

**COMMON COUNCIL
TUESDAY, MARCH 26, 2024
6:00 PM**

Mayor Ryan Daniel – Present
Clerk Treasurer Rosie Coyle – Present
Attorney Marcia McNagny – Present

Council Members

Jennifer Middleton – Present
Leslee Robinson - Present
Jennifer Romano – Present
Tad Varga – Present
Daniel Weigold – Present

The Columbia City Common Council met in regular session with all members present. Mayor Daniel called the meeting to order at 6:12 pm. All stood to say the Pledge of Allegiance.

MINUTES Jennifer Romano made a motion to approve the March 12, 2024, meeting minutes as presented. Tad Varga seconded the motion, all voted aye.

ORDINANCE 2024-3: DYE ANNEXATION – 3RD READING Jennifer Romano made a motion to read Ordinance 2024-3 by title only. Jennifer Middleton seconded the motion, all voted aye. Clerk Treasurer Rosie Coyle read Ordinance 2024-3 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 noted there was small clarification that was needed in the legal description. He explained it is State law that when a City annexes a piece of property that the full right of way of that road also gets annexed in. He advised there was a portion of the legal description that says ‘subject to the right of way’ and we really need it to say ‘including the right of way’. He stressed that it does not annex anybody in, it does not change anything for the resident, it does not change anything from the taxation standpoint, but it does bring the full right of way in under City control.

Dan Weigold explained the only thing that happens with this is since it is under City control, people who are not in the City, if they want to cut in a driveway, they would come to the City instead of the County.

Jennifer Romano questioned if they would need to read the ordinance again. Attorney McNagny did not believe so because the law already requires this. She noted we were just tweaking those two words to make sure the legal description is meeting the legal requirements.

Leslee Robinson made a motion to approve Ordinance 2024-3 on third reading with a tweak of the legal description to take out ‘subject to the right of way’ and sub in ‘including the right of way’. Tad Varga seconded the motion, all voted aye.

Mayor Daniel questioned what the next steps would be. Attorney McNagny advised we have to wait 30 days from now, then we record, and the annexation becomes effective.

ORDINANCE 2024-4: AMENDMENT REGARDING PARKS BLUE RIVER TRAIL

Jennifer Romano made a motion to read Ordinance 2024-4 by title only. Tad Varga seconded the motion, all voted aye. Clerk Treasurer Rosie Coyle read Ordinance 2024-4 an ordinance amending Chapter 96 regarding Parks for the City of Columbia City, Indiana.

Matt Heiden shared there was a request from a gentleman to allow better access over to Kroger's by means of the Blue River Trail. He advised the Park Board has been talking about opening the trail from what they call the SDI bridge, which is back by the pond, up to Demoney Grimes or Kroger's and allow golf carts on that part of the trail. He shared that it makes it safer by not having to cross US 30. Mayor Daniel thought he had seen that it also included motorized wheelchairs. Matt Heiden advised that was correct.

Attorney McNagny noted that she corrected a few typos that were in the ordinance.

Mayor Daniel confirmed this came as a recommendation from the Park Board. Matt Heiden advised it did.

Jennifer Romano thought it personally made a lot of sense. She advised there were no other really safe ways to cross US 30 with a motorized wheelchair or golf cart, and we are supposed to be golf cart friendly.

Jennifer Romano made a motion to approve Ordinance 2024-4 on first reading. Leslee Robinson seconded the motion, all voted aye.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS **Shawn Lickey** - continue replacing poles on Bair Road, fiber splicing equipment came in and have been doing some training on it before going to official training, hooked up home on old Crooked Lake Golf Course property, working with Attorney McNagny and Walker & Associates on acquiring easements for existing underground facilities that were installed 20 years ago that an easement was never acquired, Eli Stangland passed his top out exam and is now moving into Journeyman Lineman for us, had all of the digger derrick and bucket trucks dielectrically and mechanically tested and passed all the tests, he and Chip attended the IMPA annual meeting. **Chip Hill** - Eagle Park will be starting within the next couple of weeks, Westgate is starting very soon, new employee Bill Dittlinger will be starting the day of the solar eclipse, Shawn Lickey received award at the IMPA meeting. **Gary Parrett** - completed the server migration for Spillman with very little issues, partnered with Whitley County Driving School to give pointers on how to follow the rules of the road, traffic stops, yielding to emergency vehicles and safe driving behavior, several officers doing Operation Pull Over, Whitko Career Academy brought in several students to tour the Police Department, Toby Fralick certified all of our officers on CPR, Shane Caudill and the shift leads attended leadership training. **Kelly Cearbaugh** - concrete crew will be starting work on a 50/50 sidewalk application and then on Chauncey Street when the stormwater project is completed, limb pickup will be starting, televising work in Eagle Glen, cleaning up and preparing cemetery for Good Friday, leaf mulch still available. **Tom LaRue** - Board of Works approved a new fire truck, conditional offer of employment to a candidate and if passes testing to be in the Pension it will become a full offer of employment, building assessment performed on the firehouse and found that the roof

needs repaired and windows replaced; Council was in approval to use funds budgeted for façade repair on the roof repair and window replacement, vehicular extrication training at the museum, April 10th full day of training at the Fire Museum. **Matt Heiden** - all sports fields ready, tennis and volleyball nets are up, received pool motor back and working to get it installed, baseball and softball drafts are done, majority of practices will begin after Spring break, Eagle Park was being staked out, had to pump out pool because the float malfunctioned, putting shade structures up around the quad that help with foul balls and provide a little bit of shade, all the bathrooms are opened up and are getting the concession trailer placed so it can be stocked and ready for our first tournament on April 19th. **Terry Wherry** - firewall certificate installed, Spillman server migration completed and went really well, working on a fiber repair at the Northwest substation, still have a fiber break in between Any Kids Dreamland and the Northwest substation they have to locate, finished work on the new buffalo storage unit to allow for more storage space for our video cameras, ordered equipment for public Wi-Fi at Any Kids Dreamland. **Mike Shoda** – working on South Chauncey Street and should be done next Tuesday. **Mike Cook** - Influent flow meters will be installed tomorrow, SDI force main cleaned for the first quarter, UV systems up and running with no problems.

MAYOR REPORT Mayor Daniel reported AIM was putting on a legislative recap webinar, Thursday New Haven will be hosting a train summit regarding railroad crossings and issues with the railroad and finding ways in which the railroad companies and cities and towns can be better neighbors. He reminded everyone that offices would be closed for Good Friday. He advised next Wednesday he would be at a training in Indianapolis and then will be out Thursday and Friday for Spring break.

RIGHT OF WAY AND EASEMENTS Dan Weigold shared that he wanted to help people understand the differences between right of way property ownership and easements. He welcomed people to come to his office or to give him a call.

TREE BOARD Jennifer Romano reported the Tree Board held an executive planning session to discuss upcoming plans for Arbor Day. She advised the Tree Board was also going to be participating in First Friday's as a means of informing the community of what the Tree Board does as well as to hopefully get people involved to help volunteer in things like taking care of trees, planting trees, etc. She shared that they were also looking into some potential grant opportunities.

Hearing no other comments or questions, Mayor Daniel called the meeting adjourned.

Mayor Ryan Daniel

Attest:

Clerk Treasurer Rosie Coyle