

**BOARD OF WORKS
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 2024
5:00 PM**

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

The Columbia City Board of Works met in regular session with all members present. Mayor Daniel called the meeting to order at 5:01 p.m.

MINUTES Mayor Daniel noted a spelling correction under his report. Having no other corrections, Mayor Daniel made a motion to approve the September 10, 2024, meeting minutes as corrected. Dan Weigold seconded the motion, all voted unanimously.

STREET CLOSING – SKELETON FESTIVAL Mayor Daniel shared this was for October 19 from 12 p.m. – 7 p.m. Rosie Coyle advised the closing request was pretty much like First Fridays.

Dan Weigold mentioned it was great that we have all these festivals downtown but felt we needed to have some way of contacting the downtown businesses as he has gotten some complaints. Rosie Coyle advised she has an email list that she sends the street closings out to whenever one is approved. Mayor Daniel advised that Columbia City Connect also puts in their newsletter to all the downtown businesses a list of every street closure that is scheduled. He noted individuals could also be put on Rosie's list that she emails out. He advised he was not trying to dismiss it but was just saying that there are ways in which that information is being put out.

Mayor Daniel made a motion to approve the Skeleton Festival street closure as presented. Lisa Smith seconded the motion, all voted unanimously.

ALLEY CLOSING – ST. PAUL OF THE CROSS Mayor Daniel noted this was for the Parish Festival for St. Paul of the Cross Catholic Church. Dan Weigold noted it was just a single alley and did not see a problem with that.

Mayor Daniel made a motion to approve the Parish Festival as presented. Dan Weigold seconded the motion, all voted unanimously.

STREET CLOSING – VARGA WEDDING Mayor Daniel noted this was tabled at the last meeting because of various questions and concerns. Chief Parrett reported that he and Tad Varga met at the property to discuss the request. He advised Tad would like to close off Gates Road at North Forest Parkway, West Park Street at West Park Drive and West Park Street at Lincolnway but it would just be for 1 hour from 1 p.m. – 2 p.m. He explained guests would cross over to the 4-H grounds after the ceremony. Chief Parrett advised there are ways for people to get around the area and obviously they will let residents through if they live there. Mayor Daniel questioned if officers would be manning those areas. Chief Parrett advised he would have an officer in the area to try and take care of all three intersections.

Mayor Daniel advised he did not have a problem with the Hill Drive portion and also did not necessarily have an issue with West Gates Road and Forest Parkway intersection. He shared the one issue was Park Street because there are houses on that stretch. Chief Parrett advised Tad was going to notify surrounding residents of the closure.

Mayor Daniel made a motion to approve the street closure for the Varga wedding with the caveat that someone from the Varga family notify the residents that have homes within the closure area, preferably within the next two or three days. Dan Weigold seconded the motion, all voted unanimously.

ENCROACHMENT AGREEMENT – 1277 E. PEBBLE CREEK RUN Paul Sobel of 1277 E. Pebble Creek Run was present to discuss an encroachment agreement that would involve a fence for their dogs. He was unsure what he would be approved to do because of the building lines and utilities in the area. He advised he put up temporary fencing for the time being. After some discussion, Mayor Daniel suggested tabling the issue to allow for Dan Weigold to check on some things with Planning & Building. He questioned if what they had sketched out would be acceptable if it would not work to go to the side. Mr. Sobel advised it would be to them but was not sure because of lines running in back other than the electric. Chip Hill advised we do not have any utilities there but REMC, phone and Mediacom do. Mayor Daniel mentioned it may be something that they need to check with REMC and get their blessing. Mr. Sobel advised there was an encroachment agreement already from 2006 that allowed for the shed, and their rules then were to stay three feet away from the lines.

Dan Weigold advised he would check on things and get in contact with Mr. Sobel.

Rosie Coyle confirmed this was being tabled until the next meeting. Mayor Daniel advised that was correct. He noted if we keep the current plan, and it comes up at the next meeting, Mr. Sobel would not have to attend.

