

Warren, Ohio

MINUTES

REGULAR MEETING WARREN CITY COUNCIL

December 22, 2010

- CALL TO ORDER** The regular meeting of Warren City Council was called to order by President Robert Marchese in Warren City Council Chambers at 7:30 PM, 141 South St. SE, Warren, Ohio.
- INVOCATION/PLEDGE** Rev. Bernard Schmalzried opened the meeting with prayer followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.
- ROLL CALL** MEMBERS PRESENT: Dippolito, Novak, Brown, Morn, Flask, Saffold, Colbert, Sferra, Rucker, Dean
- OFFICIALS PRESENT** Mayor O'Brien, Auditor Griffing, Law Director Hicks
Treasurer Homlitas
ABSENT: Director Franklin
- DEPARTMENT HEADS** Lt. M. Gargas for Chief Bowers, Chief Nussle, Gary Cicero, Bob Davis, Bob Pinti, Paul Makosky, Mike Keys, Renee Cicero, Lisa Mazzochi,
ABSENT: Sal DiLiello, Chris Stephenson, Tom Angelo, Tom Gaffney
- MOTION-ACCEPT PREVIOUS MINUTES** Motion Rucker, second Novak to accept the minutes of the last meeting but dispense with reading of the same. VIVA VOCE: All Yes; 0 No. Motion passed.

PUBLIC HEARING

PRESIDENT MARCHESE: We have a public hearing before Council this evening that we're going to move in to next and at this time I would like to open the floor to Draft 3081. Will the clerk please read the call.

READ Clerk reads the call.

Notice is hereby given that a public hearing will be held by Warren City Council on:

WEDNESDAY-DECEMBER 8, 2010-7:30 PM

WARREN CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS – 1ST FLOOR
MUNICIPAL JUSTICE BUILDING
141 SOUTH ST SE
WARREN, OHIO

ON: DRAFT 3081: To rezone a portion of property known as 1569 Woodland NE from Residential A to Commercial A to enable the maintenance of additional parking.

President Marchese opens the public hearing at 7:34 PM

IN FAVOR: My name is Lloyd Grate, 1260 Hallock-Young Road, Lordstown, Ohio. I own the property at 1569 Woodland NE. That address consists of four separate lots. My building there actually sits on three of those lots which are zoned commercial and on the west side there's a lot that's parking that I found out is still zoned residential. The parking lot has been a parking lot forever as far as I can know and I'm looking to have that changed to commercial and then be able to combine all my lots in to one lot; eliminate four deeds there and have that one deed. Thank you.

AGAINST: None.

The public hearing was declaring closed at 7:36PM.

PRESIDENT MARCHESE: We want to welcome Council and the public to this last meeting of the 2010 year. We have several pieces of legislation on this evening's agenda. I'd like to take a moment and say on behalf of Council to the residents of the city; I'm sure I speak for the administration as well that we'd like to extend to everyone; all the households in the City of Warren and all those Warrenites that are away at this time in the holiday season, the best wishes of Council for a blessed and safe holiday season ahead and only the best wishes in the new year.

As to Council, please enjoy your holidays and rest up as the new year ahead promises to be as challenging as this year has been. And speaking in that regard and also to the department heads, administration, police, fire and all men and women who work for the city may I add my thoughts and prayers to all of you this holiday season as well as from all Council.

REPORTS

MAYOR

MAYOR O'BRIEN: Thank you Mr. President, Members of Council; I didn't have a report per say, however, since it's the last meeting of the year wanted to point out some points that from our as President Marchese mentioned our city employees and our department heads, something that residents have taken for granted for years and when you compare it to the private sector, for instance the work of the Sanitation Department; inclement weather-no delays; same time, same day as if it was August 10th or April 2nd or November 12th; same time, same time. It's always interesting when you see on the crawler on television that different waste management companies will have a one-day delay for their drivers pick-up because of the inclement weather yet the Sanitation Department is there; same time, same day irregardless, more proficient than no offense to our federal employees, more proficient in some respects to the mailmen. So and that's due to the direction of Renee Cicero. As usual a courageous workday, day in and day out, of our Fire Department and Police Department under the directions of Chief Bowers, Chief Nussle. Today we have Lt. Marty Gargas here the upmost professional officer in the department. But again day in and day out crimes are solved by the Police Department, staff that they have there, very professional staff. Not just the fire, put out by the Fire Department, but investigations regarding different types of arson throughout the city. Very professional department and look forward to adding to that department through Council as results of the tests that we have just taken place last Saturday.

