

REGULAR MEETING
WARREN CITY COUNCIL
JUNE 10, 2015

CALL TO ORDER The regular meeting of Warren City Council was called to order by President of Council James Graham in Warren City Council Chambers at 7:00 PM, 141 South St. SE, Warren, Ohio.

PLEDGE/ INVOCATION **Larry Larson, 1st Ward Councilman** opened the meeting with prayer followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL MEMBERS PRESENT: Larson, Novak, Brown, Bartholomew, Flask, Saffold, Colbert, Valesky, Sferra, Rucker, Graham.

MOTION-ACCEPT PREVIOUS MINUTES Motion Valesky, second Saffold to accept previous minutes as recorded by our Council Clerk and to dispense with the reading of the same.

Viva voice 10 YES, 0 NO. Motion passed.

OFFICIALS PRESENT: Mayor Franklin, Director Cantalamessa, Law Director Hicks, Auditor Griffing, Treasurer Homlitas

DEPARTMENT HEADS PRESENT: Chief Merkel, Assist. Chief Heller, Brian Massucci, Bob Pinti, Mike Keys,

Paul Makosky, Ed Haller

ABSENT: James Black, Tom Gaffney, LeeAnn O'Brien

REPORTS

MAYOR MAYOR FRANKLIN: Thank you Mr. President. First of all I'd like to just remind any member of the public and council members if you Dr. Meeks of Eastern Gateway Community College she is retiring at the end of this month. I had the fortunate honor of MCing her retirement ceremony yesterday. If you see her please be sure to tell her thanks for her service to our community and our young people and our young adults as well and adults who value education. It was a very well attended ceremony and I thank Councilwoman Saffold for being in attendance as well.

Also, I'd like to say that usually Bob Davis talks about this but the African American Achievers Festival weekend was a success. No incidents. It was very well attended. I'm pleased to report and I saw it later on Mr. Hicks Facebook page they had basketball tournaments and I saw some of our police officers playing with some of the kids who were participating in the tournament. Having said that I will say I do agree with Chief Merkel some of our guys need to be whipped up into better shape. (inaudible) with some of those young kids. But we really appreciate what they're doing in terms of building those relationships. Because that's what it's about. Thank you Mr. President.

LAW DIRECTOR MR. HICKS: No report. But they were holding their own Mayor against those young people. I give them credit. They had some moves. Thank you Mr. President.

MAYOR FRANKLIN: I didn't see that.

PRESIDENT GRAHAM: Chief you have a couple of guys in the Law Department probably could help you out. I know one for sure.

LAW DIRECTOR HICKS: Some tall Greek kid.

DEPUTY AUDITOR

MISS RUGGIERI: Thank you Mr. President. No report this evening.

TREASURER

MR. HOMLITAS: Thank you Mr. President. I'd like to report the tax collections are a half a million dollars ahead of where we would like to be so far this year. And ninety-three thousand dollars behind last year's collections at this time. Thank you.

DIRECTOR

MR. CANTALAMESSA: Thank you Mr. President. Just a report to let everyone know if you may not have already seen it Everbrite is in the city. Street sweeping has commenced. The protocol they are following is to begin and proceed through the improved streets; meaning the curbed streets. To be followed once they've completed that the unimproved or non-curbed streets. And Mr. Graham will take particular delight in that. But if you see them around and they are working throughout the city the trucks are kind of hard to miss. They are either big and white or big and yellow; depending on which one's they have in the city. And during this time we just ask for an extra bit of caution around them because they are slow moving and do occupy lanes of travel. So when you see them just be careful driving behind them or around them. Thank you Mr. President.

DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS

HEALTH

MR. PINTI: Thank you Mr. President. I just wanted to take a moment to publically thank Mr. Novak as most Council people are aware the Health Department shoulders the expense to keep the inmate crew running as far as parts replacements, replacement of equipment throughout the grass cutting season. Mr. Novak has stepped up and made a substantial contribution to take care of some of the parts and replacement equipment for the inmate crew and I just wanted to thank Mr. Novak for that. Thank you Mr. Novak. Thank you Mr. President.

MAYOR FRANKLIN: Thanks Al.

SUMMARY OF CORRESPONDENCE

No correspondence tonight.

PUBLIC SPEAKING

NIKI FRENCHKO 120 Kenilworth SE, Warren. She spoke regarding responsiveness of Police (giving cards and writing reports) and ability to file charges and leash laws.

DENISE RISING 1041 Meadowbrook Ave SE, Warren. She spoke on the North Mar Church Serve Volunteer effort.

PLEASE NOTE THAT THE COMPLETE CONTEXT OF THE ABOVE SPEAKERS AND ANY COMMENTS THAT WERE MADE ARE ON TAPE ON FILE IN THE CLERK OF COUNCIL'S OFFICE

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

TRAFFIC & SAFETY

MR. LARSON: Thank you Mr. Chairman. No report tonight.

OPERATIONS

MR. NOVAK: Thank you Mr. President. No report this evening.

**STRATEGIC
PLANNING/**

MR. BROWN: Thank you Mr. President. I'd like to call a meeting of the Economic Development Committee tentatively for Monday at 3:30 PM. The tentative part is making sure that the Mayors schedule is clear for that. This is for the purpose of explaining how the city of Warren extends economic development opportunities to corporations, small businessmen and professionals who inquire about locating in Warren. I'd like to ask that Tony Iannucci from WRAP; who I spoke with earlier today who I think I saw in the crowd, Mr. Keys if available from Community Development, Chris Tanneyhill from the – head building official from the Engineering Department, the Mayor or his Director Mr. Cantalamessa or Mr. Franklin. Also Mr. Haller has expressed an interest in becoming more interested and more closely aligned with Economic Development in this town that he's looking for a home in; which I'm happy to hear. And also if John Homlitas the Treasurer could be there. Again tentatively at 3:30. We'll put the notice out if everything clears. Thank you Mr. President.

