

**WARREN CITY COUNCIL
SPECIAL MEETING
MARCH 13, 2023 – 6:00 PM**

OPENING OF MEETING

Mayor David Wortman presided over the March 13, 2023, 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, Danielle Flasher, Philip Gilbert (via Zoom), Wendy McCain, Jared Villella, and John Wortman. Members of City Staff present were Michael Holtz, City Manager; Jessicca Byler, Finance Officer; David Krogler, Fire Chief; Teena Leary, Assistant City Clerk; Joseph Sproveri, Chief of Police; and Andrea Stapleford, City Solicitor.

RECOGNITION OF VISITORS

Mayor Wortman welcomed all visitors. Present were:

- Andy Close: YourDailyLocal Reporter
- Josh Cotton: Times Observer Reporter

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.

AGREEMENT: WATSON TOWNSHIP EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES

Chief Krogler stated that the Watson Township Supervisors contacted the City with a request to enter into an agreement similar to the Multi-Municipal Emergency Services Commission Agreement. As Council is aware, such agreements allow the City Fire Department to be more appropriately compensated when responding to EMS calls outside of the City.

Mr. J. Wortman made the motion to approve the agreement with Watson Township for the provision of Emergency Medical Services during specified hours. The motion was seconded by Miss Flasher and carried unanimously.

NORTHWEST BANK TAX APPEAL SETTLEMENT

Mrs. Byler stated that in 2020, Northwest Bank filed an appeal regarding the tax assessment for 2021 and subsequent years for several of its properties located in Warren County. The appeals for 100 Liberty Street and 219-221 Second Avenue have not yet been settled; the firm of Gabriel Fera represents the taxing bodies in the negotiations.

The 2021 and 2022 real estate taxes for the properties were billed and paid in accord with reduced assessments that were determined by the Tax Assessment Appeals Board. The following outlines the assessed values (2021 and 2022), settlement offer values, and the change in tax amounts that would be realized under the settlement offer.

<u>Property</u>	<u>Assessed Value</u>	<u>Offer Assessed Value</u>	<u>Change in Taxes Due</u>
100 Liberty St.	\$1,345,000	\$1,306,250	\$1,579.76 due to Northwest
219-221 Second Ave.	\$ 932,813	\$1,118,750	\$7580.28 due to City

Mrs. Byler further stated that the County Commissioners and the Warren County School District have each approved the settlement offer. The matter was scheduled to go to trial on March 15 if not accepted.

Mr. Villella made the motion to authorize the law firm of Gabriel Fera, PC, to proceed with a pre-trial settlement in accord with the Northwest Bank offer and to draft the appropriate settlement agreement to be signed by the Mayor and Municipal Clerk. The motion was seconded by Mr. Cashman and carried unanimously.

EXECUTIVE SESSION ANNOUNCEMENT AND ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Wortman stated that Council would adjourn to meet in executive session for the receipt of legal advice.