

COMMON COUNCIL
TUESDAY, JANUARY 28, 2020
6:00 PM

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

Council Members

Walter Crowder – Present
Jennifer Reffitt – Present
Jennifer Romano – Present
Tad Varga – Absent
Dan 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 January 14, 2020 meeting minutes with the date change, Dan Weigold seconded the motion, all voted aye.

2019 CHRISTMAS LIGHTING AWARDS Jennifer Romano presented lighting awards to Ron & Susan Frickey for the Southeast District; George Crump for the Northwest District; Larry Templey, Jr. for the Southwest District; Chris Cook for the Northeast District and overall winner was Larry Jackson.

WHITLEY COUNTY SOIL AND WATER MS4 UPDATE – JON GOTZ Jon Gotz reviewed the MS4 annual report with Council.

WHITLEY COUNTY HUMANE SOCIETY UPDATE – ABBI CARROLL Abbi Carroll, Humane Society Director, was present to discuss what has been happening at the shelter. She reviewed the adoption numbers and the different states people come from to adopt from our shelter.

Ms. Carroll reviewed the breakdown in numbers per municipality.

Rosie Coyle questioned what the charge was when someone surrenders their animal. Ms. Carroll advised there was a \$50 owner surrender fee for Whitley County residents and \$100 surrender fee for out of County and was at the shelter's discretion on whether they take the animal or not.

Mayor Daniel questioned out of their total operating budget what percentage was from municipal income. It was advised it makes up about ½ of their operating budget.

Jennifer Romano questioned ways the general public could support the Shelter. Ms. Carroll advised they accept donations, they need volunteers to play with the cats and walk the dogs, people to foster animals, share the Facebook page.

Jennifer Reffitt questioned if there was an age limit to volunteer. Ms. Carroll advised 10 year olds could volunteer with a parent and 16 years and up could volunteer without a parent.

ORDINANCE 2020-1: AMENDMENT TO TRAFFIC SCHEDULE – 2ND READING

Motion was made by Jennifer Romano to read Ordinance 2020-1 by title only, Dan Weigold seconded the motion, all voted aye. Clerk Treasurer Rosie Coyle read Ordinance 2020-1 an ordinance amending Chapter 75, Traffic Schedules, of Title VII of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Columbia City, Indiana.

Mayor Daniel noted there was the addition of West to Longfellow Blvd.

Motion was made by Jennifer Romano to approve Ordinance 2020-1 on second and final reading, Jenny Reffitt seconded the motion, all voted aye.

ORDINANCE 2020-2: AMENDMENT TO GOLF CART ORDINANCE – 2ND READING

Motion was made by Jennifer Romano to read Ordinance 2020-2 by title only, Walt Crowder seconded the motion, all voted aye. Clerk Treasurer Rosie Coyle read Ordinance 2020-2 an ordinance amending Chapter 73, Bicycles, Unicycles, Three-Wheeled Cycles and Golf Carts, of Title VII of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Columbia City, Indiana.

Motion was made by Dan Weigold to approve Ordinance 2020-2 on second and final reading, Jennifer Romano seconded the motion, all voted aye.

ORDINANCE 2020-4: SUPPLEMENT TO CODE OF ORDINANCES – S20

Motion was made by Walt Crowder to read Ordinance 2020-4 by title only, Jennifer Reffitt seconded the motion, all voted aye. Clerk Treasurer Rosie Coyle read Ordinance 2020-4 an ordinance enacting and adopting a supplement to the Code of Ordinances for the City of Columbia City, Indiana and declaring an emergency.

Rosie Coyle explained this would adopt the codification of the ordinances.

Motion was made by Jennifer Reffitt to approve Ordinance 2020-4 as first and final reading, Dan Weigold seconded the motion, all voted aye.

ORDINANCE 2020-5: SUPPLEMENT TO CODE OF ORDINANCES – S21

Motion was made by Jennifer Romano to read Ordinance 2020-5 by title only, Walt Crowder seconded the motion, all voted aye. Clerk Treasurer Rosie Coyle read Ordinance 2020-5 an ordinance enacting and adopting a supplement to the Code of Ordinances for the City of Columbia City, Indiana and declaring an emergency.

Motion was made by Dan Weigold to approve Ordinance 2020-5 as first and final reading, Jennifer Romano seconded the motion, all voted aye.

ANIMALS AT EVENTS Mayor Daniel noted the discussion at the last meeting regarding this issue and gave an overview.

