

**COMMON COUNCIL
TUESDAY, MAY 28, 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 6:00 pm. All stood to say the Pledge of Allegiance.

MINUTES Mayor Daniel pointed out a couple grammatical and spelling errors.

Jennifer Romano made a motion to approve the May 14, 2024 meeting minutes as corrected. Jennifer Middleton seconded the motion, Jennifer Romano, Jennifer Middleton and Leslee Robinson voted aye, Dan Weigold and Tad Varga abstained.

CF1 ABATEMENTS – KYOCERA Jennifer Romano made a motion to approve the Kyocera 2020, 2022 and 2015 personal property and grant an additional year of abatement. Tad Varga seconded the motion, all voted unanimously.

CF1 ABATEMENTS – KC JONES Mayor Daniel explained KC Jones, also known as C & R Plating, has been in front of us multiple times but could not answer why they were not present or why their numbers are what they are. He advised he was aware that in the past they have had real issues with staffing and significant issues after COVID.

Tad Varga did not feel it was a horrible report but definitely not what they estimated. Mayor Daniel pointed out on page 16 of the packet, the comparisons of estimated and current employees, as well as the salaries, and retained and added employees. He stated that all of the categories were lower than expected. He thought the value of the proposed project versus the net value upon completion was interesting. Dan Weigold suggested they were maybe still trying to rebound.

Mayor Daniel requested the pleasure of the Council. Jennifer Romano noted they did not meet their targets and were not present to talk about it. Mayor Daniel advised he talked with Dale Buuck and he also was not sure why the numbers are what they are. Tad Varga questioned when they do the estimates if it was based on their estimate from 9 years ago. Mayor Daniel advised it was supposed to be and went on to explain the process.

Jennifer Romano mentioned they have had 10 years to reach a goal that they have not even come close to, and they were not here to talk about it.

Jennifer Romano made a motion to decline the final year of abatement. Tad Varga seconded the motion.

Rosie Coyle confirmed they did not want to give them the opportunity to come in, they were just totally declining it. It was confirmed that was the motion.

At the call of the vote, the motion failed.

Leslee Robinson questioned if there was still time to ask them to come in and present to the Council. Rosie Coyle advised they were past their deadline, but Council could still consider it at the next meeting but not past that.

Leslee Robinson felt they should give them a chance to be at the next meeting to give an explanation before a final decision is made.

Dan Weigold questioned if this was their last year of abatement. Rosie Coyle believed 2025 to be their last year and was not sure their abatement would be much. Mayor Daniel advised it would be 20% and pointed out on page 14 you can see what the actual deduction is worth, which if reading it correctly, it is worth \$91,000. Dan Weigold felt that was a good chunk of change. Mayor Daniel agreed it was, on both sides.

Leslee Robinson made a motion to give them until the next Council meeting, for them to show up and a decision will be made at that time. Jennifer Middleton seconded the motion, Dan Weigold, Jennifer Middleton and Leslee Robinson voted aye, Jennifer Romano and Tad Varga were opposed.

CF1 ABATEMENTS – TITUS PRECISION Mayor Daniel noted this was only a 3-year abatement.

Jennifer Romano noted they have definitely exceeded their goals.

Tad Varga made a motion to approve and grant an additional year of abatement. Jennifer Romano seconded the motion, all voted unanimously.

ORDINANCE 2024-6 DOOR TO DOOR SOLICITATION AMENDMENT – 1ST READING Leslee Robinson made a motion to read Ordinance 2024-6 by title only. Jennifer Romano seconded the motion, all voted unanimously. Clerk Treasurer Rosie Coyle read Ordinance 2024-6, an Ordinance amending Chapter 115 door to door solicitation of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Columbia City, Indiana.

Attorney McNagny explained this was to amend the registration fees so that there were not so many different categories and then also the duration of the registration as well as a waiting period to determine whether to issue the business permit or decline it.

Dan Weigold questioned the kids who go around selling candy or pizza cards and if they have to pay the fee. Attorney McNagny advised the ordinance actually exempts nonprofit and others.

Leslee Robinson made a motion to approve Ordinance 2024-6 on first reading. Tad Varga seconded the motion, all voted unanimously.

ORDINANCE 2024-7 AMENDMENT TO SPECIAL EVENTS – ANIMALS – 1ST READING Jennifer Romano made a motion to read Ordinance 2024-7 by title only. Jennifer Middleton seconded the motion, all voted unanimously. Clerk Treasurer Rosie Coyle read Ordinance 2024-7, an Ordinance restating and amending Chapter 100 of Title IX of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Columbia City, Indiana.

