

BOARD OF WORKS
TUESDAY, JUNE 9, 2026
5:00 P.M.

Mayor Ryan Daniel – Present
Clerk Treasurer Leslee Robinson – 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 5:00 p.m.

MINUTES Lisa Smith made a motion to approve the May 26, 2026 meeting minutes as presented. Dan Weigold seconded the motion, motion passed unanimously.

Mayor Daniel explained that since the Board of Works makes up the majority of the CIP Committee it was decided to have the Board of Works approve the minutes since that Committee does not have regular meetings.

Dan Weigold made a motion to approve the CIP Committee minutes from Tuesday, May 26. Lisa Smith seconded the motion, motion passed unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT There were no public comments.

ENCROACHMENT AGREEMENT – FERGUSON – 3 HOLDEN ROAD Joel Ferguson was present to explain that he would like to build a new fence at the exact placement of the existing fence.

Mayor Daniel questioned if there were any issues with the utilities. Shawn Lickey advised that they put quite an investment in that area with moving their primary from overhead to underground. He asked that they keep that in mind when putting in the new fence because the line was overhead when the original fence was built. Mr. Ferguson advised he would call for locates.

Mayor Daniel made a motion to approve the Encroachment Agreement for 3 Holden Road as presented. Dan Weigold seconded the motion, motion passed unanimously.

Mayor Daniel shared with Mr. Ferguson that if for some reason we need to get back there to work, we will let him know ahead of time but if it is an emergency, then we will try to remove the fence as gently as possible but then will be up to him to replace it. Mr. Ferguson understood.

ORDINANCE VIOLATION – EUGENE CHILDERS – 401 S. MAIN STREET Eugene Childers was present to discuss his ordinance violations and to give an update on his progress. He reported that he tried loading the I-beams, but they are so twisted he cannot load them on his trailer so needs to get a torch and is in the process of trying to get his dump truck fixed.

Mayor Daniel questioned when this was originally started. Chief Parrett advised it was October of 2025. He shared that he and Scott Leatherman discussed the issues and allowed for extensions due to the winter weather. He reported that Scott has been out there a couple times and met with Mr. Childers on site to offer some advice.

Mayor Daniel asked Mr. Childers to help him understand what has taken place between October and now and why it has taken this long to abate those ordinance violations. Mr. Childers reported that he was in the process of getting the un-plated vehicles towed off and repaired, but in order to get the I-beams and stuff loaded up, he needed to get a torch so he could cut them into pieces. Mayor Daniel advised he understood what was being worked on now and questioned Mr. Childers what he has worked on between October and now to try and abate the issues. Mr. Childers advised he could not remember everything; he was in the hospital and nursing home and still needed some surgery. He shared that he was moving as fast as he could for his age.

Chief Parrett confirmed with Mr. Childers that he had not received any citations to this point. Mr. Childers advised he had not. Chief Parrett shared that they have given him some leeway to try and help out but there has not been a whole lot of progress being made. He advised that he and Scott Leatherman had talked about starting to issue citations.

Mr. Childers shared that the wind keeps tearing off the rubber roofs so is going to go with tar. He added that he is going to board up the building so nothing can get in from any which way. He reported that he has a renter who he needs to have move their trailers and stuff. Chief Parrett encouraged Mr. Childers to start from the road and work his way back through the property to get things cleaned up.

Mayor Daniel felt that ultimately, if the ordinance violations they were looking at right now were in a front yard, there would have been citations months ago but since they are kind of tucked behind, he felt we have given a lot of leeway. He shared that he did not necessarily have a problem with giving leeway as long as we are seeing progress. He totally understood that there have been health issues and wanted to take that into account but also if this happened to be his neighbor he would have wanted this cleaned up yesterday. He agreed with Chief Parrett in trying to work together but we definitely have to see progress.

Dan Weigold commented that we have dealt with Mr. Childers a number of times already and pointed out that he does not have a good history as far as getting things cleaned up in the time frame that we need. He understood that things happen and the health issues, but his patience was not very strong because of past history. He advised that he supported our Ordinance Enforcement Officer as well as our Police Chief in that we have to stop prolonging things and start moving stuff. He encouraged Mr. Childers to find someone to help get it done.

