

WARREN COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING

~~MONDAY~~ FEBRUARY 20, 2023

Tuesday

Council present for the meeting: Matt Commons, Ben Dispennett, Ethan Foxworthy, Sharon Hutchison (remote), Dwain Akers (remote), Neil Ellis and Rusty Hart.

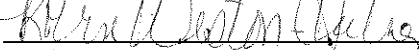
Public: Roger Seehafer,

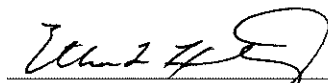
Department Head/Elected Official – Robin Weston-Hubner, Auditor; John Comer, Commissioner; Anthony Pruitt, Sheriff; Jason Dexter, SRO; Charity Perigo, Chief Deputy Auditor; Laci Frodge, Health Department; Emily Ade, Extension.


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 seconded by Neil Ellis, all voted in favor.
 - b. Rusty Hart made a motion to approve the Council minutes for January 16, 2024 Council Minutes seconded by Matt Commons, all voted in favor.
 - c. 2024 Salary Ordinance – Matt Commons made a motion to approve 2024 Salary Ordinance #2024-0220A seconded by Dwain Akers, all voted in favor.
 - d. 2024 Additional/Reduction – Neil Ellis made a motion to approve 2024-0220B Additional Appropriations and 2024-0220C Reduction Appropriations seconded by Matt Commons.
 - e. Additional Appropriations – Weston-Hubner presented Additional Appropriations to the 2024 Budget. Discussed the additions to the 2024 Budget. Dwain Akers made a motion to approve the Additional Appropriations seconded by Rusty Hart, all voted in favor.
 - f. School Resource Officer Grant Opportunity – Sheriff Pruitt explained the need for another SRO in our school system. Current School Resource Officer, Jason Dexter, explained his training and security that has been added. Current enrollment is approximately 1,500 students and staff at MSD making it difficult to protect all 3 schools. Dexter explained SRO is bridging the gap between students and law enforcement. There are many issues such as social media, mental health issues, etc. Currently Dexter is working on a grant that will increase security. Dexter explained many incidents that have taken place. Akers inquired of SRO qualifications. Sheriff Pruitt stated a minimum of 3 years law enforcement experience. Discussed funding another SRO. Current grant through MSD provides \$50,000. Discussed the grant and options. Council all agreed to support another SRO if funding is found. Tabled until next meeting.
 - g. Health Department/Extension – Emily Ade, Extension, stated the need for a second summer assistant/intern. This position was removed from the budget 2 years ago. Health Department has agreed to pay half. Laci Frodge, Health Department would also utilize the assistant/intern from Health First Fund. Ade is requesting the County to support ½ of the salary this year and go back to full next year. Salary would be \$6,000, county share \$3,000. Rusty Hart made a motion to approve using \$3,000 to be added to the 2024 Extension Budget and additional appropriation seconded by Neil Ellis, all voted in favor.
4. Old Business:
5. Elected Official/Department Head comments:
 - a. Robin Weston-Hubner, Auditor - Abstract has been approved by State, currently working to hand over to treasurer to begin printing the 2023 pay 2024 tax bills. Currently working on Annual Report, Community Shred day, Record Retention Shred, JCWF Abatement adjustment.
 - b. Council – Set a working meeting for March 11th at noon to discuss 2025 Budget, Strategic/Comprehensive Plan funding, 2024 Budget for Jordan Creek Wind Farm Economic Development Funds, Sheriff Merit Raise and SRO.
6. Public Comment:
 - a. Better Way Food COOP, Roger Seehafer – Andrews introduced Roger Seehafer, Better Way Food COOP board member. Seehafer explained the program is for Warren County residents helping with food shortage. COOP indirect costs are up 31% which Salvation Army had to dissolve due to this. Programs include Seed Sewers, Bundles of Blessings (free diapers to mothers), Coats for Kids opportunity, a preschool earning program and many more. Explained the challenge of getting information out to the county residents. Christian approach with no discrimination. Programs are to serve all and provide all possible with philosophy of any person would not work then not eat – working for what you receive. No federal assistance is received by the COOP. Serving 15-20 families per week with cost of \$175 min per family. Financial Assistance Program teaching budget planning/financial planning classes. A call out meeting is Wednesday, February 28th 7:00 p.m. at Learning Center to inform people of the community.


Next Council meeting March 11, 2024 @ 12:00 p.m. then March 19, 2024 @ 4:00 p.m.

There being no further business Dwain Akers made a motion to adjourn seconded by Rusty Hart, all voted in favor.

ATTEST: 
Robin Weston-Hubner, Auditor


Ethan Foxworthy, President


Matt Commons, Vice President


Dwain Akers

Sharon Hutchison


Neil Ellis


Ben Dispennett

Russell K Hart