

**WARREN CITY COUNCIL  
REGULAR MEETING  
JANUARY 21, 2019 – 7:00 PM**

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**OPENING OF MEETING**

Mayor Cashman presided over the January 21, 2019 regular meeting of Warren City Council in Council Chambers of the Municipal Building and opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

**ROLL CALL**

Members present and responding to roll call were: Mayor Maurice Cashman, Gregory Fraser (via conference call), Paul Giannini, Philip Gilbert, Richard Kolcharno, John Lewis, and Junior Council Member Lily Striker. James A. Zavinski, Sr. arrived during the meeting. Members of City Staff present were Nancy Freenock, City Manager; Brandon Deppen, Chief of Police; David Hildebrand, Planner/Development Administrator; Michael Holtz, DPW Director; Teena Leary, Assistant City Clerk; Sam Pascuzzi, Fire Chief; Donna Risinger, Finance Officer; Terry Williams, Director of Codes, Permits, and Recreation Services; Chad Yuriscic, City Engineer; and Andrea Stapleford, City Solicitor.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Upon motion by Mr. Lewis and second by Mr. Kolcharno, the minutes of the December 17, 2018 Regular Meeting were unanimously approved by Council members present (6).

**RECOGNITION OF VISITORS**

Mayor Cashman welcomed all visitors. Present were:

- Rob Gibson, Advantage Tank Lines: Roundabout
- Steve Schwinden, Terminal Manager, Advantage Tank Lines: Roundabout
- Chad Tuttle, AMP American Petroleum: Roundabout
- Todd Boston, Crossett, Inc.: Roundabout
- Eric Ahl, Crossett, Inc.: Roundabout
- Alex Keddie, Owner/CEO, Crossett, Inc.: Roundabout
- Alex Phillips, United Refining Company: Roundabout
- David Wortman, United Refining Company: Roundabout
- Steve Blume, City Resident: Observing
- Doug Hearn, City Resident: Observing
- Josh Cotton, Times Observer Reporter

**CORRESPONDENCE**

There was no correspondence to come before Council.

**UNITED REFINING COMPANY & TRUCKING COMPANY CONCERNS REGARDING ROUNDABOUT**

*(Councilman Zavinski arrived during this item)*

David Wortman stated that the following were present in support of their request that Council reconsider its November, 2018, decision regarding the installation of a roundabout at the intersection of Pennsylvania Avenue West and Market Street:

David Wortman, Vice-President of Supply and Transportation, United Refining Company  
Alex Kedde, Owner and CEO of Crossett Trucking, Inc.  
Todd Boston, Director of Customer Relations, Crossett Trucking, Inc.  
Eric Ahl, Regulatory Compliance Manager, Crossett Trucking, Inc.  
Rob Gibson, Safety Group Manager, Keenan Advantage Trucking Co.  
Steve Schwinden, Warren Terminal Manager, Keenan Advantage Trucking Co.  
Chad Tuttle, Owner/Operator, American Petroleum Trucking  
Alex Phillips, Transportation Manager, United Refining Company

Mr. Wortman stated that those present represent a significant part of the trucking assets and trucking operations associated with United Refining Company and its day-to-day operations. He further stated that the intersection is extremely important to United Refining Company and the trucking companies that transport its products. Mr. Wortman stated that the group was requesting that Council reconsider the vote taken at the November, 2018, City Council meeting to install a roundabout at the intersection of Market Street and Pennsylvania Avenue West. He further stated that the group supports the alternate option which would provide for construction of an improved signalized intersection with dedicated turning lanes. Mr. Wortman stated that the group was making the request following continuous evaluation and communications with the PA Department of Transportation (PennDOT) and the City. Mr. Wortman stated that the group continues to believe that signal replacement and geometric improvements for the intersection are a far safer option than the single lane roundabout.

