

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

**Monday, June 10, 2024**

**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, Bergman, Arseneau, Dewey, McCauslin, Millin, Ray, Young

**REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING**

The regular Niles City Council meeting was called to order by Mayor Shelton at 6:01 p.m. June 10, 2024. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mayor Nick Shelton.

**APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

**Councilmember Thompson** moved, **Councilmember DiCostanzo** seconded to approve the agenda as submitted with postponing the second presentation.

**Councilmember Thompson** moved, **Councilmember DiCostanzo** seconded to approve the agenda as submitted with postponing the second presentation and the addition of item 11a.

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

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

**PUBLIC HEARING:**

**CITIZEN PARTICIPATION: (PUBLIC COMMENTS)**

**Mary Ellen Drolet** shared that the local DAR Chapter held a grave marking on June 2, 2024, for a Revolutionary Soldier, Ezra Chilson and his wife Pamela Daggett Chilson, who were both buried in Silverbrook Cemetery. Mary Ellen received many compliments on the historic cemetery. She thanked Neal Mikel for his assistance and all that he does to keep it looking beautiful

**Nicole Mireles**, Niles DDA Main Street Promotions Committee, gave an update on new businesses and upcoming events located downtown.

**Ylonda Scott**, co-founder of the Juneteenth Festival, invited everyone to come June 19, 2024, 4 p.m. to 8 p.m. located at Plym Park. This year's theme is "Creative Expression: Empowering Our Youth for a Brighter Future", where there will be vendors, artists, workshops, a parade, and the nomination of Juneteenth King & Queen.

**PRESENTATIONS:**

Mayor Shelton presented a Proclamation to Daughters of the American Revolution – Women Veterans Day.

**CONSENT AGENDA:**

1. Consideration of approving the minutes of May 20, 2024.
2. Consideration of approving the list of bills dated June 5, 2024.

**Councilmember Rogers** moved, **Councilmember Dunnem** seconded to approve the consent agenda as submitted.

**ROLL CALL: YEA:** Dunnem, Rogers, McAfee, Weimer, DiCostanzo, Thompson, Boggs, Bertschy  
**NAY:** None **ABSENT:** **MOTION CARRIED**

**CITY ADMINISTRATOR’S REPORT:**

3. Consideration of authorizing renewal of the MML membership dues, including defense fund dues, at a cost of \$7,535.00 for the period of July 1, 2024 thru June 30, 2025, as allowed for in the 2024 fiscal budget.

**Councilmember Bertschy** moved, **Councilmember Boggs** seconded to approve renewal of the MML membership dues, including defense fund dues, at a cost of \$7,535.00 for the period of July 1, 2024 thru June 30, 2025, as allowed for in the 2024 fiscal budget.

**ROLL CALL: YEA:** Rogers, McAfee, Weimer, DiCostanzo, Thompson, Boggs, Bertschy, Dunnem  
**NAY:** None **ABSENT:** **MOTION CARRIED**

4. Consideration of authorizing a donation in the amount of \$2,500.00 to the Fort St. Joseph Archaeology Open House, with the expense being charged to Council Community Promotions.

**Councilmember DiCostanzo** moved, **Councilmember Dunnem** seconded to approve a donation in the amount of \$2,500.00 to the Fort St. Joseph Archaeology Open House, with the expense being charged to Council Community Promotions.

**ROLL CALL: YEA:** McAfee, Weimer, DiCostanzo, Boggs, Bertschy, Dunnem, Rogers  
**NAY:** Thompson **ABSENT:** **MOTION CARRIED**

5. Consideration of awarding the TOT Park contract to Great Lakes Recreation of Holland, Michigan at a cost of \$30,000.00 which will be paid for with CDBG funds and authorize the Mayor to sign the contract.

**Councilmember Rogers** moved, **Councilmember Bertschy** seconded to award the TOT Park contract to Great Lakes Recreation of Holland, Michigan at a cost of \$30,000.00 which will be paid for with CDBG funds and authorize the Mayor to sign the contract.

**ROLL CALL: YEA:** Weimer, DiCostanzo, Thompson, Boggs, Bertschy, Dunnem, Rogers, McAfee  
**NAY:** None **ABSENT:** **MOTION CARRIED**

6. Consideration of approving the quote from Truck and Trailer Specialties, Inc. of Dutton, Michigan in the amount of \$26,740.00 to install a new 10’ Dump Body on Truck 15 and charge the expense to the Public Works budget.

**Councilmember Rogers** moved, **Councilmember Dunnem** seconded to approve the quote from Truck and Trailer Specialties, Inc. of Dutton, Michigan in the amount of \$26,740.00 to install a new 10’ Dump Body on Truck 15 and charge the expense to the Public Works budget.

**ROLL CALL: YEA:** DiCostanzo, Thompson, Boggs, Bertschy, Dunnem, Rogers, McAfee, Weimer  
**NAY:** None **ABSENT:** **MOTION CARRIED**

7. Consideration of approving the quote from Truck and Trailer Specialties, Inc. of Dutton, Michigan in the amount of \$33,885.00 to install a new 10’ Dump Body on Truck 6 and charge the expense to the Public Works budget.

**Councilmember Thompson** moved, **Councilmember Rogers** seconded to approve the quote from Truck and Trailer Specialties, Inc. of Dutton, Michigan in the amount of \$33,885.00 to install a new 10’ Dump Body on Truck 6 and charge the expense to the Public Works budget.

