

**REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES  
COUNCIL CHAMBERS,  
1345 E. Main Street  
City of Niles, Michigan**

**Monday, October 11, 2021**

**PRESENT:** Council Members: Georgia Boggs, Amanda Dunnem, Travis Timm, Charlie McAfee, William Weimer, John DiCostanzo, Jessica Nelson and Mayor Nick Shelton

**ABSENT:** Gretchen Bertschy

**STAFF:** Richard Huff, Robert Landgraf, Linda Casperson

**REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING**

The regular Niles City Council meeting was called to order by Mayor Shelton at 6:00 p.m. October 11, 2021. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mayor Shelton.

**APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

**Council Member Nelson** moved, **Council Member DiCostanzo** to approve the agenda with the change in order by moving the closed session before council member's report.

**ROLL CALL: YEA:** Dunnem, Timm, McAfee, Weimer, DiCostanzo, Nelson, Boggs

**NAY:** None **MOTION CARRIED**

**CITIZEN PARTICIPATION: (PUBLIC COMMENTS)**

**Caryn Adler** representing the Niles Music and More is collaboration the Wonderland Cinema offering four free movies on Small Business Saturday, November 27. Donations will go toward the Summer Concert Series.

**John Hoskin** inquired how long 2<sup>nd</sup> Street will be closed. Mayor Shelton responded that the City Council extended the closure until April 22.

**Ruth Crum** inquired about a black box attached to utility poles and the mural on 2<sup>nd</sup> Street.

**Selena Guevara** introduced herself as the new Greater Niles Chamber of Commerce Director.

**Brian Crespo and Bill Haas**, Native Remedies Class C medical marijuana grow facilities request the expansion of the number of provisioning centers so that they can apply.

**Marie Weimer** announced that October is Breast Cancer Awareness and November is Military Family Appreciation Month

**Stephanie Reno**, owner of SLR Pilates, Trap House Gym, and Vice-President of River Essence Group. Regarding the NODE, as a business owner, she asked for full transparency from the DDA moving forward. She stated that many business owners asked not to close 2<sup>nd</sup> Street and to find another location.

**PRESENTATIONS:** None

**CONSENT AGENDA:**

1. Consideration of approving the minutes of September 27, 2021.
2. Consideration of approving the list of bills dated October 6, 2021.
3. Consideration of granting permission to the Niles Music and More 2022 Summer Concert Series and allowing vending in the Riverfront Park during the Sunday evening concerts and waiving all fees except vendor fees.

4. Consideration of approving the request of Niles Main Street DDA to conduct the “22<sup>nd</sup> Annual Downtown Safe Trick or Treat” event in the downtown on Saturday, October 30, 2021 from 4:00pm to 5:00pm in the downtown area and providing police traffic control and waiving all fees.

**Council Member Nelson** moved, **Council Member Boggs** seconded to approve the consent agenda.

**ROLL CALL: YEA:** Boggs, Dunnem, Timm, McAfee, Weimer, DiCostanzo, Nelson

**NAY:** None **MOTION CARRIED**

#### **CITY ADMINISTRATOR’S REPORT:**

##### **Introduction of Items for Discussion**

##### **Items for Council Action**

5. Consideration of approving a Discharge of Mortgage associated with a \$9,288.00 loan that was issued to Mary R. Linn of 814 N. 13<sup>th</sup> Street and authorizing the Mayor to sign the necessary documents.

**Council Member DiCostanzo** moved, **Council Member Weimer** seconded to approve the Discharge of Mortgage associated with a \$9,288.00 loan that was issued to Mary R. Linn of 814 N. 13<sup>th</sup> Street and authorizing the Mayor to sign the necessary documents.

**ROLL CALL: YEA:** Dunnem, Timm, McAfee, Weimer, DiCostanzo, Nelson, Boggs

**NAY:** None **MOTION CARRIED**

6. Consideration of awarding the tree and stump removal contract to Payne’s Services, LLC of Niles, MI with \$52,974.00 to be charged to the Tree Removal Fund and authorizing the Mayor to sign the contract.

**Council Member DiCostanzo** moved, **Council Member Dunnem** seconded to award the tree and stump removal contract to Payne’s Services, LLC of Niles, MI with \$52,974.00 to be charged to the Tree Removal Fund and authorizing the Mayor to sign the contract.

**ROLL CALL: YEA:** Timm, McAfee, Weimer, DiCostanzo, Nelson, Boggs, Dunnem

**NAY:** None **MOTION CARRIED**

#### **APPOINTMENTS:**

7. Consideration of confirming the appointment of Lisa Croteau to the Historic District Commission.

**Council Member Nelson** moved, **Council Member Dunnem** seconded to confirm the appointment of Lisa Croteau to the Historic District Commission. **AYE: 7 NAY: 0 MOTION CARRIED.**

**CITY ATTORNEY’S REPORT:** No Report

#### **CLOSED SESSION:**

Discussion of negotiation with POLC (Police Officers Labor Council) collective bargaining agreement at the request of the City.

**Council Member Nelson** moved, **Council Member McAfee** seconded to go into Closed Session to discuss the POLC collective bargaining agreement at the request of the City.

**ROLL CALL: YEA:** McAfee, Weimer, DiCostanzo, Nelson, Boggs, Dunnem, Timm,

**NAY:** None **MOTION CARRIED** at 6:23pm.

**RECONVENED:** Mayor Shelton declared the regular council meeting back in session at 6:32pm.

**DiCostanzo** moved, **Weimer** seconded to approve the POLC labor agreement for a 2% wage increase for each year of the agreement as well as other workplace benefits

**ROLL CALL: YEA:** Timm, McAfee, Weimer, DiCostanzo, Nelson, Boggs, Dunnem

**NAY:** None **MOTION CARRIED**

#### **COUNCIL MEMBER'S REPORT:**

**Council Member Nelson** spoke in favor of the NODE saying that it provides a meeting place for the community to enjoy music, market and movies.

**Council Member DiCostanzo** stated that he would like to hear from the community and business owners to help the council make a decision on the future of the NODE.

**Council Member McAfee** mentioned that she believes the NODE has been a good idea for the community.

#### **MAYOR'S REPORT:**

**Mayor Shelton** reported that hydrant flushing will begin Monday, October 18 through October 22, 2021 from 8am to 3:30pm.

There will be a Committee of the Whole and Appointment Committee meeting following this meeting.

Sheila Kobel had an idea to host a "Bling the Block" to decorate her neighborhood. It has become a citywide holiday decorating contest. 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Greater Niles Sight and Lights Decorating Contest. So far \$800 has been donated for prizes.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

Council Member Weimer moved to adjourn at 6:42pm.

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Linda Casperson  
Niles City Clerk

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Date