

**WARREN CITY COUNCIL  
SPECIAL MEETING  
SEPTEMBER 27, 2021 – 7:00 PM *with one correction***

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**OPENING OF MEETING**

Mayor Cashman presided over the September 27, 2021, ~~regular special~~ *(corrected 10/18/21)* 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, Philip Gilbert, and John Wortman. Douglas Hearn and Paul Giannini were absent. Members of City Staff present were Nancy Freenock, City Manager; Vincent DeJoy, Director of Planning, Codes, and Economic Development; Michael Holtz, DPW Director; Teena Leary, Assistant City Clerk; and Andrea Stapleford, City Solicitor.

**RECOGNITION OF VISITORS**

Mayor Cashman welcomed all visitors. Present were:

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

**COUNCIL RIVERFRONT DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE**

*(See September 20, 2021, Council minutes)*

Mr. Gilbert stated that he envisioned the formation of an ad hoc committee that would visit local businesses to receive their input regarding riverfront development and referenced a parking committee on which he previously served. Mayor Cashman noted that the parking committee was formed for a specific purpose, had an objective, and was to report its findings to Council

Mayor Cashman suggested that the proposed members of a riverfront development committee (Mr. Gilbert, Mr. Wortman, and Mr. Hearn) consider joining the Trestle-to-Trestle Task Force which is an independent group exploring options for downtown development, including the Clark Street riverfront area.

During discussion, Mayor Cashman, Mr. Fraser, and Mrs. Freenock expressed their concerns regarding the possible perception that the committee members would have the ability to make decisions independent of action by Council as a whole. Mr. DeJoy stated that he and other members of City Staff have met with business owners on many occasions and that he is a member of the Trestle-to-Trestle group and makes regular reports of the committee meetings to Mrs. Freenock. In response to Mr. Gilbert's statement that some business owners have expressed to him that they have not been contacted by the City in regard to plans, Mrs. Freenock stated that, to date, any plans are conceptual only and that, upon receipt of funding to move forward, there will be stakeholder meetings as plans are developed. Mrs. Freenock confirmed Mr. DeJoy's statement that members of City Staff have had discussions with riverfront business owners on multiple occasions.

Following discussion, Mr. Gilbert stated that he will meet with business owners independently and invited other Council members to join him. Ms. Stapleford cautioned any Council members

participating in such meetings to be mindful of the Sunshine Act; particularly ensuring that a quorum of Council (more than three members) not be present.

**RETENTION OF SPECIAL LEGAL COUNSEL REGARDING EMS MATTERS**

Mr. Wortman made the motion to table action pertaining to retention of Special Legal Counsel to assist in negotiations regarding the provision of Emergency Medical Services outside of the City. The motion was seconded by Mr. Gilbert and carried unanimously among the five Council members present.

**ADJOURNMENT**

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