

**BOARD OF WORKS  
TUESDAY, APRIL 10, 2012  
5:15 P.M.**

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

The Columbia City Board of Works met in regular session with all members present, Mayor Daniel presiding.

**MINUTES** Motion was made by Weigold to approve an overview of the March 27, 2012 meeting minutes as presented, Crowder second the motion, all voted aye.

**STREET CLOSING REQUEST - MUSIC IN ALLEY (BREWHA COFFEE HOUSE)**

Crowder made a motion to accept the request of street closing on April 21, 2012 from 6 p.m. – 11 p.m. Weigold seconded the motion with all voting aye.

**STREET CLOSING REQUEST - 200 BLOCK OF WEST VANBUREN STREET**

Mayor Daniel reported this would be for sidewalk closure and one parking space closure in front of the old Dollars and Cents store in order to reroute sidewalk traffic during masonry construction on the building façade. He advised there was a picture and drawing attached in regards to where the scaffolding will be in respect to the building.

A gentleman from Sterling Contracting was present to further discuss the request.

Chief Longenbaugh reported he looked at the area and felt as long as something would be constructed there to flow people around the tree and back up on the sidewalk he did not have a problem with it.

Walt Crowder questioned on the ADA expansion for the handicapped if there would be some type of barrier to keep them from going off by accident. It was advised they will put construction fencing along the edge but will also put a lip there so a wheelchair would not go off the edge.

Mayor Daniel advised his main issue was making sure we had ADA accessibility around the tree; he did not have any issues with the way it would be set up as long as the things that were talked about get taken care of. Dan Weigold agreed.

Walt Crowder questioned if they needed to have anything identified from a legal standpoint in the event someone would be injured; do we have a variance that would remove us from liability. Attorney McNagny advised there would not be a variance but we could do a release of liability, waiver type form. Walt questioned if that would be normal. Attorney McNagny did not recall that we have ever had anything in writing in the past. Rosie Coyle mentioned that we were

requesting for the Mayor's Ride proof of insurance. Attorney McNagny suggested Sterling contact their insurance company and have the City as an additional insured during that period of time and then confirm with the City that it has been done. Walt questioned if we should have a copy of their insurance on file. Attorney McNagny advised we should.

Motion was made by Mayor Daniel to grant the sidewalk closure between April 12 – May 1 at 207 West Van Buren Street in light of the consideration of the liability and also the lip on the rerouting of the sidewalk, Weigold second the motion, all voted aye.

**SOUTH WALNUT/VINE STREET STORM WATER IMPROVEMENT PROJECT** Jeff Walker explained that the project was still on hold and wanted to know what the Board would like to do. Crowder explained that they had held up the project until they knew what the unknowns were going to be on the Water Pollution Control Project. Jeff explained they were still working on getting that information but has not gotten the final figures. Jeff explained that Umbaugh's felt this project could be done without an increase in the rates. After much discussion it was decided to table this subject until the first meeting in June and by then they should have more definite figures on the Wastewater additional costs.

**QUOTES FOR POLE BUILDING-MSF** Larry Whetstone reported he went to Morsches to go over the building materials the contractors were asking for and was able to put together the specs. He advised they contacted the bidders to do a rebid according to the specs; he added the cement work just to see how much they would be over and above what his thoughts were on it. He reported the bids all came back pretty equal with Gruettert Construction being the low bidder. He advised the concrete cost from the four contractors was anywhere from \$15,000 - \$29,000. Mayor Daniel confirmed we could do it cheaper in house. Larry advised Kelly assured him they could do it for \$10,000.

Walt Crowder confirmed they did not want openers on the 6 12x12 doors. Larry advised they did not but could add them at a later date if needed. Kelly noted that would be consistent with what they already have out there; the doors were light enough that they come up pretty easy.

Walt Crowder questioned if they have ever dealt with the low bidder. Larry advised he has not particularly worked with him but his specialty was pole buildings and has gotten a lot of good comments on his work.

Motion was made by Crowder to accept Larry's recommendation to go with Gruettert Construction for the total amount of \$51,200 to construct the pole building as presented, Weigold second the motion, all voted aye.

**BURN REQUEST-BRENT DREW: W. OLD TRAIL ROAD** Tom LaRue reported this request was from Brent Drew; a map was included in the packet. He explained Brent has farmed this area for quite awhile but has recently acquired the property through purchase; there was a lot of wooded area that he would like to turn into farm ground. He was aware that he has to get a hold of soil & water. He explained the way State law was written, farm ground was applicable for burn requests. He advised he has talked to Brent about wind and burning smaller piles. He explained he would like to start this spring then continue in the fall. He felt he had a pretty good

plan and did not see a problem with him getting it done but would have to make sure he does not make one big pile and burn it all at once.

Dan Weigold questioned if they would have to put a time limit on the permit. Chief LaRue explained he wanted to do some of it this spring and then some throughout this winter. He suggested giving him 12 months to get it done.

