

Warren, Ohio
MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING
WARREN CITY COUNCIL
JANUARY 14, 2015

CALL TO ORDER The regular meeting of Warren City Council was called to order by President of Council James Graham in Warren City Council Chambers at 7:00 PM 141 South St. SE. Warren, Ohio.

PLEDGE/ INVOCATION Larry Larson, 1st Ward Councilman opened the meeting with prayer followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

PRESIDENT GRAHAM: Before we get started, I want to thank everyone for coming down tonight and wish everybody a Happy New Year and we have a fairly large crowd tonight. Hopefully we don't bore you.

ROLL CALL **MEMBERS PRESENT:** Larson, Novak, Brown, Bartholomew, Flask, Saffold, Colbert, Valesky, Sferra, Rucker, Graham

OFFICIALS PRESENT: Mayor Franklin, Director Cantalamessa, Treasurer Homlitas, Law Director Hicks, Auditor Griffing

DEPARTMENT HEADS PRESENT: Chief Nussel, Brian Massucci, Bob Pinti, Bob Davis Paul Makosky, Jim Black, Michael Keys, Ed Haller

ABSENT: Jim Black, Tom Gaffney, Michael Keys, LeeAnn O'Brien, Brian Massucci

MOTION-ACCEPT Motion Valesky, second Novak to accept the minutes of the previous meeting
PREVIOUS MINUTES as recorded by our Council Clerk and to dispense with the reading of the same.

Viva Voice 10 yes, 0 no. Motion passed.

REPORTS

MAYOR MAYOR FRANKLIN: Thank you Mr. President. First of all I'd like to also welcome all Council Members back to your first business meeting of the New Year and also all the citizens that showed up for tonight's meeting. And I would also like to acknowledge my wife for escorting the Mayor tonight. I guess there's nothing good on tv tonight. So she came down. Thank you for coming. Safety Service Director Cantalamessa asked to be excused because his kids are in a play tonight. So I granted him that excuse. But I wanted to say I look forward to working with you throughout the new year and let's get down to business. Thank you.

LAW DIRECTOR MR. HICKS: Thank you Mr. President. Again welcome everyone back and look forward to a prosperous and productive New Year. No report.

AUDITOR MR. GRIFFING: Thank you Mr. President. No report this evening.

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TREASURER

MR. HOMLITAS: Thank you Mr. President. I would just like to report that the Income Tax Department collected \$16, 884,000 dollars last year and presently we have \$16,000,000 invested under management and of that \$16 million a little more than \$5 million dollars is money from the bond issues that you folks passed last year.

And if I may, President, I recently had the opportunity to attend the Police Citizens Academy and it was a very enlightening and educational few weeks. In the first night both Chief Merkel and the Mayor said a few words. And Doug said something that surprised me- shocked me. He said out of the hundreds of executive officials here in Trumbull County, I was the first one to attend that teaching. And I would just recommend all you folks that it's something that would enlighten you, possibly educating you. If you don't want to do it for yourself I think you should do it for your constituents. It would benefit you and everyone. Thank you.

MAYOR

MAYOR FRANKLIN: Thank you Mr. Homlitas for participating in the Warren – Citizens of Warren Police Academy. And you brought up a good point and I think this is a good time to emphasize it. That's probably one of the most important tools that our city has in terms of strengthening the police and community relations that's been ongoing for a number of years. One of the strategies and one of the focuses that I was going to undertake in the New Year is to ask for more participation from the minority community and in that program. I think it's very vital. We talk about transparency, but we need to be about it and this program is excellent from top to bottom in view of every single- all personnel all divisions in the Police Department. So - and the price is right cause it's free. So I ask all of you to participate in this program. It strengthens our community when we have a better educated- not only in the police force but the citizens as well. And as we all know we both need each other. So I look for everybody here to sign up in the next class. Thank you Mr. President.

DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS

NO REPORTS

CORRESPONDENCE

NONE

PUBLIC SPEAKING

PIERSON BUTCHER JR. - 1194 ADELAIDE AVE, SE. UNIT A, WARREN 44484: He spoke on the Road Department. Bottom Dollar is closed now and needs someone new in there. Diane Sauer is selling bad cars. He spoke about drug houses and the drug bust on Adelaide. He spoke about Eastern Gateway. Austin Village is down now. The lights are out on Warren Blvd.

ELIZABETH BALAINT- 1081 KENMORE SE., WARREN 44484: She spoke on trash, debris behind the old thrift store and Carmellos. The lights are out on () Rd. Mr. Makosky needs to help get them on. There are business broken signs.

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AKIM LATTERMORE- 491 PORTER ST. NE, WARREN: She spoke on ban the box. For 21 years he can't find employment.

