

**COMMON COUNCIL
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 9, 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 October 26, 2021, meeting minutes as presented, Tad Varga seconded the motion, Walt Crowder, Jennifer Romano, Tad Varga and Dan Weigold voted aye, Jennifer Middleton abstained.

2022 ELECTED OFFICIALS SALARY ORDINANCE - 1ST READING Motion was made by Dan Weigold to read Ordinance 2021-27 by title only, Jennifer Romano seconded the motion, all voted aye. Clerk Treasurer Rosie Coyle read Ordinance 2021-27 an ordinance fixing the annual salaries of all elected officials of the City of Columbia City, Indiana effective January 1, 2022, for the year 2022.

Mayor Daniel explained he and Rosie heard from multiple members of City Council to increase the mayor and clerk treasurer salaries up to where the department heads were. Rosie Coyle advised Council members would be getting the same as this year.

Dan Weigold wanted to make sure they were keeping the mayor and clerk treasurer up with everyone else to avoid a big deficit like years ago. He shared in terms of Council salaries, he advised they were making more than what other Council's in the area were. Walt Crowder concurred.

Motion was made by Jennifer Middleton to approve Ordinance 2021-27 on first reading, Dan Weigold seconded the motion, all voted aye.

VACATION POLICY UPDATE Beth Igney, HR Director, was present to discuss an update to the vacation policy. She reviewed the proposed changes with Council. Mayor Daniel explained the change comes from employee discussion on PTO vs. separated time and advised this was one change they wanted to see.

Motion was made by Tad Varga to approve vacation policy 5.6 as presented, Jennifer Romano seconded the motion, all voted aye.

AGREEMENT WITH WCCS AND PARKVIEW Beth Igney, HR Director, was present to discuss the agreement with WCCS and Parkview regarding an employee clinic. She reviewed the process of the clinic that would be shared with Whitley County Consolidated Schools.

Mayor Daniel shared from the visit to the Northwest Allen County Schools clinic they kept hearing how much buy in occurred after a first visit. He shared it was slow getting started because people were unsure about it but then once they started going, the majority of their employee's really bought into the concept of it so much so that they have expanded their clinic staff at least once.

Beth Igney shared the Marshall Wellness Center would allow us to help manage costs. She shared the clinic would be accessible to all insured full time active employees and dependents over the age of 1. She advised the same Nurse Practitioner and assistant would be at the facility. She added visits would be recorded on MyChart through Parkview.

Beth Igney advised there were two agreements; one with WCCS and one with Parkview. She advised it would be a 3-year agreement with the option to renew after that. She shared the City's total cost would be \$67 per employee enrolled per month for an annual amount of \$82,812.00. She advised they were asking for a cost share with the employees but have not determined what that cost would be yet. Mayor Daniel explained Beth, Rosie and he have continued to talk about where that level would be for the cost share. He advised they were pretty generous with the raises for next year so when they were doing the calculations, they talked about a \$15 per pay cost share. He noted even with calculating that out it still comes out to about a 3% raise for employees. He thought the cost share would end up being \$5, \$10, or \$15 per pay. He shared they tried to figure out what the return on investment would be for the employee and figured if they would go twice a year, they will have made their money compared to going to their doctor. He advised they were trying to make it fair, but it was also an added benefit.

Tad Varga questioned if employees would have the option to opt out if they did not want to pay for it. Beth Igney advised they would not have that option. Mayor Daniel explained the City would be paying \$67 per employee whether they were in or out, use it or not. He shared it was not to be punishment by any means but an added benefit. He advised the school corporation was putting the clinic on, and we would be joining in. He shared the school has a different insurance program than what we have but it was a cost sharing type of program. He noted because of the difference in insurance set up, he was not sure what the school employees were paying, if anything, just in case Council would hear something from our employees.

Beth Igney advised there were measurement protocols in place and would be meeting quarterly to review things.

Tad Varga questioned how the implementation would take place. Beth Igney advised she would be holding employee meetings and Parkview would be helping with the marketing of the clinic. She advised January 3, 2022, was the opening date. Mayor Daniel advised they were looking to have a wellness session over there for employees to tour the facility.

Motion was made by Dan Weigold to approve the health and wellness center agreement between Whitley County Consolidated School Corporation and the City of Columbia City, Jennifer Romano seconded the motion, all voted aye.

Motion was made by Tad Varga to approve the participating employer agreement between Parkview Physicians Group and the City of Columbia City as presented, Dan Weigold seconded the motion, all voted aye.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS **Chip Hill** – trail grant deadline December 1, update on fiber project, discussion on hiring company to do all of the locates for the fiber project as well as the idea of hiring an in-house fulltime locator. **Mike Shoda** – everyone hooked up to the new water main and will disconnect the old, update on handicapped ramp at Ohki Alley, purchased equipment to do own meter testing. **Mike Cook** – 700 E. project completed, received new pump for EQ basin, working on Christmas lights, ordered new VFD for blower, starting to test for total nitrogen. **Shawn Lickey** – update on North Substation project and Westgate project, supply issue on getting transformers, starting on Christmas lights.

YOUTH COUNCIL Samuel Bechtold was present to discuss what they did at their October meeting.

MAYOR REPORT Mayor Daniel reported on the Veteran’s Day Marathon, they continue to work on the trail grant project and application, we were awarded \$954,000.00 from Community Crossings for the first phase of the Westgate project, he, Mike Cook and United Consulting will be having conversations with RE Crosby on the liquidated damages for the LTCP to try and come to an agreement.

ORDINANCE COMMITTEE Jennifer Romano shared the Ordinance Committee met to discuss UTV’s. She clarified that when talking about UTV’s they were talking about side by side’s and not 4 or 3 wheelers. She noted an ordinance will be forthcoming and would be separate from the golf cart ordinance. She advised they also discussed an area targeted as a possible 15-minute parking area but the more discussion that was held they determined it would be very difficult to enforce unless we would put in parking meters.

RESIDENTIAL CHRISTMAS DECORATING CONTEST Jennifer Romano reported they would be having the lighting contest again this year. She encouraged anyone who wanted to participate to have their Christmas lights up and on beginning Friday, November 26.

REDEVELOPMENT COMMISSION Tad Varga reported the Redevelopment Commission met and discussed the remediation of the soil at the old Cardinal Grain property. Chip Hill reported 90% of the VOC’s (volatile organic carbon) have been removed.

Having no further business to discuss the meeting was adjourned.

Mayor Ryan Daniel

Attest:

Clerk Treasurer Rosie Coyle