

**Warren, Ohio**

**MINUTES**

**REGULAR MEETING  
WARREN CITY COUNCIL**

**DECEMBER 23, 2009**

**CALL TO ORDER**

The regular meeting of Warren City Council was called to order by President of Council Robert A. Marchese in Warren City Council Chambers at 7:30 PM, 141 South St. SE, Warren, Ohio.

**INVOCATION/PLEDGE**

**PRESIDENT MARCHESE:** Tonight's invocation takes the form of a tribute to the four Council Members who leave their service to the city. We honor Councilman Barkley, Pugh, Crouse and Councilwoman Hartman. In all my years on Warren City Council, I say with great pride these four are among the most studies, insightful and caring individuals that have served the residents of our community. In their honor I would like to read a portion of Psalm 119 that deals with today's public servant and I say this as a tribute to these four Council Members—and you might have thought I didn't know my Bible.

Psalm 119: 17 -24

Do good to your servant and I will live;  
I will obey your word.

Open my eyes that I may see  
wonderful things in your law.

I am a stranger on earth;  
do not hide your commands from me.

My soul is consumed with longing  
for your laws at all times.

You rebuke the arrogant, who are cursed  
and who stray from your commands.

Remove from me scorn and contempt,  
for I keep your statutes.

Though rulers sit together and slander me,  
your servant will meditate on your decrees.

Your statutes are my delight;  
they are my counselors.

This was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

**ROLL CALL**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Hartman, Crouse, Rucker, Dean, Dippolito, Novak, Barkley, Flask, Pugh

**MOTION TO EXCUSE  
COUNCIL MEMBER**

Motion Dean, second Barkley to excuse Councilwoman Morn for good and sufficient reason.

**ROLL CALL**

**YES:** Crouse, Rucker, Dippolito, Barkley, Pugh

**NO:** Hartman, Dean, Novak, Flask

5 YES; 4 NO. Motion passed.

12-23-09

**OFFICIALS  
PRESENT**

Mayor O'Brien, Director Franklin, Law Director Hicks, Auditor Griffing  
Treasurer Homlitas

**DEPARTMENT HEADS**

Chief Bowers, Chief Nussle, Gary Cicero, Bob Pinti, Bob Davis, Tom Angelo,  
Mike Keys  
ABSENT: Sal DiLiello, Bill Totten, Renee Cicero, Lisa Mazzochi, Chris  
Stephenson, Tom Gaffney

**MOTION-ACCEPT  
PREVIOUS MINUTES**

Motion Dean, second Rucker to accept the minutes of the last meeting  
but dispense with reading of the same. VIVA VOCE: Yes; 0 No. Motion passed.

PRESIDENT MARCHESE: To all the residents of Warren on behalf of Warren  
City Council, I know I speak for all of Council as well as the administration for  
everyone residing in or visiting in over the holidays the City of Warren we extend  
a very blessed and safe New Year's and blessed Christmas season.

A reminder to Council Members, their friends, family and visitors the 2010-2011  
term swearing-in will take place on Tuesday, December 29<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 PM.  
Council is reminded to assemble in the Caucus Room no later than 5:10 PM.

There will be a special call meeting scheduled for the new term as required by the  
ORC. That meeting will be Tuesday, January 5<sup>th</sup> at 5 PM. A Council of the  
Whole will meet at 4 PM on that day.

I spy in the back, our good friend our State Rep. Mr. Tom Letson. Mr. Letson  
welcome, good to see you; our friend from the state house.

**REPORTS**

**MAYOR**

MAYOR O'BRIEN: Thank you very much Mr. President. No report, I just again  
as President Marchese mentioned, wish to bless the Members of Council, residents  
of the City of Warren, those that come to the City of Warren and reside and work  
in neighboring communities a blessed Christmas and blessed New Year. Thank  
you Mr. President.

MR. NOVAK: I would just like to ask the Mayor at this time, I see something  
that's going to become the nightmare on Dana Street. If there's a possibility that  
we could meet with the security people from Delphi and I would like to have in  
that meeting also the Police Chief and the Fire Chief cause I see what's going to  
happen over there. I fear what happened when they stopped leasing the former  
Grinnell Pipe Shop and that building I, I don't even know how many fires were in  
it. Then Sgt. Marhulik and I were in there one night chasing people that were in  
there stripping. A pipe fell and Sgt. Marhulik (inaudible) a broken foot. So if we  
could I mean, it's an urgency and when I walked through those buildings this April  
they were all in tack and in good shape and they're going to be destroyed and there  
will be no use for them and it's an important issue plus we have going in  
there also up on the roof and we need to get some response.

MAYOR O'BRIEN: Mr. President, Mr. Novak I had a conversation with  
representatives from Delphi today and be glad to invite you to the meeting along  
with the Police Chief and Fire Chief. I'm setting up a meeting with representatives  
from Delphi and the Police Chief and it's a good idea to have the Fire Chief and  
I'll invite yourself to that meeting regarding safety measures. And a case in point  
when they made the decision years ago to idle that building in the manner that they  
did and of course Chief Nussle was involved in the opposition of that, with that  
type of idling that they proposed with those issues that have recently happened  
were discussed could possibly be happening then. And they just chose to do there  
what I refer to as dry idle and they have gone on limited security. So I'll invite  
you to that meeting Mr. Novak.

MR. NOVAK: Thank you Mayor.

**LAW**

ATTORNEY HICKS: Thank you Mr. Hicks. No report however regarding the  
29<sup>th</sup> I have to officiate the picking of a new Mayor in Hubbard that evening on  
behalf of the Democratic party, so I just at this time want to let our new members  
that if you don't see me here, it's no offense to you folks, we're happy to have you  
on board and extend it again the opportunity that if at any time that you have to

12-23-09

deal with our office or have any questions, please feel free to ask us and extend any courtesies at all in the little bit of transition. Like I've often said though, if you've ever been to student council when you were younger, it's the same thing. Only difference between student council and city council is student council has adult supervision. Thank you Mr. President.

**AUDITOR**

MR. GRIFFING: Thank you Mr. President. I, too, would like to extend a happy holiday and wish everyone a prosperous new year. I would also like to thank the four Council that are leaving at this point, thank you for all your past support on the financial legislation and your support for the Finance Department. Good luck and a prosperous future too. Thank you Mr. President.

**TREASURER**

MR. HOMLITAS: Thank you Mr. President. Just a recap of the collections for the year; late, as of today, we're 560,000 dollars, the collection department is 560,000 dollars behind the budgeted income for the year and it will probably continue in that trend for the next week.

**DIRECTOR**

(Not in attendance).

**DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS**

None.

**December 23, 2009**

**SUMMARY OF CORRESPONDENCE**

C-025-09  
12-15-09

Received from the Ohio Division of Liquor Control:

A request for a transfer of a C2, C2X license:

TO: M & M Global Trading Inc.  
DBA New USA Gas Mart  
317 Pine St.  
Warren, Ohio 44483

FROM: Pine Mart Inc.  
DBA USA Gas Mart  
317 Pine St.  
Warren, Ohio 44483

REF: Police, Fire, Health, Building, Planning, & Law Depts.

**THIS CORRESPONDENCE IS ON FILE IN THE CLERK OF COUNCIL OFFICE.**

**PUBLIC SPEAKING 7:40 PM**

**PIERSON J. BUTCHER JR, 1194 ADELAIDE SE, WARREN, OHIO:** Thank you. I wish everybody a prosperous new year too. My comments tonight, I'll just starting passing it around and you can take a look while I'm talking. Pierson J. Butcher Jr. 1194 Adelaide SE, Warren, Ohio 44484. I want to talk about the Mahoning River. My dad was a Mayor of a small town. We built a Sutton Dam there by the Corp of Engineers, never cost the city a dime. They had the river dressed and didn't cost the city a dime. We got a problem here with flooding of our parks and the amphitheater. Why don't we, when the boys come back from overseas, get the grants and everything ready and have it in tack so the Corp of Engineers can do this and tear down the foreclosed homes and the abandoned homes and it won't cost the city a penny. Start it now and have it ready. Mr. Obama says they'll come home within six months or a little bit later.

