

**WARREN CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
NOVEMBER 19, 2018 – 7:30 PM**

OPENING OF MEETING

Mayor Cashman presided over the November 19, 2018 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 an executive session regarding property and personnel matters was held immediately prior to this meeting.

ROLL CALL

Members present and responding to roll call were: Mayor Maurice Cashman, Gregory Fraser, Paul Giannini, Philip Gilbert, Richard Kolcharno, James A. Zavinski, Sr., and Junior Council Member Lily Striker. There is one vacant seat on Council. Members of City Staff present were Nancy Freenock, City Manager; Brandon Deppen, Chief of Police; David Hildebrand, Planner/Development Administrator; Michael Holtz, DPW Director; Teena Leary, Assistant City Clerk; Sam Pascuzzi, Fire Chief; Donna Risinger, Finance Officer; Terry Williams, Director of Codes, Permits, and Recreation Services; and Andrea Stapleford, City Solicitor.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Upon motion by Mr. Zavinski and second by Mr. Fraser, the minutes of the October 15, 2018 Regular Meeting were unanimously approved by Council members present.

Upon motion by Mr. Zavinski and second by Mr. Fraser, the minutes of the November 6, 2018 Special Meeting were unanimously approved by Council members present.

RECOGNITION OF VISITORS

Mayor Cashman welcomed all visitors. Present were:

- Pauline Steinmeyer: Observing
- Robert Hennessy: Robert Hennessy Minor Subdivision and Property Transfer
- Mike Striker: Observing
- Lorri Drumm: Times Observer Reporter

CORRESPONDENCE

Council members acknowledged receipt of correspondence from:

- Tricia Durbin tendering her resignation from the City Redevelopment Authority to be effective December 31, 2018.
- Donna Risinger, on behalf of the Warren County Tax Collection Committee, stating that the Committee adopted its 2019 budget and no increase in contribution will be required.

RESOLUTION NO. 3078: ROBERT E. HENNESSY MINOR SUBDIVISION

Mr. Hildebrand stated that in 2017, the City purchased land located along Willey Street for use as a composting site (WN-823-8170). Due to the topography, certain portions of the land are not suitable for composting operations and, therefore, are not of use to the City. Robert Hennessy is the owner of lands adjacent to the City-owned property and is desirous of obtaining the “excess” portions of the City property.

Mr. Hennessy filed a minor subdivision application in which he seeks to have two (2) portions of the City’s property subdivided and annexed to his adjacent properties as follows:

1. The newly-created Parcel C would be removed from City-owned WN-823-8170 and annexed to Lot 1 (WN-823-7251) owned by Robert E. Hennessy, *et al.* Parcel C is 6,054.11 square feet (0.14 acres) in size.
2. The newly-created Parcel B would be removed from City-owned WN-823-8170 and annexed to Lot 2 (WN-823-7240) owned by Robert E. Hennessy. Parcel B is 12,948.99 square feet (0.30 acres) in size.

The City will not receive remuneration for Parcels B and C; however, Mr. Hennessy will bear all survey, deed preparation, and associated costs. The excess lands will be attached to property subject to real estate taxes and, therefore, will generate revenue for the City.

In addition, Parcel A was created from Lot 1 lands owned by Robert E. Hennessy and it is proposed that this parcel be annexed to Lot 2 (WN-823-7240) owned by Robert E. Hennessy, *et al.*

The City Planning Commission reviewed the Hennessy Minor Subdivision Application at its regular November meeting and voted to recommend that Council approve the minor subdivision.

Upon motion by Mr. Fraser and second by Mr. Gilbert, Council members present (6) voted to approve the resolution approving the Robert Hennessy Minor Subdivision.

TRANSFER OF PROPERTY TO ROBERT E. HENNESSY

Mr. Hildebrand stated that the Robert E. Hennessy Minor Subdivision resulted in the creation of two parcels which are to be removed from City-owned Parcel No. WN-823-8170 and annexed to properties as follows:

1. Parcel B is to be annexed to Lot 2 as shown on the subdivision plat (WN-823-7240). This parcel will be transferred to Robert E. Hennessy.
2. Parcel C is to be annexed to Lot 1 as shown on the subdivision plat (WN-823-7251). This parcel will be transferred to Robert E. Hennessy *et al.*

The deeds will reserve a perpetual right-of-way to provide the City access to its residual property (WN-823-8170). The right-of-way language will stipulate that the City will bear no responsibility for maintenance of the right-of-way.

