

**WARREN CITY COUNCIL  
REGULAR MEETING  
APRIL 21, 2025 – 7:00 PM**

---

**OPENING OF MEETING**

Council Vice-President Danielle Flasher presided over the April 21, 2025, regular meeting of Warren City Council in Council Chambers of the Municipal Building and opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

**MAYOR'S STATEMENT REGARDING ARSON AT GOVERNOR'S MANSION**

Mayor Wortman read a prepared statement regarding the recent arson at the Governor's Mansion while Governor Shapiro and his family were in residence. Mayor Wortman stated, "We must condemn in the strongest possible manner this assassination attempt. These actions were taken against a sitting governor by a troubled man in an apparent disagreement with his policies. Never are such actions justifiable." He further stated, "In our nation's politics, we compete on ideas, not with personal destruction or political violence." He concluded, "With strength and honor we must encourage our fellow citizens to exercise their freedom of speech and all other constitutional rights yet remain united as Americans. In the words of one of our nation's greatest leaders, President Abraham Lincoln, 'A house divided cannot stand. We, the people, must be the force that keeps this great nation united.' May God bless America. Thank you."

**ROLL CALL**

Members present and responding to roll call were: Mayor David Wortman (via Zoom), John Barbera, Maurice Cashman, Danielle Flasher, Philip Gilbert, Jared Villella, and Junior Council Members Lexi Paris and Bianca Villella. Council member Wendy McCain was absent. Members of City Staff present were Michael Holtz, City Manager; Jessicca Byler, Finance Officer; David Krogler, Fire Chief; Teena Leary, Assistant City Clerk; Randall Rossey, Codes and Planning Director; Joseph Sproveri, Chief of Police; Chad Yuriscic, City Engineer; and Andrea Stapleford, City Solicitor.

**RECOGNITION OF VISITORS**

Miss Flasher welcomed all visitors. Present were:

Will Champlin	Mary Dwyer (via Zoom)
Evan Rowles (via Zoom)	Madeline Walker
Shawn Walker	Kristine Whitaker
Olivia Zapel, NHS Advisor	
Warren Area High School National Honor Society 2025 Inductees	

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

There was no public comment.

**APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

Mr. Villella made the motion to approve the agenda as presented. Upon second by Mr. Cashman, the motion carried unanimously among the six members present.

Mr. Cashman made the motion to not amend the agenda as presented. Upon second by Mr. Villella, the motion carried unanimously among the six members present.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Upon motion by Mr. Cashman and second by Mr. Villella, the minutes of the March 17, 2025, regular meeting were unanimously approved by the six members present.

**CORRESPONDENCE**

There was no correspondence to come before Council.

### **RECOGNITION OF THE WARREN GARDEN CLUB**

Miss Flasher recognized the Warren Garden Club for its decades of dedicated work in planting and maintaining flower beds at the Municipal Building and in City parks. An acorn was symbolically presented to Kristine Whitaker who represented the Club; the acorn will be placed within the Street Landscape Donation Tree sculpture located at the entrance to the Municipal Building. The acorn bears the inscription, "In Honor of Warren Garden Club In Recognition of 60+ Years of Service." Mrs. Whitaker stated that, while the Club has divested itself from the Pennsylvania Federated Garden Clubs, there are members who wish to continue to tend to the City's plantings.

### **RECOGNITION OF STUDENT SCHOLARS: 2025 NATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY INDUCTEES**

Miss Flasher, assisted by Miss Villella, presented each of the 2025 Warren Area High School National Honor Society Inductees with a certificate of recognition. Miss Paris, Junior Council Member, is one of the inductees. Mayor Wortman offered his congratulations to all recipients.

### **GUEST PRESENTER: KATELYN HECEI – WARREN CO. CHILDREN'S ADVOCACY CENTER**

Katelyn Hecei, Warren County Children's Advocacy Center Family Advocate, addressed Council and provided an overview of the agency's programs and services. Miss Hecei noted that April is "Child Abuse Awareness and Prevention Month." She stated that the center is an independent agency dedicated to advocating for vulnerable youth who are the victims of crime.

### **PARKING GARAGE LOAN AND REHABILITATION PROJECT RESCOPE**

Mr. Holtz stated that in January of 2022, City Council authorized a \$3.6 million loan for the purpose of consolidating and paying off prior debts totaling \$785,000 and \$2.8 million to undertake repairs to the Clark Street Parking Garage. The \$785,000 debt consolidation and payoff was completed and the remaining funds have been held in an interest-bearing account which continues to accrue interest. In November of 2022, Council voted to designate \$250,000 of the loan proceeds to the Boat Launch Project.

The City received a determination from the Pennsylvania Office of Budget that the Garage Project could not utilize Redevelopment Assistance Capital Project funds as had been planned. Therefore, City Staff revisited the scope of the Parking Garage Project to determine what work may be done with the available funds.

Mr. Holtz stated that the following grants totaling \$1,350,000 (with no match required) have been awarded and the funds must be spent on rehabilitation of the Garage:

1. Economic Development & Community development Initiatives Program Grant (EDCDI) in the amount of \$1 million (One extension has already been filed for this grant which was originally due to expire in June, 2025).
2. Local Share Account Grant through the Commonwealth in the amount of \$350,000.

Evan Rowles, Engineer for the Garage Project, participated in the meeting via Zoom and outlined the condition of the Garage and noted that the steel frame is in overall good condition; however, the floor slabs are of immediate concern due to concrete spalling and potholes.

