

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

**Monday, September 13, 2021**

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

**ABSENT:** None

**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. September 13, 2021. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mayor Shelton.

**APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

**Council Member DiCostanzo** moved, **Council Member McAfee** seconded to approve the agenda with the addition of 6A Social District Permit and 8. Closed Session to discuss the dismissal or disciplining of, or to hear complaints or charges brought against the public officer, employee, staff member or individual when the person requests a closed hearing.

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

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

**CITIZEN PARTICIPATION: (PUBLIC COMMENTS)**

**Marie Weimer** requested a moment of silence for the thirteen U.S. service members killed in Kabul Airport attack; and the victims of the 9/11 terrorist attack. Mayor stated that he would during his report

**Alisa Rodriguez** spoke in regards to an incident that happened where a person in a lower apartment shot a gun and the bullet traveled into the upstairs apartment.

**CONSENT AGENDA:**

1. Consideration of approving the minutes of August 23, 2021.
2. Consideration of approving the list of bills dated September 8, 2021.
3. Consideration of scheduling a public hearing for 6:00pm on September 27, 2021 to receive public comment concerning a waiver request to a portion of City Ordinance 458.
4. Consideration of approving the annual payment of \$3,375.00 to SimpleTexting for the continued use of their text messaging service with 50% to be charged to the General Fund and 50% to be charged to the

**Council Member Nelson** moved, **Council Member Bertschy** seconded to approve the consent agenda with a correction to the minutes of 8/23/21 showing Council Member DiCostanzo both present and absent. He was absent.

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

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

**CITY ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT:**

**Introduction of Items for Discussion**

## **Items for Council Action**

5. Consideration of approving an amended funding resolution thereby authorizing staff to re-submit the FY 2022 MDOT Regular Services Program Application for capital and operating funds for DART.

**Council Member Nelson** moved, **Council Member Bertschy** seconded to approve an amended funding resolution thereby authorizing staff to re-submit the FY 2022 MDOT Regular Services Program Application for capital and operating funds for DART.

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

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

6. Consideration of accepting the terms of the grant with Michigan Gateway Community Foundation in the amount of \$10,000.00 and authorizing the Mayor to sign the grant agreement.

**Council Member Nelson** moved, **Council Member Bertschy** seconded to accept the terms of the grant with Michigan Gateway Community Foundation in the amount of \$10,000.00 and authorizing the Mayor to sign the grant agreement.

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

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

6A. Consideration of authorizing the submittal of Local Government Unit Approval for Social District Permit to Michigan Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs Liquor Control Commission (MLCC) resolutions to approve the Rage, Front Street Pizza Pub, Wonderland Cinema, and The Nuggett for a Social District Permit and authorize the Clerk to sign the documents.

**Council Member Nelson** moved, **Council Member Bertschy** seconded to authorize the submittal for Social District Permit resolution for The Rage, Front Street Pizza Pub, Wonderland Cinema, and The Nuggett and authorize the Clerk to sign the documents.

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

**NAY:** None **MOTION CARRIED RESOLUTION 2021-09/2151 DECLARED ADOPTED**

**APPOINTMENTS:** No appointments.

### **CITY ATTORNEY'S REPORT:**

7. Consideration of accepting the Second Reading and Enactment of a proposal to amend the language in the City of Niles Ordinance Article III-Water Sec. 90-71 Service line installations as amended.

**Council Member Nelson** moved, **Council Member Bertschy** seconded to adopt and enact an ordinance to amend the language in the City of Niles Ordinance Article III-Water Sec. 90-71 Service line installations as amended.

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

**NAY:** None **MOTION CARRIED ORDINANCE 500 DECLARED ENACTED**

### **8. CLOSED SESSION:**

**Council Member Nelson** moved, **Council Member Bertschy** seconded to go into Closed Session to discuss the dismissal or disciplining of, or to hear complaints or charges brought against the public officer, employee, staff member or individual when the person requests a closed hearing.

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

**NAY:** None **MOTION CARRIED** at 6:15

**RECONVENED:** Mayor Shelton declared the regular council meeting back in session at 6:24pm. No action taken.

**COUNCIL MEMBER’S REPORT:**

**Council Member Boggs** invited the community to a townhall meeting tomorrow at 6pm in the council chambers to speak to law enforcement officials regarding violence in the community.

**Council Member Bertschy** thanked Caryn Adler for concerts in the park and River Essence for the beautification of the downtown district.

**Council Member Weimer** moved, **Council Member Nelson** seconded excusing Council Member DiCostanzo from the previous meeting August 23. **AYES: 8 NAYS: 0 MOTION CARRIED.**

**Council Member DiCostanzo** mentioned the excitement that the Pucker Street Dam Project is near completion; Indeck is getting ready to generate power by next year; and thanked all the great work by city staff on our behalf. There are big improvements and we should all be pleased with how things are progressing.

**Council Member Nelson** reported that the Historic District Commission met to go over Guidelines and Bylaws, and Certificates of Appropriateness. They want to create a positive atmosphere of belonging in the 4<sup>th</sup> Street residential and downtown historic district. The goal is to preserve historic structures. The decorations are beautiful downtown and ready for fall. Apple Festival is coming and the NODE is hopping every night. Monday is open mic with Council Member Nelson on the drums playing with her son, Hank on the guitar. Tuesday is retro movie night, Wednesday is after dark market, Thursday is 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday social. She encouraged everyone to bring their family downtown.

**MAYOR’S REPORT:**

**Mayor Shelton** thanked River Essence for the beautiful fall decorations downtown with mums in the flowerbeds and corn stocks on the lamp posts. Trick or Treat in the City of Niles is October 31, 2021 from 6pm to 7:30pm. A Moment of Silence in remembrance of the U.S. service members killed in the Kabul Airport attack; and the victims of the 9/11 terrorist attack.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Council Member Weimer moved to adjourn at 6:34pm.

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Linda Casperson  
Niles City Clerk

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Date