

**COMMON COUNCIL
TUESDAY, MAY 14, 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 – Absent
Daniel Weigold – Absent

The Columbia City Common Council met in regular session with all members except Tad Varga and Dan Weigold present, Mayor Daniel called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm. All stood to say the Pledge of Allegiance.

MINUTES Jennifer Romano made a motion to approve the April 23, 2024, meeting minutes as presented. Jennifer Middleton seconded the motion, all voted unanimously.

TREE BOARD PRESENTATION Janice Daniel was present on behalf of the Tree Board to give a presentation explaining everything about the Tree Board, their importance, goals and future plans.

ORDINANCE 2024-5: ADOPTION OF SUPPLEMENT TO THE CODE OF ORDINANCES Jennifer Romano made a motion to read Ordinance 2024-5 by title only. Jennifer Middleton seconded the motion, all voted unanimously. Clerk Treasurer Rosie Coyle read Ordinance 2024-5 an ordinance enacting and adopting a supplement to the Code of Ordinances for the City of Columbia City, Indiana and declaring an emergency.

Mayor Daniel explained this was an annual or semiannual type of ordinance that basically takes all the ordinances that we have already passed and gets them into the code.

Jennifer Middleton made a motion to approve Ordinance 2024-5 on first and final reading and declare an emergency. Jennifer Romano seconded the motion, all voted unanimously.

CF1 ABATEMENT QIG, RINLY PROPERTIES AND COLUMBIA CITY SOLAR ARRAY, LLC Mayor Daniel reported that Dale Buuck was not able to be here today, but he had sent an e-mail to let us know that as we go through these ordinances, we may notice some of the numbers have not hit their estimates. He shared that Dale mentioned the employment is under what was estimated in 2016, which really continues to be a fallout from COVID. He also advised there were some contracts that they lost during that time period and is why there is the discrepancy there. He shared that they were optimistic and there is still a lot of hard work ahead but the important part to know is that they are trying.

Jennifer Romano made a motion to approve QIG, Rinley Properties and Columbia City Solar Array, LLC in compliance and grant an additional year of abatement. Leslee Robinson seconded the motion, all voted unanimously.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS **Chip Hill** – the City’s portion for Eagle Park is about 95% complete, Westgate is moving along slowly, the Bluffs of Cider Mill that is Connie Dye’s future housing development of 205 has submitted their plans for the utilities and tech review, the Test Kitchen is having an open house right now and had another one at noon today. **Matt Heiden** – the pool is full and circulating, but are trying to balance things out, will be getting the bricks down in Patriotic Park by the first week in June. **Mike Shoda** – investing drainage issues but not much that can be done because of the amount of rain we have gotten, have three or four new houses that are going to be needing new service lines. **Gary Parrett** – update on interview process, successful training at the Spillman Summit, Officer Young is in his third week at the Police Academy and Officer Hershberger is scheduled to go to the Academy in August, positive partnerships with the three high schools in the county by having our officers teach classes on various topics, First Friday and Farmers Market went well with the election, Officers Crabtree and Debus put on a DRE training for the Prosecutor’s Office, radar recertifications went well with no issues, Dispatch response plans are moving along, had a couple of dispatchers attend some trainings over the last couple of weeks, last week did some software and radio console updates. **Terry Wherry** - Electric Department got our fiber network up and running, purchased equipment that allows them to send light down the fiber to figure out where the breaks are, fiber replaced at the Northwest substation and hope to do the booster station next week, Any Kid’s Dreamland public Wi-Fi is operational and next Monday will be moving the public Wi-Fi over to our new SURF connection. **Mike Cook** - update of restroom remodel project, waiting for the installation of the sludge flow meter, getting quotes for a new pump base for the 600 E. lift station, one of his employee’s passed his Class 2 State exam.

MAYOR REPORT Mayor Daniel shared department reports from Shawn Lickey and Kelly Cearbaugh.

Mayor Daniel reported he would be going to Muncie to sit on the Mayor's panel at Ball State for their Economic Development course. He reported budget meetings would be starting on Thursday and he will be out of the office Friday afternoon as well as Monday and Tuesday for a conference and then Wednesday with the Youth Council all day.

ARTS COMMISSION Jennifer Romano reported the Arts Commission will be partnering with the City for Taste of the Arts on June 8.

Having no further business to come before the Council, Mayor Daniel called the meeting adjourned.

Mayor Ryan Daniel

Attest:

Clerk Treasurer Rosie Coyle