

COMMON COUNCIL
FRIDAY, OCTOBER 24, 2025
1:00 PM

Mayor Ryan Daniel – Present
Clerk Treasurer Leslee Robinson – Present
Attorney Marcia McNagny – Absent

Council Members

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

The Columbia City Common Council met in special session with all members present. Mayor Daniel called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m. All stood to say the Pledge of Allegiance.

PUBLIC HEARING - 2026 BUDGET Mayor Daniel apologized for the change in schedule. He explained there was a little issue with our financial consultant and getting the excess levy information around that was passed at the last meeting.

Mayor Daniel mentioned that the budget has been talked about in the past and ultimately, with Senate Enrolled Act 1, our revenues were planned to be less than what this year had been. He felt because of the excess levy appeal, we were able to balance that out a little bit to be about where we were this year; however, it does not really leave room for major increases. He shared that during the budgeting process, he went to all of the department heads and requested a ‘needs’ and ‘wants’ list, with most of the ‘wants’ not getting in and some of the ‘needs’ did not even get in. He added that we do not have any planned wage increases for employees because of that. He stated that wage increases were huge and even a 50-cent raise ends up being like \$100,000, just to give some perspective. He advised to keep in mind that we are still keeping the performance bonuses and the wellness bonuses, but from a wage perspective, we just were not able to do it. He reported that there were some other things they had to cut and some money that had to be moved around but ultimately are able to fund the majority of the things that we are planning to fund. He shared, as a couple of side notes, that we are hoping to get Community Crossings again this year, if we can. He advised that the totality of that has been shrunk from like \$200 million to \$100 million as there are a lot of communities that are coming in at the same time. He hoped because we are on top of the game when it comes to our Title VI and ADA Accessibility Plan that the state requires that we are in a good spot that way. He shared that it was the hope to utilize those dollars for the Westgate Phase 3 project. He stated that, nevertheless, he felt that next year was going to be a bit of a lean year. He advised there was a lot of conversation with the legislature regarding local income taxes and making up for the revenues that are lost. He fully believed that some of the SEA1 will be changed in this next legislative session.

Mayor Daniel recessed the Common Council meeting and opened the floor for a public hearing.

Hearing no comments or questions about the budget, Mayor Daniel concluded the public hearing

and reopened the Council meeting.

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

Mayor Ryan Daniel

Attest:

Clerk Treasurer Leslee Robinson