Okay, the railroad track here, I lost two struts and I don't know what all yet, but I called the railroad people and they told me that on Mahoning Avenue, that for me to do my insurance and then call

12-23-09

them; they may do something. Well we need something in like an emergency making ordinance or law to remove the railroad tracks for probable cause because of the cost and repair to cars of citizens of Trumbull County. Make an emergency law through Warren Council after six months of non-use that they be removed and put back as a normal road like it was. It's been a year, they've been out of order there. No trains have been going back and forth.

I want to thank you for keeping the policemen on. Now dogs running loose in Warren. I seen on garbage day on Adelaide; same street that I live on and they're over by Café 22 running around there too and they've been there for while. And the one on Adelaide was tearing in to garbage, knocked a big dumpster over. This, tonight and tomorrow morning they're going to pick our garbage up. That's probably why they were there, hungry.

I want to report about General Motors. General Motors fab plant, got 350 billion dollars; the assembly plant got a million to revitalize their stuff that they're going on in to the new year. The fab plant, which is good news to you all, is where they add 300 people to their enrollment the first quarter of the month. The assembly plant's going to loose a 100. (Timer goes off) Thank you.

**LARRY DUEBER, 1747 Estabrook NW, Warren, Ohio:** Thank you Mr. President. Larry Dueber, 1747 Estabrook, northwest side of Warren. I'd like to also pay tribute to the four Council persons that are leaving that I've got to know over the last three years that I've been attending meetings. Much of the time your work is a thankless job but look at it this way; 99.999% of the people that live in this community don't have the guts to even attempt to sit in your chairs and I would always look at it that way whether you're leaving Council or still on Council. You take a lot of criticism but there's very few people that will step up to the plate to do what you do. So I want to thank you for that. Councilwoman Hartman and Councilman Pugh I thank you for your commitment; for your dedication; for your activism. Thank you for all that you've done. I know Mr. Dean and I've talked about you Mrs. Hartman yesterday that you're more or less the Council historian. That you know what happened six months ago or five years ago and bring that to the attention of Council and I think that's important and I think that will be missed. Thank you for your service.

Councilman Crouse, two years in my mind is not long enough and that you will be missed. I'll miss your penetrating questioning in the back room. I enjoyed serving on the special housing committee with you that came up with WINN and we would have never gotten that without your leadership. Your work on the Energy Committee, I know you aren't going to be able to complete that, but I certainly hope that that is ongoing and I know you'll continue to be a part of what's ongoing in Warren. So I thank you for your service.

Mr. Barkley, I've said this before and I'll say it again. The comprehensive plan, we would never have seen without your leadership. You brought it forward. You promoted it and we have it now because of your efforts and I thank you for that. I know you're going to continue to work with the Neighborhood Redevelopment Corporation that's going to be set up. When you told me that you were not going to be running again you gave me two reasons; you said that your job situation had changed and the second was the most important to me and I respect you even more because of your family. That you wanted to be the best husband to your wife and the best daddy to your two little girls, and I respect that decision probably more than any other decision you've ever made since you've been on Council. And I thank you and I hope those individuals coming on Council have the openmindedness that you four have had and the willingness to work together that's needed and to work with everybody in the community, not just with Council, working with the administration to make this a better community.

And good news that we've been seeing with the incubator, with the community college downtown, the school system buying (Timer goes off) First Federal Building. It's nice to see some good news as opposed to all the negativity we have. Merry Christmas to everybody and Happy New Year. Thank you Mr. President.

## **STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### **WATER/W.P.C.**

MR. CROUSE: Thank you Mr. President. No report, but we had some discussions on the rate study for the Water and Water Pollution Control Departments and that will be undertaken, the Director instructed, or advised everyone that there will be both a full rate study, operational study, functionality study of those departments to eck out the efficiency so that next year's Council can deal with the shortfalls that are occurring in both of those funds. So look forward to a busy first quarter of work on the Water and Water Pollution. Thank you Mr. President.

**POLICE & FIRE**

MRS. HARTMAN: Thank you, no report but yesterday we did receive word and the police did take a concession/wage package and I personally would like to thank them. Thank you.

**FINANCE**

MR. NOVAK: Thank you Mr. President. The Finance Committee met yesterday reviewed the agenda for today. There were no recommendations made on any of those issues that were on the agenda today and hopefully we'll be able to after the first of the year, I'm looking at possibly changing some ways when we talk about council rules as a possibility of looking at possibly an influx of information from some of our neighborhood and city business members and some of those people involved in the banking industry concerning our financial situation. Thank you Mr. President.

MR. BARKLEY: Mr. President, I believe I did vote to recommend passage tonight of the budget during Finance yesterday, did we not?

MR. NOVAK: Yes, I stand corrected. Yes the vice-chair is correct, that was recommended and we did vote and it did pass. Thank you Mr. President.

**SPECIAL COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**EDUCATION**

MR. BARKLEY: Thank you Mr. President. The Education Committee met yesterday following Finance. During that meeting we announced a three-part plan that the city will employ to address the recreational needs for the youth in Warren. The reports on file in the Clerk's office but very simply we're going to start with an inventory process for the recreation availabilities in the city and we hope to have that process done by May and we have secured the chairmanship of Lillie Dawson from MBOC to lead that committee in that process and the Council President has indicated to me that he will have those resolutions in place to form that committee for the new Council in January. So I want to thank all the Council Members who stayed behind yesterday for that meeting. I thought it was very productive and the only regret I have is these kids didn't come forward two years ago and you know it's great to see, I'm so excited for where this is going to go. It's just a shame that I couldn't play a bigger role in it just because it got started so late, but I wish great things for this committee and in this process and I'll do whatever I can to help see it through the spring and summer. Thank you Mr. President.

**STRATEGIC PLANNING**

MR. BARKLEY: Thank you Mr. President. No report, I just want to say that we have things kind of on hold at the moment. We're transitioning over to the new committee. As soon as there's a committee person named I'll be working with that person. I have three of the five names yet, but my problem at the moment is that I want to assure that the other two remaining persons are going to accept this nominating committee position before we press forward. If I can do that before the end of the year, I hate to call a committee meeting just for that process, so what I may do is when the Council President names the new chairman for the committee I think maybe what we'll do is maybe that very first committee meeting for Strategic Planning to be to work on that nominating position get that forward and get that process rolling. And I have already committed to Mr. Marchese that I will help see that process through because you know being it's been delayed kind of out of my hands. But I really want to see that process get started in the very beginning of the year so that we can move on with getting a full committee in place within a month or a few months. So I just want you to know that I've been working very hard at it and it may hold over till the next Council and if it does I will see it through and so you haven't gotten rid of me quite yet, so I'll be involved in that process as well. Thank you Mr. President.

PRESIDENT MARCHESE: We're now ready for legislation for passage. I do have a point of order on, Mr. Novak on 2973 A were you requesting passage tonight? I was uncertain or were you just replacing?

MR. NOVAK: I was just going to amend.

PRESIDENT MARCHESE: Amend and go to second reading?

MR. NOVAK: Yes. Thank you Mr. President.

PRESIDENT MARCHESE: And did you want to make that motion now?

MR. NOVAK: Yes, thank you Mr. President. I move to amend Draft 2973 with –

PRESIDENT MARCHESE: That other motion.

MOTION-MOVE  
DRAFTS TO END OF  
AGENDA

MR. NOVAK: Oh, okay. I move to place Drafts 2978, 2979, 2980, 2981 at the end of the order of the agenda. Second Rucker.

VIVA VOCE: YES; NO NO'S. Motion passed.

**LEGISLATION FOR PASSAGE**

**DRAFT 2977  
2010 BUDGET**

An ordinance for the purpose of appropriating funds to defray the current expenses and other expenditures of the City of Warren from the general fund and certain special funds for the period beginning January 1, 2010 and ending December 31, 2010.

Mr. Novak requests the clerk to read the title on Draft 2977.

READ

Clerk reads same.

MOTION-SUSPEND  
THREE READINGS

Motion Novak, second Barkley to suspend the rule requiring three readings on Draft 2977.