Look around downtown, 10.5 million dollars worth of projects just in the last few years in the downtown corridor. Paul Makosky is engineer now, prior to him most of those projects, no offense to Paul, most of those projects were lined up by our engineer Bill Totten. 10.5 million dollars in the downtown corridor; didn't cost the city five cents and the most recent project was the Mahoning lighting, the historical lighting on Mahoning Avenue and when you drive by City Hall you'll see those lights from the Women's Park to Summit Street. And as you go down the route that Mr. Dippolito takes and turn down Summit, you turn left and the Mahoningside to the right, you'll see the huge amount of progress in just the last month and a half coordinated through the Community Development Department with Mike Keys.

And also, along with Community Development and the Health Department with Mike Keys and Bob Pinti, 318 homes are under contract for the removal of blight since this past year, not in six years, just this past year. And with the tight constraints of the Neighborhood Stabilization I project that was limited in time, limited in scope and I think some, in some respects federal government, state government didn't think that under those time restraints that communities like the City of Warren would be able to get that complete and accomplished. We were the only municipality our size that got a complete project on time, on schedule and actually ahead of schedule for the state and federal government; and that's Mike Keys and Bob Pinti.

Now go up Market Street today, they're still on the project they were at 7:30 this morning, a water main break on Market Street and when they leave that job they're going to another water main break in the dead of winter. So if anyone thinks that people in the Water Department aren't working their tails off with 10 degrees weather, water going down their back and water up to their hips correcting these water main breaks is another thing coming. But again, the employees have been cut, 360 employees in the city. Twenty years ago, twenty-five years ago it was 550, 570 employees; they're asked to do more with less employees and they're accomplishing it. They're accomplishing it for the betterment of our community.

Along with Mr. Marchese, I'd like to wish Members of Council, department heads, the auditor, the treasurer, the law director and president of council and the citizens and constituents in the City of Warren and the surrounding areas a Merry Christmas and a great New Year. Thank you Mr. President.

LAW DIRECTOR Thank you Mr. President, no report.

AUDITOR MR. GRIFFING: Thank you Mr. President. No report this evening.

TREASURER MR. HOMLITAS: Thank you Mr. President. I'd just to make Council aware that collections for the year 2010 will be equal to what was budgeted for the year 2010. Thank you.

DIRECTOR **ABSENT**

DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS

None.

December 22, 2010

SUMMARY OF CORRESPONDENCE

C-032-10 Received from the Planning & Platting Commission/Bd. of Appeals:

12-13-10 Notice of a meeting to be held Tuesday, Dec. 14, 2010 at 4:00 PM to discuss the following request:

Zone Change At 1569 Woodland NE, owner Lloyd Grate, to rezone Lot 17 (Parking Lot) from Residential A to Commercial A.

REF: All Council Members

C-033-10 Received from the Planning & Platting Commission:

12-17-10 Notice that at a meeting held Dec. 14, 2010 all five members present voted in favor of a rezone request at 1569 Woodland NE to rezone the parking lot from Residential A to Commercial A.

REF: All Council Members

THIS CORRESPONDENCE IS ON FILE IN THE CLERK OF COUNCIL OFFICE.

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

STRATEGIC PLANNING MR. DEAN: Thank you Mr. President. No formal report this evening, however, the Strategic Planning Group chaired by Mr. John Robinson will meet on January the 4th at 6 PM. Thank you Mr. President.

FINANCE MR. NOVAK: The Finance Committee met twice in the previous two weeks on the 2011 Budget. We had a lot of good discussion on it and basically we're looking again at a bare-bones budget and I'm sure we will be having some changes made after the first of the year, but I am glad we are able to have a balance budget and are able to stay in the black for 2011 and I would hope that most of our large income tax generators that pay the City of Warren, I hope their businesses increase and help us have more revenue which we direly need. We did manage, as Auditor Griffing said, we were utilizing some general fund money, we actually had no money in this years budget but we were able to do seven thousand dollars in grass cutting which subsidized the help that we gained from the county and the inmate program. So again lets hope for a better year in 2011 and pray for that. Thank you Mr. President.

SPECIAL COMMITTEE REPORTS

None.

PUBLIC SPEAKING 7:47 PM

CAROL HARRISON, 293 OLD OAK DR., CORTLAND, OHIO: Thank you I'm pleased that you would allow me to speak tonight at the council meeting. I was a former west side of Warren; grew up on the west side of Warren, couldn't ask for a better place. So my heart and my roots are in Warren and I want to tell you I never really left Warren. I live in Cortland now but Warren is my roots. So when they were going to tear down Warren G. Harding you probably saw my picture in the paper many times, protesting or whatever because I had many, many good years at Harding and my Dad was in the first graduating class John Hunter in 1925. And so of course there's a lot of whatever about Warren G. Harding as I was growing up and so I thought we should call it a day so to speak with the fact that something positive instead of all the negative things that change brought that miserable kind of trying to convince them that they should leave Harding High School.

