

**COMMON COUNCIL  
TUESDAY, AUGUST 25, 2015  
7:00 P.M.**

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

**Council Members**

Nicole Penrod – Present  
Jennifer Romano – 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** A spelling error was noted under the Mayor's report.

Motion was made by Weigold to approve an overview of the August 11, 2015 meeting minutes as corrected, Nicole Penrod seconded the motion, Penrod, Weigold and Worrick voted aye, Romano and Simpson abstained.

**SWEARING IN OF NEW POLICE OFFICERS: ALAN W. MEEKS, HEATH J. FEARNOW, NICHOLAS A. METZGER** Rosie Coyle performed the swearing in ceremony for the three new police officers; Alan Meeks, Heath Fearnow and Nicholas Metzger.

**COLUMBIA CITY COMPREHENSIVE PLAN APPROVAL** Mayor Daniel advised we had a great group of steering committee members from the community. He stressed the comprehensive plan was merely a list of ideas and suggestions as to how we can move the community forward.

Ben Bontrager, Economic Development Director with American StructurePoint was present to discuss the comprehensive plan. He explained the process started about 12 months ago and when starting the process Mayor Daniel made it clear that he wanted something more than just the typical, legislatively required plan but something that touched on a variety of different issues throughout the community; physically, socially and politically. He shared because of that they wanted to establish a committee that covered a broad range of topics within the community; decision makers, bankers, property owners, organizations, youth council member.

Mr. Bontrager explained a big part of their process is community engagement and did that in a variety different forms; public workshops, online survey and held meetings on specific topics.

Mr. Bontrager advised the plan structure falls into 3 main categories; people, places and things. There are physical ideas in each category and a list of strategies. He advised they provided case study of how some other communities in Indiana implemented similar ideas. He shared these

were all ideas that need to be explored to determine what makes the most sense. Mayor Daniel clarified by extending the two mile jurisdictional boundary was not the same thing as annexation and felt there was some confusion there.

Nicole Penrod confirmed by adopting the Plan it does not mean they would be approving everything in it. Mayor Daniel advised it does not adopt any of the specifics in the plan. Mr. Bontrager explained this was not a legal document and was more of guide as decisions are made over the next few years.

Victoria Chavez, Executive Director of the Joint Planning and Building Department, was present to provide her support. Mayor Daniel shared the Plan Commission voted 9-0 to support and approve the proposal.

**RESOLUTION 2015-24: APPROVAL OF THE COLUMBIA CITY COMPREHENSIVE PLAN** Motion was made by Jacie Worrick to read Resolution 2015-24 by title only, Dan Weigold seconded the motion, all voted aye. Clerk Treasurer Rosie Coyle read Resolution 2015-24 a resolution adopting the Columbia City Comprehensive Plan.

Motion was made by Bill Simpson to approve Resolution 2015-24, Nicole Penrod seconded the motion, all voted aye.

**CITY LOGO, TAGLINE AND WEBSITE** Mayor Daniel unveiled the new logo and tagline developed for Columbia City as well as the new look for the City website. Terry Wherry did a presentation on navigating through the new website.

**NORTHEASTERN REMC ANNUAL MEETING** Mayor Daniel shared if any Council member was interested in going to the annual REMC meeting to let him know.

**DEPARTMENT REPORTS** Terry Wherry – update on fiber project. Tim Longenbaugh – training, scheduling issues, items stolen from several vehicles. Mark Green – Every Kids Dreamland update.

**MORSCHES PARK PARKING ISSUES** Mark Green advised he had previously talked about this with Council and had presented different options to add more parking. He reported he met with the Park Board and presented their top 4 options. He shared if Niblock would do the whole project it would cost \$144,000.00 or if Niblock did part of the project and the Water Department assisted it would cost \$112,000.00 not including the stone that would need to be brought in. He advised the Park Board would like to see what adding 75 additional spots would do before looking into doing more.

Dan Weigold questioned what funding options were in place now, if any. Mayor Daniel advised they had to cut almost \$700,000.00 out of the budget so there were not a lot of areas we could pull from.

Jennifer Romano questioned if angle parking would make it any better or worse. Chief Longenbaugh felt it would be a better traffic flow. Dan Weigold and Nicole Penrod agreed.

Bill Simpson agreed there was a parking problem but noted it was almost \$1500.00 per parking spot and questioned if there was a less expensive option, maybe gravel. Dan Weigold shared Kendallville Park has a gravel lot and with gravel you cannot line it and it is complete chaos. He felt the added expense to pave and stripe was almost a must. Nicole Penrod questioned if we would have to do everything at once or could it be done in phases. Mark Green advised it could be done in phases. The quickest immediate impact would be the new lot south of the main parking lot which was the most expensive option but provides for the most spots. Dan Weigold felt they needed to look at it as a complete project because there are needs all over the facility.

