

**COMMON COUNCIL
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 2012
7:00 P.M.**

Mayor Ryan Daniel – Present
Clerk Treasurer Rosie Coyle – Present
Attorney Marcia McNagny – Present

Council Members

Nicole Penrod – Present
Ben Romine – Present
William (Bill) Simpson – Present
Daniel Weigold – Present
Jacie Worrick – Present

The Columbia City Common Council met in regular session with all members present, Mayor Daniel presiding.

MINUTES Motion was made by Ben Romine to approve an overview of the January 24, 2012 meeting minutes as presented, Jacie Worrick second the motion, all voted aye.

GENE HASKINS: STORM WATER YEARLY REPORT Gene Haskins of the Soil & Water Conservation was present to give the yearly report on the MS4 and also a brief overview of what its functions were. He explained MS4 stood for Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System and has been around since the 1987 Clean Water Act.

Mr. Haskins reported Bonar Engineering was hired in 2004 to develop a storm water quality management plan which was a very comprehensive plan on how Columbia City was going to meet MS4 requirements. He stated this was something that is required to be updated every 5 years. He explained there were 6 required minimum control measures in which the City has to meet and be audited by IDEM on how and how well we meet those. He listed those requirements as public involvement and participation, illicit discharge detection and elimination, construction site run-off control, post-construction storm water management and pollution prevention and good housekeeping at municipal operations.

Mr. Haskins advised the MS4 was a federally mandated program and although federally mandated there was no federal or state funding that deals with MS4 and storm water.

Mr. Haskins explained one of the basic premises of the MS4 is to separate storm water from combined sewer operations.

Mr. Haskins reviewed the different projects and things they have been involved with this past year.

ORDINANCE 2012-1: AMENDMENT TO PRIVATE EMERGENCY ALARM SYSTEMS

Motion was made by Ben Romine to read Ordinance 2012-1 by title only, Dan Weigold second the motion, all voted aye. Clerk Treasurer Rosie Coyle read Ordinance 2012-1 an ordinance

amending Chapter 102, Section 102.02, Private Emergency Alarm Systems, of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Columbia City, Indiana.

Motion was made by Bill Simpson to adopt Ordinance 2012-1, Nicole Penrod second the motion, all voted aye.

ORDINANCE 2012-2: ADOPTION OF SUPPLEMENT OF CODE OF ORDINANCES

Motion was made by Nicole Penrod to read Ordinance 2012-2 by title only, Bill Simpson second the motion, all voted aye. Clerk Treasurer Rosie Coyle read Ordinance 2012-2 an Ordinance enacting and adopting a supplement to the Code of Ordinances for the City of Columbia City and declaring an emergency.

Rosie Coyle explained 2 – 3 times per year we have to codify any ordinances that have been passed and in order for us to legally be using them we have to have the ordinance that accepts that supplement. She advised it is usually done on an emergency basis.

Motion was made by Ben Romine to pass Ordinance 2012-2 on an emergency basis, Jacie Worrick second the motion, all voted aye.

LIVE COVERAGE FOR MEETINGS – CAMERAS Mayor Daniel reported he and Terry Wherry had been discussing this and in the past it had been discussed with Council members about making City government more open; one way to do that is to televise the meetings. He asked Terry to look at getting a quote to potentially provide that service to our residents.

Terry Wherry reported one solution they came up with was to have 2 cameras installed in the Council room that would give a live feed over the internet. He stated they designed it so that it would run on the secondary internet access line so as not to cause an issue with the network and the ports used would only be turned on the nights of the meetings. He advised that was the simplest option to get it out there.

Bill Simpson questioned if the meetings would be saved so that they could be viewed later. Terry advised there were a lot of ways you could design it but it was not be set up that way, once it's done it's done.

