

**WARREN CITY COUNCIL  
SPECIAL MEETING  
DECEMBER 12, 2022 – FOLLOWING THE BUDGET PUBLIC HEARING**

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**OPENING OF MEETING**

Mayor David Wortman presided over the December 12, 2022, special meeting of Warren City Council in Council Chambers of the Municipal Building and opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Mayor Wortman announced that Council met in executive session regarding personnel matters immediately prior to the budget public hearing.

**ROLL CALL**

Members present and responding to roll call were: Mayor David Wortman, Maurice Cashman, Danielle Flasher, Philip Gilbert, Wendy McCain, Jared Villella, John Wortman, and Junior Council Member Lydia Balas. Members of City Staff present were Jessica Byler, Finance Officer; Michael Holtz, Acting City Manager/DPW Director; David Krogler, Fire Chief; Teena Leary, Assistant City Clerk; Randall Rossey, Codes and Planning Director; and Andrea Stapleford, City Solicitor.

**RECOGNITION OF VISITORS**

Mayor Wortman welcomed all visitors. Present were:

- Pat Shene
- Jeremy Lyon
- Steve Hoffman
- Tiffany Post
- Tyler Wagner
- Alex Suppa
- Chad Niver
- TJ Danielson
- Sam Miller
- Jon Ferrie
- Greg Ireland
- Tim Carpenter
- Scott Means
- Shane Jones
- Wade Suppa
- Brian Hagberg: YourDailyLocal Reporter (via Zoom)
- Josh Cotton: Times Observer Reporter
- Shawn Tutmaher
- Travis Loucks
- Kyle Grey
- Nate Bond
- Gary Doolittle
- Josh Hamilton
- Cameron Jewell
- Kurtis Maynard
- Andy Moore
- Jeremy Rulander
- Jason Schott
- Chris Whyte
- Matt Mumford
- Taylor Christie
- Joe Rehe

**APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

Mr. Cashman made the motion to approve the agenda as presented. The motion was seconded by Mr. Villella and carried unanimously.

Mr. Wortman made the motion to amend the agenda by moving item no. 5.b. to 5a. The motion was seconded by Mr. Villella and carried unanimously.

**HAZARD PAY PROPOSAL**

Mrs. Byler noted that members of the Police, Fire and Public Works unions were present at the October 17, 2022, Council meeting and requested that Council consider allocating a portion of the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds to hazard pay.

Councilmembers John Wortman and Wendy McCain asked that this item be brought before Council for its consideration. Mr. Wortman and Mrs. McCain proposed that each City employee, including administrative staff and department heads, who worked during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic be given hazard pay in the form of a one-time payment of \$1,000 (gross). The source of funds would be the ARPA funds.

It was recommended that the qualifying period during which an employee must have worked be set as March 11, 2020, through December 31, 2020; this period encompasses the beginning of the pandemic through the period of time when a vaccine was not available. It was also recommended that an employee still be employed with the City in order to receive this one-time payment.

Greg Ireland, I.A.F.F. Local Union 1835 member, addressed Council and thanked members for their consideration of this matter.

Mr. J. Wortman made the motion to award Hazard Pay derived from ARPA funds in the amount of \$1000 gross to each City employee who was employed during the period of March 11, 2020, through December 31, 2020, and remains employed by the City of Warren. The motion was seconded by Miss Flasher and carried unanimously.

### **ELECTRICITY PROCUREMENT**

Mr. Holtz noted that, at the November 21 regular meeting, Council directed City Staff to revisit the proposals for electrical procurement. Due to current market volatility, it was City Staff's recommendation that the City enter into a short-term contract. Mr. Holtz indicated that City Staff would negotiate for a new rate and contract in the Spring of 2023 at which time it is projected that rates will be lower.

Mr. Villella made the motion to enter into a 6-month contract with MP2 Energy with the intent of renegotiating in Spring 2023 and authorizing Michael Holtz, DPW Director, to execute the contract. The motion was seconded by Miss Flasher and carried unanimously.

### **AMENDMENT TO MULTI-MUNICIPAL EMS COMMISSION AGREEMENT**

Chief Krogler noted that at the October 24, 2022, regular meeting, Council approved an intergovernmental agreement with the Multi-Municipal Emergency Services Commission. The agreement establishes the covered area, covered hours, obligations of the City, and obligations of the Commission.

The Commission subsequently requested that Sections II (b) and (c) of the agreement be amended to provide that the allowance for ground miles traveled to the scene be increased from ten (10) miles to fifteen (15) miles before applying the excess mileage fee. Chief Krogler indicated that, based on the data provided by the Commission, it is anticipated that such calls would result in relatively low volume and the change in the mileage allowance would not have a significant impact.

Mr. J. Wortman made the motion to approve the agreement that would extend the covered ground miles from ten to fifteen at which point the excess mileage fee would be applied and setting the effective date at January 1, 2023, or the date of execution, whichever comes latest, and pending the approval of the Pennsylvania Department of Health. The motion was seconded by Mr. Villella and carried unanimously.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

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