

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

**Monday, October 9, 2023**

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

**ABSENT:** Gretchen Bertschy, Charlie McAfee

**STAFF:** Huff, Bergman, Landgraf, Arseneau, Dunlap, J. Millin, R. Millin, Naugle, Ray, Stump

**REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING**

The regular Niles City Council meeting was called to order by Mayor Shelton at 6:00 p.m. October 9, 2023. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mayor Nick Shelton.

**APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

**Councilmember Rogers** moved, **Councilmember Dunnem** seconded to approve the agenda as submitted with the removal of the Presentation.

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

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

**PUBLIC HEARINGS: (PUBLIC COMMENTS)**

**PRESENTATIONS:**

**CITIZEN PARTICIPATION: (PUBLIC COMMENTS)**

**Anne Born**, of 520 Springfield Circle, presented information to support her request to retire the City of Four Flags moniker and to work to correct the exclusion of the original inhabitants.

**Lisa Croteau** announced the new Niles Fall Festival with a weekend of events including an evening market, Halloween dance, family Halloween dance, Thriller Dance, a zombie themed park, among other things.

**Julie Dye**, Pokagon Band Representation Outreach Board Vice Chair, presented a letter from the Board asking the city to make the change.

**Matt Moersch** explained that his request for a tasting room license was different than a liquor license, it is for manufacturing in Michigan and for the owner and operator of all Round Barn licenses, Entente Spirits.

**CONSENT AGENDA:**

1. Consideration of approving the minutes of September 25, 2023.
2. Consideration of approving the list of bills dated October 3, 2023.

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

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

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

**CITY ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT:**  
**Introduction of Items for Discussion**  
**Items for Council Action**

3. Consideration of accepting the bid from Paymentus Corporation of Charlotte, North Carolina for a 3-year period, with a 2-year extension option, to provide payment processing services to all City departments, to provide on-line bill presentment and payment for the Utilities Department and authorize the Mayor to sign the contract. All City departments that will absorb the fees have budgeted for this expense.

**Councilmember DiCostanzo** moved, **Councilmember Weimer** seconded to accept the bid from Paymentus Corporation of Charlotte, North Carolina for a 3-year period, with a 2-year extension option, to provide payment processing services to all City departments, to provide on-line bill presentment and payment for the Utilities Department and authorize the Mayor to sign the contract. All City departments that will absorb the fees have budgeted for this expense.

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

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

4. Consideration of approving the MERS Health Care Savings Program Participation Agreement for the retirees who opt out of retiree healthcare until Medicare eligible and authorize the City Administrator to sign the agreement.

**Councilmember DiCostanzo** moved, **Councilmember Dunnem** seconded to approve the MERS Health Care Savings Program Participation Agreement for the retirees who opt out of retiree healthcare until Medicare eligible and authorize the City Administrator to sign the agreement.

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

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

5. Consideration of authorizing the use of Help for Homes funds in the amount of \$13,905.00 to replace a roof at 918 Hickory Street, Niles, MI and authorize the Mayor to sign the agreement.

**Councilmember Rogers** moved, **Councilmember Dunnem** seconded to authorize the use of Help for Homes funds in the amount of \$13,905.00 to replace a roof at 918 Hickory Street, Niles, MI and authorize the Mayor to sign the agreement.

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

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

6. Consideration of approving banners to be hung in the parking lot between the Niles District Library and the History Center and authorizing the Utilities Department to hang the banners with the expense of same to be charged to the History Center.

**Councilmember DiCostanzo** moved, **Councilmember Thompson** seconded to approve banners to be hung in the parking lot between the Niles District Library and the History Center and authorizing the Utilities Department to hang the banners with the expense of same to be charged to the History Center.

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

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

7. Consideration of accepting the bid in the amount of \$28,000.00 for tree and stump removal to Hartline Expert Tree, LLC of Cassopolis, Michigan, with the cost charged to the Tree Removal Account, and authorize the Mayor to sign the contract.

**Councilmember DiCostanzo** moved, **Councilmember Boggs** seconded to accept the bid in the amount of \$28,000.00 for tree and stump removal to Hartline Expert Tree, LLC of Cassopolis, Michigan, with the cost charged to the Tree Removal Account, and authorize the Mayor to sign the contract.

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

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

8. Consideration of adopting a resolution approving the request of Entente Spirits, LLC for an On-Premises Tasting Room Permit at 501 Grant Street, Niles, Michigan.

**Councilmember Thompson** moved, **Councilmember Dunnem** seconded to adopt a resolution approving the request of Entente Spirits, LLC for an On-Premises Tasting Room Permit at 501 Grant Street, Niles, Michigan.

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

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

**RESOLUTUION 2023-10/2194 DECLARED ADOPTED**

9. Consideration of approving Niles DDA Main Street to hold the 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Niles Fall Festival October 27 thru 29, 2023, including all requests, as presented.

**Councilmember Rogers** moved, **Councilmember Dunnem** seconded to approve Niles DDA Main Street to hold the 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Niles Fall Festival October 27 thru 29, 2023, including all requests, as presented.

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

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

**APPOINTMENTS:**

**CITY ATTORNEY'S REPORT:**

**COUNCIL MEMBER'S REPORT:**

**Councilmember Thompson** shared his opinion of how to invest as deposits are continuing to move out of banks. He suggested reading the book The Great Taking by David Roger Webb.

**Councilmember Boggs** asked for prayers for Councilmember Bertschy in the loss of her husband.

**Councilmember DiCostanzo** expresses his reason for not supporting the changes in the city's logo, which he said would be a very large expense to the city.

**MAYOR'S REPORT:**


**Mayor Shelton** attended the amazing Apple Festival and the parade. He thanked Vikki and the River Essence Group for making the downtown look beautiful. Mayor said that he was looking forward to the DDA's inaugural fall fest as it looks like it will be a great event.

**Mayor Shelton** presented the City of Niles Unity Day Proclamation to Kyna Johnson of We Echo Youth Community Services.

**CLOSED SESSION:**

**ADJOURNMENT**

Council Member Weimer moved to adjourn at 6:25 p.m.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Tina Bergman  
Niles City Clerk

10/23/23  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date