

9-7-2011

**MINUTES**  
**WARREN CITY COUNCIL**  
**SPECIAL MEETING**  
**September 7, 2011 – 7:00 PM**

**CALL TO ORDER**                      The special meeting of Warren City Council was called to order by President of Council Robert Marchese on Wednesday September 7, 2011 at 7:00 PM.

**READ**                                      Clerk reads the call.

**NOTICE OF SPECIAL MEETING**

**TO ALL MEMBERS OF WARREN CITY COUNCIL**

**You will please take notice that a Special Meeting of Warren City Council has been called and will be held:**

**WEDNESDAY – SEPTEMBER 7, 2011 – 7:00 PM**

**WARREN CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS**

**1<sup>st</sup> Floor – Municipal Justice Building**

**141 South Street SE**

**Warren, Ohio**

**For the purpose of considering the following :**

DRAFT 3172 – Proposal for and to enter into contract(s) for exploration and development of oil and gas at the real property owned by the City of Warren referred to as “Avalon South Golf Course”.

**S/Mayor Michael O’Brien**

**I, Brenda Smith, Clerk of Council, do certify that a copy of the foregoing notice has been served on all Council, according to law.**

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**ROLL CALL** Dippolito, Novak, Brown, Flask, Colbert, Sferra, Rucker, Dean, Marchese

ABSENT: Morn, Saffold

**EXECUTIVE SESSION** Motion Flask, second Colbert to go into executive session regarding the Sale or Lease of City Property.

**ROLL CALL** Dippolito, Novak, Brown, Flask, Colbert, Sferra, Rucker

NO: Dean

**MOTION PASSED** 7 YES, 1 NO to go into executive session.\

PRESIDENT MARCHESE: Mr. Flask will you identify who you wanted in that meeting and again for the purpose.

MR. FLASK: Yes, for the sale or lease of City property; all of the Council Members, the Administration, Mayor, Safety Service Director and the Law Director please.

PRESIDENT MARCHESE: Council will now move into executive session(7:05 PM).

**RETURN TO REGULAR ORDER OF BUSINESS** Motion Rucker, second Dean to return to regular order of business.

VIVA VOCE: 9 yes, 0 no.

**EXCUSE COUNCIL-WOMAN MORN** Motion Rucker, second Saffold to excuse Council Member Morn for good and sufficient reasons.

**ROLL CALL** Dippolito, Novak, Brown,Flask, Saffold, Colbert, Sferra, Rucker

No: Dean

**MOTION PASSED** 8 YES, 1 NO. Motion passed. Mrs. Morn is excused.

PRESIDENT MARCHESE: Let the record show Councilwoman Saffold was in attendance during the Executive Session at 7:09 PM

ABSENT: Morn

**DRAFT 3172 Sale or Lease of City Property(Avalon Golf Course)** An ordinance for the purpose of authorizing the Mayor and the Director of Public Service and Safety to solicit requests for proposals for, and the thereafter enter into contract(s) for, the exploration and development of oil and gas at the real property owned by the City of Warren and commonly referred to as "Avalon South Golf Course" or "Old Avalon Golf Course", and declaring an emergency.

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Mr. Sferra requests the clerk to read the title on Draft 3172.

**READ**

Clerk reads same.

**MOTION-SUSPEND  
THREE READINGS**

Motion Sferra, second Novak to suspend the rule requiring readings on Draft 3172.

**ROLL CALL**

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

NO: Colbert

**MOTION PASSED**

8 YES, 1 NO. Motion passed.

**MOTION FOR PASSAGE** Motion Sferra, second Novak to pass Draft 3172 as read.

**REMARKS**

MR. SFERRA: Thank you Mr. President. This is once again the drilling rights for the Avalon for the Marcellus Shale; which I think we're all familiar with what you've heard in the newspapers and television.

The City of Warren will be partners with other land owners of probably up to five or six hundred acres and we're part of that group. The City has absolutely nothing to lose. I'm hoping we're going to get a nice up front payment.

Once we get that front payment that's all we're guaranteed. If the well is drilled, if there's considerable revenue it could be a boom for the city. And we're hoping it's a boom for the City. But I – but the main point is the city – the only work we have involved in this is what Council is doing right now. Just passing an ordinance and hopefully we'll get a substantial signing bonus and that's as far as our work that's as far as we go. And it's that land that's been – it's the Avalon Golf course that's been combined with the other lands. I think this is an absolutely win, win for the citizens of the City of Warren and hopefully they drill. And as Sarah Palin says "drill baby drill". Thank you Mr. President.

MR. COLBERT: Thank you Mr. President. I'm not opposed to this legislation at all. I think most people when they hear the details that we've heard about this will realize that this is a real true opportunity that this city has been waiting for and we need to capitalize on it.

I just believe that more time could have been taken to hash out some of these details to Council as well as the public. But that was the reason for my vote for the suppression. But overall, no this is what we need. I commend the Administration for taking us in this direction. But as I stated a little more time for discussion probably would not have hurt the situation. Thank you Mr. President.

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MRS. SAFFOLD: Thank you Mr. President. I too concur in that I wish the citizens of our community would have had more opportunity to voice their concerns or issues. And I also appreciate the fact that we do have the opportunity for this tremendous signing bonus. Thank you.

MRS. RUCKER: Thank you Mr. President. I feel like Mr. Colbert where I have misgivings about the process that we just – that we're going to vote on.

But however, I think that in going forward that we never leave the public out of having comment or to watch the process of government go through. And if time were permitted then yeah, I would have loved to have had more meetings on this.

But it is what it is. And as elected people I know it's my responsibility to make hard decisions. And so this is one of those hard decisions. Not because I don't think it's a win-win for the city. But because I feel like Eddie Colbert that we should have taken more time. Or we should have taken the time to have a meeting with the public present. Thank you Mr. President.

**ROLL CALL**

YES: Dippilito, Novak, Brown, Flask, Saffold, Colbert, Sferra, Rucker, Dean

NO: None

**PASSED  
ORD. 12355/11**

9 YES: 0 NO. Motion passed. Draft 3172 is now ORD. 12356/11.

**MOTION FOR ADJOURNMENT 8:12 PM**

Motion Rucker, second Novak to adjourn the meeting at 8:12 PM.

VIVA VOCE : ALL YES; 0 NO'S. Motion Passed.

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Robert Marchese, President of Council

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Brenda E. Smith, Clerk of Council