

**WARREN CITY COUNCIL
SPECIAL MEETING
NOVEMBER 24, 2014 – 7:30 PM**

OPENING OF SPECIAL MEETING

Mayor Cashman presided over the November 24, 2014 special 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, Dr. Howard Ferguson, Gregory Fraser, Samuel Harvey, Richard Kolcharno, John Lewis, and James A. Zavinski, Sr. Mrs. Freenock, Mr. Hildebrand, Mr. Holtz, Mrs. Leary, Ms. Nau, Chief Pascuzzi, Mrs. Risinger, and Chief Zydonik of City staff were also in attendance.

CORRESPONDENCE

There was no correspondence to come before Council.

RECOGNITION OF VISITORS

Mayor Cashman welcomed all visitors.

PARKING ISSUES

Chief Zydonik stated that, following Council action at the November 17 regular meeting regarding on-street parking, City staff met to discuss the impact of the reduced on-street parking meter rates as well as alternatives regarding parking spaces designated for permit parking along the south curb of the 400 block of Pennsylvania Avenue West.

Chief Zydonik stated that he had spoken with those already holding permits for these spaces and it was indicated that one individual wishes to retain their permit, another is considering adding a permit, and a third individual will be purchasing a permit. It was suggested that all of the referenced spaces which are designated for permit parking be metered and, upon an individual obtaining a permit, the meter would be bagged and identified as a permit only parking space.

It was suggested that consideration be given to expanding the hours of parking enforcement from 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM to 8:00 AM to 6:00 PM. Chief Zydonik indicated that this could be accomplished without increasing staffing needs by staggering and varying the hours during which enforcement personnel are on duty.

Following discussion, Mr. Fraser made the motion to suspend collections and enforcement in the Midtown Parking Lot until January 1 (2015) and to then restart at \$1.00 per hour with validations offered at half price. The motion failed for lack of a second.

Dr. Ferguson made the motion to install thirteen meters (400 block of PA Avenue West) and to allow a maximum of four of those spaces to be utilized for permit parking. The motion was seconded by Mr. Harvey and carried with six votes in the affirmative and one nay vote cast by Mr. Lewis.

Mr. Fraser made the motion to adjust the hours of enforcement to 8:00 AM to 6:00 PM, Monday through Friday, excepting legal holidays. The motion was seconded by Mr. Cashman and failed with two affirmative votes and five negative votes being cast by Mr. Lewis, Mr. Harvey, Dr. Ferguson, Mr. Zavinski, and Mr. Kolcharno.

Mr. Harvey suggested that the hours of enforcement be further discussed at the next regular meeting.

HEALTHCARE INSURANCE PRODUCER

Mrs. Freenock noted that at the November 17 regular Council meeting, Council voted to move to a self-insured health insurance plan through Hubbard-Bert, Inc. of Erie which was deemed to be cost-effective given the double-digit cost increase proposed by Highmark.

On November 20, the City received a quote from Municipal Benefit Services (MBS). MBS is a firm associated with Mockenhaupt Benefits Group which provides actuarial services for the City's pension plans. MBS was formerly known as Municipal Employers Insurance Trust and has been in existence since 1968. MBS currently serves 165 municipalities with 3,500 employees and 10,000 lives. The 2014 rate increase for its participants (after first year of being self-insured) was 11.8% and for 2015 ranges from -2.5% to +2.5%. The Trust formerly offered only fully-insured health insurance plans but in 2013 it moved to become self-insured with Highmark as the reinsurer. This plan would provide further savings as illustrated:

<u>Type of Coverage</u>	<u>Hubbard-Bert, Inc.</u>	<u>Municipal Benefit Services</u>
Employee only	\$ 587.34	\$ 411.00
Employee + Child(ren)	1,413.14	904.00
Employee + one Child	--	658.00
Employee + Spouse	1,582.28	1,069.00
Family	1,817.21	1,315.00

Mr. Lewis made the motion to designate Municipal Benefits Services as the City's producer for healthcare insurance. The motion was seconded by Mr. Harvey and carried unanimously.

Mr. Fraser made the motion to authorize the City Manager to issue a revocation of the Hubbard-Bert, Inc. Provider of Record Letter. The motion was seconded by Mr. Lewis and carried unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Cashman adjourned the Special Meeting.

Mr. Zavinski left at this point.

SPECIAL MEETING RECONVENED

Mayor Cashman reconvened the Special Meeting for the purpose of establishing the 2015 Budget Public Hearing date.

Mr. Harvey made the motion to set the Budget Public Hearing date for December 11, 2014 at 5:30 PM. The motion was seconded by Mr. Lewis and carried with six votes in the affirmative (Mr. Zavinski absent).

Mr. Harvey made the motion to cancel the 2015 Budget Public Hearing set for December 3, 2015. The motion was seconded by Mr. Lewis and carried with six votes in the affirmative (Mr. Zavinski absent).

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Cashman adjourned the reconvened Special Meeting.