

**WARREN CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
OCTOBER 21, 2019 – 7:00 PM**

OPENING OF MEETING

Mayor Cashman presided over the October 21, 2019 regular meeting of Warren City Council in Council Chambers of the Municipal Building and opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance. Mayor Cashman announced that Council met in executive session immediately preceding this meeting in regard to two legal matters, several property matters, and EMS responses.

ROLL CALL

Members present and responding to roll call were: Mayor Maurice Cashman, Gregory Fraser, Paul Giannini, Philip Gilbert, Richard Kolcharno, John Lewis, and James A. Zavinski, Sr. Members of City Staff present were Nancy Freenock, City Manager; Brandon Deppen, Chief of Police; Michael Holtz, DPW Director; Teena Leary, Assistant City Clerk; Rodney Wren, Fire Chief; Donna Risinger, Finance Officer; Terry Williams, Director of Codes, Permits, and Recreation Services; and Chad Yuriscic, City Engineer.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Upon motion by Mr. Zavinski and second by Mr. Lewis, the minutes of the September 16, 2019 Regular Meeting were unanimously approved by Council members present.

RECOGNITION OF VISITORS

Mayor Cashman welcomed all visitors. Present were:

- Kevin (Corky) Fry, Warren Tire Center: Address to Council
- Caroline Fry, Warren Tire Center
- Doug Hearn: Observing
- Steven Blume: Observing
- Pauline Steinmeyer: Observing
- Pam Lewis: Observing
- Josh Cotton: Times Observer Reporter

Kevin (Corky) Fry, owner of Warren Tire Center, addressed Council and expressed his gratitude for the response provided by the City at the time of the 2018 fire that destroyed his building and for the assistance provided by the Codes Department in guiding him during the rebuilding process. Mr. Fry acknowledged that his insurance provider did not compensate the City for a crossing light which was severely damaged as a result of the fire and stated that he was not in agreement with the company's decision. Therefore, he and Mrs. Fry presented a check to the City in an amount covering replacement of the light.

CORRESPONDENCE

There was no correspondence to come before Council.

AGREEMENT: ALLEGHENY OUTFITTERS PARKING LEASE EXTENSION

Chief Deppen noted that Council previously approved a lease agreement with Allegheny Outfitters for the use of two City-owned parcels for the purpose of providing parking for customers, employees, and vendors. That agreement expired on September 30. Allegheny Outfitters now requests that it be permitted to use the parcel located at the northeast corner of Liberty Street and Clark Street through October 31 and the parcel located on the south side of Clark Street (adjacent to Allegheny Outfitters) through April 30, 2020 for customer, employee, and vendor parking. It was noted that the proposed agreement provides that the City may terminate on seven calendar days' notice should the parcel(s) be required for development.

Upon motion by Mr. Lewis and second by Mr. Fraser, Council members voted unanimously to approve the Allegheny Outfitters Lease Extension for City-owned Parcels One and Two as identified on Exhibit A of the agreement.

ORDINANCE NO. 1938: ZONING ORDINANCE AMENDMENT – RESIDENTIAL USE IN C-1

Mrs. Williams stated that, as Mr. Hildebrand reported to Council at the June 24 Council meeting, the City of Warren Zoning Ordinance does not contain regulations specific to residential use of street level units in the C-1 Central Commercial District. To bring these regulations up to date, the Planning Commission and City staff drafted an amendment to the Zoning Ordinance as it pertains to such use. The City Planning Commission reviewed the final draft of the proposed ordinance at its July 10 meeting and voted to recommend Council’s approval. The Warren County Planning and Zoning Commission also reviewed and recommended approval of the proposed amendment.

Upon motion by Mr. Lewis and second by Mr. Fraser, Council members voted unanimously to approve the ordinance amending the Zoning Ordinance as it pertains to Residential Use of Street Level Units in the C-1 Zoning District.

RESOLUTION NO. 3098: AFFIRMING DISTRIBUTION OF STATE AID TO PENSION PLANS

Mrs. Risinger stated that, as required by the provisions of Act 205, the City must distribute the Commonwealth’s 2019 Allocation of State Aid to Pension Plans among the City’s three plans within thirty days of receipt. The funds were received by the City on September 18 and, therefore, it was required that they be deposited to the pension plans on, or before, October 18.

Mrs. Risinger further stated that the allocation for 2019 was in the amount of \$481,326.91 and was distributed as follows:

| | |
|---------------------------------|--------------|
| Firefighters Pension Plan | \$204,819.96 |
| Police Pension Plan | \$143,373.98 |
| Municipal Employee Pension Plan | \$133,132.97 |
| <hr/> | |
| Total Allocation | \$481,326.91 |

Upon motion by Mr. Kolcharno and second by Mr. Gilbert, Council members voted unanimously to approve the resolution affirming the distribution of the 2019 General Municipal Pension System State Aid Allocation.

2020 MUNICIPAL BUDGET PUBLIC HEARING DATE

Upon motion by Mr. Fraser and second by Mr. Gilbert, Council members voted unanimously to establish Monday, November 25, 2019, at 5:00 PM as the date and time for the 2020 Municipal Budget Public Hearing. The proposed budget will be made available in advance of the Public Hearing.

USDA REDEVELOPMENT FUNDING APPLICATION FOR POLICE VEHICLES

Chief Deppen noted that at the August 19, 2019, regular meeting, Council authorized the pre-order of two 2020 model year Police Interceptor vehicles with upfitting at a total cost of \$91,860 (\$45,930 each) to be expended in budget year 2020.

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Rural Development Office offers a Community Facilities Grant/Loan Program which will pay up to 55% or a maximum of \$50,000 for

approved projects. Under this program, any amount not funded by the grant award will be provided in the form of a loan at the then current rates; the loan may be paid immediately with no penalty.

Chief Deppen indicated that the Department is prepared to submit an application for the purchase of two Police Interceptor vehicles. If awarded, the grant would essentially cover the purchase price of one vehicle and the second would be financed with the intent to pay the loan in full in 2020. It was noted that the proposed 2020 budget includes the full purchase price for two upfitted vehicles.

Upon motion by Mr. Lewis and second by Mr. Zavinski, Council members voted unanimously to authorize the submission of a Grant/Loan application in the amount of \$91,860 to the United States Department of Agriculture Rural Development Office for the purchase of two 2020 Police Interceptor vehicles.

BACKHOE PURCHASE

Mr. Holtz stated that the backhoe used by the Sewer Division of the Public Works Department is a 2004 Case 580 Super M that has been in service for nearly sixteen (16) years. In September, the backhoe broke down and it was determined that the “lower end” of the motor needs to be replaced; the unit has consistently required service in recent years.

The Department researched units available through PA COSTARS and found that the best price is \$106,759 for a new Caterpillar 420F2 ST, less a \$20,000 trade, for a total of \$86,759. The purchase of a new backhoe was not budgeted for 2019; however, there are sufficient funds available in the Sewer Fund to cover this purchase.

Upon motion by Mr. Fraser and second by Mr. Giannini, Council members voted unanimously to approve the purchase of a 2019 Caterpillar 420F2 ST backhoe at the PA COSTARS price (with trade-in) of \$86,759.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS – SEPTEMBER, 2019

The following reports were presented for Council’s review:

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

APPROVED MINUTES OF BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

Council acknowledged receipt of the following approved minutes:

- | | | | |
|---------------------------------|---|-----------------|-----------------|
| Parks and Recreation Commission | – | June 4, 2019 | Regular Meeting |
| Street Landscape Committee | – | August 20, 2019 | Regular Meeting |

ADJOURNMENT

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