

Minutes of Regular Meeting, February 12, 2024

The Town Council of the Town of Warren met Monday, February 12, 2024 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, Ron Boxell, Michelle Schweikhardt, Jeremy Rufener; Clerk-Treasurer, Marilyn Morrison; Employees, Dennis Spitler, Lee Poulson; others.

In reorganization of Council for 2024, Schweikhardt moved, seconded by Boxell, to re-appoint Buzzard as President. Voting in support were Boxell, Schweikhardt, Buzzard, voting against was Rufener. Buzzard moved, seconded by Boxell, to reappoint Schweikhardt as Vice President. Unanimous. Morrison is to continue as representative on the County CEDIT Committee with Buzzard to continue on the County Economic Development Committee. Meetings will continue to be held on the second Monday of every Month at 6:00 pm.

Melinda Daniels, "Total Eclipse in Warren" Committee representative submitted a list of items to be considered in regard to activities being planned as Warren is in the area to see the Total Eclipse. Council concurred with all items requiring approval. More information will be made public closer to the event.

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of December 18, 2023 were submitted. There was not a meeting in January. Proposed corrections to the minutes from a member were considered but, minutes were not amended.

Marshal Spitler submitted the December and January Activity Reports. Also reported was that meetings were being held with county wide emergency officials in regard to the Solar Eclipse and items such as traffic control and parking conditions. A request to use part time officers on April 8 was approved by consensus.

Fire Chief Poulson submitted the January Activity Report.

Year End Activity/Event report related to Historic Warren was submitted.

In unfinished business, consideration of bid recommendations and related documents for the Nancy Street Lift Station and Sewer Upgrade were considered. Buzzard moved approval of Award of the Bid to API Construction in the amount of \$838,730.75, the lowest of three bids submitted. Seconded by Schweikhardt, the motion was approved unanimously. Buzzard moved, seconded by Boxell, to approve Agreement with Contractor. Buzzard, Boxell, Schweikhardt voted in the affirmative with Rufener abstaining. Schweikhardt moved, seconded by Buzzard to issue Notice to Proceed. Approved unanimously.

Also in regard to the Nancy Street Lift Station Project and due to the bid being substantially more than estimated, submitted for review was a Report from Financial Solutions Group detailing revised financial support of the project. Following review, Buzzard moved, seconded by Boxell, to accept the financial plan. Motion approved unanimously.

Annual Contracts with Financial Solutions Group were approved unanimously as follows: Continuing Disclosure Filings with the Securities and Exchange Commission due to an outstanding Bond with Morrison as Compliance Officer, Professional Services Proposal outside of Bonding, and Required Redevelopment Commission Reporting. Schweikhardt moved, seconded by Buzzard, acceptance of all. Approved unanimously.

An Executive Meeting has been scheduled for February 13 with Thomas Niezer, Attorney, regarding purchase of property from Huntington County Community School Corporation.

In discussion of the Feral Cat situation, by consensus, Council directed that Marshal Spitler start a program with Animal Control to address the issue starting with a trap, treat, and release program of ten cats. Approximate cost of \$55 each.

As Council had previously approved funding from CEDIT Funds in the amount of \$12,500 for Commodity Blenders toward the purchase of loading equipment for the Wayne Street Mill Site in coordination with the County Commissioners providing additional funds, a contract prepared by Huntington County United Economic Development for the project was reviewed. Schweikhardt moved, seconded by Buzzard, to authorize the contract. Approved unanimously.

An Executive Meeting was scheduled for February 20 to review applications received for two job positions which had been advertised.

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Buzzard moved, seconded by Boxell, to approve Resolution 1-2024, Transfers between Electric Funds. Approved unanimously.

Buzzard moved, seconded by Schweikhardt, to approve Resolution 2-2024, transfer of excess funds from Wastewater Debt Service Reserve to Wastewater Depreciation. Approved unanimously.

Approved unanimously by consensus was the 2024 Holiday Schedule.

Morrison submitted yearend financial reports. Accounts Payable Registers for December 18-31, 2023 in the amount of \$192,591.85 and January-February 12, 2024 in the amount of \$774,626.57 were approved as submitted. Also accepted by consensus were the December, 2023 and January 2024 Payroll Dockets. Morrison reported that the Annual Report information required to be published will be in the Wednesday, February 14 issue of Huntington Herald Press.

Poulson updated work on projects and submitted a quote from ERS for replacement of four radios in the amount of \$4,408.08. Approved by consensus. The four month vegetation removal project to clear primary election lines has been completed. Work to proceed on the construction of a new pavilion has been delayed due to Huntington County Community Development officials citing a need for a variance. A State Permit has been granted. The Pavilion will be constructed at the same site of the original structure.

The next Regular Meeting of Town Council is scheduled for March 11.

General Discussion was held.

There being no further business to come before Council the meeting was adjourned.

Submitted

Marilyn Morrison

Clerk-Treasurer

Warren Town Council:

Steve Buzzard

President

Michelle Schweikhardt

Vice President

Jeremy Rufener

Member

Ron Boxell

Member