

**COMMON COUNCIL
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 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 – 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.

ORDINANCE 2020-31: AMENDING THE SUBDIVISION ORDINANCE – 2ND

READING Motion was made by Jennifer Reffitt to read Ordinance 2020-13 by title only, Tad Varga seconded the motion, all voted aye. Clerk Treasurer Rosie Coyle read Ordinance 2020-31 an ordinance amending the subdivision ordinance with regards to access and connectivity.

Motion was made by Tad Varga to approve Ordinance 2020-31 on second and final reading, Jennifer Reffitt seconded the motion, all voted aye.

ORDINANCE 2020-28: TRAFFIC ORDINANCE AMENDMENT – 1ST **READING** Mayor Daniel advised he put the letter he sent to the Spencer Street residents in the Dropbox. He shared he did not get a whole lot of feedback from the residents but did get some phone calls and emails. He asked Rosie to read the emails to Council. Rosie Coyle read emails received from Home Enterprises and Brittney Hatcher.

Mayor Daniel shared these two individuals were the only ones who have contacted him about Spencer Street; both in favor of the 4 way stop and both opposed to the ‘No Parking’. He questioned if other Council members had been contacted regarding this. Dan Weigold advised he had not been contacted but questioned if there was a way to restrict the ‘No Parking’ closer to the intersection. He felt that was where the main problem was and remains a hazard by having parking that close to the intersection. Mayor Daniel thought they could maybe restrict certain footage back from the stop sign. Tad Varga thought they had moved it back a few years ago. Dan Weigold thought they may have enforced it since the curb was not painted correctly. Walt Crowder questioned if the Parking Committee had an opportunity to meet and discuss this. Tad Varga advised they had not and suggested setting up a meeting to do so.

Motion was made by Tad Varga to read Ordinance 2020-28 by title only, Jennifer Reffitt seconded the motion, all voted aye. Clerk Treasurer Rosie Coyle read Ordinance 2020-28 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 this was for the 4-way stop.

Motion was made by Walt Crowder to approve Ordinance 2020-28 on first reading, Tad Varga seconded the motion, all voted aye.

ORDINANCE 2020-32: TRAFFIC ORDINANCE AMENDMENT – 1ST READING Mayor Daniel confirmed Council was in agreement to table this ordinance. Council agreed.

Mayor Daniel encouraged the Parking Committee to reach out to those individuals who submitted letters.

HAZARD PAY FOR PUBLIC SAFETY: ORDINANCE 2020-35 SALARY ORDINANCE AMENDMENT – PUBLIC SAFETY Motion was made by Jennifer Reffitt to read Ordinance 2020-35 by title only, Tad Varga seconded the motion, all voted aye. Clerk Treasurer Rosie Coyle read Ordinance 2020-35 an ordinance amending the City of Columbia City Salary Ordinance for 2020.

Mayor Daniel advised the amendment request was from him. He shared when COVID first hit we had our utility and civil city employees working basically 30 hrs. per week with 10 hrs. of on call time for about 2 months. He advised police, fire and dispatch did not get that benefit and so to give them somewhat of a “thank you” for continuing to work through that time they came up with this bonus. He shared it would come out of CARES Act money and were proposing that each police and firefighter who was actively working during this time would get \$1200 per person hazard pay bonus and dispatchers would get \$600 per person hazard pay bonus. He explained the differential was due to police and fire employees were out interacting with people.

Dan Weigold mentioned that other people were working during that time and noted there was not anything to benefit those people. Mayor Daniel explained the only people who really fit into that category were his Assistant, Theresa and our H.R. Director, Beth. He shared he had a conversation with his Assistant who was given the choice to come in every day or not. He felt Beth obviously needed to be here for COVID purposes. He explained the reason why they were doing this was because the other departments worked the amended schedule so there was a lot of time in which they were at home and were effectively getting paid for time at home. Rosie Coyle questioned what the department heads worked. Mayor Daniel shared the majority of the department heads worked an alternating schedule. Mayor Daniel stressed this was not the end-all-be-all and there was no such thing as equal or even but this was a small way to thank our front line public safety individuals.

Tad Varga commented in looking at it from the standpoint of running a business, the employees were basically going to get a bonus for doing their job. He questioned from a budgetary standpoint how it would impact the bottom line. Rosie Coyle advised it would be paid out of the CARES Act. Tad noted we still need to be stewards of the State’s money as well. Mayor Daniel explained this is becoming pretty standard across the board for lots of other municipalities where some departments were basically getting free time off whereas the public safety departments do not have that luxury. He advised he did not dispute what Tad stated and agreed they effectively were getting hazard pay for doing their job. Tad Varga noted he did not want to sound

insensitive and was not opposed to it. He just felt we needed to be good stewards of the “big pot” that we fill our “pot” with.