So I came up with this throw, it's made in America, it's made by Millstreet Designs, North Carolina and I've decided to do all the city schools from 1885 to 2009. The picture of a man (inaudible) is 'Molly' Mr. Mollenkopf and the school was a drawing that I was able to obtain and it was by Mr. Lewis, and Mr. Lewis was the first original panther. So it's been fun to talk with Mr. Lewis too and then of course our alma mater was the red and white, and then we go to the Echo's and then to West Junior Cowboys, Turner Tigers and East Junior Panthers. I felt also that it's very important in our community is Warren Western Reserve even though it wasn't part of when I was in school. So then we have the new school Warren G. Harding and then their, whatever you call that, Indian (someone states 'mascot') mascot, that's the word I'm looking for. Okay and then around the whole thing in the red area are all the elementary schools that were built in Warren and the date that they were built. I did not want to have them make it when they were torn down. So all the schools; First Street, Tod Avenue, everything is mentioned all the way around that.

So I would like to present the throw to our Warren City Council and have them display it wherever and have them enjoy it as much as I've enjoyed putting it together and having fun selling them and doing whatever. So I hope that you'll display it someplace and enjoy it as much as I have and I want to say Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to everyone also. Thank you for having me.

PRESIDENT MARCHESE: Thank you Miss Harrison. Could you just for the record put your name and address on the—

MISS HARRISON: Okay. My name is Carol H. Harrison, 293 Old Oak Drive, Cortland Ohio 44410. I have a lady that's asking a question over here. They are for sale. I have I think two left because they've been such a good Christmas item of those who have known that I was doing this and Mr. Copeland has covered me pretty good in the Tribune also and I'm grateful for that. But they're fifty dollars and they're made in America and if you want them I can get them after Christmas or if they want one of those two that's left for this year, I'd be glad to; I'm going to

leave my name and phone number and address on a little piece of-perhaps you could pass it around to each other. I'll only make four of the, I'm not running for Council this year. Okay, thank you very much.

PRESIDENT MARCHESE: Thank you very much Miss Harrison and I'm sure the Mayor could have the Operations Department hang that somewhere prominently that we'll pick.

LEGISLATION FOR PASSAGE

**DRAFT 3091
APPROPRIATIONS AND
TRANSFERS** An ordinance for the purpose of appropriating from the unappropriated, anticipated 2010 receipts of the general fund; appropriating from the unappropriated, unencumbered 2009 balance of certain city funds; transferring within various city fund; and declaring an emergency.

Mr. Novak requests the clerk to read the title on Draft 3091.

READ Clerk reads same.

MOTION-SUSPEND
THREE READINGS Motion Novak, second Dippolito to suspend the rule requiring three reading on Draft 3091.

ROLL CALL YES: Dippolito, Novak, Brown, Morn, Flask,
Saffold, Colbert, Sferra, Rucker, Dean

NO: None.

MOTION PASSED 10 YES; 0 NO. Motion passed.

MOTION FOR PASSAGE Motion Novak, second Dippolito to pass Draft 3091.

REMARKS

None.

ROLL CALL YES: Dippolito, Novak, Brown, Morn, Flask,
Saffold, Colbert, Sferra, Rucker, Dean

NO: None.

PASSED 10 YES; 0 NO. Motion passed. Draft 3091 is now ORD. 12309/10.
ORD. 12309/10

**DRAFT 3092
PAYMENT UPON
CERTIFICATION OF
FISCAL OFFICER** An ordinance for the purpose of authorizing the payment of specific orders or contracts upon receipt of certification of the fiscal officer of the sufficiency of funds for said expenditures and declaring an emergency.

Mr. Novak requests the clerk to read the title on Draft 3092.

READ Clerk reads same.

MOTION-SUSPEND
THREE READINGS Motion Novak, second Dippolito to suspend the rule requiring three readings on Draft 3092.

ROLL CALL YES: Dippolito, Novak, Brown, Morn, Flask,
Saffold, Colbert, Sferra, Rucker, Dean

NO: None.

MOTION PASSED 10 YES; 0 NO. Motion passed.

MOTION FOR PASSAGE Motion Novak, second Saffold to pass Draft 3092.

12-22-10

REMARKS

None.

ROLL CALL

YES: Dippolito, Novak, Brown, Morn, Flask,
Saffold, Colbert, Sferra, Rucker, Dean

NO: None.