Dan Weigold shared the people he has talked to, the general consensus was it would be nice not to have animals during the events. He shared he also asked who they felt should be responsible to oversee it. He noted there were opportunities for the shelter animals to come downtown on Saturday's and some Friday nights. He shared if those were allowed then do you allow others to bring their dog downtown. Jennifer Romano felt that alludes to the confusion that currently exists.

Dan Weigold shared it was discussed having the event organizer make the decision as to whether animals would be allowed or not. He advised that would relieve the City of the responsibility of it and was the consensus of the people he talked with.

Jennifer Romano felt it all came down to determining what to do so there was a clean approach to the issue so the police officers of Columbia City know whether to ask a dog to leave or not.

Walt Crowder agreed with the concept of where Dan Weigold was coming from; the officer involved would have to make the judgement call. He shared if people were that concerned about the situation he felt the event organizer could help coach why they were doing what they were doing. He felt Council needed to follow the ordinance as written or modify it if needed. He felt at the end of the day they just want to make sure it was a safe place to be. He advised he loved animals but need to keep it in perspective.

Dan Weigold felt our animal ordinance was well written and set up to be the safety net for the public.

Walt Crowder questioned for those who have therapy pets if they carry a card. Chief Leatherman advised they were not required to carry a card. He shared the only ones who were exempted were the ones who were ADA compliant service animals and even then they can only ask what disability the animal was trained for. He advised emotional support and therapy dogs were not exempt; it was only ADA complaint service animals.

Jennifer Reffitt advised a lot of the people she talked to did not care whether dogs were there or not. She advised she personally would not take her dogs because they would be hyper. She advised judgement falls on the owner and what their dog would do in a public space. She noted some people were afraid of any animal, let alone a dog.

Mayor Daniel did not feel there was a whole lot of direction being presented. He remembered the request from the Ordinance Committee was to give direction so an ordinance could be crafted, changed or left alone. Dan Weigold felt leaving the ordinance alone would put the police at a disadvantage and did not want to put our police force in a situation like that. Jennifer Reffitt advised her concern was if it was left up to the event organizer how would the citizen's know; yes they can be at Farmer's Market, no they can't be at Old Settlers; the back and forth may escalate the issue even more. Chief LaRue shared with sitting on the Committee, there were a whole lot of questions that came up in reference to this; do we want to be in the business of regulating everything when we already have rules in place where you can take your dog out and do things but then we are saying in this particular area you cannot. He felt it could put the police in a very peculiar position when there were people with animals who live downtown and need to

take their animals outside to go to the restroom. He advised the big question was we were putting the police in a very awkward position of knowing exactly what the boundaries were when it is difficult to clarify; should we even regulate it at all if we already have rules in place. Chief Leatherman advised in the current ordinance there was an exemption for people who live in the apartments downtown. Dan Weigold stated it all goes back to if something happens who would be responsible and who would be sued. Jennifer Reffitt felt it should be the owner of the pet. Chief LaRue noted Attorney McNagny posed a question that if we were in charge of regulating it and we failed to do so does it not bring the City into it as well. Walt Crowder felt the City would be included no matter what. Mayor Daniel agreed. He wondered if it would make sense for the Committee to draft something and bring it back for discussion. Dan Weigold questioned what other City's do. Mayor Daniel advised he would reach out to his fellow Mayors.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS **Scott Leatherman** – Officer Branecki has started and will be training with Sergeant Insley, Coffee with a Cop went well, update on hiring process and new vehicle, they will start testing wireless 911 on February 10. **Mike Cook** – purchase of AED units with IPEP grant, update on Long Term Control Plan, received phosphorus construction permit from IDEM, Board of Works approval of Change Order# 3 on Contract A involving upgrades. **Tom LaRue** – updates on training. **Shawn Lickey** – hooking up new homes in Cambridge/Chesapeake, working on inventory, installed temporary power for CSO project on Whitley Street, fixed street lights at Line & North Street, update on tree trimming, approval for purchase of new generator. **Mark Green** – update on Father/Daughter tickets, attending IPRA conference February 11 – 13, ice rink still open, baseball and softball registration started online, working on plans to convert the concession stand to bathrooms, received 2 more AED units, working on Irish Glen Trail.

MAYOR REPORT Mayor Daniel recognized Gene Heckman who recently passed away and his tremendous impact on local government. He reported February 6 & 7 would be the annual retreat with Council and department heads. He has an appointment to the Region 3A Board of Directors if anyone is interested in serving.

Having no further business to discuss the meeting was adjourned.

Mayor Ryan Daniel

Attest:

Clerk Treasurer Rosie Coyle