

Warren, Ohio

MINUTES

REGULAR MEETING WARREN CITY COUNCIL

February 25, 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/INNOVATION** **Gregory Bartholomew, 4th Ward Councilman** opened the meeting with prayer followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.
- ROLL CALL** MEMBERS PRESENT: Colbert, Valesky, Sferra, Rucker, Larson, Novak, Brown, Bartholomew, Graham

ABSENT: Flask, Saffold
- MOTION-EXCUSE** Motion Valesky, second Novak to excuse Councilman Flask and Councilwoman Saffold for good and sufficient reasons.

Viva Voice: 8 yes, 0 no. Councilman Flask and Councilwoman Saffold have been excused.
- MOTION-ACCEPT PREVIOUS MINUTES** Motion Valesky, second Novak to accept the minutes of the previous meeting as recorded by the Council Clerk and suspend with the reading of the same.

Viva Voice 8 yes, 0 no. Motion passed.
- OFFICIALS** PRESENT: Mayor Franklin, Director Cantalamessa, Auditor Griffing, Law Director Hicks, Treasurer Homlitas
- DEPARTMENT HEADS** Chief Nussel (Rep), Bob Davis, Bob Pinti, Mike Keys, Paul Makosky, Ed Haller

ABSENT: Chief Merkel, Brian Massucci, James Black, Tom Gaffney, LeeAnn O'Brien
- REPORTS**
- MAYOR** MAYOR FRANKLIN: Thank you Mr. President. As a reminder from last week's announcement I just wanted to reiterate that the Trumbull County African American Achievers Association will be hosting their 30th Annual Hall of Fame inductees this Saturday and let me get it right this time February 28th at 6 PM in at Diviesti's Banquet Hall. I look forward to all of you coming. Also, I would like for all members of Council and citizens to keep Operations worker in your prayers. Thank you Mr. President.

PRESIDENT GRAHAM: Yes, we have two or three sidebars going on; excuse me.
- LAW DIRECTOR** MR. HICKS: Thank you Mr. President. No report.
- AUDITOR** MR. GRIFFING: Thank you Mr. President. No report this evening.
- TREASURER** MR. HOMLITAS: Thank you Mr. President. Cash collections are unfortunately about \$210,000 dollars below last year- last year's collection at this time. And we're within \$50,000 dollars of where we would like to be. Thank you.

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DIRECTOR

MR. CANTALAMESSA: Thank you Mr. President. A couple of items from the beginning of the year, 2015, I want to take my hat off to the Water. We've had a total of 32 main breaks from January 1 to present day. Those men work tirelessly and under sometimes very adverse positions particularly with the weather we've been having this winter. So Bob, if you could pass that along to the men. We really appreciate the work they're doing.

And secondly, with respect to snow removal in the city, the last snow fall we had; much like several of the other snowfalls we've had this winter it really taxed the Operations Department and I wanted to take my hat off to the Operations Department as well. Particularly, in light of the job they did on the roads this past snowfall. A lot of that had to do with the fact that we had a full complement available of staff members. So, we had as many on the roads in plows during the last snow fall that could be considered at full capacity for the department along with some help from Waste Water and from Engineering as well.

So to all of the men and women assisting the city with snow removal in particular, the most recent snowfall I want to say thank you and job well done. Thank you Mr. President.

MR. COLBERT: Excuse me Mr. President? Mr. President?

PRESIDENT GRAHAM: Yes, Mr. Colbert.

MR. COLBERT: I apologize I couldn't get your attention. To Mr. Homlitas, the report that you have given, are those numbers through February or are those numbers through January?

MR. HOMLITAS: Those numbers are through this morning.

MR. COLBERT: Thank you Mr. President.

DEPARTMENT HEADS

**COMMUNITY
DEVELOPMENT**

MR. KEYS: Thank you Mr. President. As usual every year, we post the annual report, it's called the Capers report from the CD. Capers stands for Comprehensive Annual Performance Evaluation Report. That will be posted on Friday on the City's website. We will also hold a public comments session with The staff. So, if you want to come down after you read the report or if you do read the report and you want to make public comments. That's scheduled for March 17th. I (inaudible) not schedule that time however my staff did. But they're going to work that day. And, also online this year for the first time we will provide a form with that Capers report which will allow you to go online, fill out the report online and just hit a button and that will automatically just come straight to my department without you having to print it out or download it. So, Capers report will be posted again on Friday and also a copy of that will be available in my office. Thank you Mr. President.

PRESIDENT GRAHAM: Right now, we're going to switch up a little bit. We're going to put the new legislation next on the Agenda because we're missing two Council people because of illness and the third has another important engagement to go to.

**MOTION-CHANGE
ORDER OF BUSINESS**

Rucker, second Novak to move the order of business to the top. Viva voice 8 Yes, 0 No. Order of business changed.

LEGISLATION FOR SUSPENSION AND PASSAGE

**Draft 3499
INTER-GOVERN-
MENTAL AGREEMENT**

An ordinance for the purpose of authorizing the Mayor and Director of Public Service and Safety to enter into an intergovernmental cooperation agreement with Trumbull County, Ohio, a political subdivision of the State of Ohio, for the purpose of exercising, in conjunction with said Trumbull County, those rights that the City of Warren has pursuant to, and in accordance with Section 9.48 of the Ohio Revised Code and declaring an emergency.

