

COMMON COUNCIL
TUESDAY, MARCH 11, 2025
6:00 PM

Mayor Ryan Daniel – Present
Clerk Treasurer Rosie Coyle – Present
Attorney Marcia McNagy – Present

Council Members

Jennifer Middleton – Absent
Leslee Robinson – Present
Jennifer Romano – Present
Tad Varga – Absent
Daniel Weigold – Present

The Columbia City Common Council met in regular session with all members except Jennifer Middleton and Tad Varga present. Mayor Daniel called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m. All stood to say the Pledge of Allegiance.

MINUTES Jennifer Romano made a motion to approve the February 11, 2025, meeting minutes as presented. Dan Weigold seconded the motion, the motion passed unanimously.

RESOLUTION 2025-2: PROPERTY TAX LEGISLATION Leslee Robinson made a motion to read Resolution 2025-2 by title only. Jennifer Romano seconded the motion, the motion passed unanimously. Clerk Treasurer Rosie Coyle read Resolution 2025-2 a resolution urging caution on property tax legislation.

Mayor Daniel explained there is a lot of conversation happening at the state level regarding property taxes and the elimination of business personal property taxes or the decreasing of growth quotients into the future for municipalities. He shared, as discussed in multiple meetings, there is a lot of concern about what those cuts will do to local government and the ability to serve our population. He advised we never want individuals taxed out of their home and we want to make sure there is targeted relief, taking the scalpel instead of the axe, if you will. He explained this resolution really just incorporates all of those things and about how we continue to try to provide the greatest bang for our buck for our residents. He shared that we try to be cautious in how we use our dollars; we invest in quality of life programs, we invest in our public safety, we invest in our streets and basically we are requesting that the legislature use caution in deciding those property tax decisions going into the future because of the impact that it will have not just on us, but also on schools, the county, the townships, the library and etc. He stated one of the things he wanted to point out in the Resolution was that in 2025, the Tax Foundation has found that Indiana has the 5th best property tax rate in the nation, we are the #1 property tax rate in the Midwest, we also are the 10th best in overall tax environment in the nation and the 3rd best state for business competitiveness in the nation. He read the statement that says ‘while we encourage targeted relief to ensure that people are not taxed out of their home, and that those appropriate individuals get the tax relief they want, we make sure we be surgical about it and not take a broad brush that may end up having a lot of unintended consequences.’

Dan Weigold made a motion to approve Resolution 2025-2. Leslee Robinson seconded the motion, the motion passed unanimously.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS **Terry Wherry** - test kitchen is done as far as the IT department is concerned, began work on Eagle Park server room, took a tour in the new City jail and have a lot of work to do but should be pretty manageable. **Chip Hill** - Hunger is doing a good job with the skatepark, thanked Water and Electric departments for providing services to Eagle Park, Blue River Trail is

moving along very good. **Kelly Cearbaugh** - have a couple of guys helping the electric department cut trees down, doing street and alley maintenance, one of his guys has been working on CDL training, waiting to hear from the company in Ohio who is going to be doing our leaf grinding. **Shawn Lickey** - changing out the poles that failed inspection, they did some fiber splicing at Eagle Park, continue to cut down trees. **Mike Shoda** - had a meeting with the EPA and GLO, which stands for Get the Lead Out, who is going to help us set up a plan to get the lead out of our system. **Mike Cook** - Board of Works approved the cleaning and lining projects for the digester, received second draft of the CSO operational plan from the audit that we had at the end last year to review, update on the force main project, changing out check valves, and has a crew on the Steel Dynamics force main to start the cleaning process. **Tom LaRue** - working on our Sierra Wireless issues, waiting on the test results for their three candidates, air pack testing last week with four that did not pass, started sending bottles in for hydrotesting, have four guys taking a certified fire investigator class. Mayor Daniel gave reports for Chief Parrett and Matt Heiden.

MAYOR REPORT Mayor Daniel reported he would be going to the statehouse and testifying to the Ways and Means Committee on Senate Bill 1, however they are talking about getting rid of all the language in Senate Bill 1 and putting in House Bill 1407, which is basically the House's plan for property Tax Relief and is very different than the Senate's. He advised there is a bunch of issues with it, not to mention they also want to get rid of some of the business personal property taxes, which for our community is not as much of a hit but for places like Auburn and other more industrialized communities it is a really, really big hit to their tax base. Dan Weigold questioned if the Wheel Tax was involved with that. Mayor Daniel advised there was a different piece of legislation for that and it was still way out. He continued to report that next week he will have Youth Council on Tuesday and will be touring a drug rehabilitation facility in Defiance, Ohio.

TREE BOARD Jennifer Romano reported the Tree Board has adopted a new logo. She advised they are also planning Arbor Day activities with information coming out soon. She reported they have over 100 street trees to plant.

ARTS COMMISSION Jennifer Romano reported that the Arts Commission has a heavy schedule beginning around June with events. She advised they were also running a campaign about events happening in the community as well as opportunities for artists to get involved.

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

Mayor Ryan Daniel

Attest:

Clerk Treasurer Rosie Coyle