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CITY OF WARREN
CITY CLERK



James R. Fouts - Mayor

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

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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.