ROLL CALL

YES: Hartman, Crouse, Rucker, Dean, Dippolito, Novak, Barkley, Flask, Pugh

NO: None.

MOTION PASSED

9 YES; 0 NO. Motion passed.

MOTION FOR PASSAGE

Motion Novak, second Barkley to pass Draft 2977.

**REMARKS**

MRS. HARTMAN: Mr. Barkley asked if I was ready to vote on this, he didn't want to rush me. I don't rush anything. I did speak with the Director today and my concern was I'm not happy with the numbers that are in the budget, no one here is. But I as concerned that the city could still function at some degree and I did speak with the Director and he did clear up the alternative plan that he discussed with me. So I know that the city can function, so I'm going to support the budget. Thank you.

MR. CROUSE: Thank you Mr. President. It was a little more than a year ago, about fourteen months ago we knew, most of this Council knew we were going to be in this same spot and we were all taken one at a time or in small conferences with budgetary advisors and the auditor and virtually everything we were told has come true. We were projects for the 2010 budget were actually laid out back then and what may happen and what probably would happen and they were followed by a list of we're gonna do's and there was some gonna do's that were going to be important meeting regularly with Council Members

throughout more than just the first quarter of the year. That lasted some time in to February and pretty much ended. Things like we're going to address, suspended changes, the music hall, the way it's operated, the parking deck, an administrative one step, an operational one step, thinning out communications, looking at trying to do some consolidation with the city and the county and anybody else. And I passed that budget last year, I gave it a 'yes' vote based on those issues, that there was a lot of gonna do's that were gonna be handled administratively. It wasn't until Mr. Barkley actually brought the legislation out of 'off the table' to bid the parking deck, one small, tiny, little cog in the entire wheel a year later. It's very frustrating that we, we all in good faith passed the budget to systemically change things and we're asked to do it and that systemic changes were going to happen and none of it did and so you know we're faced with an eleventh hour where you lay people off or could we have made the changes throughout the year which we obviously didn't do. So I'm very frustrated. If we had done that, we might have not only had to not lay people off, we might have laid fewer off anyway throughout the year. So I'm going to pass this tonight, but to the new Council people, the gonna do's just don't cut it. It's pretty frustrating as a legislator. I've spent my entire life being active and doing things and I passed legislation last year based on gonna do's that were never afforded to this Council to get done. So, you know I guess that's my two cents and I appreciate the chance. Thank you.

MRS. RUCKER: Thank you. I'm not even gonna echo Mr. Crouse because I do wholeheartedly agree with him but to do what didn't get done, so much for the frustration of Council. I think our communication this past year has gotten somewhat better and I'm pleased by that, but it still is not as good as it should be. But the non-movement on very important cost-saving things-at the top of the list for me is the one stop. It is disappointing for me and so I do support this budget and I understand there's not much we can change in the next two weeks but I do look forward to the next year and making some changes and our city is working you know. We don't want to ever, I don't want to ever over step my bounds. I'm elected as a Councilman and I know my roll and so my roll is not administratively. But you know when we have people, employees, Council people making suggestions that's going to cut costs and probably prevent layoffs and it's just not done, I'm disappointed. I look forward to the next year and working with the administration to get that (inaudible) done. Thank you Mr. President.

MR. NOVAK: Thank you Mr. President. As everyone seated here on Council and many of our public knows that this budget was changed and predicated upon having those concessions from our various bargaining units and no one likes to see anybody give anything up or take concessions as far as those issues. It's difficult, but I congratulate those in our bargaining units that have stepped up to the plate. We had some from some of our divisions that gave those concessions, agreed to not fill rank positions when retirements came even before this budget was formed. So again I'm glad that they realized what the situation is and as Mr. Crouse stated we were told where we're going to stand with 2010. We heard from our treasurer tonight the amount that we're behind on collections and that was a big issue with Mr. Crouse and with some other members here that we feared that the revenue projections were too high. So we know that we're going to have a very, very rough 2010-2011, but I think we must press forward and we must make sure that those things that we talked about and those things that we had hoped were taken care of are taken care of and I see the cooperation now with our employees and that's the key. So again I congratulate all those that have stepped up to the plate and hope that those that haven't yet will do so. Thank you Mr. President.

MRS. HARTMAN: I just wanted to make sure I understood something. This budget was not set with concessions in places. This budget was put in place as if no concessions were given. All raises were back. The concessions were given to use to allow people to stay

in the Police Department because of the concessions that were given. The concessions were not in this budget and I think if (inaudible) I'm not, I guess I didn't like the budget, I'm not selling a bad budget to the people that are coming after me. It's the best we could have at this time and none of the new Council Members expressed any concerns to me. Thank you.

MR. BARKLEY: Thank you Mr. President. Mr. Crouse is right in his assessment. We knew, we knew what we were going to face a year ago. We started talking about it a year ago so that we could feel more prepared to get a handle on this year's budget. As he called them, gonna do's didn't get done, that's unfortunate, however I'm going to be tempered in criticism because as I do that then I have to accept my 1/15<sup>th</sup> of criticism of elected officials in this town who are all responsible for this budget and make sure that all of those things were done and put forward. So I accept my portion of this tough budget because it's my responsibility to do that. But I will say that one a couple of positive notes on this budget, number one we had a much larger hole when we looked at this thing last year than we have sitting here today. That is a positive note and some of that credit; a lot of that credit has to be given to the administration and the folks that worked with the administration to fill those holes up. That, that credit has to be given right now. Surely there are gonna do's that should have been done that could have been done that might have brought us to a balanced budget this year without a large hole, that's unfortunate. Now this is reactionary budget like it was last year. It's a lot less reactionary than it was a year ago so I'm please about that. My point for speaking tonight was willing to give the credit where it belongs which is to the unions who stepped up to the plate. They need to be commended. Mrs. Hartman's right, the concessions weren't in this, however the hole was and the hole was there with the hope that these folks would step up and help the city and know that although it's always tough to give back something you have and it's even harder for us to ask, believe me. I know that's hard for them to believe, but it's tough to ask people to do that. They took it on themselves to do that and they need to be commended for that. It's a very tough thing to do and with that, I hope that we all recognize that this budget is again another symptom of the shrinking-city syndrome that we have. It's very painful to do it like this, but it's absolutely necessary. The city's operation has to shrink back to meet the size of this smaller city that we have now. This is going to be the trend going forward for at least ten more years and it's not just Warren. After this economy got done which means havoc across the country there are a lot of cities that are going to be talking about the shrinking-city syndrome. It's not just Warren. We just happen to be among the first. So, so it's painful but a lot of people stepped up to the plate over this past year to make this less painful than it could have been, so my accommodations to those folks and good luck to the next Council. I hope that you start on pressing on those gonna do's and get them done because I think they can good a lot over the next year on your budget. Thank you Mr. President.

MAYOR O'BRIEN: Thank you Mr. President, Members of Council; In one year 4.2 million dollars were cut in expenses in this city in the general fund; not water; not water pollution and not sanitation. 4.2 million dollars in just the general fund. Just to put some of the cost savings measures that are part of that 4.2 million dollars; eliminated all non-essential overtime, concessions of non-elected officials, starting with the administration, pulling, just as an example, pulling of the mechanics in the Operations Department. Just an example, just the savings in the Police Department is over 100,000 dollars. The street sweeping contract, literally every contract the city has was renegotiated from street sweeping contracts to cleaning contracts, radio communication contracts, electrical contracts, literally every contract the city had was renegotiated. The hiring, an important piece that Council played a large role in, the hiring of the Grants Writer was very important. Let's not forget that was completed also in 2009. The negotiations that took place were all performed in house; no outside

counsel was hired in negotiations that were achieved. Two sets of negotiations in one year. Lakewood couldn't do it; Cleveland's not doing it; Elyria couldn't do it; Euclid couldn't do it; Mansfield couldn't do it; Marion couldn't do it. What do we have in common? Those are all cities in the same area of northeastern Ohio that are facing the same manufacturing job loss. At the same time in 2009 Severstal idled. Over a thousand employees at Severstal idled and at the same time that's our largest water customer. But with 4.2 million dollars in expenses as was stated in another form yesterday, the services were delivered by dedicated employees. Delivered by dedicated firefighters, dedicated police officers, dedicated members of Local 74, dedicated Council Members; services were delivered. We have 373 employees in this city and I'll say it, is Youngstown twice the population cause they have more than twice the number of employees, the answer is 'no', but we're delivering services with a lot less revenue. The services are being delivered.

