

**COMMON COUNCIL
TUESDAY, MARCH 24, 2020
6:00 PM**

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

Council Members

Walter Crowder – Present
Jennifer Reffitt – 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 March 10, 2020 meeting minutes as presented, Jennifer Reffitt seconded the motion, all voted aye.

PUBLIC HEARING: PETITION TO VACATE ALLEY (BETWEEN 308-310 S. CHAUNCEY ST.) Dan Weigold shared, in this situation, there were some things that were not thought out prior to proceeding with the vacate. He advised the church needed additional time to get a better understanding of what they want and need to do. He advised the issue needed to be tabled.

Mayor Daniel considered the petition to vacate the alley for 308-310 S. Chauncey Street as being tabled including Ordinance 2020-11.

Attorney McNagny noted she was working on typing up a process so people can see what they need to do regarding a vacate request.

ORDINANCE 2020-9: AMENDMENT TO THE TRASH ORDINANCE – 2ND READING Motion was made by Walter Crowder to read Ordinance 2020-9 by title only, Jennifer Romano seconded the motion, all voted aye. Clerk Treasurer Rosie Coyle read Ordinance 2020-9 an ordinance amending Chapter 53, General Provisions, of Title V of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Columbia City, Indiana.

Mayor Daniel shared this was a responsive way in which the City can try to enforce individuals from bringing outside junk in for junk days as well as encouraging individuals to not allow people to bring junk in so that we can try and keep our costs down.

Motion was made by Dan Weigold to approve Ordinance 2020-9 on second and final reading, Tad Varga seconded the motion, all voted aye.

ORDINANCE 2020-10: FAIR HOUSING ORDINANCE – 1ST READING Motion was made by Tad Varga to read Ordinance 2020-10 by title only, Jennifer Reffitt seconded the motion, all voted aye. Clerk Treasurer Rosie Coyle read ordinance 2020-10 an ordinance amending Chapter 93, Fair Housing, of the Code of Ordinances, City of Columbia City, Indiana.

Attorney McNagny explained the State rules have changed slightly so she went through and updated the City's Fair Housing ordinance to match up with those rule changes.

Jennifer Romano questioned if there were any particular things to note. Attorney McNagny shared there were a lot of terminology changes from handicapped to disabled.

Motion was made by Jennifer Romano to approve Ordinance 2020-10 for first reading, Tad Varga seconded the motion, all voted aye.

RESOLUTION 2020-13: AMENDMENT TO 2020 SALARY ORDINANCE

Motion was made by Jennifer Reffitt to read Resolution 2020-13 by title only, Tad Varga seconded the motion, all voted aye. Clerk Treasurer Rosie Coyle read Resolution 2020-13 stating, Before the Common Council for the City of Columbia City, State of Indiana, an ordinance of the Common Council of the City of Columbia City amending Ordinance 2019-19 (2020 Salary Ordinance for appointed officers and employees for all departments of the City).

Mayor Daniel explained the majority of the Resolutions tonight regarding the emergency was to make sure we have the proper documentation for the State Board of Accounts and to make sure we have the same understanding of what is happening. He advised for wastewater, water, street/sewer, park and electric they have split the departments in half and are doing three 10 hour days with cleaning happening at the beginning and ending of each shift. He explained the other 10 hours the employees are on call. He stated they tried to make it so that if one of the shifts comes down with COVID-19 we have shielded the other half of the department to ensure we are continuing services for our residents. He explained for police, fire and dispatch they are already split but have done more of that meaning there is no one going into the departments except for their own employees. He reported the fire department has put some protocols in place so they know how to respond based upon a series of questions as well as protocol when returning from a call. He shared we were trying to do everything we could as an organization to protect our employees but also continue to provide excellent customer service. He explained this ordinance addresses the stay at home or on-call pay. He advised this was temporary and was only during the state of emergency.

Motion was made by Jennifer Romano to approve Resolution 2020-13 on first and final reading, Jennifer Reffitt seconded the motion, all voted aye.

EXECUTIVE ORDER 2020-14 Attorney McNagny explained this was to give employees the ability to work from home as long as they can still perform their City functions.

Mayor Daniel shared they had already started this with the City Engineer and were working on setting up our GIS Coordinator.

RESOLUTION 2020-15: WAVING PROCEDURES AND FORMALITIES DURING DISASTER EMERGENCY

Motion was made by Tad Varga to read Resolution 2020-15 by title only, Dan Weigold seconded the motion, all voted aye. Clerk Treasurer read Resolution 2020-15 stating, Before the Common Council for the City of Columbia City, State of Indiana a resolution waiving certain procedures and formalities during disaster emergency pursuant to I.C. 10-14-3-17.

Attorney McNangy explained this would be the sister resolution to what the Board of Works already passed earlier today. She advised this was for emergency matters having to do with claims procedures. She noted this would be null and void at the end of the emergency.

Motion was made by Jennifer Reffitt to approve Resolution 2020-15 on first and final reading, Dan Weigold seconded the motion, all voted aye.

RESOLUTION 2020-17: EXTENSION OF DECLARATION OF LOCAL EMERGENCY

Attorney McNagny explained the Mayor has the ability to declare an emergency for 7 days but the Common Council has to approve extending beyond that. She advised that was what they were looking for tonight.

Mayor Daniel noted we don't know when all of this is going to end and respectfully requested Council's extension for an indefinite period of time.

Motion was made by Walter Crowder to read Resolution 2020-17 by title only, Tad Varga seconded the motion, all voted aye. Clerk Treasurer Rosie Coyle read Resolution 2020-17 City of Columbia City, Indiana, Common Council's extension of declaration of local emergency.

Motion was made by Jennifer Romano to approve Resolution 2020-17 on first and final reading, Jennifer Reffitt seconded the motion, all voted aye.

UTILITY DISCONNECTS AND PENALTIES Rosie Coyle reported an order came down that we cannot disconnect utilities and it was also recommended that we not charge penalties. She shared we would not be disconnecting utilities or charging penalties until June 1st at which time it will be re-evaluated.

Mayor Daniel felt it was critical for the public to understand that this does not mean they do not have to pay their bills but means if they have a hardship of some sort, that if they pay late, they would not get the late penalties or be shut off. He stressed to citizens to pay their bills as they can so they do not have months' worth of bills adding up.

Motion was made by Tad Varga to approve the waiving of penalties as presented, Dan Weigold seconded the motion, all voted aye.

PARK EXPANSION FUNDRAISING Tad Varga reported they have a conference call Thursday to discuss different fundraising and financing avenues for the park expansion.

Having no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned.

Mayor Ryan Daniel

Attest:

Clerk Treasurer Rosie Coyle