Dan Weigold advised he has seen the benefits of having a tape backup of the council meeting itself; has experienced it with the County Commissioners and County Council. He questioned the cost to do something like that versus the live feed. Terry Wherry felt it would depend on who does it; if we do it internally we would have storage and access issues. He suggested we could do it two different ways, recorded and live. Dan Weigold advised he would rather see a tape backup so people could watch it any time versus a live feed.

Ben Romine stated he would hate to spend \$2300.00 on equipment and then no one uses it. Terry Wherry felt that was a good point and advised in the Teghtmeyer administration they recorded it and then the next night he played it back but was not sure anyone watched it.

Mayor Daniel advised they started putting the audio recordings of all the meetings on our website as another way to be transparent to the citizens.

Nicole Penrod questioned how long it would take to get started on the live feed. Terry Wherry felt it would be less than two weeks that it could be up and running.

Bill Simpson questioned if they did it live and offered the recorded version would it require different or additional equipment. Terry was not sure and would have to find out. Bill suggested they would need to know ahead of time which direction they wanted to go. He stated in the interest of making it as accessible as possible to the public he felt the concept was very good; it made sense to him that it is recorded and accessible to people when it was convenient for them.

Nicole Penrod questioned the issue of storage. Terry reported when you talk about storing video, it can be very large, and plays into the equipment size and abilities. Nicole felt recording it was fine, with having the written and audio, she did not feel they would have to keep them forever. Terry explained because of the size of the audio they were trying to see how it works out on the website and what our provider allows us as far as space.

Dan Weigold felt it was worth investigating; just did not know if the costs would justify the means.

Jacie Worrick advised she liked the idea of being transparent but expressed a concern of how many people would take advantage of it. She felt they needed to somehow educate the community that the meetings are transparent and they are welcome to come. She stated they could go through all of the expense and no would look at it.

Bill Simpson questioned if the County records and stores their meetings now. Dan Weigold advised it was through Otto Boschet; he was not sure how many hits he gets though. Bill questioned if that was something they could find out. Terry thought they probably could.

Ben Romine questioned Eric Mohlborg if he had an idea of how many hits they get in Allen County. Eric advised besides having it on the channel they also have 75% viewership of city council meetings of about 90,000 cable subscribers. He stated they also provide video on demand so the meetings are stored and indexed; there was a heavy viewership of that.

Mayor Daniel questioned Council if they would like Terry to look into the video indexing and the potential costs in addition to the cameras. Council advised they did. Terry questioned how much they would want to store. Council felt 6 months at the most. Ben Romine questioned if they would then have the capability to take those off and store on DVD. Terry advised they could.

TRASH COMMITTEE Bill Simpson reported the committee decided to renew the existing contract for one year to allow time to review options for the following year. He advised that was their recommendation to the Board of Works. Mayor Daniel reported the Board approved that so they would be entering into a one year agreement at the current rate with no increase to the customers. He suggested in September/October they would start to look at other options.

PARKING COMMITTEE Dan Weigold reported some questions have arisen on handicapped parking whether we have enough or not as well as the fees and if \$5.00 per ticket was enough. He advised they have researched what other communities were doing and found the majority to charge at least \$10.00 per ticket. He stated it was a tough issue but they were trying to keep it convenient and were still investigating.

Rosie Coyle questioned if there was an interest in purchasing the house that was for sale by our City parking lot. Bill Simpson questioned what they were asking for it. Rosie thought the starting price was \$65,000.00. She did not know if it would help with the parking issue.

Nicole Penrod questioned, if they were interested, where the money would come from and if there was money available. Rosie advised there was money available but Council would have to decide where to take it from.

Bill Simpson felt it was something the committee could look at.

WATER DEPARTMENT Mike Dear reported they have adjusted some meter pits; one service to turn on; changed out 30 meters to radio reads. He advised they had a main break on West Park Drive and also a service line leak in Lincoln Pointe. He reported his new employee started Monday.

