

**BOARD OF WORKS**  
**TUESDAY, APRIL 14, 2026**  
**5:00 PM**

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 5:03 p.m.

**MINUTES** Dan Weigold pointed out a spelling correction in the title for Downtown Events.

Having no other corrections, Mayor Daniel made a motion to approve the March 24, 2026 meeting minutes as corrected. Dan Weigold seconded the motion, motion passed unanimously.

**PUBLIC COMMENT** There were no public comments.

**DOWNTOWN EVENT PERMIT DISCUSSION** Mayor Daniel shared that he has had conversations with Leslee Robinson, Chief Parrett, a little bit with Chief LaRue as well as some others on this topic. He expressed that at this point he feels like there is a lot more people who need to be a part of the conversation and would like to work towards creating a schedule that would take effect in the beginning of 2027, rather than now. He stated that while it is really important that we undertake this, he just did not want to rush it purely because festival season is here. He shared what he would like to do, rather than dictating to everybody what they shall do, is to make them part of the conversation on how to move forward with keeping in mind the cost to the taxpayer, the public safety component, and also the practicality for a nonprofit for those events that happen downtown.

Dan Weigold agreed 100%. He advised that he has run festivals and organizations before, and to start adding costs to these groups who have not planned for it, there would just be no way. He advised that he was all for public safety, but at the same time we have to stay financially true to the taxpayer as well as the people that provide the events.

Lisa Smith felt it was very wise to step back and make sure we have all the input to make sure we do it correctly the first time and make sure we are making a decision that is right for the city, our citizens and for public safety. She agreed that there still needed to be some conversation.

Chief LaRue mentioned that Councilman Adamson had asked them to research the concrete barricades and have found that about every major organization recommends them. He suggested the Board still considering looking into implementing those. He advised his department could make a presentation on the barricades if the Board would like.

Chip Hill expressed a concern for downtown business hours and when the barricades would be placed. Mayor Daniel agreed that was a good question and was another reason he was hesitant to push things. He felt it was a balancing act to try and figure out what is the right thing to do for right now.

**STREET CLOSING – FIRST FRIDAYS** Niki Keister reported there would be five First Fridays, which is different than in years past. She shared that for July the event was going to be on a Thursday, and the theme is going to be Stars, Stripes and

Symphony to celebrate America's 250th. She advised she would be bringing the request for that one at a later date as they were still working on the timeline.

Dan Weigold made a motion to accept the road closure for the First Friday events on May 1st, June 5th, August 7th, September 4th, and October 2nd, from 6 to 9 p.m. Lisa Smith seconded the motion, motion passed unanimously.

**STREET CLOSING – 207 W. VAN BUREN – RETROACTIVE** Mayor Daniel explained this was actually for the parking spaces in front of 207 W. Van Buren Street. He reported this was for Moo-Over to move some of their equipment out and has already happened.

Mayor Daniel made a motion to retroactively approve the street closing permit as requested. Lisa Smith seconded the motion, motion passed unanimously.

**STREET CLOSING – 315 W. ELLSWORTH – DATE CHANGE** Mayor Daniel reported this was happening now and was for the dates, April 10th through the 16th.

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

**BILLS** Lisa Smith made a motion to pay all accounts payable in the amount of \$710,844.72 from the allowance accounts payable vouchers dated April 14, 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 \$820,395.07 from the allowance of account payable vouchers dated April 14, 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 \$2,076.97 from the allowance of account payable vouchers dated March 25, 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 \$290,967.67 plus overtime in the amount of \$14,484.31 for a total of \$305,451.98 for the payfile ending March 20, 2026. Dan Weigold seconded the motion, motion passed unanimously.

Lisa Smith made a motion to pay all accounts payable except overtime in the amount of \$291,265.38 plus overtime in the amount of \$13,940.81 for a total of \$305,206.19 for the pay file ending April 3, 2026. Dan Weigold seconded the motion, motion passed unanimously.

Lisa Smith made a motion to pay all accounts payable in the amount of \$12,750 from the allowance of account payable vouchers dated April 10, 2026 for police and fire clothing allowance. Dan Weigold seconded the motion, motion passed unanimously.

