

ORDINANCE 2026-14

AN ORDINANCE RESTATING AND AMENDING CHAPTER 52 OF TITLE V OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF COLUMBIA CITY, INDIANA

WHEREAS, the Common Council of the City of Columbia City, Indiana, after full investigation, deems it in the best interests of the citizens of Columbia City and to preserve their public safety and welfare to modify and amend Chapter 52 of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Columbia City; and

WHEREAS, the City of Columbia City, Indiana (often referred to as the “City”) is a current participant in the Environmental Protection Agency’s Get the Lead Out Initiative regarding public water systems; and

WHEREAS, the Get the Lead Out (“GLO”) ordinance team conducted a review of Indiana state law, the LSLR (Lead Service Line Replacement) ordinance trends in the most populated cities in Indiana, and the city ordinances of the City; and

WHEREAS, the GLO ordinance team is recommending that Chapter 52 of the City’s Code of Ordinances be amended and renumbered such that the proposed delegation of authority provision becomes the first provision and the right of access provision becomes the second provision in the Chapter.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED, ORDERED, AND ESTABLISHED by the Common Council of the City of Columbia City, Indiana, as follows:

Section 1. That § 52.01 of the City’s Code of Ordinances be amended and renumbered as follows:

*§ 52.01 Delegation of Authority*

*The city water utility is hereby authorized and directed to administer and enforce the provisions of this Chapter and the operations of the Water Department. Pursuant to these responsibilities, the Water Department may develop, adopt, and implement reasonable rules, regulations, policies, procedures, programs, and technical guidelines necessary for the safe, efficient operation of the water system.*

*(A) All rules and regulations adopted by the Water Department shall be consistent with applicable federal and state law, and with ordinances adopted by the City of Columbia City.*

*(B) Rules and regulations promulgated pursuant to this section shall become effective upon approval by the Common Council of the City of Columbia City.*

*(C) A complete copy of all approved rules, regulations, policies, procedures, programs, and technical guidelines shall be maintained by the Water Department and shall be available for public review during regular business hours.*

*(D) Nothing herein shall be construed to limit the authority of the governing body to amend, repeal, or supersede any rule or regulation adopted by the Water Department.*

Section 2. That § 52.02 of the City's Code of Ordinances be amended and renumbered as follows:

*§ 52.02 RIGHT OF ACCESS*

*Upon presentation of credentials, representatives of the Water Department shall have the right to request entry at any reasonable time to examine properties served by a connection to the public water system of the city for the purpose of inspecting, repairing, or replacing the piping system or other systems thereof. Upon request, the owner, lessees, or occupants of any property so served shall furnish to the Water Department any information requested regarding the piping system or systems or water use on the property.*

*(A) If access is granted by the occupant of the dwelling, building, or structure, the occupant shall be held harmless, and no liability shall incur to the City of Columbia City or occupant due to the inspection or replacement of the piping system or other systems thereof.*

*(B) The city water utility is hereby authorized and directed to discontinue water service to any property wherein any connection in violation of this section exists, and to take such other precautionary measures deemed necessary to eliminate any danger to public health or of the public water system. Water service shall be discontinued only after reasonable notice is served on the owner, lessee, or occupants of the property or premises where a violation is found or suspected to exist. Water service to such property shall not be restored until the danger has been eliminated in compliance with the provisions of this section and the rules and regulations of the Water Department.*

*(C) If it is deemed by the city water utility that the condition of piping systems or other systems thereof or an emergency endangers public health, safety, or welfare and requires immediate action (including, but not limited to, suspected lead contamination), and a written finding to that effect is filed with the City Clerk, and delivered to the consumer's premises, service may be immediately discontinued. The consumer shall have an opportunity for a hearing within ten days of receiving written request for such hearing, following the emergency discontinuance.*

Section 3. That §52.15 INTERCONNECTIONS WITH CITY'S WATER SYSTEM PROHIBITED, Sections (C) - (F), are hereby amended in their entirety to state the following:

*§ 52.15 INTERCONNECTIONS WITH CITY'S WATER SYSTEM PROHIBITED*

*(C) It shall be the duty of the Water Department to cause inspections to be made of all properties served by the public water system where cross connections with the public water system are deemed possible. The frequency of inspections and re-*

*inspections, based on potential health hazards involved, shall be established by the Water Department.*

*(D) Upon presentation of credentials, the representative of the Water Department shall have the right to request entry at any reasonable time to examine the property served by a connection to the public water system of the city of cross connections. On request, the owner, lessee, or occupant of any property so served shall furnish to the inspection agency any pertinent information regarding the piping system of systems on such property. The refusal of access or refusals of requested pertinent information shall be deemed evidence of the presence of cross connections.*

*(E) The city water utility is hereby authorized and directed to discontinue water service to any property wherein any connection in violation of this section exists, and to take such other precautionary measures deemed necessary to eliminate any danger of contamination of the public water system. Water service shall be discontinued only after reasonable notice is served on the owner, lessee, or occupants of the property or premises where a violation is found or suspected to exist. Water service for such property shall not be restored until the cross connection(s) has been eliminated in compliance with the provisions of this section.*

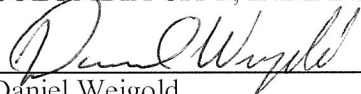
*(F) If it is deemed by the city water utility that a cross connection or an emergency endangers public health, safety, or welfare and requires immediate action, and a written finding to that effect is filed with the City Clerk, and delivered to the customer's premises, service may be immediately discontinued. The consumer shall have an opportunity for a hearing before the City's Board of Public Works within ten days of such emergency discontinuance.*

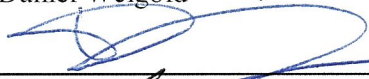
Section 4. That if any section, sentence or provision of this ordinance, or the application thereof to any person or circumstances shall be declared invalid, such invalidity shall not affect any of the other sections, sentences, provisions, or applications of this ordinance in which can be given effect without the invalid provision or application, and to this end the provisions of this ordinance are declared to be severable.


Section 5. This Ordinance shall be of full force and effect from and upon its adoption and in accordance with Indiana law:

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Common Council of the City of Columbia City, Indiana,  
this 26<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2026.

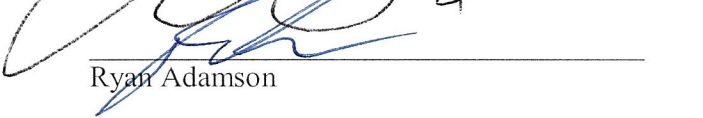
COMMON COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF  
COLUMBIA CITY, INDIANA, BY:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Daniel Weigold

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Theodore J. Varga, Jr.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Brent Bockelman

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Jennifer B. Zartman-Romano

  
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Ryan Adamson

Attest:

  
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Leslee R. Robinson, Clerk-Treasurer

Approved this 26<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2026.

  
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Ryan L. Daniel, Mayor  
City of Columbia City