

**COMMON COUNCIL  
TUESDAY, JUNE 25, 2019  
6:00 PM**

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

**Council Members**

Walter Crowder – Absent  
Nicole Penrod - Present  
Jennifer Romano – Present  
Tad Varga – Absent  
Dan Weigold – Present

The Columbia City Common Council met in regular session with all members except Walt Crowder and Tad Varga present, Mayor Daniel presiding.

**MINUTES** Motion was made by Jennifer Romano to approve an overview of the June 11, 2019 meeting minutes as presented, Nicole Penrod seconded the motion, all voted aye.

**BOND ORDINANCE 2019-4: AMENDMENT TO CSO ORDINANCE 2019-14**

Motion was made by Nicole Penrod to read Ordinance 2019-4 by title only, Jennifer Romano seconded the motion, all voted aye. Clerk Treasurer Rosie Coyle read Ordinance 2019-4 an amended and restated ordinance concerning the construction of additions and improvements to the sewage works of the City of Columbia City, Indiana, the issuance of revenue bonds to apply on the cost thereof, the collection, segregation and distribution of the revenues of said works, the safeguarding of the interest of the owners of said revenue bonds, other matters connected therewith, including the issuance of notes in anticipation of bonds, and repealing ordinances inconsistent herewith.

Attorney McNagny explained the reason a public hearing did not need to be held was because this was an amendment. She advised since the bids came in higher than anticipated there had to be an adjustment in the bond to take care of that situation so we have the funds to cover the project. Mayor Daniel noted the low bid came in roughly \$2 million over the engineer's estimate. He shared they were working with USDA to try and secure the rest of the dollar figures. He advised it appears, at this moment, no rate increase will be needed for the difference.

Motion was made by Dan Weigold to approve on emergency basis for first and final reading Ordinance 2019-4 as amended and restated, Nicole Penrod seconded the motion, all voted aye.

**JPR ENGINEERING – HIGH SCHOOL PROPERTY** Andrew Cunningham with JPR Engineering and some colleagues were present to discuss the high school park master plan. He advised they were really just getting started in the process. He shared the property that will be conveyed over to Columbia City was approximately 56 acres and included a very diverse range of amenities. He advised it was anticipated the high school would continue through the 2019-2020 school year and then efforts would begin to take the building down.

Mr. Cunningham distributed and reviewed the master plan with Council.

Mayor Daniel noted the timeline lists for August and September they would be engaging the Youth Council and elementary schools but the design process was still in that timeframe and questioned how they would integrate the kids' ideas in the overall design. Mr. Cunningham advised that was about the timeframe they plan to start design alternatives. He shared they did not want to get too far ahead in the process before meeting with the students.

Jennifer Romano questioned if there were any other ways individuals could complete the survey other than online. Mr. Cunningham advised they would have hard copies in

various locations around town; Library, Park Department, City Hall, different restaurants, etc.

Rosie Coyle noted at one of the meetings it was questioned if part of the high school building could be left but could not recall what the reasoning was why it could not. Mark Green advised the school administration did not want the potential of a Charter School coming in.

Mr. Cunningham presented examples of similar park areas that other cities have.

Rob Bell, teacher, coach, baseball and JFL Board Member, was present to share his thoughts. He shared in looking at it from the JFL side they were really limited with field space so keeping the existing football field would be beneficial as well as the same for the baseball fields. He shared he would like to see an indoor multipurpose recreational facility maybe where the high school currently sits now.

Brett Fox, teacher and head football coach at Columbia City, was present to speak to a lot of the same things Rob Bell spoke of. He shared they were seeing great numbers within the JFL and baseball programs. He noted he was seeing a lot of out of town families coming into our community to use our park system and programs. He agreed having an indoor facility the kids could use in the winter time would be very beneficial.

Margaret Malcolm, citizen of Columbia City, was present to question what kind of budget was available for all of this. Mayor Daniel advised the City would certainly fund a fair amount of this but would solicit for contributions just as we have for the Aquatics Center and the trail system. He shared it was nebulous right now because we do not know what to plan for. He advised it was a huge opportunity for our City and were building in the budget for additional maintenance staff but as far as programmatic elements we will not know until we start putting pencil to paper. He assumed it would be a phased in project over multiple years.

