COMMON COUNCIL
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 22, 2020
6:00 PM

Mayor Ryan Daniel – Present
Clerk Treasurer Rosie Coyle – Present
Attorney Marcia McNagny – Absent
Council Members
Walter Crowder – Present
Jennifer Reffitt – Present
Jennifer Romano – Present
Tad Varga – Absent
Daniel Weigold – Present

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

MINTUES Motion was made by Dan Weigold to approve an overview of the September 8, 2020 meeting minutes as presented, Jennifer Reffitt seconded the motion, Walt Crowder, Jennifer Reffitt and Dan Weigold voted aye, Jennifer Romano abstained.

PUBLIC HEARING: ALLEY VACATE ST. PAUL OF THE CROSS Mayor Daniel recessed the Common Council meeting to hold a public hearing on the alley vacate.

Hearing no comments or questions the public hearing was closed and Common Council meeting restarted.

ORDINANCE 2020-11: 1ST READING TO VACATE ALLEY Motion was made by Jennifer Romano to read Ordinance 2020-11 by title only, Jennifer Reffitt seconded the motion, all voted aye. Clerk Treasurer Rosie Coyle read Ordinance 2020-11 vacation of public way.

Chip Hill explained this was the alley on the east side that ties into Chauncey Street. He shared they eliminated the full alley that ties into Chauncey. Mayor Daniel shared this has already somewhat been approved but time had elapsed and had to go back through the process. Chip Hill advised the church owns both properties on either side of the alley.

Motion was made by Jennifer Romano to approve Ordinance 2020-11 on first reading, Walt Crowder seconded the motion, all voted aye.

ORDINANCE 2020-27: 2021 EMPLOYEE SALARY ORDINANCE – 1ST READING
Motion was made by Jennifer Reffitt to read Ordinance 2020-27 by title only, Jennifer Romano seconded the motion, all voted aye. Clerk Treasurer Rosie Coyle read Ordinance 2020-27 an ordinance to be known as the 2021 Salary range benefit ordinance.

Mayor Daniel noted there were a fair amount of changes this year. He also noted this coming year, 2021, was a 27 pay year for the City of Columbia City. He explained in lieu of an actual hourly raise the employees will be paid the 27th pay at their normal rate rather than spreading out their salary.

Mayor Daniel explained the changes made to the ordinance and noted they had been discussed in the budget meetings.

Dan Weigold shared he did not see it as a raise but as being paid for the hours the employee's work. He did not like that it was stated as a raise and understood it would show more on the W2's but they were being paid for the hours they work. He advised he has dealt with this issue several times and has had numerous debates over it.

Jennifer Romano advised she was glad we were choosing not to spread pay out over time and employees would still receive the pay they were used to.

Rosie Coyle questioned the pay rate for the Park Maintenance Supervisor Assistant and wondered if she needed to increase the low end for the Park Maintenance Supervisor. Mayor Daniel advised the Park Maintenance Supervisor should match the Park Program Supervisor.

Scott Leatherman pointed out the part time dispatcher position was making $15. He suggested if he is not able to hire an additional full time dispatcher he would like to raise the part time position to $20 per hour. Mayor Daniel questioned by putting the part time up to $20 where would it put them in line with full time. Chief Leatherman advised they were still below full time pay. Mayor Daniel questioned if there was concern from Council if the rate was moved up to $20. Jennifer Reffitt questioned what the full time rate was hourly; she felt $15 was good pay for a part-timer but was not familiar with the swing shifts, etc. Chief Leatherman advised straight dispatcher pay is about $25 per hour.

Mayor Daniel suggested they make the change for the dispatch part time pay from $15 to $20 and pass it as is then he and Rosie would get together to discuss the Park issues.

Rosie Coyle noted another thing that was changed was the meal allowance per a suggestion from the department heads. She advised right now the allowance for breakfast was $6 and increased it to $10, the allowance for lunch was $10 and increased to $15 and for dinner it was $20 and increased to $25. She added if out of town for a meeting the daily total allowance was $36 and increased it to $50. Walt Crowder questioned if this would be for all employees. Mayor Daniel advised it would and explained any time someone is sent for training they need to fit within those guidelines. He noted the old guidelines were hard to fit into anymore. Scott Leatherman advised the federal per diem for this area was $55 per day. Walt Crowder advised he was fine with that and sometimes have to consider where they are going.

Motion was made by Jennifer Romano to approve Ordinance 2020-27 on first reading, Walt Crowder seconded the motion, all voted aye.

LTCP CONSTRUCTION FRUSTRATION Mayor Daniel noted the frustrations of getting around town. He shared that Mike Cook, Chip Hill and he met with our project inspector. He noted he would be attending the next project progress meeting to address the challenges all of us are facing.

SPENCER STREET – NO PARKING/4 WAY STOP Mayor Daniel shared he has had an ongoing request from one of the property owners at the corner of Spencer and Chauncey in that it become a 4 way stop. He advised in talking with Kelly Cearbaugh, if it was changed to a 4 way stop, he suggested considering no parking on Spencer to create a cleaner, safer pathway. He shared he was supportive of both of those options. He advised it would have to be presented in ordinance form and was his suggestion.

Dan Weigold questioned if all of the residence's had parking behind their houses. Kelly Cearbaugh believed they did. Dan Weigold advised he did not have a problem with moving forward with drafting an ordinance.

Walt Crowder questioned if it would be acceptable to move forward but also send the residents a letter of intent. He felt it was critical to communicate the plans. Mayor Daniel advised he was perfectly fine with that and would want to do that before the ordinance was changed. He shared if Council was supportive of it he could have Attorney McNagny start drafting the ordinance change and at the same time send a letter out with a request for any comments be submitted by a certain date. Walt Crowder questioned if it would include the 4 way stop. Mayor Daniel advised his preference would be to do both; no parking and 4 way stop.

DEPARTMENT REPORT **Kelly Cearbaugh -** update on Brooks Construction with the Community Crossings street, sidewalk and curb project, work at cemetery entrance/exit, City Hall project complete. **Terry Wherry** – update on Fire Department rewiring, meeting with SDS on the Council room project. **Tom LaRue** – pump testing did fairly well, firefighter resignation and will begin hiring process. **Mike Cook -** update on LTCP project, 350 lift station panel wired and operating, pig launch design update, phosphorous project update. **Shawn Lickey** – update on Columbia Shores and Countryside projects, met with AEP on conversion project, animal protection improvements at Wallace and Catherine Ave, Jared Buckles new hire. **Chip Hill -** Ohki Alley grand opening October 2, assisting Mike Cook and Mayor with the LTCP. **Scott Leatherman** – Officer Denbo at academy, Officer DeBus working on FTO, Officer Crabtree has completed his FTO training, update on police department hiring process, update on Sierra Wireless project, Dispatcher Meghann Hill submitted her letter of resignation and will begin hiring process. **Mark Green** – fireworks September 26, interviews for maintenance position, Patriotic Park playground equipment

should be in soon, Veteran's Marathon on November 14, ice rink will be going up in a couple weeks, Halloween Party will be October 24.

MAYOR REPORT Bond closing tomorrow, hosting Mayor's Roundtable on Friday.

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