Attorney McNagny explained this amendment has to do with who is in charge of whether animals can be brought to events or not. She advised the Committee felt that the special event organizer should take that on and the City not have anything to do with it. She reiterated that special event organizers, under this amendment, would be responsible for whether they want pets or dogs or whatever at their event.

Mayor Daniel recollected one of the reasons this came up was sometimes the Humane Shelter would come down for First Fridays or something and that was, theoretically, against our ordinances because we said 'No Animals' but yet it is for a good cause. He felt it important for the event organizer to hold that decision making and that liability to effectively enforce it.

Jennifer Romano questioned if there was a line in the paperwork where they would declare whether they are or are not going to allow animals. Rosie Coyle advised there was not and felt it was the event organizers responsibility. Jennifer Romano felt it would be nice to have some formal way of knowing if they were or not.

Attorney McNagny felt the thought was to keep the City out of it because we do not want the responsibility or the liability, so it would all be on the event organizer now to make those decisions.

Rosie Coyle felt they need to let the Police Department know so if issues come up, they are aware of the direction of the event organizer. Mayor Daniel felt the whole point of this modification is that at the end of the day, we are putting that on the event organizer to manage, not the police. Attorney McNagny suggested tweaking it to say, however, any animals have to still comply with the City's regulations on restricted animals, dangerous animals, etc. She felt that might be nice so that we know it is just dogs and cats or whatever that is acceptable.

Shawn Lickey questioned if an organizer decides that they do not want dogs or animals and they tell someone they need to leave, is there an enforceable ordinance in place for our officers to tell someone to go. Attorney McNagny advised there was not because it is up to the organizer. If they want somebody out then it is really up to them, not our officers. She suggested they could probably call on trespassing or something along that line. Chief LaRue shared with sitting on the Committee, the discussion was to try and make it better for our police by trying to alleviate them from being in the middle of it all.

Tad Varga made a motion to approve Ordinance 2024-7 on 1st reading. Leslee Robinson seconded the motion, all voted unanimously.

ORDINANCE 2024-8 – AMENDMENT TO TRAFFIC SCHEDULE: W. LINCOLNWAY & 200 SOUTH – 1ST READING Jennifer Romano made a motion to read Ordinance 2024-8 by title only. Dan Weigold seconded the motion, all voted unanimously. Clerk Treasurer Rosie Coyle read Ordinance 2024-8, an Ordinance amending Chapter 75 Traffic Schedules of Title VII of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Columbia City, Indiana.

Mayor Daniel explained this ordinance comes from two voluntary annexations that have happened; one is regarding West Lincolnway from the City limits to US 30 and the second is 200 South from State Road 9 to basically the edge of the school property on 200, which is where the city limits ends.

Leslee Robinson made a motion to approve Ordinance 2024-8 on 1st reading. Jennifer Romano seconded the motion, all voted unanimously.

FOOD TRUCK ORDINANCE Mayor Daniel noted there was a draft ordinance in the Dropbox regarding food trucks for Council to review for the next meeting.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS **Chip Hill** - Westgate is moving along although very congested out there, update on Eagle Park, the Test Kitchen is moving along and have a lot of interest in it. **Terry Wherry** - public Wi-Fi has moved over to the SURF fiber link, the rollover line for our network is supposed to be installed this week, have quotes in for the public Wi-Fi for Ohki Alley and Thomas Marshall Plaza. **Matt Heiden** - opened the pool on Memorial Day weekend and also have the splash pad going now. **Mike Shoda** - found some blockage in a stormwater drain in Westgate, have several new services, replaced lead lines on Ellsworth Street. **Mike Cook** – had yearly inspections on overhead cranes, biomonitoring went well and waiting on final report, all repairs done to the secondary, prepping for sludge return meter, update on bathroom project. **Tom LaRue** – update on new fire truck progress, Colin Harding will start June 3rd, roof on the firehouse was addressed last week, Chris LaRue working with local businesses in reference to false alarms, IROL software working really well. **Shawn Lickey** – Morsches Road project complete, purchased new stump grinder, waiting on material for Eagle Park, update on underground fuel tank at the MSF, Osmos will be doing pool testing on all of our infrastructure South of US 30, received letter of resignation from David Osborn and will be starting a hiring process.

MAYOR REPORT Mayor Daniel reported for Gary Parrett and Kelly Cearbaugh. He reported on the trade show that he and Chip Hill attended, they held their last meeting

with the Youth Council, and is finishing up with budget meetings and mid-term evaluations. He advised that the Memorial Day parade went well, and the Utility Rate Advisory Board would be meeting Monday night for their annual meeting.

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

Mayor Ryan Daniel

Attest:

Clerk Treasurer Rosie Coyle