

**WARREN CITY COUNCIL
2017 BUDGET PUBLIC HEARING
DECEMBER 12, 2016 – 5:30 PM**

PUBLIC HEARING – 2017 PROPOSED BUDGET

John Lewis, Council Vice-President, called the Public Hearing to order at 5:30 PM in Council Chambers of the Municipal Building and announced that it was for the purpose of hearing public comment regarding the 2017 Proposed Budget.

Council members present and responding to roll call were: Elissa Davis, Gregory Fraser, Philip Gilbert, Richard Kolcharno, John Lewis, and James A. Zavinski, Sr. Mayor Maurice Cashman was absent. Members of City Staff present were Mrs. Freenock, Mr. Hildebrand, Mrs. Leary, Mrs. Risinger, and Chief Zydonik.

Mr. Lewis welcomed all visitors.

PUBLIC PRESENT

- Pauline Steinmeyer: City resident
- Andrew Moore: City resident
- Patricia Nutt: Scouting project
- Ben Nutt: Scouting project
- Josh Cotton: Times Observer Reporter

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Pauline Steinmeyer addressed Council and noted that she had viewed the proposed 2017 Budget Summary and Manager's Budget Message as well as financial documents from prior years. Mrs. Steinmeyer provided Council members with an overview of her understanding of the requirements of the Home Rule Charter as it pertains to the budget. She requested that a "debt summary" be made available for public review along with the proposed budget in future years. In closing, she stated that she supports the Early Intervention Program, as suggested in the Manager's Budget Message to Council, and urged Council to provide the necessary funding.

Andrew Moore, a City resident and member of the City of Warren Fire Department, addressed Council. Mr. Moore stated that over the course of his twenty-plus years as a City employee, he has seen many improvements within the City. Mr. Moore requested that consideration be given to improvements to the concrete portion of Crescent Park Drive between the Hickory Street Bridge and Main Avenue as this area is of concern in regard to ambulance traffic to Warren General Hospital.

Mr. Moore also addressed the need for repairs at the Helipad located within Crescent Park. Of particular concern is a concrete area at the Allegheny River water line.

(Secretary's note: Maintenance of the Helipad (Helipad) is the responsibility of Warren General Hospital per agreement dated April 18, 2011.)

Mr. Moore noted that employees not represented by collective bargaining agreements will be subject to an increased healthcare deductible in 2017. He noted the past practice of non-union employees receiving the same benefits as members of the I.B.E.W. and stated that he does not believe that it is appropriate to institute such a change prior to the 2017 collective bargaining negotiations. Mr. Moore emphasized that he was not asked by any member of the non-unionized staff to bring this matter to Council.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no other citizens wishing to provide comment, Mr. Lewis declared the hearing closed.