ENGINEERING

MR. BARTHOLOMEW: Thank you Mr. President. The following Ohio Public Works and Community Development Block Grant projects are being advertised in the month of June. The projects will be combined and sold in one contract. And construction will hopefully take place in the late Summer or the Fall. That includes the 2014 and 2015 city road program; which will resurface portions of Tod, Northwest Blvd., Fulton and Ridge. Also, Austin, Chestnut, Griswold and Mcmyler. Total costs on these projects will be around eight hundred thousand dollars with the majority of it being covered by Ohio Public Works.

Also, some of the Municipal Bond and Building Improvement projects will be advertised in the month of June. Snyder and Associates are finalizing the plans and specifications for the Municipal Building project here. The project still includes the re-construction of the precast slab at the north entrance of this building, replacement of the aluminum window panels on the south side, improvements to the vestibule at the south entrance and replacement of doors at the north and south entrances and other general improvements. The estimated cost of this project is four hundred thousand dollars and is scheduled for late summer or fall.

And also lastly parking lot improvements are being prepared by the Engineering Department for the Muni Building, City Hall, Packard Music Hall and also sealing of the existing parking lots will be planned for the Gibson Building. And that project will be put out to bid and constructed in the summer. Thank you Mr. President.

MR. NOVAK: Thank you Mr. President. I need to refer to our Engineer Mr. Makosky. I would suggest that it was brought to my attention at the last Council meeting that the light at Atlantic Street and Paige had been turned on to blinking status. I would suggest that if there's any issues with any traffic signals that before anything is done with it that it comes to that Ward Council Person. We've had two near miss accidents over the weekend. Yesterday a car wound up in the

front yard after that light was turned on to blinking status. I'm sure those Council Members who receded the Mayor was here at that time when there was an issue about that light brought up. I met with a lot of those neighbors today. A lot of them were down here when that light was at the possibility of being removed. They said to me if we need to we will be at the next Council meeting and we're asking please leave our light alone. Because you do not have any issues right now but very soon and in two and a half months you will have students from Warren G. Harding High School walking home from school and there are a large amount in talking with the BOE today that area has some of the largest amount of walking students in that whole area. So I would suggest please put the light back on and let it operate. They said they had no problem with it at night; it's on a caution and red blinking status. But it's important and I was very worried when I saw that status and after seeing the yard and seeing what happened today lucky there was no accident. But it was very close. Thank you Mr. President.

LEGISLATIVE

MR. FLASK: Thank you Mr. President. There is no committee report. However I have some information from the State level. The Ohio Attorney General amassed an 11.5 million settlement with Morton Salt and Cargill Inc. to resolve allegations that companies conspired with each other causing State and local government to pay higher prices on the rock salt.

Under the settlement Morton and Cargill will pay a combined 11.5 million; most of which will be distributed to the local government entities throughout Ohio. The Attorney General filed an antitrust lawsuit against Morton and Cargill on March 21, 2012, in Tuscarawas County alleging that the two companies divided up the Ohio rock salt market between themselves, agreeing not to compete with each other and driving up rock salt prices for about a decade, ending in 2010.

The copy of the settlement agreement and a copy of the Attorney General's 2012 law suit are available on the Attorney General's website.

The following is a list of announced committee hearing in Columbus this week. I'm just going to run down a few that affect our residents specifically and us as a municipality:

1. Tax exempt municipal bonds
2. A resolution to urge the President and Congress of the United States to preserve the tax exempt status of municipal bonds.
3. Redevelopment district to authorize municipal corporations to create downtown redevelopment districts and innovation districts for the purpose of promoting the rehabilitation of historic buildings, creating jobs, encouraging economic development, commercial and mixed use areas and supporting grants and loans of technology oriented and other business.
4. A gas fuel conversion program; I won't go into all of the details of that one.
5. Foreclosure of vacant properties to establish summary and actions to foreclose mortgages on vacant and abandoned residential properties to expedite the foreclosure and transfer of unoccupied blighted parcels to make other changes relative to residential foreclosure actions that determine that certain provisions of this act on December 31st, 2019 by repealing sections of the Revised Code on that date.
6. And the final one that I have is a public records data hearing to create the Data Ohio Board to specify regarding posting public records online.

Thank you Mr. President.

MAYOR FRANKLIN: Thank you Mr. President. Thank you Councilman Flask for that report. It was very welcomed news regarding the settlement; particularly on the salt.

It's my directive and my request to the Attorney General because that law suit talked about collusion and some sort of price fixing up until the year 2010. We all know that we paid a – Nancy correct me if I'm wrong; a three hundred percent increase in salt prices last year. So my hope is that the investigation continues up until the present to see if there was any other collusion and price fixing that took place. But thank you for bringing it to the public's attention and Council's attention.

MR. FLASK: Mr. President if I may? Obviously I had conversations with Safety Service Director and he informed me that we are moving forward in trying to recoup some of those costs. I know at some point the Auditor's office will have an idea of how much that will be and how we'll use it to offset what we're anticipated to pay this year or next year.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

MISS SAFFOLD: Thank you Mr. President. No specific report. However, I would like to thank Chief Merkel and the entire Police force for your quick response to the three shootings that occurred in my ward over a week and a half ago. I would also like to thank the Mayor again for purchasing those surveillance cameras. Our hope is that they will be a deterrent to crime in the future. And a final thank you to Mr. Cantalamessa and Mr. Iannucci who appeared in a meeting today with several 6th Ward Residents to discuss the criminal element in our ward and we came up with what we believe to be some great solutions and preventative measures for the future. Thank you.

