

**COMMON COUNCIL
TUESDAY, JUNE 23, 2026
6:00 P.M.**

Mayor Ryan Daniel – Present
Clerk Treasurer Leslee Robinson – Present
Attorney Marcia McNagy – Present

Council Members

Ryan Adamson – Present
Brent Bockelman – Present
Jennifer Romano – Present
Tad Varga – Present
Daniel Weigold – Present

The Columbia City Common Council met in regular session with all members present. Mayor Daniel called the meeting to order at 6:04 p.m. All stood to say the Pledge of Allegiance.

MINUTES Tad Varga made a motion to approve the June 9, 2026 meeting minutes as presented. Brent Bockelman seconded the motion, Ryan Adamson, Brent Bockelman, Tad Varga and Dan Weigold approved, Jennifer Romano abstained.

PUBLIC COMMENT There were no public comments.

ORDINANCE 2026-18 UTILITY DISCONNECT PROCESS AND PROCEDURES – 2nd READING Ryan Adamson made a motion to read Ordinance 2026-18 by title only. Jennifer Romano seconded the motion, motion passed unanimously. Clerk Treasurer Leslee Robinson read 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.

Leslee Robinson reminded the Council that this just gives us the authority to disconnect service in an event we need to enter someone's home to replace a meter but are not allowed entry. She advised that we obviously would not force entry, but this allows for disconnection of service whereas before we did not have that authority.

Mayor Daniel noted this was recommended by the GLO (Get the Lead Out) Organization.

Ryan Adamson made a motion to approve Ordinance 2026-18. Tad Varga seconded the motion, motion passed unanimously.

ORDINANCE 2026-20 AMENDMENT TO SNOW AND ICE REMOVAL – 2ND READING Jennifer Romano made a motion to read Ordinance 2026-20 by title only. Tad Varga seconded the motion, motion passed unanimously. Clerk Treasurer Leslee Robinson read Ordinance 2026-20 an Ordinance restation and amending Chapter 97 of Title IX of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Columbia City, Indiana.

Mayor Daniel explained that this effectively takes the Street Department out as being the snow removal entity but instead gives the Clerk Treasurer the ability to determine the best way the city can go about doing that.

Ryan Adamson made a motion to approve Ordinance 2026-20. Brent Bockelman seconded the motion, motion passed unanimously.

ORDINANCE 2026-23 AMENDMENT TO 2026 SALARY ORDINANCE – 2nd READING

Tad Varga made a motion to read Ordinance 2026-23 by title only. Brent Bockelman seconded the motion, motion passed unanimously. Clerk Treasurer Leslee Robinson read Ordinance 2026-23 an Ordinance amending the City of Columbia City Salary Ordinance for 2026.

Mayor Daniel reminded the Council that this amendment effectively adds the Test Kitchen Manager piece as a stipend, modifies the Meter Technician job description title and comp time to make sure it reflects what we are currently doing.

Jennifer Romano made a motion to approve Ordinance 2026-23 on second and final reading. Tad Varga seconded the motion, motion passed unanimously.

RESOLUTION 2026-24 PRELIMINARY APPROVING LEASE – AMPHITHEATER

Jennifer Romano made a motion to read Resolution 2026-24 by title only. Tad Varga seconded the motion, motion passed unanimously. Clerk Treasurer Leslee Robinson read Resolution 2026-24 a Resolution of the Common Council of the City of Columbia City preliminarily approving lease.

Mayor Daniel reminded the Council that this was part of the BOT process for the amphitheater. He advised that the Council still has the ability to say yes or no but this effectively allows us the ability to lease some structures and create some financing mechanisms. He shared that this was proposed to us by our bond attorney.

Ryan Adamson made a motion to approve Resolution 2026-24. Tad Varga seconded the motion, motion passed unanimously.

SWEARING IN CEREMONY – CYRUS GERMAN AND SCOTT MORRIS Clerk Treasurer Leslee Robinson performed the swearing in ceremony for Officer German and Officer Morris.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS **Chip Hill** – putting on a training session for the Plan Commission with tours of the water and wastewater plants, update on the amphitheater, drinking fountain/bottle fill station installed at Eagle Park, removing wood trellises in Ohki Alley and replacing with artificial trees, requested a CIP Committee meeting for July 14 to discuss updates to the Test Kitchen, working with a couple developers and lawyers to get their properties TIF designation so that we can assist with roads and infrastructure, waiting on NIPSCO to move their gas line so they can continue work in Westgate, hemlock removal. **Shawn Lickey** – wildlife causing interruptions in electric service, acquired new stump grinder, public Wi-Fi was down due to squirrels but were able to determine the location of the breaks to get service restored,

attending the American Public Power Association National Convention. **Mike Shoda** – replacing sidewalks on Jeffrey Drive and then will seed and straw, continue working with GLO and the lead lines. **Gary Parrett** – officer updates, preparing for fireworks celebration on July 3rd, transitioning to new fiber network in dispatch, IDACS audit in dispatch went well.

CLERK TREASURER REPORT Leslee Robinson thanked Collin Nelson with the Fire Department for putting on CPR and first aid training for her employees and HR. She reminded the Council to let her know if anyone would like to attend the IMEA event where our electric department will be honored. She reported that she would not be at the next meeting as she will be at ILMCT and State Board of Accounts training.

MAYOR REPORT Mayor Daniel shared department reports for Mike Cook, Matt Heiden and Tom LaRue.

Mayor Daniel advised we have a couple big days of events happening with the celebration of America's 250. He reported that the MUST meetings will be starting over at the county and council should have received the income tax report from Baker Tilly. He reminded everyone that the city offices will be closed Friday, July 3rd.

ARTS COMMISSION Jennifer Romano reported that the Arts Commission will be holding their 3rd annual SPARK camp, which is a special camp put on for at-risk youth in our community. She advised every student will attend a dance class, music class and art class and then will do a presentation at the end of the week for the families. She shared that this will be the first year that the Arts Commission will be funding the entire thing.

Jennifer reported that the Arts Commission, in collaboration with the Historical Society, did an Art Out during the Thursday of Old Settlers. She explained they had about a half dozen artists show up and were all doing something different. She shared that there were a lot of teaching moments for people who come through. She advised this may turn into something they begin doing monthly.

Jennifer reported that the Studio Art tours were planned for September 12 and will be held at Baker Park instead of having different locations around the county. As well, Art at the Museum is coming up and will run August 1 – October 30.

Jennifer reported that as part of the America 250 project, the Arts commission funded matching canvases for each of the communities. She shared that Columbia City claimed Pursuit of Happiness. She reported that the canvases will be unveiled at the opening of the time capsule.

Having no further business to discuss, Mayor Daniel called the meeting adjourned.

Mayor Ryan Daniel

Attest:

Clerk Treasurer Leslee Robinson