And regarding the one-stop, I'm as frustrated as are the members. The meeting was suppose to be scheduled today with key players regarding that particular program. The key component was ill today. A meeting has been scheduled Walt Good called me and said use his name, economic development specialist chamber, regional chamber Walt Good said use his name regarding the one-stop concept. Members of Council were invited to a meeting two weeks ago and some new members of Council were there. We had some members there and the community improvement corporation on the regional chamber will be involved in not just the one-stop in the city, but other activities in downtown Warren. And regarding the RFQ for Packard Music Hall, the meeting has been scheduled. Mr. Flask is received information in the mail. The meeting's been scheduled with all the stakeholders of Packard Music Hall, the attorney, the consultant that's negotiating this RFQ and RFP was out of the country. The meeting's been scheduled; Mr. Flask is aware of it and it's going to take place.

The, also one important piece that is already established is Mr. Griffing is involved in our collection agency that will now be involved in all collections in the city, albeit, income tax, water, sewer, sanitation. The same collection agency is involved in the fines and costs in court; one collection agency. That also was on the to-do list.

But my point is 4.2 million dollars in expenses were reduced and the city's still functioning. We have other work to do done in streamlining the city. It's no secret to anybody. The public works department, that's going to be in the works in March and those types of issues. But the expenses were cut, the services were delivered and we intend to do the same thing in 2010. Thank you Mr. President.

ROLL CALL

YES: Hartman, Crouse, Rucker, Dean,  
Dippolito, Novak, Barkley, Flask, Pugh

NO: None.

PASSED  
ORD. 12243/09

9 YES; 0 NO. Motion passed. Draft 2977 is now ORD. 12243/09.

**DRAFT 2982  
CONTRACT WITH  
TMHA**

An ordinance for the purpose of authorizing the Mayor and the Director of Public Service and Safety to enter into contract(s) with Trumbull Metropolitan Housing Authority for the management of certain activities of the Warren Trumbull Home Consortium's Home Investment Management Partnership Program and declaring an emergency.

Mrs. Rucker requests the clerk to read the title on Draft 2982.

READ

Clerk reads same.

12-23-09

MOTION-SUSPEND THREE READINGS Motion Rucker, second Dippolito to suspend the rule of three readings on Draft 2982.

ROLL CALL YES: Hartman, Crouse, Rucker, Dean, Dippolito, Novak, Barkley, Flask, Pugh

NO: None.

MOTION PASSED 9 YES; 0 NO. Motion passed.

MOTION FOR PASSAGE Motion Rucker, second Novak to pass Draft 2982.

REMARKS

None.

ROLL CALL YES: Hartman, Crouse, Rucker, Dean, Dippolito, Novak, Barkley, Flask, Pugh

PASSED ORD. 12244/09 9 YES: 0 No. Motion passed. Draft 2982 is now ORD. 12244 /09.

**DRAFT 2983 CONTRACT/PRO-TECH SYSTEMS GROUP** An ordinance for the purpose of authorizing the Mayor and the Director of Public Service and Safety to enter into contract(s) with Pro-Tech Systems Group for the upgrading of the communications systems at the City of Warren's Water Treatment Plant and at various pump stations and tanks throughout the city's water system and declaring an emergency.

Mr. Crouse requests the clerk to read the title on Draft 2983.

READ Clerk reads same.

MOTION-SUSPEND Motion Crouse, second Rucker to suspend the rule requiring three readings on Draft 2983.

ROLL CALL YES: Hartman, Crouse, Rucker, Dean, Dippolito, Novak, Barkley, Flask, Pugh

NO: None.

MOTION PASSED 9 YES; 0 NO. Motion passed.

MOTION FOR PASSAGE Motion Crouse, second Dippolito to pass Draft 2983.

REMARKS

None.

ROLL CALL YES: Hartman, Crouse, Rucker, Dean, Dippolito, Novak, Barkley, Flask, Pugh

NO: None.

PASSED ORD. 12245/09 9 YES; 0 NO. Motion passed. Draft 2983 is now ORD. 12245/09.

SECOND READING

**DRAFT 2975 MOTOR VEHICLE LICENSE TAX** An ordinance for the purpose of repealing and reenacting division (b) of Section 175.026 (Additional Motor Vehicle License Tax) of the codified ordinances of the City of Warren for the purpose of levying the tax provided for by said Section 175.026 only for the registration year commencing January 1, 2010.

12-23-09

Mr. Novak requests the clerk to read the title on Draft 2975

READ

Clerk reads same.

MOTION/SUSPEND  
THREE READINGS

Motion Novak, second Barkley to suspend the rule requiring three readings on Draft 2975.

ROLL CALL

YES: Hartman, Crouse, Novak, Barkley, Flask

NO: Rucker, Dean, Dippolito, Pugh

MOTION FAILED

5 YES: 4 NO. Motion failed. Draft 2975 is automatically in Second Reading.

**DRAFT 2973  
POLICIES &  
PROCEDURES**

An ordinance for the purpose of repealing and reenacting Article 2 (Hourly Employees) and Article 16 (Health Care Benefits) of the Policies and Procedures for non-bargaining personnel for those employees and officials of the City of Warren who are covered thereunder and declaring an emergency.

Mr. Novak requests the clerk to read the title on Draft 2973.

READ

Clerk reads same.

MOTION TO AMEND

Motion Novak, second Barkley to amend Draft 2973 with Draft 2973A and place it in second reading.

ROLL CALL

YES: Hartman, Crouse, Rucker, Dean, Dippolito, Novak, Barkley, Flask, Pugh

MOTION PASSED

9 YES; 0 NO. Motion passed. Draft 2973A is in second reading.

**DRAFT 2974  
AUTHORIZED  
STRENGTH**

An ordinance for the purpose of repealing and reenacting Section 2.08 (Human Resources Department Department No. 19) of Ordinance No. 9819/87 (The Authorized Strength Ordinance) as amended, for the purpose of authorizing a secretary position in the city's Human Resources Department and declaring an emergency.

Mr. Novak requests the clerk to read the title on Draft 2974 and place it in second reading..

READ

Clerk reads same.

**DRAFT 2976  
PART-TIME  
COMMUNICATIONS  
COORDINATOR**

An ordinance for the purpose of repealing and reenacting Section 2.22 (Police Department Department No. 01) of Ordinance No. 9819/87 (The Authorized Strength Ordinance) as amended, for the purpose of establishing the authorized strength for the position of part-time communications coordinator within the City of Warren's Police Department and declaring an emergency.

Mr. Novak requests the clerk to read the title on Draft 2976 and place it in second reading.

READ

Clerk reads same.

## **RECOGNITION RESOLUTIONS**

PRESIDENT MARCHESE: We're now ready for recognition resolutions and I believe, if I might Mr. Novak, if we could pass the resolutions and then have the presentation ceremony. Draft 2978.

12-23-09

**DRAFT 2978  
SUSAN E. HARTMAN**

A resolution for the purpose of honoring and commending Susan E. Hartman for her year of dedicated and outstanding service as a member of Warren City Council.

Mr. Novak requests the clerk to read Draft 2978 in its entirety.

READ Clerk reads same.

MOTION FOR PASSAGE Motion Novak, second Dippolito to pass Draft 2978 as read.

ROLL CALL YES: Hartman, Crouse, Rucker, Dean, Dippolito,  
Novak, Barkley, Flask, Pugh

NO: None.

PASSED 9 YES; 0 NO. Motion passed. Draft 2978 is now RES. 4443/09.  
RES. 4443/09

**DRAFT 2979  
M. ANDRES BARKLEY**

A resolution for the purpose of honoring and commending M. Andrew Barkley for his year of dedicated and outstanding service as a member of Warren City Council.

