

**THE NILES CITY COUNCIL
NILES, MICHIGAN
PUBLIC HEARING
MONDAY, JULY 22, 2019
Community Development Block Grant Annual Report**

At 5:55 pm, Mayor Shelton asked if anyone in the audience wished to address the council on the proposed Community Development Block Grant Annual Report. Hearing none. The Public was closed.

**CITY OF NILES
REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINIUTES
MONDAY, JULY 22, 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., July 22, 2019. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mayor Shelton.

PRESENT: Gretchen Bertschy, Georgia Boggs, John DiCostanzo, Charlie McAfee, Jessica Nelson, Travis Timm, William Weimer and Mayor Nick Shelton

ABSENT: Daniel VandenHeede

STAFF: Casperson, Huff, Landgraf

CITIZEN PARTICIPATION:

Gary Grathwohl wanted to address a misunderstanding on the permitting of food and merchandise vendors. He requested that the fees should be fair to all and that we should welcome mobile food vendors. Mayor Shelton explained that the city council is working on a fair fee structure and thanked him for coming in to speak to the council.

Tim Rogers thanked all the city crew that helped with the recovery from the storm that came through.

Justin Flagel announced that the Bridge Bash Dash is on August 2 and invited all to come. They will have many activities to make it a fun community event.

Drew Mikel from Brown Funeral Home thanked the community for an amazing turnout for Vietnam Veteran Wayne Wilson's funeral service. A special thanks to Mayor Shelton, Chief Millin, Chief Lamb, Public Works Director Joe Ray, Silverbrook Cemetery Saxton Neal Mikel and to everyone who played a part. Mayor Shelton responded with a round of applause for Drew Mikel for bringing the community together.

PRESENTATIONS:

Presentation: Niles Housing Commission.

Mayor Shelton gave an overview of the how the Niles Housing Commission went from being ranked lowest in the State of Michigan to being one of the best in the state. He expressed his appreciation to all that helped in the beautification of the NHC locations by planting and landscaping improvements. Felicia Jackson was awarded Best-in-Show for the landscaping to her home.

Presentation: IN-MI Trail Expansion

Kristopher Martin of Southwest Michigan Planning Commission a Power Point presentation was given on the importance of the IN-MI Trail that connects Niles, Michigan to Mishawaka, Indiana. Future developments will extend as far away as Berrien Springs north to Elkhart south. He encouraged people in the community to join their Facebook page at

<https://www.facebook.com/FriendsOfTheIMRVTrail/>

CONSENT AGENDA:

1. Consideration of approving the City Council Minutes of July 8, 2019.

- 2. Consideration of approving the list of bills dated July 16, 2019.
- 3. Consideration of approving the hiring of Kiewit Engineering of Lenexa, KS to provide consultation services regarding the Indeck Niles Energy Center.

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

ROLL CALL:

YEAS: Charlie McAfee, William Weimer, John DiCostanzo Jessica Nelson, Georgia Boggs, Gretchen Bertschy, and Travis Timm

NAYS: None **ABSENT:** Daniel VandenHeede **ABSTAIN:** None

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

Addendum 1

Consideration of scheduling a Public Hearing for 5:55 pm on August 12, 2019 to receive citizen input on the proposed FY 2020 City of Niles Budget.

Council Member DiCostanzo moved, **Council Member McAfee** seconded to set a Public Hearing for 5:55pm on Au August 12, 2019 to receive citizen input on the proposed FY 2020 City of Niles Budget.

MOTION CARRIED

ROLL CALL:

YEAS: William Weimer, John DiCostanzo Jessica Nelson, Georgia Boggs, Gretchen Bertschy, Travis Timm and Charlie McAfee,

NAYS: None **ABSENT:** Daniel VandenHeede **ABSTAIN:** None

Addendum 2

Consideration of authorizing the resubmittal of Niles Brewing Company's Class C Liquor License with Brew Pub License to show an address change to 206 E. Main Street.

