revised up until the day before the meeting so it is hard to have a finalized agenda a week before the meeting. The agenda's will be posted on the website when Abbey sends it out 24 hours before the meeting. As for Zoom recorded meetings, residents can submit public records requests for the recorded meetings in the meantime while we get the YouTube account up and running. Doug added that the videos will be ready on YouTube by the time we reconvene in August. Doug also added that the reason the three readings are suspended is when the legislation is immediately needed to pass to be in effect. Aaron Johnstone acknowledged and clarified that especially for this meeting being the last meeting before summer break, there was a lot more that needed to be passed immediately and by emergency because it could not wait for mid-August when Council reconvened. Aaron also spoke on the Zoom call he attended with the consultant to update our zoning language regarding data centers. Aaron described it as an introductory Zoom meeting where the consultant advised on timeframes, goals of residents and the City, and setting times for public meetings to be held. Aaron added that the consultant established a point of contact that council members can reach out to him at to discuss any issues that come about throughout this process. Doug raised the issue of not being advised of this call ahead of time as he would assume the duties of Mayor and he insists on being included on communications such as this going forward.

ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTION

(Legislation began at 49:40 into recording)

RESOLUTION NO. ____ (Draft No. 119-26) A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY OF NILES TO ADOPT THE TRUMBULL COUNTY MULTIJURISDICTIONAL HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

It was moved by Julian, seconded by Lastic to give a first reading to Draft No. 119-26.

YEAS: 6 NAYS: 0

Draft No. 119-26 has received its first reading on this 17th day of June 2026.

ORDINANCE NO. ____ (Draft No. 92-26)
AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE APPROPRIATION OF FUNDS FROM THE UNAPPROPRIATED GENERAL FUND ACCOUNT 101 TO THE GENERAL FUND MISCELLANEOUS ACCOUNT FOR THE CITY FUNDED BUSINESS GRANT APPROVED BY THE COMMUNITY IMPROVEMENT CORPORATION OF NILES FOR SAINT POPE JOHN PAUL XXIII; AND, DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

It was moved by Stredney, seconded by Johnstone to give a third reading to Draft No. 92-26.

Michael Lastic abstained from voting.

YEAS: 5 NAYS: 0

It was moved by Stredney, seconded by Johnstone to adopt Draft No. 92-26.

Michael Lastic Abstained from voting.

YEAS: 5 NAYS: 0

Draft No. 92-26 has received its third reading and has been adopted on this 17th day of June 2026.

The following drafts will be part of the consent agenda passed together with suspension of three readings, and adopted as an emergency as applicable in the corresponding legislation language:

ORDINANCE NO. ____ (Draft No. 93-26)
AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE APPROPRIATION OF FUNDS FROM THE UNAPPROPRIATED GENERAL FUND ACCOUNT 101 TO THE GENERAL FUND MISCELLANEOUS ACCOUNT FOR THE CITY FUNDED BUSINESS GRANT APPROVED BY THE COMMUNITY IMPROVEMENT CORPORATION OF NILES FOR HIGG'S HOT RODS; AND, DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

ORDINANCE NO. ____ (Draft No. 100-26)
AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF AN ADVANCED METERING INFRASTRUCTURE SCHEDULE WITH AMERICAN MUNICIPAL POWER, INC.; AND, DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

ORDINANCE NO. ____ (Draft No. 101-26)
AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE APPROPRIATION OF FUNDS FROM THE UNAPPROPRIATED GENERAL FUND FOR THE WELLNESS CENTER TURF REPLACEMENT PROJECT; AND, DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

ORDINANCE NO. ____ (Draft No. 102-26)
AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE APPROPRIATION OF FUNDS FROM THE UNAPPROPRIATED GENERAL FUND FOR THE ADVANCED METERING INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECT FOR A DEBT SERVICE PAYMENT; AND, DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

ORDINANCE NO. ____ (Draft No. 103-26)
AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING MONTHLY CASH TRANSFERS; AND, DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

