

Minutes of Regular Meeting, Monday, February 14, 2005

The Town Council of the Town of Warren met Monday, February 14, 2005 for a Regular Council Meeting at Assembly Hall, Council Meeting Room, 131 N. Wayne Street, in accordance with the rules of this Town Council and applicable law.

Those present were: Council Members, David Scheib, Bill Cartwright, Ron Neff, and Harold Jones; Clerk-Treasurer, Marilyn Morrison; Employees, Curt Day and Steve Donnelly; Others, Warren Weekly Reporter, Herald Press Reporter and Fire Chief Tim Ford.

President Jones called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. and announced the opening of a scheduled public hearing related to closure of an alley running parallel to College Street between Jefferson and Third Streets. Following review of the subject of the hearing and calling for public input and hearing none, Jones closed the public hearing.

Minutes of the Regular meeting of January 24th were approved as submitted.

Morrison reported that, due to time restrictions, MarkleBank Insurance had not been able prepare a quote on the Town liability, property, and inland marine policies but was requesting an opportunity to do so in December. Morrison also reported that an agent from MarkleBank for employee benefit insurance was requesting that Council approve a request to quote on the package and allow enrollment forms to be submitted to employees. Following discussion, and by consensus, it was determined to abide by a motion in a previous meeting approving renewal with the current carrier, Starmark Insurance and that there was no need to apply for replacement coverage at this time.

Introduced was Ordinance 2005-1, an ordinance vacating an alley. No further discussion was held as the topic had been reviewed as part of the public hearing.

Ordinance 2005-2, an ordinance to approve the 2004 supplement to Town Code as prepared and submitted by American Legal, was introduced. Following discussion, Jones moved, seconded by Neff, to suspend rules to allow consideration of adoption of an ordinance at the same meeting as introduction. The motion was approved unanimously. Scheib moved, seconded by Cartwright to adopt Ordinance 2005-2. The motion was approved unanimously.

Utility Manager Day reported that IDEM had notified that the application and documentation of terms for the NPDES permit were in order and that the plan would be accepted following publication. Day reported that one amendment was in order in that IDEM had not changed the operating capacity of the plant to 600,000 GPD from the original 250,000 GPD. His review of the document did not result in any further changes.

Morrison submitted a request from a property owner for removal of sanitation charge as water service cannot be disconnected due to the type of heating in the vacant home. Any water user automatically has sanitation charges unless waived. Council concurred with the request. Also submitted was a request for removal of a \$5.70 penalty for late payment as the customer asserted the check had either been lost at the post office or in the Clerk's office. Council, by consensus, declined the request. A sewer credit for 942 N. Wayne Street was approved by consensus as it was determined it was outside of the sewer system.

Day and Morrison submitted information related to the current water tap fee. Day submitted cost estimate for installation of a ¾" tap at \$774.11 at current rates for material. Also submitted was an HJ Umbaugh rate study showing the average tap for municipal water systems the size of Warren at \$692 as of 2000. Following discussion, by consensus, Morrison was instructed to prepare an ordinance to amend Town Code to set forth a water tap fee of \$750 for a ¾" line and to adjust other sections of Code based on that fee.

Day submitted a request from Habitat for Humanity for waiver of any tap fees, if needed, for a property located at 907 N. Main. Following discussion, Council concurred.

Morrison submitted the annual update on the TIF district at I-69/SR 5 reporting that the current debt level was \$128,166.73 for extension of water service to the area. A payment of \$93,316.14, principle and interest, will be made March 1, 2005. A meeting is to be scheduled with Greg Guerrettaz for review of Phase III of the TIF Project.

Minutes of Regular Meeting, February 14, 2005, continued

Scheib reported that an informative meeting had been held with State Representative Dan Leonard concerning municipal issues and review of the current legislative session. Also attending were Morrison and Dr. Kevin Deakyne, President of Warren Area Local Development Corporation.

Morrison submitted and reviewed the January financial report. Also reported was that the Budget Order for the 2005 Municipal Budget had been received and that the Department of Local Government Finance had approved the budget with annual adjustment to Cumulative Funds and adjustment to funds based on State Revenues. The property tax rate payable 2005 was set at .6947.

Day discussed the monthly project report as submitted to Council in writing. Also submitted were project reports for paving and water main replacement based on current pricing and as part of the Comprehensive Financial Plan. Further discussion and review of project areas will be conducted.

Fire Chief Ford reported that twenty two pagers had been ordered and additional grants for equipment are being considered for 2005. Additional information will be submitted to Council at the next regular meeting.

Marshal Donnelly submitted a written monthly activity report. Donnelly reported that two night time goggles, value of \$1000 each, had been received from Huntington County Emergency Management through a grant program. Also reported was that Operation Pullover was currently underway.

Neff moved, seconded by Scheib, approval of accounts payable vouchers as follows:

Electric	31-65	\$ 84,082.92
Water	37-75	\$ 19,152.96
Wastewater	20-52	\$149,365.70
Sanitation	2-4	\$ 3,516.57
General	25-86	\$299,850.58

The motion was approved unanimously.

General discussion was held.

There being no further business to come before Council, the meeting was adjourned.

Submitted _____ Clerk-Treasurer
Marilyn Morrison

Approved by Town Council:

_____ As President
Harold Jones

_____ As Member
Bill Cartwright

_____ As Member
Ron Neff

_____ As Member
David Scheib