

**COMMON COUNCIL
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 14, 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 September 23, 2014 meeting minutes as presented, Nicole Penrod seconded the motion, all voted aye.

ORDINANCE 2014-20: AMENDMENT TO THE TRAFFIC ORDINANCE – 2ND

READING Motion was made by Dan Weigold to read Ordinance 2014-20 by title only, Ben Romine seconded the motion, all voted aye. Clerk Treasurer Rosie Coyle read Ordinance 2014-20 an ordinance amending Chapter 75, Traffic Schedules, of Title VII of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Columbia City, Indiana.

Mayor Daniel noted this was for the new streets in Cambridge Crossing Subdivision.

Dan Weigold noted a minor issue in that Bay Bridge Court should have West in front of it. Mayor Daniel questioned how it was platted. Dan advised he would have to look at it to be certain. He stated the addresses will be West Bay Bridge Court no matter what the plat says; they have to have directional on the addresses now for 911 purposes.

Motion was made by Ben Romine to approve Ordinance 2014-20 with the addition of West or W. to Bay Bridge Court, Nicole Penrod seconded the motion, all voted aye.

ORDINANCE 2014-17: 2015 EMPLOYEE SALARY ORDINANCE 1ST READING

Motion was made by Ben Romine to read Ordinance 2014-17 by title only, Nicole Penrod seconded the motion, all voted aye. Clerk Treasurer Rosie Coyle read Ordinance 2014-17 an Ordinance to be known as the 2015 Salary Range/Benefit Ordinance.

Mayor Daniel reviewed changes; fire volunteer assistance fund was added into the fire department budget as a new way to engage volunteers. Chief LaRue explained it was put in the salary ordinance because they set a salary of \$10.00 per hour and had \$5600.00 set aside. He stated they would incorporate volunteers that have Firefighter I & II and First Responder

Certifications to assist with daily duties so that they are more involved and to have more manpower during peak times.

Mayor Daniel noted the School Resource Officer was added into the salary because it was a specialized position.

Mayor Daniel explained New Year's Eve and Good Friday were currently half days for non-public safety employees, for next year he was proposing to take Columbus Day and split it in half and give half day to each of those days to make a full day New Year's Eve and a full day Good Friday for non-public safety employees. He explained for public safety they would receive full day on Easter and full day on New Year's Eve.

Mayor Daniel advised they also added Gap Time hours for the Fire Marshall as he was working a normal 40 hr. work week but could potentially fill in for other shifts.

Motion was made by Ben Romine to approve Ordinance 2014-17 on first reading, Dan Weigold seconded the motion, Penrod, Romine and Weigold voted aye, Simpson abstained.

SEWAGE RATE DISCUSSION Additional information was provided to Council. Mayor Daniel advised after the last meeting he and Rosie Coyle did some more research on things. He reported he did more checking on tap fees and found the majority of the tap fees for the different meter sizes were higher than ours; many communities close to our size were all above what our current tap fees were. He reported they talked to both Jeff Rowe from Umbaugh and Buzz Krohn from O.W. Krohn about multiple issues but both did say our tap fees were low and also after looking at our projected schedule did not believe, based on their experience, the tap fees set would discourage residential, commercial or industrial growth.

Mayor Daniel explained regarding the flat fee the law says that we may force individuals to hook up or pay a fee. He agreed, in principal, for individuals not dumping into our sewer system and paying a large rate was probably not fair. He felt one thing that was important to keep in mind was a lot of the citizens not connected to our sewer, but have a sewer line running in front of their house, someday will be added to our system because IDEM will not grant a permit for a new septic system. He proposed that anyone who was not connected to our sewer system but is a City resident pay a flat \$20 sewer maintenance fee. Bill Simpson questioned those who live outside of the City limits but have our sewer line running past their door. Mayor Daniel advised he had not put a proposal together for that; he felt IDEM was pushing everybody towards sewer systems. Dan Weigold questioned if they were currently paying the same \$55.55 flat rate. It was advised they were. Council was in agreement to extend the same flat fee to all customers whether they are inside or outside of the City.

