

**WARREN CITY COUNCIL  
SPECIAL MEETING  
FEBRUARY 11, 2019 – 7:00 PM**

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**OPENING OF MEETING**

Mayor Cashman presided over the February 11, 2019, 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 Maurice Cashman, Gregory Fraser, Paul Giannini, Philip Gilbert, Richard Kolcharno, John Lewis, James A. Zavinski, Sr., and Junior Council Member Lily Striker. Members of City Staff present were Nancy Freenock, City Manager; Brandon Deppen, Chief of Police; Michael Holtz, DPW Director; Teena Leary, Assistant City Clerk; Sam Pascuzzi, Fire Chief; Chad Yurismic, City Engineer; and Andrea Stapleford, City Solicitor.

**RECOGNITION OF VISITORS**

Mayor Cashman welcomed all visitors. Present were:

Randall Gustafson	Tom Bednar	Christian Zavinski
Allen Sowers	John Bell	Todd Boston
Ruthann Morley Varrha	Becky McClement	Leslie Stewart
Scott Stewart	Logan Vivian	David Wortman
John Wortman	Dale Clark	Eric Ahl
Alex Kedde	Dan Ristau	Lawrence Jackson
Pauline Steinmeyer	Pam Lewis	Dave Moore
Stacey Gross	Jim Zavinski, Jr.	Douglas Hearn
Andrew Hyman	Steve Blume	Alex Phillips
Malanda Jones	Thomas Jones	Georgi Rice
Aaron Stearns	Susan Wolfe	Emlie Streich
Virginia Greenwald	Pamela Zaffino	

Brian Ferry – Times Observer Reporter

WJET News Team

PennDOT Representatives:

James A. Foringer, District Executive

Brian McNulty, P.E., Assistant District Executive - Design

Brian Smith, P.E., District Traffic Engineer

Thomas McClelland, P.E., Design Services Engineer

Christine Boyer-Krantz, Project Manager

Mayor Cashman stated that PennDOT representatives would make a presentation followed by questions and comments from City Council and then by public questions, comments, and presentations.

**NOTICE OF INTENT TO MAKE A MOTION TO RESCIND**

Mr. Lewis asked that an administrative item be addressed prior to the PennDOT presentation.

Mr. Lewis stated that under Robert's Rules of Order, he is requiring the addition to next week's meeting agenda a motion to rescind the vote that decided the roundabout over a controlled three-lane upgraded traffic light for the intersection of Market Street and Pennsylvania Avenue.

**PENNDOT PRESENTATION**

Brian McNulty, Assistant District Executive, stated that the purpose of the presentation was to provide information to assist in making an informed decision and to answer any questions or concerns that

Council or the public may have. Mr. McNulty turned the presentation over to Christine Boyer-Krantz, PennDOT District 1-0 Project Manager. Ms. Boyer-Krantz reviewed a PowerPoint presentation (hard copies of the presentation were distributed to Council members and City Staff) in which items of concern regarding construction, maintenance, and use of a roundabout were addressed including:

1. The number and size of permitted loads which go through the intersection.  
A member of the audience noted that the number of permitted trucks did not appear to include those which carry an annual permit. Ms. Boyer-Krantz acknowledged that the data presented reflected only those permits issued for specific oversize truck movements through the City.
2. Planned construction detour
3. Comparison of the proposed roundabout to existing roundabouts located in Saegertown and Waterford
4. Navigating the existing intersection
5. How tractor-trailer vehicles maneuver in a roundabout
6. Safety data comparing pre- and post-installation of roundabouts
7. Concerns regarding a detour that is proximate to an elementary school and a senior living facility
8. Concerns regarding any detours that may utilize City streets and the potential damage.
9. Construction timetable including quadrant-by-quadrant installation of the roundabout

James Foringer, District Executive, indicated that it is necessary to move forward with the design stage of the project so that it will stay in line with the timetable associated with the funding source. Therefore, it is necessary that a final determination as to whether the project will entail construction of a roundabout or a full reconstruction of the intersection with updated signalization controlling vehicular and pedestrian traffic be made within the next month. He stated that it is PennDOT's goal to leave the City with a project that is safe and provides a high level of service.

#### **COUNCIL AND PUBLIC CONCERNS:**

Concerns expressed by Council members and/or members of the public included:

1. Is the proposed size of the roundabout sufficient to accommodate tractor-trailers of the size and weight that travel that intersection?  
PennDOT officials responded that the currently proposed size is subject to change as the design phase progresses.
2. Concerns regarding the proximity to existing buildings and the size of the right-of-way that will be in place.
3. Traffic backups that may occur at this intersection as the result of pedestrians crossing the street at the non-signalized intersection of Pennsylvania Avenue West and Liberty Street and the impact that such backups would have on traffic movement in the roundabout.
4. The impact of a fuel tanker overturn in the roundabout (i.e. materials entering storm inlets).

5. Location of pedestrian crossings and measures that will be taken to provide for pedestrian safety.
6. The high number of pedestrians that routinely cross at the intersection (i.e. nearby high-density residential neighborhoods)
7. Safety measures for pedestrians who have visual impairments.
8. It was noted that there is a “vulnerable population” in the area that will find understanding and adapting to safely crossing at a roundabout challenging.
9. Proper design of the apron so as not to present a tipping hazard for tractor-trailer vehicles.
10. Number of turning opportunities in a signalized intersection versus a roundabout.
11. The potential for northbound traffic on Market Street which must stop at Second Avenue to create a backup for traffic exiting the roundabout on to Market Street. Is the Second Avenue/Market Street signal necessary?  
PennDOT responded that gridlock typically does not occur in roundabouts and stated that traffic studies completed on Market Street do not warrant the removal of the signal at Second Avenue.
12. What will happen if the roundabout is blocked and emergency vehicles need to pass?  
PennDOT responded that vehicles may readily clear the intersection to allow the emergency vehicle(s) to pass.
13. Was consideration given for future growth (increased traffic)?  
PennDOT responded that a growth factor is applied in the planning stage.
14. Construction time (PennDOT referenced information in the PowerPoint presentation)
15. Disruption of area businesses during and after construction.
16. Encouraged Council to make a rational decision not based on what is in other areas.
17. Safety in, and maintenance of, pedestrian islands.
18. Roundabout curb damage and the City’s responsibility for repair/replacement.
19. Suggestion that proper timing of traffic signals would provide efficient traffic movement through a signalized intersection.
20. Relocation of utilities.
21. Restatement of concerns expressed by representatives of United Refining Company and associated trucking firms at the January 21, 2019 regular Council meeting

## **ADJOURNMENT**

Mayor Cashman thanked all present for their participation and thanked PennDOT representatives for attending.

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