

REGULAR MEETING
WARREN CITY COUNCIL
JUNE 24, 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 **Alford Novak, 2nd Ward Councilman** opened the meeting with prayer followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

ABSENT: Larson

MOTION-EXCUSE Motion Colbert, second Saffold to excuse Councilman Larson for good and sufficient reasons.

Viva Voce: 9 Yes, 0 No. Councilman Larson is excused.

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, Deputy Auditor Ruggieri, Treasurer Homlitas

DEPARTMENT HEADS PRESENT: Chief Nussle, Bob Pinti, Ed Haller

ABSENT: Chief Merkel, Brian Massucci, James Black, Tom Gaffney, Mike Keys, LeeAnn O'Brien, Paul Makosky

REPORTS

MAYOR MAYOR FRANKLIN: Thank you Mr. President. First of all I'd like to announce that the bids were opened today regarding the 2015 CDBG Project. And the good news is that both bids came in 10% under the Engineers estimates. So we will be able to save some money there.

Some of those streets that will be addressed this summer is Tod Avenue NW from Beal Street to the curbs (inaudible) street, Tod Avenue NW at Beal Street north, Ridge Road, Fulton Street, Tod Avenue, Austin Avenue, Chestnut, Griswold, McMyler and there are some alternate streets on Fulton and Chestnut as well.

So look forward to – that should be starting in about sixty days; excuse me, thirty days from the notice to proceed; which will probably be about sixty days.

MR. COLBERT: Thank you Mr. Mayor. The McMyler project; will that be from Parkman Road to West Market? Or just a section of it.

MAYOR FRANKLIN: From West Market to Parkman Road.

MR. COLBERT: Thank you Mr. Mayor.

MAYOR FRANKLIN: You're welcome. Thank you Mr. President.

LAW DIRECTOR

MR. HICKS: Thank you Mr. President. No report.

DEPUTY AUDITOR

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

TREASURER

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

DIRECTOR

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

DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS

WPC

MR. HALLER: I want to give an update on the Eastland project. The Eastland storm sewer project is nearing completion. The project was called for in a 2004 study of the area storm water challenges that they face. It was designed to elevate street drainage on Meadowbrook SE, Trumbull Avenue SE, Central Parkway SE and South Street SE; which has some of the worst street flooding concerns.

These new storm sewers can increase the storm water carrying capacity by 675 percent from those streets. It should be noted that as we are completing this project we've experienced the most rain for the month of June to date in Warren in the history of recording this data. Average precipitation for June is 3.99 inches. We have received 9.61 inches so far this month. On June 15th in one day we received 2.66 inches; more than 2 inches of which fell in just forty-five minutes.

During that rain event there was some standing water in the street areas of the new Eastland Storm Water Project. However, the standing water in the street was cleared within fifteen to twenty minutes of the rain stopping.

There are some things that Warren citizens can do to help the street drainage. There are over five thousand one hundred storm drains in the City of Warren. Most of the time when one of my two storm crews are out to clear they (inaudible) blocked inlet because of grass or leaves covering the grating. If the grass, leaves or other debris are kept off the gratings water can get in. Whenever you see anything covering a storm grating or inlet to improve the drainage from your street by removing the debris.

The Eastland storm water project is not yet finished. Several yard drains are yet to be installed, grating and seeding will continue as it has this afternoon as the ground dries out.

The Eastland project is a success as it's accomplishing what it was designed to do; remove excess water from the streets.

This evening I have a representative from MS Consultants here. They are responsible for the design of the Eastland storm water project and overseeing its construction. If you have any questions you can speak with him directly after the meeting. Thank you.

PRESIDENT GRAHAM: Ed correct me if I'm wrong. Isn't there an ordinance that if someone blows their grass or their leaves into the street and some are flooding. I was walking through before the meeting three people approached me about their neighbors cutting grass and blowing it into the street. Would you say some of this flooding was caused as an end result of grass and leaves in that system?

