

**COMMON COUNCIL  
TUESDAY, MARCH 10, 2020  
6:00 PM**

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

**Council Members**

Walter Crowder – Present  
Jennifer Reffitt – Present  
Jennifer Romano – Present  
Tad Varga – Present  
Daniel Weigold – Present

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

**MINTUES** Motion was made by Jennifer Romano to approve an overview of the February 25, 2020 meeting minutes as presented, Tad Varga seconded the motion, all voted aye.

**ORDINANCE 2020-7: ANNEXATION 1181 S SR 9 – 2<sup>ND</sup> READING** Motion was made by Tad Varga to read Ordinance 2020-7 by title only, Dan Weigold seconded the motion, all voted aye. Clerk Treasurer Rosie Coyle read Ordinance 2020-7 an ordinance of the City Council of the City of Columbia City, Indiana, annexing certain territory to the City of Columbia City, Indiana, placing the same within the corporate boundaries thereof and making the same a part of the City of Columbia City.

Motion was made by Jennifer Romano to approve Ordinance 2020-7 as second and final reading, Jennifer Reffitt seconded the motion, all voted aye.

**ORDINANCE 2020-9: AMENDMENT TO THE TRASH ORDINANCE – 1<sup>ST</sup> READING** Motion was made by Dan Weigold to read Ordinance 2020-9 by title only, Tad Varga seconded the motion, all voted aye. Clerk Treasurer Rosie Coyle read Ordinance 2020-9 an ordinance amending Chapter 53, General Provisions, of Title V of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Columbia City, Indiana.

Mayor Daniel explained this ordinance was coming from the Trash Committee. He shared there had been a lot of discussion regarding the cost of junk days specifically. He noted the Committee worked to figure out a way to put a little more heft to the idea that our City residents were paying the trash fee. He shared it was important for those fees to be going towards services for our City residents, not for out of City individuals. He noted this ordinance would pretty much prohibit individuals from bringing junk or trash from the outside into the City limits and does put fines on each offense.

Mayor Daniel felt it was important to protect what we are able to provide for our residents with the dollars they are putting into the trash fee every month and at the same time try to discourage individuals from bringing in truckloads of junk.

Jennifer Romano questioned how it would be handled if a resident gives permission for someone else to bring trash in. Mayor Daniel thought the ordinance mentions that a City resident shall not be allowed to accept from the outside. Dan Weigold referenced the sections that address that.

Jennifer Romano shared it has unfortunately been taken to the extreme where now City residents do not get to have 2 days of pickup. Mayor Daniel advised there were a couple options on the table; fees could have been raised so that we could continue 2 pickups but the Committee did not want to raise the fees. He explained the goal of

what they were doing was how to crack down on individuals who were bringing things in from the outside.

Dan Weigold questioned what the increase in cost was. Mayor Daniel advised it went from \$39,000 to \$53,000 in two years.

Motion was made by Tad Varga to approve Ordinance 2020-9 as first reading, Jennifer Reffitt seconded the motion, all voted aye.

**HOUSING PROJECT DISCUSSION** Mayor Daniel shared the Housing Authority has purchased a house on east Van Buren Street. He advised they were able to get the home for a super good price. He shared they would be remodeling the home with the goal of flipping it or in some way benefit a low to moderate income household, which is their mission.

Mayor Daniel explained even though Council established a Housing Authority, as he and Attorney McNagny reviewed the State Code it says that new programs have to get the Council's blessing. He was not sure this new program would continue as this was a one-time opportunity they took advantage of and were putting a lot of their funds into this property.

Dan Weigold shared concerns from constituents that we do have houses that were in bad shape. He advised he supported this 100%.

Walt Crowder agreed and felt this program would go hand in hand with the rehabilitation program they have in place to make it a win, win.

Jennifer Romano agreed it sounded great; it may be one house a time but hopefully they could make enough on this first project that they could fund additional projects.

Motion was made by Tad Varga to approve the Housing Authority program, Jennifer Reffitt seconded the motion, all voted aye.

**DEPARTMENT REPORTS** **Kelly Cearbaugh** – leaf mulch now available at Morsches Park. **Shawn Lickey** – Tree Board removal project update, replacing meters, getting quotes for digger derrick truck. **Mike Cook** – update on the Long Term Control Plan project, update on 600 East project, working on submittal for new panel for the 350 East lift station, working on quote for new wheel loader, maintenance on sludge pump, pre-bid meeting on phosphorous removal. **Mike Shoda** – update on Line Street water main project. **Scott Leatherman** – waiting on test results for the 2 new police candidates.

**MAYOR REPORT** Mayor Daniel gave an update on processes being put in place regarding the coronavirus, holding department meetings with staff in the different departments, meeting with INDOT regarding US 30 and advised the EDC annual meeting scheduled for March 19.

**REDEVELOPMENT COMMISSION** Tad Varga reported they would be doing soil testing on the old Cardinal Grain property. He advised they would be having a more extensive planning session for façade grants.

**DOGS AT EVENTS** Mayor Daniel noted the Farmer's Market was at the Board of Works meeting and shared they were informed of where the City was at with the ordinance allowing animals at events. He advised when individuals come for street closing permits for downtown the Board would try to address it then. He wondered if we needed to find a way of doing a better job of letting the public know about the ordinance. Jennifer Romano shared it was the hope that the person planning the event would take the lead on getting that information out.

Mayor Daniel questioned if it would make sense to have that request be on the street closing permit regarding whether dogs would be allowed or not. Attorney McNagny advised she told Rosie to add that on the form. Jennifer Romano thought that was a good idea and felt it was good to talk about it at the meeting the request was being considered at.

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