Mayor Daniel made a motion to table the issue. Dan Weigold seconded the motion, all voted unanimously.

GIVING GARDENS SEWER REQUEST Rachel Alexander was present representing Giving Gardens of Indiana. She explained as they went through the process to put up their open-air classroom, the State advised they had to have real bathrooms on site and were given a 2-year deadline, which is December 31st of this year. She shared they began working with the Community Foundation and local organizations. She reported that Drew Welborn with Whitley Manufacturing agreed to donate the shell of a modular unit exactly like the Community Center at Miami Village and then the Community Foundation granted them \$50,000 to put towards the project. She advised the shell was being shipped to Whitko Career Academy next week and their students were going to do the interior but will then need to connect to the City sewer. She noted they were already connected to water and electricity, but will obviously increase their usage. She reported she was scheduled for the BZA meeting next week and have already got the State design approval for it. She wanted to make sure there were no questions in regards to connecting to sewer and then also wondered if the Board would consider waiving the connection fee for them.

Mayor Daniel questioned where the sewer was currently. Kelly Cearbaugh explained it was on their side and runs in front of the property along Hanna. He noted it was in the grass so would not be tearing up any infrastructure. Mrs. Alexander advised they would be using a licensed contractor to install it.

Mrs. Alexander shared this would not only help them to meet the State deadline, but their programs were growing and with being an outdoor school, having this modular unit would give them a safe place to go in case of a storm and not have to cancel classes. She added that they could also extend their hours because they would have a heated and cooled space that they could go into for temporary relief from the weather. She felt it would help them grow as an organization as well.

Mayor Daniel questioned when they plan to complete the project. Mrs. Alexander advised they expect everything to be done by the end of November.

Mayor Daniel confirmed they were currently paying for water and electric, and this would effectively add another sewer customer. Rosie Coyle advised that was correct.

Lisa Smith questioned if this had been done before. Mayor Daniel shared that, historically, there has been a couple of times, but it was not a super common thing. Dan Weigold confirmed they would still be paying for sewer charges. Mayor Daniel advised they would still be paying a bill. Mrs. Alexander shared the City did waive their water and electric connections and confirmed that they do pay monthly bills.

Mayor Daniel made a motion to waive the sewer tap fees for Giving Gardens. Lisa Smith seconded the motion, all voted unanimously.

PLAT APPROVAL – POVERTY KNOB – GATES ROAD Mayor Daniel advised this was discussed at the last meeting and was for an individual splitting their property into two lots. He shared it passed through the Plan Commission with 2 minor conditions.

Mayor Daniel made a motion to approve the Poverty Knob preliminary plat. Lisa Smith seconded the motion, all voted unanimously.

PAY REQUEST #6 – SCHENKEL CONSTRUCTION \$82,400.15 Chip Hill requested payment in the amount of \$82,400.15. He reported this would be for the fencing around the pickleball courts and pretty much everything that is done to date. He gave a brief update on the progress of Eagle Park.

Mayor Daniel made a motion to approve the payment application for Schenkel Construction in the amount of \$82,400.15 as presented. Dan Weigold seconded the motion, all voted unanimously.

GREENHILL CEMETERY MOWING AGREEMENT Rosie Coyle reported that Hodges Property Management submitted a proposal to extend their current agreement. She advised it would increase \$500 per year for the next three years. She shared that Kelly Cearbaugh has been happy with them and thought everybody else has been too. She questioned if the Board would want to go ahead and extend their agreement rather than go out for bids again.

Mayor Daniel made a motion to extend the agreement with Hodges Property Management for the mowing of Greenhill Cemetery. Lisa Smith seconded the motion, all voted unanimously.

EMPLOYMENT TRAINING AGREEMENT – AUSTIN STURGESS Gary Parrett reported Austin Sturgess was approved by PERF and his official hire date was September 14. He advised Austin had signed all the paperwork with H.R.

Mayor Daniel made a motion to approve the Employment Training Agreement with Austin Sturgess as presented. Dan Weigold seconded the motion, all voted unanimously.