ED HALLER: Yes.

PRESIDENT GRAHAM: And there's also an ordinance that a person can be fined if he does that I believe?

ED HALLER: I believe that is the case.

PRESIDENT GRAHAM: Thank you.

MR. FLASK: Mr. President? If I may. First I would just like to say on this issue as this project was started and is taking place and getting to the point and getting to the point of the rain events I had nothing but compliments in regards to this and the work that was being done. Most of the individuals that live in that area realize that it was an extraordinary event that happened. But because of that event some issues arose and I – your department has been very good in responding to address some of those issues. The only issue I have left to ask is I know that a lot of the streets were considered completed and grated and already seeded and the rain event has washed all of that away. Will the company be coming back to redo?

ED HALLER: Yes they will. Yes they are. They are aware of that. (inaudible)

MR. FLASK: Ok. Thank you Mr. President.

MR. NOVAK: Thank you Mr. President. I just wanted to make a comment about the amount and the severity of the rain. I had in my basement my washer/dryer and freezer are on two pallets. We were flooded for many, many years from the Elm Road Drive-in, the Elm Road Plaza and it was cumbersome; it was a problem. But on Sunday the 14th and Monday the 15th the rain was phenomenal. I've never seen rain come down so hard and so quickly. It reached beyond the first pallet and was getting very close to the second pallet. University Street was a river.

I observed as the weather channel had (inaudible) on there and they actually made a comment about the Mahoning Valley and they mentioned Youngstown and Warren that we had some of the most severe rain events in many, many years. We actually have a program we would be able to (inaudible) especially with the amount of rain that came down in the last two weeks.

But I understand some people do not realize when it comes down that hard and when it's raining after a previous at least two weeks of rain and the ground is saturated and there's just no where for it to go. I had to take my sons down in the basement. We actually gave up and came up stairs until it quit raining and continued to vacuum the water out.

So I know that our department has been out. They have been working very hard. It's devastating. It's heartbreaking when you wound up losing equipment, losing things in your basement. But I'm hoping that we do not get into the situation; the

weather channel said we may be entering into a El Nino with the winter that we had (inaudible). But we are (inaudible) as to what has happened in the City of Warren. Thank you Mr. President.

MR. COLBERT: For the Director. Director if someone were to you know with someone cutting their grass out into the yard who would they call?

DIRECTOR: First in line would be to call Water Pollution Control Department. And if there is any difficulty or challenges in reaching that department call City Hall and let us know.

SUMMARY OF CORRESPONDENCE

C-09-15 Received June 23, 2015 from Engineering, Planning & Building:

Results from the Board of Appeals meeting held on June 18, 2015 for:

Variance at 156/154 Haymaker St. N.W. to create an urban farm (agricultural land use)for a Winery. Three members voted in favor; one member voted against and one member was absent.

Variance for sign at Dunkin Donuts at 3920 E. Market St. to exceed the permitted (pole mounted) sign face area for two (2) businesses per one (1) lot. Four members voted in favor; one member was absent.

Ref: All Council Members

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

RECOGNITION RESOLUTION

MR. VALESKY A resolution honoring Warren G. Harding's 4 x 200 Girls Relay consisting of: Chyna Stroud, Nautica Hill, Aisha Jackson and Gariana Bercheni on their 1st Place win at the State Indoor Track Meet.

Presented by Councilman Valesky and Mayor Franklin.

Full content of this presentation is on disk in the Clerk of Council Office

PUBLIC SPEAKING

JAMES CICCHILLO, 1516 Nelson Lane, Bristol, OH. 44402. He spoke regarding the flooding in downtown Warren.

JOE GREINER, 1187 Meadowbrook Ave. SE, Warren, OH. He spoke on Draft 3511; reducing wards.

YYVETTE WADE, 906 Highland Ave. SW, Warren, OH . She spoke on her new business in Warren; Home Care for Veterans.

