

**Warren, Ohio**

**MINUTES  
REGULAR MEETING  
WARREN CITY COUNCIL  
JANUARY 28, 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** Alford L. Novak, 2<sup>nd</sup> Ward Councilman opened the meeting with prayer followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

ABSENT: Valesky

**MOTION-EXCUSE** Motion Sferra, second Novak to excuse Councilman Valesky for good and sufficient reasons.

Viva Voice 9 yes, 0 no. Motion passed.

**MOTION-ACCEPT**

**PREVIOUS MINUTES** Motion Colbert, second Saffold to accept the minutes of the previous meeting and dispense with the reading of the same.

Viva Voice 9 yes, 0 no. Motion passed.

**OFFICIALS**

PRESENT: Mayor Franklin, Deputy Auditor Rugieri, Law Director Hicks, Treasurer Homlitas

ABSENT: Safety Service Director Cantalemessia

**DEPARTMENT HEADS** PRESENT: Chief Merkel, Chief Nussle, Bob Davis, Bob Pinti, Mike Keys, LeeAnn Obrien, Paul Makosky, Ed Haller

ABSENT: Brian Massucci, James Black, Tom Gaffney

**REPORTS**

**MAYOR**

MAYOR FRANKLIN: Thank you. Thank you Mr. President. I will to keep it short this evening. But first, I'd like to just recognize a city employee; Cindy Gorse; who in the last few weeks, has been doing a yeoman's job. I don't know if she's here. But I wanted to say this because two of our sanitarians are out and she's been pretty much doubling up on her responsibilities and doing it very well. And I just wanted – Bob if you would pass that on to here. I wanted to recognize her diligent work in the absence of two of the sanitarians. So she's taking up that workload.

Also, I'd like to thank the Deputy Health Director Bob Pinti for attending the (inaudible) at the Air Force base last weekend regarding the mission to get military resources equipment and such to help with some projects in our city; all the way

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from neighborhood cleanups to demolition. So it's in its infancy stage. We look forward to working with our partners at TNP and the City Health Department and the County to do some real good things in that regard.

On a lighter note, regarding- I would like to just announce that on March 24<sup>th</sup>, through the efforts of the United Way myself and Chief Merkel will be reading to sec- kindergarteners through second grade at our city schools; Warren City Schools. I'd like to offer that invitation because we have about 50 classroom openings. So, I'd like to offer that invitation to all Council members and public officials if you want to participate and help out this great organization please contact my office and we'll sign you up. Thank you Mr. President.

**LAW DIRECTOR**

MR. HICKS: Thank you Mr. President. No report.

**AUDITOR**

MISS RUGGIERI: Thank you Mr. President. No report.

**TREASURER**

MR. HOMLITAS: Thank you Mr. President. No report this evening.

**DIRECTOR**

MAYOR FRANKLIN: He's excused. A family school project.

### **CORRESPONDENCE**

NONE.

### **DEPARTMENTHEAD REPORTS**

**WATER**

MR. DAVIS: Thank you Mr. President. I wanted to take this opportunity to let the citizens of Warren know and our customers know that there are potential scams that is happening in our city, particularly over the weekend. We have received approximately 15 to 20 calls regarding individuals posing and posing as Water Department employees basically saying that if they do not pay on hand - cash, that they will be shut off. Also, receiving calls with individuals also calling businesses- hotels, basically threatening to shut them off over the phone, asking for credit card information, debit card information, thing of that type of nature.

So, we want to make sure that everybody is aware of what's going on. Keep in mind that the Water Department; you know if it's not a blue Water Department truck, or if they don't have Water Department ID, or they don't have a blue uniform on, all the individuals that shut off and turn on have blue uniforms. So, if they don't have any of that, then chances are they are not Water Department employee. In terms of giving information over the phone, do not give any information over the phone unless you initiate a call.

They've tried to solicit two of our hotels; the one downtown and the one on Mahoning. So, we're getting calls about that as well. So, to date I don't believe that anybody has given any money at this point. So we want to keep it that way. So, just be aware and be cognitive and take some precaution with regard to individuals trying to come up to your door posing as a Water Department employee or making phone calls that specifically state that we'll be out in an hour to shut you off if you don't pay over the phone. Ok, so I wanted to make that perfectly clear.

