

**WARREN COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING  
MONDAY SEPTEMBER 25, 2023**

Council present for the meeting: Matt Commons, Ben Dispennett, Rusty Hart, Ethan Foxworthy, Sharon Hutchison.

Public: Billy Kerst, Trey Kreisler, Jamie Thomas, John Parrish.

Department Head/Elected Official – Robin Weston-Hubner, Auditor; John Comer, Commissioner; Debbie Hiatt, Clerk; Phil Astell, EMA Director

1. The Council Meeting was called to order by Ethan Foxworthy, Council President.
2. Ethan Foxworthy, Council President led the Pledge of Allegiance.
3. New Business:
  - a. Matt Commons made a motion to approve the agenda with a second from Rusty Hart, all voted in favor
  - b. Sharon Hutchison made a motion to approve the Council minutes for August 28, 2023 Council Minutes seconded by Matt Commons, all voted in favor.
  - c. 2024 Warren County Budget Adoption – Matt Commons made a motion to approve Resolution #2023-0925A 2024 Warren County Budget seconded by Rusty Hart, all voted in favor.
  - d. 2024 Warren County Solid Waste Budget Adoption – Rusty Hart made a motion to approve Resolution #2023-0925B 2024 Warren County Solid Waste Budget seconded by Ben Dispennett, all voted in favor.
  - e. 2024 State Line Budget Adoption – Weston-Hubner explained State Code dictates if the board of a taxing unit is majority fire department firefighters in the taxing unit, then the budget must be adopted by the County Council. Sharon Hutchison made a motion to approve Resolution #2023-0925C 2024 State Line Budget seconded by Matt Commons, all voted in favor.
  - f. Additional Appropriation Resolution – Foxworthy explained the additional appropriations. Matt Commons made a motion to approve the Resolution #2023-0925D Additional Appropriations seconded by Rusty Hart, all voted in favor.
    - i. Health Department – Vehicle and Trailer \$43,451
    - ii. JCWF Econ Dev – Attorney Fees \$20,000; Broadband \$2,513,000
    - iii. Cumulative Cap Development – Jail Security \$189,000
    - iv. ARAP Funds – Broadband Project \$1,505,846
    - v. County General – Software Contracts - \$33,500; Insurance \$10,000; We Care Clinic - \$40,000; Employee PTO Payout \$10,000
    - vi. Sale of County Owned Prop – Highway Vehicles - \$20,183
    - vii. Highway Restricted – Highway Equipment - \$105,000
  - g. Additional Appropriations – Foxworthy explained additional appropriations to Fund 1176 for 107,808.93; Fund 4918 for \$75,196 and \$15,000. Discussed the highway equipment purchases over the last year and budget for equipment. Discussed taking from 1173 rather than 1176. Matt Commons made a motion to approve additional appropriation to purchase equipment Fund 1173 for \$107,808.93 seconded by Rusty Hart, all voted in favor. Sharon Hutchison made a motion to approve additional appropriation Fund 4918 JCWF Economic Development for LEDO Attorney Fees \$75,196 seconded by Matt Commons, all voted in favor and Ben Dispennett abstained. Rusty Hart made a motion to approve additional appropriation Fund 4918 JCWF Economic Development Fund for Pence Water Works \$15,000 seconded by Sharon Hutchison, all voted in favor. Dispennett explained the LEDO legal fees for the broadband project and the details of how the project is progressing. Discussed Pence increasing the rate for water supply.
4. Old Business:
5. Elected Official/Department Head comments:
  - a. Debbie Hiatt, Clerk – Hiatt explained the Clerk Perpetuation Fund has a balance of \$78,583.13. Hiatt presented a quote from SBS to digitize County Marriage Books for \$5,960.00. In the future, Hiatt is exploring scanning more legal documents. Rusty Hart made a motion to approve additional appropriation to Fund 1119 Clerk Perpetuation \$5,960 seconded by Sharon Hutchison, all voted in favor.
  - b. Rusty Hart, Council - Inquired about the WeCare information. Weston-Hubner explained there would be a report for the next Council meeting showing the financial savings to the County.
  - c. Sharon Hutchison, Grant Writer – Stated EMA Salary Grant for \$18,000 was approved.
  - d. Ben Dispennett, Council – Explained several local businesses are moving forward with facility and employee expansions in the future. Abatements for the expansions were discussed as well as current abatements. Dispennett explained broadband funding, payments in lieu of taxes or PILOT. Explained PILOT is the County offering JOINK a 100% abatement over 10 years collecting a payment for further projects over the coming years. PILOT payment would be approximately \$90,000 – \$100,000. Broadband expansion would include County and incorporated towns. A PILOT Resolution is being drafted which would be approved by Council and Town Boards.
  - e. John Comer, Commissioner – Explained County is ready to remove first UBO home, property owner is Morehouse in West Lebanon. Puterbaugh is setting up a veteran memorial committee to work on a project. Possibly 1 Commissioner, 2 Council and 2 Community Members. Hutchison stated grants would need to be through LEDO.
  - f. Sharon Hutchison, Council – Stated there will be a APC/BZA training coming up that is being organized and suggested all attend.
  - g. Robin Weston-Hubner, Auditor – Stated the SBOA audit is in the final stages and there are no major issues.
6. Public Comment:
  - a. Billy Kerst, Seeger Student – Inquired about the County Health Insurance and WeCare. Council explained County Employee Health Insurance.

Next Council meeting October 30, 2023 @ 4:00 p.m.

There being no further business Sharon Hutchison made a motion to adjourn seconded by Matt Commons, all voted in favor.

ATTEST: *Robin Weston-Hubner*  
Robin Weston-Hubner, Auditor

*Ethan Foxworthy*  
Ethan Foxworthy, President

*Matt Commons*  
Matt Commons, Vice President

*Dwain Akers*  
Dwain Akers

*Sharon Hutchison*  
Sharon Hutchison

Neil Ellis

*Ben Dispennett*  
Ben Dispennett

*Russell K Hart*  
Russell K Hart