

**WARREN COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING  
MAY 20, 2025**

Council present for the meeting: Ben Dispennett, Ethan Foxworthy, Neil Ellis, Dwain Akers, Brady Foster, John Hetrick, Nicolas Weston.

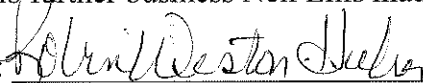
Public: Doug Hess, LEDO.

Department Head/Elected Official – Robin Weston-Hubner, Auditor; Charity Perigo, Chief Deputy Auditor; John Comer, Commissioner; Jim Morson, EMA Director; Cody Craigin, EMA; Jud Barce, County Attorney; Clay Andrews, Commissioner; 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. Ben Dispennett made a motion to approve the agenda seconded by John Hetrick, all voted in favor.
  - b. Dwain Akers made a motion to approve the Council minutes for April 22, 2025 Council Minutes seconded by Neil Ellis, all voted in favor.
  - c. Pat Connor, Purdue University, Wheel Tax – Connor explained the wheel tax and excise surtax. Tax can be used to pay for local road, bridge funding, Community Crossing Grant Match, etc. Surtax is passenger cars, trucks, etc. and Wheel Tax is Semis, RVs, trailers, etc. Exemptions are school buses, county vehicles, funeral equipment, etc. Connor reviewed minimum taxes estimate revenue. County Council must pass wheel and surtax by August 31 2025 to begin January 1 2026. Taxes are collected at BMV registration and disbursed to the County monthly. Auditor disburse to taxing units by 20<sup>th</sup> of each month.
  - d. 2026 Budget Information – Weston-Hubner explained budgets are due from departments June 6<sup>th</sup> and will be delivered to the Council June 17<sup>th</sup>. Discussed changes and salary increases. Dispennett suggested -5% over all budgets with 2% salary increase, Council and Commissioners agreed.
  - e. EMA – Jim Morson and Cody Craigin explained the COMS system from 2004 that is in need of upgrading. Explained the first investment in the equipment of \$97,764.97; 23,276.36 yearly contracts for caliber, IM Responding, Active 911, First Net. Foxworthy explained the Commissioners have approved \$123,041.33 from Rainy Day fund commissioners approved. 2026 budget will be yearly software and \$200,000 over 5 years to achieve upgrades needed. Current issues with communication are not good as at one point the system was down 1-2 hours. Neil Ellis made a motion to approve \$123,041.33 paid from Rainy Day Fund and approve additional appropriation of \$123,041.33 to 2025 Budget seconded by Brady Foster, all voted in favor.
  - f. Abatements 2025 pay 2026 – Barce explained a few of the abatements are going to expire next year and legislative changes.
    - i. Jordan Creek Wind Farm LLC Real Property – Foxworthy opened the floor for a motion finding that Jordan Creek Wind Farm LLC Real Property substantially complied with their State of Benefits Abatement. Ben Dispennett made a motion to approve Jordan Creek Wind Farm LLC Real Property Abatement seconded by Dwain Akers, all voted in favor.
    - ii. Jordan Creek Wind Farm LLC Utility – Foxworthy opened the floor for a motion finding that Jordan Creek Wind Farm LLC Utility substantially complied with their State of Benefits Abatement. Dwain Akers made a motion to approve Jordan Creek Wind Farm LLC Utility Abatement seconded by Neil Ellis, all voted in favor.
    - iii. Willow Dairy LLC Real Property – Foxworthy opened the floor for a motion finding that Willow Dairy LLC Real Property substantially complied with their State of Benefits Abatement. Ben Dispennett made a motion to approve Willow Dairy LLC Real Property Abatement seconded by Nicolas Weston, all voted in favor.
    - iv. Willow Dairy LLC Personal Property – Foxworthy opened the floor for a motion finding that Willow Dairy LLC Personal Property substantially complied with their State of Benefits Abatement. Ben Dispennett made a motion to approve Willow Dairy LLC Personal Property Abatement seconded by Brady Foster, all voted in favor.
    - v. Stewart Grain Co Inc Real Property – Foxworthy opened the floor for a motion finding that Stewart Grain Co Inc Real Property substantially complied with their State of Benefits Abatement. Ben Dispennett made a motion to approve Stewart Grain Co Inc Real Property Abatement seconded by John Hetrick, all voted in favor.
    - vi. Kuri Tec Manufacturing Real Property, 2017 and 2025 – Foxworthy opened the floor for a motion finding that Kuri Tec Manufacturing Real Property substantially complied with their State of Benefits Abatement. Ben Dispennett made a motion to approve Kuri Tec Manufacturing 2017 Real Property Abatement seconded by Neil Ellis, all voted in favor. Discussed 2025 abatement and requested more information. Dwain Akers made a motion to table 2025 Kuri Tec Manufacturing Real Property Abatement seconded by Nicholas Weston, all voted in favor.
    - vii. Kuri Tec Manufacturing Personal Property 2017 abatements - Foxworthy opened the floor for a motion finding that Kuri Tec Manufacturing Personal Property substantially complied with their State of Benefits Abatement. John Hetrick made a motion to approve Kuri Tec Manufacturing 2017 Real Property Abatement seconded by Ben Dispennett, all voted in favor. Discussed 2025 abatement and requested more information. Dwain Akers made a motion to table 2025 Kuri Tec Manufacturing Real Property Abatement seconded by Nicholas Weston, all voted in favor.
    - viii. Birkey's Farm Store, Inc Real Property – Foxworthy opened the floor for a motion finding that Birkey's Farm Store Real Property substantially complied with their State of Benefits Abatement. John Hetrick made a motion to approve Birkey's Farm Store Real Property Abatement seconded by Neil Ellis. Brady Foster abstained and all others voted in favor.
    - ix. Liquid Feed Transport Inc Manufacturing Real Property – Foxworthy opened the floor for a motion finding that Kuri Tec Manufacturing Real Property substantially complied with their State of Benefits Abatement. Ben Dispennett made a motion to approve Liquid Feed Transport Inc Manufacturing Real Property Abatement seconded by Brady Foster, all voted in favor.
4. Old Business:
5. Elected Official/Department Head comments:
  - a. Sheriff Anthony Pruitt – Pruitt explained the use of flock cameras and how these have aided in arrests and missing people. Discussed the original paid by grants and now \$15,000 will be added to the 2026 budget. Prosecutor is going to help purchase 2 more cameras. Signing the agreement now will save \$1,300 but will wait until budget meetings.
  - b. Doug Hess, Interim LEDO Director – Hess stated work continues on READI 1 and READI 2 for Williamsport Pool. Contact with organizations that have businesses interest in the County in the past days which is very positive.
  - c. Robin Weston-Hubner, Auditor – Weston-Hubner explained work on settlement continues and preparing for budget time.
6. Public Comment:

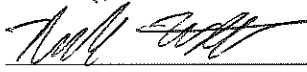
Next Council meeting June 17, 2025 @ 4:00 p.m.


There being no further business Neil Ellis 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

  
Brady Foster

  
Neil Ellis

\_\_\_\_\_  
Ben Dispennett

  
John Hetrick