Mr. Novak requests the clerk to read Draft 2979 in its entirety.

READ Clerk reads same.

MOTION FOR PASSAGE Motion Novak, second Dean to pass Draft 2979 as read.

ROLL CALL YES: Hartman, Crouse, Rucker, Dean, Dippolito,  
Novak, Barkley, Flask, Pugh

NO: None.

PASSED 9 YES; 0 NO. Motion passed. Draft 2979 is now RES. 4444/09.  
RES. 4444/09

**DRAFT 2980  
JAMES PUGH**

A resolution for the purpose of honoring and commending James Pugh for his years of dedicated and outstanding service as a member of Warren City Council.

Mr. Novak requests the clerk to read Draft 2980 in its entirety.

READ Clerk reads same.

MOTION FOR PASSAGE Motion Novak, second Hartman, to pass Draft 2980 as read.

ROLL CALL YES: Hartman, Crouse, Rucker, Dean, Dippolito,  
Novak, Barkley, Flask, Pugh

NO: None.

PASSED 9 YES; 0 NO. Motion passed. Draft 2980 is now RES. 4445/09.  
RES. 4445/09

**DRAFT 2981  
DANIEL H. CROUSE**

A resolution for the purpose of honoring and commending Daniel H Crouse for his years of dedicated and outstanding service as a member of Warren City Council.

Mr. Novak requests the clerk to read Draft 2981 in its entirety.

READ Clerk reads same.

MOTION FOR PASSAGE Motion Novak, second Hartman, to pass Draft 2981 as read.

ROLL CALL YES: Hartman, Crouse, Rucker, Dean, Dippolito,  
Novak, Barkley, Flask, Pugh

NO: None.

PASSED  
RES. 4446/09

9 YES; 0 NO. Motion passed. Draft 2981 is now RES. 4446/09.

President Pro-Tem Dean presents the resolutions to Mr. Barkley, Mr. Crouse, Mr. Pugh and Mrs. Hartman. Mayor O'Brien also made remarks to the retiring Council Members.

### **MISCELLANEOUS 8:42 PM**

PRESIDENT MARCHESE: I'm going to go in a little different order tonight, bear with me and I'll take a rare point time for miscellaneous myself. I want to say to our four friends, you know I've been around a long time and I've seen people come and go, but the four of you and I mean this sincerely, the four of you are everything that I've said earlier this evening, you are the most studied, insightful and caring people that this city's had serve in a long time. You will be missed. I see you being involved more than formerly. I see you involved in a lot of things. We'll be having some citizen ad-hoc committees and I hope that you'll consider serving on those. I think you can leave here with your head held high. A number of years ago, Mike remember there was a 3<sup>rd</sup> Ward Councilman John Bentz that left after two years and I asked John, you know why are you leaving after two years, why aren't you re-election and he said Bob, I don't have the stomach for this. He says it's the only thing in the world I've ever seen where you shoot and scream at each other, belittle each other in that room then leave here and go have coffee like nothing's wrong. You know and I think that's the nature of the business we do. I think that's the nature of the work we do here. We say a lot of things. We do a lot of things and you four have been the beneficiaries of that. You've helped us create a better Warren, you really have because we're going through and this started a number of years ago, a different Warren, a changing Warren beyond a smaller Warren. It's a different community and you four I think played a part in that transition and you'll be missed, but you're always going to be a part of us.

To the Cincinnati Bearcats in the Sugar Bowl, I wish good luck and to the Buckeyes in the Rose Bowl, I wish good luck.

Mr. Davis I wanted to point you out if I could and in doing so I'm also speaking to all the department heads, the other day a wonderful open eyeing opportunity and I hope this happens to all of us. Someone from your department came to my house to look for leaks, in a brand new house and it's obvious that your training and your leadership; I know a little bit about this kind of work, was trickling down to all your employees because this woman doesn't know me. I'm not, you know I'm not and she, she really transcended what I think all our employees are, just a very well trained professional and enduring, caring person. You know and it's a tribute to you and in saying that I also say to all the department heads. It's obvious that our people are well trained and if they're doing that to me then they're doing that to the least of the people in the city and as I said this one individual didn't even know in fact was shocked when she found out, and so you know to all of us and especially the ten of us here, you know I look forward to the future and what we do. We've been the beneficiary the last two years of thirteen groups I believe that came out of nowhere, thirteen neighborhood groups that just came about. We are better off as a city because of them and I think, I would hope that the theme of the next two years would be to bring the residents involved in the government more and with that 1<sup>st</sup> Ward Councilman Fiore Dippolito.

MR. DIPPOLITO

Thank you Mr. President. First I'd like to take an opportunity to thank our administration, especially Human Resources and the bargaining groups that enabled us to get out of here this evening and not have to come back, enjoy. Additionally too, I want to, I wish to thank these

four people leaving us today for allowing me to be among you because there's things that I gained from each one of you is outstanding. Let me start with Mr. Barkley. I'm impressed that we have young people and he's a young man compared to many of us especially myself that this city, this country could be much better off with people of that kind of dynamic energy and I supported the planning process because of his enthusiasm. And moving on to Mr. Dan Crouse who spoke very eloquently tonight and I learned something there too is that the cities do not run like businesses. Dan brought forth many controversial issues, were business issues that the average person looking in says here's what should be done if you're running a good business. However I was very pleased in being with him and wish him well, okay and I hope I continue to see him. Doc Pugh, a gentleman, I could never, I keep speaking in ten year intervals. Ten years ago tonight, I think I was leaving Council for my first term and what happened there I can say after doing my term I heard Mr. Pugh many times at that podium speaking the most eloquent order you might say and if I could have just a small portion of that ability of talent I would be a lot better off than I really am. But I've learned one thing also from Mr. Pugh is that if the public out there, private public, does business with the cities then they must be, accept the fact what they do is exposed. We've heard him speak many times about something that happened years ago, property was being sold and bought and he wanted to know all about it. So if any business person out there working and enters in to an agreement with the city, do so with the understanding that whatever happens could be totally subject to scrutiny and should be done.

And lastly, my co-hort Sue Hartman, we came together on Council at the same time and the night that I was leaving when I first want to say at that time I had an opportunity to review her green bar. I had mine, as you all remember what they are, and I reviewed hers and I never saw being what we call bean counters, you know little pieces of paper and bean counters is what most accountants are categorized as. But looking at Sue's green bar sheet, I never saw so many notes calling attention to various things. In fact when I left here that same night I was, as I say I was leaving like these gentlemen and ladies are leaving tonight, is I pointed Sue, there were about four or five of us all came on Council all at the same time. Sue and I, Mr. Homlitas was one of them and a few others along the line and so forth and I, at that time appointed Sue Hartman as rookie of the year as I departed. And I'll tell you she well behooves it (inaudible).

And I think that's pretty much all I have to say and I wish you all a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year and I thank you Mr. President.

MR. NOVAK

Thank you Mr. President. I think it's hard when we get to a point like this when we see some of our colleagues leaving and you really get to probably a position that you usually know if you watch people when something is said or something is expressed whether it's a Council Member or whether it's a public speaker. And I have a habit of doing that I watch people on Council and see what their reactions are, see how it affects them and you know sometimes we've been accused that we're not paying attention, we're not listening. But you know I will say Council as a Whole and those four that are leaving, they're attentive, they listen to what people say and that's important and first with Andrew, what does that M stand for?

MR. BARKLEY: Actually it's Michael. It's Michael. My father goes by Mike so I always so I've always gone by Andy my entire life and it confuses the heck out of people.