Tad Varga questioned if we were confident it would be approved through the CARES Act. Mayor Daniel explained about a month ago the State of Indiana changed how they were going to distribute funds. He advised they were now asking we submit our public safety payroll and then once we receive the money we can backfill and utilize that money to pay for all of the other miscellaneous CARES Act projects. He explained to make it a little simpler; they are going to take \$297,000.00 out of police and fire wages and re-appropriate it in a CARES Act account under the Mayor’s funds to pay for all of the different CARES Act projects. He felt it was a very strange way to do things but it works. Rosie Coyle advised they would basically just be switching money around. Mayor Daniel shared the whole reason behind this is so that the State can get the money out the door. Tad Varga questioned how much it would leave us in that fund. Mayor Daniel advised we would still have about \$20,000.00 left after paying for all the CARES Act projects we have.

Motion was made by Dan Weigold to approve Ordinance 2020-35 on first reading, Walt Crowder seconded the motion, all voted aye.

ORDINANCE 2020-33: PRETREATMENT ORDINANCE AMENDMENT – 1ST

READING Motion was made by Jennifer Reffitt to read Ordinance 2020-33 by title only, Tad Varga seconded the motion, all voted aye. Clerk Treasurer Rosie Coyle read Ordinance 2020-33 an ordinance amending Chapter 55, Pretreatment of Pollutants, of Title V of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Columbia City, Indiana.

Mike Cook explained the verbiage changes made in the ordinance.

Motion was made by Tad Varga to approve Ordinance 2020-33 on first reading, Jennifer Reffitt seconded the motion, all voted aye.

ORDINANCE 2020-34: SEWER ORDINANCE AMENDMENT PHOSPHORUS – 1ST

READING Motion was made by Jennifer Reffitt to read Ordinance 2020-34 by title only, Tad Varga seconded the motion, all voted aye. Clerk Treasurer Rosie Coyle read Ordinance 2020-34 an ordinance amending Chapter 51, Sewage Service, of Title V of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Columbia City, Indiana.

Mike Cook explained the verbiage changes made in the ordinance.

Motion was made by Tad Varga to approve Ordinance 2020-34 on first reading, Jennifer Reffitt seconded the motion, all voted aye.

RESOLUTION 2020-30: REIMBURSEMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY PAYROLL COSTS

Motion was made by Jennifer Reffitt to read Resolution 2020-30 by title only, Walt Crowder seconded the motion, all voted aye. Clerk Treasurer Rosie Coyle read Resolution 2020-30 a Resolution to provide for reimbursement of public health and public safety payroll costs with CARES Act Funding for the City of Columbia City, Indiana.

Mayor Daniel shared this goes back to previous discussion about public safety payroll and what we would effectively apply CARES Act money to in order to allow for more time to finish our projects.

Motion was made by Jennifer Reffitt to approve Resolution 2020-30, Tad Varga seconded the motion, all voted aye.

ORDINANCE 2020-26: 2021 ELECTED OFFICIALS SALARY ORDINANCE – 1ST

READING Motion was made by Tad Varga to read Ordinance 2020-26 by title only, Jennifer Reffitt seconded the motion, all voted aye. Clerk Treasurer Rosie Coyle read Ordinance 2020-26 an ordinance fixing the annual salaries of all elected officials of the City of Columbia City, Indiana effective December 19, 2020 for the year 2021.

Mayor Daniel reminded Council we have 27 pays next year. He advised there were no hourly increases for anyone but they would get the additional pay.

Motion was made by Dan Weigold to approve Ordinance 2020-26 on first reading, Jennifer Reffitt seconded the motion, all voted aye.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS **Mike Cook** – Main Bowl sewer issues, Veteran’s Marathon clean up, control panel submittal review, update on LTCP, approved drawings on Pig Launch and waiting on pricing, phosphorus start up scheduled for November 17. **Chip Hill** – update on trail to the high school, working on Westgate project.

REDEVELOPMENT COMMISSION Tad Varga reported the RDC has tabled what they were working on with the old Cardinal Grain property. He thought they needed to do some testing and reports before they could move forward.

Tad Varga reported the owner of the building on West Van Buren is having troubles getting the contractor to show up to fix the front of the building. He advised back taxes have been paid so is now in compliance with the agreement the RDC has with him.

Having no further business to discuss the meeting was adjourned.

Mayor Ryan Daniel

Attest:

Clerk Treasurer Rosie Coyle