

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

Monday, June 26, 2023

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

ABSENT: Georgia Boggs, Charlie McAfee

STAFF: Huff, Landgraf, Bergman, Dunlap, J. Millin, Stump, Wise, Arseneau

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

The regular Niles City Council meeting was called to order by Mayor Shelton at 6:00 p.m. June 26, 2023. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mayor Nick Shelton.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA:

Councilmember DiCostanzo moved, **Councilmember Rogers** seconded to approve the agenda as submitted with the addition of 12a.

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

NAY: None **ABSENT:** Boggs, McAfee **MOTION CARRIED**

PUBLIC HEARINGS

CITIZEN PARTICIPATION: (PUBLIC COMMENTS)

Lisa Croteau gave an explanation of the RAP Grant that was on the agenda for Council consideration.

Marie Weimer presented Chief Millin with an afghan as a retirement gift. She also gave a Martin's gift card as a thank you to the Fire Department staff that helped her in an emergency situation and stated that they were very professional.

PRESENTATIONS:

CONSENT AGENDA:

1. Consideration of approving the minutes of June 12, 2023.
2. Consideration of approving the list of bills dated June 20, 2023.
3. Consideration of approving the change order from Mihm Enterprises for the roof rehabilitation project at the Niles History Center with no impact to the City as private funding was secured.

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

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

NAY: None **ABSENT:** Boggs, McAfee **MOTION CARRIED**

CITY ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT:

4. Consideration of approving an updated Facilities Agreement between the City of Niles, American Electric Power Service Corporation, and the Michigan Public Power Agency for the South Side Delivery Point and authorize the Utilities Manager to sign the agreement.

Councilmember Rogers moved, **Councilmember DiCostanzo** seconded to approve an updated Facilities Agreement between the City of Niles, American Electric Power Service Corporation, and the Michigan Public Power Agency for the South Side Delivery Point and authorize the Utilities Manager to sign the agreement.

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

NAY: None **ABSENT:** Boggs, McAfee **MOTION CARRIED**

5. Consideration of approving a renewal of the surcharge placed on customers' electric bills in accordance with Michigan's Low-Income Energy Assistance Program.

Councilmember DiCostanzo moved, **Councilmember Bertschy** seconded to approve a renewal of the surcharge placed on customers' electric bills in accordance with Michigan's Low-Income Energy Assistance Program.

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

NAY: None **ABSENT:** Boggs, McAfee **MOTION CARRIED**

6. Consideration of approving the hiring of T&R Electric of Coloma, South Dakota to rebuild a 12 KVA transformer for \$174,627.00 with the cost to be charged to the Electric Division and authorizing the Utilities Manager to sign the proposal.

Councilmember DiCostanzo moved, **Councilmember Rogers** seconded to approve the hiring of T&R Electric of Coloma, South Dakota to rebuild a 12 KVA transformer for \$174,627.00 with the cost to be charged to the Electric Division and authorize the Utilities Manager to sign the proposal.

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

NAY: None **ABSENT:** Boggs, McAfee **MOTION CARRIED**

7. Consideration of approving the termination of an easement along the Dowagiac River between the City and the property owner of parcel ID 11-14-0013-0015-00-7 and authorize the City Administrator to sign the release.

Councilmember DiCostanzo moved, **Councilmember Dunnem** seconded to approve the termination of an easement along the Dowagiac River between the City and the property owner of parcel ID 11-14-0013-0015-00-7 and authorize the City Administrator to sign the release.

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

NAY: None **ABSENT:** Boggs, McAfee **MOTION CARRIED**

8. Consideration of approving the Utilities Department Electric Division to engage Commonwealth Associates, Inc. of Jackson, Michigan for a Southside Substation Expansion Scoping Document at a cost of \$15,000.00 and authorize the Mayor to sign the proposal.

Councilmember Bertschy moved, **Councilmember DiCostanzo** seconded to approve the Utilities Department Electric Division to engage Commonwealth Associates, Inc. of Jackson, Michigan for a Southside Substation Expansion Scoping Document at a cost of \$15,000.00 and authorize the Mayor to sign the proposal.

