

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

Monday, May 22, 2023

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

ABSENT: Charlie McAfee,

STAFF: Huff, Coleman

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

The regular Niles City Council meeting was called to order by Mayor Shelton at 6:00 p.m. May 22, 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

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

NAY: 0 ABSENT: McAfee **MOTION CARRIED**

PRESENTATIONS:

Miss Niles, Audrey Dixon was presented with the Miss Niles Charm bracelet. She is a Senior at Niles High School and plans to attend University of Wisconsin to earn a degree in Business and continue her swimming career. Hopes to coach her own swim team. Member of Student Council and National Honors Society. The Mayor thanked her on behalf of the City of Niles.

PUBLIC HEARINGS:

To hear public comment on the proposed additions to the CDBG are Map

CITIZEN PARTICIPATION: (PUBLIC COMMENTS)

Jess Nelson 546 Grant St. Niles, MI wanted to reintroduce herself. Was elected to DDA Chair and is available for questions, comments etc. Also thanked council for approving the Homegrown Market.

Carrie Nyenhuis - Thank you to everyone who attended the Renaissance Faire and would like to continue having it in Niles. They are looking for a permanent location to hold it. 2,637 ppl attended (over 40% increase from 2022)- Great turnout.

Brian Crespo 2112 Industrial Dr. Last Monday there was an emergency at their building and thanked Niles City for quickly solving the problem. It was fixed within 2 hours. Also, The Home Organization will be sponsoring the Summer Concert Series.

CONSENT AGENDA:

1. Consideration of approving the minutes of May 8, 2023.
2. Consideration of approving the list of bills dated May 16, 2023.
3. Consideration of approving the revised request or the Niles Burn Run Festival correcting the dates previously approved pertaining to the sale of alcohol.

4. Consideration of approving the request of the Niles DDA Main Street to hold the Homegrown Market Day(s) in the Second Street lower level parking lot, with no expense to the city.

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

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

NAY: 0 ABSENT: McAfee MOTION CARRIED

CITY ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT:

Introduction of Items for Discussion

Items for Council Action

5. Consideration of authorizing a donation in the amount of \$2,500.00 to the Niles Music and More in support of the summer concerts and Movies in the park, with the expense being charged to Council Community Promotions.

Councilmember DiCostanzo moved, **Councilmember Bertschy** seconded to approve the \$2,500.00 to the Niles Music and More in support of the summer concerts and Movies in the park, with the expense being charged to Council Community Promotions.

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

NAY: 0 ABSENT: McAfee MOTION CARRIED

6. Consideration of approving the MERS Health Care Savings Programs Participation Agreement for non-union salaried employees and authorize the City Administrator to sign the agreement.

Councilmember DiCostanzo moved, **Councilmember Bertschy** seconded to approve the MERS Health Care Savings Programs Participation Agreement for non-union salaried employees and authorize the City Administrator to sign the agreement.

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

NAY: 0 ABSENT: McAfee MOTION CARRIED

7. Consideration of approving renewal of the MML membership, including legal defense fund dues, for a total cost of \$7,176.00 to cover the period of July 7, 2023 thru June 30, 2024, as allowed for in the FY 2023 budget.

Councilmember Bertschy moved, **Councilmember Rogers** seconded to approve renewal of the MML membership, including legal defense fund dues, for a total cost of \$7,176.00 to cover the period of July 7, 2023 thru June 30, 2024, as allowed for in the FY 2023 budget.

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

NAY: 0 ABSENT: McAfee MOTION CARRIED

8. Consideration of accepting the quote from Integrity Solutions Field Services of Alma, Michigan in the amount of \$9,500.00 for the external corrosion inspection of gas lines at the Wastewater Treatment Plant, to be charges to Buildings & Buildings Equipment- Old account.

Councilmember Rogers moved, **Councilmember Dunnem** seconded to accept the quote from Integrity Solutions Field Services of Alma, Michigan in the amount of \$9,500.00 for the external corrosion inspection of gas lines at the Wastewater Treatment Plant, to be charges to Buildings & Buildings Equipment- Old account.

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

NAY: 0 ABSENT: McAfee MOTION CARRIED

9. Consideration of approving the purchase of a 1500VA transformer from Herman & Goetz, Inc. of South Bend, Indiana for \$30,000.00, paid for from the Capital Plan- Transformers budget, and authorize the Utilities Manager to sign the purchase agreement.

