

**COMMON COUNCIL
TUESDAY, JANUARY 25, 2022
6:00 PM**

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

Council Members

Walter Crowder – Present
Jennifer Middleton – Present
Jennifer Romano – Present via video
Tad Varga – Present
Daniel Weigold – Present

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

MINUTES Mayor Daniel noted a spelling correction in the January 11 minutes.

Motion was made by Jennifer Middleton to approve an overview of the January 11, 2022, meeting minutes as corrected, Tad Varga seconded the motion, all voted aye.

JOB DESCRIPTION APPROVAL – PARK DEPARTMENT Mark Green shared this position would be a seasonal position overseeing the travel soccer program. He advised the Park Board approved the request and explained the position would be compensated from money made from the soccer program.

Tad Varga questioned if the compensation would be a percentage or hourly rate. Mark Green advised it would be a \$2,000 stipend. Tad Varga noted the program had a lot of involvement. Mark Green advised there would be a spring and fall season.

Walt Crowder questioned the liability of traveling. Jennifer Middleton explained they have insurance through the Indiana Soccer program they organize through. She shared every parent pays a fee for their child and they do not travel far. Walt Crowder confirmed each family pays for their own insurance coverage. Jennifer Middleton advised that was correct. Mark Green advised the child travels with their parents and not on a bus all together.

Motion was made by Tad Varga to approve the job description, Jennifer Middleton seconded the motion, all voted aye.

PARK DEPARTMENT REPORT Mark Green reported on the Father/Daughter dance, preparing for baseball and softball registration and have been working on snow removal.

AGREEMENT WITH HUMANE SOCIETY OF WHITLEY COUNTY Motion was made by Dan Weigold to approve the Humane Society of Whitley County agreement, Walt Crowder seconded the motion, all voted aye.

ORDINANCE 2022-3 REDISTRICTING Mayor Daniel reviewed the district map with Council and requested to table the issue until the next meeting for additional guidance from Attorney McNagny.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS **Mike Shoda** – started hooking the south water tower to fiber, will have training on new meter test bench, had some frozen meters. **Tom LaRue** – breathing air compressor broken again, changed out batteries on air packs, update on hiring process. **Mike Cook** – teleconference with IDEM on toxicity reduction, working on RFQ for the force main replacement at Main and Jefferson, quotes to upgrade Columbia Shores liftstation, working on SDI annual report. **Gary Parrett** – update on 2022 training, reported on 2021 statistics, working on SOP's. **Kelly Cearbaugh** – report on snow removal. **Shawn Lickey** – pole replacement, met with Starbucks on their project, update on Westgate project, sending bids out for Main Street lighting project. **Terry Wherry** – lost servers, update on Duo Mobile multifactor project, free Wi-Fi project on hold. **Chip Hill** – report on Westgate meeting.

MAYOR REPORT Mayor Daniel reported Baker Tilly held a business personal property tax luncheon today and felt it went really well overall. He advised they spoke to multiple township trustees, multiple county officials, he and Walt were present as well as the Commissioners and others. Walt Crowder felt it opened a lot of eyes and was more critical than ever to talk to our Representative about this tax. Mayor Daniel shared this was only about 9% of our total assessed valuation but for others across the State it was much higher. He advised Senator Holdman has come out and said that they will hold and not hear any business personal property tax bills that do not have replacement mechanisms for local revenue. He shared one of the main issues he personally had with this is that it would end up being a \$60,000+ hit to the City, depending on the level of elimination. He advised if they get rid of it completely, it would be \$132,000 hit to our budget. He noted what was worse, was the tax increase to everyone else in the City, it was a shifting of taxes from businesses paying the personal property tax to every single resident within the City of Columbia City. He advised he distributed a sample resolution for Council to consider that a lot of communities across the State were passing as a statement to our Legislators about the personal property tax.

Having no further business to discuss the meeting was adjourned.

Attest:

Mayor Ryan Daniel

Clerk Treasurer