

**COMMON COUNCIL
TUESDAY, JULY 23, 2024
6:00 PM**

Mayor Ryan Daniel – Present
Clerk Treasurer Rosie Coyle – Present
Attorney Marcia McNagy – 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 6:02 p.m. All stood to say the Pledge of Allegiance.

MINUTES Leslee Robinson noted that her name was spelled incorrectly under the second reading of the food ordinance. Having no further corrections, Jennifer Romano made a motion to approve the July 9, 2024, meeting minutes as corrected. Leslee Robinson seconded the motion, all voted unanimously.

ORDINANCE 2024-10: ELECTRIC RATE ADJUSTMENT Mayor Daniel stated at the last meeting Lee Baatz was here to present the second phase of this year's round of utility rate changes. He reminded Council this was based on the Baker Tilly utility study that was put together incorporating all the projects that are happening, mandatory and/or necessary.

Jennifer Romano made a motion to read Ordinance 2024-10 by title only. Dan Weigold seconded the motion, all voted unanimously. Clerk Treasurer Rosie Coyle read Ordinance 2024-10, City of Columbia City, Indiana, an ordinance amending the rates and charges for the City of Columbia City Municipal Electric Utility.

Mayor Daniel advised this was for a 4% increase and not incorporating the Tracker. He explained the Tracker is the cost of public power, which is a pass-through cost if you will, and fluctuates as the cost of power fluctuates.

Tad Varga made a motion to approve Ordinance 2024-10 on first reading. Jennifer Romano seconded the motion, all voted unanimously.

Rosie Coyle advised the public hearing will be August 13th with rates going into effect November 1st.

ORDINANCE 2024-11: WATER RATE ADJUSTMENT Jennifer Middleton made a motion to read Ordinance 2024-11 by title only. Tad Varga seconded the motion, all voted unanimously. Clerk Treasurer Rosie Coyle read Ordinance 2024-11, City of Columbia City, Indiana, an ordinance amending the rates and charges for the City of Columbia City Municipal Water Utility.

Tad Varga made a motion to approve Ordinance 2024-11 on first reading. Leslee Robinson seconded the motion, all voted unanimously.

WATER DEPARTMENT REPORT Mike Shoda shared that in the last two weeks they have had four water main breaks, one of them was quite big. He reported it was on a 16-inch line going out to SDI that was found to have two baseball size holes in it and was losing approximately 2000 gallons, maybe a little more, per minute. He advised ME Simpson was called in from Valparaiso who found the leaks by listening on fire hydrants out in that area. He reported the North water tower has been down for

two weeks for cleaning and painting on the inside and touch ups on the outside. He advised they started filling it back up yesterday and took the first bacteria test today; if it passes, they will take one in tomorrow and if it passes then can be put back in service. He reported the last filter was done with the first sample passing and if the second sample passes, they can open it up to use. He explained with new filters they eat the chlorine pretty fast so have been working to get things back to normal, but the State said it could take up to six weeks.

ORDINANCE 2024-12: WASTEWATER RATE ADJUSTMENT Jennifer Romano made a motion to read Ordinance 2024-12 by title only. Leslee Robinson seconded the motion, all voted unanimously. Clerk Treasurer Rosie Coyle read Ordinance 2024-12, City of Columbia City, Indiana, an ordinance amending the rates and charges for the City of Columbia City Municipal Sewer Utility.

Mayor Daniel thought the increase to be around \$4.60 for the average customer. He felt a lot of this is pushed by the mandates and some major projects that are on the horizon for our sewer utility.

Jennifer Romano made a motion to approve Ordinance 2024-12 on first reading. Tad Varga seconded the motion, all voted unanimously.

ORDINANCE 2024-13: STORMWATER RATE ADJUSTMENT Dan Weigold made a motion to read Ordinance 2024-13 by title only. Jennifer Middleton seconded the motion, all voted unanimously. Clerk Treasurer Rosie Coyle read Ordinance 2024-13, City of Columbia City, Indiana, an ordinance amending the rates and charges for the City of Columbia City Municipal Stormwater.

Mayor Daniel thought the increase to be around \$0.79. He noted we have been doing a lot more stormwater work in the last couple of years than we ever have before. He mentioned we should be seeing a big bill coming from the county drainage regarding the drain that goes across the 4-H property and across Lincolnway.

Leslee Robinson made a motion to approve Ordinance 2024-13 on first reading. Tad Varga seconded the motion, all voted unanimously.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS **Chip Hill** – updates on Eagle Park, Westgate and Blue River Trail. **Shawn Lickey** - continue working on the Jefferson Street, Rolling Hills and Park Terrace Apartments project, update on 2 new employees, doing work at the former Warner Electric building on Towerview and Short Street for a new business coming to town, project at Big G's and Speedway is almost complete, IDEM violations for our gasoline pumps have been resolved and cost almost \$3000 to do so. **Matt Heiden** - swim team getting close to the end of their season, getting ready for City Slam softball fundraiser, Film and Float on Saturday, passed out JFL equipment this last weekend. **Gary Parrett** – update on new police officers, have 18 applications for the open police officer position with testing on August 3rd, have 24 applications for the Communications Department with testing August 27th, received our Milo range equipment, 4-H went well, received 5 new rifles and were distributed to the officers, donated retired Explorers to the Water Department and Parks Department. **Kelly Cearbaugh** – limb pickup from the storm, trimming back limbs in the alleys and streets, have some concrete jobs lined up, Pavement Solutions in town doing pavement maintenance, receiving one and two-ton trucks this week, starting hiring process to fill position open from employee who resigned. **Mike Cook** – water line to EQ basin broke, air release valve leaking at SDI, took delivery of new tractor and within the first hour it broke but More's came out and repaired it, CSO audit with IDEM on August 14th, confirmation from IDEM that they will remove the cyanide limit and take us back to quarterly reporting but need to submit a letter to them with the Mayor's signature and a \$50 check.

MAYOR'S REPORT Mayor Daniel reported on the Taste of the City event running through July 26th. He advised he would be riding along with some of our police officers tomorrow, they were finishing up budget meetings this week, and would be hosting the Mayor's Roundtable at Eagle Glen. He has been trying to hit most of our Board and Commission meetings this last month and advised a lot of really, really good things are happening.

TREE BOARD Jennifer Romano reported the Tree Board has earmarked money to purchase some trees but are waiting to find out what sort of deal they are going to get to know exactly how many they are able to purchase. She advised they are hoping to plant them sometime in September and really would like to involve anybody in the community who would like to come out and learn a little bit about planting trees.

ARTS COMMISSION Jennifer Romano reported the Arts Commission was preparing for the studio art tour. She advised they would be setting up again this year at Hockemeyer, McNagny Law Office.

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

Mayor Ryan Daniel

Attest:

Clerk Treasurer Rosie Coyle