

**COMMON COUNCIL
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 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
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 Middleton to approve an overview of the February 8, 2022, meeting minutes as presented, Tad Varga seconded the motion, Walt Crowder, Jennifer Middleton, Tad Varga and Daniel Weigold voted aye, Jennifer Romano abstained.

PUBLIC HEARING – REDISTRICTING CITY COUNCIL DISTRICTS Mayor Daniel opened the meeting as a public hearing. Hearing no comments or questions the public hearing was closed.

ORDINANCE 2022-3: REDISTRICTING ORDINANCE – 2ND READING Motion was made by Jennifer Romano to read Ordinance 2022-3 by title only, Dan Weigold seconded the motion, all voted aye. Deputy Clerk Treasurer Sally Wherry read Ordinance 2022-3 an ordinance reaffirming the governance of the IC 36-4-6-5 of the legislative body and establishing districts for the City of Columbia City, Indiana pursuant to the 2020 US Census.

Mayor Daniel reminded Council this would reestablish the Council districts throughout the City.

Motion was made by Jennifer Middleton to approve Ordinance 2022-3 on second and final reading, Tad Varga seconded the motion, all voted aye.

RESOLUTION 2022-5: BUSINESS PERSONAL PROPERTY TAX Motion was made by Tad Varga to read Resolution 2022-5 by title only, Jennifer Romano seconded the motion, all voted aye. Deputy Clerk Treasurer Sally Wherry read Resolution 2022-5 a resolution opposing legislation regarding the Business Personal Property Tax.

Mayor Daniel explained this Resolution was a way to outwardly say to our Legislators that we believe any reduction in the Business Personal Property Tax should be completely replaced to City's and Local Governments including the City, County, School Corporations, etc. He shared it recognizes that this would shift tax rates from some of these businesses to residents, therefore raising taxes for some residents. He pointed out it also recognizes the loss of an estimated

\$66,000 of tax revenue to the City, which impacts the services we provide to our residents. He advised this Resolution merely says that we oppose the reduction without a stable replacement mechanism for funding.

Dan Weigold questioned if this had already been passed by State Legislation. Mayor Daniel advised it had not and explained what was being proposed. He shared the point of this Resolution was to make it clear to our Senators and Representatives that if they are going to eliminate the Business Personal Property Tax, in any shape or form, there needs to be a stable replacement mechanism.

Motion was made by Dan Weigold to approve Resolution 2022-5, Jennifer Romano seconded the motion, all voted aye.

TAX ABATEMENT – DOT AMERICA Dale Buuck with the EDC was present to discuss the DOT America tax abatement request. He noted they were going to double the size of their facility and add 15 employees. He shared the State of Indiana awarded them an EDGE Grant and, of course, they like to see local communities doing their part with participating in some type of incentive or help. He stated they felt a 5-year abatement seemed to be a reasonable request and shared it was still quite a tax benefit to the City.

RESOLUTION 2022-6: DEDUCTION FOR REAL PROPERTY IMPROVEMENTS

Motion was made by Jennifer Middleton to read Resolution 2022-6 by title only, Tad Varga seconded the motion, all voted aye. Deputy Clerk Treasurer Sally Wherry read Resolution 2022-6 a Resolution of the Columbia City Common Council approving the deduction of assessed valuation for real property improvements.

Motion was made by Tad Varga to approve Resolution 2022-6 and grant a 5-year abatement, Walt Crowder seconded the motion, all voted aye.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS **Chip Hill** – Board of Works approved Westgate street upgrade, in negotiations with STAFCO to acquire drainage, Chapman’s kitchen officially open. **Tom LaRue** – LEPC training exercise. **Mike Cook** – Spectrum Engineering working on SCADA system, calibrated flow meters, RFQ’s for force main project were sent out. **Mike Shoda** – VFD installation on Well 9, working on drainage issues around town. **Mark Green** – baseball/softball registrations started, ordering supplies for summer. **Terry Wherry** – working on communication error at Well 9. **Shawn Lickey** – keypad reader installation at substations, sending out bids for Main Street lighting project, working on specs for new bucket truck.

MAYOR REPORT Mayor Daniel reported the Street Department was working on patching potholes. He reported he and the Youth Council will be visiting the Statehouse. He shared he was asked to attend the March 8 County Council meeting to talk about the opportunity for a combined dispatch center.

ORDINANCE COMMITTEE Jennifer Romano reported the ordinance committee met and spent time discussing the ATV/UTV ordinance.

Having no further business to discuss, Mayor Daniel called the meeting adjourned.

Mayor Ryan Daniel

Attest:

Deputy Clerk Treasurer Sally Wherry