

**COMMON COUNCIL
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 25, 2025
6:00 P.M.**

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

Council Members

Brent Bockelman – Present
Jennifer Romano – Present
Jennifer Middleton – Present
Tad Varga – Present
Daniel 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 Mayor Daniel noted a couple spelling corrections.

Jennifer Romano made a motion to approve the November 12, 2025 meeting minutes as corrected. Tad Varga seconded the motion, Brent Bockelman, Jennifer Romano, Tad Varga and Dan Weigold approved, Jennifer Middleton abstained.

ORDINANCE 2025-21 – 2026 SALARY ORDINANCE – 2nd READING

Jennifer Middleton made a motion to read Ordinance 2025-21 by title only. Brent Bockelman seconded the motion, motion passed unanimously. Clerk Treasurer Leslee Robinson read Ordinance 2025-21, an ordinance to be known as the 2026 Salary Range and Benefit Ordinance.

Mayor Daniel reminded the Council that Mike Shoda had some concerns regarding one of the salary ranges in the water department. He advised Mike reviewed those and made changes. He explained it was just to bring parity to the wage scale with other plant operators and others in our organization.

Leslee Robinson advised she updated communication department hours to 1952, as discussed at the last meeting.

Jennifer Romano suggested for consistency purposes, under the probationary firefighter (1 year), there needed to be a comma between the numbers 2 and 3 in the salary, to make it the same as everywhere else. Mayor Daniel advised the correction could be made.

Brent Bockelman made a motion to approve Ordinance 2025-21 with the noted changes. Jennifer Romano seconded the motion, motion passed unanimously.

ORDINANCE 2025-22 – ELECTED OFFICIALS SALARY ORDINANCE

Tad Varga made a motion to read Ordinance 2025-22 by title only. Jennifer Middleton seconded the motion, motion passed unanimously. Clerk Treasurer Leslee Robinson read Ordinance 2025-22, an ordinance fixing the annual salaries of all elected officials of the City of Columbia City, Indiana, effective December 27, 2025 for the year 2026.

Jennifer Middleton made a motion to approve Ordinance 2025-22 on second reading. Jennifer Romano seconded the motion, motion passed unanimously.

ORDINANCE 2025-24 – AMENDMENT TO CHAPTER 96 – PARKS

DEPARTMENT Tad Varga made a motion to read Ordinance 2025-24 by title only. Brent Bockelman seconded the motion, motion passed unanimously. Clerk Treasurer Leslee Robinson read Ordinance 2025-24, an ordinance amending

Chapter 96, Parks Department of Title IX of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Columbia City, Indiana.

Mayor Daniel reminded the Council that this just exempts the pool and splash pad from the swimming prohibition that is in the parks code.

Brent Bockelman made a motion to approve Ordinance 2025-24 on second reading. Jennifer Romano seconded the motion, motion passed unanimously.

MAYOR REPORT Mayor Daniel shared department reports from Matt Heiden, Gary Parrett, Mike Shoda, Terry Wherry, Kelly Cearbaugh and Mike Cook.

Mayor Daniel reported that he was in Salt Lake City for the National League of Cities Summit Conference. He shared that he was able to interact with a lot of different mayors and council members from communities of different sizes and had good conversations about downtown livability, economic development, workforce development, and even education. He advised they were still working on multiple projects including the trail crossing at the railroad. He reported they were still waiting on Community Crossings in terms of the Westgate Phase 3 project and RFP's were going out for the jail property. He reminded the Board that City Hall would be closed Thursday and Friday for Thanksgiving.

LIGHTED CHRISTMAS PARADE Jennifer Romano reported that the lighted Christmas parade is Friday with lineup starting at 5:15 pm at the Marshall Building. She advised that they have a lot of participants this year, including some new ones.

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

Mayor Ryan Daniel

Attest:

Clerk Treasurer Leslee Robinson