MILDRED GILKES, 772 Fifth St., Warren, OH. She congratulated Councilwoman Saffold, the Director and Mayor Franklin. Also spoke about the drug dealing going on in her neighborhood.

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

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

OPERATIONS

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

**STRATEGIC
PLANNING/**

MR. BROWN: Thank you Mr. President. Last week we had a meeting of the Economic Development Committee on how to deal with perspective businesses who want to locate in Warren. The meeting was very constructive and informative and we're going to have a follow-up meeting with the Mayor and Mr. Keys of Community Development and you will all be apprised when that time will be.

Also, I'm very happy to report today that the Trumbull County Commissioners passed a Resolution on the request to the State of Ohio to put a moratorium for injection wells within the State. Trumbull County has nineteen injection wells presently and nineteen more injection well requests on the docket. Just as a sidebar the State of Pennsylvania the entirety of the State has thirteen injection wells and we have nineteen in this county and rising. So water is our most precious commodity. All life comes from water and we need to make sure that we are doing things correctly in protecting this. I was very proud to see the Commissioners pass that moratorium; which is actually the a request for that - the first request in the state of Ohio. So we'll see if that falls on deaf ears at the State or if it gets some traction. Thank you Mr. President.

ENGINEERING

MR. BARTHOLOMEW: Thank you Mr. President. Some updates on some Engineering Department projects. Regarding utility cut repairs; Everbrite repaired approximately sixty utility cuts in various locations throughout the city. The Engineering Department has requested an increase in the purchase order from \$34,000 to a little over \$41,000 so we can do additional cuts that can be repaired.

Also, guard rail replacement; RMS repaired and replaced guard rails at ten locations throughout the city. The cost of that project was \$5,400.

Also, the Engineering Department has prepared specifications and solicited proposals for spot paving. They will obtain proposals for partial debt repair on Tod, Atlantic, Laird, Genesee and Reeves. Cardwell Paving submitted the lowest bid. The Engineering Department has requested \$50,000 for that project. And also crack sealing throughout the city too. B.G. Trucking and construction submitted the lowest bid for that work and the Department is requesting \$30,000 for that project. Thank you Mr. President.

LEGISLATIVE

MR. FLASK: Thank you Mr. President. No report.

**COMMUNITY
DEVELOPMENT**

MISS SAFFOLD: Thank you Mr. President. No C.D. Committee Report. However, I would like to talk about a 6th Ward Community Meeting that I will be having Monday June 29th at 6:00 PM at the Greater St. John Church of God and Christ. That is located on 419 Highland Avenue. There will be three speakers in attendance; Trumbull Neighborhood Partnership will be one, Dominion Gas will be there to talk about the gas pipeline project on Highland Avenue and the NAACP will be there as well.

The entire community is invited to this meeting as there will be subject matter discussed affecting the entire city. Thank you.

6-24-2015

FINANCE

MR. COLBERT: Thank you Mr. President. Finance meeting met on Monday to discuss the legislation before us. We also had a budget hearing in which we discussed the general fund specifically the Police, Fire and our overall collections as far as our expenditure numbers for the year 2015.

I would like to ask my colleagues support on draft 3520 through 3522. Thank you Mr. President.

POLICE & FIRE

MR. COLBERT: No report.

**PUBLIC
UTILITIES**

MR. VALESKY: Thank you Mr. President. NOPEC has recently secured the following natural gas rate June 12th through July 13th, 2015 of 2.81 per mcf. Each of you should be getting a copy. Thank you.

MR. BROWN: Under Public Utilities I'd just like to make a request. I don't know if you've noticed the inordinate number of cable vision wires hanging from telephone poles, wrapped around telephone poles; just not done in a good manner at all. Just when they disconnect they just let the wire hang there. And I want the citizens to look in their area and see if you see that same phenomena happening. I don't see that happening in other towns and I don't know if there's a way that we can restrict them from doing that. But it's very unsightly. You know maybe if you could look into that. Thank you.