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On another note, the weather conditions right now in the city and everywhere else for that matter, we're getting a lot of calls of frozen meters and pipes being frozen in this type of a situation happening . Keep in mind that when the temperature gets about 25 degrees or below, you may want to increase your heat a little bit. I know we're trying to keep our bills down, and I understand that, but we kind of have to reach a happy medium there. Once, if you had a broken line, it results in high water bills. You know, because that water has already gone through the meter. Frozen meters cost ninety-five dollars to get a new one. So there's a cost associated with these things, so we really want you to try to take precaution where that's concerned. Half of the calls we're getting are from vacant homes. So, if you own a vacant home, make sure it is weatherized. Meaning all the water is out of the pipes, the valve is set off at the meter. These types of things to take some precautions. Because again, once that line breaks, that water is going through the meter and it results in hundreds of thousands of dollars in terms of bills. So, just take precaution and I do understand that everybody's trying to keep the heat bill down. I would suggest that if you have a basement and most of the time the meters are in the basement. The basements are sometimes cold. I'm gonna suggest that and make a recommendation that you get some heat tape or something like that. I am not going to recommend an electric heater for the simple fact that I don't know what the insulation is down there and we don't want to be the one to cause a fire. But just take some precaution in trying to heat the home a little bit better on the temperature gets around that – about that degree. Ok? And then take as much precaution as you can with regards to the scams that's going on and the weather conditions. The only time that we will shut off water on the weekend is when we have a main break of some sort; which means that we are shutting down the whole street; not a particular house. And so that would probably be the only time that we would have water shutdown on the weekend. Thank you Mr. President.

#### PUBLIC SPEAKING

**JIM CHICCHILLO-169 WEST MARKET, WARREN 44481:** He spoke on Packard apartments. 1516 Nelson Lane and 169 West Market Street is what he owns. Mr. Koon needs to fix it up.

**TAMI SALGADO- 3221 MERRIWEATHER ST, WARREN 44485:** She spoke on street plowing being ignored. Her mother lives there and she is elderly. She spoke on potholes.

**JANET HAZLETTE- 168 KENILWORTH NE., WARREN 44483:** she spoke on busing.

**PRESIDENT GRAHAM:** Before she () we would like to offer condolences from the city council and the city as a whole on your () passing.

**ELIZABETH BALAINT- 1081 KENMORE SE., Warren 44484:** She thanked the city for help with street lights. There were 25 lights out from Ridge Road to Laird Avenue.

**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.**

#### STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

#### **TRAFFIC & SAFETY**

**MR. LARSON:** Thank you Mr. Chairman. No report tonight.

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**OPERATIONS**

MR. NOVAK: Thank you Mr. President. No report. But I will let everyone know that the inmate program has been very active and been out doing the snow cleaning for the handicapped and elderly people from the Trumbull Country Sheriff's Office. Thank you Mr. President.

**STRATEGIC  
PLANNING/  
ECONOMIC  
DEVELOPMENT**

MR. BROWN: Thank you Mr. President. Yesterday I was at the Artisan Café and a meter maid from the Warren Parking Systems came in and asked who's cars were parked out front? She was very courteous and professional and I told her the vehicles belonged to Trumbull Neighborhood Partnership; as they were plainly marked. They were taking photographs upstairs. I know that the employee from Warren Redevelopment and Planning who requested her to ticket the vehicles was technically correct. However, I feel we should support businesses who are locating in Warren and would ask the Administration to forward this to the Warren Parking Systems and WRAP. Mayor, I know that you have helped the Artisan Café by clearing the city lot north of the business there and you joined me in wanting to see the Artisan Café succeed. But I think that sometimes we need to look at things with a more open eye.

MAYOR FRANKLIN: I'll take care of it.

**ENGINEERING  
PLANNING & BLDG.**

MR. BARTHOLOMEW: Thank you Mr. President. Reconstruction of Youngstown Road between Laird and Ridge will include resurfacing, curbs, sidewalks, drive approaches and catch basins. Concrete driveways will be milled and overlaid with asphalt. Federal and State funds will cover 100% of the construction up to four million dollars. Also, Federal funds will cover 80% of the engineering cost so the cost to the city will only be 20% just of the engineering cost. The project is presently programmed for construction in 2019 and 2020, but we are hoping to complete the engineering in the next year or two and request the funding so that we can get this finished in 2018 to 2019. Thank you Mr. President.

**LEGISLATIVE**

MR. FLASK: Thank you Mr. President. I'd like to call a joint Legislative/Water Committee meeting for Wednesday at 4 PM. I want to discuss the - some additions to the Winn Program. I would like to ask the Mayor, the Auditor, Mr. Davis, Mr. Keys, Mr. Haller and any other interested parties.

