

**WARREN CITY COUNCIL
SPECIAL MEETING
FEBRUARY 7, 2022 – 7:00 PM**

OPENING OF MEETING

Mayor Wortman presided over the February 7, 2022, special 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 David Wortman, Maurice Cashman, Philip Gilbert, Wendy McCain, Joe Michaels, Jared Vilella, and John Wortman. Members of City Staff present were Nancy Freenock, City Manager; Jessicca Byler, Acting Finance Officer; Michael Holtz, DPW Director; David Krogler, Fire Chief; Teena Leary, Assistant City Clerk; and Andrea Stapleford, City Solicitor.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Upon motion by Mr. Cashman and second by Mr. J. Wortman, Council members voted unanimously to approve the agenda as presented.

RECOGNITION OF VISITORS

Mayor Wortman welcomed all visitors. Present were:

- Kim Mong: Request for funding for Pickleball Courts (via Zoom)
- Doug James: Pickleball courts (via Zoom)
- Marlene Sandberg: Pickleball courts (via Zoom)
- Josh Cotton: Times Observer Reporter
- Andy Close: YourDailyLocal Reporter

CORRESPONDENCE

A letter authored by Kim Mong and Doug James pertaining to the Warren Pickleball Club's request for courts to be constructed at Betts Park was presented for Council's review.

ADDRESS TO COUNCIL REGARDING REQUEST FOR PICKLEBALL COURTS

Kim Mong addressed Council and stated that she was representing the board of the newly-formed Warren Pickleball Club. Ms. Mong stated that she and Doug James met with the Parks and Recreation Commission at its October, 2021, and February, 2022, meetings to outline the Club's request for the installation of four pickleball courts at Betts Park. The Club's request will be on the February 21, 2022, Council agenda. Ms. Mong referenced the Local Share Account Statewide Grant Funding to be addressed later this meeting and asked that consideration be given to the submission of an application in support of pickleball courts.

ORDINANCE NO. 1959: LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNIT DEBT ACT FILING

Ms. Stapleford stated that, as authorized by Council action taken during the special meeting held on January 31, 2022, she and City Staff proceeded with the steps required to enter into a loan agreement with KeyBank (Key Government Finance, Inc.) for the borrowing of \$3,600,000. As required under the Local Government Unit Debt Act (LGUDA), an ordinance increasing the City's indebtedness and corresponding note were drafted and advertised; these items will be submitted to the Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED) for approval.

Ms. McCain questioned whether the proposed work will extend the life expectancy of the Clark Street Parking Garage by five to ten years as referenced in the Parking Garage Study or by fifteen years as stated in the ordinance. Mr. Holtz responded that City Staff

and the Engineer considered information contained within the study as well as their knowledge of the structure and it is their opinion that the life expectancy will be extended by fifteen or more years. He further stated that work has been performed by Public Works employees and that such work will further serve to extend the life of repairs.

Mr. J. Wortman made the motion to approve the ordinance increasing the indebtedness of the City by the issuance of a General Obligation Note in the amount of \$3,600,000 to Key Government Finance, Inc.. Mr. Villella seconded the motion which carried with six votes in the affirmative and one nay vote cast by Ms. McCain.

LETTER TO PA SECRETARY OF TRANSPORTATION REGARDING ROUNDABOUT

Mrs. Freenock indicated that, as stated by the Solicitor at the January 17, 2022, regular Council meeting, the agenda item pertaining to the planned roundabout at the intersection of Market Street and Pennsylvania Avenue was removed from the agenda due to potential conflicts of interest. Ms. Stapleford has since received the Pennsylvania Ethics Commission's opinion which states that both the Mayor and Councilman Wortman may vote on this matter. The proposed letter to the Secretary of Transportation was presented for Council's consideration.

During discussion, Ms. McCain stated her concern that submission of the letter may cause strained relations between the City and PennDOT. Mr. J. Wortman stated his belief that the majority of the populace does not favor the roundabout. He acknowledged that the effort may be too late to provide a stop to plans for the roundabout but asserted that it is Council's responsibility to make the concerns of citizens known to PennDOT.

Mr. Michaels made the motion to send the letter to the Secretary of Transportation with the following changes:

- Strike Item 7 as written and replace with "Received correspondence from safety directors of local trucking companies within the City of Warren who are concerned about the combination of vehicular, pedestrian, and large truck traffic within the roundabout intersection."
- Item 3: Amend the number of parking spaces to thirty-five (35).
- Item 5: Insert "non-signalized."

The motion was seconded by Mr. J. Wortman and carried with five votes in the affirmative and two nay votes cast by Mr. Gilbert and Mr. Cashman.

AGREEMENT: EMERGYCARE JOINT BILLING

Chief Krogler stated that City personnel provide Emergency Medical Services (EMS) at the Basic Life Support (BLS) level and EmeryCare provides EMS at the Advanced Life Support (ALS) level. There are varying circumstances under which both agencies may respond to a call and provide pre-hospital services; therefore, it is necessary that there be an agreement which provides for the manner in which billing for such calls is to be handled. He indicated that the City and EmeryCare have operated under prior agreements since 2013 and it is now necessary to enter into a new agreement. The proposed agreement provides for a three-year term at the end of which the agreement will then renew annually on January 1 unless terminated by either party.

Chief Krogler stated that the agreement is under review by EmeryCare; therefore, the City's approval would be contingent upon EmeryCare also agreeing to its terms.

Upon motion by Mr. Cashman and second by Mr. Villella, Council members voted unanimously to approve the Joint Billing Agreement with EmeryCare.

LOCAL SHARE ACCOUNT STATEWIDE GRANT APPLICATIONS

Mrs. Freenock stated that on January 27, it was announced that approximately \$100,000,000 in Local Share Account Statewide Grant funds are available. Applications, which may range in amount from \$25,000 to \$1,000,000, are due on March 15, 2022. There are no matching funds required and there is not a limit to the number of applications which may be submitted. However, a separate application and accompanying resolution must be submitted for each proposed funding use. The applications are time intensive, therefore, it was requested that Council provide direction as to the projects for which to seek funding. It was noted that the six projects presented have been under consideration for some time; however, it has been difficult to identify appropriate funding sources for which the City could provide the requisite match.

Mr. Cashman made the motion to authorize preparation of Local Share Account Statewide Grant Fund applications for the following projects in order of priority:

1. Parking Garage Rehabilitation Project
2. Mulberry Park: Stormwater issues, playground equipment, lights, and restroom
3. Miracle Field (baseball) and lights at a location to be determined
4. Fire Station elevator and Emergency Operations Center equipment
5. Riverfront rehabilitation
6. Betts Park: Multi-purpose all-weather building

The motion was seconded by Mr. J. Wortman and carried with six votes in the affirmative and one nay vote cast by Ms. McCain.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before Council, and upon motion by Mr. Cashman and second by Mr. Villella, Mayor Wortman declared the meeting adjourned.