

**COMMON COUNCIL  
TUESDAY, AUGUST 27, 2013  
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.

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

**GOLF CARTS ON THE GREENWAY** Mark Green reported the Park Board voted against allowing golf carts on the Greenway. Mayor Daniel clarified there was a petition signed by a good number of citizens who did not want the golf carts on the Greenway. Mark advised that was correct. He added that he sent a mass email out to park staff across the State and every single response was against having golf carts on the Greenway's.

Dan Weigold noted the Board did approve allowing motorized wheelchairs. Mark advised if it was for a personal disability they were allowed on the Greenway.

**SR 205 PROJECT** Jeff Walker reported there was still no change on the 205 project. He advised they still have not heard back from the Federal Highway Administration on the approval of the environmental documents that were forwarded to them quite some time ago. He explained once we get those back and after we get properties acquired there was still about a 5 month process INDOT has after that. Bill Simpson questioned best case scenario would be next summer. Mayor Daniel advised that would be very best case scenario and honestly felt we were pushed back to 2015.

**YOUTH COUNCIL UPDATE** Stacy Quinn gave an update on officer elections for the Youth Council and the activities of their first meeting.

**MINUTES** Ben Romine questioned the date the Building Ordinance was updated; 2005 or 1995. Rosie Coyle and Attorney McNagny advised they would research that.

Motion was made by Ben Romine to approve an overview of the August 27, 2013 meeting minutes with the understanding that the date would be verified, Nicole Penrod seconded the motion, all voted aye.

**ALAN TIO: ERA DISCUSSIONS** Alan Tio reviewed a draft resolution that would establish an Economic Revitalization Area across the City. He explained the objective was to simplify the tax payment process. He stated with the number of projects they were working on in the City they felt it made sense to bring this up for discussion to see if the Council would consider a city wide ERA designation. He advised it would not change any zoning and would not affect any tax payer unless they would apply for abatement. He explained if they already have the proper zoning they can skip the step of having to create an ERA specific for their property.

Mr. Tio explained when it comes to a tax payer submitting a request for abatement they would still have to have eligible investments, still have to come to Council for approval and if in a TIF area it would have to go to Redevelopment as well. He advised there were still checks and balances to make sure it was something Council wanted to approve but it would help simplify the process.

Ben Romine questioned how it would affect the TIF; the whole purpose of the TIF was to get improvements in there and then if we turn around and abate them there are no dollars going back in to TIF. Mr. Tio explained the resolution itself would not have any bearing on the TIF district; they would still have to create ERA separate from TIF area. He stated if Redevelopment recommends abatement to Council they are, in essence, forgoing new property taxes that could be collected.

Mayor Daniel questioned if a downtown business could bypass the Redevelopment Commission and come straight to Council for an abatement. Mr. Tio did not believe so.

Bill Simpson questioned if this would benefit a downtown building owner to make improvements to their buildings. Mr. Tio did not think it would and suggested working with Redevelopment on a revolving loan or façade grant as those dollars would be immediate whereas tax abatement would be over 5 – 10 years. Ben Romine advised the increase in assessment discourages investment downtown; they have looked at the possibility of abatement to encourage investment downtown. Mr. Tio suggested perhaps the Redevelopment Commission could build into the program a 2 year tax abatement to help in the short term.

Ben Romine questioned if they could set abatement process rules for different areas. Mr. Tio advised it was at Council's discretion.

Council requested additional information on the idea.

**FIBER NETWORK: SPECTRUM ENGINEERING** Terry Wherry advised he provided information in the drop box on the research they were doing on a fiber network to tie City buildings together. He reported the Board of Works approved doing Phase I and II which will allow Spectrum Engineering to do design specifications and to go over a route Shawn Lickey developed.

Ben Romine questioned with the route being run if there was potential to offer businesses to participate. Terry advised the possibility was always there; depending on how many strands we would initially put in we could possibly give them some bandwidth on their own strands but where they would take it he was not sure because ours would be a closed network.

Terry Wherry explained this would be a closed system for the City with the possibility of partnering with the schools or county; we would not be selling any bandwidth unless the City decides to go that route.

Ben Romine questioned the public Wi-Fi. Terry explained that would be if we decide to offer free Wi-Fi at the park or downtown area. He stated we could use a couple strands out of the fiber to provide that; it would come back to City Hall then run out on a separate internet connection so it would not ever touch our City network.

Bill Simpson questioned what the range of the Wi-Fi would be in the downtown area. Terry advised it depends on the equipment we use and amount of money we want to spend. Bill questioned if we would be able to cover the bulk of the downtown area. Terry felt it would cover at least 2 – 3 blocks.

**CITY WIDE OPEN HOUSE** Mayor Daniel reported we would be having a City wide open house on September 21 from 9 – 12 p.m. He advised all of the departments would be open and department heads will be available to give tours.

Having no further business to discuss the meeting was adjourned.

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Mayor Ryan Daniel

Attest:

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Clerk Treasurer Rosie Coyle