Mayor Daniel shared he and Rosie Coyle agreed they could allow for \$75,000.00 out of CEDIT funds to help with the project. He stated they try to use that money for Economic Development but also for other projects.

Nicole Penrod stated if we would do options 3, 4 & 6 first that would give us 37 spots and would cost \$51,000.00 and could then plan ahead for the more expensive option. Dan Weigold stated they could maybe plan for options 1 & 5 for the following year. Bill Simpson questioned what the dollar amount was for option 5. Mark Green advised option 5 was \$51,000.00 with Niblock doing it. Mayor Daniel confirmed that was in the area of fields 5 & 6 which were not even in the main baseball area. Mark Green advised that was correct. Mayor Daniel stated if we were looking at the most immediate need was near the main baseball complex and T-ball area options 3 & 4 would address some of that with 6 helping a little bit. Dan Weigold felt the most immediate need would be options 3, 4 & 5. Nicole Penrod questioned how many spots option 5 provided. Mayor Daniel felt it was at least 50-60 spots. Nicole Penrod noted to do options 3, 4 & 5 would be \$85,000.00. Bill Simpson felt the best option money wise would be to look at 3, 4 & 6 first. Additional discussion followed.

Motion was made by Nicole Penrod to go with options 3, 4, & 6 with the costs of \$11,000, \$17,000 and \$14,000 if including the stone does not exceed the \$51,000 Niblock would charge and to use CEDIT funds, Jacie Worrick seconded the motion.

Rosie Coyle questioned Mike Shoda if his department would have the time to do this. Mike Shoda advised they had about 2 – 3 weeks left on West Park Drive and then would have time to do the parking lots. He stated he would like to sue that time for his guys to get use to the new equipment. Shawn Lickey advised his department was willing to help out as well.

Dan Weigold questioned how many spaces we would be adding with these options. Mark Green advised there would be 23 new spots at the baseball/softball complex and the other 14 would be down by the pavilion.

Nicole Penrod reiterated that with the City doing the work and having to buy the stone goes over what Niblock would charge then we should stick with Niblock but if the City can do it for under \$51,000 then that is fine.

Dan Weigold was still unsure. It was an improvement but not sure it was enough. Bill Simpson shared a concern that the City would not be able to afford the other options. He stated these options seem to improve the situation at a reasonable amount of money.

Jennifer Romano questioned if there was an optimal time to get this done. Mark Green advised before spring.

Upon the motion, all voted aye.

**EVERY KIDS DREAMLAND – FENCE** Jennifer Romano questioned if there would be a fence around the new kids dreamland. Mark Green advised there would be a fence along the road but not all the way around.

**DEPARTMENT REPORTS CONTINUED** **Shawn Lickey** – preparations for Dollar Tree, preconstruction meeting for the general construction piece of the North Substation project and started a 3 phase project on 400 N. **Mike Shoda** – update on West Park Drive project. **Mike Cook** – updates at plant, meeting with SDI to look at lift station improvements and blower update. **Tom LaRue**- arial truck nozzle issues, manpower issues and potentially trying to get something started in the schools to start training young people to get them involved in the fire service. Bill Simpson questioned if there was grant money available for this. Tim LaRue advised there potentially could be. He suggested waiting to see what Gene Heckman was able to do with this. Jacie Worrick questioned what the minimum age was for a volunteer. Tom LaRue advised it was 18 years of age but they could get training prior to that. Mayor Daniel questioned if individuals under the age of 19 could assist at a fire scene. Tom LaRue advised they have a cadet program where they can help in non-dangerous and non-life threatening situations. Bill Simpson questioned how many cadets the department currently had. Tom LaRue advised they had 3 which was their maximum.

**YOUTH COUNCIL** Emily Temple reported they started planning for community service projects, planted bushes along the new part of the trail and started planning for the Halloween parade.

**MAYOR REPORT** Mayor Daniel gave an update on the South Walnut Street bike ramp. He advised he appointed 3 police officers to look at the ramp and the definition as spelled out in the ordinance. He reported in a 3 – 0 vote the officers did not believe the ramps fit the definition of nuisance so at this point it was a civil matter. He advised he spoke to both Ms. Wood and Mr. Rumble.

Mayor Daniel reported the City Brownfield Committee would be receiving a Phoenix award for the NOVA project.

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