MR. NOVAK: I had to ask. I can see Andrew's point having two small children and his house. When I came on this council my sons were four years old and as many of you know when they were small, young and living with me when I got divorced they used to come to every Council meeting, and it affects your family, it really does. For those that are coming on, some of the, you know have been down this

road before. You realized how much it affects your family, the phone calls and the one thing that you do learn is that you can't go out in the public anywhere. You can't go shopping. People come up to you right away and you gotten listen to what they have to say whether they're in your ward or not. You know that makes it difficult. But I do think you know Andy you took on some really tough subjects especially when it came down to the parks. Financial issues, I think your experience in business was was definitely a plus here for us and the strategic plan because I didn't have a lot of faith in this strategic plan. I voted 'no' on it and I think after I saw what was happening and with your leadership and what took place and the neighborhood groups getting involved it changed my opinion of it and you know I feel that's something. We've got a really good plan and a lot of good people are going to make sure that it's followed through on. I think that was a definite plus for you Andy. Again my neighbor next to me is going to change again. But at least I know him and he used to be my councilman. So Andrew the best and enjoy time with your family, enjoy it when they're small and young like that because time goes so very fast.

Doc, I remember those times when you came down here and spoke and I remember the things that you spoke about and as you remember once I became Chairman of Finance, anytime you wanted to talk about Westlawn I would let you speak and I know some people that did not want to hear it, but I let you speak because there were reasons and there were issues. And the activism and the concern and I saw you morph a couple times changing because I remember you had a real problem with the Police Department, problem with what happened and things changed, things were dealt with where there were issues where we felt there was discrimination. Where people were handled improperly and there were changes made and Doc changed with those changes and became supportive. But I think you're going to be around and I know you're going to be back as Andy will be back and you're, you're tenacious when it comes to things and I think that's what it takes. And I think it's, you know you've got a business and a family and when I saw your son here last night, I saw that tenacity in him too. And you know you can tell when someone is raised to be an activist and a fighter and he's got that from you, Doc.

Sue, I didn't know what to think when you came on Council. I wasn't sure, I thought well you know this is somebody that's coming on, it was kind of a bad time. We had bad times with finances at that time, those things that took place, but again and I will refer to what Fiore said, I've never seen anybody that goes through something like the budget when we had that giant green bar and really looks at it and studies it and doesn't give up. And I think that's what it takes and I know how hard you fought for your ward and you had a lot of issues there. I remember when we had people coming down speaking when there was a possibility of a juice bar going in to your ward and I used to watch you when those people came down here and I saw your frustration worrying about what would take place over there. But I knew you wouldn't give up and you were a big supporter of the initial and continuing fight against bad liquor licenses and that's something that I've always appreciated. And I think you'll be back too, hopefully in some form or whatever, whether it's a speaker or whether it's being involved with neighborhood groups. But you know we've had differences at times but we always were able, as Bob said, and Fiore said, we were always able to leave it here in this room if we didn't agree on things, so I think that's important and you will be missed as all four of you will.

And Dan as you remember when you were first running and then when you first go in office, I invited you to sit on the front porch with me and watch what was going on at this rental property that's across the street from me and it's still going on. But I saw your concern. I saw your definite dedication to trying to change things in Warren and you've been able to do that as a person in business, as a Council Member, as a resident and I think that you know, we will remember and the public will remember what you said you know sometimes people were

concerned about your tenacity and you not giving up, but sometimes that's the way it has to do. And I hope you continue and I know you've got some things in the works through the Board of Realtors and I know you'll continue with those things because they're very important to the City of Warren and it's going to be a big impact on especially our neighborhoods, our historic neighborhoods that are in my ward. I know you're going to be working on those things too and that's what we need. We need to help bring Warren back and bring our neighborhoods back, so you will be missed also and again I'm sure all four of you will be back. Cause I've seen some other Council Members that once they left you never saw them again, but I know all four of you, we're gonna see ya and you'll be welcome and your opinions will be welcome and anytime you need to call me about an issue, please call. It will be a welcome call, so good luck to all of you and just enjoy your rest which you should probably do, all four of you is make sure you change your phone numbers. Thank you Mr. President.

MR. BARKLEY

Thank you Mr. President. Thank you all for the kind remarks tonight. Al's right, I didn't have to have ward meetings cause they always happened to be in Aisle 7 at Giant Eagle. I don't know why that is, but it's a funny thing about it.

Two quick comments tonight, I want everyone in the room to join me in commending with some applause possibly the Council President, it's come to my attention that he's been named to the Board of Directors for Leadership Mahoning Valley. So congratulations to you, our president for that, let's give him a round of applause. He's serving his first three-year term with that board and he joins some very prestigious company, several attorneys, John, if any of you, the President of St. Joe's who helped actually sat on the steering committee for our strategic plan, so I know them well, Bud Pushkur and Doctor Craig and some others, honorable folks in the community. So I wish him well and it's evident from his leadership that others see it as well and would ask him to serve in that distinguished place.

Last thing tonight, just it's my last chance to be on the record, so I, I, I want to do this tonight, this issue with the license plate tax, I'm a little disappointed that it didn't come to a vote tonight and I'll tell you why. I was prepared tonight to vote in favor of repealing. That may sound a little surprising to most of you. When I supported this initially, to me it was very cut and dried. It was very; it was necessary and I felt okay with the decision that I made and stood behind it with the information that I had at the time. However, sitting here today we all have new information about how our residents feel about that. You know, I took the liberty of calling down to the Board of Elections and ask them to fax me the results for the City of Warren in the license plate tax that was put forward this past general election and I can tell you without equivocation it was overwhelmingly opposed to this license plate tax. Leadership a lot of times means making tough decisions especially in the face of adversity, however, when you get an overwhelming response from people not to do something and you do it anyway, that's dictatorship, that's not leadership. I didn't get in this job to mandate things on folks and when you have the information that tells you that people don't want it; let's assume for a minute that everybody who voted on it knew what they were voting for, they're telling us I know that there's holes to fill if you take this away, but this is not the way we want you to fund this so with that said, you know you'll have to deal with it and I'm not going to tell you what to do with it. This will be in a third reading at a Council meeting where I won't be in attendance, so do what you will with it, but just I just want to leave you all with that thought and I just wanted to say for the record that I would have repealed this. You know I would have voted in favor of repealing that for that very, for that very reason. So you know I have that said. With that said I wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year and a very Happy New Year to our residents and God willing we have a

very prosperous one for the City of Warren next year. Thank you Mr. President.

MR. FLASK

Thank you Mr. President. First I'd like to congratulate the Warren Baseball League for winning the bid for hosting the Neighborhood State Tournament this coming season. I think it will be one more added bonus to our youth and our parks. With that I need to let Mr. Barkley know that I'm finally over my resentment. Not that you cared in the first place as you told me. I also want to thank you for your professionalism. Mr. Barkley is the first person on this Council that I had a conversation with over the telephone that turned in to a disagreement that he pretty much told me where to go in a very professional way and I was and then proceeded to listen to my side of things. And I don't recall if he changed his mind on that vote or not along that issue, but it was handled very professionally and it's nice sometimes to deal with that. So many times we are in the public eye, we are treated so poorly and unprofessionally that it's nice to be able to have a disagreement with somebody or be able to talk to somebody and throw, bounce something off of them and know that you're going to get a true, honest opinion. So I wish you lots of luck in everything that you try to accomplish in the next few years. I know you'll be successful.

Doc, let me talk to you. The first conversation or one of the first conversations Doc and I had was he made a comment about being an activist and I said as soon as he put his name on that petition to run for Council he became a politician and we had a disagreement over that which was just a friendly conversation. I think you proceeded to tell me something along the lines that I better be careful or you'd cut me, were the words that you used. It's been a joy sitting next to you. We don't communicate a lot, but there were a few instances where you pointed some things out to me especially early on that I wasn't aware of and it kind of opened my eyes. So I thank you for that. I don't know what stories the Mayor heard about you and about Packard because it is not Delphi Packard, and it's not Packard Electric. It's the Packard when you go back so many years as you do. I, I didn't get a chance to work with you there; I got a chance to work with you here and I'm very happy that I did. I thank you and I wish you the best of everything as you go back to activism and try to accomplish.

Mr. Crouse, you know the comments you made to day about the budget and the city and what has been tried to be accomplished or hasn't been tried. There are quiet a few things that you have brought up in your short time on this Council that is going to go a long way and it's going to carry on for a very long time and I think everybody in this room realizes that. So with that I wish you the best of luck as well.

