

COMMON COUNCIL
TUESDAY, JUNE 10, 2025
6:00 PM

Mayor Ryan Daniel – Present
Clerk Treasurer Leslee Robinson – Present
Attorney Marcia McNagy – Present

Council Members

Brent Bockelman – Present
Jennifer Middleton – Absent
Jennifer Romano – Present
Tad Varga – Present
Daniel Weigold – Present

The Columbia City Common Council met in regular session with all members except Jennifer Middleton present. Mayor Daniel called the meeting to order at 6:02 pm. All stood to say the Pledge of Allegiance.

MINUTES Mayor Daniel noted a correction in the title of the ordinance under the Supplement to the Code Ordinance 2025-5.

Jennifer Romano made a motion to approve the May 27, 2025, meeting minutes as corrected. Tad Varga seconded the motion, motion passed unanimously.

ORDINANCE 2025-6 AMENDMENT TO CHAPTER 114, RESTAURANTS – 1ST

READING Tad Varga made a motion to read Ordinance 2025-6 by title only. Jennifer Romano seconded the motion, motion passed unanimously. Clerk Treasurer Leslee Robinson read Ordinance 2025-6 an ordinance amending Chapter 114, Restaurants, of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Columbia City, Indiana.

Mayor Daniel stated that in the past, when a restaurant in the downtown area wanted to have seating on the sidewalk, they had to come in front of the Board of Works. He advised that after discussion among Attorney McNagy, himself, Chip Hill and others they felt with more restaurants coming in downtown, that the process should be standardized, which is what this amendment does. He explained it ensures that these restaurants abide by local, state and federal laws and was a yearly application process. He advised it was not super rigid but was more of just putting the boundary lines on so that everybody is playing by the same rules.

Brent Bockelman questioned if there was any liability requirement or form that the city should have on file with them. Mayor Daniel advised in the permit itself, they have to sign off that they will abide by all the state laws and there was also a hold harmless clause. Leslee Robinson stated that they do have to provide a certificate of liability coverage and add the city as an insured.

Dan Weigold commented on an issue during a First Friday event. Mayor Daniel explained that if the streets were blocked off for a festival or event, that is different; this was only for a regular

day where there is no festival.

Brent Bockelman made a motion to approve Ordinance 2025-6 on 1st reading. Tad Varga seconded the motion, motion passed unanimously.

ORDINANCE 2025-7 MUNICIPAL ELECTRIC UTILITY MUTAL AID - 1ST READING

Dan Weigold made a motion to read Ordinance 2025-7 by title only. Tad Varga seconded the motion, motion passed unanimously. Clerk Treasurer Leslee Robinson read Ordinance 2025-7 an ordinance setting the rates of pay and expenses for employees of the Columbia City Municipal Electric Utility, while rendering mutual aid to other communities.

Shawn Lickey explained he has been working on this ordinance for a while, in coordination with the Indiana Municipal Electric Association and several other municipals around the state. He shared they were looking to standardize what is offered and charged for when we do a mutual aid event. He noted this document was actually required by FEMA and advised if we have a FEMA event that they are willing to pay for, but we do not have an ordinance, they will not pay for our expenses. He shared that this ordinance actually comes from about four other cities in the state that already have this document in place, but we made a few changes and went on to explain those. He advised there was a FEMA schedule that lists what he can charge for equipment and will follow that.

Mayor Daniel reminded Council that this does not mandate that we go to every, or any event, it really is just the framework for if we end up deciding to go to an event, Shawn can make the judgment call, in collaboration with him, to determine whether or not we want to send a crew. He advised the decision would be based on our own workload, and frankly, if we have damage, obviously we would not be sending anyone. He stressed that our first priority is our customers.

Brent Bockelman questioned if it could be assumed that we have a good enough network with other municipalities that what we offer would be similar to what others would offer us in the same type of ordinance situation. Shawn advised that was correct; this has been a collaboration amongst many other utilities.

