

BOARD OF WORKS
TUESDAY, JUNE 23, 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 Mayor Daniel made a motion to approve the June 9, 2026 meeting minutes as presented. Lisa Smith seconded the motion, motion passed unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT There were no public comments.

ENCROACHMENT AGREEMENT – CHAPPELL – 1146 W. CROOKED TREE David Chappell of 1146 W. Crooked Tree Drive was present to discuss the encroachment agreement for the installation of a fence.

Mayor Daniel questioned if there were any issues with utilities. There were no concerns presented.

Mayor Daniel made a motion to approve the Encroachment Agreement for 1146 W. Crooked Tree Drive as presented. Dan Weigold seconded the motion, motion passed unanimously.

Mayor Daniel explained to Mr. Chappell that if for some reason we have to get into the easement, we would try to notify them in advance, but if we cannot do that, then we will gently take the fencing down and will be up to them to replace. Mr. Chappell understood.

ENCROACHMENT AGREEMENT – SPARKS – 508 W. COLUMBIA PARKWAY Josh Sparks of 508 W. Columbia Parkway was present to discuss the encroachment agreement for the installation of a fence.

Dan Weigold shared that he talked with the Drainage Department today and reported that Mr. Sparks was already working with the department because there is a non-taxed tile that runs through there. He advised that it was approved Monday at the Drainage Board meeting

Mayor Daniel questioned if there were any utility issues. Shawn Lickey noted that the electric utility was mostly underground out there but as long as they get locates it should be ok.

Mayor Daniel made a motion to approve the Encroachment Agreement for 508 W. Columbia Parkway as presented. Lisa Smith seconded the motion, motion passed unanimously.

Mayor Daniel explained to Mr. Sparks that if for some reason we have to get into the easement there, we would try to notify him first but if not, then we would move the fence and will be on him to put back up. Mr. Sparks understood.

EUGENE CHILDERS PROPERTY UPDATE – 401 S. MAIN STREET Eugene Childers was present to give a progress update on his clean-up efforts.

Chief Parrett reported that Scott Leatherman was at the property today and noted that the grass was mowed but there was still a lot of vegetation that does not look like it has been sprayed or killed and there was still a lot of junk around. He advised that one trailer was removed, but there are still multiple vehicles that are not registered and lots of junk laying around.

Mr. Childers reported that he was going to have the van towed off to Andy's Repair Shop in South Whitley to have it repaired so he could sell it.

Chief Parrett reminded Eugene of what he committed to getting done at the last meeting; getting the weeds and grass mowed, the junk removed and the building secure. Mr. Childers advised he fixed the doors so people cannot get in. Chief Parrett questioned the open basement. Mr. Childers advised he was working on that but has to make a 6 ft. door to put in and secure it with a lock. He advised he has been focusing on the I-beams. Chief Parrett commented that the I-beams were not part of the things that were to get done within these past few weeks. He advised that they do not want to have to fine him. Mr. Childers advised he has been investing money to try and get the I-beams out of there.

Chief Parrett questioned Mr. Childers how the city could help him get things done. Mr. Childers mentioned that someone had suggested getting a youth group from a church to help. Chief Parrett questioned Mr. Childers if he had reached out to anyone yet. Mr. Childers advised he was not sure who to contact.

Mayor Daniel shared that one of the things Chief Parrett and he talked about was the scenario of bringing in our team and fixing it, but then we would have to place a lien on the property. He guessed they probably did not want that, but it would be cleaned up in one fell swoop. He expressed concern with Mr. Childers that he has a lot of things going on and prolonging the cleanup of the property. He appreciated that they were working on the I-beams, but as Chief Parrett said, commitment was made to the junk cleanup and that did not happen, commitment was made to mowing and weed whipping, and although a lot of the mowing has been done, there is still a lot of noxious weeds that are there. And then also commitment was made to solidify or close up that building, and that did not fully happen either. He shared that he was trying to find alternative solutions, because to be very candid, his concern was that if we keep prolonging this, it will be next December before it actually gets fixed, and he has already had since October to get things cleaned up. He shared that he was just offering as an option, that we send our crews in to clean up the weeds, clean up the junk and get rid of some of that stuff. But again, someone has to pay for it, so that would be as a lien on the property, or Mr. Childers could pay the city directly. He advised he was just trying to figure out a solution to the issue. Mr. Childers advised that he was unemployed, only living on Social Security and stretching it as far as he could.

Mayor Daniel stressed that he did not want to offend Mr. Childers but stated if it were a scenario where it was too much of a hassle, the city could take the property off his hands as well. Mr. Childers advised he did not have a place to put the stuff that was in the warehouse. Mayor Daniel questioned what the plan was for the stuff in the warehouse. Mr. Childers advised that he planned to keep it. He shared that he was trying to do things as fast as he could.

Mayor Daniel mentioned that one of the things said earlier was that broadleaf was sprayed and questioned where that was sprayed on the property. Mr. Childers advised they sprayed along the edge of the buildings and wherever there was a lot of vegetation. Mayor Daniel questioned when that was done. Mr. Childers advised it was just last week, and his son was there now working on cutting up the I-beams.

