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# Mayor Stone Vetoes $74,400 Council Contract, Citing Double Standard and Failure to Follow City's Purchasing Ordinance

**WARREN, MI** — Mayor Lori M. Stone has vetoed the Warren City Council's June 23 approval of a $74,400 contract extension with Capital Relations, citing the Council's decision to exempt itself from the same competitive purchasing requirements that every other City department is required to follow.

Under the City of Warren's Purchasing Ordinance, professional service contracts exceeding $10,000 must be awarded through a competitive Request for Proposals (RFP) process. The Mayor's veto states that the Council approved the contract without conducting the required competitive solicitation, creating a troubling double standard in the application of the City's procurement rules.

"The City Council should be held to the same purchasing standards that it expects every City department to follow," said Mayor Lori M. Stone. "These procurement requirements exist to ensure contracts are awarded fairly, competitively, and based on merit, not favoritism. There cannot be one set of rules for City departments and another for the City Council."

Mayor Stone emphasized that the City's purchasing policies are intended to promote transparency, accountability, fiscal responsibility, and public confidence by ensuring qualified firms have an equal opportunity to compete for publicly funded contracts.

The concerns raised in the Mayor's veto mirror statements made by members of the City Council themselves. During Council's July 8, 2025 deliberations, Council Secretary Moore stated that Council should "request that the city put together an RFP," while Council President Rogensues remarked, "I really thought that the council has decided that this position should go out to bid on an RFP."

Those concerns remained unchanged nearly a year later. During the June 23, 2026 meeting, Council Members Rogensues, Newnan, and Magee again questioned whether approving the contract without an RFP complied with the City's Purchasing Ordinance and voted against the contract. Despite those objections, the Council approved the contract by a 4-3 vote without utilizing the competitive bidding process required by ordinance.

Mayor Stone's veto argues that the Council's action undermines the consistency and integrity of the City's procurement system by disregarding rules that are routinely enforced across municipal departments.

"This veto is about good government and equal application of the law," Mayor Stone said. "The Purchasing Ordinance exists to protect taxpayers, encourage competition, and ensure every qualified firm has a fair opportunity to compete for City business. Those principles should apply equally to everyone, including the City Council."

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