

Minutes of Regular Meeting, September 8, 2025

The Town Council of the Town of Warren met Monday, September 8, 2025 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, Rob Wade,; Others.

President Buzzard announced the opening of a scheduled Public Hearing on the proposed 2026 Municipal Budget. Requesting public input and hearing none, the Hearing was closed. The Budget Ordinance will be considered for adoption at the October 13th Meeting of Council. A public hearing on Ordinance 2025-11, Adjustment to Electric Rates, was opened with the Rate Study and Ordinance being reviewed by Greg Guerrettaz of Financial Solutions Group. Hearing no input from the Public, the Hearing was closed. Buzzard moved, seconded by Schweikhardt to adopt Ordinance 2025-11. Approved unanimously. The Ordinance provides for a five year increase of rates with the first increase scheduled for the November 1, 2025 billing and will see a increase of \$5 for each of five years.

Guerrettaz reviewed the need to establish a StormWater Utility to open another avenue for potential grant funding in planning. Cost of the study was proposed at a not to exceed cost of \$17,500. Buzzard moved, seconded by Schweikhardt, to accept the proposal. Voting in support: Buzzard, Schweikhardt, Boxell. Voting Against: Rufener.

Jeff Souder of Historic Warren reported the group had been awarded a grant to place a sidewalk at Riverside Park made up of original bricks from downtown sidewalks during projects. The grant is 80/20 with Historic Warren providing the 20% match. In addition, a request was made for closing of Second Street from Wayne to Nancy for the November 22nd Annual Christmas Walk. Approved by consensus.

Marshal Spitler submitted the August Activity Report.

Fire Chief Poulson had submitted a written report and a current roster which the Council approved by consensus.

Utility Manager Fortney's written report was reviewed.

Veterans Park – approximately 25 bricks remain for sale to be placed in the main area of the memorial. A dedication is being planned for November 11, Veterans Day. Morrison reported that Pulse Opera House would be doing a presentation on 'Letters from Soldiers' project. Any suggestions from Council or the Committee should be forwarded so that the event can be finalized.

Morrison reported that no response had been received from New Era Railroad in regard to track conditions within the Town. State Senator will be contacted to check for any avenues to address the situation.

A request from an outside interest for waiver of the demolition order on 324 Hendricks was denied. The owner must demolish by September 22nd or bids will be taken by the town to remove the structure with a lien then placed on the property.

The invoice for the chassis of the fire truck was received in the remaining amount of \$110,000 which will be halved by the Township and Town. The company had noted that the chassis could be outfitted and ready possibly in March instead of October due to cancellations.

Jack Barlow of Habitat for Humanity is scheduled to make presentation at the October 13th Meeting.

Reviewed were two applications for a position on the Warren Public Library Board with Bonnie Meyers being appointed by consensus.

Claims Register in the amount of \$321613.77 was approved by consensus.

August Payroll Register in the amount of \$3,391.80 was approved by consensus.

A Special Meeting has been scheduled for Monday, September 15th at 5:00 pm for discussion of staffing plans.

Next Regular Meeting of Town Council is Monday, October 13th.

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

Minutes of Regular Meeting, September 8, 2025

Submitted _____
Marilyn Morrison Clerk-Treasurer

Warren Town Council:

Steve Buzzard
President

Michelle Schweikhardt
Vice President

Jeremy Rufener
Member

Ron Boxell
Member