

**COMMON COUNCIL  
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 28, 2021  
6:00 PM**

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

**Council Members**

Walter Crowder – Present  
Jennifer Middleton – 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.

**MINUTES** Motion was made by Jennifer Romano to approve an overview of the September 14, 2021, meeting minutes as presented, Tad Varga seconded the motion, all voted aye.

**PUBLIC HEARING: 2022 BUDGET** Mayor Daniel noted an increase for employees, but the majority of the budget was pretty well continuing what we have been doing.

Dan Weigold questioned if the insurance costs went up at all. Mayor Daniel advised they did not have a finalized number yet but was hearing it was going to be around 6%.

Mayor Daniel added there were funds put in for the former high school property, they moved some things around in LOIT dollars, they were continuing to work on the trail extension, they moved dollars around in the Cum Fire Fund for building repairs and there was a minor increase in EDC payments to support their work. He advised at the next meeting he would be presenting ideas that he and Rosie came up with for the American Rescue Plan dollars.

Mayor Daniel recessed the Council meeting to hold a public hearing on the 2022 Budget. Hearing no comments or questions the hearing was closed.

Motion was made by Dan Weigold to approve the budget on first reading, Jennifer Romano seconded the motion, all voted aye.

**RESOLUTION 2021-23: WC MULTI HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN** Motion was made by Jennifer Romano to read Resolution 2021-23 by title only, Jennifer Middleton seconded the motion, all voted aye. Clerk Treasurer Rosie Coyle read Resolution 2021-23 Whitley County Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan Adoption.

Mayor Daniel reminded Council our EMA Director was at the last meeting to discuss this plan and request adoption of a resolution to help with the 5-year plan as well as to help with future funding opportunities.

Motion was made by Tad Varga to approve Resolution 2021-23, Jennifer Middleton seconded the motion, all voted aye.

**ORDINANCE 2021-24: TRAFFIC ORDINANCE AMENDMENT – 1<sup>ST</sup> READING** Motion was made by Tad Varga to read Ordinance 2021-24 by title only, Jennifer Romano seconded the motion, all voted aye. Clerk Treasurer Rosie Coyle read Ordinance 2021-24 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 currently in the ordinance for the ‘No Parking’ schedule North Street between Main and Whitley and Whitley Street between Collinwood and Brownwood have a time limit and it was the recommendation to go to no parking at any time on those two streets. He shared as the park area develops on the old high school property there was good opportunity there may be bigger crowds there. Jennifer Romano felt there was expectations that in the future the parking lot may become full and people would start parking on the street which could then be problematic.

Motion was made by Jennifer Romano to approve Ordinance 2021-24 on first reading, Walt Crowder seconded the motion, all voted aye.

**DISCUSSION ON ATV/UTV’S** Jennifer Romano advised this issue has been discussed continuously over the past 6 years and probably longer. She shared it was of previous opinion that these vehicles could be problematic for us, particularly if they were to go on the greenway. She advised the Committee has discussed this issue more and have come to the conclusion that the process to license ATV’s is significant enough that it may be ok to consider allowing them in town. She noted it could still be problematic if someone were to go on the greenway, but our Police Department now has one that they could chase one of those vehicles down.

Jennifer Romano pointed out in comparing a golf cart and side-by-side, you were almost safer in a side-by-side as they require seatbelts. Gary Parrett advised the side-by-sides have to obey the rules of the road including seatbelts and helmets for children under the age of 18. He noted a lot of cities were starting to allow them. Dan Weigold felt as long as we would have a specific definition for the vehicles so as not to allow 4-wheelers. Chief Parrett agreed.

Mayor Daniel assumed if Council would take this step to allow these vehicles there would be a type of permit like we have for golf carts. Chief Parrett felt there would be a problem with that since they would already be licensed through the BMV with their DNR registration. Jennifer Middleton advised in order for them to be on the road they have to be licensed, we would not want to double license them. Rosie Coyle noted that was discussion she saw in the Clerk’s list and felt Attorney McNagny would need to investigate that part further.

Chief Parrett noted these vehicles can actually go the speed limit whereas golf carts were slower. He shared an instance where a State Trooper stopped someone in a golf cart traveling on Main Street who was only going 20 mph.

Discussion followed on how to define these types of vehicles.

Mayor Daniel questioned if it was the thought that there would still be age restrictions, just as with the golf carts. Chief Parrett recommended following the State statute. Mayor Daniel

clarified he was questioning in terms of passengers. Jennifer Middleton advised passengers under the age of 18 have to wear a helmet.

Dan Weigold advised he would like to go ahead and have Attorney McNagny put something together that would allow these types of vehicles. Council agreed.

**COUNCIL REDISTRICTING** Mayor Daniel gave an update on the redistricting work. He shared they were struggling to balance districts, but the good news was Jess Hockemeyer with the County Clerk's office was able to come up with 4 balanced districts. He and Dan Weigold reviewed district maps with the Council. Mayor Daniel advised they could not do anything until the County Commissioners approve the precincts in December. He shared the goal was to try and make sure the districts were compact and population was balanced. Jennifer Romano advised she liked the new map and felt it made more sense than how it was currently.

**DEPARTMENT REPORTS** **Mike Shoda** – starting Jefferson Street water main replacement between Madison and Wayne next week, generator at east tower. **Gary Parrett** – received vehicle ordered in January, Board approved purchase of additional vehicle, update on training, reviewing policies and procedures. **Mike Cook** – repairs to compactor, update on Culligan countertop units, sink hole on Jefferson Street, replacing control panel at Towerview liftstation. **Mark Green** – JFL football, pickleball tournament, Mother/Son party scheduled for October 22, high school property will be seeded in a couple weeks.

**MAYOR UPDATE** Mayor Daniel reported for Tom LaRue in that the training facility should be done by the end of the month, Truck 105 was rear-ended with minor damage.

Mayor Daniel shared he had a meeting with the new United Way Director, Rotary Club toured the solar park, Youth Council will be touring the wastewater facility and gave an update on the US 30 Coalition.

**WHITLEY COUNTY REGIONAL SEWER DISTRICT** Walt Crowder reported they were waiting on a loan to be processed and shared tentative locations where they were looking to improve. He noted those areas were Churubusco west, Churubusco south, Stable Acres, County Line Road, Coesse and Dunfee. He shared land acquisition and funding was still needed to support the activity. He advised they have made great progress but by no means was this the final plan.

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