MARTHA CONYER- 847 FIFTH ST., WARREN 44485: She spoke on Ban the Box. She is the founder of Free Indeed Ministries.

FRANK SPRIGGS JR. - 968 HIGHLAND AVE., WARREN 44485: He spoke on Ban the Box.

WILLIAM PHINISEE- 1106 ORLO, WARREN 44485: He spoke on Ban the Box.

PAUL CLOUSOR- 143 WEST MARKET ST., WARREN 44485: He spoke on the Trolley. He spoke on diagonal parking and snow plows. Traffic needs to slow down.

PLEASE NOTE THAT THE COMPLETE CONTEXT OF THE ABOVE SPEAKERS AND ANY COMMENTS THAT WERE MADE ARE ON TAPE ON FILE IN THE CLERK OF COUNCIL'S OFFICE.

**DRAFT 3491R
BAN THE BOX** A resolution for the purpose of acknowledging and supporting the "Ban the Box" initiatives instituted by several communities and request that the city of Warren enact similar policy, and declaring an emergency.

Councilwoman Saffold requests the clerk to read Draft 3491 in its entirety.

READ Clerk reads the same.

MOTION-SUSPEND Motion Saffold, second Rucker to suspend the rule requiring three readings on Draft 3491R.

ROLL CALL YES: Larson, Novak, Brown, Bartholomew, Flask, Saffold, Colbert, Valesky, Sferra, Rucker

NO: NONE

MOTION PASSED 10 YES, 0 NO. Motion passed.

MOTION-PASSAGE Motion Saffold, second Rucker to pass Draft 3491R as an emergency.

REMARKS

MR. BARTHOLOMEW: I would just like to say when I use to substitute teach over 20 years ago; I went into a new school system regardless to where it was, I looked at the class and I said - I told the class I don't care if you're the biggest goof off in the class or in the school or if you're a straight A valedictorian student you are all on equal terms with me being the first time that I've met you. Letting them know that I had no bias of what I might have heard about a student or students before in the past. You are on equal footing with myself and what you did after that time dictated to me how I spoke to you or disciplined you if needed be and I'm 100% behind this. I don't think anybody should have bias towards them (inaudible).

MRS. RUCKER: Thank you Mr. President. I would just like to applaud Miss Saffold for bringing this . I thought that it was going to come earlier last year. And I'd like for Warren to be one of the leaders in bringing legislation like this. But we aren't too far behind. We're taking the lead in Trumbull County tonight

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and I'm very proud of that. One of the issues that's always important to me, is the quality of life that our citizens have. And when I first- before I even became involved in politics one of the first things I worked on was allowing convicted felons to mainstream back into society and giving them their voting rights back. And the second thing is being employed. Because of the lack of employment in our city; especially convicted felons because of their numbers you see the deterioration of communities. And one of the speakers said that we put them in a position where some people go back to commit some of the same crimes they did clearly out of frustration and the need to survive. And so hopefully this is a piece of legislation that will help them keep their heads up high, and walk into any company or government agency and apply for jobs on their own merit and I'm glad to be a part of this. Thank you, Cheryl.

MISS SAFFOLD: You're welcome.

MAYOR FRANKLIN: Thank you Mr. President. I also would just like to say thank you all for coming and I've had several meetings with this - the group; MVOC and Miss Phinisee regarding this issue. But I want to acknowledge a person who really by example opened my eyes on this. Roscoe would you stand up? I hate to put you on the spot, but this is a young man who I met when I first became Mayor. I met him, a few years before- a few months before that, but he was a gentleman who would make mistakes in his life. He impressed me so much with- you're talking about a person who had a 100 - 360 turn around. He puts more hours in his church than anyone I know including myself. He is an example of rehabilitation atonement and sec- what second chances can do. But, he was struggling trying to get a job. And because of some of the laws that were on the books we couldn't get him any public employment. But, by some contacts I've had in the private sector ironically it was in a system that dealt with alternative citizens. He knew Roscoe. He took a chance at hiring Roscoe. He tells me now Roscoe is the best employee he has. Bare none. (inaudible) So I just want to thank you for coming Roscoe and thank you for our relationship and thank you for opening my eyes to some of the issues we face. Thank you Mr. President.

MR. VALESKY: Thank you Mr. President. First off I would like to thank Cheryl for having the courage to bring this to this Council. Second, in my mind the box is a real kick in the teeth for somebody that's trying to put their life back on track. As an employer, who has saw it fit to employ people who have previously been convicted I am very proud that I was able to help those people get back on the right track. And I am here to tell you that they were very productive members of our business and members of our community. And again, thank you very much and if I haven't indicated so far, I would be voting yes on this piece. Thank you Mr. President.