Walt Crowder questioned if they were talking acres. Chief LaRue guessed maybe 2 acres that he wanted to clear. Walt questioned if there was some way to direct him to the farthest corner away from the city limits to burn. Chief LaRue felt they could direct it however they wanted. Walt mentioned there was a lot of residential along old US 30. Chief LaRue advised he would encourage and suggest that.

Attorney McNagny questioned if there were any setback requirements in state law from residential areas. Chief LaRue did not know of any. Mayor Daniel felt if they decide to grant the request he would like to have some say as to how far away it should be from houses.

Mayor Daniel questioned how urgent Brent was to get this started. Chief LaRue advised there were a couple piles he wanted to get done before planting season.

Walt Crowder questioned if Brent would be able to come in and talk to the Board. Mayor Daniel agreed; he wanted to make sure there was a clear understanding from both sides as to what is expected. Dan Weigold agreed with the size of the potential piles he felt they have to look at the possibility of a setback.

Attorney McNagny, after review of the state law, recommended calling the State Fire Marshall and have him delegate Chief LaRue to oversee this. She listed things out of the law to be taken into consideration. Chief LaRue suggested they use the recommendations of the law. Attorney McNagny also suggested it state in the permit that the person who is having the fire takes full responsibility of the fire. Chief LaRue questioned if they would be well off to make a formal document specifying what is expected for a burn permit. After some discussion, Walt Crowder felt it was almost a case by case basis.

Motion was made by Walt Crowder to approve the burn permit based upon the restrictions identified by the Mayor and Fire Chief to work through the issues before the permit is valid, Weigold second the motion, all voted aye.

**IS/COMMUNICATIONS/IS DEPARTMENT** Terry Wherry informed the Board that he was continuing to take pictures of all the City employees for their ID; he continues to update the City website and Facebook page; he ordered a new weather satellite controller, the current one keeps crashing their computers.

**POLICE DEPARTMENT** Chief Longenbaugh informed the Board they were continuing with training; Detective Stephenson was working on a Drug Awareness presentation that will be held April 26 at 6 p.m. at the library for parents of school children. He reported they identified suspects in the vandalism of the trailhead bathrooms and interviews were scheduled.

**ELECTRIC DEPARTMENT** Larry Whetstone reported that a fire occurred at Holmes Lumber Company; they were very appreciative that the Mayor was there and that the City was trying to help them get back up and running; they were still working on stump removal and have 3 poles left to replace. He reported they have the line at Countryside pulled in for the loop and all they have to do is tie it in.

**COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT** Jeff Walker reported he and the Mayor attended the Downtown Business Association meeting, he was nominated to be the City's representative on the Main Street Committee; he gave an update on the Long Term Control Plan project. He reported a large industrial user requested the City help them to achieve efficiencies in their electric energy. He reported they just received information back from IMPA showing what could be achieved through capacitor and power factor adjustments.

**STREET DEPARTMENT** Kelly Cearbaugh reported they put in a new catch basin on Lincolnway and Business 30; they replaced a catch basin at Whitley and Hanna Street and cleaned out a culvert in Tanglewood; he reported limb pickup started this week and informed the Board that all the leaf mulch was gone at the Park. He advised they opened the restrooms at the cemetery and fixed a water leak there; he reported they found some vandalism to the stones and would be working to fix them back up. He stated they were working on patching alleys and running the sweeper.

**WASTEWATER DEPARTMENT** Mike Cook reported he met with Kelly Cearbaugh on the cost of the cement for his building and figured it would be approximately \$12,000-\$15,000 with labor done in house. He advised when he had a set figure he would be back to the Board. He reported on some repairs made at the plant and had 3 gentlemen coming in from Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania to look at our static upload screen that was installed on the eq basin.

**FIRE DEPARTMENT** Tom LaRue reported they were making some repairs to their fitness equipment.

**BILLS** Motion was made by Weigold to pay the bills as presented in the amount of \$544,382.42, Crowder second the motion, all voted aye.

**MAYOR REPORT** The Mayor informed the Board that Larry Whetstone and himself met with South Whitley regarding their electric department. Larry is working on some figures as to what the City would charge to work with South Whitley on taking care of their utilities.

Mayor Daniel reported Mark Green and Mike Dear were both on vacation. He advised the secretary for the park has been hired, it was Andrea Pequignot and she would be starting in a two weeks.

**HUMAN RESOURCE OFFICER** Mayor Daniel informed the Board that he had met with the City Attorney and Clerk Treasurer on the need of hiring a Human Resource officer. He explained this had been discussed over the last few years but nothing had ever been done and he will be bringing it before the Council.

Other matters were discussed informally before the Board adjourned.

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Mayor Ryan Daniel

Attest:

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Clerk Treasurer Rosie Coyle