Mayor Daniel noted the last category was those residents connected to our sewer system but not our water system. He shared one suggestion made by Mike Shoda was to have a water meter hooked up to their well. Ben Romine confirmed the City would provide the meter. Mayor Daniel advised we would. He explained Cities have the ability to force individuals to hook up to our system. He advised in the past we have not forced individuals to hook up but have incentivized it. He felt residents hooked to our sewer system, but not to our water system, we

need to be monitoring how much they actually consume meaning they would have a water meter hooked up to their well. Bill Simpson questioned if we could mandate someone to hook a water meter to their well. Mayor Daniel was not sure of the answer. He shared another idea he had was if they would choose not to have a water meter installed we could just lock them into the 4,000 gallon rate. Bill Simpson questioned if we would install the meter without cost to the resident. Mike Shoda stated the tap fee usually takes care of that cost but it would be whatever the Council says. Mayor Daniel felt the fairest way to do this would be by consumption, so the water meter makes a lot of sense. Bill Simpson questioned if we could meter sewage. Ben Romine advised he asked Mike Cook about that and he explained with all of the stuff that goes through the sewer, the meters would get clogged and fail.

Sharon Moore was present to express her concerns.

Mayor Daniel questioned the thoughts of Council. Ben Romine felt they either leave it where it is or give them the option to hook up a water meter we would pay for. Dan Weigold shared he liked the option of putting a water meter on that the City would pay for. Nicole Penrod felt if the City was going to pay for the meters she would like to have the meters put on, if we can. Sharon Moore questioned if they would still get the summer sewage rate if a meter was installed. Mayor Daniel felt that would be fair. Bill Simpson felt the key was to treat people the same and that seemed fair.

Mayor Daniel polled Council on whether to charge for the meter or no charge. Council agreed there be no charge. Mayor Daniel questioned Council if they would want the options of meter or flat rate; meter or 4,000 rate. Ben Romine felt we needed to find out what we could do, if we cannot make people put a meter on then we need options. Dan Weigold and Nicole Penrod did not want to force people and preferred the option of meter or 4,000 rate. Mayor Daniel shared his thoughts in that after a meter is put on they cannot go back to the flat rate; once a meter is put on they are locked into the meter. Council agreed.

Sharon Moore confirmed the \$55.55 was not going to be an option. She advised she was told the flat rate was not going to be messed with at the previous meeting. Bill Simpson did not believe it was fair to the other users that their rate increases but others do not. Ms. Moore agreed but to be paying the minimum of a 1" meter for the past 15 years was not fair either. Nicole Penrod suggested the Council at the time did what they thought was the most fair thing to do. Mayor Daniel agreed and felt having the option of a water meter was a fairer way of doing it.

Mayor Daniel reviewed with Council that for those not connected to our sewer there would be a \$20 sewer maintenance fee for inside and outside users, Council agreed. Mayor Daniel confirmed for those hooked up to our sewer system but not our water system there would be an option of a free water meter or a rate. He questioned which rate Council wanted to use, flat, percentage at which other rates would go up or the 4,000 gallon rate. Nicole Penrod advised she was fine with any of them but with the flat rate going up the same as the others. Bill Simpson felt it should be based on the 4,000 rate, if that was what the average usage was based on, but with any increase that would be happening. Sharon Moore questioned if it would be based off a 5/8" or 1" meter; the flat rate now was based off of a 1" but if 4,000 was the average that was based off of 5/8" or 3/4" meter. Mayor Daniel felt it needed to be based off of a 5/8" meter

because that was what most residential homes are. Ben Romine confirmed the rate they were talking about for 4,000 gallons was for a 5/8" meter. Mayor Daniel advised it was.

After additional discussion, Mayor Daniel advised he would get things typed up and to Attorney McNagny so she can get started on crafting an ordinance.

2015 BUDGET ADOPTION Since not all Council Members were present, the adoption of the 2015 budget was postponed until the October 28, 2014 Council meeting. There were no citizens present to express concerns or objections.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS Department reports were given by Shawn Lickey, Mike Shoda, Jeff Walker, Tim Longenbaugh, Tom LaRue, Kelly Cearbaugh and Mark Green.

Having no further business to discuss the meeting was adjourned.

Mayor Ryan Daniel

Attest:

Clerk Treasurer Rosie Coyle