

COMMON COUNCIL
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 10, 2015
7:00 P.M.

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

Council Members

Nicole Penrod – Present
Jennifer Romano – Present
William (Bill) Simpson – Absent
Daniel Weigold – Present
Jacie Worrick – Present

The Columbia City Common Council met in regular session with all members except Bill Simpson present, Mayor Daniel presiding.

MINUTES Motion was made by Jennifer Romano to approve an overview of the October 27, 2015 meeting minutes as presented, Nicole Penrod seconded the motion all voted aye.

PRESENTATION: REGIONAL CITIES INITIATIVE – JOHN SAMPSON John Sampson with the Northeast Regional Partnership was present to discuss the Regional Cities Initiative. He explained this initiative was a program approved by State Statute in the last Legislative session with a supporting budget in the Governor’s bi-annual budget. He stated the objective was to encourage communities, on a regional basis, to invest in quality place assets to increase the quality of life characteristics of our communities. He shared this was a very unusual place for the State to be involved when it comes to Economic Development. He stated the program was designed to be an Economic Development program focused on quality place assets.

Mr. Sampson shared the challenge we have as a State overall is we are growing too slowly; we do a great job of developing talent, we do a really good job at retaining talent but are not attracting enough talent. He explained we were growing at about .7% per year and were not growing fast enough to replace the aging workforce. He shared if we were successful in the Regional Cities Initiatives it could make a huge impact on the way this region’s economy is growing.

Mr. Sampson advised the Governor has set aside in his budget for the next 2 years \$84 million to offer as an incentive to 2 winning communities. He explained there were 7 different regions across the State that were competing for essentially two \$42 million grants to be matched by local government investment and private sector investment.

Mr. Sampson stressed the end objective was to ‘Grow Faster’.

Mr. Sampson further reviewed the program and presented a video put together for Northeast Indiana.

Jennifer Romano questioned what the plan was if we did win; fund all or a portion of the projects. Mr. Sampson explained our region was the one region that asked for more money than what the State was offering. He stated the projects that they would try to fund first would go to those communities that were most ready to get projects started. He advised the State would be judging our performance based on our ability to do these public/private partnerships and get work going. He shared, from a big picture, the State just wants to achieve a national branding; what is going on Indiana, why are people moving here.

Mr. Sampson explained the Regional Development Authority Board and who served on the Board.

Mayor Daniel shared for Columbia City/Whitley County we submitted the Aquatics Facility and 2 trail extensions as well as a canoe & kayak ramp system which would be in Columbia City as well as North Manchester.

Mr. Sampson advised they would find out on December 15 who the final selections would be.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS **Mike Cook** – pretreatment inspections, testing for the US 30 study, UV bulbs removed for the winter, Lincoln Pointe lift stations fencing/lighting update. **Jeff Walker** - Brownfield grant application, pre-final inspection SR 205. **Terry Wherry** - server replacements, printer replacements, RecPro Software for Park Department. **Tim Longenbaugh** – training, hiring process update, inventory completed, vehicle quotes for next meeting. **Mike Shoda** – finishing up construction season projects. **Mark Green** - Veteran's Marathon, closing up bathrooms, working on Father/Daughter dance, RecPro software for registrations. **Rosie Coyle** - New utility software.

Having no further business to discuss the meeting was adjourned.

Mayor Ryan Daniel

Attest:

Clerk Treasurer Rosie Coyle