

**COMMON COUNCIL
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 30, 2014
6:00 P.M.**

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

Council Members

Nicole Penrod – Present @ 6:30 p.m.
Ben Romine – Present
William (Bill) Simpson – Present
Daniel Weigold – Present
Jacie Worrick – Present @ 6:15 p.m.

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

JON GOTZ – MS4 ANNUAL REPORT Jon Gotz reviewed the packet of information provided to Council on the MS4 annual report.

He noted there were a few more rain barrels. He shared he would like to see more focus on good housekeeping; extending it out to private enterprise such as maintenance on dense turf, planting trees on the private side, pavement maintenance and litter pickup.

Mayor Daniel questioned how to better counteract the effects of run off from farm fields. Mr. Gotz felt there would need to be more cooperation between the City and County. He noted there were programs through the USDA, conservation programs. He shared that Brandon Forrester talked about starting a program in Whitley County like Noble County has regarding filter strips.

ORDINANCE 2014-22: SEWER RATE INCREASE – 1ST READING Motion was made by Dan Weigold to read Ordinance 2014-22 by title only, Ben Romine seconded the motion, all voted aye. Clerk Treasurer Rosie Coyle read Ordinance 2014-22 an ordinance amending Chapter 51, Public Works, of Title V of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Columbia City, Indiana.

Attorney McNagny advised she could do a side by side comparison of what the changes were from the old ordinance to the new. She reviewed sections 51.21 and 51.22 where the primary changes were made and advised 51.23 was a new section. She briefly hit on other sections where changes were made.

Motion was made by Weigold to approve Ordinance 2014-22 as first reading, Jacie Worrick voted aye. Penrod, Weigold and Worrick voted aye, Romine and Simpson voted against.

RESOLUTION 2014-27; TRANSFER OF FUNDS Rosie Coyle explained these funds were extra funds in the 2014 budget that were not used. She advised she has not heard from the State

Tax Commission yet but knew we would have to cut some places and stated she would like to get approval to delete the funds out of the 2014 budget and use towards 2015 as cash.

Motion was made by Ben Romine to read Resolution 2014-27 by title only, Dan Weigold seconded the motion, all voted aye. Clerk Treasurer Rosie Coyle read Resolution 2014-27 an emergency resolution providing for the transfer of appropriations for several departments of the City of Columbia City, Indiana for the year 2014 for the action and passage pursuant to IC 6-1.1-18-6.

Motion was made by Ben Romine to approve Resolution 2014-27, Nicole Penrod seconded the motion, all voted aye.

FEE SCHEDULE AND PERMIT FOR MOBILE FOOD TRUCK Motion was made by Ben Romine to approve and affirm the fee schedule and the form presented, Nicole Penrod seconded the motion, Penrod, Romine, Weigold and Worrick voted aye, Simpson abstained.

MINUTES Motion was made by Ben Romine to approve an overview of the December 9, 2014 meeting minutes as presented, Jacie Worrick seconded the motion, all voted aye.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS Department reports were given by **Kelly Cearbaugh** – general street maintenance, **Mike Cook** – sludge hauling, maintenance and inspections, **Shawn Lickey** – Christmas lights, met with Spectrum on new breakers, fiber project and general maintenance, **Tim Longenbaugh** – end of year reports, command/staff meeting, quotes for new squad cars, **Mike Shoda** – barn update.

The Council meeting was recessed until 7:00 p.m.

PUBLIC HEARING ON ALLEY VACATE – 508/510 E. VAN BUREN STREET Vern and Dayna LaRue were present to discuss the alley vacate. Mr. LaRue explained they own 508 & 510 E. Van Buren Street which is divided by an alley; the home that was on 510 E. Van Buren has been demolished and everything removed. He stated the primary residence was at 508 E. Van Buren and the reason for vacating the alley was because there have been several additions made to the home over the course of the last 50-60 years and the home sits quite close to the alley; part of the concern is for safety but were also looking at building a garage. He advised it was determined there was a water line in that alley so would have to yield a right of way.

Mayor Daniel opened the meeting as a public hearing.

Hearing no comments or question the public hearing was closed.

Rosie Coyle questioned how they would keep people from going in that alley. Dan Weigold had the same question. Mr. LaRue advised their preference would be from the side of the home going back, it would be sewn back to grass; the front half they currently have a parking area right next to the house but would leave the entrance off of Van Buren. He stated they could flip the plan around if it would make it clearer it was no longer an alley.

Rosie Coyle questioned if we would have to have an ordinance creating an easement. Attorney McNagny explained the easement that would be granted would be in the ordinance; it has to be a part of it since there were utilities affected. She explained we could then get some sort of survey to grant the easement and then if the LaRue's wanted to combine the parcels that would be up to them.

Ben Romine questioned if by vacating that if it would create any problems with access for any of the utilities, street or police departments. Kelly Cearbaugh felt it odd that the City would give away ground that could potentially be worth money and has been maintained with tax payer money. He felt they needed to be careful with how many alleys they give up. Mr. LaRue stated on the hand it would be an alley the City would not have to continue to maintain so there could be a potential cost savings there. Kelly agreed.

Rosie Coyle questioned if it was the consensus for Mr. LaRue to proceed. Bill Simpson expressed concerns for the utility being there and also that the alley continues to go north that we would abruptly stop. Mr. LaRue stated it does extend further north but to the rear the alley ends at the south side so it would just be a matter of ending it a block earlier.

Dan Weigold was ok with them moving forward but felt they needed to come up with a way of making sure people know it was not open all the way through. Mr. LaRue shared some ideas he had in mind.

Ben Romine advised he would like to talk with the fire department to make sure they were ok with it.

Nicole Penrod suggested letting Mr. LaRue move ahead but do more investigating. Ben Romine agreed.

Having no further business to discuss the meeting was adjourned.

Mayor Ryan Daniel

Attest:

Clerk Treasurer Rosie Coyle