

**COMMON COUNCIL  
TUESDAY, MARCH 8, 2022  
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** Mayor Daniel noted a spelling error.

Motion was made by Jennifer Middleton to approve an overview of the February 22, 2022, meeting minutes as amended, Tad Varga seconded the motion, all voted aye.

**PUBLIC HEARING – ANNEXATION – MORSCHES PARK PROPERTY** Mayor Daniel recessed the meeting to hold a public hearing on the annexation of the small strip in Morsches Park. Hearing no comments or questions the public hearing was closed.

**ORDINANCE 2022-4: ANNEXATION ORDINANCE – 2<sup>ND</sup> READING** Motion was made by Jennifer Romano to read Ordinance 2022-4 by title only, Dan Weigold seconded the motion, all voted aye. Clerk Treasurer Rosie Coyle read Ordinance 2022-4 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.

Motion was made by Jennifer Romano to approve the voluntary annexation, Tad Varga seconded the motion, all voted aye.

**PUBLIC HEARING – ALLEY VACATE – COFFELT** Mayor Daniel explained there were 2 pieces of property on North Oak Street that have a platted alley in between but there is no alley. He advised the property owner owns the properties on both sides of the alley.

Dan Weigold advised he did not have a problem with the vacate but wanted to make sure they were going through the proper procedures. Jennifer Romano also wanted to make sure the property owner was aware the City would not be paying for surveys, etc. Mayor Daniel confirmed with Chip Hill the property owner understood that. Chip Hill advised he did.

Attorney McNagny questioned Chip Hill if it had been confirmed there were no utilities. Chip Hill advised they had.

Mayor Daniel recessed the Council meeting to hold a public hearing regarding the alley vacate. Hearing no comments or questioned the public hearing was closed.

**ORDINANCE 2022-7: PEAK MANAGEMENT AMENDMENT – ELECTRIC RATES & CHARGES – 1<sup>ST</sup> READING** Motion was made by Jennifer Romano to read Ordinance 2022-7 by title only, Tad Varga seconded the motion, all voted aye. Clerk Treasurer Rosie Coyle read Ordinance 2022-7 an ordinance of the Common Council of the City of Columbia City, Indiana, to amend Section 50.06 of the code of ordinances regarding the rates and charges of the Columbia City Municipal Electric Utility.

Shawn Lickey explained when looking through our ordinances he discovered the Peak Management ordinance was still in the City's code book. He advised this program has not been available for over 20 years and needed to be removed from our City ordinances.

Motion was made by Jennifer Middleton to approve Ordinance 2022-7 on 1<sup>st</sup> reading, Tad Varga seconded the motion, all voted aye.

**ORDINANCE 2022-8: SPEED LIMITS – TIMBER'S EDGE – 1<sup>ST</sup> READING** Motion was made by Jennifer Romano to read Ordinance 2022-8 by title only, Dan Weigold seconded the motion, all voted aye. Clerk Treasurer Rosie Coyle read Ordinance 2022-8 an ordinance amending Chapter 75, Traffic Schedules, of Title VII of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Columbia City, Indiana.

Mayor Daniel explained this was the traffic schedule for the new segment of Cambridge Crossing. Dan Weigold questioned if we needed to add the directional (north, south, east, west) to the street names. Mayor Daniel questioned how the streets were approved in Board of Works. Chip Hill advised the directional is included in the street name on Beacon.

Attorney McNagny advised Council could approve on 1<sup>st</sup> reading and she would provide a corrected ordinance for 2<sup>nd</sup> reading.

Motion was made by Tad Varga to approve Ordinance 2022-8 on first reading, Jennifer Middleton seconded the motion, all voted aye.

**ORDINANCE 2022-9: ESTABLISHING INTERCONNECTION STANDARDS FOR ELECTRIC UTILITY – 1<sup>ST</sup> READING** Motion was made by Jennifer Middleton to read Ordinance 2022-9 by title only, Dan Weigold seconded the motion, all voted aye. Clerk Treasurer Rosie Coyle read Ordinance 2022-9 an ordinance establishing interconnection standards for the Columbia City Electric Utility.

Shawn Lickey advised this ordinance was two-fold; to clean up our process of having generation placed on our grid (solar, turbine, etc.) and most importantly puts teeth behind our rules for the fly-by-night organizations that come along and put solar panels up, tie into our meter and not let

anyone know. He advised there is a huge safety concern for his guys and was why this process is put in place. He noted the ordinance was written with the help of IMPA and Attorney McNagny.

Walt Crowder questioned if the ordinance included verbiage for a generator. Shawn Lickey advised it did. He reported anything that can push voltage back onto our system is regulated by this ordinance.

Motion was made by Walt Crowder to approve Ordinance 2022-9 on 1<sup>st</sup> reading, Tad Varga seconded the motion, all voted aye.

**ORDINANCE 2022-10: AMENDING CHAPTER 119, FARMERS MARKET – 1<sup>ST</sup>**

**READING** Motion was made by Jennifer Romano to read Ordinance 2022-10 by title only, Jennifer Middleton seconded the motion, all voted aye. Clerk Treasurer Rosie Coyle read Ordinance 2022-10 an ordinance amending Chapter 119, Farmers Market, of the code of ordinances of the City of Columbia City, Indiana.

Chris Lilly, President of the farmers market, was present to discuss the ordinance amendments. He shared they wanted to update the ordinance with what they want to do with the Market moving forward. He explained for this year they want to have vendors on both sides of Chauncey vend towards the middle of the street.

Jennifer Romano pointed out a discrepancy in the Market name. Chris Lilly advised the entity itself does not have “County” in the name; the legal entity name is Whitley Farmers Market. Attorney McNagny advised she would review how the ordinance reads and make the necessary changes.

After additional discussion, motion was made by Jennifer Romano to table the ordinance until the next meeting, Tad Varga seconded the motion, all voted aye.

**DEPARTMENT REPORTS** **Mike Cook** – bio-monitor testing, installed UV bulbs, LTCP warranty inspection with United Consulting, working on quotes for chemicals for stormwater treatment at the plant. **Mike Shoda** – moving water lines at Westgate, high service pump at booster station back in service. **Tom LaRue** – 2 vehicles in for repair, water leak at fire museum, update on hiring process. **Shawn Lickey** – outages from storm event. **Terry Wherry** – preparing for FBI audit in dispatch, working with SDS on firewall issues and free wi-fi, Spectrum finished up work on SCADA system. **Chip Hill** – Westgate project is scheduled to start May 1, verbal agreement on purchase of retention pond. **Mark Green** – tennis and pickleball nets up, baseball/softball registration ended.

**MAYOR REPORT** Mayor Daniel reported they have been in conversation with the school on several different projects, one being a water line to Northern Heights. He advised he had conversations regarding the LTCP project and some complications with closing that project. He shared he would be out of the office, leaving Walt Crowder in charge during his absence. He noted they would be hosting the Mayor’s and Commissioner’s Caucus.

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

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Mayor Ryan Daniel

Attest:

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Clerk Treasurer Rosie Coyle