

**WARREN CITY COUNCIL  
REGULAR MEETING  
AUGUST 17, 2015 – 7:30 PM**

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**OPENING OF MEETING**

Council Vice-President John Lewis presided over the August 17, 2015 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: Gregory Fraser, Samuel Harvey, Richard Kolcharno, John Lewis, and James A. Zavinski, Sr. Mayor Maurice Cashman and Dr. Howard Ferguson were absent. Mrs. Freenock, Mr. Hildebrand, Mr. Holtz, Mrs. Leary, Ms. Nau, Mrs. Risinger, Mr. Sceiford, Ms. Stapleford, Chief Zydonik, and Officer Bees of City staff were also in attendance.

**RECOGNITION OF VISITORS**

Mr. Lewis welcomed all visitors. Present were:

- Carole Stewart: Resident regarding outdoor burning
- Terri Brown: Resident regarding Buchanan Street Neighborhood Watch
- Pauline Steinmeyer: Resident observing
- Jeremy Lyon: Clarendon resident observing
- Josh Cotton: Times Observer Reporter

Ms. Terri Brown addressed Council and voiced her concerns regarding activities within her Buchanan Street neighborhood. Ms. Brown indicated that there have been ongoing issues including domestic violence, loud parties that extend well into the night, children being permitted to run/play in the street, child endangerment, damage to property, and the loud use of vulgarities. She noted that many of those involved live in rental units. Ms. Brown inquired as to what steps must be taken to establish a Neighborhood Watch program.

Chief Zydonik distributed information to Council members which outlined Police Department calls regarding properties in the vicinity and noted that there have been at least ten arrests. He indicated that he will ask Sgt. Brandon Deppen, Community Service Officer, to contact Ms. Brown regarding establishment of a Watch Program. Mr. Lewis suggested that Ms. Brown contact Children and Youth Services in regard to the issues involving children.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Upon motion by Mr. Lewis and second by Mr. Harvey, the minutes of the July 20, 2015 Regular Meeting were unanimously approved by the Council members present.

Upon motion by Mr. Lewis and second by Mr. Harvey, the minutes of the August 3, 2015 Special Meeting were unanimously approved by the Council members present.

**CORRESPONDENCE**

Council members acknowledged receipt of correspondence from Joseph C. Meade, Deputy Secretary, Community Affairs and Development, Department of Community and Economic Development, thanking Mrs. Freenock for the warm welcome he received during his recent visit to the City. Mr. Meade's visit centered on the Struthers Library Theatre Project and its importance to the community and the role that DCED may play in such projects.

**ORDINANCE NO. 1859: OUTDOOR BURNING REGULATIONS**

Mrs. Freenock stated that in 2011, Ordinance No. 1805, providing regulations and penalties regarding outdoor burning, was adopted. Certain words used within that ordinance, particularly “objectionable,” “noxious,” and “nuisance” have been found to be subjective terms and, therefore, it is not possible to consistently enforce this ordinance as written. Also, since the adoption of this ordinance, various types of outdoor burning devices have increased in popularity and it is necessary to provide applicable regulations for the safe use of such devices.

Upon motion by Mr. Fraser and second by Mr. Harvey, the ordinance establishing outdoor burning regulations was unanimously approved by the Council members present.

**PROPOSED AGREEMENT: MUNICIPAL BENEFITS SERVICES JOINDER**

Mrs. Freenock stated that Municipal Benefits Services (MBS) provides a health and welfare benefit plan to employees of participating political subdivisions of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. The MBS plan is funded by the Municipal Employers Insurance Trust (MEIT).

As a participating municipality, it is required that the City enter into a Joinder Agreement with MBS to affirm the City’s commitment to participate in the Plan and to make employer contributions in accord with the terms of the Joinder Agreement, the MBS document, Plan documents, and the MEIT Trust Agreement.

Mrs. Freenock noted that MBS was selected as the provider that could best provide the level of coverage called for by collective bargaining agreements at the most affordable rate. The City’s health insurance plan became effective January 1, 2015; however, MBS was in the midst of amending and updating the Trust Agreement at that time. That process was recently completed and, hence, the Joinder Agreement was only recently made available to the City.

Mr. Fraser expressed concern that the Agreement, as written, seems to imply that MBS is a plan put together by MEIT and, hence, questioned whether the Agreement should be with MEIT rather than MBS.

Mr. Fraser made the motion to table the Municipal Benefits Joinder Agreement until further information is available. The motion was seconded by Mr. Lewis and carried unanimously among the Council members present.

Mr. Lewis requested that Mr. Fraser and Mrs. Freenock participate in a conference call with MBS and/or MEIT regarding this matter.

**AGREEMENT: WARREN COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT USE OF TENNIS COURTS**

Ms. Nau stated that, previously, the City and the Warren County School District (WCSD) entered into short-term agreements for the District’s use of the Clifford R. Betts Park Tennis Courts. This use of the courts is for Warren Tennis Team practices and matches. It was requested that the City enter into an agreement which would provide for the WCSD’s use of the Courts during school years 2015-2016 through 2017-2018. The agreement provides for the terms of use including the annual fees as recommended by the Parks and Recreation Commission.

Mr. Fraser inquired as to whether the agreement would provide for exclusive use of the Courts and whether parking facilities are included. Ms. Nau indicated that the Courts will be reserved for the dates and times provided by the WCSD and the Courts will be posted accordingly. The use of adjoining parking spaces is on a first come/first served basis and will not be exclusive to the WCSD during its schedule use of the Tennis Courts.

Upon motion by Mr. Fraser and second by Mr. Kolcharno, the Council members present voted unanimously to approve the agreement providing for the Warren County School District's use of the Clifford R. Betts Park Tennis Courts during school years 2015-2016 through 2017-2018.

**DEPARTMENT REPORTS – JULY, 2015**

The following reports were presented for Council's review:

- Police Department
- Fire Department
- Department of Public Works
- Building Codes Department

**FLOODPLAIN MAPS**

Mrs. Freenock noted that there will be a meeting at the Warren County Court House on Thursday, August 27, regarding amendments to the Floodplain Map. Mr. Sceiford indicated that most of the changes within the City involve Glade Run and the Locust Street area. He further noted that affected property owners must be notified.

**APPROVED MINUTES OF BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS**

Council acknowledged receipt of the following approved minutes:

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|---------------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| Parks and Recreation Commission | – June 2, 2015  | Regular Meeting |
| Planning Commission             | – May 20, 2015  | Regular Meeting |
| Street Landscape Committee      | – June 23, 2015 | Regular Meeting |
| Special Event Status Report     |                 |                 |

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to come before Council, Mr. Lewis declared the meeting adjourned.