

**COMMON COUNCIL  
TUESDAY, MAY 10, 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 – Absent  
Tad Varga – Present  
Daniel Weigold – Present

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

**MINUTES** Motion was made by Jennifer Middleton to approve an overview of the March 22, 2022, meeting minutes as presented, Jennifer Middleton, Tad Varga and Dan Weigold voted aye, Walt Crowder abstained.

Approval of the April 12, 2022 meeting minutes was postponed.

**ORDINANCE 2022-11: REZONE – 1126 S. 50 E. – 2<sup>ND</sup> READING** Motion was made by Dan Weigold to read Ordinance 2022-11 by title only, Jennifer Middleton seconded the motion, all voted aye. Clerk Treasurer Rosie Coyle read Ordinance 2022-11 an ordinance amending the zoning classification of certain property from the “R-3” Multi-Family Residential District to the “LB” Local Business District.

Mayor Daniel reminded Council this was the former union hall on 50 E.

Motion was made by Jennifer Middleton to approve Ordinance 2022-11 on second and final reading, Tad Varga seconded the motion, all voted aye.

**ORDINANCE 2022-12: VACATE OF PUBLIC RIGHT OF WAY – 1<sup>ST</sup> READING** Motion was made by Walt Crowder to read Ordinance 2022-12 by title only, Tad Varga seconded the motion, all voted aye. Clerk Treasurer Rosie Coyle read Ordinance 2022-12 Vacation of Public Right of Way.

Chip Hill advised Mr. Coffelt had been to Council previously. He reminded Council that Mr. Coffelt owned three lots and would like to combine them into one. Mayor Daniel explained there was an alleyway between the parcels that goes nowhere and is not used as an alley.

Motion was made by Jennifer Middleton to approve Ordinance 2022-12 on first reading, Dan Weigold seconded the motion, all voted aye.

**COMPLIANCE WITH STATEMENT OF BENEFITS – DOT AMERICA** Mayor Daniel reviewed DOT America’s Compliance with Statement of Benefits for the Real Property from 2014, Personal Property from 2014, Real Property from 2017 and Personal Property from 2017.

Motion was made by Tad Varga to find DOT America in compliance and grant an additional year of abatement for their 2014 Real Property, 2014 Personal Property, 2017 Real Property and 2017 Personal Property, Dan Weigold seconded the motion, all voted aye.

**ORDINANCE 2022-13: GOLF CARTS AND UTV’S – 1<sup>ST</sup> READING** Motion was made by Jennifer Middleton to read Ordinance 2022-13 by title only, Dan Weigold seconded the motion, all voted aye. Clerk Treasurer Rosie Coyle read Ordinance 2022-13 an ordinance amending Chapter 73 of the City of Columbia City Code of Ordinances.

Attorney McNagny reported the Ordinance Committee decided to not do a separate UTV ordinance. She explained there were a few slight changes to the golf cart ordinance and so the thought was to combine the two but the UTV portion was all new. She shared they tried to simplify and make it more straightforward than what was originally looked at.

Rosie Coyle noted there were no permits or charges for the UTV’s.

Gary Parrett explained UTV’s have to be registered through the State of Indiana so we could not double dip and charge again. He shared the committee made the decision to not have City inspections on them since they have to comply with all State laws, rules and regulations anyway.

Walt Crowder confirmed the BMV would inspect the UTV’s. Chief Parrett advised the UTV has to be registered through the BMV. Mayor Daniel questioned how often the registration period was. Chief Parrett thought it to be every 2 – 3 years. Mayor Daniel confirmed the officers would be able to pull up the registrations much like cars. Chief Parrett advised that was correct and the registration has to be carried in the vehicle.

Walt Crowder questioned what a UTV was. Chief Parrett shared it was also referred to as a side-by-side; doors, seatbelts, steering wheel, 4 wheels. Attorney McNagny advised there was a definition in the ordinance. Chief Parrett noted they did not want 4-wheelers and dirt bike motorcycles as being allowed. He shared multiple ordinances from other communities were reviewed to make our own.

Motion was made by Dan Weigold to approve Ordinance 2022-13 on first reading, Tad Varga seconded the motion, all voted aye.