Mr. Wortman and others stated the following in support of their request:

1. A conservative average of 500 trucks per day traverse the intersection (250 inbound and 250 outbound) carrying gasoline, diesel fuel, and asphalt to United Refining Company's northern markets;
2. Approximately ninety percent (90%) of the outbound loads are overweight permitted (approximately 107,000 pound loads) with some inbound trailers also being loaded;
3. The Pennsylvania Avenue/Market Street route is the only fully PennDOT overweight approved route for northbound loads;
4. Should it be determined that the roundabout cannot be used by tractor/trailer combinations, the alternate route would require more time, mileage, and expense to United Refining and its haulers;
5. A portion of the alternate route may not be PennDOT approved for overweight loads and use of the route would expose the combination vehicles to more motorists and pedestrians;
6. Overweight tractor trailer combinations are more difficult to maneuver and are less responsive to braking which presents a safety concern;
7. A single lane roundabout, as proposed, necessitates continuous merging with other traffic as a tractor trailer negotiates the roundabout;
8. The mechanics of negotiating a roundabout were explained by Mr. Ahl with emphasis on the fact that while the tractor remains in the driving lane, the trailer is drawn onto the apron and the distance to which it is drawn onto the apron is dependent on the roundabout radius and increases with the distance traveled around the roundabout;
9. In a single lane roundabout, a southbound trailer making a "left turn" from Market Street to Pennsylvania Avenue will travel three quarters of the way around the roundabout and will occupy all of the apron which leaves no room for another vehicle to be in the roundabout at the same time;
10. Curbing on a roundabout apron presents what is termed a "tipping hazard" which is a leading cause of commercial vehicle rollovers;
11. The group presented a PowerPoint slide which depicts an overlay of the proposed Warren roundabout over the existing (larger) Waterford, PA roundabout. The group indicated that

PennDOT stated that the Waterford roundabout is undersized for efficient truck traffic;

12. It was stated that the Waterford roundabout also has curbing of a height that increases the tipping hazard; therefore, the group asked that this concern be addressed if the roundabout project moves forward;
13. There is a significant increase in pedestrian traffic not controlled by a signal at the lunch hour and at 5:00 PM weekdays which the group is concerned will result in traffic backups at the roundabout with such backups having the potential to essentially stop traffic in the roundabout if a tractor/trailer is unable to exit;
14. The group stated its concern that the consulting firm working on behalf of PennDOT cited statistically improved safety for a generic roundabout without adequately taking into consideration the actual volume of tanker trucks moving through the intersection on a daily basis;
15. While there are many roundabouts in cities, they are not on major truck thoroughfares;
16. They also believe that the consulting firm did not adequately consider that the proposed roundabout is in a high pedestrian downtown city environment; and
17. A signalized intersection with improved geometrics would add dedicated turning lanes and tractor/trailer cornering would be improved.

Alex Kedde stated that the group does not oppose change; however, their primary concern is the safety of motorists and pedestrians and restated their request for Council's reconsideration of its decision to opt for a roundabout.

#### **RESOLUTION NO. 3088 & AGREEMENT: PENNDOT ROUNDABOUT MAINTENANCE**

Mr. Holtz noted that at the November 19, 2018 regular meeting, Council adopted Resolution No. 3080 stating that Council selected the roundabout option for the intersection of Pennsylvania Avenue West and Market Street.

PennDOT now requires that the City enter into an agreement regarding year-round maintenance of specified components of the roundabout. It is also required that the City adopt a resolution authorizing execution of the maintenance agreement.

Mrs. Freenock stated that PennDOT agreed to maintain the truck apron; however, in making that change to the agreement, construction of the apron was not accurately reflected. Mrs. Freenock requested that, should Council approve the agreement, she be authorized to insert language regarding construction of the truck apron as part of the project.

In response to Mr. Lewis' question as to whether PennDOT's maintenance responsibilities would include winter snow removal, Mr. Holtz stated that PennDOT maintenance would apply only to the concrete structure and would not include snow removal.