Sue, you know you're the only person that sits across from me that takes the time to smile at me from Council standpoint. And Mr. Angelo occasionally wakes up over there and throws me a grin at something. You know one of our first meetings Sue, I don't know if you recall, but it was when I was active with the parks being closed and I was in meetings in the back and you came up to me and you tried to talk me in to putting together a committee or joining a committee to try to figure out what to do with that Westlaw property and you know some days when I sit on this Council I think that may have been an easier job. It's been a joy working with you and a pleasure having the conversations and the phone calls and you taking the time to show me the different aspects, especially on things that had to deal with Police and Fire. I appreciate it and I wish you all the luck as well. Thank you. Thank you Mr. President.

MR. PUGH

Thank you Mr. President. As I stated earlier I spent (inaudible) four years here, there before I came on Council, so I was well aware of what was going on and it appears that I have a tendency to (inaudible) the change not just the followers meaning to be outspoken about things that I feel need to be spoken of. But what I have noticed since I've been here, they used to ask me what do I think about O'Brien and I says 180% better than what I had before to deal with. Cause that was

my fight that wasn't Council's fight; that was my fight and it was a personal thing not on my part, but on their part to be blunt about it. And I dealt with that. Like I said you speak your mind and cover your behind, the Lord takes care everything else. I don't have a hidden agenda. I can dislike you and still respect you. I do that and that's all I ask too. If you don't like where I'm coming from just respect why I'm coming this way and we can get along. But the thing that I noticed most about how we, I'm talking about the employees, the city employees, that by the concessions and everything that was made I contribute a lot of that to the transparency of how City Hall is run now without the, this one guy made a comment to me, who gave me the right to ask that question? J.C. gave me the right to ask that question and that constitution that I follow, that I like so much. But that's the arrogance that used to be here when I came because my reputation was preceded, well that's that Doc Pugh. But I'm nothing like that person that they say. I can be that person if you ever make me be that person because Jesus says try a little kindness before you go with the lemon down. But I tried it nicely but I can get the street and die doing it too, it doesn't matter cause you stand up for what you believe in and undoubtedly, you stand up for those things. You don't have to believe in me. You don't have to believe in what I believe in just because I believe in it and I totally agree with you to disagree so it can be that way, but we still have to get along, but a man commented to me at Packard. The big guy was talking behind my back and he says he's out of his place, way back in the 50's I had my place. Where's my place? I'm a very confident, proud, just God-fearing man, so what I speak on is what I believe and you don't have to put me in my place. (inaudible) who told me what he said because he wasn't man enough to say it to my face. Tell him, I bet you won't say it in his face and say that in a crowd and that shut him down because I'll die for what I believe in. I believe in Jesus Christ. If they were to come and say anybody who's not an atheist is going to die, see you all on the other side cause I believe that firmly in my religion and my faith, coming from Doc Pugh. The church is still thriving in Pennsylvania.

So the thing I wanted to point out is I believe that that arrogance that was here when I first came, that's just like the cops, only cops that were mad at me were their cops. The true cops knew that I knew what I was talking about and I only speak about things that I said in the documentation of their file, so sue me and try to keep up and say, yeah I saw David do that and look whatever he did. But if I speak on it I can prove it and that activist thing that I got on me, I'm not done with that cause I'm still going to beat the heck out of Westlaw, I'm not through with it. There's some other things that I think need to be addressed that I'll continue to do. That's what I do and I do it for the right reasons and I try to do it the right way but sometimes I step on folks toes and that goes with the territory. But it's been a pleasure, it's been a pleasure working here and hopefully I've done a little enlighten as far as my beliefs and I hope like you say I'm a very committed person and I, I like to share my knowledge. I like to share my knowledge because those things that I've experienced need to be spread over and the more I share the more (inaudible) I get and I'll keep on hopefully getting those. It's been a real pleasure here. I hope that you feel that I've done a little good in the neighborhood and in the city and hopefully opened your eyes to some things that I've experience that will hopefully help you handle those things a little bit differently. And thank you very much.

MRS. HARTMAN

Thank you. I was looking at the budget and even before we came in today and all I kept thinking of is you have so much to be grateful to. A few years back we went to the residents and we asked them to give us a Police and Fire tax temporarily and they did. Tried many times to get a tax passed and it didn't work. They gave us a Police and Fire tax. The next time it came up, I said why don't we make it permanent, Council said 'no'. We did it temporary again and then we finally Council got the courage and went to the residents and said we're going

to try and do what we promised you and we've been working towards that now to renew that tax permanently and they gave it to us as a permanent tax. And I thank God they gave it to us as a permanent tax because if this was a temporary tax the holes we would be trying to fill in that budget would be so much greater. People aren't looking at the reduction in our Police and Fire based on the economy. But I think you know it's a good thing we have it in there because I don't know that they would have been so willing to give us that tax when they saw the number of people we have in those departments. I'm not sure the trust would be there.

I know that everyone who's going to be sitting here is going to do their best but just remember they gave us this tax and we owe it to them to try and get our numbers back where they belong. First time I met Doc was at a town hall meeting before either of us were on Council, that I really thought you were doc, I didn't know what kind of a doctor you are, I never thought you worked in a factory. But he is the most passionate person I have ever met to the point sometimes when you would speak, you scared me. I'm like oh my gosh he comes through here, but if he doesn't say it, he doesn't believe it. Working with him and knowing him, he became my friend. You know Doc is never going to say okay just because it's politically correct so you know where you stand with him and that's something that I truly admire.

Andy is always very steadfast. He does his research. He's professional. He's one person if he does loose control he feels bad about it. He gets his calculator out and he makes sure the figures that you got are correct. He doesn't like to rush things. Many times when colleagues have said I'm not quite sure, even though Andy knew he was ready to vote and he knew he had enough votes, he had enough consideration for his colleagues that he gave them an extra two weeks to get that information. And that's important because we do work in a city that we have a strong Council and you can only have that strong Council if we support each other. If someone's not getting the answers they need, you need to support them so that you can be strong.

Dan Crouse came on Council and never missed a beat. First committee meeting we had with him he was organized and professional. He had an agenda and he kept it focused. He had that timeframe in his mind when he came in and when that started to leave and the focus was gone, the meeting was over and I was a member of his committee and there was great things that came out of those committees. You know that WINN program (inaudible) residents that moved in to Warren. He was keeping a tally; I don't know if he still has it or not. It was a wonderful program. I wished he had time to complete the alternative fuel program that we were working on. I know more about bio-diesel and stuff that I ever wanted to know. He came to those meetings so well prepared and he brought the right people to the table and he has city employees who had been working with that from Mr. Angelo's department and you'd be sitting in a meeting and they would say, oh my gosh I have an idea and it might work. And you could see excitement in them about bringing new things in to the City of Warren under the direction of Mr. Crouse's committee. It would have been great savings to the city if those projects had gone on. You need to continue to work at those projects. You need to continue asking the questions and I know it's not so important under this administration but in past administration's it wasn't even, so who knows what the next administration will be like. It wasn't what question you asked, it was how you asked the question. Make sure all the loopholes are closed if you wanted a correct answer.

The Councilmen coming on are very fortunate because this administration has tried to be open. They have tried to give you information and they have tried to go, you just have to ask and it's there so I appreciate that and yet and realize that this is not a job that you are going to do on your own. The last meeting we were here I told Mr. Angelo, I said I hope things go in concert here tonight because I'm missing my granddaughter. That really was the hardest thing for me, when I had to do something for my kids and not having the sense

(inaudible) four more kids, missing them (inaudible) was tough and he said, you don't have to do it anymore. That was (inaudible) I can be there for what they need me for.

My, it really takes a lot, you know (inaudible) here when I started here and my husband (inaudible) work he thought, cell phones and try to call him and I would (inaudible) all the way to Solon so that I could feel better the next day when I went to my real job because I would be stressed because there's nobody that can physically do that like my husband. Even there were meetings that I did all the research and I still had a conflict in how should I vote. Sometimes I wasn't even sure until I got here and that was the time when like Doc I had to revert to my faith. So a lot of my votes came strictly from my faith and from my prayers. So this is not a job you can do on your own, but it's a job that each you can help, new Council and yourself as you've all helped me. Thank you.

