

**COMMON COUNCIL  
TUESDAY, MARCH 28, 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 – Present  
Tad Varga – Present  
Daniel Weigold – Absent

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

**MINUTES** Mayor Daniel noted a spelling correction. Motion was made by Jennifer Romano to approve an overview of the March 14, 2023, meeting minutes as corrected, Tad Varga seconded the motion, all voted aye.

**ORDINANCE 2032-2 ANNEXATION OF DYE PROPERTY** Motion was made by Jennifer Romano to read Ordinance 2023-2 by title only, Jennifer Middleton seconded the motion, all voted aye. Clerk Treasurer Rosie Coyle read Ordinance 2023-2 an ordinance of the City Council of the City of Columbia City, Indiana, 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.

Mayor Daniel explained this was for the first annexation of the Connie Dye property.

Motion was made by Tad Varga to accept Ordinance 2023-2 on first reading, Walt Crowder seconded the motion, all voted aye.

**ORDINANCE 2023+-4: AMENDING CHAPTER 32 – BOARD OF PUBLIC WORKS – 1<sup>ST</sup> READING** Attorney McNagny noticed that the Board of Works section of our Code of Ordinances was very outdated and only listed storm water. She advised that section was revised to include everything under the Board of Works and what their role is. Mayor Daniel confirmed this was mostly statutory. Attorney McNagny advised that was correct.

Motion was made by Tad Varga to read Ordinance 2023-4 by title only, Jennifer Romano seconded the motion, all voted aye. Clerk Treasurer Rosie Coyle read Ordinance 2023-4 an ordinance amending Chapter 32 regarding the Board of Public Works for the City of Columbia City, Indiana.

Motion was made by Jennifer Middleton to approve Ordinance 2023-4 on first reading, Jennifer Romano seconded the motion, all voted aye.

**DEPARTMENT REPORTS** **Mike Cook** – CSO project started, splash pad application completed, started UV system, cleaning and inspection complete on SDI force main. **Terry Wherry** – waiting on a quote to install fiber to new park office and Eagle Park, updating computers to Windows 11. **Gary Parrett** – success story with drone program, hired 2 new officers and opened another hiring process, update on officers at police academy, dispatcher training and update on dispatch hiring process. **Kelly Cearbaugh** – limb pickup starting, street, sign and alley maintenance, televising truck and jet machine in Columbia Shores. Mayor Daniel discussed the junk pickup schedule. **Tom LaRue** – truck damaged by the exhaust hose, Board of Works approved hiring process to replace Kyle Walters who is resigning, granted permission from Board of Works to seek bids for a new fire truck.

**MAYOR REPORTS** Mayor Daniel reported Chip Hill has stepped in to be the interim Park Director; they will probably begin hiring process in April. He advised bids should be coming in on Eagle Park, he will be at the State House with the Mayor's and Commissioners Caucus, and they continue to have conversations on US 30. He reported City offices will be closed Friday, April 7 for Good Friday. He shared in terms of solid waste for recycling, it has been a struggle with GFL and were receiving a lot of negative feedback from the public. He advised the Board was actively pushing to either correct it or find a new vendor.

**WHITLEY COUNTY REGIONAL SEWER DISTRICT** Walt Crowder gave an update on their progress. He advised construction has started but were in "push back" mode in the Stable Acres area. He shared they have been given the thumbs up to start the project in other areas. He reported they would be having an open house for the people in Stable Acres to identify and address concerns.

Mayor Daniel reminded Council that the City was effectively in contract with the Regional Sewer District regarding the areas of Coesse who were not customers of ours already. He advised that infrastructure, when put in, would be dedicated over to the City.

**YOUTH COUNCIL** Jackson Shipman was present representing the Youth Council and shared what they did at their last meeting.

**CHICKENS** Melanie Love of 113 E. Market Street was present to express the importance of being able to have chickens. She advised she would be happy to sit down with any of the Council members to discuss how important this issue is to her and other citizens of the community.

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