

**BOARD OF WORKS  
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 2026  
5:00 PM**

Mayor Ryan Daniel – Present  
Clerk Treasurer Leslee Robinson – Present  
Attorney Marcia McNagny – Absent  
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 noted that under the Youth Council discussion, Kylah's name was spelled incorrectly. Hearing no other corrections, Mayor Daniel made a motion to approve the minutes with the noted change. Lisa Smith seconded the motion, motion passed unanimously.

**ENCROACHMENT AGREEMENT – 782 W. BUSINESS 30 – GOLDWOOD**

Max and Jane Goldwood were present to request permission to encroach in the easement at the back of their property at 782 W. Business 30.

Dan Weigold advised he went out and researched it himself, as well as talked to the Plan Commission and the Drainage Board. He noted there was a 40 ft. easement on one side and 10 ft. on the other but was unsure if there were any utilities in the back. Mr. Goldwood advised there were transformers back there and Kelly Cearbaugh advised there was sanitary sewer that ran back there. He stated that he told Max they could meet out there and flag the sewer to see where the center of it was. He advised it was usually 15 ft. each way of the line.

Mayor Daniel advised he would like to give Kelly an opportunity to meet with Mr. Goldwood out there to look at where the line is and make sure there is plenty of clearance, if the Board would be okay with that, and then bring the issue back. He did not feel Mr. Goldwood would need to be present for that meeting unless there is an issue, but that would be decided by Kelly and Mr. Goldwood when they get there to have that conversation.

Dan Weigold questioned if there was electric back there too. Chip Hill advised there was, but it was REMC territory.

Mayor Daniel made a motion to table this and have Kelly bring back a recommendation at the next Board of Works meeting. Dan Weigold seconded the motion, motion passed unanimously.

**STREET CLOSING REQUEST - FAMILY SAFETY FESTIVAL** Mayor Daniel stated, as talked about at City Retreat, there has been a call by some of the downtown businesses to really be cognizant of how much space is taken up for these events. He advised he worked with his assistant, Ashley, to condense the Family Safety Festival to just the 100 block of West Van Buren Street, which will still leave Chauncey Street open. He mentioned that the 100 block of South Chauncey will probably still have the Farmer's Market going on but as for the safety festival they will not go into the 200 block.

Lisa Smith made a motion to approve the street closing for the Family Safety Festival on September 26. Dan Weigold seconded the motion, motion passed unanimously.

**STREET CLOSING PERMIT FEE DISCUSSION** Leslee Robinson explained that an ordinance to adopt a fee for street closings will be presented at city council

tonight. She shared that given the fact that the city is starting to get street closing permits for activities, she wanted to have some general discussion to figure out, knowing that this will be the first year with a fee, what we wanted the fee to look like from the perspective of if the event organizer will have restrooms available to where patrons may not be using our facilities as much. She mentioned that maybe Nadine and Troy would not need to come in as often. She advised she would like to get the Board's thoughts so that the fee can be put in place once everything has been finalized.

Dan Weigold questioned if the city gets reimbursed for police protection or all the stuff that we contribute to the events now. Leslee Robinson shared that right now we get nothing. She advised that Columbia City Connect has agreed they will reimburse us. She reported that we had some issues in the restrooms last year that took quite a bit of Nadine's time to come in and clean so have made arrangements with them that they will pay us \$400 for their events during the summer, which comes out to around \$63 per event. She advised that will go towards covering Nadine's time to come in on her off time, and then also for supplies. She noted that the county is doing the exact same thing; anything after hours, they are asking for the vendors or whomever is putting on the event to help offset the cost. She noted that Old Settler's does already reimburse us.

