

**COMMON COUNCIL  
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 13, 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  
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 November 22, 2016 meeting minutes as presented, Tad Varga seconded the motion, all voted aye.

**JASON MEYER – PASSAGES UPDATE** Jason Meyer, President of Passages, was present to give an update on their organization. He distributed information for Council to review.

**REZONE – COLUMBIA SHORES, SECTION IV** Nathan Bilger, Planning and Building Department Director, was present to discuss the rezone request. He shared the request was to rezone one lot in Section 4 of Columbia Shores, which is the duplex section. He explained all of the duplexes were built in the early 1980's under the R-2 zoning which allows for 2 family dwellings. He advised sometime since then, the zoning of the area became R-1 and is not sure the reason why that happened. He shared that the Plan Commission forwarded a favorable recommendation for the request to rezone this lot from R-1 to R-2 to reflect the current use. He advised in addition to that they gave the recommendation to pursue rezoning the entirety of Columbia Shores Section 4 to R-2.

**ORDINANCE 2016-28 REZONE ORDINANCE** Motion was made by Jennifer Romano to read Ordinance 2016-28 by title only, Tad Varga seconded the motion, all voted aye. Clerk Treasurer Rosie Coyle read Ordinance 2016-28 an ordinance amending the zoning classification of certain property from the R-1 single-family residential district to the R-2 two-family residential district.

Motion was made by Jennifer Romano to approve Ordinance 2016-28 on first reading, Nicole Penrod seconded the motion, all voted aye.

**ORDINANCE 2016-10: AMENDMENT TO THE GOLF CART ORDINANCE – 2<sup>ND</sup> READING** Motion was made by Nicole Penrod to read Ordinance 2016-10 by title only, Tad Varga seconded the motion, all voted aye. Clerk Treasurer Rosie Coyle read Ordinance 2016-10

an ordinance amending Chapter 73, bicycles, unicycles, three-wheeled cycles and golf carts, of Title VII of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Columbia City, Indiana.

Dan Weigold shared that he had some individuals contact him and they felt the ages set were appropriate.

Tony Fugate was present to share her thoughts for allowing younger children on the golf carts.

Motion was made by Nicole Penrod to approve Ordinance 2016-10 as presented with no one under the age of 6 allowed on the golf cart and no one under the age of 10 allowed on the back of the golf cart, Tad Varga seconded the motion, all voted aye.

**ORDINANCE 2016-26: EMERGENCY ORDINANCE ADOPTING CODE OF ORDINANCES S-16** Motion was made by Nicole Penrod to read Ordinance 2016-26 by title only, Tad Varga seconded the motion, all voted aye. Clerk Treasurer Rosie Coyle read Ordinance 2016-26 an ordinance enacting and adopting a supplement to the Code of Ordinances for the City of Columbia City and declaring an emergency.

Rosie Coyle explained once ordinances are codified to go in the book and on the webpage an ordinance has to be passed.

Motion was made by Tad Varga to adopt Ordinance 2016-26 on an emergency basis, Jennifer Romano seconded the motion, all voted aye.

**ORDINANCE 2016-27: EMERGENCY ORDINANCE ADOPTING CODE OF ORDINANCES S-17** Motion was made by Nicole Penrod to read Ordinance 2016-27 by title only, Tad Varga seconded the motion, all voted aye. Clerk Treasurer Rosie Coyle read Ordinance 2016-27 an ordinance enacting and adopting a supplement to the Code of Ordinances for the City of Columbia City and declaring an emergency.

Motion was made by Tad Varga to adopt Ordinance 2016-27 on an emergency basis, Nicole Penrod seconded the motion, all voted aye.

**ORDINANCE 2016-14: 2017 ELECTED OFFICIALS SALARY ORDINANCE – 2<sup>ND</sup> READING** Motion was made by Nicole Penrod to read Ordinance 2016-14 by title only, Tad Varga seconded the motion, all voted aye. Clerk Treasurer Rosie Coyle read Ordinance 2016-14 an ordinance fixing the annual salaries of all elected officials of the City of Columbia City, Indiana effective December 24, 2016 for the Year 2017.