FINANCE

MR. COLBERT: Thank you Mr. President. In reference to Finance if I did not mention it last week I'll mention it this week. The remainder of the year I plan on calling a budget review per month. Generally speaking I get a budget report roughly by the 5th of the month. Now regardless if the Auditors here or not I will be asking for Miss Ruggieri to sit in this day to be able to answer any possible questions that we may have. I will get with Nancy and come up with an acceptable date in her schedule for us to have the first one here in May now that the numbers are out.

POLICE & FIRE

MR. COLBERT: In regards to Police and Fire Chief I was approached because of that video. I think that video actually did a lot for some of our community relations. But I was approached and received a couple of phone calls about the possibility of instating a Police Activity League. I know that that would not be a Council action. That would be something that would probably go through yourself and I would assume maybe the FOP. But from the positive feed back that that video got and to be honest the video actually showed our officers kind of embarrassing those young boys. But it received a lot of positive action. So you will probably be getting some phone calls. And anything you could do to try to foster that would obviously be appreciated.

To Miss Frenchko's issue tentatively Wednesday the 17th at 5:00 PM I'd like to call a Police and Fire meeting to address our current dog ordinances; specifically pertaining to the tethering part of the dogs. There is something in there that may help with being another tool in the tool box for whether it is our department or

Mr. Onatz that has to do with the time of the day and the duration of the time in which a dog can be tied outside. And it also has some parts in there that talks about if you are to tie your dog outside the type of fence or possibly the kennel that must be provided for the dog. I do need to get with the Chief, Mr. Onatz and obviously our Health Director Mr. Pinti in order to hammer out a concrete time. But tentatively I'd like to say Wednesday the 17th at 5:00. Thank you Mr. President.

**PUBLIC
UTILITIES**

MR. VALESKY: Thank you Mr. President. No particular report this evening. Although I had the opportunity to spend some time with the Mayor last Thursday with the officials from NOPEC and I'd like to yield the rest of my time to the Mayor for him to fill in the rest of Council with what transpired at that meeting.

MAYOR FRANKLIN: Thank you. You could have did that in your report Jim. But I don't mind. But thank you for attending. It was really a real positive meeting. We're very appreciative that NOPEC came to our community and they offered their service to our residents and they also supported a charity with every sign-up that was there. So I think they had twenty sign-ups and they gave their proceeds to – match those proceeds to the Basement Ministry.

What they really let our public know is every single program that NOPEC offers to our community because we're one of the participating communities. By being a member community we receive several discounts and energy saving discount tips and services and resources from NOPEC. It was very well received. We hope that they – and they did say that they wanted to come back. And my offer to them was to come back to this body and put on the same program; so when we captive audience of citizens. I know there were some members from the (inaudible) who attended and I thank you for your attendance that morning. We hope we are able to assist their students. They always could use the coffee and donuts to get them energized so we appreciate your attendance.

But they want to come back at our convenience and put that same program on for more citizens of Warren to take advantage of those discounts. They're really phenomenal. As you know we saved in this building forty percent of our electrical and gas costs in one years' time after they retrofitted some of our energy systems. So it's a very good organization. Thank God that the City of Warren is a member and we're going to take advantage of every single discount and service that they can give our community. Thank you Mr. President. Thank you Jim.

MR. VALESKY: Thank you Mayor.

WATER/WPC

MR. SFERRA: Thank you Mr. President. I'd just like to ask the Mayor. I seen that Bob Davis August 11th started as the Safety Director or whatever in Cleveland at a little over two hundred thousand. Why is he still on our payroll for five months?

MAYOR FRANKLIN: I'd have to ask. I'm not sure. I'd have to defer that to Human Resources.

MR. SFERRA: Ok. But he's on the payroll for five months.

MAYOR FRANKLIN: I'll look into it.

MR. SFERRA: What's there to look into? (inaudible)

MAYOR FRANKLIN: I told you I would look into it.

PRESIDENT GRAHAM: Excuse me guys? Director your comments to me.

MR. SFERRA: Thank you Mr. President. You don't know you're paying him for five months? You didn't know he was on the payroll?

MAYOR FRANKLIN: I didn't know he was on the payroll. I'll look into that.

MR. SFERRA: How could you not know he's on the payroll?

MAYOR FRANKLIN: Dan we –

PRESIDENT GRAHAM: Listen, listen. We're going to keep this –

MR. SFERRA: Ok. Thank you Mr. President. Everybody knows he's on the payroll. The Safety Director signs all vacation slips until the end of September. You didn't know he did that?

MAYOR FRANKLIN: No I didn't.

MR. SFERRA: So the Safety Director – we're paying the guy his full salary for five months, he's making two hundred thousand dollars a year and you don't know about it?

MAYOR FRANKLIN: But I –

MR. SFERRA: You know what you better get your Director over there and have a talk with him.

MAYOR FRANKLIN: I'll tell you this I'll get the information. Do you have anything to say on this?

MR. MASSUCCI: That request wasn't submitted to my office.

MAYOR FRANKLIN: Ok. I'll find out.

MR. SFERRA: Find out what?

MAYOR FRANKLIN: I'll get back with you.

MR. SFERRA: Find out what?

