

WARREN COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING  
TUESDAY NOVEMBER 19, 2024

Council present for the meeting: Ben Dispennett, Ethan Foxworthy, John Hetrick, Nic Weston, Sharon Hutchison, Dwain, Neil, Dwain Akers.

Public: Perry Conrad

Department Head/Elected Official – Robin Weston-Hubner, Auditor; Charity Perigo, Chief Deputy Auditor; Craig Greenwood, 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. Add Vice President appointment. Sharon Hutchison made a motion to approve the amended agenda seconded by Neil Ellis, all voted in favor.
  - b. Foxworthy opened the floor for nominations of Council Vice President. Sharon Hutchison nominated Dwain Akers. Sharon Hutchison made a motion to appoint Dwain Akers Council Vice President seconded by John Hetrick, all voted in favor.
  - c. John Hetrick made a motion to approve the Council minutes for October 15, 2024 Council Minutes seconded by Dwain Akers, all voted in favor.
  - d. Additional Appropriation Resolution – John Hetrick made a motion to approve Resolution #2024-1119A Highway Stone and Land Appraisal 2024 Budget Additional Appropriations seconded by Neil Ellis, all voted in favor.
  - e. Additional Appropriations – Foxworthy explained 2024 budget additional appropriations including county General, Sale of County Owned Property, Economic Development, Election and LEPC funds. Dispennett stated disagreement with purchasing leases for highway from Enterprise. Ben Dispennett made a motion approving 2024 budget additional appropriations seconded by Dwain Akers, all voted in favor.
  - f. 2024 Budget Transfers – Weston-Hubner explained Custodial Budget request to move \$10,000 from Extra Help to Ground & Maintenance and move \$7,000 from Longevity to HSA. Sharon Hutchison made a motion to approve the 2024 Budget Transfers seconded by Nicholas Weston, all voted in favor.
  - g. 2025 Meeting Dates – Neil Ellis made a motion to approve the 2025 Council Meeting dates seconded by Ben Dispennett. Hutchison opposed and all others voted in favor.
  - h. Court Grant Funded 2025 Salary Increases – Discussed court request for increases of \$5,000-\$6,000 per employee. Dwain Akers made a motion to approve the 2025 Court employee salary increases seconded by Ben Dispennett. Hutchison opposed and all others voted in favor.
  - i. Potawatomi Springs Donation – Greenwood explained the land and improvements accomplished over the past few years. Paid from 4918 donations. Ben Dispennett made a motion to approve \$5,000 to Potawatomi Springs for improvements paid from Jordan Creek Wind Farm Economic Development Fund seconded by Sharon Hutchison, all voted in favor. Council discussed a fund specifically for donations. Weston-Hubner will discuss with Barce.
  - j. 2025 Salary Ordinance – Explained Commissioners approve EMA/Coroner Deputy positions change from salary to hourly rate at \$15/hour. John Hetrick made a motion to approve the 2025 Salary Ordinance #2024-1119C and changing positions EMA/Coroner Deputies to hourly seconded by Nicholas Weston, all voted in favor.
4. Old Business:
5. Elected Official/Department Head comments:
  - a. Craig Greenwood, Commissioner – Explained Benton Group has contacted the Commissioner concerning new dairy in prairie township. Benton Group will need to get IDEM permits and special exception from BZA. Commissioners are looking at office building situations due to possible issues with the old extension building. In the process of having the building inspected.
  - b. Ben Dispennett, Council – Stellar presentation is set for December 6<sup>th</sup> in Indianapolis. Broadband update, JOINK has a new completion date of May 2025. State Line is live about 2 dozen homes signed up. Pine Village should be connected soon as well as West Lebanon and Williamsport. Next Level connection level 4 state awarded County for a section between State Road 63 east and south of State Road 28 to have fiber installed for \$300,000. JOINK is also part of BEAD program. Finalize PILOT agreement with JOINK tax funds go into a fund after abatement for further expansion of broadband. Discussed abatements compared to tax rates and how this effects County revenue.
  - c. Robin Weston-Hubner, Auditor – MSD has informed the County that the SRO Grant is less this year. County 2025 Budget 1782 has been received and approved. The 2025 County Board appointment Resolution will need to be approved at the Dec 16<sup>th</sup> meeting.
6. Public Comment:

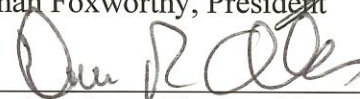
Next Council meeting December 16, 2024 @ 11:00 p.m.

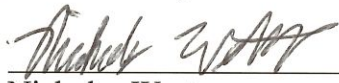
There being no further business Sharon Hutchison made a motion to adjourn seconded by John Hetrick, all voted in favor.

ATTEST:

  
Robin Weston-Hubner, Auditor

  
Ethan Foxworthy, President

  
Dwain Akers, Vice President

  
Nicholas Weston

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Sharon Hutchison

  
Neil Ellis

  
Ben Dispennett

  
John Hetrick