Mr. Colbert requests the Clerk to read the title on Draft 3499.

READ

Clerk reads same.

MOTION-SUSPEND

Motion Colbert, second Bartholomew to suspend the rule requiring three readings on Draft 3499.

ROLL CALL

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

NO: None

MOTION PASSED

8 Yes, 0 No. Motion passed.

MOTION-PASSAGE

Motion Colbert, second Bartholomew to pass Draft 3499 as an emergency.

REMARKS

NONE

ROLL CALL

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

NO: NONE

**MOTION PASSED
ORD. 12582/15**

8 Yes, 0 No. Motion passed.
Draft 3499 is now Ordinance No. 12582/15.

**DRAFT 3500
STREET SWEEPING**

An ordinance for the purpose of authorizing the Director of Public Service and Safety to advertise for bids and enter into contract(s) for the street sweeping of various streets in the city of warren, Ohio and declaring an emergency.

Mr. Bartholomew requests the clerk to read the title on draft 3500.

READ

Clerk reads the same.

MOTION-SUSPEND

Motion Bartholomew, second Brown to suspend the rule requiring three readings on Draft 3500.

ROLL CALL

YES: Bartholomew, Colbert, Valesky, Sferra, rucker, Larson, Novak, Brown

NO: None

MOTION PASSED

8 Yes, 0 No. Motion passed.

MOTION-PASSAGE

Motion Bartholomew, second Brown to pass Draft 3500 as an emergency.

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REMARKS

NONE

ROLL CALL

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

NO: None

**MOTION PASSED
ORD. 12583/15**

8 Yes, 0 No. Motion passed.
Draft 3500 is now Ordinance No. 12583/15.

**Draft 3494
SOFTBALL PROGRAMS**

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.

Mr. Colbert requests the clerk to read the title on draft 3494.

READ

Clerk reads the same.

MOTION-SUSPEND

Motion Colbert, second Bartholomew to suspend the rule requiring three reads on draft 3494.

ROLL CALL

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

NO: None

MOTION PASSED

8 Yes, 0 No. Motion passed.

MOTION- PASSAGE

Motion Colbert, second Bartholomew to pass Draft 3494 as an emergency.

REMARKS

None

ROLL CALL

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

NO: None

**MOTION PASSED
ORD. 12584/15**

8 Yes, 0 No. Motion passed.
Draft 3494 is now Ordinance No. 12584/15.

CORRESPONDENCE

None

PUBLIC SPEAKING

PIERSON J. BUTCHER JR. – 1194 ADELAIDE AVE SE UNIT A, WARREN 44484: He spoke on snow removal and Eddie’s Restaurant closing, along with 9 other stores.

PAUL CLOUSER – 143 WEST MARKET ST., WARREN 44481: He spoke on snow removal downtown.

BOB WEITZEL – 1133 RAYMOND ST., WARREN 44485: He spoke about the ambulance service in Warren.

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. President. No report tonight.

OPERATIONS

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

**STRATEGIC
PLANNING/ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT**

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

**ENGINEERING
PLANNING & BLDG.**

MR. BARTHOLOMEW: Thank you Mr. President. I've got a report on the bond that was passed last year and some of the administering of the funds to the certain buildings and that; the Gibson building. Most of these will be done in the spring. The Gibson Building, the Operations Building and the Central Fire Station will all have had some roof work done with most of that being done in the spring. Also the Municipal Building will have roof work done and also, parking lot improvements with this money will be done at the Municipal Building, City Hall, and Packard Music Hall. And sealing of the existing parking lots will also be planned for the Gibson Building and then the City Hall Complex will also get a makeover, so to speak with the money that we passed last year. Thank you Mr. President.

MR. NOVAK: Thank you Mr. President. I'd just like to ask Auditor Griffing- just tell you that I appreciate you preparing that report concerning the bond issues. I was unable to come down because Monday I had to take my dad to the calling hours. So, but I appreciate your work in getting that prepared so that the Council Members and the public are aware of what we've done with those bonds and how the money was spent. Thank you Mr. President.

FINANCE

MR. COLBERT: Thank you Mr. President. In regards to Finance, the Finance Committee met on Monday to discuss the legislation before you. On Monday, March 2nd, I would like to call a Finance Meeting to discuss specifically House Bill 5, House Bill 282, and its ramifications on the city and we will have a general overview of the budget. The Auditor has made me aware that he will not be able to attend that meeting. But, if Miss Ruggieri is available to answer any general questions, that would be appreciated. But if not, we should still be able to go over the numbers and discuss- some of the collections with Mr. Homlitas. I'd like the Auditor, the Director, the Mayor, the Treasurer to be at this meeting and all Council Members, any interested person from the community.

