

CITY OF NILES

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

Monday, March 9, 2015, 6:00 p.m.

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Michael McCauslin in the City Council Chambers, 1345 East Main Street, at 6:00 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mayor Michael McCauslin.

PRESENT: Gretchen Bertschy (6:13), Georgia Boggs, Robert Durm, David Mann, Tim Skalla, Daniel VandenHeede, William Weimer, Mayor Michael McCauslin

ABSENT: Scott Clark

STAFF: Casperson, Dunlap, Huff, Lamb, Ray, Wise

MEDIA: Niles Daily Star

AUDIENCE: 10

CITIZEN PARTICIPATION: Cindy Cataldo announced that the Park Board has taken on the Riverfest event. Other groups will also be involved to add games and activities and the Chamber of Commerce is proposing to add the beer and wine tent during this event. The new name will be "River Trails and Ales Festivus". There will be more information to follow.

PRESENTATION:

CONSENT AGENDA:

1. Approval of the Minutes of February 23, 2015.
2. Approval of the Bills.
3. Consideration of approving a request to schedule a public hearing for 5:55 pm on Monday, April 13, 2015 in order to receive input on substantial amendments to the Community Development Block Grant's Annual Action Plan.
4. Consideration of approving the use of Riverfront Park on Friday, June 19, 2015 from 6:00 am to 1:30 pm to host a Vietnam Remembrance Ride and consideration of approving various other requests including restricting parking and the closure of streets in the park.
5. Consideration of approving a request from the Niles Noon Optimists and the Niles-Buchanan YMCA to conduct a YO Fun Run in Plym Park on Saturday, May 16, 2015 beginning at 7:00 a.m. and ending at approximately 1:00 p.m. and consideration of various other requests including closure of roads.
6. Consideration of approving the purchase of a Getac ruggedized laptop from PCMG, Inc. of Chantilly, VA at a cost of \$3,761.50 for use by the electric meter technician.
7. Consideration of approving the payment of labor costs to upgrade the DocuWare document management software by Information & Records Associates, Inc. of South Bend, IN at a cost not to exceed \$6,000.00. Council Member Weimer moved, Council Member Mann seconded, **MOTION CARRIED**, to approve Items 1-7 as submitted.

ROLL CALL: AYES: Boggs, Durm, Mann, Skalla, VandenHeede, Weimer

NAY: None ABSENT: Bertschy, Clark ABSTAIN: None

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

Items for Council Action

8. Consideration of approving the resolution to transfer of a portion of the property to Niles Charter Township for use as part of the IN-MI River Valley Trail.

RESOLUTION #2015-03/1953

Council Member Mann offered the following resolution and moved for its adoption, seconded by Council Member Skalla.

RESOLVED BY: City Council, City of Niles, Michigan,

WHEREAS, March 22, 2010 the City of Niles endorsed the Indiana-Michigan River Valley Trail Plan committed to encouraging walking and other forms of non-motorized movement for community health and environmental improvements; and

WHEREAS, an important element for the development of the trail is to transfer a portion of property from the City of Niles to Niles Charter Township in order to facilitate their ability to secure grants; and

WHEREAS, the portion of land to be released and quitclaimed to Niles Charter Township lies southeast of Third and Fort Street and extends southeast approximately 2,100 feet terminating at the ConRail property line

WHEREAS, the deed is conditional for the property to be used as a non-motorized trail. In any event that the property is not developed into a non-motorized trail within five (5) years the ownership will revert back to the City of Niles. The City of Niles and Niles Charter Township may mutually agree to renew this agreement.

WHEREAS, the City Council of the City of Niles, Michigan has identified the provision of non-motorized transportation facilities and greenways as a priority in the future planning of Berrien County, MI and St. Joseph County, IN and the southwest Michigan and Northwest Indiana regions in order to improve connectivity between communities, places of interest and destinations and enhance quality of life and recreational opportunities for residents and visitors in the region.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of Niles, Michigan hereby agrees to release and quit claim to Niles Charter Township the portion of land used in the past as a rail road from Third Street and Fort Street extending southeast approximately 2,100 feet to facilitate their ability to secure grants to complete that portion of the Indiana-Michigan River Valley Trail in order to make it a reality.

