

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

Monday, March 25, 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, Landgraf, Ray, Dunlap

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

The regular Niles City Council meeting was called to order by Mayor Shelton at 6:06 p.m. March 25, 2024. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mayor Nick Shelton.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

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

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

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

PUBLIC HEARING:

CITIZEN PARTICIPATION: (PUBLIC COMMENTS)

Caryn Adler of Niles Music and More thanked Council for the donation. In 2023 attendance was 3,000 and over \$8,200 was collected in donations, \$3,500 specifically for Ferry St. Resource.

Marie Weimer asked that microphones be used to help those with hearing impairments.

PRESENTATIONS:

CONSENT AGENDA:

1. Consideration of approving the minutes of March 11, 2024.
2. Consideration of approving the list of bills dated March 20, 2024.

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

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

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

CITY ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT:

Introduction of Items for Discussion

Items for Council Action

3. Consideration of approving the PY CDBG Agreement with the Ferry Street Resource Center for Public Services.

Councilmember DiCostanzo moved, **Councilmember Bertschy** seconded to approve the PY CDBG Agreement with the Ferry Street Resource Center for Public Services.

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

4. Consideration of approving a commitment to purchase 500 tons of bulk rock salt through MiDeal, at an unknown price at this time, and authorize the Public Works Director to sign the commitment.

Councilmember Bertschy moved, **Councilmember Rogers** seconded to approve a commitment to purchase 500 tons of bulk rock salt through MiDeal, at an unknown price at this time, and authorize the Public Works Director to sign the commitment.

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

5. Consideration of approving an increase in golf course fees as presented.

Councilmember Thompson moved, **Councilmember Dunnem** seconded to approve an increase in golf course fees as presented.

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

6. Consideration of approving emergency repairs to the Western Electric Flygt submersible pump for use at the Western lift station in the amount of \$5,322.86 from Precision Electric of Mishawaka, Indiana and charge the expense to the Wastewater Division.

Councilmember Bertschy moved, **Councilmember Rogers** seconded to approve emergency repairs to the Western Electric Flygt submersible pump for use at the Western lift station in the amount of \$5,322.86 from Precision Electric of Mishawaka, Indiana and charge the expense to the Wastewater Division.

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

7. Consideration of approving the emergency purchase of repair parts for two Vaughan Chopper Pumps from JGM Valve Corporation of Commerce, Michigan in the amount of \$17,346.00 for use at the Wastewater Treatment Plant.

Councilmember DiCostanzo moved, **Councilmember Dunnem** seconded to approve the emergency purchase of repair parts for two Vaughan Chopper Pumps from JGM Valve Corporation of Commerce, Michigan in the amount of \$17,346.00 for use at the Wastewater Treatment Plant.

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

8. Consideration of approving the purchase of one (1) Stalker DSR radar unit from Applied Concepts, Inc. of Richardson, Texas in the amount of \$2,699.00 for use by the Police Department and charge the expense to their budget.

Councilmember Bertschy moved, **Councilmember McAfee** seconded to approve the purchase of one (1) Stalker DSR radar unit from Applied Concepts, Inc. of Richardson, Texas in the amount of \$2,699.00 for use by the Police Department and charge the expense to their budget.

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

9. Consideration of adopting a resolution in support of the Michigan Department of Natural Resources Passport Grant with a local match of 25% to be funded from ARPA funds.

Councilmember DiCostanzo moved, **Councilmember Bertschy** seconded to adopt a resolution in support of the Michigan Department of Natural Resources Passport Grant with a local match of 25% to be funded from ARPA funds.

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

APPOINTMENTS:

CITY ATTORNEY'S REPORT:

10. Consideration of approving the second reading and adoption of the City of Niles, Michigan Workforce Housing PILOT Ordinance.

ORDINANCE 511 ENACTED

COUNCILMEMBER'S REPORT:

Councilmember McAfee thanked everyone, Council and the EMT's for everything and said that she's feeling pretty good.

Councilmember Weimer welcomed back his patriot from the 3rd Ward.

Councilmember DiCostanzo said that he was so happy to see Councilmember McAfee back and that prayers work.

Councilmember Thompson announced that he was providing a petition, for anyone interested in signing, against a law passed by Lansing allowing utility companies to provide some kind of alternative energy source and allowing them to place it wherever they want it to be.

Councilmember Boggs welcomed back Councilwoman McAfee. She issued a sincere approach to National Standard employees in the layoff. She encouraged everyone to help their neighbors as the Benton Harbor DHS closing due to mold, referring everyone to Dowagiac and Cassopolis.

Councilmember Bertschy motioned, **Councilmember DiCostanzo** supported to excuse Councilmember Dunnem from the last meeting.

AYES: 8 NAYS: 0 MOTION CARRIED

She also shared how proud she was of our community for supporting our local non for profits.

Councilmember Rogers motioned, **Councilmember DiCostanzo** supported to excuse Councilmember McAfee from previous meetings.

AYES: 8 NAYS: 0 MOTION CARRIED

He encouraged those in attendance to stay for the following meeting regarding the FORGE. He also shared that there was a vote in Cassopolis tonight to fund further support for ambulance service in that community.

MAYOR'S REPORT:

Mayor Shelton announced that Councilmember DiCostanzo has stepped away from a couple of the committees and commissions that he has serviced on. He thanked DiCostanzo for his service.

Councilmember Bertschy moved, **Councilmember Weimer** supported to approve Councilmember Rogers to the Utilities Board.

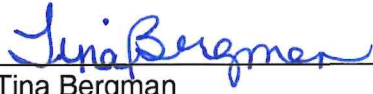
AYES: 8 NAYS: 0 MOTION CARRIED

The mayor announced a fundraiser held at Niles Highschool at 6pm, Vikings vs. Bobcats in support of Ferry St. He also shared that he plunged for a pledge that Vikki and the River Essence Group raised over \$21,000. The Mayor ended with GO BOBCATS, including the recent sporting accomplishments.

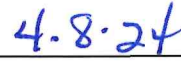
CLOSED SESSION:

ADJOURNMENT

Council Member Weimer moved to adjourn at 6:28 p.m.



Tina Bergman
Niles City Clerk



Date