As noted above (see Resolution No. 3078), these newly-created lots are excess property which are not of use as part of the City's composting facility. The City will not receive remuneration for the two parcels; however, Mr. Hennessy will bear all survey, deed preparation, and associated costs including legal fees the City incurs for review of the deed documents. The two parcels are being annexed to taxable properties and, therefore, the City will realize real estate tax revenues.

Mr. Fraser made the motion to approve the transfer of Parcel B of the Hennessy Minor Subdivision to Robert E. Hennessy and Parcel C of the Hennessy Minor Subdivision to Robert E. Hennessy, *et al* and to reserve a perpetual right-of-way. The motion was seconded by Mr. Gilbert and carried unanimously among the Council members present (6).

RESOLUTION NO. 3079: DESIGNATING VETERANS' MEMORIAL BRIDGE

Mrs. Freenock stated that a citizen volunteer previously suggested the institution of a Hometown Heroes Banner Program to honor local military veterans. Mrs. Freenock further stated that, following several meetings and a great deal of research, she and the citizen came to realize that

the cost for individuals to purchase a banner honoring a veteran is significant and the logistics of administering the program can become burdensome.

The goal then became development of a plan to honor veterans without placing an undo financial burden on those wishing to honor a veteran and that would not create a burden for those administering it.

At Mayor Cashman's suggestion, it was proposed that the Hickory Street Bridge be designated as the Veterans' Memorial Bridge with the intent that banners recognizing each branch of the military service will be placed annually prior to Memorial Day and removed following Veterans' Day. The banners will be placed on existing brackets on the bridge light poles.

Mr. Fraser made the motion to approve the resolution designating the Hickory Street Bridge as the Veterans' Memorial Bridge. The motion was seconded by Mayor Cashman and carried with four votes in the affirmative and two nay votes cast by Mr. Giannini and Mr. Gilbert.

RESOLUTION NO. 3080: ROUNDABOUT AT MARKET STREET AND PA AVENUE WEST

(See also October 15, 2018 Regular Meeting Minutes)

Mr. Holtz noted that Council was presented with two proposals for traffic control at the intersection of Pennsylvania Avenue West and Market Street. At that time, Mr. Giannini asked that Council be provided with updated PennDOT drawings depicting each of the options.

Mr. Holtz stated that City Staff communicated with Christine Boyer-Krantz, the City's PennDOT point of contact for the project. Ms. Boyer-Krantz indicated that it would not be cost effective for PennDOT to have new engineer's drawings prepared at this juncture. Upon receipt of a resolution indicating Council's preference for reconstruction of the intersection with updated signalization or construction of a roundabout, PennDOT will then proceed with the final design.

Option 1 provides for the construction of a roundabout and installation of required street lighting. This option would necessitate the movement of sanitary sewer lines and City responsibility for excess costs involved in the installation of historic-style lighting rather than standard PennDOT lighting.

Option 2 provides for reconstruction of the intersection and installation of new signalization. Under this proposal, the key changes to the intersection would be:

1. A lane would be added for westbound traffic on Pennsylvania Avenue: the result would be dedicated lanes for right turns, straight, and left turns; and
2. There would be pre-emptive left turn signals for east and westbound traffic on Pennsylvania Avenue and for north and southbound traffic on Market Street; and
3. When activated by a pedestrian, there would be an all-way Stop signal (scramble) so that pedestrians may cross any leg of the intersection.

It was noted that the traffic signalization option includes details that are in addition to those contained in the PennDOT proposal.

