

**COMMON COUNCIL
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 2014
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 – Absent
Daniel Weigold – Present
Jacie Worrick – Absent

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

MINUTES Motion was made by Ben Romine to approve an overview of the February 11, 2014 meeting minutes as presented, Nicole Penrod seconded the motion, all voted aye.

ANIMAL CONTROL ORDINANCE 2014-1 AMENDMENT: 2ND READING

Motion was made by Ben Romine to read Ordinance 2014-1 by title only, Dan Weigold seconded the motion, all voted aye. Clerk Treasurer Rosie Coyle read Ordinance 2014-1 an ordinance restating and amending Chapter 90, Animals, of Title IX of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Columbia City, Indiana.

Motion was made by Ben Romine to approve Animal Control Ordinance 2014-1 on second reading, Nicole Penrod seconded the motion, all voted aye.

ORDINANCE 2014-2: PRETREATMENT POLLUTANTS – 2ND READING

Motion was made by Dan Weigold to read Ordinance 2014-2 by title only, Ben Romine seconded the motion, all voted aye. Clerk Treasurer Rosie Coyle read Ordinance 2014-2 an ordinance amending Chapter 55, Pretreatment of Pollutants, of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Columbia City, Indiana.

Motion was made by Dan Weigold to approve Ordinance 2014-2 an ordinance amending Chapter 55, Pretreatment of Pollutants of the Code of Ordinances, Nicole Penrod seconded the motion, all voted aye.

COMPLIANCE WITH STATEMENT OF BENEFITS: PEAK

PERFORMANCE Mayor Daniel shared that he would like to start having these companies come in and give a progress report; he did not feel it was fair to the Clerk Treasurer to have to report.

After some discussion it was decided to table the issue until the next meeting and have someone from Peak Performance come in.

DISCUSSION ON SEWER RATES Mayor Daniel distributed and reviewed information to the Council regarding the rates. He advised there was also information in the Dropbox regarding the study Umbaugh put together last year.

He shared last year we did no increase to sewer which was against Umbaugh's suggestion. He felt we really needed to consider increases over the next 3 years to get us into the 2017 timeframe. He suggested that we go with the 5/3/3 plan; this year approve a \$5.00 increase and the following 2 years approve a \$3.00 increase on the average household. He advised the average household was 4,000 gallons.

He stated he would like, with Council's approval, to have Umbaugh draft up the ordinance and start putting the pieces together so we can have it exactly calculated for certain households. He advised Umbaugh suggested by 2017 we have a total increase of \$12.05 and through this plan we would have an \$11.00 increase.

Mayor Daniel reviewed a graph he put together titled Proposed Long Term Control Plan Sewer Rate Increases.

Mayor Daniel questioned if City Council and himself would enact a sewer rate increase would they be able to put it in place by October of this year. Rosie Coyle advised they could but would have to start the process now.

Mayor Daniel explained the reason for bringing this up was because we cannot wait any longer. He advised we need to do what the citizens have asked and that was to stair step the dollars in.

Mayor Daniel asked for permission to engage Umbaugh and start the process of going forward with the LTCP sewer rate increases.

Ben Romine questioned by doing it this way when would we have to do any additional bonding. Mayor Daniel did not have a definite date but believed it to be 2019 when we would do the actual construction of the next phase of the LTCP. He stated by that point in time we would have put in place a longer term schedule for sewer increases. He explained based on the current plan it projects that we raise our sewer rates \$25.25 over the 10 year time period. Dan Weigold noted that the money raised through these rate increases was used only for the LTCP.

Nicole Penrod questioned why the 5/3/3 plan rather than just adding \$2 per year to the next three years. Mayor Daniel advised he was certainly open to any other method, he was just following how Umbaugh did it where they front loaded the increase. Ben Romine questioned how difficult it would be to re-run the schedule at 4/4/4. Mayor Daniel advised he would have them do that to see how it projects out.

Ben Romine questioned at what time would they have some idea of what the design will cost. Jeff Walker hoped to have a budget by the end of this year; he had a scoping meeting with United on March 12 and at that point they would be putting together a proposal for IDEM. He advised once they present it to IDEM they would project costs based off of our timeline. He advised the final year is going to have to be a true-up anyway we cut it and would suspect that is what Umbaugh will recommend too.

Mayor Daniel questioned Jeff Walker if it would be fair to say the design costs would be \$1 million. Jeff Walker advised it would. Ben Romine questioned if the excess cash they were showing was per year or built up over time. Mayor Daniel believed it to be a build up over time. Ben Romine noted that this rate structure would not give us enough to pay for the design. Mayor Daniel advised he could have Umbaugh put something together to show what the increase would look like if we were to pay for the design with cash. Ben Romine advised he just wanted to make sure we had enough cash there by the time we have to pay for it; the point for putting the increase in place today is to build up cash so the only thing we would have to bond is the project itself.

Mayor Daniel asked for permission for him to go to Umbaugh to re-run the numbers at 4/4/4 and also ask what the number would be over the next 3 years to have cash to pay for the design of about \$1 million. He advised he would bring the information back to Council and then at that point would like to draft up an ordinance. Council members were in agreement to move forward.

Ben Romine questioned if over the next 4-5 years we can get some of the storm water out of the system what that would do to the finances of the wastewater utility. Jeff Walker advised it would be whatever is not being treated during wet weather events but was not sure what that was. He stated after the project was completed they could set a flow meter and very easily tell how many wet weather gallons were being diverted and put a number to that. Dan Weigold felt there were a lot of variables to come up with that. Ben Romine felt if we could lower that it would be cost savings to the plant. Mayor Daniel agreed and noted that as long as he was Mayor we were going to make a concerted effort to separate storm water from waste water so that the long term operations costs are lower than what they currently are. He advised it will make our plant oversized but the hope is as growth continues that will supplant the storm water so we are actually billing for what we are using.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS Department reports were given by Mark Green, Mike Dear, Tim Longenbaugh, Shawn Lickey, Jeff Walker and Tom LaRue.

YOUTH COUNCIL Hannah Cotter reported they toured the jail and visited the Humane Shelter.

NEXT COUNCIL MEETING Mayor Daniel requested to change the date of the next Council meeting. He advised he and Shawn Lickey would be in Washington D.C. to lobby our U.S. Senators and Representatives to keep public power affordable, carbon limits to an appropriate level and to just keep allowing public power to be what it needs to be.

Mayor Daniel questioned if March 4 at 7 p.m. would work for everyone to meet. Nicole Penrod was questionable but everyone else was ok to meet at that time.

Having no further business to discuss the meeting was adjourned.

Mayor Ryan Daniel

Attest:

Clerk Treasurer Rosie Coyle