

**COMMON COUNCIL
TUESDAY, MARCH 13, 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 February 28, 2012 meeting minutes as presented, Dan Weigold second the motion, Romine, Simpson and Weigold voted aye; Penrod and Worrick abstained.

LIMB PICKUP Mayor Daniel explained the Board of Works gave authority to Council to make a decision on how we should go forward with limb pickup.

Kelly Cearbaugh explained at one time it was passed to go to curb side pickup only but for whatever reason it got moved back into the alleys. He advised at one of their department meetings it was brought up to see about moving it back to curb side pickup only. He listed some of the pros as cutting out 1-2 days of limb pickup per month, cutting out 15 miles of alleys, fuel savings, maintenance issues and duplicated pickups. He listed cons as residents may have to drag the limbs further out to the curb.

Kelly noted some exceptions would be storm events; wind, ice and snow storms. He advised there were a few residents who do not have curbs so they would have to go back in the alley to get those.

Nicole Penrod felt to be consistent with cut backs in other departments it would be a good idea to do it now.

Jacie Worrick agreed it was a good idea. She questioned how the residents were notified of the dates of the limb pickups. Rosie Coyle advised she puts it on the utility bills and it is also published in the newspaper. Discussion followed on ways to notify the residents. Mayor Daniel suggested publishing it on Talk of the Town, the City Facebook page and City website.

It was questioned if someone wanted to take their limbs somewhere if we offered a place for them to take them. Kelly advised we did not.

It was the consensus of the Council to switch to curb side pickup only.

PROPOSED WATER RATE INCREASE Nicole Penrod questioned what happens now that they have had the hearing over the water rate.

Mayor Daniel explained the OUCC will continue to get responses then will sit down with the City to negotiate a rate. He stated after the negotiation there will be a settlement between the City and the IURC as to the actual rate increase. He advised from there it will come back to the Council for a final vote.

Nicole Penrod confirmed Council will determine how to do it as far as all at once or phase in. Rosie Coyle explained all the revenue Mike needs was figured in that one time. Nicole clarified because of the way it was asked for it was all now or nothing. Rosie advised that was correct; unless we would go back and redo the whole thing. Mayor Daniel explained it was very difficult to do a phased in rate increase because of the fact that the IURC was involved and we have to go through the whole process of mediation, etc. Rosie stated the last rate increase was phased in over a period of 3 years and at the end we had to do a 'true up' to see how our revenues were; it was time consuming and very expensive.

IS/COMMUNICATIONS DEPARTMENT Terry Wherry reported he has been working at the MSF moving data onto Angie Hildebrand's computer since Deb retired. He advised they installed 2 new monitors in dispatch and replaced an auto leveler that raises and lowers the consoles. He reported he was working with SDS on the camera for the trailhead bathrooms which should be accessible on the network tomorrow.

STREET DEPARTMENT Kelly Cearbaugh reported the leaf pile was ground and ready for people to take or they could wait until April 14 and they will have the loader at the Park from 8 a.m. - Noon. He advised they replaced the sidewalk around the restroom facility at the cemetery and next week will be cleaning up the cemetery; raised a casting behind the church between Jefferson and Jackson; have had the sweeper and jet machine out. He reported they had a sewer tap inspection at Lincoln Pointe and have been hauling wood chips out of the MSF to get ready for limb pickup season. He advised they were in the process of fixing a curb on South Washington Street due to a safety issue.

WATER DEPARTMENT Mike Dear reported they replaced a valve that was not working at Oak Street and North Street; they would be moving a fire hydrant and would be taking out 300 ft of 4" main that was not needed and switching over to 6" main. He advised they ran a new service line for 402 N. Oak; put in a new meter setting at Lincoln Pointe and replaced 16 meters.

ELECTRIC DEPARTMENT Larry Whetstone reported they finished taking down trees at Kenneth Wright Park and Baker Park. He advised they changed 2 poles on 700 North; grinding stumps; repaired some street lights and put in a 3 phase service at Gotcha Covered on Ellsworth Street.

POLICE DEPARTMENT Tim Longenbaugh reported both detective's have completed Finding Words Training which means they are certified to be on the sexual assault team. He

advised they would be meeting with the Reserve Coordinator, Officer Parrett, to start reviewing the Reserve Policy. He added that they would be utilizing the reserves this summer to help out with some of the major events. He reported he had 4 officers attend training put on by the US Dept. of Education which focused on threat assessment, school shootings, etc. He advised Thursday they would be restricting the use of the personal patrol vehicles to only to and from work due to the rising fuel costs and the uncertainty of what the prices may be this summer. He reported he would be out of the office all week next week attending the state mandated Chief's school.

Discussion followed on researching fuel co-ops and other ways to save on fuel costs.

FIRE DEPARTMENT Tom LaRue reported he still had one guy going to Fort Wayne for training and had 2 firefighters completing their Firefighter 1 & 2. He added that they have been interviewing for some volunteers. He advised they have had to replace some equipment that has either been lost or left at fire's they have been to.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT Jeff Walker reported the County asked the City to file the right of way application for the City Ford project in which he has already applied for. He advised he continues to gather information for the potential partnership with the high school on a proposed storm water project. He reported he would be out all day Thursday at an economic development session at IMPA's office.

Jeff explained the City was partnering with the County Redevelopment Commission basically for the prospect of potential economic development in the former Thomson Chevrolet area. He stated Doug McKibben and a partner of his was investing several million dollars in improvements in that area for a Ford retail operation and will also remodel the former Chevrolet facility. He explained there were approximately 10 lots to the east of the existing facility that will be a commercial/industrial park environment. He stated the City has committed to partnering in the way of wholesale purchasing for all of the sewer and water main installation materials and will be reimbursed by the County Redevelopment Commission. He explained Mike Dear and his department will be doing all of the public water main installation and Kelly Cearbaugh and his crew will be doing sewer inspection services as part of our in-kind services for this project.

WASTEWATER DEPARTMENT Mike Cook reported all of the UV bulbs were cleaned, inspected, installed and would be turned on next week to start some initial testing. He reported he participated in a webinar today and was able to get some hours for his license at no cost. He advised they would be providing tours to the entire ISMS 8th grade as well as a Boy Scout Troop from Albion.

PARK DEPARTMENT Mark Green thanked the police department for reporting a water leak at the bathrooms. He reported softball registration ends Saturday and baseball evaluations will be held in the afternoon. He shared that the Park Board decided to have an engineering firm in to inspect the pool to determine costs and what would have to be done to continue the pool for another 10 years. He advised they were planning to be open this summer. He reported he would be meeting with INDOT to discuss a project that would elevate the US 30 bridge; project was

scheduled for 2014. He advised they started advertising for the rebidding of the trail and bridge project and have a pre-bid meeting next week.

Bill Simpson questioned if there were any future plans for improvements or use of Baker Park. Mark advised Baker Park has been the topic of discussion as they were not satisfied with how it was being used.

VEHICLE USE Mayor Daniel advised he has asked the department heads to cut back on their vehicle use in light of the \$4.00 gasoline costs; to and from work as well as during work hours.

REDISTRICTING Ben Romine advised he has received a couple things in the mail regarding redistricting and questioned who was in charge of it. Dan Weigold stated as far as he knew everything was staying predominately the same; the only thing that changed, County related, was the current representative for the Columbia City area was basically just going to be Columbia City and the Northwest District got moved into another District. He explained as far as the City was concerned the population did not warrant a change.

Having no further business to discuss the meeting was adjourned.

Mayor Ryan Daniel

Attest:

Clerk Treasurer Rosie Coyle