

**COMMON COUNCIL  
TUESDAY, JUNE 14, 2022  
6:00 PM**

Mayor Ryan Daniel – Present  
Clerk Treasurer Rosie Coyle – Present  
Attorney Marcia McNagy – 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 Tad Varga to approve an overview of the May 24, 2022 meeting minutes as presented, Jennifer Middleton seconded the motion, Walt Crowder, Jennifer Middleton and Tad Varga voted aye, Dan Weigold abstained.

**PUBLIC HEARING: ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATIONS – LRS** Mayor Daniel reported they did not budget for the full amount of Local Road and Street for this year. He shared they would like to take the unappropriated \$40,000 to put towards the engineering of next year's road package. He explained we have to submit for Community Crossings this year for next year's funding so we need to have this year's money for the engineering of that project. He shared A & Z would do all of the work to put together the package for us to bid out.

Mayor Daniel recessed the Council meeting to hold a public hearing. Hearing no comments or questions the public hearing was closed.

**RESOLUTION 2022-17: ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION RESOLUTION** Motion was made by Jennifer Middleton to read Resolution 2022-17 by title only, Tad Varga seconded the motion, all voted aye. Clerk Treasurer Rosie Coyle read Resolution 2022-17 Additional Appropriation Resolution.

Motion was made by Dan Weigold to approve Additional Appropriation Resolution 2022-17, Tad Varga seconded the motion, all voted aye.

**MARIA TIPPMANN – NANCARROW (PASSAGES/EASTERSEALS)** Maria Tippmann – Nancarrow, Community Relations and Director of Development with Passages/Easterseals, was present to give an overview of what has been happening this past year. She shared the 2 most important things they set out to do with the merge was to raise wages and develop more programs. She advised they were able to raise wages from \$10/hr to \$16/hr and then \$18/hr on the weekends. She shared they were still very short staffed but has helped to be able to pull staff

from Fort Wayne and Angola. She distributed information on their Changing Lives Course, she shared they were launching a new program and encouraged the Council to attend.

**ORDINANCE 2022-18: PURCHASING REGULATIONS AMENDMENT – 1<sup>ST</sup>**

**READING** Motion was made by Jennifer Middleton to read Ordinance 2022-18 by title only, Dan Weigold seconded the motion, all voted aye. Clerk Treasurer Rosie Coyle read Ordinance 2022-18 an ordinance amending Chapter 34 regarding purchasing for the City of Columbia City, Indiana.

Mayor Daniel explained this had been in the works for a couple months. He shared there was some conversation amongst the department heads on what needed to be bid and what did not. He advised after looking at the ordinance they found it had not been updated for awhile and was obviously very easy to get to \$10,000 as there are parts that easily cost more than that. He shared between Attorney McNagny, Rosie and himself they felt it needed updated to reflect current prices.

Attorney McNagny noted there were also updates to the actual code that allowed for the desired changes. She reviewed the changes with Council. She pointed out in 34.35 (B) she would like to tweak it to say ‘above \$25,000 to \$50,000’ the same as it says for items not in the budget.

Walt Crowder questioned if there was limited number of times that an individual could spend up to the \$50,000 or how would that be monitored. Mayor Daniel felt the intent of the ordinance was to give some flexibility to the department head, within the budget, to be able to spend the dollars they need to get things addressed rather than having to wait 2 weeks for the Board to meet. Attorney McNagny advised if the funds were not budgeted the Mayor and/or Clerk Treasurer would oversee that but if the funds were budgeted it would be difficult to keep spending because eventually the budget would run out. Walt Crowder clarified there would be line items. Mayor Daniel advised there would be but for items such as salt, asphalt or stone those purchases may all come out of a materials line item, but would still be accounted for.

Motion was made by Tad Varga to approve Ordinance 2022-18 on 1<sup>st</sup> reading with Attorney McNagny’s noted change to 34.35 (B), Dan Weigold seconded the motion, all voted aye.

