

**COMMON COUNCIL
TUESDAY, JANUARY 28, 2014
7:00 P.M.**

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

Council Members

Nicole Penrod – Present
Ben Romine – Present
William (Bill) Simpson – Present
Daniel Weigold – Present
Jacie Worrick – Absent

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

MINUTES Motion was made by Ben Romine to approve an overview of the January 14, 2014 meeting minutes as presented, Nicole Penrod seconded the motion, all voted aye.

ANIMAL CONTROL ORDINANCE 2014-1 AMENDMENT: 1ST READING

Motion was made by Ben Romine to read Ordinance 2014-1 by title only, Bill Simpson seconded the motion, all voted aye. Clerk Treasurer Rosie Coyle read Ordinance 2014-1 an ordinance restating and amending Chapter 90, Animals, of Title IX of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Columbia City, Indiana.

Attorney McNagny advised she did not have the red lined version to reference changes that were made. After some discussion it was decided to table the ordinance for 2 weeks.

JOINT RESOLUTION 2014-1: ELIMINATING OR REDUCING BPP TAXES

Mayor Daniel explained this was drafted as a way in which the City, County, a couple school corporations and Churubusco can say we oppose this legislation without replacing it with a viable replacement source.

Motion was made by Dan Weigold to read Joint Resolution 2014-1 in its entirety, Nicole Penrod seconded the motion, all voted aye. Clerk Treasurer Rosie Coyle read Resolution 2014-1 a joint resolution between the Whitley County Commissioners, Whitley County Council, City of Columbia City, Town of Churubusco, Town of South Whitley, Whitko Community Schools and Whitley County Consolidated Schools jointly opposing legislation reducing or eliminating business personal property taxes within the State of Indiana in its entirety.

Mayor Daniel asked if the Council would be willing to sign on to this joint resolution.

Bill Simpson advised he was for the elimination of the tax; he supported the resolution but was opposed to the tax.

Nicole Penrod did not think we would be saying we were fully opposed to it but did not want to just throw it out without having something to back it up.

Dan Weigold felt it ultimately was not helping the tax payer but the businesses. He felt it was actually hurting the tax payer because the City would have to figure out some other way to tax our local people to make up for what was being taken away. He felt it was lack of respect for local governments on how we do our job.

Mayor Daniel stressed that this was not an anti-business resolution; it was much more about preserving local control and making sure our legislators understand our position on these bills.

Ben Romine did not think they had taken into consideration the fact that they were saying if we do this then we can raise our local income tax to replace the funding but as more and more businesses automate, replacing people with machines, there were no wages on the machines. He understood why they want to eliminate the tax but on the other hand they have got to replace it with something else; they cannot just take that much out of our budget and not replace it.

Mayor Daniel felt you could be against the business personal property tax itself but still be for this resolution.

Motion was made by Nicole Penrod to approve Resolution 2014-1, Dan Weigold seconded the motion, all voted aye.

TRAINING REIMBURSEMENT POLICY Mayor Daniel reported that the Board of Works approved this policy to come to the Council for approval. He shared that Jacie Worrick was in favor of this policy.

Shawn Lickey explained it was previously discussed about a training reimbursement policy for any employee that is sent for training and then leaves employment with the City for whatever reason. He advised Attorney McNagny put together a policy that will help us recover some of those costs. He explained some of the smaller utilities have become training facilities for some of the larger companies; we pay to have them trained and then they leave to go somewhere else to make more money.

Attorney McNagny noted there was one change to include all departments not just utilities and excepting public safety.

Ben Romine questioned if someone would have to leave due to unforeseen circumstances (i.e. to take care of a parent, military) this would still apply. It was advised that was correct. Attorney McNagny suggested they could appeal to the Board of Works.

Mayor Daniel advised the purpose of the policy was to protect our investment; where individuals can make a financial gain on our investment.

Ben Romine questioned if Attorney McNagny's office would take care of the collections. Attorney McNagny advised she could. Rosie Coyle suggested depending on how much they owed it could be deducted from their last paycheck. Attorney McNagny felt if that was the case it should be included in the policy; that they agree it would have to be paid. Mayor Daniel confirmed that it would be with notice. Attorney McNagny advised we would have to do that; the notice would include the amount owed, where it would be deducted from but it would also give them an opportunity for a hearing before it was taken out.

Motion was made by Ben Romine to approve the training reimbursement policy presented with the 3 changes discussed; one by the Board of Works to include all departments excepting public safety, the appeals process as well as the removal from their last pay. Nicole Penrod seconded the motion, all voted aye.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS Department reports were given by Jeff Walker, Kelly Cearbaugh, Tom LaRue, Shawn Lickey, Mike Dear, Terry Wherry and Mike Cook.

YOUTH COUNCIL Kiersten Thomas reported that the Youth Council went to Coesse and Northern Heights to teach the 5th graders about government, they would be touring the jail and then going to the Humane Shelter.

MAYOR REPORT Mayor Daniel reported the Board of Works approved the purchase of two new 500,000 BTU boiler's for City Hall to replace the current one, he advised they were in the goal setting stage for 2014 and the State of the City address will be Friday, February 28.

Having no further business to discuss the meeting was adjourned.

Mayor Ryan Daniel

Attest:

Clerk Treasurer Rosie Coyle