

BOARD OF WORKS
TUESDAY, MAY 24, 2022
5:00 PM

Mayor Ryan Daniel – Present
Clerk Treasurer Rosie Coyle – Present
Attorney Marcia McNagny – Present
Walter Crowder – Present
Nicole Penrod – Present

The Columbia City Board of Works met in regular session with all members present, Mayor Daniel presiding.

MINUTES Motion was made by Mayor Daniel to approve an overview of the May 10, 2022, meeting minutes as corrected, Nicole Penrod seconded the motion, all voted aye.

CURB CUT PERMIT – 108 W. NORTH STREET – NIPSCO Mayor Daniel questioned if this was for the home that was taken down. Kelly Cearbaugh advised it was. He noted it was not a curb cut but to disconnect service in the right of way.

Motion was made by Mayor Daniel to approve the permit to cut into curbs, streets or alleys for 108 W. North Street for NIPSCO, Walt Crowder seconded the motion, all voted aye.

INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT – WHITLEY COUNTY REGIONAL WATER AND SEWER DISTRICT Steve Henschen, Engineer with Jones Petrie Rafinski Corp, shared his firm was assisting the Whitley County Regional Water and Sewer District with their initial septic elimination project. He advised this has been in the planning stages for a few years and just this last year have advanced the project where they have completed the design. He noted the project, Phase I, would be to provide sewer service to the remainder of Coesse. He advised Stable Acres, Dunfee and County Line south were with AquaSource but were related to the same project.

Mr. Henschen reported they worked with SRF and were awarded a \$5 million grant to complete the project. He shared they originally anticipated a larger project with 2 areas around Churubusco, but they were not quite ready to move forward. He advised they went back to SRF to see if they could use the grant money to build the Coesse, Dunfee, County Line south and Stable Acres part of the project, of which they agreed. He reported they will be able to build the project with 100% of grant funds with no debt service or loans. He shared the Regional Sewer District does not want to be an operator of wastewater systems but want to help with septic elimination projects. He advised their thought was if they could work with local treatment providers to figure out a way to build the system and then turn the system over to the treatment provider to own and operate. He shared those customers would then become customers of the treatment provider. He noted that was what they have been developing for both AquaSource and Columbia City and is what is in front of the Board for consideration.

Mr. Henschen explained the proposed system for Coesse was a pressure sewer system meaning every house would have a grinder station powered by a 240-volt single phase circuit. He shared

they followed the Aqua Indiana model to develop the system. He advised the grinder stations would be the responsibility of the homeowner to maintain and provide electric service for. He explained for each property they spelled out a 1 ¼” service line with a curb stop check valve at the right of way line, at which point the City would own and maintain and anything on private property would be owned and maintained by the property owner.

Kelly Cearbaugh questioned if the curb stop would be the City’s to maintain. Mr. Henschen advised it would, it would be put at the right of way line so if there were any issues the valve would be there to shut service off.

Nicole Penrod questioned if every homeowner had to connect to the system right away or could they wait until their septic tank fails. Mr. Henschen shared, unless someone has been granted an exception, once the system was done, they would have to connect within a certain amount of days, at a minimum it would be 90 days.

Mr. Henschen reviewed a packet of information that was shared with the residents discussing the specifics of the project and explaining who would be responsible for what. Nicole Penrod questioned what the typical cost would be to the homeowners for this. Mr. Henschen advised every home would be different but offered ballpark figures ranging anywhere from \$3,000 - \$5,000.

Mayor Daniel shared as part of the agreement because the infrastructure would be dedicated to the City, they felt it a fair trade to waive the tap fees. He noted unless the customer requests to have a meter put on their well they will be charged, what we consider, the average flat sewer rate.

Mayor Daniel reported Attorney McNagny has reviewed the agreement and has also been in discussions with Attorney Matt Shipman.

Motion was made by Mayor Daniel to approve the amended Interlocal Agreement between the City of Columbia City and the Whitley County Regional Water and Sewer District as presented, Nicole Penrod seconded the motion, all voted aye.

BILLS Motion was made by Nicole Penrod to pay all accounts payable vouchers in the amount of \$1,162,546.31 from the allowance of accounts payable vouchers dated May 24, 2022, Mayor Daniel seconded the motion, all voted aye.

PAYROLL Motion was made by Nicole Penrod to pay all paytypes except overtime in the amount of \$245,143.74 plus overtime in the amount of \$5,758.62 for the payfile ending 05/06/2022, Walt Crowder seconded the motion, all voted aye.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS **Mark Green** – training at the pool, baseball and softball games Monday – Thursday, striped parking lots. **Mike Cook** – annual crane inspection, update on force main project, agreed order for toxicity was accepted. **Kelly Cearbaugh** – update on City Hall sidewalk project, alleys were sprayed for dust control, Community Crossings list completed and submitted to A & Z, requested permission to move forward with street repair list and award

to Niblock for the amount of \$80,000 – the Board was in agreement and would be in favor of looking at adding Earl Avenue. **Mike Shoda** – Jefferson Street sidewalks done, restoration on ditch on North Street at Pinecrest. **Gary Parrett** - training at firing range, update on hiring process, letters delivered to residents who still have trash items sitting out, requested permission to purchase 2 vehicles at \$35,751.00 each – Board was in agreement. **Tom LaRue** – Elks contacted him about doing flag day again on June 11 at noon downtown with the ladder truck – the Board approved. **Terry Wherry** – trying to get things repaired and back up from the storm, continue to work on free Wi-Fi project.

COMMUNITY CROSSINGS ENGINEERING AGREEMENT – A & Z Kelly Cearbaugh requested approval of engineering services for A & Z in the amount \$23,300. Mayor Daniel advised they have performed services for us for several years. Board approved.

ENGINEERING SERVICES – MIDWEST ENGINEERING Mike Cook advised he had a quote for services for repair to the EQ Basin in the amount of \$40,000. Attorney McNaghy advised everything looked fine with the agreement. She questioned the cost of \$7,000 for bidding services, she felt it seemed high. Mayor Daniel agreed it was a fair question. Mike Cook advised he would inquire about it.

Motion was made by Mayor Daniel to approve the agreement with Midwest Engineering as presented, Nicole Penrod seconded the motion, all voted aye.

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

Mayor Ryan Daniel

Attest:

Clerk Treasurer Rosie Coyle