MR. VALESKY: Thanks. I appreciate it.

PRESIDENT GRAHAM: And I think we need to help. If there's an issue like that in your neighborhood contact your Councilman. I think everybody knows who their Councilman is. And they will contact the appropriate people.

WATER/WPC

MR. SFERRA: Thank you Mr. President. No report.

**HEALTH &
WELFARE**

MRS. RUCKER: Thank you Mr. President. No report. However, Health and Welfare will meet July 4th at 4:00 PM. Requesting Mr. Pinti, Mr. Iannucci, C. D. Director, the Law Department and the Director to be in attendance and any Council people or Mayor if you're interested please come. We will be discussing door to door sales and also reviewing our last meeting about the signs for the parking deck and Market Street.

PRESIDENT GRAHAM: When is that again Helen?

SUB-COMMITTEES

**NEIGHBORHOOD
LIASON**

MR. NOVAK: Thank you Mr. President. Just letting you know I was on the phone today with Deputy Rick Monofsky. He is out trying to catch up after all of this bad weather. Some of his equipment is failing. He's got major problems with a very large tractor that they have. And I gave him the authority to seek those parts and repairs to get it repaired at my expense. That's the one that we acquired three years ago from the salvage during hurricane Sandy. Understand they're going out every day and cutting and cutting and cutting; it's a lot of wear and tear on this equipment. But he's out and he's trying to catch up and get some

of the corner cuts; which I'm hoping Mayor and Director if we can make sure that we report those. I reported some to him that the rain pushes it down a little bit. But we've got some areas where it's very difficult to see on the corners with that high grass and (inaudible) and he said he's gonna try to get those. So that's very important too. So they're out they're working and they're trying to put a dent in the major problem that we have with long grass and fields and corner cut backs. Thank you Mr. President.

MR. PINTI: Yes. Thank you Mr. President. Regarding corner cuts and any view obstructions; please report those to the Health Department. We're immediately dispatching Operations personnel to those corners and getting that view obstruction out of the way. So we're doing that very much on a same day basis. The very latest time would be the following day. But we've had a pretty good grip on the corner view obstruction problem. So if you would any citizens, Council people just give us a call and make sure that that information is forwarded on immediately. Thank you.

FAIR HOUSING

MRS. SAFFOLD: No report. Thank you Mr. President.

EDUCATION

MR. VALESKY: I guess I spoke my piece.

MAIN STREET

MRS. RUCKER: No report this evening Mr. President.

LEGISLATION FOR SUSPENSION AND PASSAGE

**DRAFT 3520
JAG PROGRAM**

An ordinance for the purpose of authorizing the Mayor of the City of Warren to apply, and to enter into an interlocal agreement(s), for the purpose of acquiring grant monies from the "2015 Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) Program" for the city's Police Department, and for the further purpose of obligating the City of Warren to implement the activities encompassed within said grant and to make proper expenditures and receive funds incidental to said grant, and declaring an emergency.

Mr. Colbert requests the Clerk to read the title on Draft 3520.

READ

Clerk reads same.

MOTION – SUSPEND

Motion Colbert, second Bartholomew to suspend the rule requiring three readings on Draft 3520.

ROLL CALL

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

NO: None

9 Yes, 0 No. Motion passed.

MOTION – PASSAGE

Motion Colbert, second Bartholomew to pass draft 3520 as read.

REMARKS

None.

6-24-2015

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

NO: None

MOTION PASSED 9 Yes, 0 No. Motion passed. Draft 3520 is now Ordinance 12598/15.
ORD. 12598/15

DRAFT 3521 A resolution for the purpose of repealing and reenacting Resolution No. 4580/14
PENSION PICK-UP for the purpose of affirming the City of Warren's continued pick-up of the
FIRE CHIEF mandatory pension contributions of the Fire Chief of the City of Warren covered
by the Ohio Police and Fire Pension Fund, and declaring an emergency.

