

**COMMON COUNCIL  
TUESDAY, JULY 23, 2019  
6:00 PM**

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

**Council Members**

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

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

**MINUTES** Motion was made by Jennifer Romano to approve an overview of the July 9, 2019 meeting minutes as presented, Nicole Penrod seconded the motion, Nicole Penrod, Jennifer Romano and Dan Weigold voted aye, Tad Varga abstained.

**ORDINANCE 2019-17: AMENDMENT TO SEWAGE SERVICE – 1<sup>ST</sup> READING**

Motion was made by Nicole Penrod to read Ordinance 2019-17 by title only, Tad Varga seconded the motion, all voted aye. Clerk Treasurer Rosie Coyle read Ordinance 2019-17 an ordinance amending Chapter 51, Sewage Service, of Title V of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Columbia City, Indiana.

Mayor Daniel explained this was an ordinance regarding tapping into forced mains and that it is not allowed.

Motion was made by Tad Varga to approve Ordinance 2019-17 on first reading. Nicole Penrod seconded the motion, all voted aye.

**WATER RATE INCREASE PRESENTATION** Buzz Krohn was present to discuss the rate increase. He noted it had been 7 years since the last water rate adjustment in Columbia City. He advised this would be a catch up adjustment but would still put us at having some of the lowest water rates in the State. He explained the statutory requirements for municipal utilities, in general, is that the rates shall be sufficient enough to provide for the minimum revenue requirements. He mentioned the Capital Projects replacement program prepared by Mike Shoda, Water Superintendent and noted it would require \$600,000 - \$700,000. He advised some work would be done over a period of time but wanted to make sure there would be adequate funds to start on that program; over and above the normal operating costs and debt retirement schedules. He reviewed the outstanding bonds and noted with the debt right now the final payoff would be in 2027; however, there would be some bonds paid off in 2021 which would lower the debt payments by about \$140,000.00.

Mayor Daniel noted in the past, when there have been rate adjustments, it has been to issue new debt and the different thing about this is we were trying to get to a point where we are paying our debts off and also utilizing system improvements we have to have.

Buzz Krohn explained the current operating revenues were generating a little over \$1.9 million but would like to increase the revenue stream by about \$480,000.00. He advised even with the increase Columbia City would be very competitive. He noted an average user right now was at about \$21.54 and would increase to about \$27.00

Nicole Penrod confirmed it was recommended to Council to do it all at once rather than a little at a time so we do not fall farther and farther behind. Mayor Daniel advised that was the recommendation of the Utility Advisory Board.

**PUBLIC HEARING – WATER RATE INCREASE** Mayor Daniel recessed the Council meeting as a public hearing.

Bruce Coyle of 315 E. Ellsworth Street was present to support the increase and felt it was very reasonable.

Hearing no other comments or questions, the public hearing was closed.

**ORDINANCE 2019-15: WATER RATE INCREASE – 2<sup>ND</sup> READING** Motion was made by Jennifer Romano to read Ordinance 2019-15 by title only, Nicole Penrod seconded the motion, all voted aye. Clerk Treasurer Rosie Coyle read Ordinance 2019-15 an ordinance establishing rates and charges for the use and services rendered by the waterworks of the City of Columbia City and repealing ordinances inconsistent herewith.

Nicole Penrod questioned when this would go into effect. Rosie Coyle advised the earliest would be September.

Motion was made by Dan Weigold to approve Ordinance 2019-15 on second and final reading, Nicole Penrod seconded the motion, all voted aye.

**DEPARTMENT REPORTS** **Shawn Lickey** - Board of Works approval for purchase of AMI metering system, rebuilt lines in town, installing new services. **Scott Leatherman** – update on Dispatch Center, update on hiring process for dispatch and police departments. **Mark Green** – update on Pickle Ball courts, softball fundraiser, update on high school property survey, football registration, replacing dugouts. **Mike Shoda** – installing new services, fixed drain on Columbia Parkway. **Chip Hill** – update on Van Buren Flats project, subdivision expansions. **Tom LaRue** – updated on truck 101 repairs.

**MAYOR REPORT** Mayor Daniel reminded everyone of the Employee Appreciation Luncheon on Friday, July 26. He advised the next meeting would be Tuesday, August 13.

Having no further business to discuss the meeting was adjourned.

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Mayor Ryan Daniel

Attest:

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Clerk Treasurer Rosie Coyle