

**COMMON COUNCIL  
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 12, 2021  
6:00 PM**

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

**Council Members**

Walter Crowder – Present  
Jennifer Middleton – Absent  
Jennifer Romano – Present  
Tad Varga – Present  
Daniel Weigold – Present

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

**MINUTES** Motion as made by Jennifer Romano to approve an overview of the September 28, 2021, meeting minutes as presented, Tad Varga seconded the motion, all voted aye.

**2022 BUDGET ADOPTION – ORDINANCE 2021-17** Motion was made by Tad Varga to read Ordinance 2021-17 by title only, Jennifer Romano seconded the motion, all voted aye. Clerk Treasurer Rosie Coyle read Ordinance 2021-17 the 2022 Budget Ordinance.

Motion was made by Dan Weigold to approve Ordinance 2021-17 on second and final reading, Jennifer Romano seconded the motion, all voted aye.

**ORDINANCE 2021-24: TRAFFIC ORDINANCE AMENDMENT: 2<sup>ND</sup> READING** Motion was made by Walt Crowder to read Ordinance 2021-24 by title only, Dan Weigold seconded the motion, all voted aye. Clerk Treasurer Rosie Coyle read Ordinance 2021-24 an ordinance amending Chapter 75, Traffic Schedule, of Title VII of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Columbia City, Indiana.

Mayor Daniel explained this was to change the parking around the former high school site.

Motion was made by Jennifer Romano to approve Ordinance 2021-24 on second and final reading, Tad Varga seconded the motion, all voted aye.

**PUBLIC HEARING: ORDINANCE 2021-21 ANNEXATION WCCS – 2<sup>ND</sup> READING** Motion was made by Jennifer Romano to read Ordinance 2021-21 by title only, Dan Weigold seconded the motion, all voted aye. Clerk Treasurer Rosie Coyle read Ordinance 2021-21 an ordinance of the City Council of the City of Columbia City, Indiana, annexing certain territory to the City of Columbia City, Indiana, placing the same within the corporate boundaries thereof and making the same a part of the City of Columbia City.

Mayor Daniel recessed the Council meeting to hold a public hearing. Having no comments or questions the public hearing was closed.

Motion was made by Jennifer Romano to approve Ordinance 2021-21 on second and final reading, Tad Varga seconded the motion, all voted aye.

**PUBLIC HEARING: ORDINANCE 2021-22 ANNEXATION SCHRADER REAL ESTATE – 2<sup>ND</sup> READING** Motion was made by Dan Weigold to read Ordinance 2021-22 by title only, Tad Varga seconded the motion, all voted aye. Clerk Treasurer Rosie Coyle read Ordinance 2021-22 an ordinance of the City Council of the City of Columbia City, Indiana, annexing certain territory to the City of Columbia City, Indiana, placing the same within the corporate boundaries thereof and making the same a part of the City of Columbia City.

Mayor Daniel explained this was the annexation of the Schrader Real Estate property where their building was split between the City and the County.

Mayor Daniel recessed the Council meeting to hold a public hearing. Having no comments or questions the public hearing was closed.

Tad Varga confirmed this would bring the entire building into the Cityinde. Mayor Daniel advised that was correct.

Motion was made by Tad Varga to approve Ordinance 2021-22 on second and final reading, Dan Weigold seconded the motion, all voted aye.

**2022 EMPLOYEE SALARY ORDINANCE 2021-25 – 1<sup>ST</sup> READING** Motion was made by Jennifer Romano to read Ordinance 2021-25 by title only, Tad Varga seconded the motion, all voted aye. Clerk Treasurer Rosie Coyle read Ordinance 2021-25 an ordinance to be known as the 2022 salary range/benefit ordinance.

Motion was made by Dan Weigold to approve Ordinance 2021-25 on first reading, Jennifer Romano seconded the motion, all voted aye.

**AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN PROPOSAL** Mayor Daniel distributed information on ARP proposed projects and costs. He reported they worked with Baker Tilly to figure out what percentage of our dollars could be used for revenue loss and advised there was a fair amount of wiggle room compared to other communities because of our growth. He shared about  $\frac{3}{4}$  of our money from the ARP could be used for revenue loss or general government expenses. He explained in the utility category, while electric makes sense, from the Treasury guidelines we cannot use the utility category for electric, only for water, wastewater, and stormwater type infrastructure. He noted we have to spend all of our dollars by the end of 2024; the current estimate of \$2,084,000 was taken directly from the state's website. He advised there may be some fluctuation up but not down; other communities may decide to turn down the dollars and those dollars would then be redistributed to the communities who accepted the dollars. He noted we have approximately 50% of the funds already in hand but we cannot spend any of that money until Council approves the spending plan and the additional appropriation that goes along with it.

