

**COMMON COUNCIL
TUESDAY, JULY 25, 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 –Electronic
Daniel Weigold – Present

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

MINUTES Motion was made by Jenny, second of Dan to approve an overview of the June 27th, 2023, meeting minutes as presented. On the vote: ayes were Jenny, Tad, Dan and Walt voted aye. Jennifer abstained.

PUBLIC HEARING ON FOOD AND BEVERAGE TAX The Mayor recessed the Council meeting and opened the Public Hearing. This is the Food and Beverage tax that will go towards funding Eagle Park. It would be a 1¢ tax on food and beverages. If you purchased a \$5 meal you would pay 5¢. This would be paid for by all people traveling through Columbia City also. This is a consumption tax so you can choose to eat at the restaurants, or not. The Mayor asked for anyone having comments to speak. **Jennifer Esterline, CEO** of the Whitley Chamber of Commerce spoke in favor of the FAB tax to help fund Eagle Park and noted the benefits of this tax. With the traffic through Columbia City and the tourists, this would benefit the Eagle Park facility which would draw more citizens to our community. She wants to support the FAB tax. **Niki Kiester** Director of Columbia City Connect is in support of the Food and Beverage Tax. It would bring in additional funds to help build the community with Eagle Park.

Hearing no other comments or questions, the Mayor closed the Public Hearing.

ORDINANCE 2023-12 FOOD AND BEVERAGE TAX On the motion of Jennifer and Second of Dan to read Ordinance 2023-12 by title only. On the motion Jennifer, Jenny, Dan, Walt, and Tad all voted aye. The Clerk Treasurer read the ordinance by title only. The Attorney explained this ordinance that was in the packet was not the revised one. This would go through Jan 1, 2024, and go through December 31, 2044. The change was section 5 which was from the time frame of 20 years and that future administration can't change the use of this funding. Jennifer asked if we had any push back on this. The Mayor explained there was one that complained about it because they felt it was hurting the lower class people. The Mayor explained to them that it was based off of what they purchased so if they purchased something for \$5, it would cost them 5 cents. On the motion of Dan and seconded by Crowder to approve the

first reading of Ordinance 2023-12, with the amendment of section 5, Dan, Walt, Jennifer, Jenny and Tad all voted aye.

RESOLUTION 2023-13 INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT BETWEEN CITY AND COUNTY

The Mayor had Chip explain the project. He stated that Sailright and Triad Metals sewer all runs west and the manhole is not big enough to accept all of it because it also takes in all of Eagle Glen. Wessler Engineers recommended going down 100 South to 300. This agreement is between the County and the City. The Mayor explained the agreement. Estimated project is approximately \$2,000,000.00 and the City would pay for the Engineering and the County will fund 100% of the construction cost and the City would reimburse the County Redevelopment Commission 50% as revenues come in. There is one business ready to move into the park. He shared, in terms of the 20 year time frame, the County was ok with that as he stressed to them the City would need time to acquire the funding from these individuals through the rates to be able to pay the County back.

A motion of Jennifer and second of Jenny to read Resolution 2023-13 by title only, Jennifer, Jenny, Walt, Dan and Tad all voted aye. The resolution is to participate in the agreement. On the motion of Jennifer and second of Dan to approve the resolution, Jenny, Jennifer, Dan, Walt and Tad all voted aye.

INTERLOCAL COOPERATION AGREEMENT BETWEEN CITY AND COUNTY FOR 100 SOUTH

This agreement has been approved between all the lawyers and this spells out all the procedures for the agreement. On the motion of Jennifer and second of Jenny to approve the agreement, Jenny, Jennifer, Dan, Walt and Tad all voted aye.

ORDINANCE 2023-14 AMENDMENT TO THE GOLF CART ORDINANCE

On the motion of Jennifer and second of Dan to read by title only, Jenny, Jennifer, Dan, Walt and Tad all voted aye. The Clerk Treasurer read Ordinance 2023-14 by title only. The Clerk Treasurer explained that it was discovered the current Golf Cart ordinance was missing the requirement for mirrors on the golf carts. This can be rear or side mirrors. It was discussed regarding a way to get to the north side of the City besides crossing US 30. Going SR205, SR109 and SR9 are concerns. The question was asked if the carts already approved would be allowed until their permit expires to get mirrors. Jennifer feels this is a safety issue and a great idea. Jenny questioned the golf carts crossing US 30 and going to Morsches park. The Mayor explained this is a problem because of this being the only way to get across. The other way is the Trail in Morsches park which isn't allowed currently. The Mayor feels this is a conversation that should be addressed. The Fire Chief explained there is another way if they went down Hancock Road to 200 but would be a long way around. The Ordinance 73.4 states that no golf cart can use the State Highway except to cross over a State Highway. On the motion of Jennifer and second of Dan to approve Ordinance 2023-14 as first reading. Jenny, Jennifer, Dan, Walt and Tad all voted aye.