MR. CROUSE

Thank you Mr. President. Just because we don't have a special call I didn't think that meant we had to double the length of this meeting. I'll try to be brief but I came here because I was filling in for somebody that Al had invited to come down and talk about foreclosures and said you're the President of the Board of Realtors, what can you do about the foreclosures and I went away going like oh, my God. I'm a realtor. I can't fix foreclosures and here I am four years later and still hip deep in them. It's kind of ironic Al that two weeks ago you quoted from the Wizard of Oz. Anybody wonders around my house, my wife is this huge fan of the Wizard of Oz and it's kind of an interesting story. It's a story about discovery and so tonight I thought about you know what is it that I really discovered here. And probably the first thing is that immediately everybody is either overestimated or underestimated. They're not what they seem and that's what this group is. A lot of you guys in here for what I suspected you were when I got here and, and none of you out there were what I suspected you would be once I got inside this room and it was just kind of interesting. It just amazed me how different things were. I discovered that the good witch isn't necessarily tall and blond sometimes she's got dreadlocks, you know. I, I learned there are no wizards out there. They don't exist. You know it's smoking mirrors and curtains don't work. It's the hard work especially when things are bad that really gets things done. I learned that Warren's finest aren't necessarily cops or firemen. Sometimes, they wear a uniform but sometimes they're lime green t-shirts and they sit in the front row here. They meet out in church and schools on weeknights and then they come in here and they hold us accountable. Those are Warren's finest. Sometimes they're deep in a ditch or riding around on a garbage truck and we take for granted who they may be just because we they've been assigned a label and that's not, that's not really the way it should be. Like Dorothy I learned that the cast of characters that were real close, were suppose to be dumb and cowardly and heartless and you're none of that, none of us are. We make these assumptions about each other and it was a great learning experience. But the quote that you use is the one everybody uses. The ones that stick in my mind are the ones where the good witch says, you had the power all along, they're in your shoes and a lot of people took those shoes and walked out of this town, but and a lot of people stayed and to you that have stayed, use the power. We have it. It's ours and we're always so willing to give it up assuming that Council has it or us assuming that you have it. No, it's all of ours and we really have to do that. We have to keep the power that we have. We're not in Kansas anymore, but it's a great quote from the movie but everybody says everything's changed and it has. The values, the great values are still there, but we have to find different answers to those questions and sometimes we don't do that.

And probably the biggest awakening that I had, the first person I met in all of this was Al. He's the first guy that called me when I was driving down the turnpike coming back from Toledo and he said, you're in. And I went, in where? I, I had no idea that Mr. Fonce had withdrawn and it was all but assured I was going to get elected and Al you got

probably the toughest work ethic I've ever seen for this city and you've got a mind that, you just don't forget things. You pull things out of the air that I just cannot possibly imagine where it is you put them to be able to pull them back out, but the 2<sup>nd</sup> Ward should be damn glad they have you in the city and that probably goes to the last quote that I have and it's, I'll miss you most scarecrow. Thank you Mr. President.

MRS. RUCKER

Thank you Mr. President. Like Mr. Course I didn't think it was going to go this long so I'll be very brief. It has truly been a pleasure to work with all four of you. I've known most of you a long time. I wish you the very best and I know your commitment to the city that's in your heard and so I won't say goodbye to any of you, I just say I'll see you later. But two of you really have made this last couple years just exciting for me. Sometimes, you know in any job you get bored, you get stagnant and that, you know, but Dan and Andy, Michael; Dan and Michael you made it exciting for me again. You made me think about turning to new things, new innovative things, alternative fuel and energy and strategic planning and I like it and it excited me and I want to thank you for that. You know I told Mr. Marchese this about a month ago because that was an exciting day for me, we were having a meeting in the back and we were talking about different things and both of you said during the course of the meeting about your plans of sticking around and seeing it through and I said to Mr. Marchese I haven't heard that from anybody before. We leave and we probably never come back. When I left Council I continued to work in government but I didn't so much work in the city. I worked with the party, you know. But your commitment, I'm so proud of you, I watched you grow Andy. I remember the first time you said I want to grow but I also watched you balance that by teaching too. And so thank you and I'll see you around and I'll see down here.

I want to thank, I also thank you to our unions because they pulled it off tonight. They really pulled it off. When we go through this holiday season wishing each other Merry Christmas and Happy New Year, we think about, I think about the festival of Kwanza and the principal of Kwanza is new beginnings, first harvests and that's what our employees gave us tonight. They gave us the hope of a new beginning and what I said earlier, I really meant about the communications because I think we made a hurdle in that. It's not what it should be, but it's better and if it continues then I think we'll be working on one accord throughout this entire city and that's going to be a blessed thing for our citizens and our city. So I'm wishing the best.

Mr. President, two things, number one is you mentioned John Bentz and I thought that John was a phenomenal young man. He thought outside the box like these two young men do, you know and it also let me know that it's okay to have a non-democrat in Council sometimes.

So without further ado Mr. President with your indulgence I'd like to take a few moments and present to our Council Clerk who works hard for each and other one of us to make us look good every Wednesday night that we have a meeting. Darla I'd like to present our Christmas gift to you.

CLERK: This is really a surprise. Thank you so much.

MRS. RUCKER: She usually knows everything that goes on, but once a year we get to do something behind her back that she doesn't know.

PRESIDENT MARCHESE: Darla, that's from all of us. We wish you a Merry Christmas. As Helen said you make us look good. You are the unsung hero down here. You do quiet a bit and we want you to know how much we appreciate you.

Also that was a bitch to make that thing because I'm going to tell you what I had to like hold the thing and she said, no don't crunch up the thing, it's going to ruin it. A lot of work went in to that on my part and

12-23-09

thank you also Helen, Miss Rucker also in taking the task on and collecting the money for all that.

MR. DEAN

Thank you Mr. President. I don't know if you all heard, Mr. Hicks ask if there was something to eat in that basket since it had been a long meeting. So I will be brief, two things. One is I had a phone call from a business owner on West Market. I thought about Eddie and I thought about Cheryl when the are Council Members and they're speaking loud and they're cursing and they're asking questions, not giving you time to answer and this individual was just mad and when I finally got a chance after I think about 22 minutes to say I need you to call dispatch and I think Sgt. Gargas, Marty Gargas knows a lot about that apartment complex and Marty, by the way chief, I met with him on his day off and joking with me he said he had to listened for over 55 minutes and then he gave him advice for 5. The individual called me back and he said what a great person, he couldn't remember whether it was Sgt. Marty or Sgt. Gargas. If you'll pass that on that he did that on his day off and took the time to give that individual some good advice. It as great.

One other thing that I thought about while we were at the going away service for Cliff Johnson, Cliff was the person that I'd often call and just rant and rave when something bothered me and I remember calling Cliff about the conversation we had about why you'd see a police car running a Code 3 and then suddenly it would stop running Code 3 and I'm on about four or five boards and a lot of people are talking about we need less police because we have less population. I called Cliff and just moaned and groaned about you know there's more to it than just that. We went I believe four years ago to Euclid to the Police Civilian Academy and the mayor will remember was the John Robertson, John Temple committee. One of the suggestions that was made in the report that we gave the Mayor, we looked at trying to do the same things strictly with volunteers and a lot of those questions that come up between police officers and many times between civilians can be addressed and were addressed at that Euclid academy. They did it with all volunteers and John Robertson and I have had this conversation within the last week, there are some people that would be more than willing to sit down and talk about doing that kind of thing next year on a strictly volunteer basis and maybe some time Mayor and Chief we could get together and just kind of throw the idea around if you think it's something that's doable.

Thank you all very, very much particularly the four of you and Andy I said it before, I know what it means to be a political ally and friend and I appreciate ya. Thank you Mr. President.

### **ADJOURNMENT 9:32 PM**

**MOTION FOR  
ADJOURNMENT**

Motion Dean, second Barkely to adjourn the meeting at 9:32 PM.  
VIVA VOCE: ALL YES. Meeting is adjourned.

dkn

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Robert A. Marchese, President of Council

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Darla K. Neugebauer, Clerk of Council, C.M.C.

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