

**BOARD OF WORKS  
TUESDAY, MAY 12, 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 a spelling correction under the Youth Council report.

Mayor Daniel made a motion to approve the April 28, 2026 meeting minutes with the noted change. Dan Weigold seconded the motion, motion passed unanimously.

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

**WESTGATE SUBDIVISION ROADWAY RECONSTRUCTION PHASE III - BID OPENING** Clerk Treasurer Leslee Robinson opened and read bids received from E & B Paving with total bid amount of \$2,148,324.80; Fleming Excavating with a total bid amount of \$1,690,506.32; Fox Contractors with a total bid amount of \$1,924,082.15; Brooks Construction with a total bid amount of \$1,943,658.00; Pulver Asphalt Paving with a total bid amount of \$1,762,946.00; API with a total bid amount of \$1,910,944.00 and Crosby Excavating with a total bid amount of \$1,877,044.80.

Mayor Daniel advised all bids would be taken under advisement and award made at the next Board of Works meeting.

**UNSAFE BUILDING ORDER** Craig Wagner, Building Inspector, was present to discuss the unsafe building order regarding 351 N. Line Street. He shared that this project has had a history and explained what has taken place. He advised the biggest issue with the house was a section of the basement wall had fallen in and sat open for some time. He reported that Nathan Bilger wrote up an order for either repair to livable condition or demolish by June 29. He shared that since that time, the original contract owner was relieved of his contract and Mr. Wright took the home back over with the intentions to demolish the building. He reported that Mr. Wright sent in a copy of a contract with a local excavator; it did not state in the contract that it would be done by June 29 but when he asked for the estimate that was the understanding. He shared that the plan was to remove the house and backfill the basement to where it was a constructible lot again and could rebuild.

Mr. Wagner recommended that the Board of Works affirm the order, even though there are intentions of taking care of the problem. He advised if we get down to June 25 and nothing has been done, we would have the legal background to go ahead with.

Dan Weigold questioned if they tear all of it up, would that include the concrete walls also. Craig Wagner advised they could technically leave the floor in if they break it, but the walls have to be taken out. Mayor Daniel confirmed it would have to be brought to ground level no matter what. Craig Wagner advised it would as it has a basement so they would have to go down to the basement floor. He shared the preference would be to take that out as well but if left the State requires it to be broken up so that it does not hold water.

Mayor Daniel made a motion to affirm the order of the Planning and Building Department for 351 N. Line Street as presented, Lisa Smith seconded the motion, motion passed unanimously.

**JOHNSON MEADOWS PLAT** Mayor Daniel reminded the Board that at the last meeting there was significant conversation regarding the easement that was built in to the actual vacation of the alley. He shared that conversations have been had with Nathan Bilger regarding this and they are going to have a new mylar printed that will show the easement.

Mayor Daniel made a motion to approve the Johnson Meadows Plat with the noted change that the mylar will state the easement for the water line. Dan Weigold seconded the motion, motion passed unanimously.

**WWTP PUMP REPAIR PROPOSAL** Mike Cook stated, as discussed before, the pump seal failed which allowed moisture to get into the motor. He reported this proposal was to rebuild the pump to get it back in service. He noted to purchase a new pump would cost \$110,000 - \$115,000 so it was still cheaper to repair. He recommended approving the quote from Xylem for the amount of \$51,296.57.

Mayor Daniel made a motion to approve Quote # R2026-IND-0124 in the amount of \$51,296.57 as presented. Lisa Smith seconded the motion, motion passed unanimously.

**WEST SUBSTATION TESTING PROPOSAL** Shawn Lickey reminded the Board that they had just completed the North substation with the same company. He advised this would be the third of three substations that need to be done and were shooting for fall time period. He noted that the cost came back almost identical to the one from spring. He advised that they were really happy with their work and recommended moving forward with Premier Power in the amount of \$59,813.00 for PM and testing of the West substation.

Mayor Daniel made a motion to approve Proposal GCBS 460762 in the amount of \$59,813.00 as presented. Dan Weigold seconded the motion, motion passed unanimously.

**FIRE TRUCK BOND PROPOSAL** Clerk Treasurer Leslee Robinson reported that we received multiple proposals and were all included in the meeting packet. She recommended moving forward with U.S. Bancorp through Indiana Bank Bond. She noted that we already have the radios and will need to make payment on those soon.

Mayor Daniel made a motion to provide recommendation to City Council for U.S. Bancorp to be our financing partner for the new fire engine. Lisa Smith seconded the motion, motion passed unanimously.

