

**WARREN CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
JULY 19, 2021 – 7:00 PM**

OPENING OF MEETING

Mayor Cashman presided over the July 19, 2021, 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, Kimberly Exley, Gregory Fraser, Paul Giannini (via Zoom), Philip Gilbert, Douglas Hearn, and John Wortman. Members of City Staff present were Nancy Freenock, City Manager (via Zoom); Vincent DeJoy, Director of Zoning, Codes, and Economic Development; Michael Holtz, DPW Director; Teena Leary, Assistant City Clerk; Joseph Sproveri, Chief of Police; Dave Krogler, Acting Fire Chief; Andrea Stapleford, City Solicitor; and Jessica Byler.

INTRODUCTION OF ACTING FIRE CHIEF

Mayor Cashman introduced Captain Dave Krogler who will serve as the Acting Fire Chief following Rodney Wren's resignation. It is anticipated that a new Chief will be named in the next two months.

SUNSHINE ACT AMENDMENT

Mayor Cashman stated that he recently attended the PA State Mayors' Association Annual Conference where it was announced to members that the Pennsylvania Sunshine Act has been amended. Mr. Cashman noted that one of the highlights of the amendment pertains to changes to the meeting agenda and the timing of such. It was noted that Mrs. Leary will provide additional information regarding the amendment at the August 16 regular meeting of Council.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Upon motion by Mr. Wortman and second by Mr. Gilbert, the minutes of the June 21, 2021, regular meeting were unanimously approved.

RECOGNITION OF VISITORS

Mayor Cashman welcomed all visitors. Present were:

- Dick Klancher: Observing
- Joe Michaels: Observing
- Andy Close: YourDailyLocal Reporter
- Josh Cotton: Times Observer Reporter

CORRESPONDENCE

Mayor Cashman presented Don Nelson's letter indicating his resignation from the Planning Commission effective July 7, 2021. Mayor Cashman noted Mr. Nelson's long standing as a member of the Commission and stated that the letter was accepted with regret.

LETTER OF ENGAGEMENT: NORTHWEST BANK TAX APPEAL

Ms. Stapleford stated that the Warren County Board of Assessments initiated the retention of legal counsel in regard to real estate tax appeals filed by Northwest Bank. If granted, these appeals would result in a significant annual reduction in tax revenue for each of the taxing bodies. There is also a potential for the appeals to result in a portion of previously-paid taxes being refunded to the appellant. She noted that the County Commissioners and the Warren County School District have already agreed to the terms of the Cafardi Ferguson Wyrick Weis + Gabriel, Inc. Letter of Engagement. Attorney Stephanie L. Fera will have primary responsibility for providing the taxing bodies with legal representation.

Mr. Fraser made the motion to authorize acceptance of the Cafardi Ferguson Wyrick Weis + Gabriel, Inc. Letter of Engagement pertaining to real estate tax appeals filed by Northwest Bank and to authorize the Mayor to sign same. The motion was seconded by Mr. Hearn and carried unanimously.

DISPOSITION OF SURPLUS PUBLIC WORKS VEHICLES

Mr. Holtz stated that the Department of Public Works recently purchased two new vehicles and, therefore, it is requested that Council authorize disposition of the now out-of-service vehicles which are listed below:

<u>YEAR</u>	<u>MODEL</u>	<u>VIN</u>
2002	GMC Sierra 1500 Truck	2GTEC19V521378159
1999	Ford F-450 Dump Truck	1FDXF47F2XEC85887

Mr. Fraser made the motion to authorize disposition of the listed vehicles in a manner permitted by City Code. The motion was seconded by Mr. Wortman and carried unanimously.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS – JUNE, 2021

The following reports were presented for Council’s review:

- Police Department
- Fire Department
- Department of Public Works
- Special Events Report
- Zoning, Codes, and Economic Development

APPROVED MINUTES OF BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

Council acknowledged receipt of the following approved minutes:

Blighted Property Review Committee	–	May 27, 2021	Regular Meeting
Street Landscape Committee	–	May 25, 2021	Regular Meeting

ADJOURNMENT

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