

**COMMON COUNCIL
TUESDAY, JUNE 26, 2018
6:00 PM**

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

Council Members

Walter Crowder - Present
Nicole Penrod – Present
Jennifer Romano – Present
Tad Varga – Absent
Daniel Weigold – Present

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

MINUTES Motion was made by Jennifer Romano to approve an overview of the June 26, 2018 meeting minutes as presented, Nicole Penrod seconded the motion, Nicole Penrod, Jennifer Romano and Dan Weigold voted aye, Walt Crowder abstained.

JON MYERS – EDC ANNUAL REPORT Jon Myers was present to give the annual report for 2017. He shared there was nearly 100 million dollars of new investment, nearly 300 new jobs, the hourly average wage was over \$21.00/hr and saw over a 10% increase in tax revenues. He advised a year ago they put together a list of things they felt they should be doing to ensure they were promoting the County. He advised they have a target with the Regional Partnership that over the 11 Counties they hope to have over a million residents by 2030. He stated for Columbia City that means about a 2500 person increase between now and 2030. He discussed the impact of welcoming the Puerto Rican families has had on the community. He felt over the last year there had been a lot more emphasis on workforce development. He advised he was questioned by the County whether we should be adjusting focus on population attraction as opposed to the investment and job attraction; he agreed it was something to talk about.

Jon Myers reported he spoke with one of the owners of the Holiday Inn and shared some of the issues they were having but hoped to be open in 4 – 6 weeks.

Jon Myers discussed the companies with tax abatement and getting them to attend a meeting to give updates. He shared one of the challenges was he did not have the official authority to get them to come in. He suggested he send out letters to those companies who have tax abatement and have them schedule a time to get on a meeting agenda. He advised statutorily the Council had the right to have those folks come in and answer questions once they have filed their CF-1 compliance report in May. He explained that would run essentially until the end of June when the tax rates were set. He advised that would be the window that Council could send out a letter requesting attendance at a meeting. Dan Weigold noted most were in compliance but if there were numbers that were not matching it helped to have an explanation. Walt Crowder felt the consensus was this would be an opportunity for them to come in and educate Council but also to share their successes. He felt as deadlines approach they should be contacting the City and should be monitoring things themselves. He felt if we had to send out letters that was a negative

and would rather have them be the proactive one to get on our agenda. Nicole Penrod felt if they were on the agenda they needed to be present. Jennifer Romano felt they also needed to understand that if there were questions and no one was present to answer them the Council could just as easily deny the abatement.

Mayor Daniel felt what he has heard from his Council was the feeling that these companies were just expecting to get abatement but in reality it should be the Company coming to Council to explain what they have done and why they deserve the abatement. He felt a challenge for some was for those business owners who do not live in state. Walt Crowder suggested they could send a representative.

Rosie Coyle advised it was the Company's responsibility and if they want the abatement they needed to get it done and get it done right.

Jon Myers reviewed the process he has done over the past couple years for those Companies with abatement spelling out what they need to do and where they need to go to get things done.

There was discussion regarding those Companies that were approved this year but with questions and whether they should still come before Council yet this year. It was agreed to wait until they were up for approval again next year.

Jon Myers noted the County was considering redoing their Comprehensive Plan next year.

ORDINANCE 2018-19: SALARY ORDINANCE AMENDMENT – 1ST READING Motion was made by Dan Weigold to read Ordinance 2018-19 by title only, Nicole Penrod seconded the motion, all voted aye. Clerk Treasurer Rosie Coyle read Ordinance 2018-19 an ordinance amending the City of Columbia City salary ordinance for 2018.

Tony Hively reported Bill Simpson would be going back to day shift as a patrolman which leaves a void in his investigative office. He advised in order to fill that slot, because the department is so young and many officers have not met the prerequisites in order to become a Detective, he was requesting to develop an Assistant Detective position. He reported they did a selection process to take on criminal cases and have chosen Dave Calhoun to fill the position. He did not feel it justified a full detective salary but if in the future he meets the criteria he could go to full detective salary. He advised Officer Calhoun has to be on call all hours of the day so this would give some benefit to being in that roll.

Chief Hively advised he had 3 detective positions budgeted but for now they were staying above water with the 2 positions. He did not see a need for a third detective at this time.

Walt Crowder questioned if permanent selection had been established or if it was pending. Chief Hively advised it was pending, to see if Officer Calhoun has what it takes to fill that full detective position. He shared that it may not be a position Officer Calhoun wants to continue in. Walt Crowder questioned if Officer Calhoun was successful he would automatically be the candidate to fill the full detective position; it would not go back out for posting. Chief Hively advised that was correct.

