

**COMMON COUNCIL
TUESDAY, MAY 23, 2017
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 – Absent
Tad Varga – Present
Daniel Weigold – Present

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

MINUTES Motion was made by Tad Varga to approve an overview of the April 25, 2017 meeting minutes as presented, Nicole Penrod seconded the motion, Walt Crowder, Nicole Penrod and Tad Varga voted aye, Dan Weigold abstained.

Motion was made by Dan Weigold to approve an overview of the May 9, 2017 meeting minutes as presented, Nicole Penrod seconded the motion, Walt Crowder, Nicole Penrod and Dan Weigold voted aye, Tad Varga abstained.

IMPA UPDATE – ERIC BURCH Eric Burch, Manager of Member Services for Indiana Municipal Power Agency, presented a video on the history and purpose of IMPA.

Walt Crowder questioned the percentage of solar energy and questioned if anything was slotted to come to Northern Indiana for that type of energy source. Mr. Burch explained Raj Rao, President and CEO of IMPA, has said he wants to put a solar park in every one of their communities. He advised they are open and willing to discuss the opportunities. He advised it takes 10-20 acres of land that is not in a flood plain. Shawn Lickey shared, for 3 years now, they have been pursuing property to install a facility but it is difficult to find 20 acres within the City boundary to offer this. Mr. Burch explained the way IMPA has made this work is to keep the cost down and one of the ways is that all of the power generated by the solar park is consumed in the communities they are located in.

Mr. Burch presented a plaque to the Mayor and Council to commemorate Columbia City's membership with IMPA.

ORDINANCE 2017-10: ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT RIDER – 1ST READING

Motion was made by Nicole Penrod to read Ordinance 2017-10 by title only, Tad Varga seconded the motion, all voted aye. Clerk Treasurer Rosie Coyle read Ordinance 2017-10 an ordinance adopting an Economic Development Rider.

Shawn Lickey shared this ordinance was for a program that would mirror one IMPA has started that basically encourages development within the City and our boundaries. He explained if we bring a new customer in that uses over 1 megawatt in power, which is a large customer that we may or may not ever get, they can get a rebate off of their electric bill. He shared this was to encourage economic growth so they must also have an investment of over \$1 million in our community. He explained IMPA gives the rebate that passes through our billing. He shared the rebate would be for the length of 5 years; 20% for the first year, 10% for the second and third year and then 5% for the fourth and fifth year.

Motion was made by Dan Weigold to approve Ordinance 2017-10 as first reading, Tad Varga seconded the motion, all voted aye.

ORDINANCE 2017-11 - BOND ORDINANCE – AQUATICS FACILITY Motion was made by Nicole Penrod to read Ordinance 2017-11 by title only, Tad Varga seconded the

motion, all voted aye. Clerk Treasurer Rosie Coyle read Ordinance 2017-11 an ordinance of the City of Columbia City, Indiana, authorizing the issuance and sale of bonds of the City for the purpose of providing funds to be used for the costs of constructing an aquatics center, together with all necessary appurtenances, related improvements, equipment and incidental expenses in connection therewith.

Mayor Daniel shared this was the starting spot for the bond issuance of the aquatics facility. He advised they have not heard from the IEDC but once that happens we will be able to move forward with the completion of the process. He stated this would get us moving and will help with the timeline set forward in trying to get the facility open by Memorial Day of next year.

Attorney McNagny reported Ice Miller was hired as our Bond Counsel. She shared the thought process of going ahead and doing this now is so we are not delayed once we do get the funds approved. She advised we can always stop the process if we do not get the funds.

Rosie Coyle noted the appropriation Ordinance would be on the agenda for the first meeting in June. She explained they would have to get approval to spend the funds. Mayor Daniel confirmed we have not received approval from the State Tax Commission to spend the funds yet. Rosie Coyle advised that was correct.

