

**COMMON COUNCIL
TUESDAY, JUNE 14, 2016
6:00 P.M.**

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

Council Members

Walter Crowder - Present
Nicole Penrod – Present
Jennifer Romano – Present
Tad Varga – Present via conference call
Daniel Weigold – Present

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

MINUTES Motion was made by Jennifer Romano to approve an overview of the May 24, 2016 meeting minutes as presented, Nicole Penrod seconded the motion, Crowder, Penrod and Romano voted aye, Weigold abstained.

COMPLIANCE WITH STATEMENT OF BENEFITS & TAX ABATEMENTS – BURNHAM – KERR – DUNHAMS & DOLLAR TREE Jon Myers, EDC Director, provided explanation as to why these were late in getting filed. He shared that Jeff Kerr has 4 different corporate offices to deal with so gathering information was a little more complicated than if it were a single employer in a single business.

Jeff Kerr thanked the Council for their continued support. He advised without the support that has been shown it would be unlikely that they would have been able to recruit any of the tenants in the old Scott's store location. He shared the Wings, Etc. location was one of the best stores in the Wings system and Dunahm's was performing better than any of the others in their portfolio.

Motion was made by Walt Crowder to approve the abatement for both sections A, B, & C, Dunham's, Wings and Label Shopper as well as Dollar Tree and find in compliance, Nicole Penrod seconded the motion, all voted aye.

ORDINANCE 2016-5: AMENDMENT TO SCHEDULE OF FEES Nathan Bilger, Planning and Building Director, was present to ask approval for first reading on Ordinance 2016-5. He explained this would amend and increase most of the building permit and planning petition fees for the department.

Mr. Bilger advised he handed out a brief memo to the Council outlining the basics of what was being proposed. He explained the Joint Advisory Board, Fee Committee and County Commissioners have all approved the fee schedule. He shared they were proposing the change would go into effect mid-July. He explained the end goal was to have about 50% of the department's budget be funded through fee revenues.

Mayor Daniel questioned if the fees would apply to the City. Mr. Bilger explained per the directive of the Joint Advisory Board, projects that are in the City's name the fees would be waived. He explained if projects are done in cooperation with the Municipality or if they are a government agency other than the Municipality a waiver may be requested from the Board of Works but anyone else cannot request a waiver. He advised this was per the policy of the Joint Advisory Board.

Mr. Bilger reviewed the fee schedule with Council.

Mayor Daniel confirmed the last fee update was in 2011. Mr. Bilger advised that was correct.

Jennifer Romano questioned how these fees compared to other communities. Mr. Bilger explained we were on par. He stated with the increases we were on the high side of average but not out the ballpark; right now we were on the low side of average. Jennifer Romano questioned if this would make someone decide not to build in our community. Mr. Bilger did not feel it would.

Mr. Bilger explained the formula for calculating the fee schedule. Mayor Daniel felt that was important to note that the fees were associated to the cost of doing the work. He understood these fees offset some of the fees we would pay for general tax dollars. Mr. Bilger advised that was correct. He explained the way the Joint department was set up was the expenses of the department were split between the County and City at a 25% - 75% share and the City's costs are also defrayed by the amount brought in by permit and planning revenue.

Motion was made by Dan Weigold to read Ordinance 2016-5 by title only, Jennifer Romano seconded the motion, all voted aye. Clerk Treasurer Rosie Coyle read Ordinance 2016-5 a joint ordinance amending the schedule of fees and charges for the Columbia City/Whitley County Joint Planning and Building Department.

Motion was made by Jennifer Romano to approve Ordinance 2016-5 as presented for first reading, Nicole Penrod seconded the motion, all voted aye.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS **Jeff Walker** – 3 downtown market study analysis proposals, **Mike Shoda** – Jeffery Drive update, **Tom LaRue** – inspections program, school firefighter program and hiring process update. **Tony Hively** - will work with Kelly on yellow striping once Old Settlers is out of the way. **Kelly Cearbaugh** – South Oak Street update, 50/50 sidewalk program update, manhole casting repairs, Squawbuck Road repairs. **Terry Wherry** – security camera upgrade, virtual servers for new CAD system. **Shawn Lickey** - 3 phase service to Holiday Inn Express, Old Settlers Day temporary, underground service installations, LED project, digitizing maps, new fuel pumps.

CITY/COUNTY 911 COMMITTEE Walt Crowder reported the committee would be visiting both the City and County Dispatch centers to continue their research on combined dispatch centers.

MAYOR REPORT Mayor Daniel advised they continue to work on solutions to our infrastructure issues along the County TIF District. He reported he, Mark Green and Erik met with the Dekko Foundation on the application for the Aquatics Facility. He advised Brett Roberts will be starting on Monday, June 20 as an intern for the Mayor's Office. He reported the US 30 planning group continues to meet.

ORDINANCE REVIEW COMMITTEE Jennifer Romano reported the Ordinance Committee was reviewing the Golf Cart Ordinance. She advised she has had a couple inquiries and it may be likely there may be several changes to the ordinance.

GARAGE SALE ORDINANCE Jennifer Romano advised she has had a citizen request that Council look into changing the ordinance to allow more sales than what is allowed now. They felt only 2 per year was pretty restrictive.

Mayor Daniel questioned if that was something the Ordinance Committee could review. Jennifer Romano felt that would be a logical next step.

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

Mayor Ryan Daniel

Attest:

Clerk Treasurer Rosie Coyle