Mr. Colbert requests the Clerk to read the title on Draft 3521.

READ Clerk reads same.

MOTION – SUSPEND Motion Colbert, second Saffold to suspend the rule requiring three readings on
Draft 3521.

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

NO: None

MOTION – PASSAGE Motion Colbert, second Saffold to pass draft 3521 as read.

REMARKS

None.

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

NO: None

MOTION PASSED 9 Yes, 0 No. Motion passed. Draft 3521 is now Resolution 4589/15.
RES. 4589/15

DRAFT 3522 A resolution for the purpose of repealing and reenacting Resolution No. 4579/14
PENSION PICK-UP for the purpose of affirming the City of Warren's continued pick-up of the
POLICE CHIEF mandatory pension contributions of the Police Chief of the City of Warren
covered by the Ohio Police and Fire Pension Fund, and declaring an emergency.

Mr. Colbert requests the Clerk to read the title on Draft 3522.

READ Clerk reads same.

MOTION – SUSPEND Motion Colbert, second Valesky to suspend the rule requiring three readings on
Draft 3522.

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

NO: None

6-24-2015

9 Yes, 0 No. Motion passed.

MOTION – PASSAGE Motion Colbert, second Saffold to pass draft 3522 as read.

REMARKS

None.

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

NO: None

MOTION PASSED 9 Yes, 0 No. Motion passed. Draft 3522 is now Resolution 4590/15.
RES. 4590/15

DRAFT 3511 A resolution for the purpose of reducing the number of wards in the City of
REDUCING NUMBER Warren and subsequently redistricting the city into four wards pursuant to ORC
OF WARDS 731.01(B) and new boundaries established as authorized in ORC 731.06.

Mr. Brown requests the Clerk to read the title on Draft 3511.

READ Clerk reads same.

MOTION – PASSAGE Motion Brown, second Bartholomew to pass draft 3511 as read.

REMARKS

MRS. RUCKER: I will turn to you. There is an old saying if you don't tare a fence down to let you know what's on the other side that there's a reason that the fence is up in the first place Mr. President. And so I'm gonna tell you a little bit of history about Warren City Council and our city wards.

I'm gonna be brief Brenda and you don't have to type all of this. You can just do a little summary.

But in 1894 we had ten people on City Council; 1895, 1896, 1897. In 1922 we had ten people on Council. 1922 through 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 31, 38 and in 1938 we went to eleven people on Council. 39, 1941, 1942 skipping over to 1965 we had twelve people including the President of Council. At that time we had eight wards.

Since that time a lot has changed about our city. Our citizens have always asked for additional services from our Council people and we have obliged them. We now have twelve committees of the four I sit on and most Council people sit on both committees. We've available 24 hours and people call us 24 hours. We are members of city organizations as well as organizations within the city.

A few years ago on Council Al Novak and I wanted to – we spearheaded discussions to Charter the city; which failed for various reasons and rightly so. Because Council wasn't educated at that time.

But then not too long ago another issue of being a Charter came up. But that one failed as well because it was being pushed by a hand-picked committee and paid

for and spearheaded by a special interest group. So that failed.

Not too long ago our newspaper printed an editorial that they thought it was a good idea to eliminate polling places. I don't remember being interviewed and I don't know if any of my colleagues were interviewed or any of you people were interviewed. But the editorial said it sounds like a good idea. But on election day our people were confused, they walked away from the polls or were sent away from the polls two times at least that I know about. People went to at least two polling places. Some people went home, some people stayed home Mr. President because they didn't have transportation. That is called voter suppression, voter disenfranchise. It's a big plan here. It's not just about throwing this out to the citizens and say hey this sounds like a good idea. But the Tribune said that reducing Council sounds like a good idea. They said that we ought to do what we asked everybody else to do; our other departments.

