

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

Monday, July 26, 2021

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

ABSENT: None

STAFF: Richard Huff, Robert Landgraf, Linda Casperson

PUBLIC HEARING:

The public hearing was opened at 6:00pm. Mayor Shelton asked if anyone would like to speak on the proposed PY 2021 CDBG Annual Action Plan. Mayor Shelton asked once again if anyone would like to speak regarding the CDBG Annual Action Plan. Hearing no response, the public hearing was closed at 6:02pm.

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

The regular Niles City Council meeting was called to order by Mayor Shelton at 6:02 p.m. July 26, 2021. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mayor Shelton.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Council Member DiCostanzo moved, **Council Member Bertschy** seconded to approve the agenda.

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

NAY: None **MOTION CARRIED**

CITIZEN PARTICIPATION: (PUBLIC COMMENTS)

Pastor David Frazier, Art Kelly, Pastor Jeff Whittaker spoke in opposition of the Cannabis Festival. Pastor Frazier voice opposition of the upcoming celebration of marijuana, and the message being sent by the leaders of the community. Pastor Whittaker voice concern of black-market drugs and shootings.

PRESENTATIONS:

Presentation of Certificate of Appreciation to Timothy O'Toole for his volunteer work in the downtown sector of Niles, Michigan.

CONSENT AGENDA:

1. Consideration of approving the minutes of July 12, 2021.
2. Consideration of approving the list of bills dated July 21, 2021.
3. Consideration of approving to accept the quote of \$3,088.83 to be charged to the Maintenance-Plant Equipment Replacement Fund from Windemuller Inc. of Wayland, MI to upgrade the Groov operator interface appliance at the Wastewater Treatment Plant.
4. Consideration of approving to accept the quote of \$5,030.00 to be charged to the Maintenance-Plant Equipment Fund from TMI Compressed Air Systems Inc. of Grandville, MI for the purchase of two (2) 14" expansion joints for use on blower #2 at the Wastewater Treatment Plant.

Council Member DiCostanzo moved, **Council Member McAfee** seconded to approve the consent agenda.

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

NAY: None **MOTION CARRIED**

CITY ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT:
Introduction of Items for Discussion
Items for Council Action

5. Consideration of approving to accept the bid of \$27,936.46 to be charged to the Poles and Fixtures Fund from A. Meredith Schneider of East Point, GA for the purchase of wooden utility poles.

Council Member DiCostanzo moved, **Council Member Dunnem** seconded to approve to accept the bid of \$27,936.46 to be charged to the Poles and Fixtures Fund from A. Meredith Schneider of East Point, GA for the purchase of wooden utility poles.

ROLL CALL: YEA: DiCostanzo, Nelson, Boggs, Bertschy, Dunnem, Timm, McAfee, Weimer
NAY: None **MOTION CARRIED**

6. Consideration of approving to accept the quote of \$40,910.00 to be charged to the Maintenance-Plant Equipment Replacement Fund from Spaans Babcock Inc. of Barrie, Ontario, Canada for the purchase of replacement components for the rebuild of the fine screen at the Wastewater Treatment Plant.

Council Member DiCostanzo mentioned that he is a member of the Utility Board and they discussed that Spaans Babcock, Inc. is the only source that could provide that replacement components.

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

ROLL CALL: YEA: Nelson, Boggs, Bertschy, Dunnem, Timm, McAfee, Weimer, DiCostanzo
NAY: None **MOTION CARRIED**

7. Consideration of approving the purchase of the Hurco ERB800 Valve Exerciser with Auxiliary-Hydraulics, Valve Star G6 add-on feature, and V300 Valve and Vac on a large trailer for the amount of \$74,025.00 to be charged to the Maintenance of Distribution Mains Fund from Ferguson Waterworks of South Bend, IN.

Council Member DiCostanzo moved, **Council Member Weimer** seconded to approve the purchase of the Hurco ERB800 Valve Exerciser with Auxiliary-Hydraulics, Valve Star G6 add-on feature, and V300 Valve and Vac on a large trailer for the amount of \$74,025.00 to be charged to the Maintenance of Distribution Mains Fund from Ferguson Waterworks of South Bend, IN.

ROLL CALL: YEA: Boggs, Bertschy, Dunnem, Timm, McAfee, Weimer, DiCostanzo, Nelson
NAY: None **MOTION CARRIED**

APPOINTMENTS: No appointments.

CITY ATTORNEY'S REPORT: No report

COUNCIL MEMBER'S REPORT:

Council Member DiCostanzo thanked the people and pastors that spoke during Citizen Participation. He mentioned that the cannabis festival is like any other event. It's a venue where people can show their craft. Had the council opted-out, there would still be homegrown cannabis. By opting-in the product is being regulated. Good parenting lessons make better grown-ups.

Council Member Nelson there are some lovely events going on downtown at the NODE. Homegrown Market on Wednesdays and Sundays and Open Mic on Mondays.

Council Member Boggs thanked the ministers for coming to tonight's council meeting. First Ward had their community wide garage sale.

Council Member Bertschy the Homegrown Market has local vendors, crafts, and fresh fruits and

vegetables. Residents on Merrifield Street participated in the first ward garage sale. She thanked Tim O'Toole for his hours of volunteering.

Council Member Timm stated that marijuana is a plant, not a chemical. It has helped people with pain and anxiety.

MAYOR'S REPORT:

Mayor Shelton thanked everyone for coming to the council meeting and participating. The NODE will have a fundraiser for Colton Strong who is undergoing treatment for brain cancer. The fundraiser will be on Wednesday from 7pm to 10pm featuring the Toona's a high-school student band.

ADJOURNMENT

Council Member Weimer moved to adjourn at 6:35pm.

Linda Casperson
Niles City Clerk

Date