

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

**Monday, March 13, 2023**

**PRESENT:** Council Members: Georgia Boggs, Gretchen Bertschy, Amanda Dunnem, Timothy Rogers, Charlie McAfee, William Weimer, John DiCostanzo, Michael Thompson, and Mayor Nick Shelton

**ABSENT:**

**STAFF:** Huff, Landgraf

**REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING**

The regular Niles City Council meeting was called to order by Mayor Shelton at 6:00 p.m. March 13, 2023. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mayor Nick Shelton.

**APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

**Councilmember Rogers** moved, **Councilmember DiCostanzo** seconded to approve the agenda as submitted with removal of approval of Appointment Committee and Committee of the Whole minutes.

**ROLL CALL: YEA:** Boggs, Bertschy, Dunnem, Rogers, McAfee, Weimer, DiCostanzo, Thompson

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

**PUBLIC HEARINGS:**

**CITIZEN PARTICIPATION: (PUBLIC COMMENTS)**

Marie Weimer thanked a good Samaritan for clearing snow from her porch and walk and requested the City consider installing a baby box at the Fire Department.

**PRESENTATIONS:**

Presentation of 2022 City of Niles Audit by Bill Tucker and Tyler Baker, CPAs of Maner Costerisan

**CONSENT AGENDA:**

1. Consideration of approving the minutes of February 27, 2023 Regular, ~~Appointment Committee and Committee of the Whole~~ meeting. (see approval of the Agenda)
2. Consideration of approving the list of bills dated March 7, 2023.

**Councilmember Bertschy** moved, **Councilmember Boggs** seconded to approve the consent agenda as submitted.

**ROLL CALL: YEA:** Bertschy, Dunnem, Rogers, McAfee, Weimer, DiCostanzo, Thompson, Boggs

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

**CITY ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT:**

**Introduction of Items for Discussion**  
**Items for Council Action**

3. Consideration of approving the request to increase the base pay for DART drivers and dispatchers to \$17.50 per hour.



**Councilmember DiCostanzo** moved, **Councilmember McAfee** seconded to approve the request to increase the base pay for DART drivers and dispatchers to \$17.50 per hour.

**ROLL CALL: YEA:** Dunnem, Rogers, McAfee, Weimer, DiCostanzo, Thompson, Boggs, Bertschy

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

4. Consideration of approving the Resolution of Support for 2026 Local Bridge Program Funding application.

**Councilmember Bertschy** moved, **Councilmember Boggs** seconded to approve the resolution of Support for 2026 Local Bridge Program Funding application.

**ROLL CALL: YEA:** Rogers, McAfee, Weimer, DiCostanzo, Thompson, Boggs, Bertschy, Dunnem

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

**RESOLUTION 2023-03/2178 DECLARED ADOPTED**

5. Consideration of approving the bid of \$120,200.00 from Wightman and Associates of Benton Harbor, Michigan to provide engineering services for the Wayne Street improvement project slated for 2024, with costs to be charged to Major Street system and authorize the Mayor to sign agreement.

**Councilmember DiCostanzo** moved, **Councilmember Bertschy** seconded to approve the bid of \$120,200.00 from Wightman and Associates of Benton Harbor, Michigan to provide engineering services for the Wayne Street improvement project slated for 2024, with costs to be charged to Major Street system and authorize the Mayor to sign agreement.

**ROLL CALL: YEA:** McAfee, Weimer, DiCostanzo, Thompson, Boggs, Bertschy, Dunnem, Rogers

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

6. Consideration of approving the bid of \$848,403.00 from Mihm Enterprises, Inc. of Hamilton, MI for the Niles History Center Roof Rehabilitation project with funding coming from federal sources, including ARPA, SHPO and also private funds, and authorize the Mayor to sign the contracts and further to sign the amended CLG grant agreement.

**Councilmember DiCostanzo** moved, **Councilmember Bertschy** seconded to approve the bid of \$848,403.00 from Mihm Enterprises, Inc. of Hamilton, MI for the Niles History Center Roof Rehabilitation project with funding coming from federal sources, including ARPA, SHPO and also private funds, and authorize the Mayor to sign the contracts and further to sign the amended CLG grant agreement.

**ROLL CALL: YEA:** Weimer, DiCostanzo, Thompson, Boggs, Bertschy, Dunnem, Rogers, McAfee

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

7. Consideration of approving the renewal of Community Requirements and Expectations Agreement with Michigan Main Street in order to maintain Master Level Accreditation and to authorize the Mayor to sign the agreement.