**RESOLUTION 2022-19: ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATIONS – 1<sup>ST</sup> READING** Motion was made by Tad Varga to read Resolution 2022-19 by title only, Dan Weigold seconded the motion, all voted aye. Clerk Treasurer read Resolution 2022-19 City of Columbia City, Indiana, Columbia City Common Council, Revised and Restated Resolution 2022-19 a resolution establishing the policy by which members of the Common Council, Board of Public Works and Safety, and Committees may participate by electronic means of communication.

Mayor Daniel clarified that they have to have at least 3 members physically present in order for a virtual member to count.

Motion was made by Jennifer Middleton to approve Revised and Restated Resolution 2022-19, Walt Crowder seconded the motion, all voted aye.

**ORDINANCE 2022-20: NUISANCE ORDINANCE ABATEMENT FEES – 1<sup>ST</sup> READING**

Motion was made by Jennifer Middleton to read Ordinance 2022-20 by title only, Tad Varga seconded the motion, all voted aye. Clerk Treasurer Rosie Coyle read Ordinance 2022-20 an ordinance amending Chapter 95, General Regulations, of Title IX of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Columbia City, Indiana.

Mayor Daniel advised this change comes from discussion regarding what we are able to recoup if we have to abate a nuisance ordinance issue. Attorney McNagny explained one thing we have to be careful of is that we are reasonable in our charges and have foundation for what those fees may be. She shared we have always been very good about that and never had concerns. She advised we have fees and fees for labor but the problem is with grass being so high we can not see what is being mowed and are sometimes hitting items and damaging our equipment or other property. She advised the examples in the amendment give a sense of what we might bill for to do those abatements.

Mayor Daniel noted the abatement is after we have gone through the notification process.

Walt Crowder brought up the issue of those who may mow their yard but do not trim around the house or in the landscaping. Attorney McNagny advised those would fall under the noxious weed ordinance. Mayor Daniel shared our officers do not necessarily focus on those the most, if the grass and weeds are taken care of we generally do not bug people but if it is causing issues then that is when we get involved.

Motion was made by Jennifer Middleton to approve Ordinance 2022-20 on 1<sup>st</sup> reading, Tad Varga seconded the motion, all voted aye.

**ORDINANCE 2022-21: BUILDING DEPARTMENT FEES & CHARGES** Motion was made by Dan Weigold to read Ordinance 2022-21 by title only, Tad Varga seconded the motion, all voted aye. Clerk Treasurer Rosie Coyle read Ordinance 2022-21, Whitley County Ordinance 2022-07 and Columbia City Ordinance 2022-21 an ordinance amending the schedule of fees and charges for the Columbia City/Whitley County Joint Planning and Building Department.

Mayor Daniel shared the goal was to meet 50% of the cost of the department through fees and then taxpayer dollars subsidize the other portion. He noted the City shares 25% of the cost since we are a little over 25% of the population. He reviewed the fee changes and would be effective mid-September or October.

Jennifer Middleton noted it had been a number of years since they have done a price increase. She shared compared to other counties we are significantly lower but were pulling more permits.

Motion was made by Jennifer Middleton to approve Ordinance 2022-21 on 1<sup>st</sup> reading, Walt Crowder seconded the motion, Walt Crowder, Jennifer Middleton and Tad Varga voted aye, Dan Weigold abstained.

**ORDINANCE 2022-10: FARMER'S MARKET – 1<sup>ST</sup> READING** Motion was made by Dan Weigold 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.

Attorney McNagny explained when the Farmer's Market started they were not fully organized or incorporated so the City created an ordinance to try and help. She shared they were now their own entity and the Ordinance Committee felt it would make more sense if the City was not dictating how they operate. She advised the thought was to get rid of the ordinance to simplify things but also there was no reason to have the Farmer's Market under the City's umbrella anymore.

Motion was made by Tad Varga to approve Ordinance 2022-10 on 1<sup>st</sup> reading, Jennifer Middleton seconded the motion, all voted aye.

**DEPARTMENT REPORTS Mark Green** – report on storm issues, offered free swim at the aquatics center, games cancelled for tonight, helpful having high school employees back.

**Mayor Daniel** – shared updates on storm issues, water main break on Holden Road, Culver's groundbreaking.

Having no further discussion, Mayor Daniel called the meeting adjourned.

---

Mayor Ryan Daniel

Attest:

---

Clerk Treasurer Rosie Coyle