

**COMMON COUNCIL
TUESDAY, MARCH 4, 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 – 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 February 25, 2014 meeting minutes as presented, Nicole Penrod seconded the motion, all voted aye.

PASSAGES CREATIVE LEARNING CENTER – JASON MEYER Jason Meyer, President with Passages, distributed and reviewed information about Passages. He discussed their new Creative Learning Center and what they do there. He reported they employ about 170 in Whitley County when fully staffed, they have 3 group homes serving 24 individuals and 12 waiver sites serving 46 individuals.

TREE BOARD UPDATE Ken Lundquist gave a brief overview of the activities of the Tree Board. He advised they were responsible for the maintenance and care of about 2518 tree with another 1400 planting sites for future trees. He stated their goal was not to have a single specie make up more than 10% of the tree population; Silver Maple makes up 24% and Sugar Maple makes up 13%. He added that no genre should make up more than 20% of the population; the general Maple grouping accounts for 47% of the population. He reported this year they would be removing 33 trees with 50% of them being Maple trees and a variety of trees would be planted to replace those being removed. He explained in 2013 they developed a system that would give them a more systematic approach to controlling and monitoring of our urban forest. Mr. Lundquist proceeded to explain how that system worked as well as their citizen concerns system. He explained the cost of pruning for 2013 was such that they could not award any planting of trees.

Mr. Lundquist reported they would be working on preparing for tree grants so when they become available they will be in a position to apply.

Mr. Lundquist advised this will be our 20th year to hold Tree City USA status as long as everything goes well.

Bill Simpson questioned if there was a beetle coming down the pipes that is affecting the Maples. Mr. Lundquist advised there was the Longhorn Beetle that could be the next problem; however, has not gotten this far yet.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS Department reports were given by Tom LaRue, Shawn Lickey, Terry Wherry and Kelly Cearbaugh.

MAYOR REPORT Mayor Daniel reported he contacted Umbaugh and they questioned if Council wanted them to do a full fiscal analysis again with the new numbers or use the same numbers and look at the rate suggestions to run the 3 scenarios. Dan Weigold questioned the cost difference. Mayor Daniel guessed if they are to redo the fiscal analysis it would probably add a couple thousand dollars. Nicole Penrod felt they could use the same numbers. Other members of Council agreed.

Mayor Daniel reported the Board of Works would be holding interviews for the Water Superintendent position over the next 2 days. He advised they would be interviewing 7 individuals.

DEER POPULATION IN TOWN Ben Romine questioned if there was anything we could do to monitor the deer population in town, there seemed to be a lot. Mayor Daniel asked Tom LaRue to check into what could be done.

Having no further business to discuss the meeting was adjourned.

Mayor Ryan Daniel

Attest:

Clerk Treasurer Rosie Coyle