

**COMMON COUNCIL
TUESDAY, AUGUST 11, 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 July 28, 2020 meeting minutes as presented, Jennifer Reffitt seconded the motion, all voted aye.

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING SUBMISSION AND LOCAL MATCH COMMITMENT

Mayor Daniel reported Lori Shipman, Chip Hill and he worked on an OCRA grant that allows us to fund 2 different organizations who were doing COVID relief type programs; Passages for PPE purposes and Council on Aging for food delivery. Chip Hill reported we were granted \$35,000 for Passages and roughly \$45,000 for the Council on Aging. Mayor Daniel shared that even though we have been awarded the funds we still needed to go through the formal process. He advised there was no financial local match the City would be providing; the City was simply the recipient and would pass the funds along to the sub-recipients.

Motion was made by Tad Varga to read the Resolution by title only, Dan Weigold seconded the motion, all voted aye. Clerk Treasurer Rosie Coyle read the Resolution title, Resolution authorizing application submission and local match commitment.

Tad Varga questioned if we had already received the funds. Mayor Daniel advised we had not. He explained OCRA put out the grant application and then they figured out how they were going to process the funds and this resolution was part of the process.

Motion was made by Jennifer Reffitt to approve the Resolution as presented, Tad Varga seconded the motion, all voted aye.

LOIT APPROPRIATION FOR POLICE CAR Rosie Coyle reported the City received additional money from the State so we have extra money we were not anticipating in our LOIT account for public safety. Mayor Daniel explained in last year's budget we only appropriated one police vehicle rather than two, which was our normal schedule. He shared because of the disbursement from the State they would like to request Council appropriate the money needed for the purchase of a second police vehicle this year.

Chief Leatherman shared they received 4 quotes for a Dodge Durango AWD that range from about \$30,888 - \$31,600. He requested approval to purchase from Thomas Dodge for \$30,888 plus \$5,000 for the installation of equipment.

Motion was made by Jennifer Romano to appropriate \$35,888 from LOIT toward a police vehicle, Dan Weigold seconded the motion, all voted aye.

CARES ACT FUNDING Mayor Daniel explained when the CARES Act came from the federal government the State got \$2+ billion towards CARES Act funding, which was specifically for COVID-19 relief. He shared of that amount the State appropriated over \$300 million towards cities, towns and counties with the amount appropriated based on population. He advised Columbia City was appropriated \$297,000.00 towards COVID-19 relief funding. He shared it was a reimbursement program and not a blank check type program with tight regulations on what the money could be spent on. He noted it had to be spent before December 31.

Mayor Daniel shared that Beth Igney, Rosie and he have been working for the last two months trying to figure out, specifically, what would make sense to use that money on. He advised they were thinking about \$13,500 for PPE, \$10,000-\$20,000 for staffing expenses, he was planning to present a quote to outfit the Council room to be able to broadcast virtual meetings. He advised he would like to set aside funding for air bottle purchases for the Fire Department and there were three funding projects, which the Board of Works has approved, and would like Council approval as well.

Scott Leatherman discussed the judicial sharing and Sierra Wireless installations. Chief Leatherman explained both projects were designed to enhance the virtual office and improve the bandwidth within the police cars. He explained judicial sharing would allow the police officers to digitally share reports with the Prosecutor's Office, lawyer's, etc. rather than printing off reports. He explained for a 5 year program where they would provide the data, training and support would cost \$25,094.00. He went on to explain the Sierra Wireless car modems, which the Fire Department also uses. He advised he received two quotes; Motorola and Digital Highway. He shared to outfit 24 police cars and one spare the cost would be \$30,660.85.

Jennifer Romano questioned if these two projects would be covered under the CARES Act. Mayor Daniel advised they would and has gotten pre-approval from the Indiana Finance Authority on those two items.

Council was supportive of these two projects.

Terry Wherry explained the lock was deteriorating on the Chauncey Street door and needs replaced. He shared they would like to bring the door up to the standards of the main entry door which has a card reader that allows for less touching of the door for COVID reasons. He advised it would also give Dispatch the ability to lock and unlock the door through the system we already have. It was questioned how much that would cost. Terry Wherry advised it would cost \$4,051.62. Mayor Daniel advised this project has not be pre-approved by IFA; however, felt it should be a no brainer with the less surface touching and better security.

Council was supportive of this project.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS **Mark Green** – last full week for the aquatics center but will be open on weekends until Labor Day, one barn down on Wolfe property, JFL practices started, opening for full time maintenance person. **Mike Cook** – update on control panel at 350 E, update on phosphorus building, update on LTCP projects. **Kelly Cearbaugh** – update on railroad work. **Scott Leatherman** – Officer Denbo at academy, Officer Crabtree started August 1. **Shawn Lickey** – update on Columbia Shores project, regulator malfunction on the rural lines by Crooked Lake golf course.

MAYOR REPORT Mayor Daniel reported budget meetings were being held with Council, Rosie and himself. He shared that Friday would be his intern, Zach's, last day. He reported on US 30 Coalition discussions with the Governor.

WHITLEY COUNTY REGIONAL SEWER DISTRICT Walt Crowder advised the sewer district was still moving forward. He shared there was not a lot of immediate impact to the City to our infrastructure but they have met all obligations to the State and submitted the top 5 areas in the county they would like to be looked at. He felt it would be after the first of the year before they might see anything more solid in moving forward.

SUBDIVISION ORDINANCE Dan Weigold shared the Plan Commission talked about redoing the subdivision ordinance so they do not have situations like in Deer Chase (limiting the number of houses, dead end streets, length of streets, etc.). He shared they also discussed temporary cul-de-sacs and whose responsibility it is to maintain.

Having no further business to discuss the meeting was adjourned.

Mayor Ryan Daniel

Attest:

Clerk Treasurer Rosie Coyle