

**BOARD OF WORKS  
TUESDAY, MARCH 24, 2026  
5:00 P.M.**

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** Lisa Smith noted the motion was not complete under the encroachment agreement for 782 W. Business 30 and that she seconded the motion.

Mayor Daniel made a motion to approve the minutes with the noted change. Dan Weigold seconded the motion, motion passed unanimously.

**PUBLIC COMMENT** Dan Weigold reported that he received a call regarding people having their dogs on the trail without leashes. He wondered if we should have signs posted addressing that. Matt Heiden advised they posted signs at Eagle Park and Morsches Park and could do that along the trail as well. Dan Weigold suggested maybe just posting at the entrances to the trail.

**MSF GUTTER REPLACEMENT QUOTES** Mayor Daniel tabled this topic until the next meeting.

**FIRE DEPARTMENT RADIO QUOTES** Toby Fralick noted that a packet was sent out to the Board with information and quotes attached for the radios they were looking at. He advised their recommendation as a fire department was Motorola. He stated that they were hands down the superior product as far as their needs and wants going forward. He advised that it comes with a price tag obviously, but they feel that in the long run it will eventually pay itself off. He stressed that these radios were meant to work in environments that normal radios were not meant to work in and have been tested and held to the standard that is expected in their careers. He asked for the Board's blessing to go with the Motorola quotes.

Dan Weigold mentioned that there was a big difference in price. Toby Fralick explained that the backbone of the Motorola system on the state's P25 800 system was probably their biggest selling point, as far as user operability. He advised it has two different redundant systems built in, so if a signal cannot reach one of the state towers, there is a fallback plan that allows the radio to utilize cellular networks as well as Wi-Fi networks, and it does that seamlessly behind the scenes. He stressed that was a big thing the other two vendors do not offer.

Dan Weigold questioned if Motorola worked with our dispatch. Mayor Daniel advised it did and commented that we have a Motorola dispatch and Motorola dual band radios for the police department. Gary Parrett advised they have been using the radio for almost 15 years with no issues.

Toby Fralick understood that it was a big ask and a big number difference between the quotes, but what the system can do is the thing that they cannot find anywhere else. He advised they have tested these radios; unscrewed the antennas to make sure it had a failure and then keyed up, and they were still able to hear across the pagers.

Dan Weigold questioned if enough had been budgeted for this. Leslee Robinson explained they discussed this when they were looking at the new fire truck and the possibility of including the radios in the lease or a loan, so these would be included as part of that package.

Mayor Daniel questioned Gary Parrett how long we have had Motorola radios for the police department. Chief Parrett advised since 2011. Mayor Daniel shared that to say, even though the radios were getting older, they have been solid. He felt like having a lease purchase type of scenario where they were looking at, 10-years for the fire truck, it seemed like an appropriate time frame to purchase the radios as well. Leslee Robinson added that they talked to pretty much all of the vendors about doing a lease outside of the fire truck, just for the radios, and none of them came back even close to the interest rate that we would be paying if we include them in with the fire truck. She felt it did not make sense to go that direction.

Dan Weigold questioned if the request was to go ahead and purchase. Toby Fralick explained that all they have done is collect quotes and thought the lead time on the radios was a couple weeks. He advised their plan was to time the radio purchase with the truck purchase. Mayor Daniel explained that council was the fiscal body, so they would be the ones to approve going forward with the bonding or loan process for the truck and the radios. He felt, as the administrative safety board, we needed to give a blessing on the recommendation. He mentioned that it was a little different situation because we were waiting to do the loan part until closer to having the truck so that we were not paying on a loan that we do not have anything to show for. Leslee Robinson advised we would go through the Indiana Bond Bank and would send this information out to the other vendors who have quoted us in the past, but they asked for no more than 90 days out, so knowing that we were waiting on a more definitive date before we go back and get final numbers.

Mayor Daniel explained that tonight, they are just looking for a blessing to move forward with Motorola over the other two options. He reiterated that he felt there was a lot of great interoperability with the police department, our dispatch system, and certainly with the state core, which is really, really important when it comes to public safety. He noted that if we need to help our friends in Kendallville, Huntington or other places, this system connects us through the core of the statewide 800 system.

Toby Fralick advised that we were currently on VHF, which with that system are kind of pigeonholed. He explained they wanted to wait and see what the rest of the county was going to do because the VHF system was not in great shape, but they have now started making the move to get on the 800 system.

Mayor Daniel questioned if these radios were dual band. Toby Fralick advised that they were actually tri-band; they do VHF, which they will keep and maintain for right now for paging and then they have 800 and UHF capabilities, but they will just be using the dual band options.

Mayor Daniel questioned the number of radios. Toby Fralick advised they had 32 quoted. He reported that they had started off at 30 but did some recalculating to make sure they had enough radios for their volunteer staff.

Dan Weigold made a motion that the Board give a blessing to go with Motorola as part of the potential agreement with the fire truck going forward. Lisa Smith seconded the motion, motion passed unanimously.