**ROLL CALL: YEA:** Thompson, Boggs, Bertschy, Dunnem, Rogers, McAfee, Weimer, DiCostanzo  
**NAY:** None **ABSENT:** **MOTION CARRIED**

8. Consideration of accepting the bid from Hydrolake, Inc. of McBain, Michigan in the amount of \$45,290.00 for the purchase of 124 wood utility poles and pay for this expense from the Electric Division 5-year plan.

**Councilmember Bertschy** moved, **Councilmember Thompson** seconded to accept the bid from Hydrolake, Inc. of McBain, Michigan in the amount of \$45,290.00 for the purchase of 124 wood utility poles and pay for this expense from the Electric Division 5-year plan.

**ROLL CALL: YEA:** Boggs, Bertschy, Dunnem, Rogers, McAfee, Weimer, DiCostanzo, Thompson  
**NAY:** None **ABSENT:** **MOTION CARRIED**

9. Consideration of approving the Memorandum of Understanding between SWMPC and the City of Niles DART and authorize the Mayor to sign the document.

**Councilmember Thompson** moved, **Councilmember Bertschy** seconded to approve the Memorandum of Understanding between SWMPC and the City of Niles DART and authorize the Mayor to sign the document

**ROLL CALL: YEA:** Bertschy, Dunnem, Rogers, McAfee, Weimer, DiCostanzo, Thompson, Boggs  
**NAY:** None **ABSENT:** **MOTION CARRIED**

10. Consideration of accepting the bid from Praise Signs of Grandville, Michigan in the amount of \$16,177.61 for a new sign at the Niles History Center, pay for the expense with ARPA funds, and authorize the Mayor to sign the contract.

**Councilmember DiCostanzo** moved, **Councilmember McAfee** seconded to accept the bid from Praise Signs of Grandville, Michigan in the amount of \$16,177.61 for a new sign at the Niles History Center, pay for the expense with ARPA funds, and authorize the Mayor to sign the contract.

**ROLL CALL: YEA:** Dunnem, Rogers, McAfee, Weimer, DiCostanzo, Thompson, Boggs, Bertschy  
**NAY:** None **ABSENT:** **MOTION CARRIED**

11. Consideration of approving the 2024 City of Niles millage rates and authorizing the Mayor and City Clerk to sign the 2024 Tax Rate Request document.

**Councilmember Thompson** moved, **Councilmember DiCostanzo** seconded to approve the 2024 City of Niles millage rates and authorizing the Mayor and City Clerk to sign the 2024 Tax Rate Request document.

**ROLL CALL: YEA:** Rogers, McAfee, Weimer, DiCostanzo, Thompson, Boggs, Bertschy, Dunnem  
**NAY:** None **ABSENT:** **MOTION CARRIED**

11a. Consideration of approving, by resolution, the State Trunk Line Maintenance Contract for the period specified and authorize Mayor, Nick Shelton and Public Works Director, Joseph Ray to sign said contract.

**Councilmember Thompson** moved, **Councilmember Rogers** seconded to approve, by resolution, the State Trunk Line Maintenance Contract for the period specified and authorize Mayor, Nick Shelton and Public Works Director, Joseph Ray to sign said contract.

**ROLL CALL: YEA:** McAfee, Weimer, DiCostanzo, Thompson, Boggs, Bertschy, Dunnem, Rogers  
**NAY:** None **ABSENT:** **MOTION CARRIED**

- 11b. Consideration of approving the use of Pokagon Street for the Juneteenth parade staging area.

**Councilmember DiCostanzo** moved, **Councilmember Bertschy** seconded to approve the use of Pokagon Street for the Juneteenth parade staging area.

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

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

**11c.** Consideration of approving Public Works to purchase two used medium duty trucks.  
**Councilmember Bertschy** moved, **Councilmember DiCostanzo** seconded to approve Public Works to purchase two used medium duty trucks.

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

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

#### **APPOINTMENTS:**

#### **CITY ATTORNEY’S REPORT:**

#### **COUNCILMEMBER’S REPORT:**

**Councilmember Bertschy** shared that she met with the County Commissioners. The hot topic was road construction, not just in South County.

**Councilmember Rogers** thanked everyone for attending the Memorial Day Parade despite the weather. Rogers explained the phrase “Buyer Beware” as not all contractors are licensed and bonded and can handle to job that they are hired to do. He also asked everyone to have patience with the road construction.

**Councilmember McAfee** thanked Council and the community for all the encouragement that she received over the past couple of years with the passing of her granddaughter, daughter and husband as well as when she had her heart attack and stroke. She stated that she is on the mend and hopes to attend the Fort St. Joseph Open House. McAfee followed with asking Joe Ray if she gets paid for directing others how to get out of town and get to Walmart.

**Councilmember Boggs** extended a special thanks to Ylonda Scott for all her hard work throughout the whole year in planning this event. Boggs noted that although Mrs. Crocker was absent from the meeting, she wanted to acknowledge and thank her for her service.

#### **MAYOR’S REPORT:**

**Mayor Shelton** appreciated all the efforts in the road construction and stated that there is light at the end of the tunnel. He added that Brandywine and the Performing Arts Workshop held a fundraiser at the Underground Laugh Lounge & Study. He thanked Sheila for all the amazing work they do. The Mayor also walked in the Memorial Day Parade and commented on how nice the downtown looks thanks River Essence for all their hard work. The Mayor added that he also has family members in Silverbrook Cemetery

#### **CLOSED SESSION:**

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

Councilmember Weimer moved to adjourn at 6:40 p.m.

Tina Bergman, Niles City Clerk

Approved by City Council June 26, 2024.