

**WARREN COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING  
TUESDAY OCTOBER 15, 2024**

Council present for the meeting: Ben Dispennett, Ethan Foxworthy, John Hetrick, Matt Commons, Sharon Hutchison

Public: Mike Murr, Pam Burroff-Murr, Larry Richey, Masa Komatsu, Michele Stuckey, Cody Craigin

Department Head/Elected Official – Robin Weston-Hubner, Auditor; Ingrid Barce, County Attorney; John Comer, Commissioner; Anthony Pruitt, Sheriff; Charity Perigo, Chief Deputy Auditor; Craig Greenwood, Commissioner (online).

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. Agenda items added EMA Director Position, Kuri Tech Abatement Confirmatory Resolution. Sharon Hutchison made a motion to approve the amended agenda seconded by Ben Dispennett, all voted in favor.
  - b. Ben Dispennett made a motion to approve the Council minutes for September 17, 2024 Council Minutes seconded by John Hetrick, all voted in favor.
  - c. EMA Director Position – John Comer, Commissioner, presented EMA Director job description and explained the job/responsibilities. Currently a part time position which has not worked out, Commissioners are recommending a full-time position. Craigin and Sheriff Pruitt stated they support the full-time position. Commissioners suggested \$50,000 salary. Craigin explained his support as employee turnover has been high over the past years which has resulted in lack of resources. Benton and fountain have full time EMA Directors. There are many reimbursement/grant opportunities that have not been utilized. Discussed Deputy EMA position changing to hourly rate. Discussed job description to include grant writing, preplanning and administration. Matt Commons made a motion to approve full time EMA Director position with salary of \$50,000, add employee can reside in county or surrounding county as supported by the commissioners as well as hourly part time Deputy EMA Director seconded by Ben Dispennett, Ethan Foxworthy, Ben Dispennett and Matt Commons voted in favor, John Hetrick and Sharon Hutchison abstain.
  - d. Abatement Kuri Tech Real and Personal Property Confirmatory Resolution – Foxworthy explained the Resolutions. Foxworthy suspended the public council meeting and opened public hearing. Kuri Tech Representatives Larry Richey and Massa Komatsu explained the projects of \$3.3 million and will hire 15 additional employees with anticipated project growing to hire more employees. Sharon Hutchison made a motion to approve Resolution #2024-1015A Confirming an Economic Revitalization Area and Granting Abatement, Real Estate Property for 10-year traditional abatement seconded by Matt Commons, all voted in favor. Ben Dispennett made a motion to approve Resolution #2024-1015B Confirming an Economic Revitalization Area and Granting Abatement, Personal Property for 10-year traditional abatement seconded by Matt Commons, all voted in favor. Foxworthy closed the public hearing.
  - e. 2025 Mound Township Budget Adoption – Matt Commons made a motion to approve 2025 Mound Township Budget Adoption Resolution #2024-1015C seconded by Sharon Hutchison, all voted in favor.
  - f. Additional Appropriation Resolution – Foxworthy explained the Resolution for the below:
 

County General – Fund 1000	
32400.00000.0068 – Mileage/Per Diem	\$ 5,000
44000.00000.0068 – Furniture & Fixtures	\$ 3,000
32002.00000.0161 – Pest Control	\$ 700
10009.00000.0117 – PTO Separation Pay	\$10,000
37800.00000.0068 – Expense to State Institution	\$ 3,000
21000.00000.0068 – Office Supplies	\$ 1,000
Economic Development – Fund 1112	
30400.00000.0000 – WHIN Grant County Share	\$25,000
Total	\$47,700

Ben Dispennett made a motion to approve Additional Appropriation Resolution #2024-1015D seconded by Matt Commons, all voted in favor.
  - g. Additional Appropriation – Weston-Hubner explained 2024 budget additional appropriations to Highway Stone \$100,000 and Jordan Creek Wind Farm Economic Development appraisal \$5000. John Hetrick made a motion to approve additional appropriations seconded by Sharon Hutchison, all voted in favor.
  - h. Stellar Grant – Dispennett Explained the stellar grant work. Public engagement meetings are set. Explained the federal requirements of grants. Application is due the first week of November. Asking for letters of support from all entities involved. Presented a list of projects and funding including Community Center venue/sporting. OKRA \$2 million kayak launch on pine creek. County funding of up to \$3 million and Williamsport \$2 million. Total request of \$3 million from County Jordan Creek Wind Farm Economic Development Fund over the next 3-5 years. Dispennett presented a letter of support for approval from the Council. Foxworthy read the letter. John Hetrick made a motion to approve the letter of support from County Council seconded by Matt Commons, all voted in favor.
  - i. Community Foundation, Michele Stucky – Stucky explained items that the Foundation is currently working on for the community and Bev Morgan is working on Independence Springs. Keep conversations moving forward about the 217 acres off Market Street. Niches land acquisition team is very interested in the property and presented a purchase agreement to the County if the County is to win the bid. Explained the County is required to have 2 appraisals, Commissioners are moving forward with getting the second appraisal as approved at the last meeting. Barce explained any land purchase over \$25,000 must have 2 appraisals. Max bid cannot exceed the amount of the highest appraisal. Auction will be held November 7<sup>th</sup> online. Matt Commons made a motion to approve the purchase up to the appraisal contingent on purchase of the property and Niches Purchase Agreement pending commissioner approval to be paid from Jordan Creek Wind Farm Economic Development Fund seconded by Sharon Hutchison; Foxworthy, Hutchison, Dispennett, Commons voted in favor and Hetrick opposed.

4. Old Business:

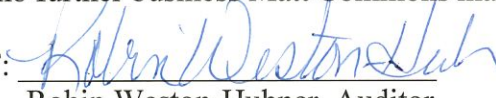
5. Elected Official/Department Head comments:

- a. Robin Weston-Hubner, Auditor – Projects are being considered such as EMA building due to old extension building condemned and 3<sup>rd</sup> floor bathroom due to ADA compliance.
- b. Matt Commons presented his resignation to the Council as of October 16, 2024.

6. Public Comment:

Next Council meeting November 19, 2024 @ 4:00 p.m.

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

ATTEST:   
 Robin Weston-Hubner, Auditor

  
 Ethan Foxworthy, President

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Matt Commons, Vice President

  
 Dwain Akers

  
 Sharon Hutchison

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Neil Ellis

  
 Ben Dispennett

  
 John Hetrick