There was considerable discussion regarding the two options during which City Staff members stated their support for reconstruction of the intersection with upgraded traffic signalization for reasons which included:

1. Initial and ongoing costs to be borne by the City would be significantly higher for a roundabout.
2. Construction of a roundabout would require the relocation of a sewer line which is circa 1930's and is approximately sixteen feet below the surface. The City would be required to share in the cost of relocation and it is not possible to determine the extent of work that would be required to tie the new line to existing lines.
3. The City would be required to share in the cost of adding additional light poles which would be required in association with the roundabout. In addition, the lights would be standard PennDOT light poles and would not be of the historic design being installed throughout the downtown area.
4. The proposed footprint for the roundabout is small and provides for one lane of traffic which would be more difficult for tractor/trailer combinations to navigate.
5. It would be the City's responsibility to maintain the roundabout, repair damages, and when necessary, replace it.
6. Snow removal costs for a roundabout and accompanying pedestrian refuge areas would be higher than those associated with a signalized intersection.
7. Annual maintenance costs for a roundabout are estimated to be three times those associated with a signalized intersection.
8. An informational meeting with representatives of trucking companies that conduct business in the area was held and it was stated by the representatives that a signalized intersection is the preferred option.
9. A signalized intersection with All-Stop (Scramble) pedestrian crossing signals would be significantly safer for pedestrians. Mr. Holtz indicated PennDOT plans to install All-Stop pedestrian crossings at all other signalized intersections on Market Street.

Mr. Kolcharno stated that traffic would move faster with a roundabout and further stated that his main concern is pedestrian safety. Mr. Fraser responded that, statistically, roundabouts have been shown to be safer. Mr. Fraser referenced the series of roundabouts located in Olean, NY, which he and others visited earlier in the year. He indicated that those they met with stated that the roundabouts were not favored at the time of installation; however, people now like them.

Mayor Cashman indicated that those with whom he had spoken regarding the intersection are in favor of a roundabout.

Mr. Giannini expressed his concerns regarding the movement of large trucks through a roundabout.

Pauline Steinmeyer addressed Council and stated that she supports Staff's recommendation for a signalized intersection. She stated that consideration should be given to large trucks that travel the intersection on a daily basis and the fact that truck drivers are not in favor of a roundabout. She further stated that most roundabouts are not located in a downtown area.

PennDOT requires that the City submit a resolution stating the option selected by City Council as being the most appropriate.

Mr. Giannini made the motion to approve the resolution opting for reconstruction of the intersection of Market Street and Pennsylvania Avenue West including dedicated left turn lanes with pre-emptive left turn signals and the installation of new traffic signals including an All-Way Stop (Scramble) for pedestrians. The motion failed due to lack of a second.

Mr. Fraser made the motion to approve the resolution authorizing and directing the Mayor to submit an Application for Traffic Signal Approval to the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation

for construction of a roundabout at the intersection of Market Street and Pennsylvania Avenue West. The motion carried with five votes in the affirmative and one nay vote cast by Mr. Giannini.

2019 MUNICIPAL BUDGET PUBLIC HEARING DATE

Mrs. Risinger suggested that Council set Monday, December 10, at 5:00 PM as the date and time for the 2019 Municipal Budget Public Hearing. It was noted that this date allows the appropriate public notice to be provided in advance of the meeting and also meets the requirement that the Public Hearing not be held on the same date as a City Council meeting. The proposed budget will be available for public viewing in advance of the Public Hearing.

Mrs. Risinger noted amendments which will be made to the budget to be presented for Council's consideration. Mrs. Freenock suggested that \$50,000 which had been allocated for support of a Main Street Manager or similar program be reallocated for participation in a joint program with Warren County. She noted that such funds would not be expended without Council's approval.

Upon motion by Mr. Fraser and second by Mr. Gilbert, Council members present (6) voted unanimously to set December 10, 2018, at 5:00 PM as the date and time for the Public Hearing regarding the 2019 Proposed Municipal Budget.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS – OCTOBER, 2018

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:

Planning Commission	–	October 10, 2018	Regular Meeting
Redevelopment Authority	–	August 15, 2018	Regular Meeting
	–	September 19, 2018	Regular Meeting
Street Landscape Committee	–	September 25, 2018	Regular Meeting

ADJOURNMENT

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