

**CITY OF NILES
REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINIUTES
MONDAY, APRIL 24, 2017**

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Shelton in the City Council Chambers, 1345 East Main Street, Niles, Michigan at 6:00 p.m., April 24, 2017. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mayor Shelton.

PRESENT: Gretchen Bertschy, Georgia Boggs (6:06pm), John DiCostanzo, Robert Durm, David Mann, Wm. Tim Skalla, Daniel VandenHeede, William Weimer, Mayor McCauslin

ABSENT: None

STAFF: Casperson, Landgraf

CITIZEN PARTICIPATION: None

CONSENT AGENDA:

1. Consideration of approving the City Council Minutes of April 10, 2017.

2. Consideration of approving the Bills dated April 18, 2017.

Council Member Weimer moved, **Council Member Bertschy** supported, **MOTION CARRIED**, to approve Items 1-2 on the Consent Agenda with corrections to the Minutes as follows:

READ:

11. Consideration of approving the implementation of electric rate adjustments, effective May 1, 2017.

Council Member Weimer moved, **Council Member Skalla** supported, **MOTION CARRIED**, to approve the implementation of electric rate adjustments, effective May 1, 2017.

ROLL CALL:

AYE: Bertschy, Boggs, DiCostanzo, Durm, McAfee, Skalla, VandenHeede and Weimer

NAY: None **ABSENT:** None **ABSTAIN:** None

CORRECTION:

Council Member Weimer moved, **Council Member Skalla** supported, **MOTION CARRIED**, to approve the implementation of the first year recommended electric rate class adjustments, effective May 1, 2017.

ROLL CALL:

AYE: Bertschy, Boggs, DiCostanzo, Durm, McAfee, Skalla and Weimer

NAY: VandenHeede **ABSENT:** None **ABSTAIN:** None

READ:

Council Member's Report:

Council Member Skalla mentioned that over the last year it has been mentioned that a program is needed to honor citizens of Niles that have served in the military. He will be working with the Friends of Silverbrook Cemetery to gather names of deceased veterans. Niles Community Schools Westside Administration building has a plaque honoring 47 named individuals that served in the military during WWII. He would like to look into obtaining the plaque prior the building in sold.

CORRECTION:

Council Member Skalla mentioned that over the last year it has been mentioned that a program is needed to honor citizens of Niles that have served in the military. He will be working with the Friends of Silverbrook Cemetery to gather names of deceased veterans that were killed in action from our town. Niles Community Schools Westside Administration building has a plaque honoring 47 named individuals that served in the military during WWII. He would like to look into obtaining the plaque prior the building in sold.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT:

Introduction of Items for Discussion

Items for Council Action

3. Consideration of accepting the quote of \$83,000.00 from Ostrander Roofing of Belding, MI for the replacement of four roofs at the Wastewater Treatment Plant and consideration of authorizing the mayor to sign the contract.

There was discussion on the warranty of the roof that was recently replaced. The manufacturer would not honor the warranty because of the contractor's installation. Attorney Landgraf stated that recourse would be legal litigation.

Council Member Bertschy moved, **Council Member DiCostanzo** supported, **MOTION CARRIED**, to accept the quote of \$83,000.00 from Ostrander Roofing of Belding, MI for the replacement of four roofs at the Wastewater Treatment Plant and consideration of authorizing the mayor to sign the contract.

ROLL CALL:

AYE: Bertschy, DiCostanzo, Durm, McAfee, Skalla, VandenHeede and Weimer

NAY: None **ABSENT:** Boggs **ABSTAIN:** None

4. Consideration of entering into a Non-Disclosure Agreement with Indiana Municipal Power Agency (IMPA) and consideration of authorizing the mayor to sign the agreement.

Council Member Weimer moved, **Council Member DiCostanzo** supported, **MOTION CARRIED**, to enter into a Non-Disclosure Agreement with Indiana Municipal Power Agency (IMPA) and consideration of authorizing the mayor to sign the agreement.

