

**COMMON COUNCIL**  
**TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 2012**  
**7:00 P.M.**

Mayor Ryan Daniel – Present  
Clerk Treasurer Rosie Coyle – Present  
Attorney Marcia McNagny – Present

**Council Members**

Ben Romine – Present  
Nicole Penrod – 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 Dan Weigold to approve an overview of the October 23, 2012 meeting minutes as presented, Weigold, Worrick, Romine and Simpson voted aye; Penrod abstained.

**ORDINANCE 2012-32: EDC TARGET AREA** Motion was made by Ben Romine to read Ordinance 2012-32 by title only, Dan Weigold second the motion, all voted aye. Clerk Treasurer Rosie Coyle read Ordinance 2012-32 an ordinance designating an economic development target area within the corporate boundaries of the City of Columbia City, Whitley County, State of Indiana.

Mayor Daniel discussed the area they would like to designate as a target area. He advised the Columbia City Economic Development Commission, consisting of three members, passed a resolution basically stating that they recommend adopting the ordinance. He explained this would allow us in the future to provide tax abatement to companies. He stated the area ranges from Armstrong Drive over to SR 109; it would include the old Scott's building, the small shops in between to Walmart and back behind to the corporate limits.

Ben Romine questioned the reasoning for bringing this up at this point. Mayor Daniel explained in his campaigning he heard very frequently that the old Scotts building was an eyesore and people would like to see it filled with a business or multiple businesses. He felt this was the best way to go about doing that.

Nicole Penrod questioned if any of those businesses could apply for tax abatement now. Mayor Daniel advised it would be on any new improvements. Jeff Walker advised this would not provide for automatic tax abatement, they would still need to come before the Council.

Motion was made by Dan Weigold to approve the recommendation of the Columbia City Economic Development Commission to develop that as an Economic Development Target Area, Nicole Penrod second the motion.

Jacie Worrick questioned if there were other areas in town that have this designation now. Mayor Daniel advised there were and pointed them out on the map provided.

Mayor Daniel did not believe there were any detriments to making this an EDTA; it does nothing to the taxes of the current buildings or property owners, it does nothing to harm those businesses already there, it was just a potential incentive for future growth of that area.

Ben Romine pointed out that the ordinance states we could provide a maximum 15% of the total area of the City and questioned how much of that was used up. Mayor Daniel advised it was less than 10%; 8 or 9% at max and that includes the new area.

Upon the motion, all voted aye.

**VETERAN'S MARATHON** JoAnn Bird was present to thank everyone who helped with the marathon. She reported they have already received numerous positive comments about our City and were planning to return.

**PARK DEPARTMENT** Mark Green reported the Dashing through the Snow 5K was scheduled for December 7; they have closed down the bathrooms except for the Trailhead on Whitley Street and they have football and baseball committee meetings scheduled.

**POLICE DEPARTMENT** Tim Longenbaugh reported they have a Command meeting scheduled as well as training; they were taking applications for a full time officer and 2 reserve officers until Friday.

**ELECTRIC DEPARTMENT** Larry Whetstone reported on the various daily tasks and he sent 4 guys to South Whitley to go through their system.

**WATER DEPARTMENT** Mike Dear reported they cleaned valves on the north and south towers as well as the pumps at the plant; they mowed easements; the pumpage was down and would probably continue that way until spring gets here; he reported his new employee started today and had one retiring on Friday.

**IS/COMMUNICATIONS DEPARTMENT** Terry Wherry reported they were waiting on camera equipment to install at the park and vendors were in with Scott Jones, 911 Coordinator, to look at our dispatch center as they were looking at getting a new 911 system.

Mayor Daniel questioned how Nixle was coming along. Terry advised they had quite a few users. He explained it was a system that Whitley County, South Whitley and Churubusco use to put out advisory's and alerts but it was something you have to opt into and could sign up at Nixle.com or the city webpage.

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT** Jeff Walker gave an update on the trail and bridge project; they held a progress meeting on the miscellaneous improvement project for the waste water plant; GAI had surveyors in this week for the storm water project

**CHRISTMAS LIGHTING CONTEST** Dan Weigold questioned if anyone would be interested in helping with the lighting contest this year. He advised Ben and Mike Cook helped last year. He also asked if they could have the signs refurbished as they were looking pretty beat up.

Having no further business to come before the Board the meeting was adjourned.

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Mayor Ryan Daniel

Attest:

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Clerk Treasurer Rosie Coyle