

BOARD OF WORKS
TUESDAY, AUGUST 26, 2025
5:00 PM

Mayor Ryan Daniel – Present
Clerk Treasurer Leslee Robinson – Present
Attorney Marcia McNagny – Present
Daniel 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 August 12, 2025, meeting minutes as presented. Dan Weigold seconded the motion, Mayor Daniel and Dan Weigold approved. Lisa Smith abstained.

UPDATE ON REMC SEWAGE USAGE Mayor Daniel reminded the Board that about a month ago, Keith Sievers with Northeastern REMC was before the Board to request a sewage adjustment. He shared that they were having some major issues and were using a lot of water, but the water was not going into the sewer. He assumed they were requesting another month's adjustment. Leslee Robinson advised that was correct and felt it probably would continue until early October before they get the issue fixed.

Mayor Daniel confirmed with Leslee that she was comfortable with doing another sewer adjustment. She advised she was. He questioned the Board's feelings. Dan Weigold advised he was fine with it as the water was not going into our system. Lisa Smith agreed and noted their communication efforts.

Mayor Daniel made a motion to grant a sewage adjustment for Northeastern REMC for an additional month for the September billing.

Dan Weigold questioned if they needed to approve a certain number of gallons. He stated that they approved 30,000 last time. Leslee Robinson thought that to be the average usage.

Mayor Daniel added to his motion to approve that adjustment for the September billing. Lisa Smith seconded the motion, motion passed unanimously.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST STATEMENT – TAD VARGA Leslee Robinson explained the State Board of Accounts was in performing their audit and suggested since Tad's business has been a prior vendor and could be a vendor of the city at any given time in the future, they felt we needed to have a conflict of interest form on file for him, and we currently do not.

Mayor Daniel made a motion to approve the uniform conflict of interest disclosure statement for Tad Varga as presented. Dan Weigold seconded the motion, motion passed unanimously.

STREET CLOSING REQUEST - KELLY'S WHITLEY COUNTY

SKELETON FESTIVAL Gary Parrett thought the closing to be the same as last year. Mayor Daniel noted the festival was for October 18th from 2 to 7 p.m. with the actual street closure from 11:45 a.m. to 8 p.m. He mentioned that the department heads have all signed off on it.

Mayor Daniel made a motion to approve Kelly's Whitley County Skeleton Festival 2025 as presented. Lisa Smith seconded the motion, motion passed unanimously.

STREET CLOSING REQUEST – 215 W. VAN BUREN - PARKING STALLS

– RETROACTIVE APPROVAL Mayor Daniel reported this was a retroactive approval for the replacement of second story windows on the Shoes and Moore building. He noted that he and Gary approved a couple of parking spaces. Gary Parrett advised that they ended up needing 3 spaces.

Mayor Daniel made a motion to approve the street closing permit retroactively for the Shoes and Moore building at 215 West Van Buren Street. Dan Weigold seconded the motion, motion passed unanimously.

STREET CLOSING REQUEST – 171 LOWELL STREET – DUMPSTER

PLACEMENT Mayor Daniel noted this was in the Westgate Subdivision and explained that Mr. White was cleaning out his house and garage. He had questioned why the dumpster could not be placed in the drive and reported that the reason was because the drive is brand new and they did not want to damage the concrete as well as the angle of the drive was an issue. He advised there needed to be cones placed around the dumpster.

Mayor Daniel made a motion to approve the street closing permit for 171 Lowell Street as presented with the caveat of making sure cones are in front and behind. Lisa Smith seconded the motion, motion passed unanimously.

BILLS Lisa Smith made a motion to pay all accounts payable in the amount of \$573,938.01 from the allowance of accounts payable vouchers dated August 26, 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 \$1,590,263.31 from the allowance of accounts payable vouchers dated August 26, 2025, for EFT payment. Dan Weigold seconded the motion, motion passed unanimously.

Lisa Smith made a motion to pay all accounts payable in the amount of \$3,137.24 from the allowance of accounts payable vouchers dated August 26, 2025, for meter deposit. 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 \$309,400.24 plus overtime in the amount of \$12,819.98 for a total of \$322,220.22 for the pay file ending August 8, 2025. Dan Weigold seconded the motion, motion passed unanimously.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS **Shawn Lickey** - still changing out polls, conducted underground utility locating training for the guys, at our highest meter count at 5,020 meters which is showing signs of growth. **Chip Hill** – trail is about 95% complete, working on the concept of the amphitheater at Eagle Park. **Matt Heiden** - pool closed last weekend, JFL games will start after Labor Day, September 13th is the LifeWise pickleball tournament, replacing the doors at the trailhead bathrooms. **Gary Parrett** – update on hiring process, Officer Sturgess graduated from the academy this past Friday, there has been significant progress on the 414 East Swihart Street property, update on siren installation for the tornado sirens, gearing up for First Friday and Movie on the Square in September, Detective Campbell and Detective Cook have submitted their resignation letters and will be returning to road patrol. **Terry Wherry** – working on 4 new computers and day to day computer issues. **Mike Shoda** - still flushing hydrants, found issue in Well 9 that was causing air in the lines and brown water, started cleaning and rebuilding the pump and motor today; cost should be around \$65,000. **Mike Cook** - had a meeting with IDEM last week and continue to work through those issues, update on Dystor project and sludge hauling.

MAYOR REPORT Mayor Daniel shared that he was still working on the former jail. He stated, as mentioned in the past, the numbers came in much higher than expected and it was a situation where we probably would have had to raise taxes to do the project. He advised he was not going to do that and felt it was fair to say our council would not support that. He felt the next step was to work with the Redevelopment Commission to do request for proposals from private developers and try to work with them in that regard to try and redevelop that property. He advised he would have loved to have done the project they had planned for, but it just was not in the cards as things are just way too expensive right now plus our revenue is going down because of Senate Enrolled Act 1. He felt there still may be an opportunity, depending on what developer would be picked, to still have the police department in there.

He reminded everyone that city offices would be closed on Monday for Labor Day. He advised they would be having the first youth council meeting tomorrow and he will be out of the office on Thursday for an AIM event down in Indianapolis. He discussed the transition of our city meetings to YouTube rather than going live through Facebook. He shared that the 3rd graders would be visiting City Hall.

PLANNING AND BUILDING UPDATES – NATHAN BILGER Nathan Bilger shared that they were expecting a couple of plats, one minor plat and one major plat, to be filed in the next month or two. He stated that one was for Walmart, and one was potentially for the area north of Walmart. He reported that Valvoline was still planning to move forward but they were just really moving slowly in getting their plans together. Mayor Daniel confirmed that was going where the former Bob Evans restaurant was. Nathan advised that was correct.

Mayor Daniel explained that the city does not get to decide what goes into Bob Evans. He advised the property was zoned General Business so anything within the general business category could go into that building, whether it be a restaurant, an oil change place, or whatever the case is. He shared that, regardless, it was new business in the community and looks forward to welcoming them.

MOU WITH WCCS – SRO Gary Parrett reported that they were able to get a 5-year agreement signed with the school. He advised that Attorney McNaghy looked over it and had a few changes. Mayor Daniel assumed it was a continuation of the contract. He stated that if there were no major changes, he was not too concerned about it but requested it be put on the next meeting agenda just to have a vote of ratification since it was committing to 5 years.

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

Mayor Ryan Daniel

Attest:

Clerk Treasurer Leslee Robinson