

**WARREN CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
JANUARY 19, 2015 – 7:30 PM**

OPENING OF MEETING

Mayor Cashman presided over the January 19, 2015 regular meeting of Warren City Council in Council Chambers of the Municipal Building and opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance. Mayor Cashman announced that Council met in Executive Session regarding personnel matters on January 12.

PROCLAMATION: MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. DAY

Mayor Cashman presented a proclamation honoring Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and encouraging all citizens to share in reflecting on Dr. King's legacy.

ROLL CALL

Members present and responding to roll call were: Mayor Maurice Cashman, Dr. Howard Ferguson, Samuel Harvey, Richard Kolcharno, John Lewis, and James A. Zavinski, Sr. Gregory Fraser was absent. Mrs. Freenock, Mr. Hildebrand, Mr. Holtz, Mrs. Leary, Ms. Nau, Chief Pascuzzi, Mrs. Risinger, Mr. Sceiford, Ms. Stapleford, and Lt. Zavinski of City staff were also in attendance.

RECOGNITION OF VISITORS

Mayor Cashman welcomed all visitors. Present were:

- Pauline Steinmeyer, resident: Observing
- Josh Cotton: Times Observer Reporter

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Upon motion by Mr. Zavinski and second by Mr. Lewis, the minutes of the December 15, 2014 Regular Meeting were unanimously approved by Council members present.

CORRESPONDENCE

There was no correspondence to come before Council.

MAYOR'S 2014 ANNUAL REPORT

Mayor Cashman presented his 2014 Annual Report to Council.

SPECIAL MEETING: STREETScape DESIGN PLAN

Mrs. Freenock noted that City Staff and the City Engineer are working to develop preliminary plans for the Midtown Parking Lot portion of the Redevelopment Assistance Capital Project (RACP) and wish to provide a forum for City Council and members of the public to view the plans and provide input.

Mr. Lewis made the motion to hold a Special Meeting on February 2, 2015, at 7:00 PM for discussion and public input regarding the Redevelopment Assistance Capital Project preliminary plans. The motion was seconded by Dr. Ferguson and subsequently withdrawn.

Mr. Harvey made the motion to hold a Special Meeting on February 2, 2015, at 7:30 PM for discussion and public input regarding the Redevelopment Assistance Capital Project preliminary plans. The motion was seconded by Dr. Ferguson and carried unanimously among the Council members present.

PROPOSED RESOLUTIONS: ESTABLISHING BUILDING CODES DEPARTMENT FEES

Mrs. Nau stated that due to increasing administrative costs for the issuance of various permits and for the provision of inspection services, the Building Codes Department fee schedules were reviewed and revised.

Following discussion, during which several questions were raised, Mr. Harvey made the motion to table action on the proposed Building Code Fee resolutions (2) until revised copies are provided. The motion was seconded by Mr. Lewis and carried unanimously among the Council members present.

PUBLIC HEARING DATE: PROPOSED CODE ADOPTION ORDINANCE

Mrs. Freenock stated that she and City Staff have been working through the process to update the Codified Ordinances of the City. The codification is being performed by General Code. Mrs. Freenock outlined the process to officially adopt the General Code version of the Codified Ordinances.

The proposed Code Adoption Ordinance was provided for Council's review and it was requested that a Public Hearing regarding adoption of the Code be set for March 16, prior to the opening of the regular meeting. Upon publication of a Notice of Introduction, a copy of the proposed Code Adoption Ordinance and the proposed Code will be available for public review in the office of the City Clerk.

Mr. Lewis made the motion to establish the Public Hearing date for March 16, 2015 at 7:30 PM. The motion was seconded by Mr. Harvey and carried unanimously among the Council members present.

RESOLUTION NO. 2977: APPOINTING LIAISON TO BERKHEIMER

Mrs. Freenock reported that the Warren County Tax Collection Committee solicited proposals for the collection of Earned Income and Local Services Taxes and selected Berkheimer as the collection agency for Warren County municipalities. As part of the conduct of business, it is necessary for certain confidential information to be exchanged between the City and Berkheimer. Therefore, Berkheimer requires that the City designate a liaison for the exchange of such information.

Dr. Ferguson made the motion to designate the City Finance Officer as the City's liaison to Berkheimer. The motion was seconded by Mr. Zavinski and carried unanimously among the Council members present.

RESOLUTION NO. 2977: FIRST NIAGARA MUNICIPAL DEPOSIT

Mrs. Risinger stated that it is sometimes necessary for the City to make refunds in regard to parking fines. Therefore, an account for this purpose will be established at First Niagara Bank. It is required that Council enact a Municipal Deposit Resolution providing authorization for establishment of the account and designating Nancy K. Freenock, Mary Ann Nau, Donna M. Risinger, Chief Raymond F. Zydonik, and Captain James J. Jordan as signatories. Two signatures will be required on all checks written with one signature being from a signatory within the Administration Department and one being from a signatory within the Police Department.

Upon motion by Mr. Lewis and second by Mr. Kolcharno, Council members present voted unanimously to approve the First Niagara Municipal Deposit resolution.

AGREEMENT: STRUTHERS LIBRARY THEATRE PLAZA

Ms. Stapleford noted that, at its regular meeting on October 20, 2014, Council approved an agreement with the Thomas Struthers Trust regarding the Trust's planned Struthers Library Theatre Plaza. Since that time, the Trust has requested two changes which are of a substantive nature and, therefore, it is requested that Council approve the Agreement as amended. The two amendments [added at Sections 2(h) and 5(i)] pertain to financial responsibility for removal of the kiosk and/or the plaza if required by the City for the purpose of constructing improvements to and/or widening Liberty Street and/or Third Avenue.

Dr. Ferguson made the motion to approve the agreement with the Thomas Struthers Trust regarding the Struthers Library Theatre Plaza. The motion was seconded by Mr. Harvey and carried unanimously among the Council members present.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS – DECEMBER, 2014

The following reports were presented for Council's review:

- Police Department
- Fire Department
- Department of Public Works
- Building Codes Department

At the request of Mayor Cashman, Chief Pascuzzi, Mr. Holtz, Mrs. Risinger, and Mr. Hildebrand provided a synopsis of the activities of their respective departments during 2014.

Miss Thomas noted that her service as a Junior Council member has been beneficial to her in her Government class and further noted that she has shared information regarding City government with her classmates.

DISCUSSION REGARDING COUNCIL SIZE AND THE 2015 ELECTION

Mr. Harvey noted that recent elections have not produced competitive races for seats on City Council and inquired whether consideration might be given to returning to a borough and/or reducing the number of members of Council. Mrs. Freenock responded that such action would be by referendum. Mayor Cashman remarked that a reduction in the number of Council members would result in fewer perspectives for consideration regarding matters before Council. Chief Pascuzzi noted that the transition from a Borough to a Third Class City was based largely on the increased amount of funding available to cities.

Dr. Ferguson and Mr. Harvey each announced that they will not seek re-election in 2015. Mr. Harvey asked that the City publicize the three Council seats with expiring terms.

APPROVED MINUTES OF BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

Council acknowledged receipt of the Special Events Status Report.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before Council, Mayor Cashman declared the meeting adjourned.