

**COMMON COUNCIL
TUESDAY, JUNE 24, 2025
6:00 PM**

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

Council Members

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

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

MINUTES Brent Bockelman made a motion to approve the May 27, 2025, meeting minutes as presented. Jennifer Romano seconded the motion. Brent Bockelman, Jennifer Romano and Dan Weigold approved. Jennifer Middleton abstained.

SWEARING IN OF NEW FIREFIGHTERS Clerk Treasurer Leslee Robinson performed the swearing in ceremony for Firefighter Seth Jines, Collin Nelson and Evan Williams.

ORDINANCE 2025-6 AMENDMENT TO CHAPTER 114, RESTAURANTS – 2ND READING Jennifer Romano made a motion to read Ordinance 2025-6 by title only. Jennifer Middleton 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.

Dan Weigold explained that this amendment was concerning outdoor seating for downtown restaurants, which is happening quite frequently. He noted one of the big concerns was having enough room for a wheelchair to easily pass through and thought there might be an issue with a couple of the restaurants. He reported that the Board of Works approved the permit application.

Jennifer Romano verified that everyone was going to need to get a permit regardless of whether they have had seating out front for years or just starting to do. Leslee Robinson advised that was correct and would take affect July 1st.

Jennifer Middleton questioned if we would be sending information out to the restaurants, so they were aware. Leslee Robinson advised we would reach out to them.

Jennifer Middleton made a motion to approve Ordinance 2025-6 on second and final reading. Brent Bockelman seconded the motion, motion passed unanimously.

A copy of the permit application was provided to Council members for review. Leslee Robinson advised that Attorney McNagy already reviewed the permit and was ok with it. Jennifer Romano felt the application was pretty clear and outlined the major points of concern.

ORDINANCE 2025-7 MUNICIPAL ELECTRIC UTILITY MUTUAL AID – 2ND READING Brent Bockelman made a motion to read Ordinance 2025-7 by

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

Dan Weigold shared that this was discussed at the last meeting regarding times where our utility was called on to help serve other communities when a disaster has happened. He advised this ordinance puts it in writing to compensate us probably more fairly than what we had been before.

Jennifer Romano made a motion to approve Ordinance 2025-7 on second and final reading. Jennifer Middleton seconded the motion, motion passed unanimously.

ORDINANCE 2025-8 AMENDMENT TO CHAPTER 115, SOLICITATION – 2ND READING Jennifer Middleton made a motion to read Ordinance 2025-8 by title only. Jennifer Romano 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.

Dan Weigold advised this was also discussed at the last meeting. He explained that this amendment requires identification cards and paper proof of their permit on hand when going door to door.

Brent Bockelman made a motion to approve Ordinance 2025-8 on second and final reading. Jennifer Middleton seconded the motion, motion passed unanimously.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS **Tom LaRue** – ground ladders passed inspection with no issues, were dinged on the intercom system on the ladder truck which has been problematic since they got it, contacted several weeks ago by Convoy Tech out of Fort Wayne to see if they could do a demo and promotional video for their company using our truck and then at the end of it we would get to keep the camera intercom system which could bring us out of violation, preparing for fireworks show. **Matt Heiden** - he and Terry working on park sign, removed the two concrete monuments at the Korean Garden, took bleachers and picnic tables down for Old Settlers, had a 31-team tournament going on the same weekend, preparing for fireworks show on July 3rd. **Gary Parrett** – Old Settlers and parade went well, Officer Sturgess doing well at the Academy, tornado sirens are ordered with a lead time of sometime in July, gearing up for fireworks show and First Friday events, Officer Ewing turned in his two week notice so will be opening a hiring process to fill his position. **Terry Wherry** - Electric Department finished installation of the fiber network to the old jail and hope to have it functional by the end of the week, then will move to Eagle Park. **Street Department** – Dan Weigold shared a report from Kelly Cearbaugh.

ARTS COMMISSION Jennifer Romano reported that the Columbia City Arts Commission was running their second annual Spark Art Camp. She explained this was an opportunity for kids to learn music, dance and fine arts. She reported that it was being funded by the Indiana Arts Commission.

SAINT JOHN EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

REPRESENTATIVE Pastor Gino Marchetti was present to introduce himself as the new full-time pastor at the Saint John Evangelical Lutheran Church on Keiser Road. He reported that Pastor David Mommens served Saint John's for 30 years and retired in June of last year. He shared that he looked forward to possibly working with the city in some way, shape or form. He advised Pastor Mommens was heavily involved with the local jail ministry and was something that he also

was interested in helping with.

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

Attest:

Council President Daniel Weigold

Clerk Treasurer Leslee Robinson