PASSED
ORD. 12310/10

10 YES; 0 NO. Motion passed. Draft 3092 is now ORD. 12310/10.

SECOND READING

**DRAFT 3081
REZONE @
1569 WOODLAND NE**

An ordinance for the purpose of amending the proper sheets of the use district map accompanying Chapter 1133 of the Planning and Zoning Code of the codified ordinances of the City of Warren, Ohio by rezoning a portion of the property known as 1569 Woodland Street NE (I.E. Lot No. 17 thereof-parcel No. 38-007550) from "Residential A" to "Commercial A" for the purpose of enabling the maintenance of additional parking and declaring an emergency.

Mrs. Morn requests the clerk to read the title on Draft 3081.

READ

Clerk reads same.

MOTION-SUSPEND
THREE READINGS

Motion Morn, second Novak to suspend the rule requiring three readings on Draft 3081.

ROLL CALL

YES: Dippolito, Novak, Brown, Morn, Flask,
Saffold, Colbert, Sferra, Rucker, Dean

NO: None.

MOTION PASSED

10 YES; 0 NO. Motion passed.

MOTION FOR PASSAGE

Motion Morn, second Brown to pass Draft 3081.

REMARKS

None.

ROLL CALL

YES: Dippolito, Novak, Brown, Morn, Flask,
Saffold, Colbert, Sferra, Rucker, Dean

NO: None.

MOTION PASSED
ORD. 12311/10

10 YES; 0 NO. Motion passed. Draft 3081 is now ORD. 12311/10.

**DRAFT 3090
2011 BUDGET**

An ordinance for the purpose of appropriating funds to defray the current expenses and other expenditures of the City of Warren from the general fund and certain special funds for the period beginning January 1, 2011 and ending December 31, 2011.

Mr. Novak requests the clerk to read the title on Draft 3090.

READ

Clerk reads same.

MOTION-SUSPEND
THREE READINGS

Motion Novak, second Dean to suspend the rule requiring three readings on Draft 3090.

ROLL CALL

YES: Dippolito, Novak, Morn, Flask, Saffold,
Colbert, Sferra, Dean

NO: Brown, Rucker

MOTION PASSED

YES: 8; 2 NO. Motion passed.

MOTION FOR PASSAGE

Motion Novak, second Dean to pass Draft 3090.

REMARKS

MR. DIPPOLITO: Thank you Mr. President. I know that we thought this would be a draft dealing with the entire budget, enterprise funds, operating, general fund, etc. I'm not about to speak in regarding the whole budget, however there are some things regarding one department in the enterprise funds I think (inaudible) public and that's the Water Department. Now I did a (inaudible) over the years of both investigating and participating in many conversations involving authorized strength, performance audits and so forth. And it's down to where the point is where last March Mr. Davis issued a statement and talked about a program which was going to result efficient wise of potential reductions of four positions in the Water Department. With exception of one he's made the point, for instance there should be two clerical type positions in the department and two others more on the field you might say. One's called a mechanic or technicians and so forth so I say two personnel (inaudible). The thing about this he's already taken care of three of those in this years budget meaning that the staff has been reduced by three in that department. The amount of money involved for that is about 192,000 dollars. It's not on the budget. It's a setup. Now the 4th one which is apparently set to do and come up maybe somewhere down the road just where, how long, attrition you might say, once that sets in place, you'll have a value of about a quarter of a million dollars, about 264 in today's dollars. Now that's not, it's in the budget unlike the 71,000 but the total will be after the 4th person is the first job is eliminated in a sense. I might also say in that respect, I have some questions (inaudible) which is great. I'm asking does this mean we're going to be able to adjust authorized strength? I have that question. I have to ask someone that's what I mean. We now have at least three positions and one going to be footnoted to be shall we say starred so when it becomes vacant or how this criteria might be, it's also eliminated. I find that-

PRESIDENT MARCHESE: Would you like to ask that of Mr. Hicks?

MR. DIPPOLITO: it's not clear.

PRESIDENT MARCHESE: Would you like to ask that of Mr. Hicks?

MR. DIPPOLITO: Pardon?

PRESIDENT MARCHESE: Would you like to ask that of Mr. Hicks?

MR. DIPPOLITO: Well Gary Cicero or Mr. Hicks or so forth, but I don't know-

LAW DIRECTOR HICKS: I, I'm not sure of the question cause when you say shall we say and all that stuff, I'm not sure what you're asking. But if you're talking about, I'm serious, let me, may I finish?

If you are asking can you adjust the authorized strength, there's two ways to do that; one is by legislation which in fact sets the number of personnel in each department. The second way you adjust authorized strength is by the budget because if you budget for only so many people obviously they can only pay so many people and that. So there's two ways that you affect the number of personnel in each department; the authorized strength ordinance and the budget ordinance. Those are the two ways the legislation can do it. Now before you right now is a budget. Has nothing to do with numbers, it has to do with dollars. Now many dollars you're going to put in to each fund to fund them. So

it would take a second piece of legislation if you're talking about taking a number and reducing a particular number by line item of certain personnel. I hope I've answered your question sir.

