

**COMMON COUNCIL
TUESDAY, AUGUST 11, 2026
6:00 P.M.**

Mayor Ryan Daniel – Present
Clerk Treasurer Leslee Robinson – Present
Attorney Marcia McNagny – Present via phone

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 6:00 p.m. All stood to say the Pledge of Allegiance.

MINUTES Jennifer Romano made a motion to approve the July 28, 2026 meeting minutes as presented. Brent Bockelman seconded the motion, motion passed unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT There were no public comments.

ORDINANCE 2026-28 – SUPPLEMENT TO THE CODE OF ORDINANCES Jennifer Romano made a motion to read Ordinance 2026-28 by title only. Tad Varga seconded the motion, motion passed unanimously. Clerk Treasurer Leslee Robinson read Ordinance 2026-28 an ordinance enacting and adopting a supplement to the Code of Ordinances for the City of Columbia City, Indiana and declaring an emergency.

Mayor Daniel explained this was our semi-annual ordinance where we are effectively codifying the ordinances that we have already approved.

Ryan Adamson noted that they already approved the ordinances and confirmed they would be approving them a second time. Mayor Daniel advised that this was a one and only ordinance. He explained that when we pass an ordinance, we then have to pass an ordinance to have it published into our official code.

Ryan Adamson made a motion to approve Ordinance 2026-28 on first and final reading. Brent Bockelman seconded the motion, motion passed unanimously.

TREE BOARD APPOINTMENT Tad Varga made a motion to reappoint Brent Bockelman to the Tree Board. Jennifer Romano seconded the motion.

Brent Bockelman advised that he would love to continue serving but wanted it to be clear that with also being on the Regional Sewer District Board there are some meeting conflicts. He stated that he tries to keep up with Janice so that he continues to be in the know but as long as Council was good with that, he was happy to keep serving.

Upon the motion, Ryan Adamson, Tad Varga, Jennifer Romano, and Dan Weigold approved; Brent Bockelman abstained.

WELLNESS COMMITTEE APPOINTMENT Ryan Adamson advised he would be willing to stay on the committee but would not be able to attend many of the meetings as he will be traveling extensively. He questioned the need to have a councilperson on the committee since there was 10-12 people already. Leslee Robinson explained there was a representative from every department so that person can go back and relay information to their department. She continued to explain that a councilperson was on the committee because there were different things that council has to approve so it is important to be in the know and to be able to explain things at meetings and to the public. She noted that the policy for all of our board's is that with 3 or more absences in a year a replacement member is then appointed.

Ryan Adamson advised that it would be a good time to replace him on the committee. Jennifer Romano stated that she would be happy to serve.

Tad Varga made a motion to appoint Jennifer Romano to the Wellness Committee. Ryan Adamson seconded the motion, Ryan Adamson, Brent Bockelman, Tad Varga, and Dan Weigold approved; Jennifer Romano abstained.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS **Toby Fralick** – update on Truck 107 repairs, training on the new radios, completed pre-incident plans, new engine at J & K for radio installation, will be promoting Battle of the Badges blood drive on September 11. **Kelly Cearbaugh** – report on storm damage, working on ADA ramps and have a couple 50/50 sidewalk applicants, trimming limbs. **Matt Heiden** – worked on football field irrigation, pool now only open on weekends, cut trees in Eagle Park along substation, color coded the greenway for safety and mileage tracking purposes, Animal Grams event at the park. **Mike Shoda** – still potholing for lead lines, replaced 4 service lines, repaired leak, hooking water lines in Westgate to be able to serve homes in the future that are still on a well, Mayor Daniel reported they were looking at August 24 for a meeting with Westgate residents. **Gary Parrett** – First Fridays and Wheels of Whitley County Car Show went well, held department wide weapons qualifications, received and qualified on 40-millimeter weapons, school starting, AT & T will be in to install new equipment to update our T1 line in dispatch, update on donation boxes at TSC. **Mike Cook** – requesting quotes for asphalt sealing at the plant, sludge mixer went bad and estimate a couple of weeks for repair, headworks pump being rebuilt and should be back in about a week.

MAYOR REPORT Mayor Daniel reported that he was in Fishers with the AIM Board of Directors, Legislative Committee and Property Tax Committee and heard from the Speaker of the House as to where the legislature is going with property taxes. He shared that there have been a couple different concepts going around but most economists have said they are non-workable plans. He reported that they pretty much heard from the Speaker that there is not a whole lot of appetite for complete elimination of property taxes and was very clear about wanting to incentivize growth in communities. He shared that they were working on a couple different TIF Districts for housing developments and have a couple interviews with companies who are interested in the old jail. He reported that the amphitheater is coming along and will have the guaranteed maximum price at the second meeting in September.

ARTS COMMISSION Jennifer Romano reported that on September 12 from 9 am – 2 pm they will be holding the Baker Park Studio Art Tour. She shared that instead of the tour going around to different locations it will all be at Baker Park. She advised they would have food trucks, live music and local artists showing and selling their artwork.

Jennifer Romano shared that she was also looking for individuals who have photographed primarily performing arts related activities for their calendar.

OHKI ALLEY Jennifer Romano reported that she has talked with some businesses who are in the vicinity of Ohki Alley, and they are really pleased with the mini makeover. She shared that the Arts Commission was going to take the trellis that was removed from there and work it into an art installation at Baker Park.

REDEVELOPMENT COMMISSION Tad Varga reported the Redevelopment Commission was working hard on the TIF Districts and the old jail project. He shared that a committee was put together for the Test Kitchen and they are actively trying to push that project along. He advised that he has been working with the Disc Golf Committee in terms of fundraising, etc. He shared that he met with the Community Foundation and coincidentally the HANDS Foundation group was actually targeting a disc golf project in our community, so they are putting together something for them regarding funding and fundraisers outside of the Community Foundation. He noted that the course would be at the very back of Eagle Park.

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

Mayor Ryan Daniel

Attest:

Clerk Treasurer Leslee Robinson