

COMMON COUNCIL
TUESDAY, AUGUST 12, 2025
6:00 PM

Mayor Ryan Daniel – Present
Deputy Clerk Treasurer Rosie Coyle – Present
Attorney Marcia McNagny

Council Members

Brent Bockelman – Present
Jennifer Middleton – Present
Jennifer Romano – Present
Tad Varga – Present
Dan Weigold – Present

The Columbia City Common Council met in regular session with all members present. Mayor Daniel called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. All stood to say the Pledge of Allegiance.

MINUTES Jennifer Romano made a motion to approve the July 22, 2025, meeting minutes as presented. Tad Varga seconded the motion, motion passed unanimously.

2006 WATER BOND PAYOFF Rosie Coyle shared that she put information in the agenda packet regarding the payoff of our 2006 water bond. She reported that, according to our accountant Buzz Krohn, the city has enough money in the debt reserve account to pay off our 2006 bond. She explained that fund is mainly used as a backup for our bonds in case we were short money in our bond fund. She reported the amount due is \$186,000.00. She advised that Attorney McNagny has checked with Ice Miller, and she has checked with the bank, and they are all good with proceeding with paying it off. She shared the savings to the water department would be about \$198,000.00 by paying it off early.

Mayor Daniel explained, because we have that ability to pay it off, there is sort of extra money that we can utilize to help their general operating fund. He noted that any time we can pay off bonds early, that is a positive thing.

Tad Varga made a motion to approve paying off the water bonds from 2006 early. Jennifer Middleton seconded the motion, motion passed unanimously.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS **Chip Hill** - Eagle Park is all but finished just need to wrap up a couple of documents, Blue River Trail is about 95% complete and still have to deal with the railroad crossing, working with our new Code Enforcement Coordinator to take care of some issues. **Gary Parrett** – update on hiring process and have three positions open, Officer Sturgess will be graduating from the academy on August 22nd, SRO's are gearing up and very excited to get back in the schools on Friday, Rachel Eppenbaugh was selected for the second shift Dispatch lead position, Deputy Chief Anderson did a scam and fraud presentation at St. Paul of the Cross for the Edward Jones Woll Group, Wheels of Whitley County event went well. **Shawn Lickey** - continue with the utility pole replacement project, continue putting together the Radio Road transmission line project, talked with the county about how things were going with the use of

their fuel tanks, flew out to New York City with the IMPA Executive group to talk with bonding agencies about IMPA's successes and their future plans, bucket truck delivery has been pushed back but hope to have it before the end of the year, getting quotes for a new bucket truck that will be used for tree cutting and line work. **Matt Heiden** – JFL practices have started, lost all of their summer seasonal help so pool will only be open for the next two weekends, placed plaque at the SDI bridge which is the one that goes across the river to Demoney Grimes and Kroger's. **Kelly Cearbaugh** - Three Rivers Barricade finished up street striping, concrete guys finished another 50/50 sidewalk, have a couple buried manholes that need to be raised over in Brennan's Addition, still trimming along streets and signs, Pavement Solutions will be coming in to do some work on the streets. **Mike Shoda** - working on storm drains, will be flushing hydrants. **Terry Wherry** - finished up at Eagle Park with the camera system and public Wi-Fi, . have one more camera to install that will be centered on the swing area, installed new cloud-based UPS's at most of our outside locations, sign at Eagle Park is up and running. **Mike Cook** – sludge storage tank repairs complete, Dystor project starting on Monday, converted one of the aeration tanks into an aerobic digester so they have a place to put the sludge, meeting with IDEM on ammonia issues. **Tom LaRue** - Zach and Toby are still working with ESO Software Company, Toby is still working with Sierra Wireless, Landon Timm was approved through the State and will be starting September 8th, still working with Convoy Technology about putting a camera system on Truck 107, took Truck 107 down to Indianapolis for some repairs, working on a State initiative through the State Fire Marshal's office to do a Fill a Truck event for local food banks in September.

CLERK TREASURER REPORT Deputy Clerk Treasurer Rosie Coyle reported that Leslee Robinson was attending the Clerk's Convention/State Board of Accounts school. She advised that the State Board of Accounts was at City Hall and started the audit for 2023-2024. She shared that Mayor, Leslee and she have been working on budgets.

MAYOR REPORT Mayor Daniel reported the biggest thing right now was the budget and shared that Rosie has been going through and looking to see where we were a little high. He thought the original estimate of what we needed to cut was \$400,000.00. Rosie Coyle reminded everyone that we always go in high because the assessed valuation really affects our tax rate, and we do not want to lose any revenue that we could get. Mayor Daniel shared that he had Ashley pull every city tax rate across the State of Indiana and out of the 120 cities, Columbia City had the ninth lowest city tax rate. He asked Council to keep that in mind as we continue to try to make Columbia City a great place to live, work, play, and build a future together.

Mayor Daniel shared that he had the opportunity to be a part of the Mission 25 ribbon-cutting ceremony. He reported they had a great turnout and shared that the space is really, really cool. He reminded Council that we contributed our opioid dollars to them for programmatic purposes and for addiction recovery services; our money did not go towards building their building. He noted that because of some of the changes in policy on Facebook, starting in September, we would be doing our live broadcasts of city meetings on YouTube rather than Facebook.

ART COMMISSION Jennifer Romano reported that the Art Commission's studio art tour is scheduled for September 6th from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. and at First Friday they will be having Arts Around the Square.

REDEVELOPMENT COMMISSION Tad Varga reported the Redevelopment Commission met and have a lot of things going on, but nothing to report. He shared a lot is pending and they are waiting to hear from the state on some testing.

ORDINANCE COMMITTEE Tad Varga reported the Ordinance Committee met and worked on some ordinance revisions as well as a couple new ones. He shared that Attorney McNagny would be bringing those to Council in the next month or so.

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

Mayor Ryan Daniel

Attest:

Deputy Clerk Treasurer Rosie Coyle