MAYOR FRANKLIN: Just what you're asking.

MR. SFERRA: Mr. President. So you don't know he's being paid.

MAYOR FRANKLIN: I didn't know he was –

MR. SFERRA: Somebody had to know – (inaudible)

MAYOR FRANKLIN: And if there's any problems I'll correct it.

MR. SFERRA: They've already paid him about ninety thousand dollars and you don't know that?

MAYOR FRANKLIN: It's ok.

MR. FRANKLIN: That's incredible. You're the Mayor and you don't know?

MAYOR FRANKLIN: You know what? You know what Dan I know what this is about. This is about the position you want your son to have and –

MR. SFERRA: (inaudible)

PRESIDENT GRAHAM: Dan!

MR. SFERRA: Excuse me Mr. President I –

PRESIDENT GRAHAM: Listen! Let's not embarrass ourselves. Keep everything civil please.

MR. SFERRA: I'm not hollering. I'm just saying (inaudible). Well let me know when you find out. Give me a call. Unbelievable, unbelievable.

HEALTH & WELFARE

MRS. RUCKER: I think the whole thing is unbelievable to bring on Council floor.

Mr. President. Health and Welfare met yesterday. We talked about signage to bring more visibility to the businesses inside the Short Cut and also highlight direction in our parking deck. Mr. Iannucci showed us renderings of possible signage and Mr. Greg Bartholomew also offered some other signage that we may be able to use free of cost. So we will be meeting again on this and have more discussion on it.

Also the Health Department Director has asked that we hold a meeting about the door to door vendors that are coming around during the summertime. And so we will combine both of those meetings. I'm not going to schedule a date tonight but I will let you know. And I would like to have Mr. Iannucci as well as Mr. Pinti. Mr. Keys and the Law Director was very helpful yesterday. I'd like to have you back again. And anyone that's interested in the signage or the door to door vendors.

I also would like to bring to the microphone Mrs. Laura Mason for – with Council's approval of course to discuss the Ohio Development Center for two minutes Mr. President.

Motion Rucker, second Brown to allow Mrs. Mason time to speak.

MRS. MASON: Good evening. We are getting petitions for Youngstown Developmental Center against the closure of the Youngstown Developmental Center and we have information here. There is going to be a rally at the

Austintown Ship Park and that's 6000 Kirk Road, Austintown, Ohio. And they would like representatives to be there from 1 to 2 to help us – Trumbull County residents. We need – Miss Leworthy will speak on it because she's more in tuned.

MISS LEWORTHY: We're here on behalf of all of the families from YDC. We just want to make people aware of what is going on and the need for these centers. Not everyone is able to move out into a group home. It's just not suitable for everyone. We just want to make sure that everyone knows and we wanted to ask for your public support in the fight. We're going to have the rally, the news teams will be out there. We're just trying to continue this fight. We're not going to give up until it's approved. Hopefully we're going to win. These centers are very important. These people – there are some that can live in group homes. But for my sister it's not possible. She needs one on one. She needs to be watched. She is vulnerable, she's sixty years old. But she is like a five year old child. So she can be manipulated very easily. We just want to ask for your public support and we'd like to see some of you at the rally if possible.

MRS. SAFFOLD: When is it again?

MISS LEWORTHY: It's the 20th of June. We have some flyers here with the information on it and to tell you right where it is.

MRS. RUCKER: Thank you Mr. President.

SUB-COMMITTEES

NEIGHBORHOOD LIASON

MR. NOVAK: Thank you Mr. President. Just stating that we had considerable cutting done throughout the city. Deputy Manofsky tries to be fair and do some different quadrants in the city when it comes to cutting grass. He was out on Atlantic street and substantially did almost the whole street. He got a lot of those big areas, a lot of the demo lots and a lot of the garden lots that have not been developed yet. But I would suggest if you can if you could find out when he's going to be in your area and what I'd do is I'd go out when they are out there and provide some beverages. He usually has some Gatorade. And also too I know a lot of people are (inaudible) but some of those fellows that are out there like to have a couple of cigarettes when they are out cutting grass. So I have purchased some cigarettes for them too. They are out there volunteering. They could be back there you know laying on the cot waiting for lunch or whatever. But again we need to thank Rick Manofsky because he told me that within a couple of weeks they are doing over five hundred lots at a time in a months period. And there's still more out there. So thank God we have them doing this because there's no alternative. So again I want to thank the Sherriff for allowing this to take place. Thank you Mr. President.

FAIR HOUSING

MISS SAFFOLD: No report. Thank you.

EDUCATION

MR. VALESKY: Thank you Mr. President. No official report for Education. But an announcement. I been working on this for many, many years and that's the official opening of the Warren Heritage Center. The Warren Heritage Center will be housed in the Kinsman House at 303 Mahoning Avenue. The official Grand Opening will be this Sunday with the ribbon cutting at 2:00. There will be historic tours of the house. You will hear about the historic history of the

Kinsman and Perkins family. You'll also hear a – you'll get an architectural tour of the house by local historian Ben Winings and also our local historian Wendall Loft. There will be a focused audience for the Warren Heritage Center is children of school age. And the reason that is how are our children going to know where they are going in life if they had no idea where they came from.

Warren has a great history. Warren has a great heritage. It is time for us to start celebrating. And that's what the intent is of the Warren Heritage Center.