PRESIDENT GRAHAM: Thank you Mr. Valesky. Just to remind clarification, does the County have the box? They don't have it right?

MAYOR FRANKLIN: No. They have the box.

MRS. RUCKER: They have the box. They haven't voted on this yet.

PRESIDENT GRAHAM: They do have the box? Has anyone met with the County?

MISS PHINISEE: That's our next move.

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MRS. RUCKER: Mr. President, I'd like to take the opportunity to make the motion at this time that Council unanimously agree to have our Clerk send a letter to the County with a copy of the legislation and urging them to support this.

PRESIDENT GRAHAM: There's already motion on the floor, okay?

MRS. RUCKER: Well after that.

PRESIDENT GRAHAM: Yes. Mr. Colbert.

MR. COLBERT: Thank you MR. President. We've had a lot of talks about this prior to it coming to us; having the idea it would be coming through to Youngstown's legislation. I've had several conversations with the Mayor about this and I think we can all agree that we want individuals to be in the position, be accepted and be a part of our society. And the mistake made at a young age should not hover over you for your entire life. But if you can't get an interview at a local fast food restaurant what do we expect that young person to go do when it comes down to it. The one thing I ask you, is to not put here because if you put here, your efforts will be in vein. Unfortunately, we are not in a position to hire a lot of people. The county is not in the position to hire a lot of people. Private sector business is. This resolution I assume tonight will pass 10-0. Please take this Council's will with you and approach the business owners of this community. And show them that the local elected leaders of this community felt it perfect to at least give people the opportunity to receive an interview. The private sector is where this matters; not the public sector. But you can take our will with you to show those private sector business owners Human Resource Directors that it started here. But please do not consider this a whole victory. Because we are one hundred percent in agreement that people deserve second chances. Unfortunately that's not going to get you very far in (inaudible) or the County. It has to take place in the private sector. So please, take our will with you tonight and move this forward. Thank you Mr. President.

MISS SAFFOLD: Thank you MR. President. I had the pleasure of working at a prison for the state of Ohio in Cleveland and it was during that time that I had the opportunity to get to know the prison population. So this piece of- it's not legislation per say, but this Resolution is special and dear to me. In my current role as a career coach, I receive a telephone call every day from an ex-offender who was asking for my help for employment. So I want to thank my colleagues this evening, I would like to thank the Mayor for your willingness and consideration to ban the box in the city of Warren. Thank you.

ROLL CALL

YES: Larson, Novak, Brown, Bartholomew, Flask, Saffold, Colbert, Valesky, Sferra, Rucker

NO: NONE

MOTION PASSED

10 YES, 0 NO. Motion passed.

RES. 4582/15

Draft 3491R is now Resolution 4582/15.

PRESIDENT GRAHAM: Draft 3492, oh I'm sorry Mrs. Rucker had her hand up. Typically this motion should be in miscellaneous, but because of the importance I want to do it now.

MRS RUCKER: Thank you Mr. President. I would like to ask Council to support the idea of directing our Clerk to send a letter to the Trumbull County Commissioners and copy of our Resolution here tonight and ask them to support Draft 3491R.

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Motion Rucker, second Saffold to send a letter basically of recommendation with the Resolution to the County Commissioners in order to motivate them to possibly do the same thing we're doing here tonight.

REMARKS

None.

Viva Voice 10 yes, 0 no. Motion passed.

**DRAFT 3492
FOWLER-BAZETTA
WATER SERVICE
AREA**

An ordinance for the purpose of authorizing the Mayor and Director of Public Service and Safety to renew and amend an agreement with the Board of Commissioners of Trumbull County, Ohio, which will replace the agreement entered into on November 10, 1993 which provided for a "Fowler-Bazetta Township Water Service Area" and add additional terms and conditions to the replaced agreement as described in "Exhibit A", and declaring an emergency.

Mr. Sferra requests the clerk to read the title on draft 3492.

READ

Clerk reads the same.

MOTION-SUSPEND

Motion Sferra, second Flask to suspend the rule requiring three readings on Draft 3492.

ROLL CALL

YES: Larson, Novak, Brown, Bartholomew, Flask, Saffold, Colbert, Valesky, Sferra, Rucker

NO: NONE

MOTION PASSED

10 YES, 0 NO. Motion passed.

MOTION-PASSAGE

Motion Sferra, second Bartholomew to pass Draft 3492 as an emergency.

REMARKS

NONE

ROLL CALL

YES: Larson, Novak, Brown, Bartholomew, Flask, Saffold, Colbert, Valesky, Sferra, Rucker

NO: NONE

MOTION PASSED

10 YES, 0 NO. Motion passed.

ORD. 12577/15

Draft 3492 is not Ordinance 12577/15.

