

**WARREN COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING  
MONDAY JANUARY 31, 2022**

Council present for the meeting: Derek Puterbaugh, John Comer, Matt Commons, Ethan Foxworthy, Sharon Hutchison, and Brian Jordan.

Public: Ben Dispennett, LEDO Director; Julie Clark, Warren County Soil and Water; Terri Wargo, West Lebanon/Pike Township Library; Christian Beaver.

Department Head/Elected Official – Robin Weston-Hubner, Auditor; Lori Heidenreich, Treasurer; Clay Andrews, Commissioner; Craig Greenwood, Commissioner; Jenny Hobaugh, Highway; Matt Herndon, Highway; Adam Hanthorne, Commissioner; Rusty Hart, Sheriff; Jill Wilson, HR Director.


1. The meeting was called to order by John Comer, President of the Council.
2. John Comer, Council President led the Pledge of Allegiance.
3. New Business:
  - a. Weston-Hubner requested to add West Lebanon/Pike Township Library Additional Appropriation. Ethan Foxworthy made a motion to approve the amended meeting agenda as presented with a second from Sharon Hutchison, all voted in favor.
  - b. President – Matt Commons made a motion to elect Ethan Foxworthy President of the Council with a second from Sharon Hutchison, all voted in favor.
  - c. Vice President – Sharon Hutchison made a motion to elect Brian Jordan Vice President of the Council with a second from Matt Commons, all voted in favor.
  - d. Brian Jordan made a motion to approve the December 20, 2021 Council Meeting Minutes with a second from Matt Commons, all voted in favor.
  - e. Budget Adjustments – Weston-Hubner explained the adjustments made for the Highway Salary lines in the 2022 budget.
  - f. Warren County LEDO – Dispennett presented information concerning broadband work in the County. Fiber is a major issue due to the needed ability to grow the County. Next Level should cover a portion of county that are currently not covered. Discussed possibility requesting a proposal concerning ability to allow smaller projects. Requested funding from the County from JCWF Econ Dev, Bonds, ARPA, etc. Commons suggested the use of ARPA funds, JCWF Econ Development. Hutchison inquired of the funding needed and cost of project. Dispennett explained the cost, options, turnaround time, etc. of the projects. Council and Commissioners requested a joint meeting February 16<sup>th</sup> at 6:00. Dispennett presented the Strategic Plan and requested any comments or changes. Council approved the Strategic Plan. Discussed a housing study. Hutchison discussed OCRA funding and planning grant for funding of a housing study. Brian Jordan made a motion to pay HWC \$74,900 from Economic Development Fund for the Comprehensive Plan with a second from John Come, all voted in favor. Discussed a housing plan in detail. Hutchison, Grant Contractor, will look into grants for this.
  - g. Ordinance for Investment of Public Funds – Heidenreich explained the ordinance. Derek Puterbaugh made a motion to approve Ordinance #2022-0131 with a second from Sharon Hutchison, all voted in favor.
  - h. West Lebanon/Pike Township Library Additional Appropriation – Wargo explained the need for repairs of the library. The request is for \$10,000 from the Library Improvement Reserve Fund. Brian Jordan made a motion to approve the additional appropriation with a second from Matt Commons, all voted in favor.
4. Elected Official/Department Head comments:
  - a. Rusty Hart, Sheriff – The 2022 Sheriff Contract was presented for approval. Hart explained the contract and salary. John Comer made a motion to approve the 2022 Sheriff Contract with a second from Sharon Hutchison, all voted in favor. Discussed the sheriff vehicles. The 3<sup>rd</sup> vehicle has still not been delivered and 2022 vehicles are being built currently. Hutchison discussed grants for new body cameras.
  - b. Matt Herndon and Jenny Hobaugh, Highway – Inquired about the request for ARPA bonus pay for the Highway and Solid Waste. Jordan explained he has been questioned by Highway employees concerning this. Comer stated the definition of essential employee from the Federal Government and suggested a salary increase for 2023 budget. Council agreed to give a bigger increase at budget time. Herndon explained the 2 new trucks will be sent back to Winamac tomorrow for repairs.
  - c. Julie Clark, Soil and Water – Sent invites for February 23<sup>rd</sup> annual meeting and board meeting on February 9<sup>th</sup> at 8:30 a.m. Clark explained the role of Soil and Water as well as upcoming items.
  - d. Jill Wilson, HR Director – Explained the Wellness Program has been completed with success. The use of WeCare has increased 8% saving 1%. Hutchison inquired about W-2 and Payroll Checks being electronic rather than printed.
  - e. Robin Weston-Hubner, Auditor – Budget Order has been received and tax preparation is in progress.
5. Public Comment:

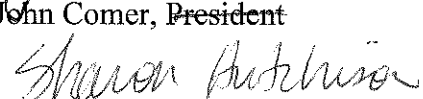
Next Council meeting February 28, 2022 @ 4:00 p.m. Feb 16<sup>th</sup> at 6:00

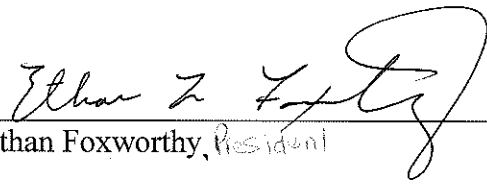
There being no further business John Comer made a motion to adjourn with a second from Derek Puterbaugh, all voted in favor.

ATTEST:

  
Robin Weston-Hubner


  
John Comer, President


  
Sharon Hutchison, Vice President

  
Ethan Foxworthy, President

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W Brian Jordan, Vice President

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Neil Ellis

  
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Matt Commons

  
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Derek Puterbaugh