

**COMMON COUNCIL
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 25, 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 September 11, 2012 meeting minutes as presented, Dan Weigold second the motion, Penrod, Romine, Weigold and Worrick voted aye, Simpson abstained.

ORDINANCE 2012-26: 2013 SALARY RANGE ORDINANCE – 2ND READING Motion was made by Nicole Penrod to read Ordinance 2012-26 by title only, Ben Romine second the motion, all voted aye. Clerk Treasurer Rosie Coyle read Ordinance 2012-26 an ordinance to be known as the 2013 salary range/benefit ordinance.

Dan Weigold brought up the 171 gap pay for the Police Department and questioned if that would cause a problem with next year's ranges. Rosie Coyle advised it would not affect the ranges; those are set for a first class patrolman, the only thing in the salary ordinance is setting overtime after the 171. She stated they still needed to have another meeting with the committee to discuss the gap time.

Motion was made by Jacie Worrick to approve Ordinance 2012-26 on second reading, Ben Romine second the motion, Penrod, Romine, Weigold and Worrick voted aye, Simpson abstained.

APPOINTMENTS TO TREE BOARD Mayor Daniel advised there were 2 Tree Board members that were up for reappointment, Gloria Banker and Ken Lundquist who is the current President of the Board.

Ben Romine questioned what the criteria was to be on the Board. Rosie Coyle advised all members must be citizens and residents of Whitley County; 4 appointed by the Mayor and 3 appointed by City Council.

Motion was made by Nicole Penrod to reappoint Gloria Banker and Ken Lundquist to the Tree Board, Ben Romine second the motion, all voted aye.

STREET DEPARTMENT Kelly Cearbaugh reported he met with Three River's Barricade to get Line Street, Towerview, 100 South and one other street striped, he advised the 50/50 sidewalks were completed, they have been working at the new pole barn at the MSF and at the cemetery, running the sweeper and were looking at starting leaf pickup the week of October 22.

Bill Simpson pointed out that while on the trail you could see an area that was starting to erode in the cemetery. Kelly advised it was the Ella Brand section and would probably become an issue some day. Kelly was asked to look at it when he got a chance.

IS/COMMUNICATIONS DEPARTMENT Terry Wherry reported he met with SDS Communications to get a quote for cameras at Kids Dreamland and DeVol Field, he met with Niblock and SDS at the Park to discuss moving the fiber because of the new bathrooms that were going in and they fixed the weather station on the roof of City Hall.

POLICE DEPARTMENT Tim Longenbaugh reported on their assistance with the Fall Festival, the Captain and he were working on setting goals for each officer for 2013 that would be used in line with the performance evaluations, he reported on some training coming up for a few of their officers.

WATER DEPARTMENT Mike Dear reported they completed their lead and copper samples for the year, they hooked a new meter up in Rail Connect Park for a new building, they fixed the shut offs on a couple houses on Chauncey and North Main Street, they sold some scrap copper and brass, they hooked up 22 radio boxes and changed out 20 meters, they put in a 2" tap for the new bank on Countryside and they put in 200 ft of 1" plastic water line for an old line that was starting to leak.

ELECTRIC DEPARTMENT Larry Whetstone reported they installed an underground service on 700 N, they had their annual infrared check for hot spots on the system and their annual truck inspection. He reported on their tree trimming and grinding projects. He advised they have started the electric work on the new pole building and were still working on insulators and switches.

Larry reported the agreement was signed by the Board of Works for us to provide maintenance for South Whitley Electric; next week he will be at South Whitley's meeting for them to sign the agreement. Ben Romine questioned if the revenue coming from that would just go in the general electric fund and questioned if it would have any effect on rates. Rosie Coyle explained it would not, we would bill them what it costs us. Mayor Daniel explained the contractual costs have to do with more than the salary of one individual. He stated one of the provisions of the contract is that Columbia City is first served in the event of an emergency and South Whitley would come second. Ben questioned if we were just charging man-hours. Mayor Daniel advised vehicle usage, manpower, overtime, etc. was built into the agreement. He stated the agreement was in their Dropbox. Bill Simpson stated our electric department could make revenue on this which may help alleviate rate increases in the future for our customers. Rosie Coyle advised that was correct.

WASTEWATER DEPARTMENT Mike Cook reported on plant repairs; he discussed the purchase of rain gauges and he distributed information to his guys regarding a conference that will be held in Fort Wayne which will give them an opportunity to get some educational hours.

FIRE DEPARTMENT Tom LaRue reported on their assistance with the Fall Festival at Morsches Park.

YOUTH COUNCIL Mayor Daniel introduced Kiersten Thomas who is the Youth Council President and a Junior at CCHS. Kiersten reported they have their Facebook page up and running and put a comment box at the high school and ETA. She advised they would be doing a downtown business walk to ask businesses about youth involvement and if they feel it would be appropriate and if so how they could help. She stated they were working on a program for 5th graders on government education.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT Mayor Daniel reported for Jeff Walker in that the miscellaneous improvement project was about 85% complete with final completion October 25. He reported they met with the Lieutenant Governor, her Chief of Staff and two members of INDOT regarding the 205 project and the inclusion of the water line. He stated they were checking on a few things and should have more information by the end of next week.

TREE REMOVAL ISSUE – ALBERT CURLESS 601 E. JACKSON STREET Dan Weigold reported he visited Mr. Curless's house on Jackson Street about a situation involving a tree that was removed several years ago by the City. He explained there was still a hump in the yard with only 2 – 3" of soil on top of it and the grass has never really grown there. He advised Mr. Curless was interested in what the City could do to help. Larry Whetstone felt he could take care of the problem if Council would give him the ok. Council was ok with that.

GIS UPDATE Dan Weigold reported our Draftsman was looking at preparing a proposal to look at going to GIS. He advised they attended a meeting at Noblesville where he was able to network with other cities and towns that already have it.

BURN PERMIT Ben Romine questioned the policy on burn permits. Tom LaRue advised anything more than a campfire has to go through IDEM. They would need to contact IDEM Air Quality Division.

TRAIL BIDS Ben Romine advised he had asked Mark Green for a list of what they projected and what the differences were on the trail bids. Mayor Daniel explained one of the things that increased cost was they added an extra inch of asphalt so it would be the same grade as the rest of the trail which added a fairly significant amount of the \$17,000 but advised he would have Mark get them a list. Rosie Coyle mentioned that they may not need additional appropriations.

POOL SURVEY Ben Romine questioned if responses were being tabulated. Mayor Daniel advised they were and they had 249 responses at this point. He stated they had until October 6 to accept surveys and would have responses ready at the next Council meeting. He shared that preliminarily speaking there were many people in favor of a new aquatics facility and many believe we should pay for it through a bond.

Having no further business to discuss the meeting was adjourned.

Attest:

Mayor Ryan Daniel

Clerk Treasurer Rosie Coyle