The house has been served as a home for a family from 1832 until 1937. And in 1937 the house was deeded to Hiram College. It was used for many things from 1937 until now. But one of the things it didn't do it didn't house families. It housed offices. Many offices. The Ohio Extension office, the Hiram College, The Fine Arts Council and even a big portion to the (inaudible). Ed Davis School of Music. But the house now has a purpose again. The house now has a family and that family is you the people of Warren Ohio. We would be greatly honored that you come out this Sunday and join the grand old lady that stops in welcoming back her family; which is you the people of Warren Ohio.

There will be refreshments and many festivities and fellowship and it will be a great place for us to tell our stories from when we were growing up here in Warren. I've got many fond memories growing up here in Warren. I'm a north ender and very proud of it. I will be sharing that story. And there's forty thousand other people in this town that would love to share their stories also.

So come out and join us this Sunday. We'd love to have you and Warren's a great place. Thank you.

MR. COLBERT: Thank you Mr. President. I think we'd be remiss not to mention Miss Justice Richardson from the high school who won the state championship and –

PRESIDENT GRAHAM: Is she here?

MR. COLBERT: No I don't believe she's here. It just came to me as we were doing this and maybe Mr. Valesky at our next meeting if you want to do some type of Resolution and –

MR. VALESKY: (inaudible)

MR. COLBERT: 11.85, 11.85. That is flying.

MAYOR FRANKLIN: JFK boys won.

MR. COLBERT: (inaudible)

MAIN STREET

MRS. RUCKER: Thank you Mr. President. Warren just celebrated a bang up weekend this weekend from the Amphitheater to the Packard Museum, the African American Festival. It was so much going on and I just enjoyed it and so did my grandson enjoyed looking at the different license plates of people who had traveled all across the country to be in our city this past weekend. So we look forward to what's to come on Mahoning Avenue. I would just urge all of you to please attend the events and bring out your families. You're talking outstanding

bands at the Amp this weekend and the event was – you know you hear all of this negativity about our city. But I'm going to tell you something. The people who stayed away from the Amp on Friday night, Saturday night missed out on a good time. Because it was comprised of families and couples and children and grandparents and it was peaceful and serene and we (inaudible) and I'm telling you that's why we had the meeting with Health and Welfare to put up more signs so everybody knows where to come and everybody knows where to park. And I'm just excited and looking forward to that.

And also, to echo on Mr. Valesky the Kinsman House being a part of this now, to talk about our history. So in doing that please make the Kinsman House location to stop by when they are open once a month and bring your groups so that you can learn your family history as well as our city history and the history of your ethnic group as well. Thank you Mr. President.

MR. VALESKY: Thank you Mr. President. It just happened that Saturday evening my wife and I were at the Kinsman House doing some work there and we were – had the opportunity to listen to all of the festivities at the Amphitheater. The music was wonderful, the people were great. The – all of the other festivals need to learn from this. We've got this beautiful venue at the Amphitheater and it's not being used during our festivals. The African American Achievers festival proved that the venue is viable during a downtown event. Thank you.

MR. NOVAK: Yes. Thank you Mr. President. I just wanted to interject when we're talking about our historic homes. A lot of people realize that Millionaires Row does not end. It continues down Mahoning Avenue. There is a very nice couple who purchased the former Bill Kanche Insurance Agency home on Mahoning Avenue; which was the Estabrook Family homestead. It has now been returned to an owner occupied family occupied home.

The house next door which was the late Dr. Dusa's home for many years was purchased by a lady who is in the process of renovating that. She is going to make that her home. She worked very hard to remove the utility pool. Really concerned about it because it was broken into when there were the steam pipes and some of the interior woodwork and other things were stolen from in the building. But she is restoring that also. So these are two beautiful homes now. They are going to be owner occupied. If we could just get something done with that ugly thing that's on the corner of Rex and Mahoning Avenue right across from the Music Hall we can really make a significant impact in that neighborhood. But I think this is something positive. As Solomon said we have to look at our positives and keep praying and hoping that more take place. Thank you Mr. President.

MISS SAFFOLD: I too would like to quickly thank Bob Davis and his committee for having a wonderful festival weekend. And Councilwoman Rucker and myself were dancing at the Amphitheater. You would have thought we were auditioning for that show "So You Think You Can Dance". But again, thank you to everyone who contributed to that. Thank you.

LEGISLATION TO LIFT FROM TABLE AND PASSAGE

DRAFT 3505 An ordinance for the purpose of authorizing the Mayor and the Director of Public
CONSOLIDATING CITY Service and Safety to negotiate and enter into a written agreement with the Board
911 WITH THE COUNTY of Commissioners of Trumbull County, Ohio, for the purpose of consolidating the
Emergency Response Program (Hereinafter 911), and declaring an emergency.

Mr. Colbert requests the Clerk to read the title on Draft 3505.

READ Clerk reads same.

MOTION-LIFT FROM Motion Colbert, second Valesky to lift Draft 3505 from table.
Draft 3515.

ROLL CALL YES: Larson, Brown, Bartholomew, Flask, Saffold, Colbert,
Valesky, Rucker

NO: Novak, Sferra

MOTION PASSED 8 YES, 2 No. motion passed.

MOTION-PASSAGE Motion Colbert, second Valesky to pass Draft 3505.

REMARKS

NOVAK: Thank you Mr. President. I think really if this was going to be an issue here on the agenda this evening I think as Chairman of Police and Fire and Finance Councilman Colbert not only for the Council Members but for the public they should have been aware that this was coming up for a vote. I think this is wrong. Very, very wrong. I don't think in a day and age when people have their vote of confidence in elected officials that this should take place. I would hope that the public accepts what's taking place here but I'm still – now for sure I'm voting no on it. Because again when the public looked and saw what was on this agenda this was not on here and I was not notified or even approached that this was going to be on the agenda. Thank you Mr. President.