**DOWNTOWN EVEN PERMIT DISCUSSION** Mayor Daniel reported that he, Councilman Adamson and Chief Parret met last week to talk through a couple of different thoughts and ideas around permit fees. He shared that he was not comfortable making a decision tonight but the recommendations they were leaning towards was for any event that is estimated to have less than 250 people at one time are encouraged, but not required, to hire a uniformed officer; any event from 250 to 500 will be required to hire one uniformed police officer at the rate of \$65 per hour and any event that has 500 or more, the hiring of two uniformed officers will be required, which would be \$130 per hour. He advised the one or two officers would only be at the event during the actual event hours, not during the setup and teardown times. He added that an action plan will be created by the CCPD in conjunction with the Whitley County EMA for most events and event organizers are not necessarily required to hire

firefighters, but for large events it may be encouraged. He shared that they were kind of on the fence about that a little bit and has talked to Chief LaRue about it. He went on to share that the thought regarding concrete barriers was that they would only be mandated for events potentially lasting multiple days. He explained these were just conversation points, but events should take the appropriate caution to prohibit vehicles from entering the festival area as well there shall always be a fire lane maintained throughout the event to make sure our firefighters can get in.

Dan Weigold questioned, in terms of the concrete barriers, who would pay for or set them up. Mayor Daniel advised it would not be our people. Dan Weigold advised that he could not see Kelly's crew taking their front-end loader up every time, that is a big deal. Chief Parret explained that is why they suggested for multiple day events, like Old Settlers. Mayor Daniel understood that there were companies where those could be rented and they would deliver and pick up, just like you would for bounce houses or things to that effect. Dan Weigold questioned if the city would pay for that. Mayor Daniel advised we would not and would be on the event organization to take care of.

Mayor Daniel continued in terms of street closures for downtown events, it was discussed that for each block the organization requests to close, it would cost \$25 and would be part of the street closing permit. He advised there were some questions he had in terms of officer payment and then some logistical things they need to get straightened out but felt like we were headed in the right direction.

Dan Weigold advised we really only have two events where we have that many people; First Fridays and Old Settlers. He talked through the hours of the events and having to pay for two police officers could add up to a big chunk of change for those organizations to drum up and then adding the cost of the street closing on top of that. He advised that could add up to a lot of money and then if we require the concrete barriers. Mayor Daniel understood and felt it was a balancing act. He expressed that at the end of the day, it is really not a matter of if, but when something will happen, so the question is, what is it that we are going to mandate. He suggested maybe the answer is that we only mandate one officer, rather than two. He shared that in talking with other mayors, it is fairly common for them to mandate police officers at events, but he also understood that we are talking about nonprofit organizations. He advised it was not an easy decision and felt that was why we have stewed on this for a couple meetings now as to what is appropriate or not. Dan Weigold mentioned the flip side was that the taxpayers were currently footing the bill and did not think they should have to pay for all of that. Mayor Daniel shared that Councilman Adamson, Chief Parret, himself and Leslee have been contemplating how to balance the idea of taxpayers paying for certain things and the safety of our constituents and our visitors but keeping in mind that non-profits are not flush with cash. He added that we have the other issue of being squeezed by the state and at the end of the day, someone is going to have to fill the gap, so it is not an easy thing.

Dan Weigold questioned whether we should bring the event organizers of a couple of the major events in to have conversations with them about this. Mayor Daniel thought Brent Bockelman had been in discussions with Ryan Adamson from an Old Settler's standpoint but felt we could 100% do that. He advised he would continue to work on it.

**STREET CLOSING – 305 W. VAN BUREN STREET – RETROACTIVE** Mayor Daniel made a motion to approve the street closing permit retroactively for the parking areas in front of 305 West Van Buren. Lisa Smith seconded the motion, motion passed unanimously.

**BILLS** Lisa Smith made a motion to pay all accounts payable in the amount of \$188,642.05 from the allowance of accounts payable vouchers dated March 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 \$976,558.30 from the allowance of accounts payable vouchers dated March 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 \$273,168.82 plus overtime in the amount of \$9,307.26 for a total of \$282,476.08 for the pay file ending March 6, 2026. Dan Weigold seconded the motion, motion passed unanimously.

**DEPARTMENT REPORTS** **Terry Wherry** – worked with Koorsen Fire Systems so that we can start monitoring the fire alarm at the jail, worked with Craig Trowbridge from ENTRUST on the SCADA system, attended the BS & A software demo today and it looks like it would be good for the city to use. **Mike Cook** - UV systems up and running, biomonitoring testing, reviewing applications for open position. **Toby Fralick** – update on Truck 101 repairs, breathing air compressor still being advertised for sale, new compressor should be here sometime in April, Truck 107 to Indy for repairs. **Matt Heiden** - still hiring summer help, attended high school career fair, putting together baseball and softball teams and have a total of 570 kids participating, opening day is April 25<sup>th</sup> and will have a little ceremony, waiting on quote for the pool tile that fell off over the winter, tennis nets and pickleball nets are up, Park Board approved the dog park fencing and the resurfacing of the pickleball and basketball courts by the pool. **Gary Parrett** – officer updates, have interviews scheduled for the three open positions, all tornado sirens are functioning properly, thanked Mission Barbecue for their generosity of providing lunch for police and dispatch as a token of appreciation for our service, conducted Operation Pullover on US 30 and had a lot of activity. **Kelly Cearbaugh** - helping with tree removal, cemetery cleanup, grated alleys, requested approval to begin hiring process to replace employee who left – Board approved.

**CLERK TREASURER REPORT** Leslee Robison reported she would have information to the Board on the clerk treasurer training she attended a couple weeks ago as well as some modernization changes she would be making. She reported on the presentation from BS & A on their cloud software and advised she would be bringing information in front of the Board in May.

**MAYOR REPORT** Mayor Daniel advised there was a lot of things happening and would be out of the office for spring break.

Having no further business to discuss, Mayor Daniel called the meeting adjourned.

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Mayor Ryan Daniel

Attest:

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Clerk Treasurer Leslee Robinson