MR. DIPPOLITO: Somewhat, yeah, we're talking about the position to be eliminated, that's my question. The one is yet to be stated, there's still one that's not entirely the attrition process. I would think that that position itself would now be started to say that after a certain day, a certain amount of time then it will also be eliminated.

LAW DIRECTOR HICKS: Again sir, there are two ways to do that. Number one if you amend the authorized strength ordinance and I think if you're starrng, you're talking about like an asterisk that has a footnote that says, this position will not be filled once the individual retires or is not longer, yeah and the other way is by funding. Again if you only fund so many dollars, you divide those dollars by how many people are there, that's the other way. But if you're saying, that would take a separate piece of ordinance or excuse me separate piece of legislation from this particular one naming that position that you are hoping to eliminate and doing that through the authorized strength ordinance, not this one, this is the budget.

MR. DIPPOLITO: I thank you very much and look forward to following up on that.

LAW DIRECTOR HICKS: No problem.

MR. NOVAK: Thank you Mr. President. I'd like to just inquire knowing that we have some retirees coming up and excuse me, having two positions in the Data Processing Department. Knowing that each department in the city whether it's general fund or enterprise is charged a certain fee to generate revenue to operate the Data Processing Department and seeing that we are looking at replacing Data Processing Manager and Network Systems Superintendent. I would like to inquire if there was the possibility of that when these positions are filled that as in our other departments and in our Police and Fire there was an entry level wage which is the lowest wage when those employees are brought in. If there would be an ability when these individuals are placed in to these positions, our Data Processing Manager's wages are \$5,714.84 a month. The Network System Superintendent is \$29.85 per hour. If there was a possibility that we would look at a reduction in these wages for entry level and the possibly continue gradually raising those wages, but I think it's important because when this was initiated; I know Mr. Yannucci was the one that created this billing process to fund that Data Processing, but I think seeing that we're having some progress in Water, other positions in other departments; we're eliminating or reducing those employees bringing in entry level. If we would be able to possibly reduce these wages; allow them to with having the each one of these positions reviewed, possibly quarterly. But I really think, you know, we must look at this department and the amount of money that we're spending because it affects every department in the city. If someone at Finance, I apologize I was not at last night's Council as a Whole meeting. I would have liked to have brought that up, but if somebody can give me some answers on that, I'd really appreciate it. Thank you Mr. President.

MR. CICERO: As we're reviewing the Data Processing Department if it goes the way we have the jobs posted, we're actually reducing one of the computer positions. We're hoping to combine that network systems with the AS 400 right now, so the way the postings go we fill those jobs that way, we'd actually be reducing the current job that Ed Russ is holding. So we'll have one less computer position. This is probably a savings of 60-70 thousand dollars for the city.

MR. NOVAK: Thank you Mr. President and thank you Mr. Cicero. Again I was not at yesterday's meeting, but I'm glad to see there are

some reductions. It's not that I want to see anyone not have the opportunity to apply for a job but this has to be across the board. I don't care what department it is you know, as was stated here two or three times this evening. We have to do more with less as many people here in the city have to do more with less now. Thank you Mr. President.

MAYOR O'BRIEN: Thank you Mr. President. Mr. Novak that's exactly the charge of the Human Resource Department by combining the different departments and utilizing other skills of other employees and combining with other say, entities to perform the same tasks. Bottom line is we're looking to save funds and we're going to be able to accomplish that and at the same time without interruption of service for that very vital department. But again we'll be able to develop something that will be combining other entities which has never been done before in the city. Thank you.

MRS. RUCKER: Thank you Mr. President. My concern about this budget is that the grant for the firemen coming back to work also includes plans for emergency service. The plan for that project hasn't been before Council and so my concern is we're already accepted the grant and the grant will pay for the firefighters for two years. Should Council not implement the emergency service portion of that grant are we liable for the entire amount to repay the entire amount back to the fed's?

MAYOR O'BRIEN: Councilwoman Rucker you know if you're asking are we liable to repay the entire amount back for the grant. I wouldn't be asking that to be done. That would be from the SAFER powers to be, however, there's a plan to accept the money to satisfy the grantor and at the same time satisfying the needs of the Fire Department, at the same time. So there's no hostile situation where we would be accepting money and not fulfilling the grant requirements. That's never intended. So it's been discussed fairly with Auditor Griffing and the fire chief and we'll be able to satisfy the needs, the design of the grant and at the same time most importantly the needs of the citizens, so all those are taken in to consideration Councilman Rucker. Now I'm not an advocate of us saying we're doing something wrong to have to rescind the grant or anything like that so I would say absolutely not, we wouldn't be accepting something that we would be in default of.

