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CITY OF WARREN  
CITY CLERK



James R. Fouts - Mayor

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

ONE CITY SQUARE, SUITE 215  
WARREN, MI 48093-6726  
(586) 574-4520  
[www.cityofwarren.org](http://www.cityofwarren.org)

May 16, 2022

Ms. Sonja Buffa  
City Clerk  
City of Warren

**RE: Veto of Council Action at Special Meeting on Thursday, May 12, 2022:  
AGENDA ITEM 5 – Consideration and Adoption of a Resolution: Adoption  
of the FY22-23 Budget**

Dear Ms. Buffa:

Please be advised that I veto the Warren City Council's adoption of the FY 2022-23 Budget at its Special meeting on May 12, 2022 under Agenda item 5. This veto is invoked under Section 6.8 of the Warren City Charter. The action of Council is suspended as provided in Section 6.8 of the charter.

I agree with council member Angela Rogensues that three or four costly lawsuits have not served our taxpayers well. Rather than more bickering and bitterness, what is needed is more communication and compromise between the City Council and the Mayor. I have tried to promote that, but the Council's unilateral approach is long on acrimony and vindictiveness and short on efficiency and common sense.

In order to attack me politically, Council is willing to sacrifice good public servants, good programs and good service. The council's behavior on this point is unprecedented. For nearly a half century or more, the budget was created through collaboration and compromise between the two branches of Warren's government. In my terms as mayor going back to 2008, I have never met a council this destructive, and this is the first council that has sued both the mayor and the clerk.

The objective that motivates the Gang of Four on Council is clear. In the vote taken recently, Council sought to strip my ability to retain loyal, competent, and professional employees by defunding certain departments, sabotaging the DDA and attempting to require Council approval for the appointment of new employees in my office. They would sacrifice the standard of service Warren residents have become accustomed to in order to stop me from looking good as an administrator of City services.

To increase their ability to obstruct my work, they seek to increase the Contractual Services line of the budget to nearly \$500,000; this metastasizing budget item is meant to fund their outside law firm and more lawsuits against me, even though none of that will benefit the people who live in Warren. Similarly, jealous of the progress that my office might make with grant funds available through American Recue Plan Act, my opponents on Council would cut all of those federal resources, canceling any chance for a new fire station, information technology upgrades, and enhancements to our parks program. Even though residents deserve these improvements, the Gang of Four would prefer to see them all canceled just to prevent a possible photograph that might show me in front of a new firehouse, a new control room or a new park.

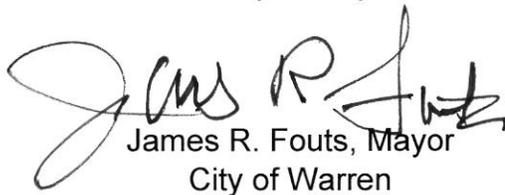
In the same vein, Council's vote stands to eliminate the position of Diversity Coordinator, simply because this was a position I created. My detractors cannot stand the idea that I might be able to improve representation in Warren's government, and their vote on the budget was meant to ensure that no coordinator ever gets hired while I am Mayor. I do not mind if they shoot at me, but I deeply resent the collateral damage inflicted on Warren voters.

Equally problematic are the appropriations for the Library that were made without deference to the recommendations of our Library Director and the resources she is requesting to develop outreach programs for seniors, special needs children, and persons with disabilities and residents in the area of Nine Mile and Schoenherr.

Finally, I am disappointed that Council is again imposing a line item budget, in spite of the expense, burden and impracticality. Accountability can be achieved just as well following a departmental budget, without undue burden upon City resources. No Metropolitan Area community has a straight line item budget.

Accordingly, I respectfully veto the action taken by the City Council on May 12, 2022 under Agenda Item 5. The vote reflects no attempt to compromise, but rather a desire to dictate unacceptable one-sided conditions to weaken my administration. If the veto is not sustained this will result in less service to the public and more chaos and conflict, including more costly litigation! The operation of the Council action is suspended in accordance with City Charter Section 6.8.

Respectfully,

  
James R. Fouts, Mayor  
City of Warren

cc: Mindy Moore, Council Secretary