

**COMMON COUNCIL
TUESDAY, JULY 8, 2025
6:00 PM**

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

Council Members

Brent Bockelman – Present
Jennifer Middleton – Present
Jennifer Romano – Present
Tad Varga – Virtually Present approximately 6:05 p.m.
Daniel Weigold – Present

The Columbia City Common Council met in regular session with all members present with Tad Varga in attendance virtually at approximately 6:05 p.m. 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 June 24, 2025, meeting minutes as presented. Jennifer Middleton seconded the motion, motion passed unanimously.

ORDINANCE 2025-9 AMENDMENT TO CHAPTER 71 PARKING – 1ST READING Jennifer Middleton made a motion to read Ordinance 2025-9 by title only. Jennifer Romano seconded the motion, motion passed unanimously. Clerk Treasurer Leslee Robinson read Ordinance 2025-9 an ordinance modifying Chapter 71, Title VII, of the City of Columbia City, Indiana, Municipal Code.

Gary Parrett explained that this amendment involves the 7 parking spots South of the intersection of Market and Line Street on the East side of Line Street. He explained there is a visibility issue when there are trucks or SUV's parked there and want to make all spots for cars only. He shared that they have had several accidents there and are trying to eliminate some of that. He added that the current signage for those spots is not very clear and felt that was part of the problem and will be putting signs in front of each stall that says cars only, no trucks.

Jennifer Romano felt it made sense. Dan Weigold shared that he has had quite a few complaints about that intersection and agreed that was about the only way to fix it.

Dan Weigold made a motion to approve Ordinance 2025-9 on first reading. Jennifer Romano seconded the motion, motion passed unanimously.

Tad Varga now present virtually

DEPARTMENT REPORTS **Chip Hill** - Blue River Trail coming along with a little snag affecting the Dairy Barn, doing the final closeout with the DNR for Phase IA of Eagle Park which includes the skatepark and pickle ball courts, several trees died soon after planting but are under warranty, cameras are going to be up and running hopefully by next week for Eagle Park. **Gary Parrett** – fireworks went well besides a small issue when cars were leaving, First Friday went well, Officer Sturgess is doing well at the academy and is in his 10th week with 6 weeks to go, received a resignation letter from Officer Fuller who will be going back to Warsaw PD where he had worked for the past 15 years so Officer Branecki will be filling the SRO position and the Board of Works approved filling his position, in Dispatch Erin Auer will be moving to day shift to fill the shift lead position and they have two applicants within the department interested in the

second shift lead, working on Callworks upgrades for the phone system in dispatch. **Mike Cook** – sludge dewatering going very well, update on force main project, drafting a letting to IDEM regarding the Long Term Control Plan and the level of control issues. Mayor Daniel shared department reports for Park, Water and Fire Departments.

MAYOR REPORT Mayor Daniel reported that they were working on Eagle Park Phase 1B, which is the amphitheater and some surrounding area. He shared that he, Lori Shipman and Chip Hill looked at some potential grant opportunities to help support the funding of that construction. He reported that Leslee, himself, Rosie and our financial team held conversations regarding what the feasibility for the jail project was and it was not good. He noted, as said from the beginning, we were not going to raise taxes for this project; he was not sure we have the revenue sources to support a bond for that long term but was still working on a couple different things. He reported that they were preparing for Westgate Phase III, the third and final phase of the Westgate subdivision that is scheduled to happen next year. He noted that later this year, there will be a Community Crossings matching grant round that we will apply for that will then hopefully fund a good portion, if not the majority, of Westgate Phase III. He advised he was doing Lunch with the Mayor on Friday and then next Friday is the Employee Appreciation Luncheon from 11:30 to 12:30. He reported that the US 30 PEL Study has now been completed and published on the Propel US 30.com website. He encouraged everyone to take a look at it.

ARTS COMMISSION Jennifer Romano thanked the Indiana Arts Commission for funding their arts camp. She reported that they had 15 kids participate. She shared that there were two open calls for artists with other organizations in the community; the Whitley County Historical Museum is doing Art at the Museum again this year from August 1st to September 26th and then Columbia City Connect is doing a steam rolling art project in September.

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

Mayor Ryan Daniel

Attest:

Clerk Treasurer Leslee Robinson