Mrs. Malcolm shared in terms of facilities; a permanent covered outdoor skating rink would be nice, although an indoor hockey rink would be wonderful. She advised she had other ideas and would share those on the website.

September McConnell with Community Foundation. She encouraged the collaboration with SDI and other local facilities to for steel, etc. The foundation has been located here for about 20 years. They are looking to the future as what would be the best way they can grow and are excited of what the future will bring.

Theresa Green, from the Mayor's office, stated she has heard a lot of comments of needing a dog park. She feels this is something that Columbia City needs.

Dan Weigold advised he supported the sports as well but also suggested an amphitheater or nature preserve area.

Jennifer Romano agreed we do sports really well in this community but not so much in the way of nature for people to enjoy. She felt if we could maintain a lot of the woods that would be fantastic; a nature center of some sort or educational signage.

Nicole Penrod agreed with keeping the fields that were there but felt it was important to also keep in mind that there were a lot of people who do not do sports and needed other ideas. She questioned if we could do much with the wooded area. Andrew Cunningham advised there were certainly some limitations when it comes to the wetland areas and where identifying where those areas were. He shared you want to allow visitors to get close to those areas and enjoy them. He felt there were ways to utilize it but very carefully in low impact ways.

Dan Weigold suggested trailhead restroom facilities.

Mayor Daniel advised he loved the amphitheater idea; he agreed with Nicole that there were a lot of individuals who do not play sports and having an amphitheater would give us a home. He suggested a canoe and kayak launch and certainly have had a lot of

individuals talk about a dog park. He felt the most critical component in this project is connecting Morsches Park to this new park space. He stressed we needed another entrance/exit out of Morsches Park.

Shawn Lickey offered input as a high school softball coach but also shared as Electric Superintendent, he felt the lights definitely need addressed; he suggested they were not in a condition to remain. He also noted the substation on the school property was scheduled to be removed in the next 2 – 3 years, which was something they will need to plan for. Mr. Cunningham questioned if something else would go in its place. Shawn explained the overhead lines would remain but the structure and fencing would be removed. Mr. Cunningham questioned if there was any possibility of looking at alternate locations for those lines or put underground. Shawn advised it was not in the budget to do so.

Tom LaRue noted years ago there was an archery range in Morsches Park but was removed in the late '80's early '90's. He felt, because of ordinances in place, it would give those who do not have the ability to have a target in their backyard a place to go to do such.

Mark Green shared they have plans to put a new in-ground concrete skate park at the new property. He advised there was a group of citizens raising money for it; the current location of the Skate Park was not good and needed to be more visible. Mayor Daniel shared that Tad Varga had been working with the skate group on ideas and to raise money. He noted if we move the skate park that would provide another opportunity for Morsches Park. He shared, while we were focused so much on the CCHS property, he felt there was potential to do some swapping of stuff and create opportunities for Morsches Park.

Mayor Daniel stressed we needed to be an attraction and draw from the outside.

**DEPARTMENT REPORTS** **Shawn Lickey** - working on replacing poles, Old Setters ready to go and July 23 will be AMI meeting. **Mike Cook** - testing on the SDI line, tracking system has failed so engineering firm is checking. Force Main ordinance will be coming before Council at the end of July. He received 7 applications for job that was advertised for. Working with the school on the parking area of the buses during the sewer line that will be put in on S. Main Street. **Scott Leatherman** - Starting process for replacing Officer Meeks and have it down to 7 applications. He received termination letter from Samantha Allred who will be starting her own business and have offered the job to Sara McGehee who is their part time employee.

**Mark Green** - Gave progress of the skating rink and the speakers at the Aquatics Facility. Gave updates on the activities at the Park and the 4<sup>th</sup> of July. **Kelly Cearbaugh** - awarded contract to Niblock for the Community Crossing project.

**MAYOR REPORT** Mayor Daniel reported the August 27<sup>th</sup> Board of Works and Council meetings have been rescheduled for September 3, 2019. He advised Rosie and he have been having meetings with the financial consultants on the sewer refinancing bonds and was looking very good for the savings.

Having no other business to discuss the meeting was adjourned.

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Mayor Ryan Daniel

**ATTEST:**

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Clerk Treasurer Rosie Coyle