Councilmember DiCostanzo moved, **Councilmember Rogers** seconded to approve the purchase of a 1500VA transformer from Herman & Goetz, Inc. of South Bend, Indiana for \$30,000.00, paid for from the Capital Plan- Transformers budget, and authorize the Utilities Manager to sign the purchase agreement.

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

NAY: 0 ABSENT: McAfee MOTION CARRIED

10. Consideration of accepting the bid from A. Meredith Schneider of East Point, Georgia in the amount of \$58,368.58 for the purchase of 130 wooden utility poles, and charged to the Electric Division- Poles and Fixtures account.

Councilmember DiCostanzo moved, **Councilmember Rogers** seconded to accept the bid from A. Meredith Schneider of East Point, Georgia in the amount of \$58,368.58 for the purchase of 130 wooden utility poles, and charged to the Electric Division- Poles and Fixtures account.

DiCostanzo: This is a necessary purchase

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

NAY: 0 ABSENT: McAfee MOTION CARRIED

11. Consideration of approving the request from the YMCA to support the Summer My Way program but providing \$10,000.00 from the CDBG funds and authorizing the Mayor to sign the Subrecipient Agreement.

Councilmember DiCostanzo moved, **Councilmember Bertschy** seconded to approve the request from the YMCA to support the Summer My Way program but providing \$10,000.00 from the CDBG funds and authorizing the Mayor to sign the Subrecipient Agreement.

DiCostanzo: It's a great program for kids and a great use of funds

Thompson: Is the \$10k from previous budget?

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

NAY: 0 ABSENT: McAfee MOTION CARRIED

12. Consideration of approving a provisional marijuana grower license to GenTerra, LLC located at 1312 Lake Street in Niles.

Councilmember DiCostanzo moved, **Councilmember Dunnem** seconded to approve a provisional marijuana grower license to GenTerra, LLC located at 1312 Lake Street in Niles.

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

NAY: Boggs ABSENT: McAfee MOTION CARRIED

13. Consideration of approving the appointment of Police Captain Michael Dawson as the interim Public Safety Director effective June 30, 2023.

Councilmember DiCostanzo moved, **Councilmember Bertschy** seconded to approve the appointment of Police Captain Michael Dawson as the interim Public Safety Director effective June 30, 2023.

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

NAY: 0 ABSENT: McAfee MOTION CARRIED

14. Consideration of approving HealthEquity's proposal to provide COBRA employee post-employment healthcare administration.

Councilmember Rogers moved, **Councilmember Dunnem** seconded to approve HealthEquity's proposal to provide COBRA employee post-employment healthcare administration.

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

NAY: 0 ABSENT: McAfee MOTION CARRIED

APPOINTMENTS:

CITY ATTORNEY'S REPORT:

15. Consideration of approving the 2nd reading and enactment of an ordinance to amend the Zoning Ordinance Section 503, 1, 3, as presented.

Councilmember DiCostanzo moved, **Councilmember Rogers** seconded to approve the 2nd reading and enactment of Ordinance 503, 1, 3 as presented.

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

NAY: 0 ABSENT: McAfee MOTION CARRIED

ORDINANCE 510 ENACTED

COUNCILMEMBER'S REPORT:

Councilmember Boggs - Stop issuing Marijuana licenses on that side of town.

Councilmember Bertschy - Renaissance Faire was a great time, 1st concert raised \$1566 and record setting crowd of 239.

Councilmember Rogers - Details on Memorial Day Parade.

Councilmember DiCostanzo - Hope everyone listens to the presentation with an open mind, provides many benefits.

Councilmember Thompson - Only keep minimum amount of currency in the bank. Also, the Renaissance Faire location was awesome, felt like you were in England

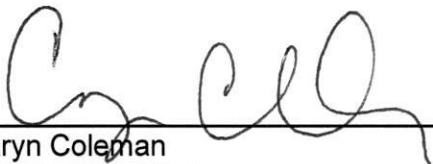
MAYOR'S REPORT:

Congratulations to Miss Niles. Renaissance Faire was awesome and thanked Carrie. Downtown sidewalk project looks great-thank you to everyone involved. Thanks to Caryn Adler. Memorial Day Parade details.

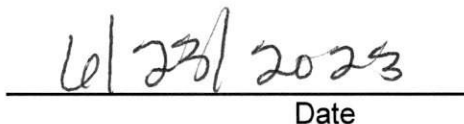
CLOSED SESSION:

ADJOURNMENT

Councilmember Weimer moved to adjourn at **6:34 p.m.**



Caryn Coleman
Niles Deputy Clerk



Date