

**COMMON COUNCIL
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, 2015
7:00 P.M.**

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

Council Members

Nicole Penrod – Present
Jennifer Romano – Present
William (Bill) Simpson – Absent
Daniel Weigold – Present
Jacie Worrick – Present

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

MINUTES Motion was made by Dan Weigold to approve an overview of the August 25, 2015 meeting minutes as presented, Jennifer Romano seconded the motion, all voted aye.

JASON MEYER – PASSAGES UPDATE Jason Meyer provided an update to Council on Passages, Whitley Crossings and their endowment through the Community Foundation. He shared that they have about a \$5.2 million budget with about \$4 million in payroll. He advised they had about 140 employees and when fully staffed they are at about 160 so currently have some staffing challenges.

Mr. Meyer shared they have about \$35,000 in funding from the County for transportation and have about \$100,000 in transportation expenses but do partner with Whitley Transit.

Mr. Meyer advised with Whitley Crossings they have 65 low to moderate income housing units; The Clugston Hotel, Whitley Meadows Apartments and Heritage Homes.

Mr. Meyer shared some events they will be holding.

KEN LUNDQUIST – TREE BOARD UPDATE Ken Lundquist gave an update on the activity of Tree Board. He advised they were backlogged by about 79 trees on the removal list. He reported they have a DNR matching grant this year and will be planting 27 trees; they currently have 1300 planting sites available. He explained they would be using alligator bags which are watering devices that hook to the newly planted trees.

Mr. Lundquist advised they sent bids out but have not received anything back yet. He shared they would begin planting in October as they have run into problems with spring planting.

EVERY KIDS DREAMLAND Mark Green reported the playground was still not open as they were waiting on the tiles to put over the concrete. He advised it may be the end of September before it is ready. He shared that it has been a problem trying to keep people off the playground.

Dan Weigold questioned if there was any legal action we could take against this. He suggested in the future we needed to have something in writing giving a completion date. Attorney McNagny questioned if there was a written contract on this. Mark Green advised there was not. He shared that it was explained to him that a lot of people wanted these tiles and they were having a hard time getting them. Attorney McNagny advised that sometimes it is out of their control but agreed this was something we should look at. Dan Weigold felt this had been drug on way too long and had no problem giving an ultimatum to get this moving. Mark Green advised he would get ahold of the individual.

Jennifer Romano questioned if the same company was in charge of doing the fencing. Mark Green advised they were and did not think they were planning to do the fencing until the tiles were in. Mayor Daniel suggested it was maybe something we could have them do before the tiles come in.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS **Mark Green** – Morsches Park parking lot was resurfaced and lined and there were 7 more spots. Mother/Son event tickets go on sale Monday. Splash Pad is shut down and have discovered a large leak somewhere at the Burnworth Pool. **Terry Wherry** – fiber project update. **Mike Cook** – US 30 sewer study update, pulled equipment for the season from the Splash Pad, UV bulb purchase. **Tim Longenbaugh** – new officer training and update, manpower issues, another officer submitting intent to retire. **Shawn Lickey** – Wings Etc. and Dollar Tree update, researching automated metering, Scada part of fiber project, IMEA conference. **Tom LaRue** – aerial truck monitor update, Knox Box rebuilt and back in service, truck pump testing at Shriner Lake. **Kelly Cearbaugh** – televising & sewer cleaning, limb pickup. **Mike Shoda** – West Park Drive update, painting North tower.

MAYOR REPORT Mayor Daniel reported the Redevelopment Commission had one proposal for 213 W. Van Buren Street and have a committee setup to discuss that. He advised they created a new US 30 coalition group made up of one commissioner from Allen, Whitley and Kosciusko Counties, the Mayors of the Cities impacted; each Commissioner and Mayor gets 2 appointments. He reported their appointments were Dane Drew, Jon Myers, Doug Brown and Stan Zihelr.

WEEDS IN DOWNTOWN TREE GRATES Dan Weigold questioned who was responsible for maintaining the weeds that grow up in the tree grates downtown. Mayor Daniel shared that Ken Lundquist takes care of some of that purely on a volunteer basis and really hoped that the business owners would help too. Ken Lundquist advised he needed to get back downtown but had a knee replacement in June so has been laid up for a few months.

Dan Weigold also noted the weeds on Main Street and Line Street that were growing up along the curb and edge of the road as well as the alleys but was not sure who was responsible for those. He shared he has heard from visitors that it does not look real good. Mayor Daniel advised there were a couple Eagle Tech students asking for projects and he steered them towards that. He was not sure what has been done in the past. Rosie Coyle advised Troy Gawthrop does spray some of the alleys. Dan Weigold suggested maybe community service could help with this. Mayor Daniel agreed and would contact them.

Having no further business to discuss the meeting was adjourned.

Mayor Ryan Daniel

Attest:

Clerk Treasurer Rosie Coyle