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

NAY: None **ABSENT:** Boggs, McAfee **MOTION CARRIED**

9. Consideration of accepting the bid of \$14,900.00 from Northern Construction Services, Corp of Niles, Michigan to purchase a used 1999 Ford F350 for use at the cemetery and to be charged to the Vehicle Capitol Equipment Outlay fund.

Councilmember DiCostanzo moved, **Councilmember Rogers** seconded to accept the bid of \$14,900.00 from Northern Construction Services, Corp of Niles, Michigan to purchase a used 1999 Ford F350 for use at the cemetery and to be charged to the Vehicle Capitol Equipment Outlay fund.

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

NAY: None **ABSENT:** Boggs, McAfee **MOTION CARRIED**

10. Consideration of approving the purchase of computers from Dell Marketing LP of Round Rock, Texas in the amount of \$9,159.68 to be charged to the Police Department's Computer Equipment and Supplies fund.

Councilmember Rogers moved, **Councilmember Dunnem** seconded to approve the purchase of computers from Dell Marketing LP of Round Rock, Texas in the amount of \$9,159.68 to be charged to the Police Department's Computer Equipment and Supplies fund.

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

NAY: None **ABSENT:** Boggs, McAfee **MOTION CARRIED**

11. Consideration of approving the Revitalization and Placemaking Program Grant sub-recipient agreement between the City of Niles and the Niles DDA Main Street.

Councilmember DiCostanzo moved, **Councilmember Bertschy** seconded to approve the Revitalization and Placemaking Program Grant sub-recipient agreement between the City of Niles and the Niles DDA Main Street.

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

NAY: None **ABSENT:** Boggs, McAfee **MOTION CARRIED**

12. Consideration of approving a Resolution of Support for Niles DDA Main Street MEDC RAP 2.0 Grant application.

Councilmember DiCostanzo moved, **Councilmember Dunnem** seconded to approve a Resolution of Support for Niles DDA Main Street MEDC RAP 2.0 Grant application.

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

NAY: None **ABSENT:** Boggs, McAfee **MOTION CARRIED**

RESOLUTION 2023-06/2186 DECLARED ADOPTED

12a. Consideration of approving the deaccession of Museum items.

Councilmember Bertschy moved, **Councilmember DiCostanzo** seconded to approve the deaccession of Museum items.

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

NAY: None **ABSENT:** Boggs, McAfee **MOTION CARRIED**

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

APPOINTMENTS:

13. Consideration of confirming the appointment of Ryan Millin to the Niles Buchanan Cass Area Transportation Study Committee.

Councilmember DiCostanzo moved, **Councilmember Dunnem** seconded to confirm the appointment of Ryan Millin to the Niles Buchanan Cass Area Transportation Study Committee.

AYES: 6 **NAYS:** None **MOTION CARRIED**

CITY ATTORNEY'S REPORT:

COUNCILMEMBER’S REPORT:

Councilmember Thompson reported a road complaint from a constituent. Thompson asked how the City can receive more funding for the roads.

City Administrator Huff responded either the State has to come up with a new formula how to fund roadways, the City of Niles could propose a road millage, a special assessment against individual property owners for the roads in front of their homes, or reallocating how some of the money being spent in the City today and reallocate it for the roads.

Councilmember Bertschy noted that the activities over the last two weeks were well attended and well behaved and thanked the law enforcement. Bertschy asked that the Mayor and the press place a reminder of the ordinance when it is appropriate for fireworks.

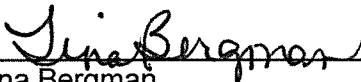
MAYORS REPORT:

Mayor Shelton wished Chief Millin a very happy retirement. The Mayor added that it was a pleasure working with him and offered congratulations.

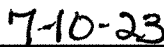
CLOSED SESSION:

ADJOURNMENT

Councilmember Weimer moved to adjourn at 624 p.m.



Tina Bergman
Niles City Clerk



Date