

BOARD OF WORKS
TUESDAY, JULY 22, 2025
5:00 PM

Mayor Ryan Daniel – Present
Clerk Treasurer Leslee Robinson – Present
Attorney Marcia McNagny - Present
Dan Weigold – Present
Lisa Smith – Present

The Columbia City Board of Works met in regular session with all members present. Mayor Daniel called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

MINUTES Mayor Daniel made a motion to approve the July 8, 2025, meeting minutes as presented. Dan Weigold seconded the motion, motion passed unanimously.

NORTHEASTERN REMC WATER/SEWER USAGE – KEITH SIEVERS Keith Sievers with Northeastern REMC was present to discuss issues they were having with their geothermal units, which was affecting their water usage. He explained it had been about a month ago that they started having issues with the heat exchangers that are buried in a pit across the street from their building. He reported that the CO alarms were going off so they could not safely enter the pit, which delayed repairs for weeks. He advised that once they were finally able to get in the pit, the crews tried to flush the system to breakdown the blockage, but it did not work. He stated that they were now to the point where they have to completely dismantle the equipment and basically rebuild it. He advised in the meantime, they were pumping thousands of gallons of water through their building and questioned if there was any way they could stop the sewer part of it. He advised they were willing to pay for the water they were using, even though they were basically pumping and dumping into a storm drain. He noted that the water was used to keep their geothermal cool; without that they have no AC. Mayor Daniel confirmed the storm drain goes into one of retention ponds out there and none of it is going down the sewer. Mr. Sievers advised that was correct.

Mayor Daniel questioned if they had gotten any kind of adjustment from the utility office. Leslee Robinson advised they have done one adjustment for 30,000 gallons so far. She shared that prior to all of this they were averaging about \$35/day for sewage and at this point they were looking at thousands of dollars.

Mayor Daniel questioned how long they thought it was going to take to get back to normal. Mr. Sievers advised that just for the parts they were looking at 8 -13 weeks and would then have to schedule the repair, so could roughly be 2 months. He stated that he talked to Shambaugh and they were willing to come out and take a look at it to see if they could get things done a little bit quicker.

Mayor Daniel confirmed the request was to approve sewer adjustments for July, at the very least, and obviously for a couple of months as they continue to work on it. Mr. Sievers advised that was correct. Mayor Daniel felt it would probably be valuable to do a comparison every month

when they get a new bill to make the decision on an adjustment. Mr. Sievers advised he would be in contact when the repairs were made.

Dan Weigold questioned if it was being suggested that we adjust the bill back to what their normal usage is. Mayor Daniel shared that his suggestion was to adjust the July sewer bill back to their normal usage, then when the August bill comes up, have Mr. Sievers send an email giving an update on their timeline but also have Leslee bring the new bill to the Board to determine whether or not to make another sewage adjustment at that point. He suggested we do that until the problem is fixed.

Mayor Daniel made a motion to approve a sewage adjustment for the July bill for Northeastern REMC and adjust that bill back to the normal usage. Lisa Smith seconded the motion, motion passed unanimously.

AMPP CONSTRUCTION BID APPROVAL – RECONDUCTORING SR 9 Mayor Daniel shared a report from Shawn Lickey explaining the he was alerted by REMC a couple of weeks ago that work was going to be done on the shared pole line that runs along State Road 9 between 500 North and Bair Road where we rent pole space. He reported that those poles all fell over last spring, causing a prolonged outage for both REMC and our customers. He advised that REMC was able to put the poles back up temporarily but have now hired AMPP Construction to replace the poles permanently. He stated that our lines were under built through that area so were looking to use the same contractor to upgrade our lines while they were there doing work for REMC. Mayor Daniel advised this was obviously fairly urgent because REMC is moving forward. He noted that Shawn had submitted a quote of \$65,830.03; he had done his research and felt it was a fair price.

Mayor Daniel made a motion to approve the project scope with AMPP Construction for \$65,830.03 as presented. Lisa Smith seconded the motion, motion passed unanimously.

