

**BOARD OF WORKS**  
**TUESDAY, AUGUST 13, 2019**  
**5:00 PM**

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

The Columbia City Board of Works met in regular session with all members present, Mayor Daniel presiding.

**MINTUES** Motion was made by Mayor Daniel to approve an overview of the July 23, 2019 meeting minutes as presented, Dan Weigold seconded the motion, Mayor Daniel and Dan Weigold voted aye, Walt Crowder abstained.

**BID RECOMMENDATION: LTCP** Mayor Daniel explained there would be a pre-construction meeting with USDA, the contractors and others. He stated award of the bid could not officially happen until financing was in place. He reminded the Board that Crosby was the low bidder and recommended awarding the bid for the LTCP to Crosby pending financial award. He noted the contract price was \$10,480,085.45.

Motion was made by Dan Weigold to approve the award pending financial award and give signatory authority to the Mayor to sign off after the meeting tomorrow, Walt Crowder seconded the motion, all voted aye.

Mayor Daniel noted this would be the final phase of the LTCP which was a state and federally mandated project to address the combined sewer overflow points in our wastewater and storm water system.

Dan Weigold mentioned this would go into place without raising rates. Mayor Daniel advised that was correct; the last time we raised rates for sewage was in preparation for this project. He added by going through USDA Rural Development for a loan and also getting a \$700,000.00 grant we do not have to raise rates for this part of the project.

Walt Crowder noted we also negotiated to extend the project. Mayor Daniel advised that was correct. He shared this started out being about a \$40 million project back in the early 2000's.

**PRESENTATION FROM GIVING GARDENS** Rachel Alexander, Executive Director for the Giving Gardens was present to request the possibility of obtaining the property they have had the garden's on for the past 5 years. She explained they would like have a place to put up a community building to hold educational classes, have a place to wash and store the food, they would like to put up a large greenhouse so they can grow food all year so they can start to financially sustain themselves and serve the community better than they have been. She shared they have a couple people who have come onboard that would be able to work full time.

She advised they were going to approach Parkview to collaborate with them on a program. She shared they have had several doctors approach them on ways their patients could eat healthier.

Mrs. Alexander advised they spoke with Nathan Bilger and Craig Wagner about the zoning. She stated they also offered tips and suggestions so that they pass inspections.

Mrs. Alexander shared she was currently leasing property out in the country; her thought was to move everything out by where she lived. She explained since she worked full time and everything was volunteer she felt she would have more time to grow more food. She advised after meeting with the Health Department she rethought the direction they wanted to go and really felt by staying in town they would be able to serve the community better.

Mayor Daniel noted construction of a building was very costly and questioned their plans for fundraising or how they would pay for the building. Mrs. Alexander advised they have been working with the Dekko Foundation who was very supportive, they still need to approach Parkview but did not want to do that until she knew this project would be possible.

Dan Weigold questioned if the City would deed the property over to them or how would that work. Mayor Daniel shared the City has already allowed them to use the property for 5 years; he did not have any thoughts in mind for future development there but if they could use it for the benefit of the community he felt it was something to consider.

Walt Crowder questioned how many acres were there. Mrs. Alexander thought it to be 2.57 acres. Walt questioned if there were any utilities in that area we should be concerned with. Kelly Cearbaugh stated there were not any he was aware of; Chip Hill advised there were not any water lines to be concerned with.

Mrs. Alexander shared they had discussed their driveway and would prefer it to come off of Towerview if possible.

Walt Crowder questioned if there could be a team collaboration amongst the City, Parkview and Dekko. Mrs. Alexander thought that would be possible. She explained Parkview granted them money a few years ago but was not sure what they wanted really happened because of the time available to spend on the gardens. She felt they needed to build on what was already laid there and as far as Dekko it would be up to their Board. Walt Crowder advised he loved what they were doing but was trying, from a business side, to collaborate with different entities to make it happen. Mrs. Alexander shared there were other grants they could search for but had already been working with Dekko and Parkview. She stated if it were to fall through, the City could keep the property and wait to allow her to time to secure funding then come back to the Board.

Mayor Daniel questioned if the Board would like time to mull it over. He also shared he would like to have some kind of a provision that if the funding was not acquired for a building that the City would remain the property owner. Attorney McNagny advised they could put a reversion clause in the agreement.

