

**COMMON COUNCIL
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 22, 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.

MINUTES Motion was made by Ben Romine to approve an overview of the October 8, 2013 meeting minutes as presented, Jacie Worrick seconded the motion, all voted aye.

WJHS RADIO STATION Mayor Daniel reported he was approached by Michelle Creech to potentially start airing our Council meetings over the high school radio station. He asked for Council's opinion on this.

Dan Weigold felt it would be another way to be open to the public and did not have a problem with it. It was the consensus of the Council that it would be a good idea.

ADOPTION OF 2014 BUDGET – ORDINANCE 2013-23 Motion was made by Dan Weigold to read Ordinance 2013-23 by title only, Ben Romine seconded the motion, all voted aye. Clerk Treasurer Rosie Coyle read Ordinance 2013-23 an ordinance or resolution for appropriations and tax rate.

Motion was made by Bill Simpson to approve Ordinance 2013-23, Nicole Penrod seconded the motion, all voted aye.

RESOLUTION 2013-24: 2014 EMPLOYEE SALARY ORDINANCE – 2ND READING
Motion was made by Ben Romine to read Ordinance 2013-24 by title only, Nicole Penrod seconded the motion, all voted aye. Clerk Treasurer Rosie Coyle read Ordinance 2013-24 an ordinance to be known as the 2014 salary range/benefit ordinance.

Motion was made by Ben Romine to approve Ordinance 2013-24 on second reading, Nicole Penrod seconded the motion, all voted aye.

RESOLUTION 2013-25: DECLARATORY RESOLUTION DESIGNATING ERA TERRITORY Motion was made by Dan Weigold to read Resolution 2013-25 by title only, Ben Romine seconded the motion, all voted aye. Clerk Treasurer Rosie Coyle read Resolution 2013-

25 a declaratory resolution designating certain real estate within Columbia City as an economic revitalization area (ERA) pursuant to I.C. 6-1.1-12.1 et seq.

Mayor Daniel advised this was the declaratory resolution to establish a citywide ERA; we will be having a public hearing at the next meeting followed by a confirmatory resolution.

Motion was made by Bill Simpson to approve Resolution 2013-25, Ben Romine seconded the motion, all voted aye.

RESOLUTION 2013-29: COLUMBIA CITY-WHITLEY COUNTY BUILDING

AUTHORITY DISSOLVED Motion was made by Jacie Worrick to read Resolution 2013-29 by title only, Ben Romine seconded the motion, all voted aye. Clerk Treasurer Rosie Coyle read Resolution 2013-29 resolution of the City of Columbia City Common Council and the Board of Commissioners of Whitley County, Indiana.

Mayor Daniel advised the Columbia City-Whitley County Building Authority will dissolve. He felt this was probably a great Building Authority at the time it was created, needed and good for financing purposes but felt they have reached a time period that it would be better off dissolved rather than having to fill the Board position. He stated we did not have any major building projects coming up and did not think the County did either.

Motion was made by Ben Romine to approve Resolution 2013-29, Nicole Penrod seconded the motion, all voted aye.

REDEVELOPMENT COMMISSION – EAGLES BUILDING PURCHASE Mayor Daniel requested approval for an additional appropriation of \$62,000.00 from the TIF account to go towards the purchase of the Eagle's property. He advised we had the money in the account but it had to be approved by City Council; that would put the TIF dollars used for the purchase at about \$150,000.00 and the Redevelopment Commission budget regular general tax funds at about \$13,000.00.

Motion was made by Ben Romine to appropriate the additional funds of \$62,000.00 to complete the purchase of the Eagle's property, Nicole Penrod seconded the motion, all voted aye.

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

LONG TERM CONTROL PLAN Jeff Walker explained since the implementation of the Long Term Control Plan the City has expended in excess of \$25 million for compliance of this document. He stated with the foresight of Mayor Daniel, last year we requested and were approved by IDEM to hold off on the next phase of the plan for a two year period. He explained the reason was to give us an opportunity to revisit our existing plan and look at potential ways to get the most for our money and minimize the rate impact for our rate payers. He shared that it also gave Umbaugh an opportunity to review our existing rates and proposed capital improvements and identify the rate impact improvements would have on our rate payers. He explained we have had several consultants look at our plan and they feel because of technology

improvements we need to go back to IDEM and look at a different way of compliance. He stated the original plan said sewer separation of our system would be cost prohibitive but with the way things have changed we, along with the consultants, think partial separation is feasible and preferred. He shared that last year we treated about 486 million gallons and out of that about 164 million gallons were unbilled; this was due to what is called I & I (inflow and infiltration) which is some leakage through bad joints and old manholes but the largest contributor is the storm events that flow into our combined system and out to the treatment plant. He advised we are working on separation projects; the one for next spring will take a significant area of the southwest quadrant of the City off of the combined system which will have an immediate impact.

Jeff Walker explained to do any type of modification to the LTCP we have to have it approved by IDEM and have to have engineered supporting strategies to present to them. He advised they would like to create a proposal asking for professional services and then select the firm through a qualification based process as opposed to fee based. He asked for Council's support and approval to move forward with putting together proposals.

Mayor Daniel advised he, Jeff and Mike Cook have been mulling this around for a while and feel it is time to act. He stated this would be the first step before looking funding wise. He shared that they will need to look at the potential for rate increases for sewer.

Council agreed to move forward with the proposals.

YOUTH COUNCIL UPDATE Morghan Wilcoxson gave an update on the youth council. She advised they are focusing more on community involvement.

ELECTED OFFICIALS SALARY ORDINANCE Rosie Coyle advised she needed to get the elected officials salary ordinance passed and asked for Council's input on a pay increase or not.

Nicole Penrod felt Council's salary should stay the same and the Mayor and Clerk Treasurer should be increased the same as what the employee's will receive.

Dan Weigold pointed out that the Mayor's position was \$8,000 less than the superintendents and felt it would be wise to stage in a \$2,000 increase over a 4 year period to achieve a balanced pay. Nicole Penrod questioned if it would be \$2,000 in addition to the raise given. Dan advised that was his suggestion, otherwise they would never catch up.

Bill Simpson questioned thoughts on the Clerk Treasurer's pay. Rosie Coyle advised the Clerk Treasurer's pay has stayed the same; the Mayor's pay was the lowest and felt it needed to go up. Bill felt if the employee's received a raise the Clerk Treasurer should receive the same. Nicole Penrod agreed the Clerk Treasurer should go up the \$1040 and believed the Mayor's salary should go up \$1040 plus additional to close in the gap.

Rosie advised she would work with Dan to try and have something for the next meeting.

FIRE TRUCK PURCHASE Mayor Daniel explained a large portion of the fire truck would be paid for out of the Fire Cum Fund and as discussed before there was a need for additional

money. He stated he would like approval for he and Rosie to put together a funding package for the additional amount needed for the truck purchase. He was projecting it to be \$150,000 - \$200,000. Council agreed.

TRAIL EXTENSION PROJECT Mayor Daniel advised the first phase of the trail project was going to have to be postponed until next year. He stated phase I and II will be done next year.

Having no further business to discuss the meeting was adjourned.

Mayor Ryan Daniel

Attest:

Clerk Treasurer Rosie Coyle