

**COMMON COUNCIL  
TUESDAY, JANUARY 24, 2023  
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 Dan Weigold to approve an overview of the January 10, 2023, meeting minutes as presented, Jennifer Middleton seconded the motion, all voted aye.

**SWEAR IN OF NEW FIREFIGHTER: COLYN IDEN** Clerk Treasurer Rosie Coyle performed the swearing in ceremony for new firefighter Colyn Iden.

**PETITION FOR ANNEXATION – CONNIE SUE DYE** Mayor Daniel explained Council would only be accepting the petition at this meeting. He shared the actual ordinance and public hearing would be held in February and March.

Dan Weigold advised he has received calls from neighboring property owners with questions and concerns. He was concerned about proper notification and talked with Nathan Bilger about the process.

Mayor Daniel noted the annexation was super-voluntary which means 100% of the property owners were requesting to be annexed into the City. He advised the acceptance of the property was ‘as is’ which is undeveloped, so any development of the property would go through the Plan Commission, BZA, etc. and they would have to notify adjacent property owners at that time. He shared the City has not forcibly annexed anyone in the last 30+ years. He advised he has no interest or intent, as well as the Council, to forcibly annex anyone into the City.

**DEPARTMENT REPORTS** **Chip Hill** – assisting with the annexation, slowly moving forward with getting sewer out to 100 S and 300 N, removed a tree that was incorrectly marked. **Terry Wherry** – network updates, new microphone in Council Room. **Shawn Lickey** – assisted Noble County with tree removal, updated pole attachment agreement, met with KC Jones on their trending usage, introduced new mechanic Adam McKinney. **Mike Cook** – updated weather stations, facility sensors and flow meters calibrated per NPDES permit, working on SDI annual report and annual EPA sludge report. **Mike Shoda** – new valve installed at Madison Street, continue to check valves to see which ones are bad and not working. **Tom LaRue** – new

mechanic found a few things on Engine 101 that need replaced, Chief's Association starting Firefighter I & II class in Whitley County in March, trailer rebuild going well, Trent Stamper taking Inspector I class. **Kelly Cearbaugh** – Community Crossings bid openings for street paving project came in under Engineer's estimate, repairing plows and salt spreaders. **Mark Green** – rebuilding overlook at Morsches Park pond, selling tickets for Father/Daughter dance, making signs for Mayor's Park, hoping to bid projects for Eagle Park in the next few months, online registrations starting for baseball & softball. **Police Dept.** – Mayor Daniel reported for Gary Parrett in that they have been working on SOP's in the police department and dispatch, Officers Campbell and Thomas were on their 3<sup>rd</sup> week on the academy, repairs in dispatch.

**MAYOR'S REPORT** Mayor Daniel shared they discussed at their Mayors and Commissioners Caucus what a READI 2.0 program could look like if included in this year's legislative budget, he had conversations with Chip Hill and the engineers regarding Westgate and alternative ways to make the next steps much more financially manageable, Youth Council scheduled to meet, employee wellness blood draw, City awards banquet scheduled for Friday, January 27, he will be absent from both February Council and Board of Works meetings.

**HOLDEN ROAD TRAFFIC CONGESTION** Walt Crowder reported the safety concern on that was discussed at the last meeting concerning Holden Road has been addressed. They will continue to monitor the situation.

**UTILITY RATE ADVISORY BOARD** Mayor Daniel requested approval from Council to appoint Karen Rust to the Utility Rate Advisory Board representing the Northeast District.

Motion was made by Tad Varga to approve appointing Karen Rust on the Utility Rate Advisory Board representing the Northeast District, Dan Weigold seconded the motion, all voted aye.

**CHICKENS** Melanie Love of 113 E. Market Street was present to discuss chickens and the benefits of being able to raise them.

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