

**COMMON COUNCIL
TUESDAY, JANUARY 14, 2025
6:00 PM**

Mayor Ryan Daniel – Present
Clerk Treasurer Rosie Coyle – Present
Attorney Marcia McNaghy – Absent

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 p.m. All stood to say the Pledge of Allegiance.

MINUTES Jennifer Romano made a motion to approve the December 26, 2024, meeting minutes as presented. Leslee Robinson seconded the motion. Jennifer Middleton, Leslee Robinson, Jennifer Romano and Dan Weigold unanimously approved; Tad Varga abstained.

CHRISTMAS LIGHTING AWARDS Jennifer Romano presented lighting awards to Northeast district winners Larry and Janet Reed; Southeast district winner Mark Sipe; Northwest district winners Steve and Jeannie Strandland; Southwest district winners Larry and Lisa Wooley and grand prize winners Gary and JoAnn Bird.

DUANE RICHARDSON – EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR IMEA Duane Richardson, Executive Director of the Indiana Municipal Electric Agency, was present to recognize Shawn Lickey as being the recipient of the Frank R. Rudolph Award. He explained this award is the Association's most prestigious honor and is named after Francis Rudolph from Greendale, Indiana. He shared that Mr. Rudolph was the Utility Manager for over 40 years and this award is given to individuals who make significant contributions to public power in Indiana. He added that it recognizes the recipient's exceptional leadership and dedication in, and to, public power. He advised that he has known Shawn for over a decade and shared that in his role as an executive director, he has had the opportunity to meet with elected officials, superintendents, general managers, assistant general manager and supervisors and advised that Shawn's knowledge, skills and abilities were unmatched.

Mr. Richardson shared that another reason he wanted to be present was to express his sincere thanks. He reported that Columbia City has had one Board President and one Board Member and although Columbia City has not been absent from the Association, its membership, and the things that are offered, but also has not had a leadership role in the organization until Shawn joined the Board. He thanked the Mayor and Council for allowing Shawn to be a part of that and shared that a lot of times people look at it as being away from the office and not doing the work. He stated that it was unbelievable how much Shawn's presence helps, not just Columbia City, but every municipal utility in the State of Indiana. He advised that Shawn is very much respected

around the state and his healthy self-confidence and excellent leadership skills combine to make him an exceptional leader, which is what this award is supposed to honor, and in this case it does.

ELECTION OF COUNCIL PRESIDENT Mayor Daniel opened the floor for nominations of Council President for 2025.

Leslee Robinson nominated Dan Weigold to serve another year as Council President. Tad Varga seconded the nomination.

Jennifer Romano made a motion to close nominations. Jennifer Middleton seconded the motion, motion unanimously approved.

Mayor Daniel called for the vote of all in favor of Dan Weigold continuing as Council President. Jennifer Romano, Tad Varga, Jennifer Middleton and Leslee Robinson unanimously approved; Dan Weigold abstained.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS **Shawn Lickey** – all of the path lighting and skate park lighting at Eagle Park are on, two outages over the weekend from squirrels, new laptops for the new locating system, he will be heading to Carmel for IMEA and IMPA meetings, bucket truck to be delivered in May or June, working on specs for a new tree truck, will be bringing a mutual aid ordinance to the board in another month or so. **Terry Wherry** - server migration is completed, conversations with Spillman in reference to them upgrading our CAD/GIS server, he and Matt Heiden selected a room at the Eagle Park concession area for the new equipment that is needed for public Wi-Fi, network and cameras, working on fiber issues at test kitchen. **Chip Hill** – working through the lease with the school for the test kitchen, working with the park as they integrate their new software to piggyback along with for the test kitchen. **Matt Heiden** - dugouts on hold because of the weather, father/daughter dance coming up, had inspection done on the DeVol tunnel and found no major problems, getting some pricing for doors on the concession building as well as pricing for a furnace and a quote from Kissinger Electric to help with the electric needs and rewiring of electric panel. **Kelly Cearbaugh** – snow removal, Community Crossings bids coming up, working with a company to mulch up all the leaves at the back of Morsches Park. **Gary Parrett** – Officers Ewing and Smith are doing well in the FTO process, Officer Sturgess is in the solo evaluation process and will go to the Academy in April, Officer Hershberger graduated from the Academy in December and is back and doing well, dispatch trainees are doing good, Hunter LaRue turned in his resignation letter with his last day being January 29th, the Board of Works gave permission to fill his position so will be starting that process soon. **Mike Cook** – force main project moving along, working on CSO operational plan update, waiting on updated quote for the Dystor, working on year-end reports, guys working on a couple liftstations.

MAYOR'S REPORT Mayor Daniel reported the Youth Council will be meeting on Thursday to tour the water plant and the city awards banquet was on Friday night. He reported the Board of Works approved the agreement with the National League of Cities for the line warranty program with some minor tweaks. He reminded everyone that City Hall would be closed Monday for Martin Luther King Day and then Thursday and Friday is the city retreat at Swan Lake in Plymouth.

REGION 3A BOARD MEMBER Mayor Daniel advised he has an opportunity yearly to appoint a member to the Region 3A board. He explained Region 3A is the regional planning group for the Northeast and includes Huntington, LaGrange, Steuben, Whitley and Wabash counties. He shared that they meet four times a year and all four meetings are at the Peabody Public Library at 5:30 p.m. He asked if any Councilmember was interested in being appointed to the board to let him know. He advised it had been a while since we have had representation on the Board.

REDEVELOPMENT COMMISSION Tad Varga reported they had Redevelopment Commission today and spent a lot of time discussing the former county jail building in terms of proposals and ideas.

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

Mayor Ryan Daniel

Attest:

Clerk Treasurer Rosie Coyle