It was recommended that Council consider revising the scope of the Parking Garage Project to meet a budget of approximately \$3 million so that the project may proceed. This amount would be funded by the \$1,350,000 in grant funds (detailed in 1 and 2 above) and \$1,650,000 of the loan funds. Staff also recommended that the remaining \$1.3 million in loan funds remain in the interest-bearing account and that their use be revisited later this year. Potential uses for the remainder include the Riverfront Redevelopment Project and a Streetscape Project.

Mr. Holtz answered questions posed by Mary Dwyer who participated via Zoom chat.

Following discussion, Mr. Cashman made the motion to rescope the Parking Garage Rehabilitation Project and to allocate \$1,650,000 in loan proceeds to the Project. The motion was seconded by Mr. Villella and carried with five votes in the affirmative, one nay vote cast by Mr. Gilbert, and Mrs. McCain absent.

**RESOLUTONS: INDIAN HOLLOW FLOOD PROTECTION REHABILITATION PROJECT**

Mr. Yurisc stated that in 1967, the PA Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) constructed the Indian Hollow Run Flood Protection Project in order to safeguard residents and reduce property damage within the inundation zone of Indian Hollow Run. The project area begins at the debris basin located approximately 200 feet south of East Fifth Avenue and 400 feet east of Beaty Street and extends southwest to the point of discharge at the Conewango Creek. The inundation area includes low-lying areas in the vicinity of East Fifth Avenue and impacts approximately 20 households.

On June 27, 2024, the DEP inspected the Indian Hollow Run Flood Protection Project and rated the infrastructure as “Minimally Acceptable.” Therefore, the DEP strongly recommended that the City investigate sources of funding to permanently address leaning walls within a 400-foot section of the concrete channel. The recommended rehabilitation project would include demolition and replacement of the deficient channel section and fencing.

The City identified the PA Small Water and Sewer Program and the Flood Mitigation Program as funding sources which may be utilized to conduct the Indian Hollow Run Flood Protection Rehabilitation Project. Each grant would fund 85% (\$313,060) of the estimated project cost (\$368,306) with 15% in matching funds (\$55,246) to be provided by the City. If funding is awarded, the 15% match will be included in the 2026 municipal budget.

**Resolution No. 3290: Flood Mitigation Program Funding Application**

Mr. Cashman made the motion to adopt this resolution authorizing the application and signatories. The motion was seconded by Mr. Villella and carried with six votes in the affirmative and one member absent.

**Resolution No. 3291: PA Small Water and Sewer Program Funding Application**

Mr. Cashman made the motion to adopt this resolution authorizing the application and signatories. The motion was seconded by Mr. Villella and carried with six votes in the affirmative and one member absent.

**PUBLIC HEARING DATE: SUPERIOR TIRE & RUBBER CORP. STREET VACATION REQUEST**

Mr. Rossey stated that Superior Tire and Rubber Corporation filed an application for the vacation of an unopened street which extends between the “Old Route 6” right-of-way and the southeast line of Superior’s property. Superior owns all parcels adjacent to the unopened street and, therefore, no other property owners would be impacted by vacation of the street. The unopened street terminates at Superior’s property line and is essentially a dead end; therefore, it would not compromise potential future traffic flow.

Superior Tire indicated that its intent is to construct a new facility which will allow the company to expand its production capabilities.

Mr. Cashman made the motion to set the date and time for the required public hearing as May 19, 2025, at 7:00 PM. The motion was seconded by Mr. Villella and carried with six votes in the affirmative and one member absent.

### **MAYOR'S APPOINTMENT: JUNIOR COUNCIL MEMBER SELECTION COMMITTEE**

Miss Flasher read a memo in which Mayor Wortman appointed Vice-President Flasher, Mr. Cashman, and Mr. Villella to the Junior Council Member Selection Committee. He further stated that the Committee will review all applications received and select the member to serve during the 2025-2026 academic year.

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

#### **Comprehensive Plan Task Force**

Mr. Rossey reported that the group met on April 8 and approved 5 way-finding kiosk designs which will be presented to the Planning Commission for its review. He indicated that the Shop Hop increased foot traffic in the downtown area and the downtown merchants expect to hold similar events throughout the year.

#### **Council of Governments**

Miss Flasher reported that the meeting was very brief and centered on what is currently before the PA Legislature.

#### **Riverfront Development Project**

Mr. Holtz indicated that Greenman-Pedersen, Inc. continues its work to finalize the boat ramp design. The response period for the survey pertaining to riverfront amenities closed and the results have been compiled.

#### **Warren Worx**

Miss Flasher stated that there would not be a stakeholder meeting in April; an executive committee meeting was scheduled for 8:00 AM on April 22. Mr. Villella reported that the Marketing subcommittee met several times and has established a launch date for the new branding initiative.

#### **Marketing Committee**

Mr. Villella stated that the Committee will schedule a work session to prioritize its initiatives.

### **DEPARTMENT REPORTS – MARCH, 2025**

The following reports were provided for Council's review:

- Police Department
- Fire Department
- Department of Public Works
- Codes, Planning, and Zoning Department
- Finance Department: First Quarter

### **APPROVED MINUTES OF BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS**

Council acknowledged receipt of the following approved minutes:

Blighted Property Review Committee	– February 20, 2025	Regular Meeting
Parks, Recreation & Landscape Commission	– February 25, 2025	Regular Meeting
Planning Commission	– February 19, 2025	Regular Meeting
Redevelopment Authority	– February 26, 2025	Regular Meeting

### **ADJOURNMENT**

Upon motion by Mr. Villella, Miss Flasher declared the meeting adjourned.