

**COMMON COUNCIL
TUESDAY, JANUARY 13, 2015
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 December 30, 2014 meeting minutes as presented, Nicole Penrod seconded the motion, all voted aye.

ELECTION OF COUNCIL PRESIDENT Nicole Penrod nominated Dan Weigold to retain the position as Council President, Jacie Worrick seconded the nomination.

Motion was made by Ben Romine to close nominations and have Dan Weigold remain as Council President, Nicole Penrod seconded the motion, Penrod, Romine, Simpson and Worrick voted aye, Weigold abstained.

2014 ANNUAL CHRISTMAS AWARD PRESENTATION Dan Weigold and Ben Romine presented Christmas lighting awards to Steve & Rosemary Brown for the northeast district; Duane & Tami Miller for the southeast district; Jim & Lois Brandenburg for the southwest district; Chad & Lori Richter for the northwest district and Paul & Joyce Coulter as the overall winner.

PUBLIC HEARING ON SEWER RATE INCREASE Mayor Daniel recessed the meeting to hold a public hearing on the sewer rate increase.

Hearing no comments or questions the public hearing was closed.

ORDINANCE 2014-22: SEWER RATE INCREASE – 2ND READING Motion was made by Jacie Worrick to read Ordinance 2014-22 by title only, Nicole Penrod seconded the motion, all voted aye. Clerk Treasurer Rosie Coyle read Ordinance 2014-22 an ordinance amending Chapter 51, Public Works, of Title V of the code of ordinances of the City of Columbia City, Indiana.

Mayor Daniel recapped the ordinance and the options for those users connected to our sewer but not our water. Rosie Coyle advised we had about 70 customers who had our sewer but not water.

Mayor Daniel noted the goal of the rate increase was to have cash on hand for the engineering of the next phase of the Long Term Control Plan.

Motion was made by Dan Weigold to approve Ordinance 2014-22 on second reading, Jacie Worrick seconded the motion, Penrod, Weigold and Worrick voted aye, Romine and Simpson were opposed.

RE-APPOINTMENT FOR THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION Motion was made by Dan Weigold to reappoint Fritz Martin to the Economic Development Commission, Ben Romine seconded the motion, all voted aye.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS **Mike Cook** – employee resignation, UV sensors passed testing, maintenance and inspections; **Tom LaRue** – candy giveaway, New truck delivery, 801 runs in 2014; Ben Romine questioned Chief LaRue’s thoughts on vacating the alley between 510 & 513 Van Buren Street. Chief LaRue advised they typically try to stay away from alleys as much as possible but would like to look at it. **Kelly Cearbaugh** – snow removal; **Jeff Walker** – update on comprehensive plan, steering committee meeting, TIF district amendments, Blue River Trail extension and clearing of the Blue River near Arrowhead Ct.; **Mike Shoda** – water main break at SR 205 and Radio Rd.; **Shawn Lickey** – update on substation breaker; starting Phase 3 of Chesapeake, inventory; **Tim Longenbaugh** – Patrolling for presents, goals for 2015; **Mark Green** – snow removal, father/daughter dance in February, new quarterly newsletters, waiting on appraisals for potential land purchase for park expansion, April 25 baseball/softball opening day, 5-year plan almost complete, community ice rink at Morsches Park.

MAYOR UPDATE Mayor Daniel reported on the plans of the Youth Council, the Housing Authority was starting back up to help low income residents to make necessary repairs to their homes through a loan program and gave an update on legislation issues.

REDEVELOPMENT COMMISSION – BUILDING DONATION Ben Romine reported the Redevelopment Commission met to discuss a building that has been offered to be donated to the City. He stated they have gotten an engineer’s opinion, architect’s opinion and building inspector’s opinion who all state the building is in a major state of disrepair and is questionable whether or not it is worth fixing. He explained the Redevelopment Commission has discussed whether to take it on, they have preliminary estimates of about \$60,000 to take it down but it was not a very wide property and not a lot that could be done with it. He stated the Commission would be interested in taking possession of the property but was not the only body that would have a stake in the property.

Mayor Daniel believed the City was going to get stuck with the demolition costs not matter what but if we have a Redevelopment Commission who is interested in doing something with the property and were willing to oversee some of the demolition and restoration costs, he requested the Council consider giving the Redevelopment Commission the funds to demolish the building. He encouraged they look at taking the money out of the Rainy Day Fund.

Ben Romine shared they have looked at having the utility lines buried as part of the project; Shawn Lickey has provided preliminary costs and Lori Shipman thought there may be some grant money available to help with that.

Bill Simpson questioned what the thoughts were for the property once the building is gone. Ben Romine shared they have talked about parking, a pocket park, maybe put up a façade so there was not a “hole” in the block; it was not a lot big enough to really do much with.

Motion was made by Dan Weigold to have Mayor Daniel work with Rosie Coyle to put together a proposal to have that money transferred to the Redevelopment Commission for the demolition of the property and go with the demolition of the property, Nicole Penrod seconded the motion, all voted aye.

FIREWORKS Nicole Penrod confirmed everyone received a letter from Bruce Coyle regarding fireworks. She advised she talked with them and suggested we may be able to change things but they needed to get more people on board than just themselves.

Bill Simpson questioned if we could be more restrictive than the State. Mayor Daniel explained the State requires a certain amount of days that fireworks can be allowed; days outside of what the State mandates the City has control of. He offered to put together a side by side showing which days were State mandated and what the City allows.

Bill Simpson questioned if we could also restrict time. Mayor Daniel advised that was the same thing; if the State mandates it, no, but if it was under our jurisdiction we could.

Mayor Daniel advised he would try to have information around for the next meeting.

Having no further business to discuss the meeting was adjourned.

Mayor Ryan Daniel

Attest:

Clerk Treasurer Rosie Coyle