MRS. RUCKER: My problem is that as a Councilman you're asking me to accept the responsibility but you're not telling me what the plan is. And so I don't understand, Mr. Cicero put his hand up. I don't understand what I'm accepting. I understand that the employees are back at work and the grant will pay for them for two years. I'm okay with that, but are we locking ourselves in to a financial obligation with this plan, whatever the plan is, for the emergency service, you know at the end of the two years how are we going to pay for our firefighters if we don't do the emergency plan. How are we going to pay for the emergency plan?

MR. CICERO: Helen if I understood what you said, we do not have to have emergency medical services in place in order to keep the money from the grant. That's not a requirement.

MRS. RUCKER: Thank you Mr. President.

MR. BROWN: Thank you. First of all just in reference to that I believe in reading that we have to make an attempt to do that, but I think the bigger question is the current state of our economy in Warren with no Delphi or Copperweld or on and on and on. At the end of this two years, if there's no increase in revenue how many of our fire personnel there are, we'll have to make up unemployment compensation for half that number. That's a huge consideration. I ask the Auditor and maybe he can chime in on this earlier and he said I

would never put you in that position as far as the SAFER Grant for the third year. But I guess to my point here, as we all know we must end the year with a balanced budget and ordinance 3091 that we just passed is testament to that, but if you look at page 49 or our budget that we were given, in 2007 actual expense outpaced total expense by 1,867,000 dollars in '09 it was 574,000 dollars as of November it was almost 100,000 dollars more for this year. It's scary. Our income tax returns as Dave told us a week or so ago are roughly 400,000 behind last year. So when John says the monies are equal to budgeted, but they still are 400,000 less than last year. There's nothing in this budget for pay raises that are currently being negotiated. Last year our employees were good enough to pretty much take a zero across the board. The State of Ohio that we passed some legislation on poo-hooing in April or May; it's going to be 8 or 9 billion dollars in arrears for this coming year and that certainly will trickle down to us where we won't have those monies coming in to Warren. I don't know if anybody got a chance to look at the show on 60 Minutes on Sunday night, but it was very eye-opening. Of the fifteen top states that in big, huge budget trouble California is number one and Ohio is number two. So our piece of the pie from the state if going to dwindle and at our current pace I think they'll be no excess funds as of next year at this time and I just feel that there needs to be more discussion and study on this current budget before we pass it. Thank you Mr. President.

PRESIDENT MARCHESE: Miss Saffold, did you have a question?

MISS SAFFOLD: No, I didn't have a question, I have a comment and it pertains more so to the SAFER Grant particularly to the contract at hand, but Mr. Cicero made a statement that it was not a prerequisite to the SAFER Grant to initiate the EMS Services and my question is, Why did we require paramedic certification for those persons interested in taking the fire exam this past Saturday?

MR. CICERO: You'd need to talk to the Civil Service Commission about that. They were the ones that required that.

MISS SAFFOLD: Well I already did and they pointed everything to you so that's why I was putting it out there like that. Thank you.

PRESIDENT MARCHESE: With permission I had asked Dave a question, Dave could you address that one little issue of Council's budget.

AUDITOR GRIFFING: Yes Mr. President, you'd asked me if it was possible for us to move the balances in council's budget that were unspent in to next year's budget. Not with this legislation, but after the first of the year if there is a balance carry forward, it can be done at that time.

PRESIDENT MARCHESE: Okay.

ROLL CALL

YES: Dippolito, Novak, Morn, Flask, Colbert, Sferra, Rucker, Dean

NO: Brown, Saffold

PASSED
ORD. 12312/10

10 YES; 0 NO. Motion passed. Draft 3090 is now ORD. 12312/10.

MISCELLANEOUS 8:17 PM

MR. DIPPOLITO

Thank you Mr. President. I would like to make sure I made myself quite clear. The Water Department is saving this year 192,000 dollars and when and if and when the fourth person is terminated in one of the positions, eliminated, it will amount to over a quarter of a million dollars a year. So I think that the Water Department has done a yeoman's job and it sounds like another department is doing some things, Data Processing and so forth. In any event and my last remark is to wish you all a very Merry, Happy Christmas and a Happy New Year. Thank you Mr. President.

MR. NOVAK

Thank you Mr. President. I, I recognize and agree with the concerns that Councilman Brown has and also Councilwoman Saffold has and I think that as Finance Chairman once Auditor Griffing establishes our carry-over that we will be sitting down discussing the budget because our obligation with this SAFER Grant scares the hell out of me. And we're going to have to be very creative. I'm sure there was a lot of forethought when it was accepted. We needed that staff back, but we will be working on this budget. And as soon as Auditor Griffing lets me know where we're at, finalization on that, we'll start working on it again, whether it's Finance of Council as a Whole. But we will be having a lot of discussion on it.