Dan Weigold questioned Chip Hill, with working with the different organizations, what his feeling was. Chip Hill personally felt it was great PR for the police; however, as a Columbia City Connect member, did not think they had ever requested police be present. He did not think we had ever had an issue but felt it was great public relations for them to be there as well as was great quality of life to bring Columbia City Connect and First Friday's downtown. He felt there had to be some give and take. Dan Weigold agreed there was nothing better than what we have going on downtown, he was just trying to get a feeling for how these organizations feel about it. Chip Hill advised that it has not been well taken when he has suggested they may have to pay for police to be present. He mentioned that, in essence, they were mostly all non-profit organizations. Dan Weigold understood, but at the same time, it was costing us. Mayor Daniel advised it was costing the taxpayers. He totally understood as well and felt that what Columbia City Connect has been able to work out was a good model, because it does help us at least cover some of the costs. He felt our fee would be exorbitant if we were to cover all the cost of our police, the staffing, the trash and all the stuff, but it helps if we can recoup a portion of that. He questioned if the temporary electric fee was on top of the permit fee. Leslee Robinson advised it was.

Mayor Daniel suggested charging based on the number of blocks requested to be closed, maybe \$20 per block. He was not sure how we would handle half block requests but then wondered if we even offer half blocks. He commented that bathrooms were a big deal for us, but we have different events and different things to consider. He mentioned that the Veterans Marathon brings in a whole bunch of port-a-johns, which we did have use of our bathrooms, but not as extensive. Dan Weigold commented that it was hard not to overcomplicate things. Mayor Daniel agreed and was why he thought if we just go by block, it would be really easy to calculate, for instance, with the Family Safety Festival, the request is for one block, so we would charge \$20. Lisa Smith advised she liked that idea because it would also help with the prior issue of being cognizant of space being taken up.

Chief Parrett felt his guys do enjoy being at the events but with Old Settlers and Veterans Marathon they bring a lot of extra guys in for those events. He mentioned, as discussed at the retreat, the possibility of bringing guys in on overtime if the event organizers want police presence at their event; he reiterated that the guys usually do walkthroughs and stuff like that anyways. He advised his only suggestion would be to charge \$25, because a lot of our ordinances have that

as a fee. Mayor Daniel felt that was fair and suggested the Board would still have the ability to say, based on the presentation, whether the event could really maybe fit into two or three blocks.

Tom LaRue questioned if they were taking into consideration parade's as well. Mayor Daniel did not think those were contemplated in the ordinance that is being discussed. Chief LaRue advised for his department with the Old Settlers wash downs, and parade details, he felt those were the ones that really cost the city money.

Dan Weigold questioned if the money being generated would be enough to even make a difference. Mayor Daniel felt if we make it make a difference, then it may actually prevent people from having something downtown.

Chief Parrett commented to Leslee's point, not only does Nadine have to come in and clean the bathrooms, but we also have the water usage, which then attributes to the sewage cost. Mayor Daniel added that there is also barricades and those get beat up getting put up and taken down continuously. Kelly Cearbaugh agreed they take a beating in addition to the time and people it takes.

Mayor Daniel mentioned, to Gary's point, if \$25 is in our code in other places, maybe that makes the most sense. He did feel like we needed to make it clear in some way that if the request is to take the 100 and 200 blocks of South Chauncey and the 100 block of West Van Buren, then they have to take the 200 block of West Van Buren too because from a driving standpoint, it would have to be blocked off anyway. He advised that was going to be one of those challenges, as there are some strong opinions in that 200 block of West Van Buren that he wants to be respectful of, but also from a traffic flow standpoint, we cannot have people dead ending there either. Chief Parrett suggested we could make some sort of sign that states 'local traffic only'. He stated that cars could still get in there and turn around.

Kelly Cearbaugh questioned if we were getting business owners input on these decisions. Mayor Daniel felt that was a good idea, although did not think we would get a consistent message among all the businesses, but felt it was important to keep them in mind and take the concerns that have been brought to us into consideration.

Leslee Robinson shared, to reiterate from her perspective, it was not to push these events out of downtown by any means, it is just to offset some of the additional expenses that we are incurring. She advised that we love having them downtown, but City Hall is the only facility that is open for the public to come in to, and we are paying for the majority of it. She felt it important that we at least recoup some of that expense.

