

**COMMON COUNCIL
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 22, 2024
6:00 PM**

Mayor Ryan Daniel – Absent
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. Council President Dan Weigold called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm. All stood to say the Pledge of Allegiance led by Eduardo and Isabella Covarrubias.

MINUTES Jennifer Romano made a motion to accept the October 14, 2024, meeting minutes as presented. Tad Varga seconded the motion, all voted unanimously.

CODE ENFORCEMENT OFFICER – JOB DESCRIPTION Beth Igney, HR Director, was present to talk about the Code Enforcement position. She explained that currently Sally Wherry has been doing a lot of the paperwork and our police officers have been doing the code enforcement, but it was decided to have one person do both. She noted that would then relieve those entities of those duties so they can do what they really need to do. She reported that they looked at several other similar job descriptions just to compare.

Rosie Coyle advised this position was put in the budget for next year.

Tad Varga questioned if this person would report directly to the Police Chief. Beth Igney advised they would. She explained they went back and forth on that but for now that is where they landed. She advised this is new, so once it gets going, they may see that it needs to be moved and will take the necessary steps to do that.

Dan Weigold questioned communication with other agencies and if it would include the Planning and Building Department. Beth Igney explained it could and maybe agencies that have not been identified yet. Dan Weigold questioned if they have been notified of this so that they are prepared to handle some of the situations we may run across. Beth Igney was not aware that they had been notified. Dan Weigold suggested we do that so that we can keep an open line of communication between the two departments. Rosie Coyle suggested that once we hire somebody, we need to have them sit down with Planning and Building so that they are aware of what they do and what we can do.

Jennifer Romano felt it made a lot of sense constituent wise too to have one individual that they can be directed to.

Rosie Coyle noted that a lot of times personal contact made with these people can get it done. She shared to go through the process of sending registered mail can be expensive so it could help cut down on those costs as well.

Leslee Robinson made a motion to approve the Code Enforcement job description. Jennifer Middleton seconded the motion, all voted unanimously.

BEREAVEMENT AMENDMENT Beth Igney explained this was something the Wellness Committee has been working on for quite a long time. She reported they have gone through the different channels to make sure that this is all legal and correct. She shared that they have looked at policies from other states to see how they have done it, and this is what we landed on as a recommendation to the Council. She reviewed the proposed changes with Council.

Leslee Robinson made a motion to approve the Bereavement Leave as presented. Tad Varga seconded the motion, all voted unanimously.

ORDINANCE 2024-22: DOOR TO DOOR SOLICITATION AMENDMENT Attorney McNagny explained this ordinance was amended to coordinate with how we are doing the fees by having the Board of Works establish those every year so that we do not have to constantly amend the ordinance.

Jennifer Romano made a motion to read Ordinance 2024-22 by title only. Tad Varga seconded the motion, all voted unanimously. Clerk Treasurer Rosie Coyle read Ordinance 2024-22 an ordinance amending Chapter 115, Door to Door Solicitation, of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Columbia City, Indiana.

Jennifer Romano made a motion to approve Ordinance 2024-22 on first reading. Leslee Robinson seconded the motion, all voted unanimously.

ORDINANCE 2024-23: MOBILE (NON-FOOD) VENDORS AMENDMENT Jennifer Middleton made a motion to read Ordinance 2024-23 by title only. Jennifer Romano seconded the motion, all voted unanimously. Clerk Treasurer Rosie Coyle read Ordinance 2024-23 an ordinance amending Chapter 112, Mobile Non-Food Vendors, of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Columbia City, Indiana.

Attorney McNagny explained this was saying the same as the previous ordinance, for the Board of Works to set the annual fees.

Tad Varga made a motion to approve Ordinance 2024-23 on first reading. Leslee Robinson seconded the motion, all voted unanimously.

COMPREHENSIVE PLAN MEETING Nathan Bilger reported at the end of September they held an all-jurisdiction workshop on Comprehensive Plans. He noted the City was looking at doing a pretty large update in 2025 so felt that was probably meaningful for Councilmembers Leslee Robinson and Dan Weigold who both attended. He advised there was a lot of good discussion although not exactly what he had set out to do in terms of the topics. He thought they would probably use the 5th Mondays of each year for training sessions to essentially do hot topics among all the different jurisdictions in a more open format.

Dan Weigold felt the meeting went very well and was great to be able to communicate and network with other communities.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS **Chip Hill** - Board of Works approved the trail project, Hunger is supposed to start the skate park next month and will be meeting with them Friday to discuss some issues, started 1-year warranty period for Westgate, the Test Kitchen is coming along and hoping to have something going by Thanksgiving. **Mike Shoda** - several new service hookups, laying water main at Timber's Edge. **Kelly Cearbaugh** - sanitary sewer installed at Timber's Edge and will do testing towards the middle of November, busy with leaf pickup. **Matt Heiden** - still trying to figure out new padding for the pool, all the concrete is out at the dugouts and have one foundation done. **Mike Cook** - Maddox Industries coming in to look at the Main and Jefferson Street lift stations for the new piping and pumps, staff replaced air release valve on the SDI property for the force main, Dystor cover needs replaced. **Shawn Lickey** – replacing poles from inspections by Osmos, a few new hookups, attending IMPA meeting for the unveiling of their rate study for next year's rates.

Having no further business to come before the Council, Dan Weigold called the meeting adjourned.

Council President Dan Weigold

Attest:

Clerk Treasurer Rosie Coyle