**ELECTRIC RATE DECREASE: ORDINANCE 2022-14 1<sup>ST</sup> READING** Motion was made by Jennifer Middleton to read Ordinance 2022-14 by title only, Tad Varga seconded the motion, all voted aye. Clerk Treasurer Rosie Coyle read Ordinance 2022-14 an ordinance amending the Rates Charges for the City of Columbia City Municipal Electric Utility.

Rosie Coyle explained the electric and water utilities currently have to pay gross income tax on the sale of utilities, which is 1.4% of our revenues. She shared the legislature has now decided to do away with that tax, so we have to lower our electric and water rates by 1.4%.

Tad Varga questioned if we were required to do this. Mayor Daniel advised we were. He explained this was really a pass through meaning we collect from the residents and then pay it to the State. He shared we effectively were not necessarily losing revenue, but the State was losing that tax revenue. He shared the Indiana General Assembly passed HB 1002 that repeals the Indiana Utility Receipts Tax so utility customers will experience a decrease in their taxes. It was noted this becomes effective July 1.

Motion was made by Jennifer Middleton to approve Ordinance 2022-14 on first reading, Tad Varga seconded the motion, all voted aye.

**WATER RATE DECREASE: ORDINANCE 2022-15 1<sup>ST</sup> READING** Motion was made by Jennifer Middleton to read Ordinance 2022-15 by title only, Walt Crowder seconded the motion, all voted aye. Clerk Treasurer Rosie Coyle read Ordinance 2022-15 an ordinance amending the Rates Charges for the City of Columbia City Municipal Water Utility.

Mayor Daniel explained this was for a decrease in water rates because of the repeal by the Indiana General Assembly, HB 1002, appealing the Indiana Utility Receipts Tax having a direct impact on our utility customers.

Motion was made by Jennifer Middleton to approve Ordinance 2022-15 on first reading, Walt Crowder seconded the motion, all voted aye.

**ORDINANCE 2022-16: SUPPLEMENT TO THE CODE OF ORDINANCES – 1<sup>ST</sup> READING** Motion was made by Jennifer Middleton to read Ordinance 2022-16 by title only, Dan Weigold seconded the motion, all voted aye. Clerk Treasurer Rosie Coyle read Ordinance 2022-16 an ordinance enacting and adopting a supplement to the Code of Ordinances for the City of Columbia City, Indiana and declaring an emergency.

Motion was made by Walt Crowder to approve Ordinance 2022-16 on first and final reading and declaring an emergency, Tad Varga seconded the motion, all voted aye.

**DEPARTMENT REPORTS** **Chip Hill** – update on Westgate project, planted flowers in Ohki Alley, bike racks should be installed downtown this week, dog waste stations installed. **Terry Wherry** – replacing firewall, update on free Wi-Fi project. **Shawn Lickey** – Tree Board trees all removed and starting stump grinding, changing out poles, financials were looking better, looking to try and hire to fill open position. **Gary Parrett** – Officer Cook returned from firearms instructors training, update on hiring process, held department meeting, new dispatchers were doing a good job, update on West Van Buren street closure for sewer repair. **Mike Cook** – Board approved force main agreement, engineering work and repairs needed on CSO 19, requested permission to move the left over ARP funds from the force main project to the CSO 19 bank stabilization project – Motion was made by Tad Varga to approve the request, Dan Weigold seconded the motion, all voted aye. **Mark Green** – busy with baseball & softball games,

striping parking lots, preparing aquatics center for May 29 official opening, lifeguard training on May 22 from 3 – 6 pm.

**MAYOR REPORT** Mayor Daniel reported the volunteer fire department was working on putting together a recruitment and retention strategy. He advised the Utility Advisory Board met and reviewed financials. He reported the Board of Works approved having Baker Tilly do a Comprehensive Rate Plan for our utilities. He gave an update on the Westgate project. He advised budget meetings were scheduled.

**REDEVELOPMENT COMMISSION** Tad Varga reported the RDC discussed the redevelopment of the old Cardinal Grain site and potential uses for the property.

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