ORDINANCE NO. ____ (Draft No. 104-26)
AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE APPROPRIATION OF FUNDS FROM THE UNAPPROPRIATED GENERAL FUND FOR THE DESIGN AND ENGINEERING OF THE PARK CONCRETE AND FENCE REPLACEMENT; AND, DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

ORDINANCE NO. ____ (Draft No. 105-26)
AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE SERVICE DIRECTOR TO ADVERTISE FOR BIDS AND ENTER INTO CONTRACT FOR THE PARK CONCRETE AND FENCE REPLACEMENT PROJECT AND AUTHORIZING THE APPROPRIATION OF FUNDS FROM THE UNAPPROPRIATED GENERAL FUND FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE PARK CONCRETE AND FENCE REPLACEMENT; AND, DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

ORDINANCE NO. ____ (Draft No. 106-26)
AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE APPROPRIATION OF FUNDS FROM THE UNAPPROPRIATED GENERAL FUND FOR TREE REMOVAL FOR STEVENS PARK; AND, DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

RESOLUTION NO. ____ (Draft No. 107-26)
A RESOLUTION ADOPTING THE ALTERNATIVE TAX BUDGET FOR THE FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING JANUARY 1, 2027; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

RESOLUTION NO. ____ (Draft No. 108-26)
A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE SERVICE DIRECTOR TO ISSUE A REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS FOR THE WILDER FIELD OUTFIELD TURF PROJECT; AND, DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

RESOLUTION NO. ____ (Draft No. 109-26)
A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE SERVICE DIRECTOR TO ISSUE A REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS FOR THE NILES SANITARY DETENTION PUMP STATION IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT; AND, DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

ORDINANCE NO. ____ (Draft No. 110-26)
AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE SERVICE DIRECTOR TO ADVERTISE FOR BIDS AND ENTER INTO CONTRACT FOR THE WILDER FIELD OUTFIELD TURF PROJECT; AND, DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

ORDINANCE NO. ____ (Draft No. 111-26)
AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE SERVICE DIRECTOR TO ADVERTISE FOR BIDS AND ENTER INTO CONTRACT FOR THE WADDELL PARK MULTI-PURPOSE RECREATION AREA PROJECT; AND, DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

ORDINANCE NO. ____ (Draft No. 112-26)
AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE SERVICE DIRECTOR TO ADVERTISE FOR BIDS AND ENTER INTO CONTRACT FOR POWER LINE CLEARANCE AND TREE TRIMMING PROJECT; AND, DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

ORDINANCE NO. ____ (Draft No. 113-26)
AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE SERVICE DIRECTOR TO ENTER A CONTRACT WITH FORESTER (DBA “ANUNDSON & O’BARTO, CONSULTING FORESTERS”) FOR FOREST MANAGEMENT OF CITY OWNED PROPERTIES; AND, DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

ORDINANCE NO. ____ (Draft No. 114-26)
AN ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR THE ISSUANCE AND SALE OF BONDS IN THE MAXIMUM PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF \$660,000 TO PAY COSTS OF IMPROVING THE CITY’S STREET FACILITIES, INCLUDING CONSTRUCTING AND EQUIPPING A SALT STORAGE DOME AND ACQUIRING A DUMP TRUCK AND TRACTOR AND ADDITIONAL VEHICLES AND EQUIPMENT FOR USE BY THE CITY’S STREET DEPARTMENT, TOGETHER WITH NECESSARY APPURTENANCES; AND, DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

ORDINANCE NO. ____ (Draft No. 115-26)
AN ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR THE ISSUANCE AND SALE OF BONDS IN THE MAXIMUM PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF \$1,000,000 TO PAY COSTS OF IMPROVEMENTS TO BUILDINGS AND FACILITIES OF THE CITY, INCLUDING WINDOW AND FAÇADE REPAIRS, TOGETHER WITH ALL INCIDENTAL WORK AND NECESSARY APPURTENANCES; AND, DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