MR. COLBERT: Just for the record we did have a meeting on this. In that meeting I had to say that there were no further questions that we would move forward with this. Thank you Mr. President.

MISS SAFFOLD: I agree with the sentiments of my colleague Mr. Novak because someone asked me earlier today if this was going to occur and I said no because I hadn't heard any discussion and no one had mentioned it so why surprise now?

MRS. RUCKER: Thank you Mr. President. I sat on the fence of this piece for several reasons. One I felt that we had a contract with our employees that lasted through 2016. It was important to me that their jobs were secure. I understand change. Nobody likes it. But for the betterment of the organization, the corporation or the city sometimes it has to be done. And so I carefully listened to the issues brought by our Dispatchers. I took every one of them to heart. Was even at odds with Mr. Colbert a few times in the timing of his meetings because I

thought he shouldn't have brought it in until we had discussed it. But he took his time and last meeting when we came out on the floor I was ready to vote. Accept when I got on the floor other issues came up and I backed up and said I'll hear those things out too. And last meeting I did. I got all of my questions answered. I still am concerned about where we're going forward as far as our radio equipment. But have ample time to address those. However, one of the most important things that has happened is that opt-out clause in this contract. Should be feel that this is not going forward the way we want it to, should we feel that we need to bring our employees back and operate our own equipment we can. And I for one have no problem with doing that. Mr. Valesky and Mr. Larson brought an issue that Warren should be where the hub of 911 is located and I whole heartedly agree. The Administration has assured us they're going to work toward making that happen as much as they can. And so I am going to hold them to that.

So to me this is a try and see. And I'm gonna give them the opportunity to go into talks with the County to move forward with this. I still stand with our employees on whatever issues that they have out there because like I said we still have a contract. And so far we're being told that they are not going out there to be laid off. That there are seats for them to work on a continuing basis and so those jobs are secure as far as what I understand. Should we be betrayed or straight out lied to we're going to deal with that. But that opt-out clause is very important to me and I'm ready to vote on this issue and that's just my opinion.

MR. VALESKY: Thank you Mr. President. We have looked at this for many months now. I and other Council Members have had to outside the Police and Fire Committee to get answers. The visit that we did to 911 with the invitation of Chief Cook was very informative and I thank you for that. But canvassing the Police Chiefs in the surrounding counties have all indicated to me that it has worked. I believe in cooperation with the City and the County. We've done it in the past and it has worked.

I also was concerned about our employees. These employees have worked at the City of Warren faithfully for quite a few years. We have been reassured by the County that you will not be left out. That you have jobs. That was a great concern for all. I've also had – and I truly believe that we are the center of Trumbull County. We are the County Seat. This is where it all starts. This is where it all happens. This is where 911 needs to be located. We have a large void and space in the basement where there once use to be the jail. Where there was a cooperative effort between us and the County and now the County houses our prisoners. I think it's time that maybe through negotiations there could be a reciprocation there that we could help the house the 911 center right here in this very building. And Mayor you know this isn't the end. I'm gonna be lobbying until it happens. So at this point we have to put our faith in our Administration to do the right thing. And this evening I'm prepared to do that. Thank you.

MAYOR FRANKLIN: Thank you. Thank you Mr. President. As Councilman Valesky has stated and Councilwoman Rucker and Councilman Colbert we started this discussion early February. We had our first meeting was February the 18th. And many committee meetings, public hearing to follow. All of the questions whether they be technical, operational, financial was asked, debated, veted in public. And I thank everyone for their patients in that. It always comes down to with us as elected officials who took an oath of office is who are we looking out for. And I'd like to you know just concentrate on that for a minute

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and ask the citizens out there and Council Members all of us; who out here owns a cell phone by a show of hands? Who owns a landline in their house? Both – who owns both? What we never talked about is we’re already paying for the County system through those charges; those monthly charges. We’re already paying for those county – the county 911 system. And that money goes directly to the state for 911 and directly to our county. And I say that to prove a point; to make a point. Our citizens, our tax payers can’t afford to pay twice for the same service. They can’t afford to pay twice for the same service. And much more important they don’t deserve it. They deserve to pay as little as they can for this service.

Now we’ve talked about it and it’s been debated and spoken loudly by the opposition of this merger that we’re only doing this; it’s been said again and again that our concern is just about money and not about safety. I unequivocally and categorically denounce and deny that assumption. It’s just not true. In fact it’s all about safety. But you all know safety is a fruit. We’ve got to pay for it. So that’s why we’re having this discussion today. My primary assignment and responsibility as Mayor and yours as well as elected officials is to insure that our citizens are safe by making sure that when a call for service comes in and is made by our citizens that we have adequate personnel or first responders that respond to those calls. That’s our charge. That’s my number one responsibility.

So who are we looking out for? The answer should be always the citizens of Warren. By passing this legislation it assures that we affirmatively answered that question with “Yes”, it’s the citizens of Warren. Our citizens deserve the safety and our priority is always safety. And we can do this and be fiscally responsible in the process. Not passing this ordinance does quite the opposite. So tonight we have an opportunity to assure the safety of our citizens and to take an important step in addressing our budgetary challenges that lie ahead. And doing that by also looking out for those employees who have served our city so well. We can do that tonight. And in that spirit I ask for your support on this important piece of legislation. Thank you.