**DRAFT 3493
BOARD OF HEALTH
APPOINTMENT OF
CHARLES OHLIN**

A resolution for the purpose of confirming the Mayoral re-appointment of Charles Ohlin as a member of the Warren City Board of Health for the term ending December 31, 2019, and declaring an emergency.

Mr. Flask requests the clerk to read the title on Draft 3493.

MOTION-SUSPEND

Motion Flask, second Bartholomew to suspend the rule requiring three readings on Draft 3493.

ROLL CALL

YES: Larson, Novak, Brown, Bartholomew, Flask, Saffold, Colbert, Valesky, Sferra, Rucker

NO: NONE

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MOTION PASSED 10 YES, 0 NO. Motion passed.

MOTION-PASSAGE Motion Flask, second Saffold to pass Draft 3493 as an emergency.

REMARKS

NONE

ROLL CALL YES: Larson, Novak, Brown, Bartholomew, Flask, Saffold, Colbert, Valesky, Sferra, Rucker

NO: NONE

MOTION PASSED 10 YES, 0 NO. Motion passed.

RES. 4583-15 Draft 3493 is now Resolution 4583/15.

**DRAFT 3479
GRAFFITI
PREVENTION** An ordinance for the purpose of enacting a section 541.041 (“Graffiti Prevention and Abatement”) to Chapter 541 (“Property Offense”) of the Codified Ordinances of the City of Warren for the purpose of preventing the placement of graffiti on any structure(s) and abating graffiti once placed on any structure(s) within the city of Warren, and declaring an emergency.

Mr. Brown requests the clerk to read the title of Draft 3479.

READ Clerk reads the same.

MOTION-AMEND Motion Brown, second Novak to amend Draft 3479 with Draft 3479A1

REMARKS

NONE

ROLL CALL YES: Larson, Novak, Brown, Bartholomew, Flask, Saffold, Colbert, Valesky, Sferra, Rucker

NO: None

MOTION PASSED 10 YES, 0 NO. Motion passed.

MOTION-PASSAGE Motion Brown, second Novak to pass Draft 3479A1 as an emergency.

REMARKS

MR. VALESKY: Thank you Mr. President. Councilman Brown when I first saw this legislation I thought we were victimizing the victim. So often in this town stress is brought onto our citizens, whether it be getting your house stripped or graffiti painted on your property and who is acceptable? Always (inaudible). With this piece of legislation, even though in the beginning I’ve always victimizing the victim, it’s really (inaudible) to clean up our house right here in the city. Because if we look at a vast majority of the properties that have been vandalized and have graffiti and (inaudible) is property that the city of Warren itself has owned. So, I am going to vote for this piece of legislation for that fact only is that we can hold ourselves accountable. And if we’re going to try to hold the citizens of this city accountable we need to hold ourselves accountable; the City of Warren. Thank you Mr. President.

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MAYOR FRANKLIN: Thank you Mr. President. And of course we spend a lot of time trying to clean up our own property, but I want to commend Councilman Brown for bringing this piece in, because I had the same concerns when it was introduced about victimizing the victims (inaudible). I thank the Law Department for working with you and taking your time on this legislation, getting it right, and addressing that concern; because I'm sure it was a concern of other Council Members and the business community as well. Thank God that that's addressed and I will be willing to sign this and I can't wait to see the other results of it. It will actually build up a momentum of a lot a things we're already doing in especially the owners of commercial properties to tare down in our city; Austintown – Austin Village Plaza, the old GE building, over 300 houses knocked down. So this is sort of a continuous of that momentum and I welcome this legislation and I'm glad you guys took your time and got it right. Thank you Mr. President.

ROLL CALL

YES: Larson, Novak, Brown, Bartholomew, Flask, Saffold, Colbert, Valesky, Sferra, Rucker

NO: None

MOTION PASSED

10 YES, 0 NO. Motion passed.

ORD. 12578/15

Draft 3479A1 is now Ordinance 12578/15.

PRESIDENT GRAHAM: I made a slight mistake and nobody caught it. Let's do that now.

Councilman Sferra: Move to adjourn.

Councilman Colbert: Second.

PRESIDENT GRAHAM: Committee reports. You have (inaudible). You have (inaudible) to adjourn? All those in favor?

Viva Voice 10 yes, 0 no. Meeting adjourned.

ADJOURNMENT 7:39 PM.

MOTION- ADJOURN

Motion Sferra, second Colbert to adjourn the meeting at 7:39PM.

James Graham, President of Council

Brenda E. Smith, Clerk of Council