ORDINANCE NO. ____ (Draft No. 116-26)
AN ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR THE ISSUANCE AND SALE OF BONDS IN THE MAXIMUM PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF \$2,454,000 TO PAY COSTS OF IMPROVING THE MUNICIPAL SANITARY SEWER SYSTEM BY ACQUIRING AND EQUIPPING A VACUUM TRUCK AND IMPROVING THE WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT, TOGETHER WITH ALL INCIDENTAL WORK AND NECESSARY APPURTENANCES; AND, DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

RESOLUTION NO. ____ (Draft No. 117-26)
A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY OF NILES TO APPLY AND ACCEPT THE EDWARD BYRNE MEMORIAL JUSTICE ASSISTANCE GRANT PROGRAM FROM THE OHIO OFFICE OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE SERVICES (OCJS); AND, DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

ORDINANCE NO. ____ (Draft No. 118-26)
AN ORDINANCE APPROVING A THEN AND NOW PAYMENT REQUEST FOR
MAIN LITE ELECTRIC FOR EMERGENCY TRAFFIC LIGHT REPAIR; AND,
DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Aaron Johnstone clarified for the record that Draft 93-26 was receiving its third reading despite being placed on the consent agenda for tonight's meeting. Draft 93-26 is for a CIC grant and all CIC grant approvals get three readings.

Doug Sollitto raised his concerns for Draft 115-26 stating that spending \$1,000,000 on the City building that has limited access for the public should not hold priority over the local businesses and roads that need money and attention. Albeit the building needs repaired, the repairs the City plans to address such as windows, stucco, etc., should not take priority. Sheely clarified that the stucco was not for the interior ceilings but for the outside walls facing Public Square. Aaron Johnstone said that the plans for stucco are not moving forward as it is above what anyone was comfortable paying. He clarified that tonight's legislation is merely for securing the money, any approval of how the money is spent will have to be on a separate piece of legislation brought before Council. Ed Stredney added that there will be additional legislation down the road when the City is ready to go out for bid for the different improvement projects. Doug added that he would like to see the City building open and accessible like the SCOPE and Wellness Center are.

It was moved by Johnstone, seconded by Lastic 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 17th day of June 2026.

MISCELLANEOUS REMARKS

(Miscellaneous remarks began at 1:02:30 into recording)

Mayor Mientkiewicz brought attention to the recently signed bill for FY 2027 by the Governor where the City of Niles was awarded \$950,000 in grant money to go towards our local park systems, specifically Waddell Park. Mayor thanked State Rep. Santucci for his help in securing this grant money. The Mayor also made residents aware of the 4th of July parade and the ribbon cutting of the Downtown Public Square where there will be a parade, car show, and fireworks. The Mayor also wanted to thank and recognize Doug Sollitto for his statements made last term about how ridiculous it was to spend such a large amount of money to add the extension to the building to better direct the citizens in City Hall but nonetheless the City building is open to the public.

Fire Chief John Stevens provided an update for the Fire Department and the new truck/equipment they will be getting this Fall.

Aaron Johnstone is looking forward to the 4th of July parade and hopes to see everyone there.

James Sheely addressed the numerous complaints he is getting for different residents within his ward that are in violation according to the Zoning Department. He helps the best he can and gets the right parties involved when necessary especially when safety is a high concern. He wants to make a difference in Niles especially a positive one and he encourages the residents to work towards the betterment of their property upkeep.

Frank Leskovec wished a safe and happy 4th of July.

Ed Stredney wished everyone a safe summer.

Doug Sollitto commended each council member for their efforts in Public Square and bringing the fireworks show back and David Petrilla for his involvement in the car show. Doug also addressed the Mayor's comments stating that at the time it did seem like a lot of money to put into the City Building to better the accessibility by the public but now it appears that the City is putting even more money into a much more closed off building.

ADJOURN

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


Abbey Lavelle, Clerk of Council


Doug Sollitto, President of Council