

ORDINANCE 2026- 18

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, there currently exist due process procedures for disconnection of services for the City's Water Department that are deemed to require updating to provide additional terms for disconnection and reconnection.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED, ORDERED, AND ESTABLISHED by the Common Council of the City of Columbia City, Indiana, that Chapter 52 should be amended and updated as follows:

Section 1. § 52.06 of the City's Code of Ordinances shall be amended in its entirety to state:

§ 52.06 Utility's Right to Discontinue Service and Due Process Procedures for Disconnection.

(A) Disconnection Without Notice. The municipally owned water utility may discontinue service to any customer without notice for any of the following reasons:

- (1) When, in the utility's opinion, a condition exists that is dangerous or hazardous to life, physical safety or property;*
- (2) When emergency repairs must be made to the utility's facilities or system;*
- (3) When there has been tampering with the utility's meters or equipment, or evidence of fraudulent or unauthorized use of water in such a manner as to circumvent the utility's meter; or*
- (4) When ordered to do so by a court or another duly authorized public authority or authorized governmental agency.*

(B) Disconnection With Notice. The utility may discontinue service to any customer with reasonable notice for any of the following reasons in accordance with the rules and policies of the city or the utility itself:

- (1) When any bill remains unpaid;*
- (2) When planned repairs are to be made to the utility's facilities or system;*
- (3) When customer denies access by employees of the utility to its meter or other facilities;*
- (4) When customer uses equipment in such a manner as to adversely affect the utility's system or service supplied by the utility to other customers; or*
- (5) When the customer fails to comply with the provisions of either the tariffs,*

the applicable rate schedule, the general terms and conditions for water service, or the agreement for service.

(C) No Liability. Discontinuance of service in accordance with the provisions stated above shall not constitute a breach of any obligation of the utility under any agreement for service with the customer, and the utility shall not in any case be liable to the customer for any damages resulting from such discontinuance of service.

(D) Hearing Request Procedure. Any person who is delinquent on their combined utility bill and is subject to disconnection for nonpayment thereof must be notified of their right to a hearing before the Columbia City Board of Public Works and Safety to determine the appropriateness of the disconnection. If a Columbia City Municipal Utilities' customer desire to request a hearing contesting the fairness of disconnection of their combined utility bill, the customer must request such hearing in writing at the office of the Columbia City Municipal Utilities, 112 S. Chauncey Street, Columbia City, Indiana 46725, within seven business days after the date of the mailing of a disconnection notice.

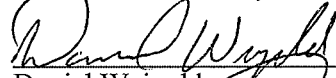
(E) Reconnection Charge. When the utility has discontinued service for nonpayment of a bill, temporary removal of meters, changes in service, or any other cause, the utility reserves the right to charge the customer an amount for reconnection commensurate with the cost listed on the utility's schedule of rates and charges.

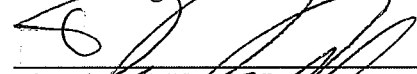
Section 2. If any section, sentence or provision of this ordinance, or the application thereof to any person or circumstances shall be declared invalid, such invalidity shall not affect any of the other sections, sentences, provisions, or applications of this ordinance in which can be given effect without the invalid provision or application, and to this end the provisions of this ordinance are declared to be severable.

Section 3. 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 23rd day of June, 2026.

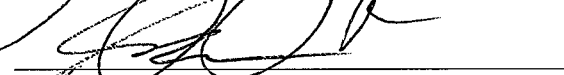
COMMON COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF
COLUMBIA CITY, INDIANA, BY:


Daniel Weigold

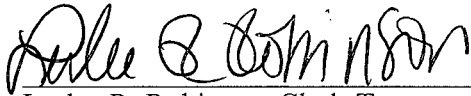

Theodore J. Varga, Jr.


Brent Bockelman


Jennifer B. Zartman-Romano


Ryan Adamson

Attest:



Leslee R. Robinson, Clerk-Treasurer

Approved this 23rd day of June, 2026.



Ryan L. Daniel, Mayor
City of Columbia City