Again I would hope that everyone, we had our Salvation Army Commander here at the last meeting, everybody that if you're comfortably in good shape financially, you must sacrifice, donate, help those folks that are struggling. Help those non-profit organizations that are out there. I know the Salvation Army's very concerned about their kettle program and other non-profits are struggling. So if you can, make some donations. I don't think a lot of people realize at night we have folks that come up to Giant Eagle. Our food court area, we have the lights turned out at night, we have people that come up there to get warmed up and the reason they're up there getting warmed up at night is because we don't know where they're staying. We have a couple people that live underneath the bridge right across the street from that store and you know some people say put them in the homeless shelter, put them there, put them here, sometimes people's pride is just bigger, I'm going to try to survive on my own. I think everybody needs to think about how many folks are out there like that that are sacrificing, are barely existing. It's a shame us being the power that we were at one time and such a great country that we have folks that have to live that way and it's not right. But again think about those folks and if you can, help them out, no matter what it is even if it's a good donation, monetary or whatever. But we must make sure that something is done and just the same as the health care country wide, people need to have a good quality of life and its important and not just cause it's Christmas, but that should be all year long. So I hope everyone has a Merry Christmas and we'll be hoping and praying that we have a better year in 2011. Thank you Mr. President.

MR. BROWN

Thank you Mr. President. I'd like to extend holiday wishes to everyone and Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. I hope you get to spend it with your family. Both my boys will be home for Christmas and they were not home for Thanksgiving and it was the first time and I'm really looking forward to that.

But I hope that I'm wrong with my assessment of the budget. I hope that you can say you were over blown about that Brown, but I stand by my feelings and again I hope to be proven wrong. Merry Christmas.

MRS. MORN

Thank you Mr. President. I want to thank the administration, my colleagues, and all the departments and employees. They've helped me out so much this year as they did two years prior. They helped me, I had concerns in the fourth ward and I'm very grateful for it. I must have rose-colored glasses because I think we had a good year in the City of Warren and I believe that next year is going to be even better.

12-22-10

So I'm wishing everyone Happy Holiday and I'd like your prayers. My son just got deployed to Afghanistan and I'm not too comfortable for it being the holiday but happy holidays to all of you.

MR. FLASK

Thank you Mr. President. I would just like to congratulate the new Council Members on finishing their, or surviving their first year and wish everybody a happy holiday. Thank you Mr. President.

MS. SAFFOLD

Thank you Mr. President. I would like to wish everyone a happy Christmas and Happy New Year as well. This Christmas I wanted to do something special for the residents in the 6th Ward, so I asked Councilman Dean if I could get some of his coats from his annual coat drive to give to the elderly residents at Tod's Crossing and he was very nice to donate some of his coats and I as well went out and purchased some coats to give to those elderly residents. They are very grateful and I believe that we helped make their holiday a little more special. Thank you.

MR. COLBERT

Thank you Mr. President. I would also like to thank all of my colleagues, the department heads and the administration. Being new you know you don't come in to this job thinking you know everything which I obviously did. And you do find out quickly you don't know much. But what I do know I've learned from the people along the way who have helped me with any issue that I've had in the 7th Ward. And I can tell you that the residents are greatly appreciative and I am greatly appreciative of your patience and ask that you bear with me and I will do my best to do better next year.

I wanted to talk to you quickly about a student over at Warren G. Harding named Tray Waite. He's up for something called the 'Rudy' award. I know the Mayor's a big Notre Dame fan. Anyone that knows Rudy Ruettiger was a guy that walked on to Notre Dame's football team back when we used to win national championships and as the movie said he was five foot, nothing, one hundred and nothing, but he ended up getting his time out there and the story is about how hard he worked to have to get to where he was. So there's an award called the 'Rudy' award and one of our high school students is up for it. Tray has a 3.8 GPA and ranks 26th in his class. He's a two-time letterman as a junior at Harding in basketball and in football. When Tray was almost five years old, his mother was killed in a car accident. His father then raised him. His father then ran foul of the law and ended up in prison. So he ended up losing his father. His grandmother took him in after that. A few years after his grandmother took him in, his grandmother passed away and he ended up losing his grandmother. All of these things that we hear, you know that he has went through would give a lot of people reason to say well he didn't do that well and like we would understand why. Well he has done anything but that. He's a star student and a star athlete over at our high school. His Aunt who now fosters him is the one who nominated him for this award. It's a little confusing if you still can vote for the award, but I will pass this around. If you go in to Facebook you will find it under the 'Rudy' awards. I'm not sure if you can still vote for it. I think the voting may be over at this time, but what I would like to have happen is I would like for Council as a Whole sign a resolution honoring him for what he has done and wishing him luck going forward. I will next week go down and sign for that. I would ask that all Council Members make their way to the Law Department to be able to co-sign this resolution for a great student athlete and a great individual in our community. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to everyone. Thank you Mr. President.