Walt Crowder pointed out the Clerk Treasurer's salary was greater than the Mayor's and noted a few years back they tried to balance that out so that it was equal. He added that when we did some freezing in the percentage of raises it impacted the Mayor's position. He stressed that this was more about the position rather than the person filling the position. He believed both the Clerk Treasurer and Mayor's position were key leaders and should be equal. He advised he would like to see the Mayor's salary moved up to match the salary of the Clerk Treasurer.

Dan Weigold shared that they tried to increase the wages a yearly amount, over the top of the percentage the employees got, so that they could catch up. He stated one of the proposals they were considering was to increase the Mayor's salary \$1500 and the Clerk Treasurer \$1000 every year until the salaries were equal. He pointed out that they were about \$4,000 - \$5,000 behind and felt if they could increase the Mayor's salary \$1500 a year over the top of any given raises, it may take 3-4 years to catch up, but would financially be easier than all at once.

Nicole Penrod felt it was important to note the \$1500 increase would be over and above the 2% increase all of the other employees would get. She thought if they would continue to do percentage raises the disparity would get wider and not closer.

Walt Crowder recommended going ahead and making the salaries equal in 2017. He shared in looking at the overall budget this would be a small fraction compared to the annual budget. He understood the perception but was focused on the position. He suggested it maybe be done in 2 increments but did not want to drag it out. Jennifer Romano shared that she would feel more comfortable moving it in increments. She advised she has looked at this from a lot of different angles; when taking the people out of the equation entirely, and look at eventually filling positions, we want good qualified candidates leading our City and that would come with salaries that match. Tad Varga suggested 2 increments over a 2 year period to level the salaries.

Nicole Penrod questioned what the difference was between the Clerk Treasurer and department heads. Rosie Coyle advised it was a little over \$2,000 and with the Mayor it was about \$6,300.

Dan Weigold felt 2 increments over a 2 year period made sense to him. Tad Varga was not sure one way was better than the other but felt it would be more palatable to the community to raise it half now and half later. Walt Crowder advised he liked the idea of 2 years.

Dan Weigold questioned if they needed an exact dollar amount to attach to it. Rosie Coyle noted they could not plan ahead. Walt Crowder advised they would just do 2017 but conceptually they would be looking at what they could do for 2018. Nicole Penrod questioned if they would be limited to what was presented. Rosie Coyle advised they were not and could initial amendments but the ordinance did need to be passed at this meeting.

Mike Shoda expressed, as Water Superintendent, he could not believe he answered to someone who made less than himself. He recommended raising it all at once. Nicole Penrod understood the department heads feel that way but there would be a lot of people who would not feel that way. She explained before they came up with the numbers she talked with the Mayor on whether the budget could handle the raise; she felt it was a lot to ask an already passed budget to handle that much.

After talking with the Clerk Treasurer, Motion was made by Walt Crowder to add \$2000 more to the proposed increase for the Mayor to make the increase \$3500 for a total salary of \$62,325.20 and the \$1000 increase for the Clerk Treasurer would remain the same for 2017, Nicole Penrod seconded the motion, all voted aye.

**PUBLIC SAFETY POLICY BOOK RESOLUTION 2016-2** Motion was made by Dan Weigold to read Resolution 2016-22 by title only, Tad Varga seconded the motion, all voted aye. Clerk Treasurer Rosie Coyle read Resolution 2016-22 final approval of revisions to the Employee Public Safety Policy Manual.

Mayor Daniel explained Beth Igney separated the employee manuals so that we would have one for Public Safety employees and one for the Civil City employees.

Motion was made by Jennifer Romano to approve Resolution 2016-22, Nicole Penrod seconded the motion, all voted aye.