Mayor Daniel commented that these were some of the things that we have to have conversations about now because of the fact that we are being hamstrung by legislative changes. He explained that when property taxes get cut, that means revenue coming to the city also gets cut and we have to make hard decisions like this. He questioned how to move forward on this. Leslee Robinson suggested taking some time to think on it for a couple weeks. She asked Chip Hill to maybe make contact with the downtown business to get their input.

**BILLS** Lisa Smith made a motion to pay all accounts payable in the amount of \$145,037.23 from the allowance of accounts payable vouchers dated February 24, 2026 for checks. Dan Weigold seconded the motion, motion passed unanimously.

Lisa Smith made a motion to pay all accounts payable in the amount of

\$1,137,142.83 from the allowance of accounts payable vouchers dated February 24, 2026 for EFT payments. 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 \$282,175.44 plus overtime in the amount of \$14,066.42 for a total of \$296,241.86 for the pay file ending February 6, 2026. Dan Weigold seconded the motion, motion passed unanimously.

**DEPARTMENT REPORTS** **Kelly Cearbaugh** – snow removal, leaf grinding, street sweeping, road and sign maintenance, had the camera truck out trying to verify tap locations. **Tom LaRue** – testing out some Motorola 800 radios, update on Truck 101 repairs, Live Burn Day held last Tuesday and went very well, they are still waiting for the breathing air compressor computer to get back after being flashed, Fire Instructor II class is complete which was in conjunction with the Live Burn Day last Tuesday, replaced three of their four overhead door openers. **Matt Heiden** - Park Board reviewed estimates for the dog park fencing, Baseball/Softball sign up going on until March 7<sup>th</sup>, received the pool pump back last week and should be installed soon, the guys have been working on the Dreamland Pavilion changing out lights and locks, hopefully going to start renting that pavilion out in March, having a contractor come in to look at the pool to get costs to repair some of the tiles. **Gary Parrett** – update on new officers, the Lego event was a huge success, and the officers had a great time. **Mike Shoda** – aeration fan out to be rebuilt, ordered replacement booster pump and will have current pump rebuilt, requested permission to fill open position, GLO furnishing a crew to assist with the lead and copper project and will not cost us anything. Board approved moving forward with hiring process. **Mike Cook** – Dystor patch is done, received roof quotes for the office building and will be reviewing those, made contact with our contract lab as well as our engineer from Donahue on the ammonia issues that they are still having periodically and have asked both firms to give a narrative on where we are at so he can submit that to the state. **Chip Hill** – still working to get the jail survey done, Smith Brothers and the parking lot, working on the SRF for getting the lead lines replaced, had a long call with the EPA this week over Wayne Waste as they are trying to add on PFAS testing and dioxide testing, the amphitheater is moving forward and the surveys should be done next week, tree letters are going out and will hopefully be cutting trees this spring.

**CLERK TREASURER REPORT** Leslee Robinson reminded the Board that at retreat she talked about working to bring some of the software systems together. She reported that she spoke with Parker at BS & A and are shooting for March 24<sup>th</sup> for them to come in to do an all-day event that will entail two-hour segments of their different programs. She advised she would have the appropriate departments involved so that they can look at it to see if it is something that we move forward with. She reported that she has been working with Trevor at STAR Bank to again, see if we can consolidate some of our systems that we are using. She shared that in two weeks she will be down in Plainfield for the Indiana League of Municipal Clerks and Treasurers Institute and Academy.

**MAYOR REPORT** Mayor Daniel reported that they were working on multiple things from a larger perspective. He advised he has Youth Council on Thursday, Friday is Mayor's Roundtable and as a reminder the State of the City address is March 13<sup>th</sup> at the library.

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

Attest:

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Mayor Ryan Daniel

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Clerk Treasurer Leslee Robinson