**STREET CLOSING PERMIT – FARMER’S MARKET** Mayor Daniel noted they opened this past weekend. Dan Weigold questioned the date that included Old Settler’s. Mayor Daniel advised they could exempt that date.

Mayor Daniel made a motion to approve the street closing permit for the Whitley County Farmer’s Market as presented, outside of June 20. Dan Weigold seconded the motion, motion passed unanimously.

**STREET CLOSING PERMIT – MEMORIAL DAY PARADE** Mayor Daniel noted this was for May 25 with the normal parade route.

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

**STREET CLOSING PERMIT – SHOW & SHINE CAR SHOW** Mayor Daniel noted this has taken place for multiple years. He requested that they notify the neighbors as they have done in the past.

Mayor Daniel made a motion to approve the Show & Shine Car Show street closing permit with the caveat that they notify the neighbors prior to the event. Dan Weigold seconded the motion, motion passed unanimously.

**RIGHT OF WAY PERMIT APPLICATION – SURF INTERNET – 520 N. MAIN STREET** Clerk Treasurer Leslee Robinson shared that she included the 3 permits because they were going to require lane restrictions.

Mayor Daniel made a motion to approve the street cut permit for Surf Internet at 520 N. Main Street as presented. Lisa Smith seconded the motion, motion passed unanimously.

**RIGHT OF WAY PERMIT APPLICATION – SURF INTERNET – 701 S. LINE STREET** Mayor Daniel noted that there was no time indicated on the application and requested that they stay away from the beginning of school and end of school timeframes.

Mayor Daniel made a motion to approve the right of way/street cut/sidewalk permit for the right of way for Surf Internet at 701 S. Line Street as presented. Lisa Smith seconded the motion, motion passed unanimously.

**RIGHT OF WAY PERMIT APPLICATION – NIPSCO – LINE AND WALLACE AVE.** Mayor Daniel requested the same as Surf in that they stay away from the beginning of school and end of school timeframes.

Mayor Daniel made a motion to approve the right of way cut request from NIPSCO on the East side of Line Street across from Wallace Avenue 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 \$857,027.32 from the allowance of accounts payable vouchers dated May 12, 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 \$416,655.05 from the allowance of accounts payable vouchers dated May 12, 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 \$276,124.78 plus overtime in the amount of \$10,911.18 for a total of \$287,035.96 for the payfile ending May 1, 2026. Dan Weigold seconded the motion, motion passed unanimously.

**DEPARTMENT REPORTS** **Kelly Cearbaugh** – finished appliance pickup and limb pickup for May, 50/50 sidewalk project on Jeffrey Drive, adjusting sanitary sewer castings, grading alleys, street maintenance work. **Nathan Bilger** – Valvoline received certificate of occupancy and were shooting to be open by Memorial Day, permits are picking up, Plan Commission approved primary plat for an apartment complex at the East end of Denzil and Liberty Drive. **Chip Hill** – working on amphitheater, update on jail proposals. **Matt Heiden** – rain affecting games and tile work at the pool, pool testing, big tournament coming in this weekend, pickleball/basketball courts being resurfaced, hired Hunter Maggard to fill one position and will look to fill other spot in the fall. **Shawn Lickey** – still working at the CTE building for the school career academy, relocating all overhead primary that runs along the river to underground, continue with replacing poles, IMEA and IMPA meetings, starting process for digger derrick truck replacement. **Gary Parrett** – officer updates, First Friday and Farmer’s Market went smoothly, everything in Dispatch running great, update on new officers, Operation Safe Prom went well. **Mike Cook** – meeting with IDEM and Donohue to discuss ammonia issues, changed out drain valve on Primary #3, new hire starts on May 18. **Terry Wherry** – SOS finished installing SURF Internet in the fire training room, finished firewall patch, renewed firewall maintenance contract for a 3-year

term, installed new computers in dispatch that will run security cameras, met with Koorsen Fire Systems at the jail to be able to monitor the fire system.

**YOUTH COUNCIL** Erin Devito was present representing the Youth Council. She reported on their activities from the last meeting.

**MAYOR REPORT** Mayor Daniel advised they were working on a lot of different things; Downtown Steering Committee meeting to work on the PER for the downtown project, breakfast at the brickyard on Saturday, hosting Mayor's and Commissioners Caucus for NE Indiana at the Aquatics Center next Wednesday, Youth Council next Thursday. He reported that City Hall will be closed on Memorial Day, and the America 250 Committee was working on banners to hopefully be up by Memorial Day. He reported on the time capsule that is to be opened on July 4 and were working on a new time capsule that will be placed on the courthouse square.

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

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Mayor Ryan Daniel

Attest:

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Clerk Treasurer Leslee Robinson