

**COMMON COUNCIL
TUESDAY, MAY 13, 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 Mayor Daniel noted a spelling error under Auntie Anne’s discussion. Motion was made by Ben Romine to approve an overview of the April 22, 2014 meeting minutes as amended, Nicole Penrod seconded the motion, all voted aye.

CITY TREE BOARD AWARD PRESENTATION: DNR FOREST DIVISION Ken Lundquist introduced Karrie Kosher with the DNR.

Karrie Kosher thanked the Council and Mayor for supporting the Tree Board. She advised only 53 out of 567 communities were Tree City Communities in the State of Indiana and Columbia City has been able to support and promote urban forestry and tree planting for over 20 years. She continued to explain the importance of trees and their benefits.

Ms. Kosher presented Ken Lundquist with the Columbia City Tree Board a Tree City USA 20 year award.

COMPLIANCE WITH STATEMENT OF BENEFITS – BURNHAM-KERR (DUNHAMS)
Rosie Coyle noted a representative was not able to attend the meeting.

Mayor Daniel stated with Dunham’s moving in and Label Shopper recently moving into the area and the other potential for the property we have seen additional employment. He recommended the Council approve the tax abatement filing.

Motion was made by Ben Romine to approve the abatement for the next year, Dan Weigold seconded the motion, all voted aye.

COMPLIANCE WITH STATEMENT OF BENEFITS – BLUE M MEDICAL Mr. Smith advised things were going very well and since his last visit he purchased the property and has undertaken a lot of remodeling. He expected to take full occupancy by sometime in July.

Motion was made by Nicole Penrod to approve and find Blue M Medical in compliance, Bill Simpson seconded the motion, Penrod, Simpson, Weigold and Worrick voted aye, Romine abstained.

COMPLIANCE WITH STATEMENT OF BENEFITS – STAFCO Rosie Coyle advised this would be for their real property. She advised they were in substantial compliance.

Motion was made by Ben Romine to approve the abatement for this next year, Nicole Penrod seconded the motion, all voted aye.

JOHN MYERS – 316 S. WALNUT STREET – NEIGHBOR ISSUES John Myers was present to express his concerns and issues with his neighbors upsetting he and his wife in various ways. He shared that he has tried to ignore the situation but it does not help. He advised he has talked with police officers, police chief and the Prosecutor; he was not sure what the Council could do.

Mayor Daniel suggested there was maybe something we were missing that other communities were doing to address these types of issues. He advised he would check with some other Mayor's.

Chief Longenbaugh explained the officer's job was to figure out if there was a violation or not. He encouraged Mr. Myers to call if he feels there is a violation in his neighborhood and an officer will come out to figure out if it is in violation of ordinance or state statute.

SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICER UPDATE Officer Mike Petersen reviewed the responsibilities of the School Resource Officer; guidance and counseling, lesson plans and guest speaking and law enforcement. He stated they officially started the program in January and serve 7 schools. He shared how an average day would go for him and most of his energy goes into connecting with the students by attending their events, field trips and being involved with all of the different clubs and activities. He advised his schedule was random and shared they want to add more guest speaking next year.

Bill Simpson questioned if one officer was enough to handle all 7 schools. Officer Petersen advised they can do it and the average was 1-2. He shared there was a lot of need between the middle school and high school population and he sometimes was not available to meet all of their needs but felt the school system does really well. He shared the law enforcement segment of his job was very minimal.

Ben Romine advised he has heard a lot of positive comments from the public regarding this. Mayor Daniel agreed the program was very good.

ORDINANCE 2014-6: ELECTRIC LOAN TO STORM WATER – 2ND READING Motion was made by Dan Weigold to read Ordinance 2014-6 by title only, Nicole Penrod seconded the motion, all voted aye. Clerk Treasurer Rosie Coyle read Ordinance 2014-6 an ordinance of the City of Columbia City authorizing the municipal electric utility to make a loan to the City of Columbia City storm water utility for the southwest storm water project.

Motion was made by Ben Romine to approve Ordinance 2014-6 on second reading, Jacie Worrick seconded the motion, all voted aye.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS Department reports were given by Mike Cook, Kelly Cearbaugh, Jeff Walker, Tom LaRue, Mike Shoda, Tim Longenbaugh and Mark Green.

REDEVELOPMENT COMMISSION – EAGLES BUILDING Ben Romine reported the Eagles building demolition was on hold for now.

WEIGHT LIMIT – HANNA STREET Nicole Penrod shared some of the comments she received concerning lifting the weight limit on Hanna Street proposed by Mr. Chandler. After additional discussion the issue was referred to the Ordinance Review Committee.

Having no further business to discuss the meeting was adjourned.

Mayor Ryan Daniel

Attest:

Clerk Treasurer Rosie Coyle