

**WARREN COUNTY COUNCIL MINUTES  
MONDAY, JANUARY 27, 2020**

The Warren County Council met for their first meeting of January 2020.

Council Members present for the meeting were: John Comer, Matt Commons, Sharon Hutchison, Ethan Foxworthy, and Lee Kay.

Also, in attendance: Deputy Auditor Jill Wilson; Sheriff Rusty Hart; County Attorney Jud Barce; Zoning Director John Kuiper; Treasurer Lori Heidenreich; Veteran Service Officer Jim Blinn; Commissioner Brian Jordan

Public: Perry Conrad, Michele Stucky, Carolyn Orr, Steven Smith, Steve Eberly, Chris Brown, Elaine Beaty.

1. The meeting was called to order by John Comer, Council President.
2. Pledge of Allegiance was led by John Comer.
3. New Business:
  - a. Meeting Agenda Approval – Items requested to be added to the agenda: KIRPC Appointment, Ordinance for Investment of Public Funds. Sharon Hutchison made a motion to approve the amended agenda with a second of Matt Commons, all voted in favor.
  - b. Council Reorganization – Matt Commons made a motion to reappoint John Comer to President of the Council with a second from Sharon Hutchison, all voted in favor. Lee Kay made a motion to reappoint Sharon Hutchison to Vice President of the Council with a second from Ethan Foxworthy, all voted in favor.
  - c. Lee Kay made a motion to approve the December 16, 2019 Council Meeting minutes with a second from Sharon Hutchison, all voted in favor.
  - d. Veteran Service Officer Report, Jim Blinn – Blinn updated the Council on the VSO duties and demographics. In 2018 there are 592 veterans in the County. The County will be setting up an office space for the VSO in a County building.
  - e. Williamsport-Washington Township Public Library Additional Appropriation Request – Chris Brown, Librarian, presented information concerning an additional appropriation from the LIRF fund to support the new roof for the Library. The total amount \$336,239.87 in CD. The 71,991.19 is the requested from the LIRF. Matt Commons made a motion to approve the additional appropriation in the amount of \$71,991.19 from the LIRF with a second from Ethan Foxworthy, Lee Kay abstained and all other voted in favor.
  - f. Goelzer Investment management, Elaine Beaty – Beaty explained the Sheriff and Merit Deputy retirement and pension program. Beaty presented program information from over the past 10 years.
  - g. Sheriff Rusty Hart – Hart presented the 2020 Sheriff Salary Contract which is the minimal salary by law. The contract gives the county back the Tax Warrant funds which by law the Sheriff is entitled to. Lee Kay made a motion to approve the 2020 Sheriff Salary Contract with a second from Sharon Hutchison, all voted in favor. Hart presented and explained the 2019 Annual Jail Report. The Jail/Sheriff budgets returned \$78,805 in unused appropriated dollars. Revenue for housing inmates from other facilities is \$120,939. Hart explained amendments to the Prisoner Reimbursement Fund Ordinance as the State allowed the fee to be increased from \$35.00 to \$37.50. An ordinance will be presented in the future for this increase. Hart would like to increase the Merit Board pay. Currently the pay is \$25.00 per meeting. Hart will research other counties and present in the future. Hart stated that the retirement was originally set up with a maximum of 26 years of service. Hart would like to have this increased to the 28 years that was originally discussed.
  - h. Lori Heidenreich, Treasurer - Ordinance for Investment of Public Funds. Heidenreich explained the ordinance to the Council. Sharon Hutchison made a motion to approve ordinance # 2020-0127 Investment of Public Funds with a second from Lee Kay, all voted in favor.
  - i. KIRPC Appointment – Ethan Foxworthy made a motion to reappoint Sharon Hutchison to the KIRPC Board 2020 with a second from Matt Commons, all voted in favor.
4. Old Business:
  - a. Area Plan Commission Appointment – Barce explained the State Code concerning the appointments to the APC. This appointment is to replace Wilma Shackleton. Lee Kay made a motion to appoint Perry Conrad to the APC with a second from Sharon Hutchison; Matt Commons and John Comer opposed; Ethan Foxworthy abstained; Lee Kay and Sharon Hutchison voted in favor; motion not passed. Matt Commons nominated Becky Ehler to the APC with a second from Ethan Foxworthy; Lee Kay opposed; Sharon Hutchison abstained; Matt Commons, John Comer and Ethan Foxworthy voted in favor; motion not passed. Due to the number of votes the vote is null with no appointment and will be tabled until a later meeting.
  - b. County Job Classification and Compensation Study – After much discussion, this was tabled until a later meeting.
5. Elected Official/Officer Holder Comment:
  - a. Security Officer Position – Hart explained the Court Reform Grant that was approved by the Indiana Supreme Court. The grant was applied for by Judge Reece and Sheriff Hart. The amount of the grant is \$38,000. Ethan Foxworthy made a motion to approve the position of Courthouse Security Officer salary of \$38,000 with a second from Matt Commons, all voted in favor.
  - b. Commissioner and Council Joint Meeting – Comer explained the LEDO both local and state would like to meet with the Commissioners and council. February 19<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 p.m. in the Commissioner Room or Learning Center.
  - c. Barce explained an ordinance will be presented to the Commissioners concerning appointments to the BZA and APC.
6. Public Comment:
  - a. Carolyn Orr, Steuben Township Trustee – Orr explained an issue with Steuben Township not in the original ERA for the Jordan Creek Windfarm. Barce explained the ERA that was previously signed.

The next County Council meeting will be February 24, 2020 at 4:00 p.m.

There being no further business, Matt Commons made a motion to adjourn with a second from Sharon Hutchison.

ATTEST: *Robin Weston-Hubner*  
Robin Weston-Hubner

WARREN COUNTY COUNCIL

*John Comer*  
John Comer, President

*Sharon Hutchison*  
Sharon Hutchison, Vice President

*Ethan Foxworthy*  
Ethan Foxworthy

*Laurie J. Kay*  
Laurie "Lee" Kay

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Neil Ellis

*Matt Commons*  
Matt Commons

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George Taylor