

Minutes of Regular Meeting, May 13, 2024

The Town Council of the Town of Warren met Monday, May 13, 2024 in a Regular Meeting at Assembly Hall, Council Meeting Room, 131 N. Wayne St, in accordance with rules of Council and applicable law.

Those present were: Council Members, Steve Buzzard, Ron Boxell, Michelle Schweikhardt, Jeremy Rufener; Clerk-Treasurer, Marilyn Morrison; Employees, Dennis Spitler, Lee Poulson; others.

Reviewed were proposals from Mike Haggerty for projects at Tower Park. Following discussion and review, Council determined that additional planning and information would be needed to move forward but expressed initial support for both projects. Approved was a request to schedule a Volunteer Day at Tower Park.

Marshal Spitler submitted the April Activity Report and requested permission to serve as a counselor during the annual Camp Hero week. Granted by consensus.

Fire Chief Poulson submitted April Activity Report.

Water Main Replacement Project – Wayne Street

- Proposed Time Table related to steps necessary to finalize loan from the State Revolving Loan Fund (SRF) was reviewed. To meet requirements, the regularly scheduled Council Meeting of June 10th was moved to June 18th so the Financial Consultant and Engineer could be present. Due to the project being declared an emergency, SRF has scheduled preclosing of the Loan for June 19th.
- Reviewed and discussed was a Rate Report prepared by Financial Solutions Group to support the loan from SRF with recommended water rate increase of 25%.
- Ordinance 2024-1, An Ordinance to Amend the Schedule of rates and charges within the Warren Municipal Water Utility was introduced and discussed.
- A Public Hearing is scheduled for Tuesday, June 18th, at 6:00 pm for discussion of Ordinance 2024-1.
- Ordinance 2024-2, Issuance of Waterworks Revenue Bonds, was introduced and discussed. The ordinance relates to the SRF loan for the Water Main Replacement Project.

The Nancy Street project to replace a Lift Station and sewer mains is underway with trees being trimmed in the project area. The main replacement portion of the project runs parallel to First Street from Main Street to the East along the Salamonie River with the Lift Station to be constructed in the area of the current lift station.

Poulson updated the projects within the Tax Increment Area (I-69) noting that extension of water/sewer lines along Wall Road is nearing completion. The second phase is scheduled to start when weather permits and includes the removal of a lift station at I-69 and extension of sewer main from that area to the Lift Station at the former Golfo site. Projects funded through funds generated within that District.

Morrison submitted the quote from Collins Flags had been amended due to delay in purchase by the Town and increased costs for each of the six flag poles in the total amount of \$450. Council concurred.

Purchase Agreement between Town and Huntington County Community Schools on hold as no information has been received from the school system.

Summarized was a Local Option Tax Grant form in which the Town pledged \$10,000 from County Economic Development Income Tax toward EverFresh, the anticipated purchaser of the Golfo site. Rufener moved, seconded by Buzzard, to approve the agreement. Unanimous.

Accounts Payable Voucher in the amount of \$697,090.51 was submitted for approval. Noted that the total included a payment for work on Wayne Street in the amount of \$429,359.65 from the INDOT Community Crossings Grant.

Morrison reported that on site auditing by the Indiana State Board of Accounts has been completed and is currently in an approximately two week review period. Morrison outlined the next steps in the procedure noting that SBoA representatives had assured the final report would be submitted to SRF – Indiana Finance Authority by the June 6th deadline as necessary for closing of the Water Department loan.

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Utility Manager Poulson reported that Robert Wade would start employment with the Town on May 20th. Requested was permission to sell a 2009 Pick-up and a trailer. Granted by consensus.

Next Regular Meeting of Town Council has been rescheduled to June 18th.

There being no further business to come before Council, the meeting was adjourned.

Submitted _____
Marilyn Morrison

Warren Town Council:

Steve Buzzard
President

Michelle Schweikhardt
Vice President

Jeremy Rufener
Member

Ron Boxell
Member