ROLL CALL:

AYE: Bertschy, Boggs, DiCostanzo, Durm, McAfee, Skalla, VandenHeede and Weimer

NAY: None **ABSENT:** None **ABSTAIN:** None

5. Consideration of accepting the low bid of \$7,890.00 from Scodeller Construction, Inc. of Wixom, MI to perform pavement crack sealing work on both major and local streets and consideration of authorizing the mayor to sign the contract.

Discussion regarding the intent of the crack sealing roads that have been recently resurfaced. Joe Ray explained that by sealing the cracks, moisture will be prevented from penetrating below the pavement, thereby slowing the rate of pavement failure and reducing the chance of potholes.

Council Member Skalla moved, **Council Member Bertschy** supported, **MOTION CARRIED**, to accept the low bid of \$7,890.00 from Scodeller Construction, Inc. of Wixom, MI to perform pavement crack sealing work on both major and local streets and consideration of authorizing the mayor to sign the contract.

ROLL CALL:

AYE: Bertschy, Boggs, DiCostanzo, Durm, McAfee, Skalla, VandenHeede and Weimer

NAY: None **ABSENT:** None **ABSTAIN:** None

6. Consideration of approving the Niles Family Fun Fair/Bluegrass/Americana Festival to be held in Riverfront Park June 1st through June 4, 2017 and consideration of approving various other requests including a contribution of \$2,000.00, a petting zoo, dirt fill and leveling of the lot south of Wonderland theater; 9 additional picnic tables, additional port-o-potties, two non-smoking tents, additional trash receptacles placed throughout and consideration of many other requests as listed.

Council Member Durm requested that the City Council meet in the near future during a Committee Meeting of the Whole meeting to discuss what kind of involvement the city wants to make in festivals and what types of donations may be considered so the council can be consistent to all festivals.

Council Member VandenHeede moved, **Council Member Durm** supported, **MOTION CARRIED**, to postpone the consideration of approving the Niles Family Fun Fair/Bluegrass/Americana Festival until the next meeting so that City Administrator answer numerous questions brought forward.

ROLL CALL:

AYE: Bertschy, Boggs, DiCostanzo, Durm, McAfee, Skalla, VandenHeede and Weimer

NAY: None **ABSENT:** None **ABSTAIN:** None

APPOINTMENT TO BOARDS:

None

CITY ATTORNEY'S REPORT:

None

COUNCIL MEMBER'S REPORT:

Council Member Skalla read an e-mail he received: "Thank you so much on behalf of the Haas family on the wonderful day we had rededicating the "Richard Hunt". It was wonderful to be in Niles; as well as celebrate the City of Niles, the people who share the pride of their city, and meeting all of you was an honor for all of the Haas family. We promise to visit in the not too distant future. We will always remember your kindness and warmth on this special day. Thank you again, Jody Kay, Betsy Ross, and Arthur Haas."

Council Member VandenHeede thought the rededication was very nice. It was wonderful to have Richard Hunt and the Haas family come from Chicago for the rededication.

Regarding the Bluegrass Festival, he is a longtime supporter of the festival, it's great for the city. People come from all

over the country to see this festival. This is not against the festival, there were questions that were raised by the city administrator that needed to be clarified. As with all festivals, there is concern about the city's involvement and liability.

MAYOR'S REPORT:

Mayor Shelton also attended the rededication of the Hunt sculpture. Not only was the rededication fun, but learning the history behind the sculpture was interesting. Mrs. Candace Skalla was a tremendous help, as well as Judy Truesdell, Nancy Drew and Jeanne Watson. It was good to see Mr. Hunt and the Haas family, who originally donated the sculpture to the city more than 40 years ago.

ADJOURNMENT

Council Member Weimer moved to adjourn at 6:16pm.

Linda Casperson, Niles City Clerk

Date Approved