

**COMMON COUNCIL  
TUESDAY, MARCH 22, 2022  
6:00 PM**

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

**Council Members**

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

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

**MINUTES** Motion was made by Tad Varga to approve an overview of the March 8, 2022, meeting minutes as presented, Jennifer Middleton seconded the motion, all voted aye.

**ORDINANCE 2022-4 ANNEXATION ORDINANCE – 3<sup>RD</sup> READING** Motion was made by Jennifer Romano to read Ordinance 2022-4 by title only, Tad Varga 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 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 Ordinance 2022-4 on third and final reading, Jennifer Middleton seconded the motion, all voted aye.

**ORDINANCE 2022-7 PEAK MANAGEMENT AMENDMENT – ELECTRIC RATES & CHARGES – 2<sup>ND</sup> READING** Motion was made by Dan Weigold to read Ordinance 2022-7 by title only, Jennifer Romano 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.

Mayor Daniel shared this was just an update to our code to take out a section that has not been used for quite some time.

Motion was made by Jennifer Middleton to approve Ordinance 2022-7 on second and final reading, Tad Varga seconded the motion, all voted aye.

**ORDINANCE 2022-8 SPEED LIMITS – TIMBER’S EDGE – 2<sup>ND</sup> READING** Motion was made by Dan Weigold to read Ordinance 2022-8 by title only, Jennifer Romano 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.

Motion was made by Jennifer Romano to approve Ordinance 2022-8 on second and final reading, Tad Varga seconded the motion, all voted aye.

**ORDINANCE 2022-9 ESTABLISHING INTERCONNECTION STANDARDS FOR ELECTRIC UTILITY – 2<sup>ND</sup> READING** Motion was made by Dan Weigold to read Ordinance 2022-9 by title only, Jennifer Middleton seconded the motion, all voted aye. Clerk Treasurer Rosie Coyle read Ordinance 2022-9 an ordinance establishing interconnection standard for the Columbia City Electric Utility.

Mayor Daniel reminded Council this was setting up the standard for all renewables. Shawn Lickey advised they have already been doing this on a case-by-case basis with no punitive recourse or options. He shared this ordinance puts fines in place for those who do not follow the correct processes to be hooked to our grid.

Mayor Daniel shared there have been some companies who have been peddling their solar wares in our area who have overpromised and underdelivered to multiple customers. Shawn Lickey advised we have about 4 customers on our lines who were sold solar from a particular company, who he is no longer allowing to hook to our system because the sales tactics they are using are not quite ethical. He reported the Indianapolis news did a story on this company covering the numerous BBB complaints and lawsuits they are involved in right now. Mayor Daniel noted these companies are typically the ones you see on social media. Shawn Lickey shared he was not discouraging solar but was also being truthful with what was being offered. He advised there is an article on the City webpage for those considering renewables that shares what to consider and what to look at.

Mayor Daniel advised the City was interested in renewables, we have a solar park, so this was not an anti-renewable thing but more importantly was for the protection of our guys.

Motion was made by Dan Weigold to approve Ordinance 2022-9 on second and final reading, Jennifer Middleton seconded the motion, all voted aye.

**ORDINANCE 2022-10 AMENDING CHAPTER 119, FARMERS MARKET – 1<sup>ST</sup> READING** Jennifer Romano explained the Ordinance Committee was planning to repeal the Farmer's Market ordinance. She shared it was thought the ordinance was originally created because the organization was not its own standalone non-profit, but now they are.

Motion was made by Jennifer Romano to table Ordinance 2022-10, Dan Weigold seconded the motion, all voted aye.

