

**COMMON COUNCIL
TUESDAY, AUGUST 13, 2013
7:00 P.M.**

Mayor Ryan Daniel – Present
Clerk Treasurer Rosie Coyle – Present
Attorney Marcia McNagy – 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 Ben Romine pointed out a grammatical change under the Warner Electric discussion.

Motion was made by Nicole Penrod to approve an overview of the July 23, 2013 meeting minutes as amended, Ben Romine seconded the motion, Penrod, Romine, Weigold and Worrick voted aye, Simpson abstained.

CRAIG WAGNER, BUILDING INSPECTOR: DOWNTOWN BUILDING

INSPECTIONS Craig Wagner, Building Inspector, gave a presentation on how they deal with unsafe buildings and the ordinances involved.

Dan Weigold questioned Mr. Wagner if he felt the building ordinances drafted back in the 1960's needed to be updated. Mr. Wagner advised the minimum housing ordinance does need to be redone. He stated the unsafe building ordinance and building ordinance were updated in 1995; the building ordinance references the current Indiana construction codes so it is relatively updated all of the time.

Additional discussion followed.

SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICER DISCUSSION Tim Longenbaugh updated the Council on the history of how the idea of a School Resource Officer got started and the duties of the Officer. He shared a list of surrounding communities who have School Resource Officer's.

Chief Longenbaugh reported State Bill 1 was passed by legislation which allows school corporations to apply for a grant with the State to get money to pay for an SRO, use the money for safety upgrades or threat assessments. He explained we will need to have a Memo of Understanding that the City and School Corporation would sign and agree upon before the school corporation can apply for the grant. Mayor Daniel advised the school was working on putting together the Memo of Understanding and hoped to have it at the next Board of Works meeting to review.

Mayor Daniel stated it was mentioned that if the SRO goes forward we would probably be in need of hiring another officer but more details will be coming.

Chief Longenbaugh shared that the Superintendent and he both agreed that the priority would be at the high school level.

Ben Romine assumed the SRO would be an employee of the department. Chief Longenbaugh explained all SRO's are full time officers whether it is with City or Sheriff's departments. He stated the ways the programs are funded are all over the board; some are partnerships, some Cities fund the entire program. He explained they are full time police officers that work for the school for the 180 days then in the summer time they normally fall back into a patrolman position and work the road.

Mayor Daniel shared that one of the things that has come up in discussions is why the County was not involved in the funding of this project. He explained as a school corporation they have a certain group of tax payers they represent, thus if the officer is taken out to Coesse, Northern Heights, etc. it is still within that taxing units purview; therefore, the tax payers for the school corporation are paying for that officer.

Nicole Penrod questioned if the City would pay the benefits and insurance of the officer. Mayor Daniel advised the SRO would be an employee of the City and would be on our insurance, retirement plan, etc. but the funding will be worked out in the MOU.

Ben Romine questioned if we would fund the equipment, uniform, training, etc. Chief Longenbaugh advised the vehicle they already have, the uniforms would be additional, as far as the equipment he did not feel they would need anything additional and the training would be funded by the City.

Jacie Worrick questioned if there had been conversation with the County on this. Chief Longenbaugh advised he talked with the Sheriff about it and he was fine with us pursuing the program. He felt the reason the Superintendent approached the City was the priority with the high school kids and being in town. Jacie questioned if this would expand into the county schools. Chief Longenbaugh advised there was potential for the officer to be in those schools on a limited basis.

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

EAGLES PROPERTY PURCHASE Ben Romine reported the Redevelopment Commission agreed in principle to purchase the Eagles property subject to the appraisals. He advised if the appraisals come back lower than the price agreed upon the Commission has first right of refusal on the property. He advised if all goes well they should have a decision next Tuesday.

Having no further business to discuss the meeting was adjourned.

Mayor Ryan Daniel

Attest:

Clerk Treasurer Rosie Coyle