Motion was made by Nicole Penrod to approve Ordinance 2017-11 on an emergency basis, Tad Varga seconded the motion, all voted aye.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS **Tony Hively** – update on Fentanyl drug and safety measures taken for our department, update on Officers at the academy. **Mike Cook** – sign repair, storm water sample testing, new truck training, approval of additional employee. **Kelly Cearbaugh** – curb & sidewalk project update, Vietnam Memorial base complete, alley grating. **Mark Green** – baseball & softball update, Greencastle visit to look at synthetic ice for skating rink, bathroom quote, new park sign update, fireworks on July 3, thanked Department Heads & employees for their help at the Parks, splash pad opens Memorial Day weekend. **Mike Shoda** – new home hookups, storm drain project on Lincolnway West. **Terry Wherry** – waiting on quote for Council room audio/video upgrades. **Shawn Lickey** – Precision Plastics update, Morsches Park lighting project, AMI meter samples, street lighting damage in Quail Ridge, MSF generator quote. **Jeff Walker** – reviewing Wooddale proposals, sewer collection system in TIF district update.

YOUTH COUNCIL UPDATE Holden Schaefer was present to give an update on their activities. Mayor Daniel noted they focused on County government this year.

PARKING ISSUES Tad Varga reported he and Chief Hively met regarding parking and traffic issues. He advised they have received calls regarding the parking on Van Buren Street around Oak and Elm Streets. He stated he has talked with Chief Hively about eliminating parking on both sides of the street. He shared he drove the alley behind the homes and advised there was adequate parking behind all but one of the homes.

Dan Weigold thought they tried to address the issue a couple years ago.

Mayor Daniel questioned if there was discussion about allowing parking on just one side. Tad Varga advised they had but there was still a safety concern. Mayor Daniel questioned if they could possibly restripe that road where it would create more room on one side for parking. Tad Varga advised they did not discuss that option and was not sure how viable it would be. Chief Hively shared one side would still have to go left of center to get around a parked vehicle but could start with that.

Shawn Lickey noted a lot of the housing in that area was apartments.

Walt Crowder suggested they do more fact finding.

Mike Shoda advised at Elm and Van Buren there was a bush that blocks the view of oncoming traffic.

Chief Hively advised it would be his suggestion to make it no parking on both sides of the street. Mayor Daniel questioned if they would restripe so that the north side was just a driving lane would it give enough room where you could have traffic flow but still allow for some on-street parking. Chief Hively felt it would be similar to how it is on North Main Street.

Mayor Daniel agreed more fact finding would be nice and asked Chief Hively, Tad Varga, Dan Weigold and Kelly Cearbaugh to look at 3 options; send letters again requesting tenants to use their off-street parking, go to one sided parking and making it no parking on either side. He also suggested they consider how an interstate on US 30 would impact the area.

Walt Crowder suggested they also look at the bush Mike Shoda was referring to.

STOP SIGN AT ELM & NORTH STREET Tad Varga reported he had a request to make the intersection at Elm & North Street a 4 way stop to try and slow traffic in the area. Chief Hively shared it has been proven that stop signs do not slow traffic and suggested they try other traffic calming devices.

UTILITY TASK VEHICLES AND RECREATIONAL OFF HIGHWAY VEHICLES Nicole Penrod reported she and Dan Weigold received requests to consider the use of UTV and ROV be included in addition to the golf carts.

Mayor Daniel felt this should be forwarded to the Ordinance Review Committee.

MAYOR REPORT Mayor Daniel reported we have started a new Facebook campaign to target an area in Kentucky that promotes Columbia City. He shared American Landmaster Company was moving to Whitley County from Illinois; we have partnered with the Economic Development Corporation to send letters to them and information about Columbia City to hopefully get those people to follow their job here. He advised he has met with the Superintendents on budgets. He reported the first Firefighter graduation at the high school was on Thursday, June 1 at 7 p.m. and the Starbucks grand opening at Kroger will be Wednesday, May 31 at 10 a.m. He and Kelly Cearbaugh would be participating in a Community Crossings grant meeting at INDOT to find out the program and how we could apply for the program. He felt we may have an opportunity to pay for part of the Wooddale project as well as current street improvements. He reported we partnered with the Main Street Association to purchase the screen, projector, etc. for Movie on the Square as well as other opportunities to use the equipment.

TREE BOARD OPENING Walt Crowder reported there was an opening on the Tree Board and asked for recommendations to fill the position.

UTILITY OFFICE REMODEL Rosie Coyle reported potentially on June 3 & 4 the hallway walls of the Utility Office will be torn out and replaced with bullet proof walls and glass. Mayor Daniel advised this was an important project of the Security Committee.

Having no further business to discuss the meeting was adjourned.

Mayor Ryan Daniel

Attest:

Clerk Treasurer Rosie Coyle