MR. SFERRA

Thank you Mr. President. I was just counting on my fingers how many Councilmen I've served with and I think in '72 when I came in as a Councilman, 8 are no longer with us. So I've served with a lot of Council's and it's been my pleasure to serve with all the members here. I think you're all dedicated to the City of Warren and it's truly been an honor to be with you. I'm proud of all of you and wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

12-22-10

MRS. RUCKER

Thank you Mr. President. First I'd like to say about our vote on the budget, it just shows how important it is that the right hand knows what the left hand is doing. We have a huge responsibility for the all of our employees to make sure that their employment with this city is solid and when we don't know or we're left to wonder about the job security it makes it difficult to vote on a piece of legislation. To tell you the truth, I changed my vote only because I knew that it needed to pass and so that's why I changed my vote not because I feel any differently about what's ahead of us. I want to know the plan for the future as far as the Fire Department and employees that work for it and as well as all of our employees. I want to know what direction we're headed and I believe that it is the role of the administrative to tell us what the plan is so we can buy in to it or make changes to it or give ideas to it, whatever, cause we're the ones that have to sign on to the monies and to sign on on that note which way you're headed is really bazaar to me, but we do it every year.

And lastly is that our budget has to be passed and it is, it passed probably till Monday morning, you know and then we start all over again. Starting all over again I did I asked Mr. Cicero the question because I wanted to make his answer a matter of record and that better be the answer because it's a five million dollar responsibility that they're asking us to take on and should this city be put in a position that we have to pay it down to that (inaudible), we're going to be really hurting. So we're going to make sure that you know this is going to secure our firefighters and secure our city budget.

On a good note I'm going to wish you all a very happy and blessed and prosperous Christmas and New Year. I ask that when you hear about the principles of Kwanza that you read them and learn them because Kwanza is new beginnings and Warren is headed for a new beginning. We've had some rough times this past year, but I think we've worked well as a Council and I'm so glad that all of us here are like we are. It's been a good working group all year and those folks that sit up there, it's been good working with you all year and so going in to a new year I feel optimistic about it. I don't have a crystal ball, I'd just like to (inaudible) you know, that's how I am. But I do wish our city the best and I wish everybody who's involved in it the very best in the new year. Thank you Mr. President.

MR. DEAN

Thank you Mr. President. I often, I was just sitting here thinking when Phil Romain sit here, I wonder what he would have said today and when I talked to him Friday, I was telling him that I've try to express what he would have said that there will be as in Miss Moran, Councilwoman Moran, there will be an empty chair at a lot of tables this Christmas as we all say Merry Christmas and we all sit around our fireplaces. There will be wives who are not in those homes and there will be husbands who are in their homes, there will be sons and there will be daughters. I say very often that the VFW's right here; the American Legion's right here, they're a phone call away and there are a lot of things that we can do by simply picking up the phone and talking to the VFW commander or talking to Marty Gargas. How many tours, Marty in Afghanistan? Iraq, I'm sorry, two? One four. That goes without saying in asking how these guys will be spending their Christmas and their new years and how it feels to get a note from somebody they didn't know or their mom or dad says somebody from City Council called me just to say they were thinking about us and thinking about you. So as we sit around our fireplaces and pass the turkey around for Thanksgiving, think about the people who are not and who are doing that so we can be doing what we're doing for right here and right now. Thank you Mr. President.

PRESIDENT MARCHESE: Before we adjourn I notice in the back United Auto Workers Local 1112, Jim good to see you, Jim Graham. And talk about successes I think the Chevy Cruz has been a big plus for the valley and Jim's been a big piece of that.

12-22-10

I apologize to Council for missing, what do you call it, Caucus. I had to fly to upstate New York today. A very good friend from college passed away at 57 and I felt compelled to do that. Getting through the Transportation Safety Administration is no fun anymore. What I forgot was the last time I flew was that there's three pieces of metal in my leg and that went off. I had no luggage checked, that's a clue and when you look like one of the soprano's, that doesn't help. So it was no easy trip through security, but I apologize for missing Caucus. I thank Mrs. Rucker for taking that. Can I have a motion to adjourn?

MOTION FOR ADJOURNMENT 8:32 PM

Motion Rucker, second Brown to adjourn the meeting at 8:32 PM.
VIVA VOCE : ALL YES; 0 NO'S. Motion Passed.

Robert A. Marchese, President of Council

Darla K. Neugebauer, Clerk of Council, C.M.C.