Mr. Lewis stated that he was not in favor of approving a maintenance agreement prior to Council being presented with drawings which include specifications and dimensions. He further stated that he has concerns regarding pedestrian safety in the area of the roundabout. Mayor Cashman questioned whether it would be possible to approve the maintenance agreement contingent upon Council's approval of drawings. Mr. Holtz replied that it is his understanding that PennDOT will not advance preparation of drawings until a maintenance agreement is in place.

Mrs. Freenock stated that PennDOT was required to put forth a roundabout option in addition to a plan for reconstruction of the intersection with updated signalization as, on paper, there was not a clear advantage of one type of project over the other.

Mr. Fraser made the motion to authorize the PennDOT Roundabout Maintenance Agreement with language changes to reflect that PennDOT will construct and be responsible for maintenance of a truck apron and asking appropriate City officials to execute the resolution authorizing the agreement. The motion was seconded by Mr. Gilbert and carried with four votes in the affirmative and three nay votes cast by Mr. Lewis, Mr. Giannini, and Mr. Zavinski.

*(Mr. Fraser left the conference call at this point)*

**ORDINANCE NO. 1913: VETERANS' MEMORIAL BRIDGE**

Mrs. Freenock noted that on November 19, 2018, Council approved Resolution No. 3079 which provided for the renaming of the Hickory Street Bridge to the Veterans' Memorial Bridge. After consulting with General Code, the firm which codifies the City's ordinances, it was determined that it is necessary to enact an ordinance which will amend the City Code to reflect the new name of the bridge.

Upon motion by Mr. Gilbert and second by Mr. Zavinski, Council members present (6) voted unanimously to approve the ordinance amending Chapter 440 of the Code of the City of Warren to reflect the renaming of the Hickory Street Bridge to Veterans' Memorial Bridge.

**RESOLUTION NO. 3089: AFFIRMING 2019 CONTRIBUTION TO TRANSIT AUTHORITY**

Mrs. Risinger stated that the City is one of many organizations from which the Transit Authority of Warren County (TAWC) seeks funding. The City's contribution is utilized as matching funds in regard to State funding. As part of the State funding application, it is necessary for TAWC to submit a City resolution affirming the amount of the contribution to TAWC as provided for in the 2019 Municipal Budget and further affirming that the contribution will be provided prior to the June 30, 2020 close of the State Fiscal Year.

Upon motion by Mr. Kolcharno and second by Mr. Lewis, Council members present (6) voted unanimously to approve the resolution affirming the City's 2019 contribution to the Transit Authority of Warren County in the amount of \$7,500.

**TEMPORARY PARKING LEASE: SALT PAINTING, INC.**

Mrs. Freenock stated that Salt Painting, Inc. was contracted by HIY, Inc. to perform interior painting at HIY's 36 Clark Street property. It will be necessary for Salt Painting to locate a work trailer near the work site for the duration of the painting project. Therefore, Salt Painting requested that it be permitted to place the trailer on City-owned property located at the foot of Liberty Street and also requested that it be permitted to use the electrical service at that location. The City-owned property leased by HIY does not have electrical service available and, therefore, placement of the trailer at that location would not be feasible. Mrs. Freenock noted that the Temporary Parking Lease which was drafted for Council's consideration is terminable at any time should immediate use of the property be required for development.

Upon motion by Mr. Lewis and second by Mr. Kolcharno, Council members present (6) voted unanimously to approve the Temporary Parking Lease with Salt Painting, Inc.

**DEPARTMENT REPORTS – DECEMBER, 2018**

The following reports were presented for Council's review:

- Police Department
- Fire Department
- Department of Public Works
- Building Codes Department
- Community & Economic Development

**APPROVED MINUTES OF BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS**

Council acknowledged receipt of the following approved minutes:

- |                                 |                    |                 |
|---------------------------------|--------------------|-----------------|
| Parks and Recreation Commission | – August 7, 2018   | Regular Meeting |
| Planning Commission             | – November 7, 2018 | Regular Meeting |

**ROUNDAABOUT MOTION**

Mr. Lewis made the motion “for a recall vote for the next meeting regarding the roundabout.” Mayor Cashman stated that this would be placed on the February agenda.

**ADJOURNMENT**

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