COMMON COUNCIL
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 13, 2026
6:00 P.M.

Mayor Ryan Daniel – Absent
Clerk Treasurer Leslee Robinson – Present
Attorney Marcia McNagny – Absent
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 except Mayor Daniel present. Council President Dan Weigold 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 September 22, 2026 meeting minutes as presented. Brent Bockelman seconded the motion, motion passed unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT There were no public comments.

ORDINANCE 2026-29 – VOLUNTARY ANNEXATION REAL ESTATE EQUITIES – 3RD READING Brent Bockelman made a motion to read Ordinance 2026-29 by title only. Jennifer Romano 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 of 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.

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

ORDINANCE 2026-33 – APPROVAL OF 2027 BUDGET Clerk Treasurer Leslee Robinson explained that when working with the CPA, they included a couple extra accounts to show an overall picture to the State Board of Accounts. She advised that those accounts were nothing that had to be reported to the DLGF. She also reported that she was having issues with getting the actual budget ordinance printed previously but was able to get it printed and included in the packet for this meeting. She requested the Council approve the Ordinance on an emergency basis since it had already been reviewed and approved at the last meeting. She made the Council aware that it was previously discussed and made known by Mayor that we were giving employees an across the board $1,000 raise for next year rather than a $1,000 one-time bonus. She advised that she made sure there was enough to cover the additional PERF contributions and taxes but other than that everything else was the same.

Jennifer Romano made a motion to read Ordinance/Resolution 2026-33 by title only. Tad Varga seconded the motion, motion passed unanimously. Clerk Treasurer Leslee Robinson read Ordinance/Resolution 2026-33 an Ordinance or Resolution for appropriations and tax rates.

Leslee Robinson explained that in the actual ordinance it lists out the adopted budget, which is exactly what was presented two weeks ago, and then the tax levy used. She explained that she maxed out the estimated levy and spread it out accordingly. She noted that she did not appropriate any tax levy money into the Cum Fire Fund because there were enough funds in that account to pay both payments next year for the fire truck; however, for 2028 we will need to appropriate some of the levy into that fund for those payments.

Tad Varga requested clarification on what they were reviewing. Leslee Robinson explained it is what is reported through Gateway to the DLGF every year and is something the Council has to approve.

Ryan Adamson questioned if it was not approved on an emergency basis how many more times would they have to consider it. Leslee Robinson advised she would have to change the adoption date to October 27. Ryan Adamson confirmed Council had spoken about the budget at least once already. Leslee Robinson advised that was correct but did not have the actual ordinance available at the last meeting.

Ryan Adamson made a motion to approve Ordinance 2026-33 on an emergency basis. Tad Varga seconded the motion, motion passed unanimously.

ARTS COMMISSION APPOINTMENTS Leslee Robinson advised there were 2 appointments that both expire on November 30, 2026: Jennifer Romano and Taylor Ford.

Jennifer Romano advised that she would like to be reappointed and Taylor Ford would as well.

Leslee Robinson wanted to make sure it was made known that members can only miss three meetings a year in order to stay on.

Tad Varga made a motion to reappoint Jennifer Romano and Taylor Ford to the Arts Commission. Ryan Adamson seconded the motion. Ryan Adamson, Brent Bockelman, Tad Varga and Dan Weigold approved. Jennifer Romano abstained.

Having no further business to discuss, Dan Weigold called the meeting adjourned.

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Council President Daniel Weigold

Attest:

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Clerk Treasurer Leslee Robinson