Lisa Smith reiterated what Dan said and understood that this was a lot for Mr. Childers to do himself. She suggested getting a plan in place to start making some progress; get some help and start setting small goals like what Chief Parrett said. She mentioned that there were churches in our area who are always looking for service projects or even high school teenagers who might be looking for work to do. Mr. Childers noted that he would need to stay aware of the liability.

Mayor Daniel questioned what the recommendation was from Chief Parrett and Scott Leatherman; were they seeing progress or just delay. Chief Parrett advised there was nothing but delay at this point.

Lisa Smith questioned if there was a way to set a smaller goal with a shorter timeline. Chief Parrett felt they absolutely could and was willing to do that. He advised they just had to make a decision to do something to get Mr. Childers motivated because they did not feel he was taking the notices seriously.

Mayor Daniel shared with Mr. Childers that they were not trying to beat up on him, but obviously there have been multiple times he has been in front of the Board asking for an extension. He understood there were situations and health issues, but there is still a responsibility by the property owner. He stressed that there has to be progress, and did not want to delay it too much, but suggested by giving two weeks that would allow time for progress. He shared that at the end of the day, if we are seeing nothing happen, then that is the time in which we have to start clamping down. He stressed that we do not want to issue fines, but we also have to hold everybody to the same standard; he wanted to be fair to him but also to all of the other residents who get ordinance violations.

Lisa Smith advised her suggestion was that the Board be specific about what we want to see done in the next two weeks so we are not just asking the broad question of ‘what progress did you make.’ She shared that she would rather just say ‘this is the exact progress we want to see in the next two weeks.’

Mayor Daniel felt the Board all agreed that a somewhat low-hanging fruit was the grass and weeds. He questioned when Scott Leatherman went out to the site, if he pointed out what needed to be removed. Mr. Childers advised he did. Mayor Daniel questioned if it would be reasonable to expect the grass, weeds and junk piles be cleaned up in two weeks. Mr. Childers advised it would be. Chief Parrett confirmed with Mr. Childers that was what he wanted to commit to. Mr. Childers advised he did.

Mayor Daniel confirmed that in 2 weeks from now, Scott Leatherman will go out and verify what progress has been made and then the Board will have to decide whether to continue to give leeway or if we start fining. Mr. Childers commented that would be a negative because he would then have less money to work with.

Chief Parrett advised he would also like to see the building boarded up so no one can get in.

Mayor Daniel reiterated with Mr. Childers that the three things in the next two weeks that have to be done are the grass and weeds, the junk piles, and have the building boarded up. He advised we would double check in two weeks. Mr. Childers understood.

RIGHT-OF-WAY PERMIT – DALTON OGDEN – 347 N. CHAUNCEY Dalton Ogden of 347 N. Chauncey Street was present to explain that he built a structure to hold the trash and recycle cans for his mom and dad because they have a hard time moving them around as they are getting old. He shared that he was unaware of it being within a right-of-way until Mr.

Leatherman informed him it was and what he needed to do for approval.

Mayor Daniel questioned if the posts were concreted in. Mr. Ogden advised they were not. Mayor Daniel confirmed that theoretically, if need be, the structure could be moved. Mr. Ogden advised it was super heavy, but it could be moved.

Dan Weigold commented that it looks nice but the problem with it is the ordinance for the trash cans says they need to be removed from the front yard. Mr. Ogden shared that Mr. Leatherman told him the cans either had to go back or put somewhere where they were not visible from the street. He suggested that if he put doors on, the cans would not be visible from the street. He advised that it does not block the view for anybody coming down the alley or going into the alley.

Leslee Robinson shared that this was called in by a resident due to the smell of the cans as they were walking by on the sidewalk. Mr. Ogden reported that individual spoke with him about it.

Mr. Ogden advised that the cans have sat in that same spot since 2007, he just recently built something around them to make it look nicer.

Mayor Daniel felt it came down to the actual structure itself and the challenge was that this Board has told other people they cannot have structures built within the City's right-of-way. He appreciated what was done, it looks nice and all those kinds of things but for consistency, he would have to say no for this too, unfortunately. He shared what he would like to do though is refund his \$40 permit fee, but they will need to move everything.

