

**BOARD OF WORKS
TUESDAY, MARCH 10, 2026
5:00 P.M.**

Mayor Ryan Daniel – Present
Deputy Clerk Treasurer Sally Wherry – 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 February 27, 2026 meeting minutes as presented. Dan Weigold seconded the motion, motion passed unanimously.

ENCROACHMENT AGREEMENT – 608 FAIRVIEW COURT – KEPLINGER/DUNN
There was no one present to talk on this matter.

ENCROACHMENT AGREEMENT - 782 W BUSINESS 30 – GOLDWOOD Mayor Daniel noted this was taken into consideration at the last meeting. He shared that since then, Kelly Cearbaugh met with the Goldwood's and was able to get everything worked out. He confirmed with Kelly that he was ok with the current plan. Kelly advised he was. Mayor Daniel advised if there were any changes made the Goldwood's would have to come before the Board again anyway.

Mayor Daniel made a motion to approve the Encroachment Agreement for 782 W. Business 30 as presented. Lisa Smith seconded the motion, motion passed unanimously.

ENGINEERING SERVICES AGREEMENT APPROVAL – DONOHUE Mike Cook reported this was for the last phase of the SCADA project that converts their radios over to the new system.

Mayor Daniel made a motion to approve the Engineering Services Agreement for the 2026 lift station control panel replacement project with Donahue in a lump sum, not to exceed amount of \$256,368.00. Dan Weigold seconded the motion, motion passed unanimously.

WWTP ROOF APPROVAL Mike Cook advised they got quotes for a standing seam metal roof, instead of shingles, for their office building. He reported that the highest quote was \$51,700.00, the second quote was for \$48,031.96 and his recommendation was to go with Indiana Metal Roofing for a total of \$36,452.00.

Lisa Smith made a motion to approve the standing seam metal roof with Indiana Metal Roofing Systems for \$36,452.00. Dan Weigold seconded the motion, motion passed unanimously.

STREET CLOSING – 507 E. JACKSON STREET – DUMPSTER PLACEMENT Mayor Daniel noted that this was for clean-up dumpster and trailers and was partially retroactive. He

questioned if they had cones placed. Gary Parrett advised he had not taken them any cones. Mayor Daniel confirmed with Chief Parrett that he was ok with them being along the street edge there. Chief Parrett advised he was.

Dan Weigold made a motion to approve the street closure permit for 3/9/26 to 3/23/26 for 507 E. Jackson Street as presented. Lisa Smith seconded the motion, motion passed unanimously.

STREET CLOSING – 315 W. ELLSWORTH STREET – MOVING POD PLACEMENT

Chief Parrett advised he would take them some cones.

Mayor Daniel made a motion to approve the street closing permit for 315 West Ellsworth Street from April 7th to April 10th, as presented. Dan Weigold seconded the motion, motion passed unanimously.

STREET CLOSING PERMIT FEE DISCUSSION Mayor Daniel stated that there was some conversation at the last meeting about street closing permit fees and Leslee had asked the Board to think about options for that. He reported that he and Councilman Adamson had a good conversation about public safety and the ways in which we can enhance public safety for those larger events, where there may be over 200-250 people at one time, and the idea that we mandate they pay for two police officers to be there, just from a crowd control standpoint.

Gary Parrett felt it was a good idea but shared that he would like to do a little more research on the number of people or suggested that if more than two blocks were closed, then they have to hire security. He thought some of the logistics still needed to be looked at. Mayor Daniel mentioned that the reason he was leaning toward the population standpoint was because we have had events that have taken up the four blocks, north and south, east and west, and have not had anywhere near the population, but is still debating that in his own head. He felt there were good reasons to have dedicated public safety individuals downtown for events, especially for highly populated events.

Chip Hill questioned if we have had issues before where we needed to have dedicated officers. Mayor Daniel advised we have not had any major issues but, where he and Councilman Adamson struck a chord, was the idea that as we grow as a community and have more of those events where we are having 250, 300, 500, 700, 1,000 people downtown at one time, that just having an officer check-in every once in a while, was probably not going to be sufficient enough. Tom LaRue added that most communities have never had a problem until they have, so it was not a matter of 'if'. Mayor Daniel agreed and shared that they also had conversations about concrete barriers. He advised that it only takes one person driving through a festival to have problems.

Dan Weigold stated that times have changed from what they were 5, 10 years ago. He advised so many things could happen and did not think it was a bad idea. Lisa Smith agreed and felt the safety of the community comes first. She questioned what kind of cost it is currently for an organization to hire officers. Gary Parrett reported that they have charged \$65 per hour per officer.

