

Minutes of Regular Meeting, October 9, 2023

The Town Council of the Town of Warren met Monday, October 9, 2023 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, Tavis Surfus, Michelle Schweikhardt, Jeremy Rufener; Clerk-Treasurer, Marilyn Morrison; Employees, Dennis Spitler; others.

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of September 11, 2023 were approved as submitted.

By consensus, Council approved moving forward in exploring Hometown Heroes Banner Program following presentation by a local resident in that regard.

Morrison reported that volunteers had spent over three hundred hours in the Tower Park Community Program being headed by Mike and Stacy Haggerty. The project is on target as far as the Town Council budget supplied for the program.

Marshal Spitler submitted the September Activity Report.

Fire Chief Poulson submitted the September Activity Report.

No Chamber of Commerce or HCUED reports.

Becky Souder of Historic Warren requested closure of Second Street from Wayne to Nancy for the annual Christmas Walk scheduled for November 17th. Council concurred.

Resolution 3-2023, reduction within the 2023 budget to meet obligations in the 2024 Municipal Budget, was submitted for Council Consideration. Buzzard moved, seconded by Schweikhardt, to adopt Resolution 3-2023. Unanimous approval.

Ordinance 2023-3, 2024 Municipal Budget, was submitted for consideration of adoption. Following review, Buzzard moved adoption and was seconded by Schweikhardt. Adopted unanimously.

Morrison reported that conversation with HGAC representatives continues regarding purchase of a pumper truck for Fire Department.

A pre-construction meeting with Brooks Construction, contractor for the Wayne Street Project, is scheduled for October 24th at 2:00 pm. The main portion of the project is scheduled for April, 2024 with some preparation work to be done prior.

Morrison reported that \$1,000,000 in grant monies have been deposited as awarded through Indiana Department of Transportation Community Crossings Grant Program. The grant is for partial funding of the Wayne Street Reconstruction Project.

Ben Adams, Engineer, reported that permitting through IDEM for the TIF sewer projects have been submitted. The bids are scheduled to be accepted on Tuesday, October 24th at 2:00 pm with award of the project(s) scheduled for the November 13th Regular Meeting of Council. The projects are being funded by the Warren Redevelopment Commission/Warren Town Council with funds from within the TIF District.

Following discussion, Surfus moved, seconded by Rufener, approval and signing of an Intent to Purchase Agreement with Huntington County Community School Corporation for purchase of acreage. The motion was approved unanimously.

Marshal Spitler had no updates on a program for handling of feral cats.

Morrison reported that 4 ½ roll offs had been filled during the fall town-wide clean up.

Trick or Treat hours were set for Halloween night, October 31, from 6-8:00 pm with increased patrols during that time.

A local citizen had submitted information/ drawings for consideration of a veterans' memorial which would consist of flags of all units of the military. Following review and discussion of the request, Council, by consensus, requested Morrison proceed with pricing and possible locations for such a project.

A request to use Tower Park for a fund raiser tournament which has been done for several years and scheduled for November 4th was approved by consensus.

A General Task Order in the amount of \$20,000 for the year 2024 as submitted by Commonwealth Engineers was considered, Surfus moved, seconded by Buzzard, to approve the Order. Motion approved unanimously.

Morrison reported that discussions continue with a company currently pursuing purchase of the vacated Golfo building.

Closing of Second Street from Wayne to Main Street was approved by consensus for the Annual Scarecrow Festival on October 27th.

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Accounts Payable Register in the amount of \$313,197.19 was approved by consensus.

September Financial Reports were submitted. Buzzard moved with Schweikhardt seconding to approve the September Payroll Docket. Approved unanimously.

Poulson had submitted a monthly activity report in his absence.

Quotes previously submitted for clearing of trees and shrubs along and around primary electric lines were discussed with timelines as requested. Noting that Mint City could do the project within two weeks without having to cut power and Tucker did not have a schedule and could not do the work without interrupting power, the bids of Mint City at \$90,626 and Tucker Tree at \$128,900 were discussed. Surfus moved, seconded by Schweikhardt, to accept the quote from Mint City. Approved unanimously.

Quotes from Garage Door Services in the amount of \$3228, Over Head door in the amount of \$3330 and Precision Door in the amount of \$8371.36 for replacement of two over head doors at the Sewer Screen Room were discussed. Buzzard moved, seconded by Surfus, to accept the quote from Garage Door Service. Approved unanimously.

Quotes for construction of pavilion at Tower Park in 2024 were reviewed with Miller quoting \$28,630, FBI at \$40,000, and Meyer Builders at \$52,500. Buzzard moved, seconded by Rufener, to accept the Miller quote. Approved unanimously.

The next regularly meeting of Town Council is scheduled for November 13.

General discussion was held.

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

Warren Town Council

As _____ President As _____ Member
Steven Buzzard Michelle Schweikhardt

As _____ Member As _____ Member
Tavis Surfus Jeremy Rufener

ATTEST:

As _____ Clerk-
Marilyn Morrison Treasurer