OUTSIDE OPERATIONS Jeff Walker reported he would be talking more at the city retreat about storm water and dovetail what Gene discussed this evening. He advised, as of this morning, the property owner accepted the option to purchase for the SR 205 project.

Jeff Walker reported he and the Mayor met with representatives of City Ford and City Chevrolet and was working through to make sure we provide them with adequate utility services at the old Thomson's Chevrolet area. He also reported we have received 3 inquiries from the State level on industry looking to expand or relocate their operations.

POLICE DEPARTMENT Tim Longenbaugh reported they were complete with their department inventory; were busy last week with the Walgreen's robbery and other crimes. He advised they were working to put together a training calendar for the year and would be meeting with the command staff on Friday to measure their progress and how they were doing with their goals. He reported they were also going to start working on reorganizing how they store things with the limited space they have.

ELECTRIC DEPARTMENT Larry Whetstone reported they continue their tree trimming in the Big Lake area; repaired an overhead service on Sycamore Drive; cut down a tree on Line Street; installed an underground service on 600 South; straightened a pole on Brown Road that was hit; replaced copper connections on Marshall Blvd.; started changing cut outs that have caused problems; changed a meter base at the Community Foundation and an old pole they had on Redbud Drive. He reported they had 80 shut offs for this month.

FIRE DEPARTMENT Tom LaRue reported they were having their air pack bottles tested and were working on fundraiser ideas. He advised they have finished selection process for Captains and they are Toby Fralick, Brian Walker, Ron Jones, Chris LaRue, Doug Reed and Mike McGregor and Safety Officers are Frank Loe and Dave Herron. He reported they were also going through their job descriptions.

Nicole Penrod advised she had an individual inquire about one side parking on Ravenwood. The issue was referred to the parking committee.

STREET DEPARTMENT Kelly Cearbaugh reported on the areas they have been televising and have changed out some castings.

Ben Romine questioned with all of the snow and ice if the salt supply was holding up. Kelly advised it was and would be purchasing another 200 Ton by the end of the season. He stated his goal was to go into spring with a full salt barn just for the simple fact that a couple years ago the prices went up and they took a pretty big hit. He advised they were on the statewide salt purchase which has helped.

IS/COMMUNICATIONS DEPARTMENT Terry Wherry reported a new firewall was installed into the network and should be up and running 100% Wednesday. He has been helping several department heads with software that will allow them to access their desktop computers remotely. He reported IDACS had some software patches that needed to be added into the computer system and he continues to run maintenance software on all of the network computers and servers. He advised his new employee starts on Saturday and requested biographies from Council members for the website.

Ben Romine questioned if they found out what the generator issue was. Rosie Coyle advised there was a board burn out on it and Chief LaRue continued to explain they think a couple regulators are bad. He advised Troy was working with Flow Tech on it.

WASTEWATER DEPARTMENT Mike Cook reported they have training on new equipment that was installed on the EQ Basin; they would be reviewing the specs for the improvement project as they will be doing the inspections in-house; they were doing regular equipment maintenance and inspections and when the weather warms he will schedule a tour of the facility for Council members.

PARK DEPARTMENT Mayor Daniel reported for Mark Green in his absence. He advised because of the success of the Father/Daughter dance they were putting together a Mother/Son event on April 27 at Paige's Crossing from 6 – 10 p.m. He stated the cost was \$32 for two people. He reported the Big Green 8K was scheduled for March 17 and the proceeds will go towards the fireworks; they were taking baseball registrations until March 3 and softball registrations until March 17; they would be rebidding the trail and bridge in mid-March and hope to still be able to start construction by mid-May.

MAYOR REPORT Mayor Daniel reported, because he was on the Legislative Committee of IACT, they have been working hard against a couple bills that could hurt municipalities pretty heavily in regards to water aquifers and a couple other redevelopment issues.

Having no further business to discuss the meeting was adjourned.

Mayor Ryan Daniel

Attest:

Clerk Treasurer Rosie Coyle