RESOLUTION 2023-11 SUPPORT LEGISLATION TO ESTABLISH INDIANA DRIVING CARDS

At the last meeting the Council requested that the Ordinance add that within a year after getting the license they must apply for Citizenship. Dan feels we are still giving them a privilege. The people at the last meeting expressed they had been here 30, 20 and

10 years and haven't applied yet. Some of the people are enjoying the freedom without applying for citizenship. He still struggles with it. He agrees it is hard. It is the US and feels they should be applying to be citizens. Jenny understands where Dan is coming from but they are already driving and this would allow them to do it legally. This is one step going in the right direction. Dan wanted to know who gives the instructions, who pays for it, etc. The Mayor stated that getting the license would enable them to get insurance. A lot are driving without insurance. This is a resolution in support if the one year citizenship is part of this. The legislators would take these resolutions to support the driver cards. On the motion of Jenny, second of Jennifer to approve, Jenny, Jennifer, Walt and Tad voted aye. Dan voted nay.

ORDINANCE 2023-15 AMENDMENT TO STREET AND SIDEWALK PERMITS

Jennifer made a motion and seconded by Jenny to read by title only. The Clerk Treasurer read the ordinance. The Clerk Treasurer explained that she did some research and discussed with Chip and Kelly regarding the procedure to help from all of the permits coming to Board of Works. She checked with the County's procedure and other communities and also charges of a fee for these permits. The fee will be \$40 and \$100 for hard infrastructure. After discussion, Crowder moved to approve first reading. Jennifer seconded with Jenny, Jennifer, Dan, Walt and Tad all voting aye. Kelly said we have a current issue from January where the contractor hadn't repaired it yet. The proceeds will go into the Street budget.

ARP TRANSFER OF FUNDS Mayor Daniel explained \$203,211.00 was appropriated to lead line replacement for our water department. He advised the money needs to be used by end of 2026. Mike Shoda explained they would like to go ahead and use this money now for the filter replacement. On the motion of Jennifer and second of Jenny to approve the transfer in the ARP Fund from the lead line replacement to water plant filters, Jenny, Jennifer, Dan, Walt and Tad voted aye.

DEPARMTENT REPORTS **Chip Hill** - Chip explained that the Community Crossing grant had been filed for the Westgate project. **Shawn Lickey** - Explained that he had a call from AEP that Sept 21 will be the last day for the AEP line. Will be converting the 69 KVA. Bowen Center transformers are in. FedEx truck tore down lines at Mary Raber. Power out for about 5 hours. Lost a lineman Eli Stangland who will be going to AEP. **Mike Cook** – CSO 19 project complete. CSO 5 – staff did repairs. **Mike Shoda** - Permit for 205 project was approved. Working at Columbia Shores catch basin to see how much sand is getting into the pond. **Matt Heiden** - Fields ready for football and soccer, Concession stand broken into and \$400 of concessions taken and window broken. The police think they know who did it. He received keys to new office at Community foundation **Tom Larue** – 2 new firemen have started and doing great. 4-H fair went great. **Kelly Cearbaugh** – 50/50 project complete, Community Crossing street should start about the 14th.

MAYOR'S REPORT Hosting Indiana Mayor's roundtable Friday. Had Solid Waste Board meeting. Thursday Moo Over will be featured on America's Best Restaurant. Saturday is Film and Float with movie Jaws at the Aquatic Center.

WALT - Regional Sewage District doing construction.

DAN - Questioned the boxes of the cable company that are along the curbs and expressed concern that they are too close to the road when doing snow removal. Marcia said maybe it should be addressed with them.

JENNIFER ROMANO: 3rd Thursday's have wrapped up. Local artists had a chance to show their art. Summer in the City last Saturday. Great event. 2nd Mural has begun. It is an image of Thomas Marshall made out of vegetables. Would like to have the community to start thinking of the Christmas lighting awards.

CHICKENS Melanie Love of 113 E. Market Street was present about Chickens. She had conversations with people at the 4-H fair that couldn't believe that Chickens were not allowed in the City.

OTHER BUSINESS **Norma Rodriguez** – Thank you for support of the drivers card. A lot of individuals have been here through DACA and it does take a lot of time. Hopefully the government will do something for the Doka students. A lot of them are professionals but are limited to what they can get from the Government. DMV is the one that will be approving these documents.

Paul Sobel of 1277 Pebble Creek Run, would like to have a safe way to get across 30 with golf carts and would like to stay involved. Jenny and Dan are his council members and have him contact them.

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

Mayor Ryan Daniel

Attest:

Clerk Treasurer Rosie Coyle