BILLS Lisa Smith made a motion to pay all accounts payable in the amount of \$689,882.76 from the allowance of accounts payable vouchers dated 9/24/2024 for checks. Dan Weigold seconded the motion, all voted unanimously.

Lisa Smith made a motion to pay all accounts payable in the amount of \$1,141,665.54 from the allowance of accounts payable vouchers dated 9/24/2024 for EFT payments. Dan Weigold seconded the motion, all voted unanimously.

PAYROLL Lisa Smith made a motion to pay all accounts payable except overtime in the amount of \$270,493.17 plus overtime in the amount of \$15,823.64 for a total of \$286,316.81 for the pay file ending September 6, 2024. Dan Weigold seconded the motion, all voted unanimously.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS **Kelly Cearbaugh** – clean up from storm damage, sewer line installation continues at Timber’s Edge, street sign maintenance, leaf pickup is scheduled to start October 21st but may start sooner, last limb pickup will be October 7. **Chip Hill** - Westgate nearly complete and ribbon cutting is scheduled for October 2nd at 6:00 p.m., Eagle Park ribbon cutting will be at noon on October 3rd, held pre-bid meeting on the Blue River Trail with bid opening on October 14th at 5:00 p.m. **Matt Heiden** – preparing for the Mother/Son Halloween party on October 25th, Eagle Park was busy last weekend with being a staging area for the Shriners and JFL, got the irrigation system going on the football field and the practice field, HANDS group with the Community Foundation came out and painted the rest of the concrete balls back at the pond. **Gary Parrett** – Austin Sturgess started the FTO process and have 4 applicants in current

process. Chief Parrett requested permission to hire 4 individuals since Brian Anspach is retiring in January and Scott Leatherman in June of next year. The Board was in favor of the request. Chief Parrett continued to report they hired Madison Elliott, Consuelo Bridge and Larissa Taylor for Communications and they seem to be working out well, received concern for parking on Whitley Street because of the detour and has been monitoring, refresher training on the new Milo system, will be hosting emergency vehicle operations for the whole county on Towerview Drive on October 6th. **Mike Shoda** - replaced about 30 meters and have 10 more to do, have 3 or 4 big meters that are not reading, main break on Park Drive and Park Street, setting up a fire hydrant training with the fire department. **Mike Cook** – received and reviewed draft modified permit, storage tank mixer out of service, completed CSO audit and waiting on the letter, update on pumps for the force main project. **Terry Wherry** - finished most of the work on the Granite upgrade for the Street Department televising truck, installed a new access point in the Engineer’s office in the Fire Department, decommissioned one exchange server and will be starting the process on the next one, equipment ordered for the Test Kitchen and Shawn is trying to get fiber, SOS working on fiber to Eagle Park. **Tom LaRue** – Truck 102 electrical issues are back, pump testing next Tuesday, windows for the upstairs of the firehouse are half replaced, air conditioning system was replaced late last week.

MAYOR’S REPORT Mayor Daniel shared a department report from Shawn Lickey. He also reported a burn ban was put in place on Friday and three hours later the rain came. He advised they have been in conversation with our EMA Director, and it was the Fire Chief’s Association consensus to wait until Thursday before removing the ban. He shared that he and Lee Baatz gave a presentation to Rotary on the Utility Rate Advisory Board and a special meeting was held to discuss some potential proposed changes to our wellness clinic. He reported that on Monday groups of third graders visited City Hall, which was a lot of fun and exhausting at the same time. He advised he had a proclamation for Domestic Violence Awareness Month and have Youth Council on Thursday. He shared that he will be out of the office Friday through the following Wednesday.

INTENT TO RETIRE – FIRE DEPARTMENT Tom LaRue reported that Chris LaRue turned in his intent to retire on March 21, 2025, and requested permission to start the hiring process to replace that position.

The Board approved the request to move forward with the hiring process.

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

Mayor Ryan Daniel

Attest:

Clerk Treasurer Rosie Coyle