**STREET CLOSING – MEMORIAL MILE** Mayor Daniel reported that this was for the Memorial Day mile. He reminded the Board that JoAnne & Gary Bird have stepped back from doing races. He shared that Mike Else and Kim Hardy both had interest in taking over the Veterans Marathon and after conversations with JoAnne, she has given most of their materials to Kim so it was decided to have Kim do the Veteran's Day Marathon and Mike said he would like to do the Memorial Day mile.

Chief Parrett advised that it would be a moving escort rather than a full street closure.

Mayor Daniel made a motion to approve the street closing permit for the Memorial Day mile as presented. Lisa Smith seconded the motion, motion passed unanimously.

**DEPARTMENT REPORTS** **Mike Shoda** - flushing hydrants and should be done Friday morning. **Chip Hill** – awarded Community Crossings Grant to hopefully complete Westgate Phase 3, Redevelopment Commission approved the RFP for the jail so will hopefully be getting that liquidated off of our inventory, downtown cleanup on Saturday from 9 – 11 am. **Matt Heiden** – shut off grinder pumps at the park due to flooding at Morsches Park, getting the fields back into shape for the baseball tournament this weekend, working on getting the pool drained and cleaned for the tile repair, lost another employee so are looking to fill 2 full time positions, update on dog park fencing, opening day on April 25th. **Terry Wherry** - finished working on the Tantalus move from REMC to the Tantalus cloud, working with Shawn and SOS to install door controllers and cell phone booster at the MSF, working with Toby Fralick and SOS to install cabling and new AP's in the fire department. **Mike Cook** – changing out valves, having to start Biomonitoring testing over because of delays in delivery of the samples. **Tom LaRue** – update on Truck 101 repairs, updates on the breathing air compressor, update on Truck 107 repairs. **Gary Parrett** – Officer Janssen and Officer Bedwell are currently in the solo phase of their FTO, Officer German, Officer Blocher, and Officer Didion are scheduled to graduate from the academy on the 24th, co-hosted a basic car seat training class for law enforcement with the Whitley County Sheriff's Department and the Criminal Justice Institute, hosted interns from Whitley County Consolidated School in dispatch and the police department, celebrating telecommunication week for dispatch.

**FUEL PUMP REMOVAL/REPLACEMENT QUOTES** Mayor Daniel shared a little bit of background with the Board regarding the fuel pumps at the MSF from the aspect that they have been there for a really long time, they are not in great shape, they require all kinds of testing and reporting because they are underground fuel tanks. He advised that the time has come to remove the fuel pumps at the MSF but also put in a much smaller system over at the parks office.

Matt Peterson with Optum Petroleum Services was present to discuss the fuel pump removal and replacement quotes. He advised that he and Shawn have been working on a proposal to remove the two underground storage tanks at the MSF. He explained the idea would be to remove the tanks, decommission them with the State of Indiana, and move to an above-ground scenario. He advised that soil borings and water samples will have to be done, and out of the entire project, those were really the only unknowns as to how they are going to pan out. He shared that most of the time, if there are elevated levels, they can submit to IDEM what has been done to remediate things.

Dan Weigold questioned the timeframe of completion. Matt Peterson advised they were thinking anywhere from 6 – 10 weeks.

Tom LaRue requested that he get a copy of the removal permit so that he can put it in his files showing that the tanks were removed. Matt advised he would.

Mayor Daniel noted that Matt Heiden and Shawn Lickey have been working on the new pump location that would service the blowers, mowers and the smaller equipment that is used at the park, and other departments. Matt Heiden advised that was correct and elaborated more on the types of equipment that is used and the need for both types of fuel. Mayor Daniel commented that the state continues to get more and more strict on the underground tanks, and rightfully so.

Mayor Daniel reviewed the proposal with the Board for an all-in price of \$190,241.00.

Matt Peterson shared that the State of Indiana developed a new program where they offer 50% reimbursement, in arrears, for any type of underground decommissioning removal activities. He advised approximately \$27,000 should be coming back to the city from the State after all of the documentation has been closed. He noted it was a bit of a process but thought Shawn had already submitted paperwork to make sure our site was eligible for reimbursement.

Mayor Daniel made a motion to approve the Sourcewell agreement for the underground storage tank removal and the new 2,000 gallon above ground fuel storage system in a not to exceed amount of \$190,241.00 as presented. Lisa Smith seconded the motion, motion passed unanimously.

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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Deputy Clerk Treasurer Sally Wherry