**COMMUNITY  
DEVELOPMENT**

MISS SAFFOLD: No report. Thank you Mr. President.

**POLICE & FIRE**

MR. COLBERT: Thank you Mr. President. In reference to Police and Fire; no report.

**FINANCE**

MR. COLBERT: In reference to Finance, the Finance Committee met on Monday to discuss legislation before us, as well as the 2015 Budget. Unfortunately, I was unaware that we would have not representation from the Auditor's Department. So we are unable to discuss the 2015 numbers. When the Auditor does get back in town, I will get with him and we will establish another Finance Meeting to discuss the 2015 Budget. Thank you Mr. President.

**WATER/WPC**

MR. SFERRA: Thank you Mr. President. No report.

**HEALTH & WELFARE**

MRS. RUCKER: Thank you Mr. President. No report this evening.

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**SUB COMMITTEES**

**NEIGHBORHOOD**

**LIASON**

MR. NOVAK: Thank you Mr. President. No report this evening.

**FAIR HOUSING**

MISS SAFFOLD: No report. Thank you.

**MAIN STREET/  
AMPHITHEATER**

MRS. RUCKER: Thank you Mr. President. No report.

**PACKARD MUSIC HALL**

**LEGISLATION FOR FIRST READING**

**DRAFT 3494  
ADULT SOFTBALL  
CONTRACT**

An ordinance authorizing the Mayor and the Director of Public Service and Safety, on behalf of the City of Warren, to enter into a personal service contract for the purpose of coordinating, directing and conducting all adult softball programs and operations in City Parks during 2015, and declaring an emergency.

Mr. Colbert requests the Clerk to read the title on Draft 3494 and place it into first reading.

**READ**

Clerk reads same. Draft 3494 has been placed into first reading and referred to Health & Welfare Committee.

**DRAFT 3495  
LAIRD AVENUE  
RESURFACING**

An ordinance for the purpose of authorizing the Director of Public Service and Safety to enter into agreement(s) with the Director of the Ohio Department of Transportation, and any other agreement(s) and/or contract(s) which may be necessary or useful, for the engineering, planning, reconstruction and resurfacing of Youngstown Road from Laird Avenue to Ridge Road, and declaring an emergency.

Mr. Bartholomer requests the Clerk to read the title on Draft 3495.

**READ**

Clerk reads same.

**MOTION-SUSPEND**

Motion Bartholomew, second Colbert to suspend the rule requiring three readings on Draft 3495.

**ROLL CALL**

Novak, Brown, Bartholomew, Flask, Saffold, Colbert, Sferra, Rucker, Larson

**MOTION PASSED**

9 YES, 0 NO. Motion passed.

**MOTION-PASSAGE**

Motion Bartholomew, second Flask to pass Draft 3495 as an emergency.

**REMARKS**

Mayor Franklin: Thank you Mr. President. I'd like to thank the Councilman for bringing this in. I'd also like to let – we all know how important an investment; and I use that word not loosely, an investment of this project is to one of our main corridors. If you look at from North Road to Reeves Road – I think Ridge Road it's absolutely beautiful what they've done. Unfortunately, we have a – this project is scheduled a few years out. We've done some spot paving this past summer. But it's so important and I can't thank Director Makosky enough for having the foresight to actually start – we're starting the planning phase and we did

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some screening of engineering firms last week. And it's a very thorough process. We narrowed it down to three and we listened to the three presentations. So the whole goal is to get out in front of the project and try to have everything in place just – if there is an opportunity and we will be trying to push this project up. Because the streets not going to get any better. But it's a very important, important, part of our main corridor . A lot of businesses are depending on this investment. And it's going to make a huge difference to all of the work that's already done and continue that momentum. So I want to thank Paul for all of your work and your due diligence in getting this project on the right radar screen of the authorities that can make this happen. And I got my fingers crossed that we can be in a position to move this project up. We'll be ready when the funding comes. So thank you so much.

**ROLL CALL**

Novak, Brown, Bartholomew, Flask, Saffold, Colbert, Sferra, Rucker, Larson

**MOTION PASSED**

**ORD. 12579/15**

9 YES, 0 NO. Motion passed. Draft 3495 is now Ordinance 1279/15.

**ADJOURNMENT – 7:32 PM**

**MOTION-ADJOURN**

Motion Sferra, second Novak to adjourn the meeting. Viva Voice 9 yes, 0 no. Meeting was adjourned at 7:32 PM.

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James Graham, President of Council

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Brenda Smith, Clerk of Council