**DEPARTMENT REPORTS** **Shawn Lickey** – reported on damaged streetlight at Line and Van Buren, started Tree Board tree removal and are replacing poles on Airport Road. **Gary Parrett** – update on training, Officer Braxton Madison resigned as of March 18 - Board approved to begin hiring process to fill his position, getting ready for FBI audit in Dispatch, radios updated in

Dispatch, dispatcher put in notice of resignation – Board gave approval to fill that position. **Mike Shoda** – dealing with stormwater issues, hooking up new homes. **Mike Cook** – had LTCP warranty inspection with United Consulting, meeting with W.C. Regional Sewer District regarding accepting flow from Coesse, working on SCADA radio replacement, employee passed State Exam. **Tom LaRue** – working on issues with Active 911, he and Chris LaRue attended inspectors training, update on hiring process. **Terry Wherry** – SDS installing equipment for free wi-fi, installed 4 new cameras at Ohki Alley, working with several vendors on the VLAN for public safety. **Mark Green** – Community Foundation doing surveying at Wolf property, working on baseball fields, met with master gardeners, bathrooms open except Devol Field and Morsches Park, interviewing for lifeguards. **Chip Hill** – Columbia City Connect doing a downtown clean up on April 30 from 9 am – noon. **Street Department** – Mayor Daniel reported for Kelly Cearbaugh that they did a round of limb pickup due to the storms, leaf pile was mulched at Morsches Park and is available to the public, sweeper repair, patching potholes and grading alleys, cleaning up at the cemetery, street sweeping.

**MAYOR REPORT** Mayor Daniel shared the potential for combined dispatch did not appear to be moving forward and would be following up with the Commissioners. He reported he met with the new Chamber of Commerce Director and were working on the State of the City Address which was scheduled for May 6 at noon. He advised they were working on US 30 things and trying to figure out what the plan was for the State. He shared he spent some time with the students at Troy Center School and will be meeting with the Youth Council.

**PARKING ISSUES – HINEN PRINTING & DR. LIEB** Dan Weigold reported he met with Jeff Hinen regarding their parking concerns. He advised Mr. Hinen was going to monitor the situation and let him know if there continues to be a problem.

**ORDINANCE COMMITTEE** Jennifer Romano reported the Ordinance Committee met and discussed the Farmer’s Market as well as the UTV ordinance. She shared the Committee has been reviewing ordinances from other communities regarding the side-by-sides and Attorney McNagny was working to draft an ordinance.

**FIRE SUPPRESSION – ANNUAL SPRINKLER CHARGE** Tad Varga shared he had a conversation with Andy More about an invoice he received regarding the sprinkler system at their building. Rosie Coyle advised she talked with Fire Inspector LaRue about it and shared they could have it taken out, but we would need something in writing stating that. She advised Inspector LaRue would then have to inspect to make sure the service had been disconnected and we would no longer bill for the service. Tad Varga was not sure Mr. More was as concerned about the bill but maybe did not understand the charge.

Rosie Coyle explained any building that has a sprinkler system gets charged a yearly fee based on the size of the system. She advised if they have a fire or something trigger’s the sprinkler to go off, they would not be charged for the water used but if they do not have a sprinkler system they would be charged for the water if a fire would occur.

Fire Chief LaRue explained More’s were in a unique situation because their building was originally built as The Post & Mail and because of their occupancy and usage, State Code

required they have a sprinkler system. He shared More Farm Store's occupancy does not require a sprinkler system, but of course is a good idea to have. He advised to remove the system, they have to remove every portion of that system, down to the riser that comes out of the concrete; it was all or nothing for them.

Tad Varga shared one of the things Andy was questioning was, if there was a fire, his insurance would pay for it so was wondering why he had to pay every year for something his insurance would pay for anyway. Chief LaRue understood and shared this was not something just Columbia City does. He explained they talked to inspectors around the State, and this was something every water utility charges for. Mayor Daniel stated this was effectively an availability charge. He confirmed with Mike Shoda that it was a separate tap. Mike Shoda explained how the lines are typically run and tapped. He shared the amount of water used during a fire is outrageous and would save them to have the system. He understood \$1,000 a year was a lot, but they have to realize that if they do not want the system, they could not turn it back on at another time because it would be gone.

Jennifer Middleton advised they should get a credit on their insurance. Mayor Daniel felt if the City needed to provide proof that would not be an issue. He shared there were many things to weigh but from the City's perspective it was a safety thing.

Rosie Coyle advised if they want to have it disconnected, they will need to provide something in writing to us.

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