Let's talk about that. We have frozen our wages twice. We have eliminated our health care; which is the only benefit that we have. Our only benefit now that we have is a key to get in the front door for meetings. We make ourselves available and we even change our lifestyle to be respectable and honorable to you. Our families have to understand that. My children, Al Novak's children grew up in that pew; so did Doug Franklin's children grew up sitting where you are sitting can't stand to come in here now. But that's where they grew up at. And my family is very irritated when I don't go on vacation or when I walk into this Council too sick to sit down and have to stand because it's my job. But I do that because I do it because this is a job that I love. I work below minimum wage. That's what we get paid. Who else would work for something like this and dress up in suits all the time. You know what our cleaning bill costs?

And when you look at the big scheme of things what does reducing Council really mean? For one thing reducing the wards this way is without even going to the voters to even ask you. If this were people driven, if people walked up to me and said we need to get rid of some Council people I would be the first one to say well we need to think about what our citizens are telling us. But it's not coming to us like that. It's coming from special interest.

They tell us that we will save \$30,000 and we could hire a police officer. It costs over \$70,000 to hire one police officer in the city of Warren. So what is that? That's a lie. And if they would tell you something boldly untrue what else are they telling you? Nothing. Because they haven't come to you in ward meetings or at other meetings to discuss why this is necessary. They had ample opportunity and didn't even have one committee meeting. But what this does do is reduce service. Warren has not reduced one service yet. And we haven't and don't plan on it.

Now though our finances there may come a day that we do do that. But you best believe we will have your input on what services we reduce and how we will reduce staffing. And so that's my little history lesson Mr. President about why we don't tare down the fence. That this is a people driven – I mean Warren city people driven initiative; then let them come before us and sign a petition and we'll go forward. But other than that I serve the citizens of Warren. I don't serve special interest. Thank you Mr. President.

MR. VALESKY: Thank you Mr. President. It's not in our rules Mr. President (inaudible).

PRESIDENT GRAHAM: Whether they are or not I think that (inaudible).

MRS. RUCKER: Point of order Mr. President. Council this meeting is a Council meeting and we can talk as long as we want to on a question.

MR. VALESKY: I'll keep it short. My esteem colleague Helen I appreciate everything you said. The only thing I want to mention is that most of the time we sit here and all we do is regurgitate information from our Department Heads and sign for legislation that comes from that.

For a Council person to come up with this legislation and bring it to the table sometimes takes a lot of guts. Even though I may not agree with it we still deserve that Council person the courtesy to listen to what he has to say. And Mr. Brown? I listened to what you had to say. I may not agree with it but I appreciate what you did. Thank you.

MR. FLASK: Thank you Mr. President. Thank you for the history lesson Helen. I – no seriously. I appreciate it. Because that's important for all of us to know. And none of that information was given to us when we had a meeting or in making the decision. You know we were elected to make informed and practical decisions. This piece of legislation doesn't allow for that. Although this places the issue on the ballot for citizens to ultimately decide it is our responsibility to put something in front of the residents that is (inaudible) properly. No reason was given why a reduction of three was chosen. How do we know it shouldn't be more or less? Moving forward with this piece of legislation would be irresponsible and reckless. Thank you. Thank you Mr. President.

MR. BROWN: Thank you Mr. President. I wasn't going to stir the waters much and I still am not but there were no special interests behind this and you're saying that a special interest had a committee meeting; so I guess you mean me. This is my piece of legislation. This is something that I believed in for a long, long time. Columbus - for roughly twenty years Councilman. Columbus, Cincinnati, Dayton and larger cities in Warren and a vary of other larger cities in Warren – in Ohio have smaller Councils than we do. I'm just asking that you put this on the ballot for the citizens to decide. There will be all summer into fall for meetings for people to understand why this would or would not. Ultimately just to allow the citizens to decide and all I can ask you as fellow Council Members is vote your conscious. Thank you.

