

**BOARD OF WORKS
TUESDAY, JANUARY 14, 2025
5:00 PM**

Mayor Ryan Daniel – Present
Clerk Treasurer Rosie Coyle – Present
Attorney Marcia McNagny –Present via phone
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 there was no date on the minutes and should be December 26, 2024.

Mayor Daniel made a motion to approve the December 26, 2024 meeting minutes, as presented. Dan Weigold seconded the motion, motion passed unanimously.

ENCROACHMENT AGREEMENT – ZACHARY BURDETT – 244 W LONGFELLOW BLVD Mayor Daniel postponed this discussion since Mr. Burdett was not present.

ENCROACHMENT AGREEMENT – WHITLEY COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY – 301 N. MAIN STREET Mayor Daniel noted this would be for a brand-new sign at the corner of Main and Jefferson Street. He did not think there were any utility issues. Chief Parrett questioned if there might be visibility concerns. Jennifer Romano hoped it would be placed where the existing sign is. She added that they would like to have the sign go into “sleep mode” so it is not running all hours, day and night.

After reviewing the pictures that were presented, it was determined there should be no concerns with line of sight.

Mayor Daniel made a motion to approve the encroachment agreement with Whitley County Historical Society as presented. Lisa Smith seconded the motion, motion passed unanimously.

Mayor Daniel questioned if there was any reason why they would need to move the sign from a utility standpoint. Chip Hill did not believe so with it being that far back.

PAY REQUEST 8: SCHENKEL CONSTRUCTION – EAGLE PARK \$82,967.90 Chip Hill reported the request was for \$82,967.90. He explained this was pretty much the payout for the rest of the swing structure, sidewalks and pickleball courts. He advised they were holding some retainage back for sidewalks connecting to the skate park. He requested the Board approve the pay request.

Mayor Daniel made a motion to pay Schenkel Construction for Invoice Number 6263 in the amount of \$82,967.90. Dan Weigold seconded the motion, motion passed unanimously.

STREET CLOSING REQUEST – CAR SHOW – WHEELS OF WHITLEY COUNTY – AUGUST 2ND

Mayor Daniel pointed out that Chief Parrett made a note to make sure they do not block the post office parking lot. He felt they would probably need to stop at the alleyway to allow for a turnaround.

Mayor Daniel made a motion to approve the street closing request for Columbia City Connect for the Wheels of Whitley County event and to modify the street closure to only go up to the alley South of the post office. Lisa Smith seconded the motion, motion passed unanimously.

NLC SERVICE LINE WARRANTY PROGRAM Mayor Daniel explained this was a program that had been introduced to City Council. He shared that Council was in favor of it and worked on a couple things from a contractual standpoint to make sure our logo was not used, and that customer data was protected. He reported this was a warranty program that individuals on our sewer and water utility could sign up for and get some type of reimbursement if something would happen to their service line going from the house to the main. He advised we were not really in charge of anything outside of saying this is a program that is recognized as a legitimate program and something that can help people if they have an interest. He noted it was a program endorsed by the National League of Cities and is something that spans across the whole nation.

Rosie Coyle questioned the term of the program. Mayor Daniel shared that the initial term was a three-year term and then it is an automatic one-year renewal year after year. He felt the only time we could probably get out of it would be if for some reason we find that they are not fulfilling their obligations, or that they are maybe misrepresenting what they are offering to the city or to the residents.

Kelly Cearbaugh questioned if they would let the city know how many customers they have sign up. Mayor Daniel thought there was a reporting period that happens; effectively for every policy that they sell, there is a very, very small amount that goes into an account for the city specifically. He shared that the city could then decide to create a hardship fund or maybe decide to give everybody a dollar break on their next bill. He advised there was a lot of opportunities there. He mentioned it would be a very, very meniscal amount so they would have to sell a lot of policies. He advised, in any case, yes, they have to let us know.

Mayor Daniel made a motion to enter into the Marketing Agreement with Utility Service Partners Private Label as presented. Lisa Smith seconded the motion, motion passed unanimously.

BILLS Lisa Smith made a motion to pay all accounts payable in the amount of \$1,235,854.60 from the allowance of accounts payable vouchers dated January 14, 2025, for checks. Dan Weigold seconded the motion, motion passed unanimously.

Lisa Smith made motion to pay all accounts payable in the amount of \$688,816.06 from the allowance of accounts payable vouchers dated January 14, 2025, for EFT payments. Dan Weigold seconded the motion, motion passed unanimously.

PAYROLL Lisa Smith made a motion to pay all accounts payable, except overtime in the amount of \$283,035.90 plus overtime in the amount of \$9,746.18 for a total of \$292,782.08 for the pay file ending 12/27/24. Dan Weigold seconded the motion, motion passed unanimously.

Lisa Smith made a motion to pay all accounts payable in the amount of \$202,000.00 from the allowance of accounts payable vouchers dated January 14, 2025, for HSA. Dan Weigold seconded the motion, motion passed unanimously.

Lisa Smith made a motion to pay all accounts payable in the amount of \$12,875.00 from the allowance of accounts payable vouchers dated January 3, 2025, for clothing allowance. Dan Weigold seconded the motion, motion passed unanimously.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS **Shawn Lickey** - finished up the Eagle Park path lighting and the skate park lighting, couple outages over the weekend due to squirrels, ordered new laptops to do the locates, he will be heading to Carmel for IMPA and IMEA meetings, met with UTE on their bucket truck delivery scheduled for May or June of this year, working on specs for their next bucket truck, working on rewriting our mutual aid ordinance and will have the ad hoc agreement with Spectrum Engineering at the next meeting. **Terry Wherry** - server migrations have been completed and are functional, in talks with Spillman about upgrading the CAD server, met with Matt Heiden and Butch from SOS at the old concessions building in Eagle Park to select a location for all the networking and cameras, working on fiber issues at the test kitchen. **Chip Hill** - working with local developer who acquired 77 acres, working on getting the test kitchen lease agreement with the school. **Matt Heiden** - dugouts are on hold due to the weather, father/daughter dance coming up February 7th and 8th, the Devol Field tunnel was inspected and came back that there are no major problems, getting prices on doors for the room that Terry talked about as well as for a furnace and quotes from Kissinger Electric to help with the electricity and rewiring of the panel out there. **Mike Shoda** – 8 water main breaks over the last couple months. **Kelly Cearbaugh** - Community Crossings bidding is coming up this month, keeping up on snow removal and equipment maintenance. **Gary Parrett** - Officers Smith and Ewing are doing well in the FTO process, Officer Sturgess is in his solo evaluation process and will be going to the Academy in April, Officer Hershberger graduated from the Academy in December and is back and doing well, dispatch trainees are doing well, Hunter LaRue turned in his resignation letter with his last day being January 29th, requested to begin the hiring process to fill his position – the Board approved. **Mike Cook** – force main project moving along, working on CSO operational plan, waiting on revised quote on the Dystor, waiting on quote on the digester for the sludge storage tank, working on year-end reports, guys working on a couple liftstations that are having issues.

MAYOR REPORT Mayor Daniel reported he had a Mayor's Commission caucus on Wednesday as well as meeting with a mental health advisory group. He advised the Youth Council would be meeting on Thursday and Brian Anspach has his retirement party on Friday. He reported that he and Chip have been working with JPR on Amphitheatre ideas and concepts. He advised there was a Redevelopment Commission meeting today where they got a conceptual idea of where the jail is heading.

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

Mayor Ryan Daniel

Attest:

Clerk Treasurer Rosie Coyle