ROLL CALL

YES: Larson, Brown, Bartholomew, Flask, Saffold, Colbert, Valesky, Rucker

NO: Novak, Sferra

MOTION PASSED

ORD. 12595/15

8 Yes, 2 No. Motion passed. Draft 3505 is now Ordinance No. 12595/15.

DRAFT 3517

OBJECTION OF LIQUOR PERMIT FOR ATLANTIC BEVERAGE

A Resolution for the purpose of notifying the Department of Liquor Control, State of Ohio, of Warren City Council’s objection to the transfer of ownership of a liquor permit for the premises located at 408 Atlantic Street, N.E. (Atlantic Beverage), and requesting a local hearing thereon, and declaring an emergency.

Mr. Novak requests the Clerk to read the title on Draft 3517.

READ

Clerk reads same.

MOTION – SUSPEND

Motion Novak, second Colbert to suspend the rule requiring three readings.

ROLL CALL

YES: Larson, Novak, Brown, Bartholomew, Flask, Saffold, Colbert, Valesky, Sferra, Rucker

NO: None

10 Yes, 0 No. Motion passed.

6-10-2016

MOTION- PASSAGE

Motion Novak, second Flask to pass Draft 3517 as an emergency measure.

REMARKS

NOVAK: Yes. Thank you Mr. President. As stated back in the Caucus Room I said I would reserve my comments for the passage of Draft 3517 on Council floor. This facility at one time was a definite neighborhood entity. It became a problematic business over twenty years ago; and it continued to escalate with problems with violence, frequent use of the payphones at that facility that were being used for illegal activities. There was at that time there was an owner; we're talking when Hank Angelo was the Mayor there was an owner who had a son who was the so called manager at that facility. He was running it as basically a pawn shop for stolen items if you want to call it that. Also too, there was drug activity being conducted there, you name it. It was a very, very emotional situation at this Council when I went for passage at that time of renewal. And we had a group of individuals that were here that were not in favor of this. Luckily we had at that time Police Chief Timko was here and it barely passed at that time. And as soon as we went over this group of people came up and actually nearly attacked me when I passed this initially.

We had the opportunity to have another owner take it over. He operated properly. They put a substantial amount of money in that building. The building was in pretty bad condition. It was operated well. It was a neighborhood asset for a while and then it was transferred to another individual. And it went right back- it reverted right back to the situation that originally created a problem and why I went for denial of renewal.

I can look around that neighborhood and see that there are very few of your original neighbors left in that neighborhood. Many of those people left when they saw this nightmare coming back; they left. Their houses most of them became rental properties. It got to the situation that even those landlords that purchased those rental houses couldn't rent them anymore because of what took place.

The previous owner there was problems with violence, stabbings, shootings. And with this new situation that took place you saw what happened. There was an actual homicide there and there were other very violent crimes that took place.

I would like to thank Chief Merkel and the Street Crimes Group. I know Melondy Gamble was at the forefront of that. I would like to thank all of their efforts that take place and we need to do this at a couple of other facilities. I would like to thank our Law Director. With his ability to establish these facilities as a nuisance they need to be boarded if they need to be forever sit there boarded; board them all. They need to go. There's only one way to get our regular neighborhoods back. You can't have a facility like this that's going to be nothing but a boil on those neighborhoods. And basically that's what this is. I do not want to see this license ever go back to that facility. I've heard it so many times we're gonna do this, we're going to put security, we're going to put more lights, we're going to get rid of the phones and it turns right around and becomes the same position that it was previously.

So I thank Council for their votes tonight. Support this. We need to get rid of it. And there's more that needs to go. And if we're going to gain the confidence of those folks in those neighborhoods that have these problematic businesses we

need to rid them, get rid of them. And if someone wants to take these businesses they need to be a responsible owner. And I know it's difficult and it's not easy but this needs to take place. And that neighborhood can come back with what TNP has done there, with the demolitions, with the gardens. There's people that are seeing the light at the end of the tunnel. And hopefully with what the Street Crimes is doing and what's being done in the neighborhood, the esthetics of the demolitions hopefully those neighborhoods can come back. Thank you Mr. President.

MR. FLASK: Thank you Mr. President. Al, just so you know as Chair of Legislative I turned in my committee report with an objection as well. I just think it's important to note that in the way times are and with the lack of investment in regards to groceries, etc. a lot of these businesses are certainly important in our neighborhoods. But that's why it's even more important now to make sure that they are running a legitimate business, that they're running a safe business and a neighborhood friendly business.

I too would like to thank the Law Department for all of the work they have done on this one and for the work also being done on the rest of the problems in the neighborhoods. Thank you.

MISS SAFFOLD: Thank you Mr. President. I would like to ask my colleagues who will sponsoring these resolutions in the future to supply us with police reports. I don't feel comfortable moving for a Resolution and I don't have all of the facts. I mean I did read in the paper that a homicide did occur here. But I would feel more comfortable if I had a police report from here on out when people decide to sponsor resolution to prevent a business from getting a liquor license. Thank you.

MR. VALESKY: Thank you Mr. President. Al you and I both remember when that was the cornerstone of the community. That was a great little store. And throughout the whole city there was other stores just like it. Growing up on the north end we had Bigy's and Johnny's and they were great assets to their community and the people that owned those stores were our neighbors. That's not true today. What has happened to that store is sad. And once that neighborhood is broke, saddened it would be our wildest dreams to see that neighborhood store go back into hands of somebody that has a vested interest in the community and reopen it as an asset to the community. And Al I'm with you. Thank you Mr. President.

LAW DIRECTOR HICKS: If I may and just to address Miss Saffold's concerns. Correct Miss Saffold. There is a number of violations there to include liquor violations and we found a number of violations when we did our last raid on there next we'll take ATF and the Liquor Control people. I apologize that all that hasn't been made available to everyone at all on this particular one. And we will try to make sure we step that up in the future.