JoAnn Bird with Running Around Screen Printing was present and expressed that she did not think it was unreasonable to charge for police protection at downtown events and did not think it should necessarily be a deterrent for these event directors to host their events. She stated that there were other places in the city where you could go to an event where maybe police protection would not be needed. She suggested that it was expensive for the police department to man streets or just walk the streets for an event and did not think it was unreasonable for \$25 per block either. She shared that she was speaking as a downtown business owner but also as a race director for an event that closed a lot of streets downtown so understands from both sides. She felt if the \$25 was an issue for event organizers, there were tons of other places in the city where they could take their event. She shared that she was hearing from the other downtown business owners that closing the streets does hurt their businesses and restaurants while some of these event directors feel like they are helping by bringing people downtown. She stressed that she was not talking about First Friday events at all, but the Saturday events. She felt the event directors just do not know that it hurts the downtown businesses as she was unaware of that when they first started the Veterans Marathon 18 years ago. She felt this idea was all good; the \$25 and the city wanting to charge for police protection especially for the larger events.

JoAnn Bird mentioned, as a side note, that if the Saturday events continue downtown like they have been, she really felt like we needed to work together and do something about no parking signs. She understood why they go up when they do, but the wording needs to be different or bigger. Mayor Daniel recalled having conversations about that. Chief Parrett advised that he and JoAnn have talked about it as well.

Mayor Daniel did not feel a decision needed to be made today but there has been some conversation about revamping the street closure permit. He felt if we were going to put some of these things in place then we needed to have it on the permit.

Mayor Daniel suggested that he get with Leslee and Gary to work on some of the language and then bring it to the Board of Works. Lisa Smith confirmed the stipulation regarding the police would be on that permit. Mayor Daniel felt it should be.

Mayor Daniel tabled this issue until the next meeting.

BILLS Lisa Smith made a motion to pay all accounts payable in the amount of \$465,097.04 from the allowance of account payable vouchers dated March 10, 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 \$257,841.09 from the allowance of accounts payable vouchers dated March 6, 2026 for EFT payments. Dan Weigold seconded the motion, motion passed unanimously.

Lisa Smith made a motion to pay all accounts payable in the amount of \$1,777.97. from the allowance of accounts payable vouchers dated March 10, 2026 for meter deposits and credits. 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 \$283,923.51 plus overtime in the amount of \$10,661.83 for a total of \$294,585.34 for the pay file ending February 20, 2026. Dan Weigold seconded the motion, motion passed unanimously.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS **Shawn Lickey** – racoon caused power outage at the West substation, North substation will be down in two weeks for testing, reported on Washington DC trip, getting quotes to replace MSF roof and doors. **Mike Shoda** – Peerless should have our fan back for the aeration tower next week, continue with the lead line program. **Chip Hill** – he and Lori Shipman trying to wrap up phase 1A of Eagle Park which included the skate park and the pickleball court, still trying to get appraisals for the jail, Smith Brothers, and the parking lot at Washington and Van Buren, have a couple people interested in the jail, the Dye property might possibly be back on the table for development. **Matt Heiden** - tore up the concrete to the four main diamonds due to a leak that needs repaired, pickleball and basketball courts at the Aquatics Center are open, baseball practice starts March 27. **Terry Wherry** - door controllers installed on the main doors at the jail, worked with SOS to get new circuits installed on our firewalls, working with Shawn and Matt on plans for installing a gas pump at Morsches Park, in the process of building a new NVR recording device for our security cameras. **Kelly Cearbaugh** - street and alley patching, running the sweeper as much as they can, starting to get salt delivered to fulfill our contract for the season, helping to cut trees. **Gary Parrett** – update on new officers, participated in the National Tornado Siren testing today, received resignation letter from Officer Campbell and asked permission to replace him – Board approved. **Mike Cook** – working with Donohue on their ammonia problem, pretreatment has some sampling in with the contract lab for nitrates, started cleaning the UV structure in the EQ basin and the first quarter inspections on the ARVs for the Steel Dynamics force main started. **Tom LaRue** – radio findings will be shared in the next few weeks with presentation at the next meeting, update on Truck 101 repairs, breathing air compressor is now working and listed on Shop Garage, Kyle Francis started a fire officer strategy and tactics class which is a prerequisite before becoming a Fire Officer I.

YOUTH COUNCIL Lilly Joseph was present representing the Youth Council and gave an update from their last meeting.

MAYOR REPORT Mayor Daniel reported that the State of the City was scheduled for Friday and is being hosted by the Whitley County Chamber of Commerce and Visitor Center and will be held at the library. He reported that he will be heading to Washington DC for the National League of Cities conference. He shared that there were multiple different developments on the verge of popping, and he got to spend time out at Northern Heights Elementary interviewing students for J.A. BizTown.

JOANN BIRD – VETERAN’S MARATHON JoAnn Bird expressed her appreciation and thanks to everyone for their 18 years of assisting with the Veterans Marathon. She shared that Sam and she have decided that they are going to halt that race and any of the races that coincide with the Veterans Marathon. She stated that the city has been extremely welcoming to all of our visitors and very helpful from sweeping the streets at the last minute, to putting their flags up, including the big one in front of City Hall. She shared that it has been a good run and brought people in from all 50 states.

Mayor Daniel returned thanks on behalf of the city. He advised it has been a cool event and while sad to see it go, realizes how hard it was to put on each and every year. He expressed that the dedication put into making it, not only a great event for Columbia City, but really a world class event bringing in individuals from other countries to our community.

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

Mayor Ryan Daniel

Attest:

Deputy Clerk Treasurer Sally Wherry