Dan Weigold questioned what their options were. Mayor Daniel shared from a punitive standpoint, we can start fining, we can mandate a cleanup where we go in and clean it up and place a lien on the property, or we can give additional time. Dan Weigold stated that they have given him since October and have dealt with him on situations before and it just keeps getting longer and longer. He felt the only two options were that the city clean it up and put a lien on the property or we start fining. He advised he was not in favor of prolonging it any more than what has already been done.

Mayor Daniel expressed that one of the frustrations the Board has is that when we left the meeting last time, we were all in agreement that those three things would be focused on and gotten rid of; the weeds and grass, the junk piles, and then solidifying the building. But work has been done on the I-beams, which, to Chief Parrett's point, was not a part of our agreement for right now. He advised we were trying to take it step by step. Mr. Childers explained that he used the money from the I-beams to help do all the other work. Mayor Daniel did not disagree with what was being said, and at the last meeting they talked about the I-beams, but it was not part of what was to be cleaned up, and shared that is where his frustration lies. He advised that he was trying to have a heart with the situation and trying to figure out how the city can assist to get this done quickly but his concern is that it is not going to be done in a timely manner. Mr. Childers shared that it does take time, and he was just starting to be able to walk. He added that his son was helping him, but he also needed some surgery. Chief Parrett questioned Mr. Childers, again, how the city could help; could we send people in to help clean it up and then file a lien on the property. Mayor Daniel suggested we could clean up everything but the I-beams and then he would have the ability to sell those off. He added with knowing what has already been said, he just did not know how they were going to be able to do the entirety of what is being asked in a timely manner. Mr. Childers did not understand why it needed to be done so quickly. Dan Weigold stressed that it has been since last October.

Discussion followed on the idea of scraping some of the items to help pay for the costs that may be incurred. Mr. Childers was not sure what scrap would be applicable to that.

Dan Weigold questioned Mr. Childers if he would be in favor of the city coming in and getting that area cleaned up and then putting a lien on the property. Mr. Childers advised it would depend on how expensive it would be; he was living on Social Security and barely scraping by.

Dan Weigold questioned how quickly the fines would add up. Chief Parrett advised they would add up pretty quickly if they were issued per the ordinance. Dan Weigold suggested weighing the fines versus the cost of cleaning the property up. He advised that he had no idea what it would cost for us to clean it up but felt that right now, there were basically two options; either have the city go in and clean it up and maybe take what scrap is out there and apply it to the bill of the cleanup, which may be the better option. Lisa Smith noted that with the lien nothing would have to be paid now, but when the property sells, whereas the fines would be due immediately.

Mayor Daniel shared that he honestly felt like one of the best options was to let the city come in and clean it up, place a lien on the property, and then apply all the junk that we can find on the property toward that bill. In addressing Mr. Childers, Mayor Daniel felt like he was putting himself through a lot of hurt and could see how this was really wearing on him. He again stressed that he was trying to find a more efficient solution that allows the property to become in compliance but also then gets the Board off his back.

Dan Weigold commented that was what he was looking at too. He understood how things pile up but stressed that we have to have some movement and do what is best for the city, but honestly, for Mr. Childers too, in terms of property value.

Mayor Daniel questioned Mr. Childers if he would be open to the idea of the city bringing a crew in, getting the property cleaned up, so that he could at least manage it by mowing and cutting the weeds down and things like that. Mr. Childers felt it would be trespass and if he had to go to the state police, he would ask them to enforce it. Mayor Daniel advised that he was leaving them with the choice of having to issue fines. Mr. Childers felt that would be counterproductive as it takes money away from him being able to do anything. Mayor Daniel understood but stressed that the progress in which things are getting cleaned up is not quick enough; it has been since October.

Chief Parrett reported that since October, they have had multiple conversations about getting it done. They have given extension, extension, extension, warnings, written warnings, verbal warnings. He again stressed that we were trying to help get this figured out.

Mayor Daniel questioned Mr. Childers if he would like two weeks to talk to his lawyer about the best thing to do. Mr. Childers advised he would. Mayor Daniel shared that he honestly did not know if enough progress would be made in the next two weeks, based on what we saw in the previous two weeks, that is going to satisfy the Board. He felt like before making the decision on which path to take it would be valuable for Mr. Childers to get a chance to talk to his lawyer to decide the best path moving forward.

Mayor Daniel made a motion to give Mr. Childers until the next Board of Works meeting to have a conversation with his lawyer as to what the appropriate path is going forward. Lisa Smith seconded the motion. Mayor Daniel and Lisa Smith approved the motion, Dan Weigold voted against.

GREENHILL CEMETERY RULES Leslee Robinson shared that we have a resident whose parents have a plot in the Greenhill Cemetery. She advised that they were not aware of the spring

cleanup so missed it and requested to see the rules of the Greenhill Cemetery. Leslee reported that in looking through files, she could not find anything in writing so researched several other cemeteries in Indiana, as well as Columbia Township sent their rules. She reported that she and Kelly Cearbaugh worked together on what he has seen to make sure that we had everything in writing. She advised that these were the final recommendations to the Board of Works for approval for the cemetery.

