

## **COLUMBIA CITY REDEVELOPMENT COMMISSION MINUTES**

**January 13, 2026**

Members present:           President Commissioner Carl Siler  
                                  Vice President Commissioner Scott Gates  
                                  Commissioner Tad Varga

Members absent:           Secretary Commissioner Angela Cotter  
                                  Commissioner Samara Thompson  
                                  Commissioner David Smith (Ex-Officio)

Also in attendance:       Community Development Director Chip Hill  
                                  CCRDC Attorney Greg Hockemeyer  
                                  Mayor Ryan Daniel  
                                  Whitley County EDC President Dale Buuck

President Siler called the meeting to order and asked for a motion to approve the December minutes. Commissioner Varga made a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Vice President Gates. A vote was taken; all voted aye.

### **Old Business-**

**LML Property** – There are no updates regarding this topic.

**Van Buren/Washington Streets Site** – There are no updates regarding this topic.

**Former Jail Property** – Mayor Daniel said we've only had one proposal so far. Mayor has had discussions with Veridus Group regarding developer outreach, and Veridus Group recommended we cancel the current RFP and create a new one. They also suggested the property be quick claimed from the City of Columbia City to the Columbia City Redevelopment Commission. Commissioner Varga made a motion to accept the parcel where the former jail was located, seconded by Vice President Gates. A vote was taken; all voted aye.

**Smith Brothers Property** – Vice President Gates made a motion to allow President Siler to look for appraisers for the property, seconded by Commissioner Varga. A vote was taken; all voted aye.

**Grant Building: Façade Grant Payment Request** – A request for payment form was reviewed from the owners of the Grant Building. Commissioner Varga made a motion to issue payment for \$3000 to the owners of the Grant Building, seconded by Vice President Gates. A vote was taken; all voted aye.

### **New Business-**

**Other Business-**

**Nomination of Officers** – Commissioner Varga made a motion to keep Carl Siler as President, Scott Gates as Vice President, and Angela Cotter as Secretary, seconded by Vice President Gates. A vote was taken; all voted aye.

**Dale Buuck** – Dale met with someone who is interested in a loan for a downtown project. It was mentioned that David Smith would be the best contact regarding the RDC's Revolving Loan Program.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:27pm.

*Submitted by Ashley Buckles, Executive Assistant to the Mayor*