

**CITY OF NILES  
REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINIUTES  
MONDAY, JUNE 24, 2019**

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., June 24, 2019. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mayor Shelton.

**PRESENT:** Gretchen Bertschy, Georgia Boggs, Charlie McAfee, Daniel VandenHeede, Travis Timm, William Weimer and Mayor Nick Shelton

**ABSENT:** John DiCostanzo, Jessica Nelson

**STAFF:** Casperson, Huff, Landgraf

**CITIZEN PARTICIPATION:**

**Caryn Adler**, Thursday Concerts in the Park coordinator, announced that on the 4<sup>th</sup> of July there will be a special event named: Hometown Reunion 2019. There will be music starting at 3pm, featuring Sounds of Friday, Hey Annie and Past Time. At 7pm there will be a Parade of Wheels and the grand finale at 9:45pm will be a fire performance by Phoenix Rising Dance Company from Muskegon, Michigan.

**House Representative Brad Paquette** presented the City Council and audience with an update from Lansing:

1<sup>st</sup> key item: The House voted to raise the state's minimum pre-pupil allowance by \$180 per student.

2<sup>nd</sup> key item: Roads: The House budget would ensure that the tax money for roads would not be diverted to other areas. This change would add more than \$800 million additional dollars per year to roads.

He also announced that the Chairman of the Transportation Committee Jack O'Malley will be at the Niles District Library on July 8 from 6-7pm for a town hall meeting on roads and to preserve local funding

**Don Ralph, Reliable Generator** stated that he would be honored to have the city's business (reference to item 7 on the agenda).

**CONSENT AGENDA:**

1. Consideration of approving the City Council Minutes of June 10, 2019.
2. Consideration of approving the list of bills dated June 19, 2019.
3. Consideration of scheduling a public hearing on Monday, July 22, 2019 at 5:55 pm to solicit and receive public input on the Annual Community Development Block Grant Action Plan.
4. Consideration of approving a city-wide garage sale August 9<sup>th</sup> thru August 11, 2019 and waive the \$1 permit fee.
5. Consideration of approving a request from USA Track & Field, Inc. of Indianapolis, IN (Mainly Marathons) to setup travel trailers overnight in South Riverfront Park on July 7, 2019 and to hold their walking/running event from 5:00 am to 2:00 pm on July 8<sup>th</sup> in the park.
6. Consideration of approving a request from the Niles History Center and Western Michigan University's Anthropology Department, to hold the Annual Fort St. Joseph Archaeology Open House beginning Saturday, August 3<sup>rd</sup> through Sunday August 4, 2019 and consideration of approving various requests including reserve police officers, public works & utilities requests, overnight camping in the park for some of the reenactors and consideration of waiving Police, Public Works & Utilities Department's costs for the event.
7. Consideration of accepting the quote of \$4,782.00 from Reliable Generator and Electric, LLC of Niles to perform generator load testing on the City's generators.
8. Consideration of approving the power washing of two City-owned water towers by H2O Towers, LLC

of Saline, MI at a cost of \$9,950.00.

9. Consideration of approving the purchase of five (5) sets of Jamesville "V-Force" Bunker Gear Sets from Apollo Fire Equipment of Romeo, MI at a cost of \$11,322.50.
10. Consideration of approving a request for the renewal of the surcharge, not to exceed \$1, to customers' electric bills in accordance with Michigan's Low Income Energy Assistance Program.
11. Consideration of approving a proposed change order in the amount of \$3,100.00 from Mihm Enterprises for additional work for the Chapin Mansion Porch Project and consideration of authorizing the mayor to sign the change order.

**Council Member Weimer** moved, **Council Member McAfee** seconded to approve the consent agenda as submitted. **MOTION CARRIED**

**ROLL CALL:**

**YEAS:** William Weimer, Georgia Boggs, Gretchen Bertschy, Daniel VandenHeede, Travis Timm and Charlie McAfee

**NAYS:** None

**ABSENT:** John DiCostanzo, Jessica Nelson

**ABSTAIN:** None

**CITY ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT:**

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

12. Consideration of approving a Memorandum of Understanding to participate in transportation planning activities between the City of Niles, the Southwestern Michigan Planning Commission and the Michigan Department of Transportation, in accordance with federal transportation regulations

**Council Member Weimer** moved, **Council Member McAfee** seconded to approve the Memorandum of Understanding to participate in the transportation planning. **MOTION CARRIED**

**ROLL CALL:**

**YEAS:** Georgia Boggs, Gretchen Bertschy, Daniel VandenHeede, Travis Timm, Charlie McAfee and William Weimer

**NAYS:** None

**ABSENT:** John DiCostanzo, Jessica Nelson

**ABSTAIN:** None

**APPOINTMENTS:**

None

**CLOSED SESSION:** Union Negotiations postponed.

**CITY ATTORNEY'S REPORT:** No Report

**COUNCIL MEMBER'S REPORT:**

**Council Member McAfee** thanked the Street Department for the paving of 15<sup>th</sup> Street.

**Council Member Boggs** once again the city will have a citywide garage sale.

**Council Member Bertschy, VandenHeede, Timm and Mayor Shelton** commented on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday Event at the Grand LV featuring Brass Eye, Iron Shoe, Jim's Smokin Café, Artist Michael Moore, and the band, Hey Annie. It was good to see the collaboration of businesses come together at the Grand LV Open House.

**Council Member VandenHeede** also mentioned that the Thursday Concert in the Park featured, The Lighthouse Chorus.

**Council Member Timm** voiced concern with the damage to the Riverfront Park after the Bluegrass Festival.

**MAYOR'S REPORT:** He attended the Flag Day ceremony at the Niles Elks Club. It was an honor to be a part of the beautiful ceremony. There was a one year commemorative ribbon cutting ceremony at Curly Q's BBQ on Wayne Street. Awesome barbecue.  
There will be Summer Tent Charity Party for the Niles City Parks conducted by Alison Hayes Freeze-Shelton's One Good Deed Michiana at Iron Shoe Distillery from 4pm to midnight featuring four bands and more.

**ADJOURNMENT:** Council Member Weimer moved to adjourn at 6:20pm.

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Linda Casperson  
Niles City Clerk

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Date