The gentleman – the woman who actually has the liquor license currently has held it for the last couple of years and had nothing to do with the business. It was actually a straw person who didn't have anything to do. It was held; it was the friend of a girlfriend of a gentleman who was in prison who was the owner and the boy (inaudible). This was all uncovered through a lot of our investigations. And the individual they want to transfer it to is currently living in Jordan. As Mr.

Valesky said, it's not our neighbors. So there's a lot of issues there to try and have control and have it run responsibly by our neighbors in neighborhoods. We're for good businesses to be able to support themselves and be available in the neighborhood for those people who need to walk for groceries and their bread and their other items; cereals or whatever; as well as if they care to have an adult beverage that's fine. But it has to be responsible. But you are correct. And we will see in the future when we have these objections and try to give you more information quickly on that.

MISS SAFFOLD: Thank you.

MR. BROWN: Thank you. Just to not impugn all owners of stores in our area and that many of them are fine salespeople and fine shop owners. One that comes to mind is my friend Ashraf Isaac who is a employer in Warren and a tax payer many, many times over. Certainly much more tax burden than I pay to the city.

But there are many stores that as people have said that are a convenience store for people to buy food and groceries and older folks that just don't want to impugn the integrity of the entire shop ownership of smaller stores. Because many, many of those people are there when we go for coffee in the morning and when we go to get that six pack of adult beverage at night. So just want to say thank you to them. Thank you Mr. President.

ROLL CALL

YES: Larson, Novak, Brown, Bartholomew, Flask, Saffold, Colbert, Valesky, Sferra, Rucker

NO: None

**MOTION PASSED
RES. 4588/15**

10 YES, 0 NO. Draft 3517 is now Resolution No. 4588/15.

**DRAFT 3518
COOPERATIVE
PURCHASING AGREEMENT**

An ordinance for the purpose of participating in the Ohio Cooperative Purchasing Program and authorizing the Director of Public Service and Safety to enter into whatever contract or contracts are necessary under the authority of provision of the Ohio Revised Code to secure equipment or materials for the operation of the various departments of the city, and declaring an emergency.

Mr. Colbert requests the Clerk to read the title on Draft 3518.

READ

Clerk reads same.

MOTION – SUSPEND

Motion Colbert, second Bartholomew to suspend the rule requiring three readings on Draft 3518.

ROLL CALL

YES: Larson, Novak, Brown, Bartholomew, Flask, Saffold, Colbert, Valesky, Sferra, Rucker

NO: None.

10 yes, 0 no. Motion passed.

MOTION-PASSAGE

Motion Colbert, second Saffold to pass Draft 3518 as an emergency.

REMARKS

MR. VALESKY: Thank you Mr. President. For you folks that weren't in the Caucus Room this evening we discussion about trust. It's intent to help cities like ours streamline their purchasing through collaborative efforts to come up with the best price. But in many cases it puts our local vendors at a disadvantage. I would request that our Administration and our City Council look at getting to in the future on how to make that playing field a little bit more even to our local vendors. It's no different than the large box stores. How the Wal-Marts and Kmart's of the world have taken the business away from our local vendors. For that I will vote no. It's not that I am totally against the process. I just want to send a message that we need to look at our local vendors; our friends, our neighbors who have businesses here in town who cannot compete with the state mandated pricing. Thank you Mr. President.

ROLL CALL

YES: Larson, Novak, Brown, Bartholomew, Flask, Saffold, Colbert, Rucker

NO: Valesky, Sferra

**MOTION – PASSED
ORD. 12596/15**

8 YES, 2 NO. Draft 3518 is now Ordinance 12596/15.

**DRAFT 3519
PAYMENT OF ORDERS
OR CONTRACTS**

An ordinance for the purpose of authorizing the payment of specific orders or contracts upon receipt of the certification of the Fiscal Officer of the sufficiency of funds for said expenditures, and declaring an emergency.

Mr. Colbert requests the Clerk to read the title on Draft 3519.

READ

Clerk reads same.

**MOTION-TO GO
INFORMAL**

Motion Colbert, second Flask to go informal at 8:16 PM.

VIVA VOCE: 10 YES, 0 NO. Council has gone informal.

MR. BROWN: Mr. President. I move that my most eloquent colleague Mr. Colbert fill up the time that is needed with conversation.

PRESIDENT GRAHAM: That's not necessary. We're good. John we're good, we're good.

MR. BROWN: He's very good at that.

PRESIDENT GRAHAM: No we're good.

**MOTION-TO GO
FORMAL**

Motion Colbert, second Novak to go back formal.

VIVA VOCE: 10 YES, 0 NO. Council back formal at 8:17 PM.

MOTION-SUSPEND

Motion Colbert, second Bartholomew to suspend the rule requiring three readings on Draft 3519.

ROLL CALL

YES: Larson, Novak, Brown, Bartholomew, Flask, Saffold, Colbert, Valesky, Sferra, Rucker

NO: None.

10 yes, 0 no. Motion passed.

MOTION-PASSAGE

Motion Colbert, second Novak to pass draft 3519 as an emergency.

REMARKS:

None.

ROLL CALL

YES: Larson, Novak, Brown, Bartholomew, Flask, Saffold, Colbert, Valesky, Sferra, Rucker

NO: None.

ADJOURNMENT – 8:18 PM

Motion Flask, second Colbert to adjourn the meeting at 8:18 PM.

James Graham, President of Council

Brenda Smith, Clerk of Council