Jennifer Romano made a motion to approve Ordinance 2025-7 on 1st reading. Brent Bockelman seconded the motion, motion passed unanimously.

ORDINANCE 2025-8 AMENDMENT TO CHAPTER 115, SOLICITATION – 1ST READING

Tad Varga made a motion to read Ordinance 2025-8 by title only. Dan Weigold seconded the motion, motion passed unanimously. Clerk Treasurer Leslee Robinson read Ordinance 2025-8 an ordinance amending Chapter 115, Door to Door Solicitation, of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Columbia City, Indiana.

Mayor Daniel explained they really just wanted to make sure there was a clear mandate that if solicitors are going to be going door-to-door that they have some kind of ID badge that shows their name, organization, address, phone number, things like that and also requires that each solicitor have a copy of the permit on them. He advised the ordinance still has the core functions of the door-to-door salesman, but it also has the additional identification information to ensure that our residents know whether or not the solicitor is legitimate or not. He shared that this has stemmed from some residents, especially in Eagle Glen, who had concerns about the opportunity to confirm whether or not someone has a permit, and they should not have to call into City Hall to decide whether or not the person is legitimate.

Brent Bockelman made a motion to approve Ordinance 2025-8 on first reading. Tad Varga seconded the motion, motion passed unanimously.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS **Shawn Lickey** - still working on 50 East and Collins Street to bore lines underground, still working on changing out poles that failed inspection, Tree City USA trees have been removed and will work on restoration. **Chip Hill** - Blue River Trail is moving along slowly, landscaping was done last week in Eagle Park, he and Jackson were working on establishing DORA (Designated Outdoor Refreshment Area) which will assist the downtown restaurants with being able to serve alcohol and people can walk around with it during events. **Mike Shoda** – update on water main project on North Park Drive. **Mike Cook** – update on force main project, continue to work on sludge hauling, met with personnel from Alliance Indiana Rural Water to work on some issues they have been having. **Tom LaRue** – update on new guys, hydro testing complete, evaluations are over half done, met with the Old Settlers Day committee this week, Flag Day is Saturday the 14th and ladder testing is the 16th and 17th. **Terry Wherry** - electric department got the fiber terminated in the old jail and found a break in the line in the process and are repairing that, all of the equipment is in for Eagle Park and the jail. **Gary Parrett** - Scott Leatherman has retired from the Police Department after 26 ½ years of service but will continue to work for the city in a civilian role as the Code Enforcement Coordinator, new officers are doing well, Austin Sturgess is at the Academy, tornado sirens have been ordered, First Friday went well and gearing up for Old Settlers.

SKATEPARK Marcia McNagny shared that she spoke with somebody who is one of the top skateboarders in the state and around the area, and who has also worked a lot with design and he said Columbia City's skatepark, if it is not the best in the state, it is certainly one of the best skate parks.

MAYOR REPORT Mayor Daniel shared department reports for Matt Heiden and Kelly Cearbaugh.

Mayor Daniel reminded the Council that City Hall would be closed June 19th in observance of Juneteenth and shared that he would be passing out mailboxes to the CCHS seniors on Friday.

He reported that the America 250 group will be doing a kick off on Flag Day at 10 am on the courthouse square. He advised it will be a nice event to kick off the celebration of the 250th Anniversary of the United States of America. He reported that budgets were basically done and were kind of in a holding pattern as mentioned in the past because we do not know what our revenue is going to look like. He shared that it is projected that over the next three years we will lose out on \$1,200,000 that would have come in. He advised he would be working on evaluations and reminded Council that he would not be at the next Council meeting.

PETS AT OLD SETTLERS Brent Bockelman reported there will be multiple signs downtown that will state that no pets or animals are allowed during Old Settlers. He requested that if anyone sees anyone walking their pets, unless they are certified service animals, to please report them.

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

Mayor Ryan Daniel

Attest:

Clerk Treasurer Rosie Coyle