

BOARD OF WORKS
TUESDAY, AUGUST 12, 2025
5:00 PM

Mayor Ryan Daniel – Present
Deputy Clerk Treasurer Rosie Coyle – Present
Attorney Marcia McNagny – Present
Daniel Weigold – Present
Lisa Smith – Absent

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

MINUTES Mayor Daniel made a numerical correction under the pay request discussion for Pulver Asphalt.

Mayor Daniel made a motion to approve the July 22, 2025, meeting minutes with the noted change. Dan Weigold seconded the motion, motion passed unanimously.

LAND ACQUISITION – 920 E. VAN BUREN STREET Attorney McNagny explained this was for property owned by U.S. Railroad Vest Corporation, which is not a railroad company but is the name of an owner. She reported that they approached the city about buying this property, which the city currently has utilities on, and accesses the water department. She advised it was about 1.2 acres, and they were able to negotiate a purchase price of \$6,800.00. She explained they just needed approval from the Board of Works to get the purchase accomplished.

Mayor Daniel made a motion to approve the land acquisition for 920 E. Van Buren Street. Dan Weigold seconded the motion, motion passed unanimously.

ENCROACHMENT AGREEMENT – 996 E. HAWTHORN LANE Mayor Daniel questioned if there were any concerns from department heads on this. Kelly Cearbaugh advised they had sanitary sewer along the back of those properties but thought the fence would be north of the sewer.

Rob Wacker with Windsor Homes was now present to discuss the encroachment.

Kelly Cearbaugh questioned the actual placement of the fence. Mr. Wacker explained it would run inside the tree line; the goal was to give some privacy between the apartments and the traditional living.

Shawn Lickey asked that they remain at least 24 inches away on either side of the electric lines back there. He noted there was a primary line that runs along there as well as a secondary that feeds a house there. Mr. Wacker knew there was a transformer down the hill there. He advised they have asked for a quote to install a double gate in front of that transformer so that access can be made to it.

Mr. Wacker noted there was a section on Lot 19 where there is a slope transition between the traditional living neighborhood that they had put rock down and then part of Rolling Hills, the backside of those homes are looking into the rock retaining wall rather than up into somebody's windows. He advised his goal was not to spend a lot but shared that there has been some concern from the neighbors within the Brennan's Addition that people were coming from the apartments into those woods for nefarious purposes so wanted to get the area cleaned up, as well as some line of demarcation so that it is not as easy to just step into the next neighborhood.

Mayor Daniel shared that when encroaching into a utility easement, in the case that we have to access it we will try to contact the homeowner ahead of time and have them take it down but if not, we will take it down as gently as possible but then is on the homeowner to replace it at their expense. Mr. Wacker advised he was fully aware of that.

Kelly Cearbaugh confirmed that the rock in back would be maintained by the homeowner, even though it is in the easement, or right-of-way. Mr. Wacker advised that was correct and the homeowner was aware of that.

Mayor Daniel made a motion to approve 996 E. Hawthorne Lane's encroachment agreement as presented. Dan Weigold seconded the motion, motion passed unanimously.

ENCROACHMENT AGREEMENT – 1004 E. HAWTHORN LANE Mayor Daniel questioned if anyone had additional issues for 1004 E. Hawthorn Lane. There were no concerns presented.

Mayor Daniel made a motion to approve 1004 E. Hawthorne Lane's encroachment agreement as presented. Dan Weigold seconded the motion, motion passed unanimously.

ORDINANCE ABATEMENT – 414 E. SWIHART STREET Gary Parrett reported that Scott Leatherman was at the property today and spoke with C & N Property Management who was there cleaning up the property. He reported the outside was taken care of, so we do not need to proceed with abatement.

Mayor Daniel questioned if a timeframe was given as to when they would have the property cleaned up. Chief Parrett reported they thought within the next week or two. Mayor Daniel requested an update at the next meeting.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE WITHOUT PAY Chip Hill reported that one of his employees had a very severe incident and is requiring treatment. He explained they were estimating six weeks before he could come back to work, and this is just asking for approval for him to take six weeks off and guarantee his employment.

Mayor Daniel shared that this would be unpaid medical leave as he has not been here long enough to accrue sick time. He confirmed his time would not accrue since he will not be here and this basically is just keeping his job. Chip Hill advised that was correct.

Mayor Daniel made a motion to approve the request for leave of absence without pay for a six-week medical leave. Dan Weigold seconded the motion, motion passed unanimously.

STREET CLOSING – 309 S. WALNUT STREET – RETROACTIVE APPROVAL Mayor Daniel explained this was a retroactive street closure for the reroofing of a garage. He shared that he and Gary both reviewed the request and approved it.

Mayor Daniel made a motion to retroactively approve the street closing permit for the alley beside 309 S. Walnut Street. Dan Weigold seconded the motion, motion passed unanimously.

STREET CLOSING – CCHS HOMECOMING PARADE Mayor Daniel noted this was for the homecoming parade and appeared to be the same route as always. He questioned if there were any concerns. No concerns were presented.