POLICE & FIRE

MR. COLBERT: In regards to Police and Fire, as Mr. Butcher mentioned, we did meet last Wednesday to discuss the idea behind the possibilities of changing our 911 system over to the county. We had a packed house, we had a lively discussion, a lot of questions were put out there. We will reconvene once those questions are- once the additional questions are submitted, and we have answers provided to those questions. There will be a timeline on that though. There does become a time where we do have to make a decision, yes or no. So within the next couple of weeks I'll be contacting the appropriate

parties from Dispatch as well as the Administration to find out where we are from the question standpoint. And also, reiterate the request to have a professional from the communications industry coming and being able to give us an overlay of our system versus the system at the County. Thank you Mr. President.

MRS. RUCKER: Thank you Mr. President. Mr. Colbert?

MR. COLBERT: Yes maam?

MRS. RUCKER: Since there is a timeline, shouldn't we just go forward with meeting with the Council Members and the communication people other than wait?

MR. COLBERT: I- I apologize Mrs. Rucker would you kindly repeat that?

MRS. RUCKER: I was saying that since there is a timeline, which you said last week that there wasn't a time line, now since there is a timeline, shouldn't you go forward and we have a meeting with Council Members and public and communications people so we won't be waiting for this question and answer thing.

MR. COLBERT: No.

MRS. RUCKER: Whatever. Thank you Mr. President.

PRESIDENT GRAHAM: Mr. Colbert, is that it?

MR. COLBERT: Yes.

PUBLIC UTILITIES

MR. VALESKY: No report for Public Utilities this evening.

WATER/WPC

MR. SFERRA: No report, Mr. President.

HEALTH & WELFARE

MRS. RUCKER: thank you Mr. President. No report, but I would like to comment on Mr. Clouser's comments concerning what he said about the street being plowed. I think some of our Council Members have mentioned that Boston seems to have a very expensive, very unique way of recycling their snow that's piled up in the areas. I think this is one place that we should look into that to see if it's feasible that we could recycle that snow somehow. But, like he was saying, it's more than just inconvenient- it's a huge safety hazard. I was down there twice, had a passenger in the car, kept moving up a parking space and then couldn't get my passenger out of the car. So, they had to move over on the driver's side and try to get out that way which even made it more dangerous, I'm standing there with my door wide open, you know and cars are coming and I'm extended out into the street. So we should take that under advisement as soon as possible. Thank you Mr. President.

SUBCOMMITTEES

**NEIGHBORHOOD
LIASON**

MR. NOVAK: Thank you Mr. President. I'm just letting you know that Mr. Manofsky has been out with the crews from the inmate program and has been trying to keep up with the requests for snow removal for our senior citizens and handicapped residents also. Thank you Mr. President.

EDUCATION

MR. VALESKY: Thank you Mr. President. Two things to talk about this evening. The first thing is that I was very proud of the attendance at the Warren Heritage Center for the African American History events. It was the first time we had the opportunity to open the doors to the Kinsman House. It was very well attended. Thank you very much to our lecturers; Mayor Franklin, Helen Rucker, and Wendell Long. Thank you to all of the Council people who attended. I thought that it was informative (inaudible). If we have a good response for next year we're going to do it again and next year we'll have some volunteers all ready to speak and lecture for next year. Thank you.

The second thing I'd like to speak on is actually about the conversation this evening. Helen, you had an interest in this. Mr. Weitzel, I had the opportunity today; by the invitation of Chief Cook to spend some time out at the Trumbull County 911 center. I appreciate their hospitality.

Chief Cook, Roger Laird; which is their Operations Manager, David Pasel; their supervisor for that turn. I also spoke to Dispatchers Cindy (inaudible) and Jackie Garlino. They made me feel very welcome. They walked me through the 911 process. They walked me through their capabilities. They took me through the facility. Because when I walked in there told the Chief I said I want you to take the dollars out of it. I want to know what this service can do for the City of Warren. I want to know that our citizens and our policemen and our firemen are safer with the system that you have in place. And they gave me all of those answers. And I can sit here for hours and (inaudible) and tell everybody what they told me. But Chief Cook has made available the opportunity for all of City Council and the Administration to spend the time with them just as he did with me. And he has extended – the Chief could not be here this evening so he asked me to extend the invitation to all of you. This Monday March 2nd at 1:00 PM at the 911 Center in Howland. They will have a seminar and a open house so that we can all get an education on the facility and the – what they will provide us. So that invitation is open. I hope to see all of you there.

MAYOR FRANKLIN: Mr. President, Mr. Valesky can you repeat the time and date?

MR. VALESKY: The time will be March 2nd, that's next Monday at 1 o'clock in the afternoon.

MAYOR FRANKLIN: My secretary is here, so can see if she can make me be able to make it.

MR. VALESKY: The invitation was made to all of us. And I know last week we were - some of our Council Members were concerned about lack of information. And you know me; I'm all about information so we can make an educated decision. This fulfills that promise and I hope to see everybody there on Monday. Thank you Mr. President.

**MAIN STREET/
AMPHITHEATER/**

PACKARD MUSIC HALL MRS. RUCKER: No report, Mr. President.

02-25-2015

ADJOURNMENT 7:32 PM

MOTION-ADJOURN Motion Rucker, second Sferra to adjourn the meeting.

James Graham, President of Council

Brenda E. Smith, Clerk of Council