Council Member Bertschy moved, **Council Member Timm** seconded to authorize the resubmittal of Niles Brewing Company's Class C Liquor License with Brew Pub License to show an address change to 206 E. Main Street. **MOTION CARRIED**

ROLL CALL:

YEAS: John DiCostanzo Jessica Nelson, Georgia Boggs, Gretchen Bertschy, Travis Timm, Charlie McAfee, and William Weimer,

NAYS: None **ABSENT:** Daniel VandenHeede **ABSTAIN:** None

Addendum 3

Consideration of approving the Brass Eye, LLC liquor business extension onto public property in conjunction with Third Thursdays upon payment of the \$200 fee and providing a certificate of liability naming the City of Niles as an additional insured.

Council Member Nelson moved, **Council Member Timm** seconded to approve the Brass Eye, LLC liquor business extension onto public property in conjunction with Third Thursdays upon payment of the \$200 fee and providing a certificate of liability naming the City of Niles as an additional insured.

MOTION CARRIED

ROLL CALL:

YEAS: Jessica Nelson, Georgia Boggs, Gretchen Bertschy, Travis Timm, Charlie McAfee, William Weimer, and John DiCostanzo

NAYS: None **ABSENT:** Daniel VandenHeede **ABSTAIN:** None

CITY ATTORNEY’S REPORT: No Report

COUNCIL MEMBER’S REPORT:

Council Member Nelson reminded everyone that the Fort St. Joseph Open House is August 3-4. She also thanked Eileen Villanueva of the Greater Niles Chamber of Commerce for inviting her to be a facilitator for a

group of Niles area manufacturing companies to help find ways to support the business community sector. Business owners can learn from each other and can work to identify ways the City and others can support organizations.

Council Member Boggs thanked Chief Millin and staff for their dedication to the community. She also thanked the city crew for cleaning up after the storm. She announced that Mickey Hutchinson, Executive Director of the Four Flags Plaza passed away Monday, July 15.

Council Member Bertschy urged people to offer to help their neighbor before calling the city to complain about code enforcement issues. Let's help each other out.

Council Member Timm would like to see something resolved with the vendor fees to alleviate the burden on mobile food trucks. He also encouraged everyone to attend the Bridge Bash Dash.

Council Member McAfee lots of things happening in Niles! The Mayor made an awesome speech at the Wayne Wilson funeral. She thanked the Brown Funeral Home and City for the great job in the extreme weather. H.O.P.E. had a Community Fun Day and Plym Park.

CLOSED SESSION: Review of Written Attorney Opinions regarding Zoning and Pucker Street Dam, Union Negotiations, and Purchase of Property.

Council Member Bertschy moved, **Council Member Weimer** supported, **MOTION CARRIED**, to go into closed session for review of Written Attorney Opinions regarding Zoning and Pucker Street Dam, Union Negotiations, and Purchase of Property. (6:55pm)

ROLL CALL:

YEAS: Georgia Boggs, Gretchen Bertschy, Travis Timm, Charlie McAfee, William Weimer, John DiCostanzo, and Jessica Nelson

NAYS: None **ABSENT:** Daniel VandenHeede **ABSTAIN:** None

OPEN SESSION:

Mayor Shelton declared the council back in open session at 7:47pm.

ACTION TAKEN:

Council Member DiCostanzo moved, **Council Member Nelson** supported, to approve a resolution to purchase 1031 Lake Street from Berrien County for \$2,679.81 for the public purpose of resolving the property encroachment issue.

ROLL CALL:

YEAS: Gretchen Bertschy, Travis Timm, Charlie McAfee, William Weimer, John DiCostanzo Jessica Nelson, and Georgia Boggs.

NAYS: None **ABSENT:** Daniel VandenHeede **ABSTAIN:** None

ADJOURNMENT: Council Member Weimer moved to adjourn at 7:48pm.

Linda Casperson
Niles City Clerk

Date