

**COMMON COUNCIL
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, 2026
6:00 P.M.**

Mayor Ryan Daniel – Present
Clerk Treasurer Leslee Robinson – Present
Attorney Marcia McNagny – 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 6:00 p.m. Everyone stood to say the Pledge of Allegiance.

MINUTES Mayor Daniel pointed out a sentence under Ordinance 2026-28 discussion that did not make sense and requested it be deleted.

Jennifer Romano made a motion to approve the August 25, 2026 meeting minutes with changes. Tad Varga seconded the motion, motion passed unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT There were no public comments.

ORDINANCE 2026-29 – REAL ESTATE EQUITIES VOLUNTARY ANNEXATION

Jennifer Romano made a motion to read Ordinance 2026-29 by title only. Ryan Adamson seconded the motion, motion passed unanimously. Clerk Treasurer Leslee Robinson read Ordinance 2026-29 an Ordinance of the City Council of the City of Columbia City, Indiana, annexing certain territory to the City of Columbia City, Indiana, placing the same within the corporate boundaries thereof and making the same a part of the City of Columbia City.

Mayor Daniel explained that this was 100% super voluntary annexation and thought it to be 4 parcels that will hopefully become the Eagle Landing apartment complex. He advised that it was on the northeast side of the city, and the Redevelopment Commission was working on establishing it as a TIF District.

Ryan Adamson made a motion to approve Ordinance 2026-29 on first reading. Brent Bockelman seconded the motion, motion passed unanimously.

Mayor Daniel advised that the public hearing and second reading will take place at the next Council meeting.

ORDINANCE 2026-30 PROHIBIT COMMERCIAL USE OF PUBLIC RECORDS

Jennifer Romano made a motion to read Ordinance 2026-30 by title only. Tad Varga seconded the motion, motion passed unanimously. Clerk Treasurer Leslee Robinson read Ordinance 2026-

30 an Ordinance to prohibit the commercial use of public records from electronic data storage system.

Attorney McNagny shared that this was something being discussed on the listserv email group. She explained it was in reference to commercial groups trying to obtain public records for them to then use for commercial purposes. She advised that per statute we are allowed to create an ordinance to address that issue.

Ryan Adamson confirmed that people were submitting public records requests. Attorney McNagny advised that was correct, for commercial purposes. Ryan Adamson questioned if we could deny their requests based off of this ordinance. Attorney McNagny explained if it is determined that is what they are requesting it for, we can deny the request. Ryan Adamson questioned if the purpose of the request is asked on the form. Leslee Robinson advised it was.

Ryan Adamson made a motion to approve Ordinance 2026-30 on first reading. Brent Bockelman seconded the motion, motion passed unanimously.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS **Shawn Lickey** – finished at Park Terrace but still need to do ground restoration, restored property at the CTE building on Radio Road as well as at Eagle Park, replacing all of the overhead lines with underground facilities at Eagle Park and on Hilltop Drive, working on field lighting issues at Morsches Park. **Chip Hill** – working to get two developments and possibly a third going, getting close with getting The Kitchen open, trees came in for Ohki Alley. **Terry Wherry** – received patch for video servers to stop hackers from getting into our network, working with Preferred IT to get some new security certifications on the MSF GIS server. **Mike Cook** – final two panels should be hooked up the week of September 14 and should finish that project, completed 3rd quarter force main testing on SDI force main, continue working on quotes for a new blower and new frequency drives. **Gary Parrett** – held countywide ballistic shield training, opened application process, gearing up for Homecoming Parade and Prism Fest, waiting to get new T1 line transferred to the new system. **Toby Fralick** – Truck 107 is back in service, finished mounting the new 800 radios, working to get new equipment mounted in the new engine, scheduling field trips for fire prevention in October, Family Safety Fest is September 26 from 9 a.m. – noon.

MAYOR REPORT Mayor Daniel reported that Movie on the Square went well. He advised they continue to work on a lot of things, and the guaranteed maximum price should be presented at the next Council meeting.

ARTS COMMISSION Jennifer Romano reported on the Studio Art tour that will be held in Baker Park on Saturday, September 12 from 9 a.m. – 2 p.m.

REDEVELOPMENT COMMISSION Tad Varga shared that in the 10 years he has been on City Council this is the first time he can report that the LML/Cardinal Grain property has been cleared. He reported that they were not going to do anything with it as it will be connected to the Smith property so will wait until that property is fixed.

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

Mayor Ryan Daniel

Attest:

Clerk Treasurer Leslee Robinson