**Councilmember DiCostanzo** moved, **Councilmember McAfee** seconded to approve the renewal of Community Requirements and Expectations Agreement with Michigan Main Street in order to maintain Master Level Accreditation and to authorize the Mayor to sign the agreement.

**ROLL CALL: YEA:** DiCostanzo, Thompson, Boggs, Bertschy, Dunnem, Rogers, McAfee, Weimer

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

8. Consideration of accepting the Michigan Gateway Community Foundation Mahlon J. and Thelma C. Smith Endowment for Niles grant of \$1,500.00 for the 2022 Santa on the River Documentary and authorize the Mayor to sign the agreement.

**Councilmember Rogers** moved, **Councilmember Bertschy** seconded to approve acceptance the Michigan Gateway Community Foundation Mahlon J. and Thelma C. Smith Endowment for Niles grant



of \$1,500.00 for the 2022 Santa on the River Documentary and authorize the Mayor to sign the agreement.

**ROLL CALL: YEA:** Thompson, Boggs, Bertschy, Dunnem, Rogers, McAfee, Weimer, DiCostanzo

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

9. Consideration of accepting the Michigan Gateway Community Foundation Help for Homes grant in the amount of \$20,000.00 and authorize the Mayor to sign agreement.

**Councilmember DiCostanzo** moved, **Councilmember Dunnem** seconded to approve accepting the Michigan Gateway Community Foundation Help for Homes grant in the amount of \$20,000.00 and authorize the Mayor to sign agreement.

**ROLL CALL: YEA:** Boggs, Bertschy, Dunnem, Rogers, McAfee, Weimer, DiCostanzo, Thompson

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

10. Consideration of approving the request of LifePlan to conduct the annual Hero run 5K/10K on April 22, 2023 and to waive the associated fees in the approximate amount of \$702.25.

**Councilmember DiCostanzo** moved, **Councilmember Bertschy** seconded to approve the request of LifePlan to conduct the annual Hero run 5K/10K on April 22, 2023 and to waive the associated fees in the approximate amount of \$702.25.

**ROLL CALL: YEA:** Bertschy, Dunnem, Rogers, McAfee, Weimer, DiCostanzo, Thompson, Boggs

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

11. Consideration of granting permission to the American Legion Larue Messenger Post #26 to conduct the annual Memorial Day Parade on May 29, 2023 and the related requests, including staff recommendations.

**Councilmember Rogers** moved, **Councilmember Dunnem** seconded to approve granting permission to the American Legion Larue Messenger Post #26 to conduct the annual Memorial Day Parade on May 29, 2023 and the related requests, including staff recommendations.

**ROLL CALL: YEA:** Dunnem, Rogers, McAfee, Weimer, DiCostanzo, Thompson, Boggs, Bertschy

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

12. Consideration of approving the services agreement of \$6,000.00 monthly with V & V Assessing of Portage, Michigan for a term of January 1, 2023 through April 30, 2023 to be charged to the Assessing Fund and authorize the Mayor to sign the agreement.

**Councilmember Bertschy** moved, **Councilmember Dunnem** seconded to approve the services agreement of \$6,000.00 monthly with V & V Assessing of Portage, Michigan for a term of January 1, 2023 through April 30, 2023 to be charged to the Assessing Fund and authorize the Mayor to sign the agreement.

**ROLL CALL: YEA:** Rogers, McAfee, Weimer, DiCostanzo, Thompson, Boggs, Bertschy, Dunnem

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

#### **APPOINTMENTS:**

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

#### **COUNCILMEMBER'S REPORT:**

Councilmember Boggs thanked the City for a good Council Retreat.

Councilmember Bertschy thankful for a successful Restaurant Week and thanked Ric for filling in for the Clerk

Councilmember Dunnem no report.

Councilmember Rogers no report.

Councilmember McAfee thanked the Police Department for a professional traffic stop that was relayed to her.

Councilmember Weimer no report.

Councilmember DiCostanzo thanked Ric for filling in for the Clerk.

Councilmember Thompson discussed the recent bank failures, limiting deposits to \$250,000, and promoted the purchase of treasury notes at treasury.gov.

**MAYOR'S REPORT:**

Thanked the Michigan Gateway Foundation for their donation in support of the community. Announced the River Essence's fundraiser Pledge to Plunge at Front Street Pizza Pub.

**CLOSED SESSION:**

**ADJOURNMENT**

Councilmember Weimer moved to adjourn at 6:42 p.m.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Richard Huff  
Niles City Administrator

  
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Date