MISS SAFFOLD: Thank you Mr. President. I would like to applaud my colleague for that wonderful speech that she gave just a few minutes ago regarding the history of wards in the city of Warren. However, I listened to my colleague and his (inaudible) regarding this issue and I too did my own research. I contacted the Municipal League out of Columbus and my research indicated that there are many more cities than the ones you just mentioned that have just as many Council people that we have or even more. I also would like to say that the savings that you have indicated that our citizens –

PRESIDENT GRAHAM: Director your comments to me please.

MISS SAFFOLD: I'm sorry. I will try to use peripheral vision and look at you too. Anyway the savings will be minimal in comparison to what the entire city will be saving as a consequence of reducing the wards.

Finally, the purpose for sponsoring this legislation is definitely in question and I would like to ask my colleagues to not support this legislation. Thank you.

MR. BROWN: Mr. President? To say that my (inaudible) that's (inaudible) my integrity; which is in violation Rule 503 of our Council rules. I didn't do this to – for any ulterior motive than to save thirty-eight thousand dollars for the city of Warren and I don't think that that's not a fair shot.

MR. NOVAK: Thank you Mr. President. I'd just like to first say that and I'm addressing this to all people. I didn't run for this office to get rich. I came to the Council meetings many, many years before I ever decided to run for a Council position. And it's irony but actually John Brown was the person that went and circulated my petition when I ran the first time. And we've bannered; we've had different issues, we've agreed to disagree when it came to Council boundaries. I had problems with that issue. That was kind of a forced issue; like this is kind of a forced issue too.

I really think every Council person has their own feelings, their own things that they feel should be done and need to be done in their wards for their people. And it's important. It's not an easy job. There are times when my children were small and if you were at Kmart and somebody spotted you and wanted to come and talk to you and ask you about questions they didn't care if your kids were hungry or whining or crying or they wanted to go home; they were going to let you know what was going on. So you had to listen and you had to take care of it. And it's not any easy job.

Because I went and saw our former Mayor then later was a Commissioner; Walter Pestrak, he sat in his living room; I sat there with him with his wife and he sat and talked to me about a lot of things. And he said you know I never thought I'd ever lug rocks again because when I was Mayor half the Council Members went to prison. But he said just remember one thing Al once your sworn in sooner or later you'll be sworn at. And it's true; that's true. But like I said I'm not here for the money. I'm here because I care about Warren. What's going to take place with this I don't know. I think it was something that was definitely proposed and came about too close to an election for me. And if the people really are for this and if the petition process is successful that's fine. If they choose to do that and if they have enough certified signatures I got no problem with voting and putting it on the ballot. But I don't think the way it was done right now I don't like the process.

And again, if something needs done or somebody needs help or whatever I got no problem with it. Like I said I spoke with Mr. Manofsky today he needs more repairs done and I got no problem with that. And that works just not done in my ward it's done throughout the whole city. But those are the people that are helping us and we need that done. So again I can't support this at this time. We'll vote for it and I'll vote no. And it's nothing against John Brown. This is something he wanted to bring here and when you do those things you got to face the music yea or nay. So that's my feelings. Thank you Mr. President.

MR. COLBERT: Thank you Mr. President. John Brown is not just my colleague; John Brown is my friend. And I would say to anyone if someone on this Council does their homework about proposed legislation it is John Brown; proven in the fact that he (inaudible) readily read off a Council rule in regards to comments.

This piece of legislation that is before us as Mr. Valesky said it does take some courage to bring something like this up because Mr. Brown knows this is going to fail. Mr. Brown probably assumes this is going to fail. If there was ten Council members here it would fail 9 to 1; not because we don't take these things into consideration. And it's not because we think we're going to get too many phone calls. Those are ridiculous arguments. No one took this job counting how many constituents they had. That's a false premise. What we do here just like everyone in the departments, just like everyone who sits in front of you we provide a service. Sometimes those services are provided better than others. But we provide a service.

There will be people who will instantly say you reduced rank in the Police Department. Why don't you reduce rank in your own? We saved four hundred thousand dollars to do that in order to preserve jobs; possibly Police and Fire jobs. We moved 911 to the County. We saved nearly four hundred thousand dollars to preserve jobs; possibly Police and Fire jobs.