Mayor Daniel reviewed the proposed plan with Council.

Tad Varga noted some of the items were slated for 2022 and 2023. He confirmed the money would just sit in our account until then. Mayor Daniel advised that was correct. Tad Varga questioned if there was something we could do with those funds to accrue interest. Rosie Coyle advised we could invest the money but noted we only have ½ of the funds in hand and some of the projects they wanted to get started right away. Mayor Daniel shared there had been a lot of discussion amongst other cities and towns about how to invest the money and earn some interest. He advised they could figure out how much was available to invest.

Tad Varga questioned for the revenue loss, once it goes in, would it wipe the loss out. Mayor Daniel explained the way in which the Treasury outlined it, there was a formula on how to figure what the revenue loss was. He advised that was why he consulted with Baker Tilly to work through all of the guidelines to figure it out. He explained the formula was based on our revenue and growth not necessarily every dollar we lost in 2020. He shared it was hard to describe because of how Treasury laid it out.

Walt Crowder noted the Park barn was wrapping up and clarified the funding for that project had nothing to do with this. Mayor Daniel explained the funding for that barn came from the general fund that we effectively got a loan for. He advised the idea was to take the three accounts that would normally come out of the general fund and pay out of the ARP money and change the general fund money to pay off the loan. Walt Crowder thought the objective was to pay the loan off in the shortest duration of time. Rosie Coyle advised she had a meeting scheduled with Dave Smith from Star and could talk with him about paying the loan off.

Jennifer Romano questioned if we would get all of the money now would the purchases have to wait for the year it was planned for. Mayor Daniel advised after we get the money, we could spend it as soon or as late as we want, up to December 2024. He explained when he put the schedule together, he tried to keep in mind the delays that are happening right now because we have to have the last check signed by December 31, 2024. He did not think there were any challenges to doing things sooner, outside of the interest-bearing issue.

Mayor Daniel discussed an infrastructure bill that was circulating. He shared they do not exactly know what it is going to look like or mean for our utilities, streets, and sidewalks. He advised if there is a bill passed that is going to send money into the economy and communities, we would fight to get some of that back to Columbia City. He advised signs were pointing to it passing in some form and would be on top of the ARP. Jennifer Romano confirmed the ARP plan would stay relatively intact. Mayor Daniel advised it would. Walt Crowder questioned if there was an idea of when this may pass. Mayor Daniel felt within the next month they would know more.

Jennifer Romano confirmed once Council approves the plan, the projects would not come through again individually. Mayor Daniel advised that was correct.

Tad Varga questioned how often Council would get an update on the projects. Mayor Daniel advised he could provide reports as often as Council would like.

Motion was made by Dan Weigold to approve the ARP spending plan as presented, Jennifer Romano seconded the motion, all voted aye.

**DEPARTMENT REPORTS** **Chip Hill** – fiber project update, Westgate project update. **Mike Cook** – repairs, SDI annual report, set top riser and lid on pig launch at 700 E., approval to purchase impellers and wear rings for effluent pumps, working on IPEP grant. **Kelly Cearbaugh** – update on paving project, preparing for leaf pickup. **Gary Parrett** – new vehicles, continue work on SOP’s and policies, working with GIS Coordinator to get things updated. **Mike Shoda** – update on new main installation on Jefferson Street, update on Well #7 repairs. **Terry Wherry** – finished network installation on Towerview Drive tower, working in Park to get Well #9 on the fiber network. **Mark Green** – football winding down, preparing for Mother/Son party, seeding at high school property on hold, working on mud issue on the trail by Demoney Grimes, new hand driers for Morsches Park bathrooms, Kyle Weigold new Aquatics Director and taking applications to fill the maintenance position left open.

**YOUTH COUNCIL** Grace Romine was present to give an update on what the Youth Council has been doing.

**MAYOR REPORT** Mayor Daniel reported he, Rosie and Terry Wherry will be meeting to look at security upgrades. There will be a meet and greet with new chancellor for Ivy Tech. The City/County health fair will be Friday at the Marshall Building. He, Rosie, and Beth Igney will be meeting to discuss health insurance rates for next year. He reminded Council that he will not be at the next Council meeting.

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