

BOARD OF WORKS
TUESDAY, AUGUST 25, 2020
5:00 PM

Mayor Ryan Daniel – Present
Clerk Treasurer Rosie Coyle – Present
Attorney Marcia McNagny – Absent
Walter Crowder – Present
Nicole Penrod – Present

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

MINUTES Motion was made by Mayor Daniel to approve an overview of the August 11, 2020 meeting minutes with the changes given to Rosie Coyle, Nicole Penrod seconded the motion, all voted aye.

WAIVER OF UTILITY CHARGE – FIRST FRIDAY Leslie Blakley, Executive Director of Columbia City Connect, was present to discuss the utility charges for First Friday's. She shared per the MOU they had with the City, they had the ability to request a waiver of utility cost for community events. She advised they would be focusing on First Friday's as they made the decision to cancel the BBQ Cookoff. She noted it would be for August, September and October a waiver of \$80 for each month.

Rosie Coyle questioned if they were still going to use the water. Leslie Blakely shared it was their plan to continue to use the hand washing stations through the end of the year and then communicate with the Health Department to see what their recommendations were moving forward.

Motion was made by Nicole Penrod to approve the request, Walt Crowder seconded the motion, all voted aye.

PROPOSED DRIVE 605 W. ELLSWORTH CURB CUT REQUEST Motion was made by Mayor Daniel to approve the curb cut request at 605 W. Ellsworth Street as presented, Nicole Penrod seconded the motion.

Mayor Daniel noted the finish date was May of 2021 and noted they would be putting in stone and gravel within the next month but the asphalt may not happen until year. He thought it was previously discussed to put a deadline on to have the asphalt done. He suggested a specific date or by the end of May 2021. The Board was in agreement to have completed by the end of May 2021.

Mayor Daniel amended his motion to include the finish date has to be completed by the end of May 2021, Nicole Penrod seconded the motion, all voted aye.

FIRST FRIDAY – HOBBY SHOP DRAG STRIP Leslie Blakely shared as a part of their October First Friday event they were proposing an additional item that has not been done in the past. She advised they have been working with Next Generation RC & Hobby Shop on setting up an area where they can demonstrate what their remote cars can do. She explained they were proposing the portion of South Chauncey between Van Buren and Market be dedicated for a drag strip. She advised they would have crowd control barriers and straw bales would be placed at Market Street.

Mayor Daniel questioned if they had an idea of how many cars. Leslie Blakely was not sure but would probably include several heats. She shared it actually could be a sanctioned event but probably not something they were looking to do this year. Mayor Daniel advised the only thing that comes to mind is the ability to promote social distancing and masks, etc. He shared he did not have a problem with it. Leslie Blakely advised they would plan accordingly and felt with having the whole block it would allow for appropriate social distancing.

Walt Crowder suggested as things got closer and they get confirmation on numbers that information be sent to Rosie Coyle. Leslie Blakely advised she would definitely do that.

HAUNTED JAIL STREET CLOSING Paul Harrington with the Haunted Jail was present to further discuss the event.

Mayor Daniel shared one of the things the Board wanted to have more dialogue on was how they were going to handle the COVID stuff. Paul Harrington shared they have always kind of implemented the social distancing; they were a 'no touch' haunt. He advised they distance the groups that go in and have 'stalkers' that if they see groups catching up with each other the 'stalker' will get in the way to keep them separated. He explained the goal has not ever been to keep them safe from COVID but they want each scare to pop for each group and they can't do that with a group of 10-20. He shared they have made changes to their waiting lines. He advised he would be telling people what the social distancing rules were and would also have sanitation stations. He shared they have a texting system where tickets can be purchased then they would send a text when it was time to enter. He advised if the texting goes down they will also have a ticket system. He noted they were planning to be open more hours on Friday's, Saturday's and Sunday's. He discussed ways in which they were looking to expand their waiting areas to allow for social distancing.

Paul Harrington shared the Haunted Jail was the safest haunt in Indiana; they have the best safety record of anyone. He advised he prides himself on safety and keeping the customer safe, even when his people were being attacked.

Paul Harrington advised they would be recommending masks for people, even though they have had an anti-mask policy because they want to see faces. He shared his people were definitely wearing masks and were sanitized.

Nicole Penrod felt they had everything pretty well under control. She felt in terms of the masks, if they were outside, it was one thing but once they go inside it was not just their own health, it was everyone's health. Paul Harrington advised they would try to regulate it the best they could.

Paul Harrington advised he was also working with one of the managers at the Memorial Coliseum to get a sanitation spray they use over there that does not have to be wiped down. He thought, every 30 minutes, they would make a pass through the Jail.

Walt Crowder questioned if they could clarify the dates. Paul Harrington advised he was working on a calendar now and would get exact dates to the Board.

Paul Harrington shared it was denied last year but would like to request closure from 6 pm until 1 am on Friday and Saturday nights. He noted it was more for safety of the people. Nicole Penrod questioned if they were done before 1 am the barricades would be moved. Paul Harrington advised they would. He advised he has people out on the street so barricades can be moved out of the way quickly.