**ORDINANCE 2016-30: AMENDMENT TO TRAFFIC SCHEDULE** Motion was made by Tad Varga to read Ordinance 2016-30 by title only, Nicole Penrod seconded the motion, all voted aye. Clerk Treasurer Rosie Coyle read Ordinance 2016-30 an ordinance amending Chapter 75, Traffic Schedules, of Title VII of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Columbia City, Indiana.

Motion was made by Tad Varga to approve Ordinance 2016-30 as first reading, Nicole Penrod seconded the motion, all voted aye.

**METRONET – FIBER SERVICES** Dean Avey with Metronet was present to give a presentation on bringing fiber to Columbia City. He distributed and reviewed a packet of information on their company and what they provide.

Mayor Daniel shared that they were working with Metronet on agreements to bring this fiber to our community. He advised they have been working to try and get them here for a solid 6-7 years. He shared that the County was on board and were working with us on this. He noted that we would have the same capabilities here in Columbia City that they have in places like Beijing, New York, Los Angeles, etc. He advised that would be an incredibly large advantage for our community.

Tad Varga felt this was a really great step.

Dan Weigold felt one of the questions was going to be is if the cost to a normal user would be respectable to what they are already paying. Mr. Avey advised this is priced very competitive; equal to if not cheaper solutions than what they may have now. He stated the cost looked to stay about the same but the speed and functionality would increase 10 to 100 fold.

Walt Crowder questioned if they would see an opportunity to put a store front in Columbia City as they start up. Mr. Avey explained the local store presence was a little unknown; their main goal initially was to develop the plan and how to get the services out. He advised Metronet works very closely with every community they deploy to. Walt Crowder noted they had an aggressive schedule and were looking to be done by the end of 2017 and questioned if that referenced just building the infrastructure or actually providing the service. Mr. Avey advised that was their target turnout date of when services would be available.

Mayor Daniel advised he has talked with other communities that Metronet is in and they all raved about them.

Jennifer Romano questioned if the service would be extended to everyone who is on City Utilities. Mayor Daniel advised it would not; they were talking corporate limits of the City of Columbia City. He noted they have talked with the County and know that there are strong needs in the Tri-Lakes, South Whitley and Larwill areas too and could potentially be a long term goal of theirs. Mr. Avey shared that they have connected with the County and the schools.

Nicole Penrod questioned if they would go to the schools outside of the City limits would the people along the paths have access to the fiber. Mr. Avey advised they would.

Mayor Daniel shared they were still in negotiations but in order to make things work the CIP Committee did approve a grant to Metronet in the amount of \$200,000.00 over the next 2 years. He noted as a comparison we did give a grant to Impact CNC for \$100,000.00 for equipment moving and other things so it was not completely out of the ballpark. He shared that the County and County Redevelopment was also planning to put money in the pot. Nicole Penrod shared it was a grant to them but an investment into our community.

**DEPARTMENT REPORTS** **Kelly Cearbaugh** – snow removal. **Tom LaRue** – new firefighter starting December 26. **Mark Green** – snow removal, aquatics facility brick purchases and updates, Morsches Park bathroom and concessions update. Father/daughter dance will be held two nights and tickets go on sale January 3. **Mike Shoda** – snow removal, checking meter pits and making sure everything is set for winter. **Shawn Lickey** – Little Caesar’s power up and going, another business coming in that will need a larger service. **Mike Cook** – snow removal, work around the facility, repairs, CSO audit. **Tony Hively** – FM K-9 competition for money off of training and program update, thefts, probationary officers update, one on one officer meetings complete, hiring process for new dispatcher, working with Amie on the needs, ideas and wants of the dispatch department.

**MAYOR UPDATE** Completed employee evaluations, interview on high school radio, congratulation to Andy Zay for being elected our new State Senator, US 30 planning meeting, County holding ceremony for Commissioner Tom Rethlake on his retirement, hosting Mayor’s Roundtable, employee awards banquet, meeting with Senator David Long regarding US 30.

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