

WARREN COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING

MONDAY JANUARY 16, 2023

Tuesday

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

Public: Michelle Stuckey,

Department Head/Elected Official – Robin Weston-Hubner, Auditor; John Comer, Commissioner; Anthony Pruitt, Sheriff; Craig Greenwood, Commissioner; Clay Andrews, Commissioner; John Comer, Commissioner;

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. Weston-Hubner requested to add Next Level Connection 4 to the agenda. Sharon Hutchison made a motion to approve the agenda seconded by Matt Commons, all voted in favor.
  - b. Reorganization of Council – Matt Commons made a motion to appoint Ethan Foxworthy 2024 President of the Council seconded by Sharon Hutchison, all voted in favor. Sharon Hutchison made a motion to appoint Matt Commons 2024 Vice President of the Council seconded by Rusty Hart, all in favor.
  - c. Ben Dispennett made a motion to approve the Council minutes for December 18, 2023 Council Minutes seconded by Matt Commons, all voted in favor.
  - d. Sheriff Pruitt, Grant Pay – Sheriff Pruitt explained grant funded and other traffic enforcement opportunities with concern to hourly rates. Sheriff Pruitt explained other counties and cities pay much more and asked for consideration of paying \$60/hour. This rate would only be paid for grants and other reimbursable deputy services. Matt Commons made a motion to change 2024 salary ordinance to \$60 hour Sheriff Deputies for grant and reimbursed funding for special traffic support seconded by Rusty Hart, all in favor.
  - e. Health Department, Health Officer Salary – Weston-Hubner explained the Health Officer salary was not increased as other salaries for 2024. Council discussed and salary will remain at the \$30,900 as approved.
  - f. 2024 Salary Ordinance – Matt Commons made a motion to approve the 2024 Salary Ordinance #2024-0116A seconded by Neil Ellis, all voted in favor.
  - g. 2024 Sheriff Contract – Rusty Hart made a motion to approve 2024 Sheriff Contract seconded by Matt Commons, all voted in favor.
  - h. Ordinance Investment of Public Funds – Rusty Hart made a motion to approve Ordinance #2024-0116B authorizing the investment of public funds seconded by Sharon Hutchison, all in favor.
  - i. 2024 Additional/Reduction Appropriation – Weston-Hubner explained the 2024 Budget was set at \$174,919 prior to State finalizing Warren County First Health disbursement which was reduced as more counties signed up. The First Health 2024 disbursement is \$136,241.41. State required budget account description changes as well as reduction. Ben Dispennett made a motion to approve the Reductions/Additional Appropriations seconded by Sharon Hutchison, all voted in favor.
  - j. Next level Connection 4 – Dispennett explained the Next Level Connection 4 which awards will be announced in June 2024. This submission will cover addresses in county without adequate broadband. Dispennett explained the grant requirements/process. Submission deadline is Feb 9<sup>th</sup>. Total cost about \$20 million, State \$15 million, Joink \$3.5 and County \$1.5 million. Hutchison inquired of OKRA approved map. Dispennett explained OKRA runs Next Level Connection. Commitment up to 1.5 million from County, dependent on number of people who take the service. Weston-Hubner stated funding approved from JCWF Economic Development Fund of \$1 million JOINK Broadband Project, \$200,000 Greenway, \$1.5 million Next Level 4. Matt Commons made a motion granting \$1.5 million paid from JCWF Economic Development fund for Next Level Connection 4 seconded by Sharon Hutchison, all in favor.
  - k. Strategic Use of County Funds – Dispennett explained the County Strategic Plan information. Discussed a plan for future County projects and funding. Michelle Stuckey discussed the need of a plan in order to receive grant funding. Dispennett explained the need for groups to execute strategic plans, basic plan of funding. Comer stated child care was discussed, possibly have companies/employers to help find a solution. Weston-Hubner suggested forming a committee to discuss the County moving forward with strategic planning. Discussed a joint Commissioner/Council meeting in March.

4. Old Business:
5. Elected Official/Department Head comments:
6. Public Comment: No Public comment.

Next Council meeting February 20,2024 @ 4:00 p.m.

Rusty and Sharon There being no further business Neil Ellis made a motion to adjourn seconded by Sharon Hutchison, 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*  
Neil Ellis

*Ben Dispennett*  
Ben Dispennett

*Russell K Hart*  
Russell K Hart