

**COMMON COUNCIL
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, 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 – Absent
Tad Varga – Present
Daniel Weigold – Present

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

MINTUES Motion was made by Daniel Weigold to approve an overview of the August 25, 2020 as presented, Jennifer Reffitt seconded the motion, all voted aye.

SWEARING IN NEW POLICE OFFICERS CRABTREE & DEBUS Rosie Coyle performed the swearing in ceremony for Officers Zachary Crabtree and Richard DeBus.

PUBLIC HEARING 2021 BUDGET Mayor Daniel opened the meeting to hold a public hearing on the 2021 Budget.

Hearing no comments or questions the public hearing was closed.

Mayor Daniel shared this would be in front of Council for approval on October 13.

CARES ACT FUNDING Mayor Daniel distributed paperwork regarding additional projects to be approved for CARES Act funding.

Mayor Daniel reported the first project would be for additional card reader door entry door systems. He explained it would be the same as what was installed on the Chauncey Street door that would eliminate decrease the amount of touch points. Terry Wherry explained this would include the 2 Utility Office doors as well as the door to the Radio Room. Mayor Daniel advised he has already received approval from the Indiana Finance Authority on this.

Motion was made by Tad Varga to approve the \$6,049.22 request from CARES Act funding, Dan Weigold seconded the motion, all voted aye.

Mayor Daniel explained the next request for \$48,821.89 was a quote from SDS to retrofit the Council Room to allow for the broadcasting of public meetings virtually. He advised they would put up multiple video camera's, it comes with a 3-year membership to Verizon Bluejeans which is their virtual meeting platform and comes with up to 500 "seats". He reported he and Terry Wherry met with SDS to look at how they would tie everything together. He advised it would also include the Fire Training room. He explained the quote would be for installation, equipment and a 3 year membership to the Verizon Bluejeans system. He shared it reminds him a lot of Zoom except there were some additional features. Terry Wherry reported the meetings would all be stored in the Cloud so prior meetings could be accessed.

Tad Varga questioned how Zoom, Google Meetings or GoToMeetings compared to Verizon's Bluejean system in terms of budgetary size and functionality. Terry Wherry was not familiar with the storage capabilities of the others but with Verizon there is unlimited storage and can be broadcast on YouTube and Facebook while the meeting is going on. Mayor Daniel shared an interesting thing to him with Verizon was how much control we would have with the system. Tad Varga felt this system was probably very similar in cost; he was just looking ahead to after the 3 years when the City would have to start paying.

Mayor Daniel mentioned in 3 years we may have the ability to go to another system or even have our own storage and not have to rely on another system.

Walt Crowder questioned how many different meetings could be going on at the same time. Terry Wherry thought we could do 2 meetings, one per room. Mayor Daniel advised for right now we were keeping our Zoom membership.

Jennifer Reffitt questioned if there was a smaller package in terms of “seats”. Terry Wherry advised the package in between was really small and may only have 2 seats left after Council and Department Heads join.

Walt Crowder felt this was good beginning. He advised we can grow with this system, find what works and what we do not need.

Mayor Daniel advised we have a chance to renew every year or not so if we decide this is not the system for us we could change and go a different way.

Mayor Daniel noted IFA has pre-approved this.

Motion was made by Jennifer Reffitt to approve \$48,821.29 for outfitting the Council Chambers and Fire Department Training Room paid for out of CARES Act, Dan Weigold seconded the motion, all voted aye.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS **Mark Green** – advertising for Maintenance position, pool closed for the season, JFL starting, barns at Wolfe Property almost completely gone, getting ATV vehicles free from the military, update on bathroom construction. **Tom LaRue** – high school class underway with 11 students, not actively doing inspections but will address issues if they arise, update on training, pump testing scheduled for September 21 & 22 at Shriner Lake, air conditioner issues at firehouse. **Scott Leatherman** – update on new Officers Crabtree & DeBus, update on equipment for judicial sharing, explained the military program where he is able to get various equipment for free. **Shawn Lickey** – maintenance on country line, meeting with AEP to change demarcation point, interviewed for job opening, reviewing bids for new digger derrick truck, general maintenance. **Chip Hill** – mural started in Ohki Alley.

DALE BUUCK – OCRA GRANT Dale Buuck reported on the OCRA Grant that Whitley County received for \$250,000. He advised he has had 3 Columbia City businesses that have expressed interest and shared if they pass the first phase he will need someone from the City to serve on the Review Board.

MAYOR REPORT Mayor Daniel briefly discussed US 30, he sent out 2021 wage memo to employees, Passages annual meeting September 15, Chamber of Commerce Expo September 18, fireworks at Morsches Park on September 26, hosting Mayor’s Roundtable at Eagle Glen on September 25, Trick or Treating 5 pm – 8 pm on October 31.

REDEVELOPMENT COMMISSION Tad Varga reported the Redevelopment Commission discussed 314 W. Van Buren Street and working with the owner to get improvements started on the building.

Having no further business to discuss the meeting was adjourned.

Attest:

Mayor Ryan Daniel

Clerk Treasurer Rosie Coyle