Mayor Daniel made a motion to approve the Greenhill Cemetery rules as presented. Lisa Smith seconded the motion, motion passed unanimously.

STREET CLOSING – STARS, STRIPES & SYMPHONY Mayor Daniel reported that this was scheduled for July 2nd and were asking for the streets to be closed at 1:00 p.m. and was a Thursday evening event.

Lisa Smith confirmed it was just South Chauncey they were asking for. Mayor Daniel advised that was correct.

Mayor Daniel made a motion to approve the Stars, Stripes and Symphony Street closing permit requested. Dan Weigold seconded the motion, motion passed unanimously.

STREET CLOSING – TIME CAPSULE OPENING Mayor Daniel shared this was for the opening of our 50-year-old time capsule and basically tagged it on to the back of the Farmer's Market. He reported that he worked with Kelly Cearbaugh, and he is going to have one of his crew members there to lift the time capsule and then remove it after the ceremony. He noted that the new one will be on the courthouse square.

Lisa Smith made a motion to approve the street closing for the time capsule opening on July 4th. Dan Weigold seconded the motion. Dan Weigold and Lisa Smith approved the motion, Mayor Daniel abstained.

STREET CLOSING – MOVIE ON THE SQUARE Mayor Daniel reported that this was for September 4th and tacked it onto the end of First Friday. He noted that this was a very standardized request since we do this every year. He advised that they keep the 100 block of South Chauncey closed in order to make sure people can walk back and forth safely across Chauncey Street so they can use the restrooms at City Hall.

Dan Weigold made a motion to approve Movie on the Square for September 4th from 9 to 11:30 p.m. for South Chauncey Street from Van Buren and it will follow the First Friday. Lisa Smith seconded the motion. Dan Weigold and Lisa Smith approved the motion, Mayor Daniel abstained.

STREET CLOSING – PRISM FEST Mayor Daniel reported that this was September 12th from 3 to 8 p.m. although the streets are requested to be closed from 1 to 10 p.m. Mayor Daniel questioned Chief Parrett if they have worked with him on this. Chief Parrett advised he talked to Savannah awhile back and thought she was trying to get approval from the county on what they can use there and thought that was why there were two maps.

Mayor Daniel made a motion to approve Prism Fest street closing permit from 1 to 10 p.m. 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 \$158,754.03 for the allowance of accounts payable vouchers dated June 23, 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 \$868,466.68. from the allowance of account payable vouchers dated June 23, 2026 for EFT payment. 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 \$309,256.36 plus overtime in the amount of \$14,013.28 for a total of \$323,269.64 for the payfile ending June 12, 2026. Dan Weigold seconded the motion, motion passed unanimously.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS **Kelly Cearbaugh** – Old Settlers clean up, working on a 50/50 sidewalk on West Ellsworth Street, put in time capsule foundation at the courthouse, televising and cleaning some sewer lines on North Washington Street. **Matt Heiden** - dog park in its final stages, ordered the drinking fountains and wash station for the dogs, focusing on July 3rd celebration, baseball and softball are in the tournament week, pool has only hit capacity one day so far since opening. **Shawn Lickey** - eight wildlife-related interruptions in power the last two weeks, still working on Digger Derrick truck specs, took delivery of a new stump grinder, had two breaks in our free Wi-Fi fiber line and were both caused by squirrels, working behind the old Walgreens building replacing poles and modernizing wires. **Terry Wherry** – SOS remounting box that was ripped off the pole at Devol Field. **Chip Hill** - drinking fountain and dog watering station installed at Eagle Park, update on the Amphitheater, trees shipped for Ohki Alley and will begin to remove trellises the second week of July, requested a CIP Committee meeting to talk through quotes regarding the Test Kitchen, two developers working very quickly to get apartment and housing in, removing poisonous hemlock around town, Westgate on hold due to NIPSCO, still in the 30 day quiet period with the jail so nothing is happening on that. **Mike Shoda** – finishing up with the sidewalks on Jeffrey Drive, still working with GLO. **Gary Parrett** – officer updates, OSD was a successful event overall, preparing for the fireworks on July 3rd, transitioning to a new fiber network in dispatch, audit in dispatch for our IDACS went well.

CLERK-TREASURER REPORT Leslee Robinson thanked Collin Nelson from our fire department for putting on CPR and first aid training for the clerk's office employees and HR. She reported that she would not be at the next meeting as she will be in Michigan City for ILMCT and State Board of Accounts training that week.

MAYOR'S REPORT Mayor Daniel shared the department report for Tom LaRue and Mike Cook.

Mayor Daniel reported that a MUST meeting, Municipal Unit Strategic Task Force, was scheduled for tomorrow from 6 – 7 p.m. He shared that on Thursday, he was giving opening remarks for LTAP who is doing an operation road-wise training at Eagle Glen. He advised that

next week was a big week with Stars, Stripes and Symphony on Thursday, Friday is the Fireworks at Morsches Park and Saturday, July 4th at 1:00 p.m. is the time capsule opening.

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

Mayor Ryan Daniel

Attest:

Clerk Treasurer Leslee Robinson