Motion was made by Nicole Penrod to approve the street closing request pending the definite dates that will be emailed and to approve the closure time from 5:30 pm – 1:00 am, Walt Crowder seconded the motion, all voted aye.

WHITLEY COUNTY CHAMBER FALL EXPO – STREET CLOSURE Rosie Coyle shared they were moving the Expo from the middle school to downtown. She noted there would be no tents.

Motion was made by Mayor Daniel to approve the Whitley County Chamber Fall Expo as presented with the encouragement of social distancing and masks, Walt Crowder seconded the motion, all voted aye.

GIVING GARDENS Rachel with Giving Gardens reported they were approached by Passages who received a grant to put up a high tunnel. She shared they wanted to put it on the old hospital lot but have found it was not conducive so would like to put it on the Giving Gardens property. She was requesting permission to put up another tunnel as well as a smaller tunnel at a later date. She suggested revisiting the idea of the City deeding the property to them so they do not have to continue to seek permission to add things.

After some discussion, Motion was made by Mayor Daniel to approve the request from Rachel and Giving Gardens regarding the locating of an additional high tunnel on the property and to encourage progress between Giving Gardens and Attorney McNagny to talk property transfer, Nicole Penrod seconded the motion.

Rosie Coyle noted she had not received Proof of Insurance for awhile. Rachel advised she would get a copy to her.

Upon the motion, all voted aye.

CHILDERS HOUSE – 315 S. MAIN STREET Gene Childers was present to discuss the status of the home at 315 S. Main Street. He shared he was in the process of re-doing the roof line so he could finish the siding. He advised the rest was in litigation between the insurance

companies. He noted the hole was finally backfilled but advised he did not have compensation to rebuild the front right now.

Mayor Daniel noted they were getting inquiries from citizens on the progress of the property.

Walt Crowder questioned when they would expect to see improvements. Mr. Childers felt it would be a couple months. He advised he needed the electric company to switch over the power line. Walt Crowder understood but it had been weeks and months and nothing was happening from the roof line perspective. Mr. Childers advised he has been working on interior things. Walt Crowder advised the agreement was for the exterior as well.

Nicole Penrod questioned Mr. Childers when he planned to be all done and have someone move in. Mr. Childers advised part of the problem was getting permits from the State. He noted the virus has screwed up a lot of things.

Mayor Daniel advised his preference would be, if substantial progress was not made by the second meeting in October the City would like to continue to get updates. Nicole Penrod agreed and suggested bringing in pictures of interior progress. Walt Crowder advised he would like to see a progress report every 2 weeks; Mr. Childers would not have to be present but would like to see a document of what is being done. He advised citizens were asking questions.

Mayor Daniel advised Mr. Childers he would make sure our electric department would get things done in a quick manner whenever he was ready for it. He agreed with Walt with the idea of updates every 2 weeks.

PROCESS FOR VACATION OF PROPERTY Mayor Daniel shared this was something Attorney McNagny was previously working on. He advised this would standardize the process for vacates.

Motion was made by Mayor Daniel to approve the vacation of public right of way procedure as presented, Nicole Penrod seconded the motion, all voted aye.

EMPLOYMENT AGREEMENT – RICHARD DEBUS Motion was made by Walt Crowder to approve the employment agreement with Richard DeBus, Nicole Penrod seconded the motion, all voted aye.

WHITLEY COUNTY DRAINAGE BOARD AGREEMENT Mayor Daniel noted Dan Weigold had brought forth issues with needing to clean out the drain and ditch near the Methodist Church. He shared the City agreed for the Drainage Board to go out for bids and noted the low bid was \$9,125.00.

Motion was made by Mayor Daniel to approve the Whitley County Drainage Board agreement for drainage grant in the amount of \$9,125.00 as presented, Walt Crowder seconded the motion, all voted aye.

TRICK OR TREAT Mayor Daniel shared he has had conversations with Scott Wagner at the Health Department about Trick or Treat. He shared Scott did not have concerns with having Trick or Treat between 5 – 8 pm. Mayor Daniel recommended going ahead with Trick or Treat hours from 5 – 8 pm on October 31. The Board was in support of the recommendation.

Motion was made by Mayor Daniel to set Trick or Treat hours for October 31 from 5 – 8 pm for 2020, Nicole Penrod seconded the motion, all voted aye.

BILLS AND PAYROLL Motion was made by Nicole Penrod to approve all accounts payable vouchers in the amount of \$1,504,313.23, Mayor Daniel seconded the motion, all voted aye.

Motion was made by Nicole Penrod to pay all paytypes except overtime in the amount of \$248,882.40 plus overtime in the amount of \$5,451.36, Mayor Daniel seconded the motion, all voted aye.

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

Mayor Ryan Daniel

Attest:

Clerk Treasurer Rosie Coyle