Walt Crowder questioned with the property being zoned R-1 and next to residential housing if they had given thought on how to 'be a good neighbor' with doing light agricultural things. Mrs. Alexander advised she had asked Nathan about that and if they would need to go door to door but he suggested just holding a public meeting. She noted they have several people who live right there who visit the garden a lot and have been very supportive.

Dan Weigold felt it would really dress that corner up immensely and would be better than a small factory. Walt Crowder agreed but also thinks of the kids and family involvement there, they just needed to be cautious to protect all parties involved. Mrs. Alexander advised they have a lot of kids who visit the gardens; Troy Center, Bowen Center, homeschoolers and others.

The Board was supportive of the idea and agreed to move forward with drafting an agreement.

Walt Crowder questioned the timeframe of their planning process. Mrs. Alexander thought it would be less than 12 months. She hoped to have some solid planning within 5 months.

Mayor Daniel advised they would review drafted documents at the next meeting and requested someone be present if possible.

**SAFE HAVEN BABY BOX LEASE & SERVICE AGREEMENT** Mayor Daniel shared the only place the Baby Box could be installed forced us to go down to Indianapolis to get a variance from the Building and Planning Commission. He reported we were granted the variance which allowed us to start moving forward with the agreements. He advised Attorney McNagny has spent a large amount of time working on these agreements to ensure they protected the City and others involved.

Mayor Daniel noted the Whitley County GOP Women's Club and the Right to Life of Northern Indiana have raised funds to go towards the cost of the box plus some for construction fees. He advised there may be a small amount the City may have to cover but did not feel it was a bad thing to show our buy-in of the project.

Motion was made by Dan Weigold to approve the lease and service agreement with Safe Haven Baby Boxes, Inc., Walt Crowder seconded the motion, all voted aye.

**ALLEY CLOSING – 120 N MAIN STREET (BREWHA)** Scott Leatherman noted the parking lot has access to the alley and needed to know how far back the barricades needed to go. Rosie Coyle advised she could get the information from Kay.

Motion was made by Mayor Daniel to approve the Brewha 15 year anniversary street closing permit as presented with the caveat that clarity be given on how far east to go with the barricades, Dan Weigold seconded the motion, all voted aye.

**ENCROACHMENT AGREEMENT – 205 CAMBRIDGE DRIVE** Mayor Daniel questioned the location of our utilities. Chip Hill advised there were some buried electric lines in the area but there was confusion as to whether they could go over the lines or have to stay back. Mayor Daniel advised he would like to hear from Shawn Lickey on it as well as Mr. Velasquez.

Motion was made by Walt Crowder to table this until the next meeting, Dan Weigold seconded the motion, all voted aye.

Mayor Daniel requested Mr. Velasquez be notified to be present at the next meeting. He asked Chip Hill to follow up with Shawn Lickey on the electric.

**PAY REQUESTS – SDI PROJECT – CROSBY** Motion was made by Mayor Daniel to pay Contractor’s Payment Application # 18130-08R in the amount of \$84,581.00 as presented, Walt Crowder seconded the motion, all voted aye.

Motion was made by Mayor Daniel to pay Contractor’s Payment Application # 18130-08 in the amount of \$10,298.00 as presented, Dan Weigold seconded the motion, all voted aye.

**BILLS AND PAYROLL** Motion was made by Dan Weigold to pay the bills as presented in the amount of \$1,220,507.21, Mayor Daniel seconded the motion, all voted aye.

Motion was made by Dan Weigold to pay allowance docket dated 07/19/2019 in the amount of \$232,143.81 and the overtime of \$9641.77, Mayor Daniel seconded the motion, all voted aye.

Motion was made by Dan Weigold to pay allowance docket dated 08/02/2019 in the amount of \$215,427.83 and the overtime of \$6760.24, Mayor Daniel seconded the motion, all voted aye.

**DEPARTMENT REPORT** **Scott Leatherman** - update on dispatch center, police department applicant did not pass PERF physical and requested permission to begin hiring process – Board granted permission. **Tom LaRue** – expressed concern of Farmer’s Market hanging signs on street barricades. Mayor Daniel requested Rosie Coyle send Chris Lilly a letter asking them not to hang signs on the barricades. **Mark Green** – requested permission to advertise for Aquatics Center Manager as the current Manager pursuing ministry – Board granted permission.

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