PAY REQUEST – BAKERTILLY – COMPREHENSIVE PLAN Mayor Daniel explained this was for the comprehensive rate study for all utilities. He noted there was a study done 3 or 4 years ago but are doing a new study to see if we are meeting those expectations and what the revenue requirements are going to be looking into the future.

Mayor Daniel made a motion to approve invoice number BT 3250048 in the amount of \$8,105.10 as presented. Dan Weigold seconded the motion, motion passed unanimously.

PAY REQUEST – BROOKS CONSTRUCTION – COMMUNITY CROSSINGS Mayor Daniel made a motion to approve Pay Request #1 for the Community Crossings matching grant project in the amount of \$570,662.15 as presented. Dan Weigold seconded the motion, motion passed unanimously.

PAY REQUEST – PULVER ASPHALT PAVING – SOUTH TRAIL EXPANSION Mayor Daniel reported that Chip Hill approved the pay request for the amount of \$86,724.12. He shared that they were still working on a resolution with the railroad crossing; they thought they had an answer but the cost came out to ½ a million and that is not possible. He advised they were working through some different alternative versions with the engineer and also are still working on Main Street.

Mayor Daniel made a motion to approve Engineers Project No. 5251 for Pulver Asphalt Paving in the amount of \$86,724.12 as presented. Lisa Smith seconded the motion, motion passed unanimously.

MEETING DATES – RESCHEDULE Mayor Daniel pointed out that November 11th was Veteran's Day and then December 23rd was the day before Christmas Eve. He noted that we typically move that last meeting in December to a later date so that all the transfers and everything can happen on the Council side but wanted to get the Board's input when looking at the rest of the year. He advised it would be his preference to move the November 11th date, but do not have to.

After some discussion it was decided to follow the dates that Council decides on.

BILLS Lisa Smith made a motion to pay all accounts payable in the amount of \$125,696.80 from the allowance of accounts payable vouchers dated July 22, 2025, for checks. Dan Weigold seconded the motion, motion passed unanimously.

Lisa Smith made a motion to pay all accounts payable in the amount of \$980,835.24 from the allowance of accounts payable vouchers dated July 22, 2025, for EFT payment. Dan Weigold seconded the motion, motion passed unanimously.

PAYROLL Lisa Smith made a motion to pay all accounts payable, except overtime in the amount of \$331,969.66 plus overtime in the amount of \$12,520.83 for a total of \$344,490.49 for the payfile ending 7/11/2025. Dan Weigold seconded the motion, motion passed unanimously.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS **Mike Shoda** - repaired storm drains in Eagle Park and on Columbia Parkway, planning to start on Jeffrey Drive with the water main replacement project. **Mike Cook** – force main project is complete and final pay app will be coming, sludge storage tank is done and parts are on order to do the repairs, on site meeting tomorrow regarding the digester. **Tom LaRue** - breathing air compressor continues to be an issue, latest candidate was released by Public Safety Medical and has moved on to the pension board, Zach and Toby have been working with ESO Software which is a new software regarding incident reporting, Toby is still working with Sierra Wireless, the new fire engine has been moved up and could possibly get it as early as March of next year, Truck 107 has a couple of issues that requires sending it to a dealer to repair. **Kelly Cearbaugh** – update on street paving project, concrete guys poured a section along Whitley Street by Eagle Park, have a couple 50/50 sidewalk projects coming up as well as some concrete work at the end of Whispering Trail in the cul-de-sac, trimming limbs in alleys and will then transition to the streets before school starts. **Mayor Daniel** - shared department reports for Gary Parrett, Chip Hill, Matt Heiden, Terry Wherry and Shawn Lickey.

MAYOR REPORT Mayor Daniel reported that he was working with Gary, Leslee and Sally on some minor policy changes with the police department. He shared that he has been working with the America 250 Committee for the 250th celebration of the United States and will be having a department head meeting to talk about what we really want in the GIS position. He advised that he will be at the Indiana Conference of Mayors next week.

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

Mayor Ryan Daniel

Attest:

Clerk Treasurer Leslee Robinson