I know I'm not just speaking for myself but I'm speaking for my colleagues. To do this we would be reducing your services by thirty percent. I promise you myself nor would any of my colleagues would ever reduce your services in any department by thirty percent in order to save thirty seven thousand dollars.

I commend my friend and my colleague for his courage and his conviction as he stands behind this courageous conviction and bring this to Council. Unfortunately it's something that I do not agree with. Thank you Mr. President.

MR. BROWN: Mr. President? Again this is ten percent of that so this is thirty-eight thousand dollars per year with savings and for us to say we have not reduced services I think if you drove over our roads or drive over the roads tonight. I had a complaint about the roads in my wards tonight. The Operations Department authorized strength is 99. Dan's talked many times at how it was over a hundred back in the days of Delphi when we had the money for it. But now it's at one fifth of that; it's at twenty people; twenty eight people rather. And that is including the Director and the office staff. The Police Department is understaffed; the Fire Department is under staffed.

A few weeks ago on a flooding problem I asked the sewer department and the Waste Water Department was fantastic. And I asked the man when he found a big grease ball on a sunny night on Woodland in the sewers I said I thought we had a preventative maintenance program. And he said well we did have a preventative maintenance program when we had twelve employees in this department in this certain section of Waste Water. But now we only have six employees so we can't do that. So when we talked about Waste Water in your basement that is one of the reasons that that happens. When you call in and you say we have never reduced services I think that's disingenuous. If you call and ask for a tree to be cut down see what happens. There is no tree cutting department unless a tree falls in the road and impedes traffic. Call and ask for what use to be the sidewalk department. There is no sidewalk department anymore.

So what we have to do as a city; and you all know this anyone but the Federal Government has to have a balanced budget. And the way that we balance that budget is by ultimately cutting services to you. And I understand this is just a small savings of thirty-eight thousand dollars. But it is a savings and I think it's

something that we can do and we could show leadership. And I'm not asking for us to vote on this I'm just asking to allow the citizens of Warren to decide if they can get away with seven Council Members versus the ten we have now. Thank you Mr. President.

MR. SFERRA: Thank you Mr. President. The only thing I would like to say on this is I know it's going to save money. But this doesn't take effect until 2018. So if we – this passed right now am I going to go out and hire tree trimmers and everything else that doesn't take effect until 2018. This is two and a half years. Thank you.

MRS. RUCKER: Mr. President? In our meeting our Finance meeting the other day we were going over our finances and I brought an idea. I wish you were there Mr. Brown. Because we were talking about a suggestion on how about saving money. And this issue really isn't about saving money. Then maybe we ought to do like I said yesterday – the other day in the meeting where all Council Members go out to your ward and come back and talk about the level of service that our citizens want us to have. You want to save seventy-five thousand dollars? What about them meters sitting down there that we don't need anymore? Sell them. Moving out of the 418 Main Street and leaving equipment, chairs and desks. Maybe we ought to have a garage sell for equipment that we don't need anymore and sell that. Maybe there is a lot of ways Mr. Brown that we can save a lot of money and change our level of service so that we still can provide the services that our citizens want.

So in saying that I hope that you will direct us in that direction. To each Council people go back to their wards and talk about what level of service does our citizens really want as we go through this financial crisis. The Mayor was really open to it and thought it would be a good idea so we can present that information to him and then he knows what to deliver to us so we can deliver it to our citizens. Thank you Mr. President.

ROLL CALL

YES: Brown

NO: Novak, Bartholomew, Flask, Saffold, Colbert, Valesky, Sferra, Rucker

MOTION FAILED

1 Yes, 8 No. Motion failed.

ADJOURNMENT – 8:15 PM

Motion Sferra, second Novak to adjourn the meeting at 8:15 PM.

James Graham, President of Council

Brenda Smith, Clerk of Council