

**COMMON COUNCIL
REGULAR SESSION
March 18, 2019
7:00 P.M.**

The Common Council of the City of Warsaw met in Regular Session on Monday, March 18, 2019 at 7:00 P.M. in the Council Chambers at City Hall. Mayor Joseph M. Thallemer presided and the following persons were noted as present or absent:

PRESENT: Council members Jack Wilhite, Jeff Grose, Ron Shoemaker, Mike Klondaris, Jerry Frush, and Diane Quance. Also present Mayor Thallemer, Clerk-Treasurer Lynne Christiansen, City Attorney Scott Reust, City Planner Jeremy Skinner, Assistant City Planner Justin Taylor, Human Resources Director Jennifer Whitaker, David Findlay from Lake City Bank, Susan Reed from Baker-Tilly (formerly H.J. Umbaugh), Greg Cobb from Freedom Oil, others as noted on the attached attendance sheet, and InkFree reporter Dan Spaulding.

ABSENT: Council member Cindy Dobbins.

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Thallemer followed by the Invocation and the Pledge of Allegiance.

MINUTES-

The minutes from the March 4, 2019 Regular Session were presented for approval. Motion made by Councilor Quance to approve the minutes as presented, seconded by Councilor Frush and carried by unanimous vote.

REPORTS & COMMUNICATIONS-

The following reports and communications were presented:

- (1) David Findlay from Lake City Bank gave a brief update on Lake City Bank.
- (2) Susan Reed from Baker Tilly gave an overview of a Comprehensive Financial Management Policy they have been working on for the City.
- (3) February 2019 Fund Report

UNFINISHED BUSINESS-

None noted.

NEW BUSINESS-

TRANSFER OF FUNDS/HUMAN RESOURCES 2019 BUDGET-

Human Resources Director Jennifer Whitaker presented Resolution **#2019-03-02**. The Resolution transfers \$19,500.00 within the HR budget as better described within the Resolution. Motion made by Councilor Grose to approve Resolution #2019-03-02, seconded by Councilor Frush, carried by unanimous vote.

STREET LIGHT REQUEST/B&P-

Assistant City Planner Justin Taylor requested authorization from the Council for a new street light. The light will be placed on Park Avenue at the intersection of an alleyway located between Market St. and Center St. The location is used as a bus stop by the School Corporation and a parent was concerned for student's safety due the lack of lighting. Motion made by Councilor Shoemaker to approve the request, seconded by Councilor Wilhite, carried by unanimous vote.

TAX ABATEMENT COMPLIANCE FORM-

City Planner Jeremy Skinner presented for approval the following company who submitted their CF-1 Real (SF 51766), "Compliance with Statement of Benefits" form for Tax Abatement. Mr. Skinner recommended approval of continuation of the requested Tax Abatement, finding the company to be in compliance.

1. Freedom Oil LLC, one (1) Real Property, representative present.

Motion made by Councilor Shoemaker to approve the continuation of the abatement, seconded by Councilor Wilhite, carried by unanimous vote.

OTHER MATTERS-

-Next Common Council meeting will be held on Thursday, March 28th at 7:00 PM.

COUNCIL/INDEPENDENT COUNCIL DISCUSSION-

Council President Diane Quance gave a statement on the majority of the Council's desire to hire an independent attorney to look into a recent incident involving the Chief of Police, and investigation of his actions as well as the discipline of two officers. Due to many questions and speculations, she asked each Council member to state their opinions of the matter. Mr. Grose started off by offering five points or major realities that he had realized that did not warrant the need for an independent investigation. Mr. Klondaris, Mr. Shoemaker, Mr. Wilhite, and Mr. Frush were of the opinion that an investigation, or exploring the possibility of conducting an investigation, was needed due to various reasons. Mr. Shoemaker read a statement from Ms. Dobbins that said she was in support of the investigation as well. Mr. Grose wanted it noted that the Council, with the exception of Councilor Quance and himself, had made countless comments to local media outlets about doing the right thing. Mr. Grose was wondering what he would hear or see next and what has been said or discussed before a meeting, or any items requested to be put on the agenda. He felt that something this big and important should be on the agenda. He didn't believe that Councilor Dobbins should weigh in on the matter without being present at the meeting. He felt a decision was made before the discussion happened. Mayor Thallemer talked about the chain of command and how he had contacted the State Police for an investigation upon learning of the incident, and of his conversation with the County Prosecutor. He let the Council know that he had talked with almost all of the officers at the Police Department about its leadership, and that he had good, frank conversations with them. He also told the Council that he respects their right to seek an attorney and would welcome it if they decide to do so. Ms. Quance advised she was not in favor of seeking an outside investigation, but that she would do as directed and help where she can. Ms. Quance then invited those in attendance to come to the podium and offer their thoughts. Local citizens Marlin and Angela Gross, Jerry Oppenrud, Chris Hanson, and George Dockery gave their thoughts on the matter. Police officers Joel Beam, Phil Hawks, Christopher Brown, Justin Curtis, Gordan Allen, Clay Layne, and Roy Navarro, as well as Police Department employee Tom Balazs and retired police officer Mike Cox offered their support of Police Chief Whitaker, as well as their thoughts on the situation. After all was said and discussed, it was the consensus of the Council not to pursue the matter any further, or to hire an independent attorney for any further investigation.

TRANSFER ORDINANCE-

Council President Quance asked that Ordinance #2019-01-01, Transfer of Funds between Major Budget Classifications (Police Budget), be brought back before the Council at the next meeting for approval.

SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICERS-

Local Citizen Duane Huffer stated that the City has five (5) officers acting as School Resource Officers for Warsaw Community Schools, yet the school system only pays for one and a half (1 ½) officers. He would like the Council to look into the school system paying for all five officers.

ADJOURNMENT-

There being no further business to come before the Council by a motion duly made and seconded, the meeting was adjourned.

ATTEST:

Lynne Christiansen, Clerk-Treasurer