Mayor Daniel made a motion to refund the \$40 permit fee, but the structure and cans have to be moved. Dan Weigold seconded the motion.

Mr. Ogden questioned if it would be ok to move everything up against the house, right on the edge of the landscaping bed. He shared that he needs to put them somewhere so that his mom and dad can move them. After review of the map, even though it would be on the line, Mayor Daniel confirmed that if they could put it up against the house and put doors, that would be ok.

Upon the motion, motion passed unanimously.

Mayor Daniel requested the structure and cans be moved within the next month.

NOTICE TO PROCEED – WESTGATE PHASE III Mayor Daniel made a motion to approve the Notice to Proceed for the Westgate Subdivision Roadway Reconstruction Project Phase III as presented. Lisa Smith seconded the motion, motion passed unanimously.

BILLS Lisa Smith made a motion to pay all accounts payable in the amount of \$2,310 from the allowance of accounts payable vouchers dated June 9, 2026 for checks for On-Turf CC umpires. Dan Weigold seconded the motion, motion passed unanimously.

Lisa Smith made a motion to pay all accounts payable in the amount of \$1,550 from the allowance of accounts payable vouchers dated June 9, 2026 for EFT payments for On-Turf Columbia City umpires. Dan Weigold seconded the motion, motion passed unanimously.

Lisa Smith made a motion to pay all accounts payable in the amount of \$491,535.57 from the allowance of accounts payable vouchers dated June 9, 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 \$396,308.20 from the allowance of accounts payable vouchers dated June 9, 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 \$2,861.17 from the allowance of accounts payable vouchers dated June 9, 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 \$315,278.01 plus overtime in the amount of \$9,455.19 for a total of \$324,733.20 for the pay file ending May 29, 2026. Dan Weigold seconded the motion, motion passed unanimously.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS **Shawn Lickey** - IMPA annual report, five power interruptions in the last five days due to wildlife, IMEA selected the City of Columbia City Electric as their Signature Community for 2026's IMEA Business meeting scheduled for October 14th, still changing out poles, working on specs on a new digger derrick truck. **Chip Hill** – street department poured concrete for drinking fountain in Eagle Park, RDC rejected proposal for potential apartment complex at the jail, continuing working on the amphitheater. **Terry Wherry** - working with the electric department on their cellular connector, working with the park to get an air conditioning unit installed in the server room at the Eagle Park building. **Matt Heiden** - dog park in the final stages, getting ready for the fireworks celebration on July 3rd. **Mike Shoda** – potholing throughout town, received new dump truck from Enterprise and requested to keep the old truck to use with the lead and copper project coming up – after discussion Board was ok with keeping the old truck. **Mike Cook** - passed biomonitoring test, new employee is doing well and catching on real quick, samplers coming so they can pull samples seven days a week for 30 days at five to six various locations to see if they can catch the ammonia issues they are having, completed ARV inspections, pre-treatment has been working on flow monitoring and sampling, repairs on the storm basins at Jefferson and Ellsworth. **Tom LaRue** - final inspection on the new fire engine will be the 23rd - 25th, Truck 107 still awaiting repairs, fire, EMS, EMA, and police met yesterday for the incident action plan for Old Settlers and the parade. **Gary Parrett** – officer updates, First Friday was a successful overall event, doing a county-wide training exercise this weekend at Whitko Career Academy, preparing for Old Settlers.

MAYOR REPORT Mayor Daniel shared the department report for Kelly Cearbaugh. He also reported that he, Chip Hill, Dale Buuck and Jerry Busche met with the Northeast Indiana Regional Development Authority to request some funds to help with the development north of Walmart and shared that the meeting went really well. He advised he would be having Lunch

with the Mayor this Friday with Cindy Baker from Troy School. He reported that they did the mailbox handout with the high school seniors on Friday of last week and went really well. He advised he would be traveling to Evanston, Indiana next week on behalf of AIM and City Hall will be closed on Friday, June 19 for Juneteenth.

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

Mayor Ryan Daniel

Attest:

Clerk Treasurer Leslee Robinson