Mayor Daniel made a motion to approve the street closing permit for the Columbia City High School homecoming parade on Friday, September 19th as presented. Dan Weigold seconded the motion, motion passed unanimously.

PAY REQUEST #5 & #6 – S & S DIRECTIONAL BORING Mike Cook reported they overlooked submitting Pay App #5 and Pay App #6 is the final one for the force main project. He advised everything was completed with just a little bit of warranty work that was done today. He reported pay app #5 was for the amount of \$104,252.18 and pay app #6 for the amount of \$167,041.90 for a grand total of \$271,294.08. He recommended the Board approve the pay apps as presented.

Mayor Daniel questioned the amount of pay app #6 and if the Balance to Finish number should be \$0 rather than the \$167,041.90 it was showing. Mike Cook felt it should be \$0 since it was the last pay app.

After some discussion, Mayor Daniel suggested they just approve the number they provided and then we will just need to get an updated pay app showing the correct number.

Mayor Daniel made a motion to approve pay application for S & S Directional Boring in the amount of \$104,252.18. Dan Weigold seconded the motion, motion passed unanimously.

Mayor Daniel made a motion to approve pay app #6 for S & S Directional Boring in the amount of \$167,041.90 as presented. Dan Weigold seconded the motion, motion passed unanimously.

PAY REQUEST #9 AND #10 - EAGLE PARK PHASE 1A – SCHENKEL Chip Hill reported these were the final two pay applications for Eagle Park Phase 1A. He advised the first one was for the amount of \$50,543.80 and then they had to come back and put a couple connector sidewalks in and some railing which left our final pay at \$14,231.65. He noted there was a \$6,000 savings in the project.

Mayor Daniel questioned the trees and plants that were dying. Chip Hill reported those were part of the warranty work and separate from the retainage. He advised it has been documented, and everybody was aware of it.

Mayor Daniel made a motion to approve Contractors Pay Application #9 for Schenkel Construction Inc. in the amount of \$50,543.80. Dan Weigold seconded the motion, motion passed unanimously.

Mayor Daniel made a motion to pay Contractors Payment for Application #10 for Schenkel Construction, Inc. in the amount of \$14,231.65 as presented. Dan Weigold seconded the motion, motion passed unanimously.

BILLS Dan Weigold made a motion to approve the bills dated August 12th in the amount of \$1,540,457.60. Mayor Daniel seconded the motion, motion passed unanimously.

Dan Weigold made a motion to approve the EFT payments for August 12th in the amount of \$541,604.92. Mayor Daniel seconded the motion, motion passed unanimously.

Dan Weigold made a motion to approve meter deposits for July in the amount of \$3,301.70. Mayor Daniel seconded the motion, motion passed unanimously.

PAYROLL Dan Weigold made a motion to approve payroll for August 1, 2025, except overtime, in the amount of \$307,023.73 and overtime in the amount of \$7,434.98. Mayor Daniel seconded the motion, motion passed unanimously.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS **Chip Hill** – update on Blue River Trail. **Gary Parrett** – update on hiring process for the three open positions, Officer Sturgess graduating from the academy on August 22nd, SRO's preparing for the start of school, Deputy Chief Anderson did a fraud and scams presentation at Saint Paul of The Cross for the Edward Jones Woll Group, Wheels of Whitley County event went well, Rachel Eppenbaugh was selected as the second shift lead for Dispatch. **Shawn Lickey** – update on utility pole replacement project, working with engineers on replacing transmission poles on Radio Road, had discussions with the county about how things were going with the fuel pumps, trip to New York with IMPA Executive Board, update on supplier rate increases, working on quotes to replace their tree truck. **Matt Heiden** – JFL practices started, with school starting they lost all of their summer part time help which is why the pool is only open the next two weekends, the plaque for the SDI bridge which is the bridge that goes over to Kroger's has finally been placed. **Kelly Cearbaugh** - Three Rivers Barricade finished up striping downtown, concrete guys finished up a 50/50 sidewalk last week, still trimming along the streets and signs. **Mike Shoda** - repaired storms drains this week, will start flushing hydrants next week and will last several weeks. **Terry Wherry** – Eagle Park cameras and sign are up and running, installed new cloud-based UPS's in all of the outside locations except for wastewater. **Mike Cook** – sludge storage tank repairs completed, Dystor project starts on Monday, meet with IDEM representatives to discuss ammonia issues. **Tom LaRue** - Zach and Toby continue to work on the ESO Software project, Toby is still working with Sierra Wireless, new candidate Landon Timm was approved through the state and will be starting September 8, still working with Convoy Technologies about the camera system on Truck 107 however just a little bit of a delay because they had to take 107 to Indianapolis to Fire Systems Incorporated for some minor repairs, still working with Kroger on a Stuff the Truck hunger drive event for September.

MAYOR REPORT Mayor Daniel reported we will be switching over to live stream on YouTube starting in September so will be live streaming straight to YouTube rather on Facebook. He explained it was due to policy changes with Facebook. He reported he went through a couple of different workshops last week, had the ribbon cutting for Mission 25 and will be starting budget meetings.

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

Mayor Ryan Daniel

Attest:

Deputy Clerk Treasurer Rosie Coyle