Mayor Daniel noted on the Ordinance there was also a change to the probationary patrolman salary. Chief Hively explained in order to be competitive they needed to bump up the dollar amount; they were trying to bring the probationary closer to the patrolman ranges.

Motion was made by Jennifer Romano to approve Ordinance 2018-19 as first reading, Nicole Penrod seconded the motion, all voted aye.

JOB DESCRIPTION: ASSISTANT DETECTIVE Chief Hively explained this was a new position based off of the detective position. He advised there were some supervisory and other responsibilities taken out.

Motion was made by Walt Crowder to approve the job description for Assistant Detective, Dan Weigold seconded the motion, all voted aye.

RESOLUTION 2018-20: APPLICATION SUBMISSION AND LOCAL MATCH

COMMITMENT – OCRA Motion was made by Jennifer Romano to read Ordinance 2018-20 by title only, Nicole Penrod seconded the motion, all voted aye. Clerk Treasurer Rosie Coyle read Ordinance 2018-20 a resolution authorizing application submission and local match commitment.

Mayor Daniel explained this resolution was a necessity for the OCRA grant the City was going after to help pay for the LTCP. He shared the City was applying for a \$700,000.00 grant from OCRA for sewer improvements. He noted the local match was \$615,546.00. He advised \$8,400,000.00 was the current total project budget.

Motion was made by Dan Weigold to approve Resolution 2018-20 on first and final reading, Nicole Penrod seconded the motion, all voted aye.

ORDINANCE 2018-21: AMENDMENT TO PARKING ORDINANCE Motion was made by Jennifer Romano to read Ordinance 2018-21 by title only, Nicole Penrod seconded the motion, all voted aye. Clerk Treasurer Rosie Coyle read Ordinance 2018-21 an ordinance amending Chapter 71, Parking Regulations, of Title VII of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Columbia City, Indiana.

Jennifer Romano advised downtown parking has been an ongoing discussion with a lot of different perspectives. She explained the Ordinance Committee unanimously approved a compromise to enforce parking on Van Buren Street from Line to Main Street and all of Main Street as it currently stands. She shared it may not solve everything for everyone but was an attempt to create a compromise.

Dan Weigold agreed this has been a frustrating issue and felt this was a good solution.

Mayor Daniel agreed with the concept but questioned the reason for stopping at Line Street rather than going to Walnut. Jennifer Romano explained this would give more room for flexibility to those who work downtown. Mayor Daniel questioned if there was any concern with the Van Buren Lofts going in and the utilization of the parking spots. Jennifer Romano was unsure; that may create a whole different atmosphere once those were there. She felt in the meantime this compromise would help with the current parking.

Walt Crowder concurred with the thought process behind the change and felt it was a good compromise.

Motion was made by Dan Weigold to approve Ordinance 2018-21 as first reading, Nicole Penrod seconded the motion, all voted aye.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS **Mark Green** – update on the Aquatics Center, started football registration. **Jeff Walker** – interviews scheduled for July 18th for the downtown revitalization plan, update on Wooddale project. **Kelly Cearbaugh** – Heritage Place sewer in and passed testing, construction issue on Line Street regarding gas line and had no permit. **Mike Cook** – fencing installed at Valley River lift station, fencing completed at wastewater plant, getting quote to pave drive at Coesse School lift station. **Shawn Lickey** – bucket truck bid award, accepting bids for the reconductoring project, 107 pilot meters installed and active, update on Wooddale street lights. **Mike Shoda** – finishing up Jefferson Street project, have 8” tap to install at Quail Ridge and in Park 30. **Tony Hively** – no significant incidents with fireworks, preparing for 4-H fair, ATV purchase approval, collecting applications for police and dispatch.

MAYOR REPORT Mayor Daniel reported he and Carl Siler met with the developer of the Van Buren Lofts project and was looking at October or November as a start time. He advised the Redevelopment Commission decided to reject the demolition bids for the Whetstone building and would be going out for proposals to see the interest that might be out there to revitalize the property. He reported there was an easement party for the sewer line project happening out in the TIF district for the SDI project. He advised the Wooddale sign committee would be meeting to further discuss the signage once the project is complete. He reported he would be in Indianapolis for a lawsuit mediation regarding the old Cardinal Grain building. He advised he and Mark Green would be at the Aquatics Center for a live feed with Fort Wayne ABC and NBC. He reported on Monday, July 23 the Utility Rate Advisory Board would be meeting to look at our different rates to make sure they are where they need to be.

REGIONAL SEWER DISTRICT Walt Crowder gave an update on the progress of the Sewer District.

Having no further business to come before Council the meeting was adjourned.

Mayor Ryan Daniel

Attest:

Clerk Treasurer Rosie Coyle