ROLL CALL: AYES: Boggs, Durm, Mann, Skalla, VandenHeede, Weimer

NAY: None **ABSENT:** Bertschy, Clark **ABSTAIN:** None

RESOLUTION DECLARED ADOPTED

9. Consideration of approving a Support Emergency Operations Plan for the City of Niles and consideration of authorizing the mayor to sign the plan.

Council Member Weimer moved, Council Member Mann seconded, **MOTION CARRIED**, to approve the Support Emergency Operations Plan for the City of Niles and consideration of authorizing the mayor to sign the plan.

ROLL CALL: AYES: Boggs, Durm, Mann, Skalla, VandenHeede, Weimer

NAY: None **ABSENT:** Bertschy, Clark **ABSTAIN:** None

10. Consideration of approving an Easement Rehabilitation Agreement with a Westside Property Owner and consideration of authorizing the mayor and the clerk to sign the agreement.

Council Member Weimer moved, Council Member Mann seconded, **MOTION CARRIED**, to approve an Easement Rehabilitation Agreement with a Westside Property Owner and consideration of authorizing the mayor and the clerk to sign the agreement.

ROLL CALL: AYES: Boggs, Durm, Mann, Skalla, VandenHeede, Weimer

NAY: None **ABSENT:** Bertschy, Clark **ABSTAIN:** None

11. Consideration of approving a five-year Lease Agreement with the Southwestern Michigan Economic Growth Alliance for rental of Suite 302 in City Hall and consideration of authorizing the mayor to sign the agreement.

Council Member Weimer moved, Council Member Mann seconded, **MOTION CARRIED**, to approve a five-year Lease Agreement with the Southwestern Michigan Economic Growth Alliance for rental of Suite 302 in City Hall

and consideration of authorizing the mayor to sign the agreement.

ROLL CALL: **AYES:** Boggs, Durm, Mann, Skalla, VandenHeede, Weimer

NAY: None **ABSENT:** Bertschy, Clark **ABSTAIN:** None

- 12.** Consideration of approving a request from the Information Systems Manager to join the BuyBoard National Purchasing Cooperative of Alexandria, VA to facilitate online purchasing through a competitive procurement process and consideration of authorizing the mayor to sign the agreement

Council Member Weimer moved, Council Member Mann seconded, **MOTION CARRIED**, to approve a request from the Information Systems Manager to join the BuyBoard National Purchasing Cooperative of Alexandria, VA to facilitate online purchasing through a competitive procurement process and consideration of authorizing the mayor to sign the agreement

ROLL CALL: **AYES:** Boggs, Durm, Mann, Skalla, VandenHeede, Weimer

NAY: None **ABSENT:** Bertschy, Clark **ABSTAIN:** None

CITY ATTORNEY'S REPORT: None

COUNCIL MEMBER'S REPORT:

Council Member VandenHeede explained that the property transfer to Niles Charter Township would allow them to complete their portion of the trail that connects Indiana to Niles. The Bluegrass Festival and Kar Club will be submitting their application soon. Riverfest will be taking on a new direction and name change and the YMCA and Noon Optimist Club have joined to put on a new event. A lot is happening in Niles.

Council Member **Durm** moved, **Mann** supported, **MOTION CARRIED**, to excuse Scott Clark.

MAYOR'S REPORT: Mayor McCauslin mentioned that there is a possibility of positioning a web-cam at the Main Street Bridge so that the public can view the progress being made during the construction of the bridge.

ADJOURNMENT: Weimer moved to adjourn at 6:31pm.

Linda Casperson, Niles City Clerk

Date Approved