

Minutes of Regular Meeting, November 14, 2022

The Town Council of the Town of Warren met Monday, November 14, 2022 in a Regular Meeting at Assembly Hall, Council Meeting Room, 131 N. Wayne St, in accordance with rules of Council and applicable law.

Those present were: Council Members, Steve Buzzard, Carrie Miller, Tavis Surfus, Michelle Schweikhardt; Clerk-Treasurer, Marilyn Morrison; Employees, Lee Poulson, Dennis Spitler; Others.

Under Special Order of Business, Greg Guerrettaz, Financial Consultant, and Ben Adams, Engineer, discussed planning for 2023 projects, timelines for projects, and financing for projects. Guerrettaz submitted the final Sustainability Report, Wastewater Rate Report, and Electric Rate Reports as well. Adams submitted Change order #1, Water Upgrade Project, noting a \$10,000 deduction in the project cost. Miller moved, seconded by Surfus, to approve the Change Order. Motion approved unanimously. Adams submitted the Water Project Substantial Completion document. Surfus moved, seconded by Buzzard, to accept the report. Motion approved unanimously. A representative of USI Consultants was present to outline the procedure for application for a Community Crossings Grant noting that the application period would be January of 2023. Following discussion with Guerrettaz and Adams in which both indicated that their part of the process would be ready by that time, and by consensus, Council approved moving forward with a grant application for reconstruction of Wayne Street from SR 5 to the area of Eleventh Street at the projected cost of \$1.4 million. The grant would be for 75% of the covered costs. Also submitted was a contract with USI for an amended contract to conduct the PASER study related to the Wayne Street Project and the application at a cost not to exceed \$11,000. Buzzard moved, seconded by Surfus, approval of the amendment. Motion was approved unanimously. Pay Order #15 to Maquire Iron, Water Upgrade Project, was approved by consensus in the amount of \$55,325 with payment from State Revolving Loan Fund.

- Minutes of meeting of October 10 were approved as submitted.
- A resident inquired about repairs to railroad crossings within the Town and when they would be repaired. As the tracks are the responsibility of the Railroad, the Town does not have authorization to pave within the tracks. A letter will be forwarded to the Company
- A resident presented concerns regarding handicap availability within the Town.
- Marshal Spitler reported that Ford Motor Company could not meet the demand for police vehicles in 2023 and as an order had been placed, it could not be filled. The car was to add to the fleet with the 2011 vehicle to be retired.
- Fire Chief Poulson submitted the October Activity report and updated on vehicles.
- Jeff Souder reported that concrete work at Riverside Park was scheduled within the week, weather permitting.
- Historic Warren – record number of trees entered in the Annual Walk of Trees to be held November 18th. Work continues on The Exchange.
- Buzzard moved, seconded by Surfus, to accept the report from the Warren Redevelopment Commission Annual Meeting held prior to the Council Meeting. Motion approved unanimously.
- Work has been completed on the HVAC system installed at Town Hall.
- Ordinance 2022-6, An Ordinance to Establish an Unrestricted Opioid Fund, and Ordinance 2022-7, An Ordinance to Establish a Restricted Opioid Fund were submitted in Introduction. The ordinances are necessary to meet requirements to receive money from Settlements reached by the State of Indiana against Opioid suppliers.
- Sanitation Contract Extension for years 2023 and 2024 with amendments as previously approved was submitted for review. Miller moved, seconded by Schweikhardt, to approve the contract. Motion approved by consensus.
- As previously approved, President Buzzard signed a Second Amendment to Elevated Water Storage with AT&T for placement of a generator at the site.
- Miller moved, seconded by Buzzard, to provide a wage increase of \$1.04 per hour for employees and an increase in retirement earnings to \$100 a week to meet the inflationary trend. Buzzard seconded and the motion was approved unanimously. Ordinances 2022-8,9,10 will be amended with those rates. Holiday calendar was approved for 2023.

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- The 2023 contract with Huntington County Economic Development was submitted noting that an additional paragraph had been to defray cost of an added program. Action on the contract is scheduled for next meeting.
- Accounts Payable Register in the amount of \$559,017.96 was approved by consensus.
- Invoice Cloud Monthly report – 190 customers paid through the system in October.
- Surfus moved, seconded by Schweikhardt, to proceed with the replacement of storm line and two man holes at Heritage Point at the cost of \$27,280. Motion approved unanimously.
- Submitted was a quote on a used Sewer Vacuum truck at \$140,000. The truck had been inspected by Poulson and Buzzard and was recommended for purchase. Miller moved, seconded by Buzzard to approve purchase. Motion carried unanimously.
- Vandalism reported in Men’s and Women’s public restrooms. Repairs to be made.
- Placement of generator at Town Hall has been delayed due to availability.
- Next Council Meeting is December 19th.
- There being no further business to come before Council, meeting adjourned.

Submitted _____ Clerk-Treasurer
Marilyn Morrison

Town Council:

As _____ President
Steven Buzzard

As _____ Member
Carrie Miller

As _____ Member
Tavis Surfus

As _____ Member
Michelle Schweikhardt