

COMMON COUNCIL
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 2009
7:00 P.M.

Mayor James Fleck – Present
Clerk Treasurer Rosie Coyle – Present
Attorney Lindsey Grossnickle – Present

Council members

Walt Crowder – Present
Nicole Penrod – Present
Don Sexton – Present
Roger Seymoure – Present
Dan Weigold – Present

The Columbia City Common Council met in regular session with all members present, Mayor Fleck presiding.

MINUTES Upon the motion of Sexton second by Weigold to approve an overview of the January 27, 2009 meeting minutes as presented, all voted aye.

WATER DEPARTMENT Mike Dear reported in one of the old Essex buildings had a water line break over the weekend. He advised they lost about 750,000 gallons of water before it was found. He advised it was on their line not ours.

STREET DEPARTMENT Kelly Cearbaugh reported they were still trying to get limbs cleaned up from the ice storm. He advised they were also working on potholes and tree removal.

STATE BOARD OF ACCOUNTS – CELL PHONES Nicole Penrod advised she downloaded the State Board of Accounts report and had a couple questions regarding the cell phones provided by the City. She questioned if she could get a list of who had cell phones and also questioned if the policy had been changed regarding people paying for personal calls. Rosie Coyle advised the City phone list shows everyone who had a phone. Mayor Fleck felt it was time to look at it again but advised it was a very complicated issue with respect to the individual contracts. Rosie explained they redid the whole thing about three months ago.

Nicole questioned if the policy had changed regarding paying for personal calls. Rosie explained they were under a contract for a certain number of minutes. She advised if they go over their minutes then they have to pay for the overage.

Dan Weigold questioned if it was considered income. Rosie advised it was not yet. Mayor Fleck explained they had sought advice from State Board of Accounts and Cities and Towns on how to recover that. He stated his bigger concern was whether or not it was distracting the employee from their work.

Nicole felt it was necessary for the department heads to have them. Walt Crowder felt from a public safety stand point it was important for the officers to have the upper hand and privacy to communicate. He added it was a continual improvement of controlling it going forward. Rosie explained the Clerks League was working on this with the State

Board of Accounts, State Tax Commission and Indiana Dept. of Revenue to get more guidelines on exactly what to do.

ORDINANCE 2009-2: ONE SIDE STREET PARKING – 2ND READING Upon the motion of Penrod second by Sexton to read Ordinance 2009-2 by title only, all voted aye. Clerk Treasurer Rosie Coyle read Ordinance 2009-2 an ordinance amending Title VII, Schedule VI of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Columbia City, Indiana.

Tom LaRue advised he spoke with two members of the committee in reference to the parking issue and requested to table it until the next Council meeting.

Mayor Fleck introduced Hal & Carolyn McCrum who were present to speak on the ordinance. Mr. McCrum stated they have lived across from the 4-H park for the past 29 years. He discussed the changes and increased activity they have seen over the years at the park. He expressed their concern of people parking on both sides of the road and felt there was absolutely no necessity to have any parking on Lincolnway, Squawbuck and Park Street Extended.

Roger Seymoure advised he had a lengthy conversation with the mail carrier in the area. He stated they put no parking on the side of the hydrants but most of the mailboxes were on the other side so then people park in front of the mailboxes. Chief LaRue advised there were 18 mailboxes on the one side of Lincolnway.

Upon the motion of Sexton second by Seymoure to table the issue for 2 weeks, all voted aye.

A committee meeting was scheduled for Friday, February 20th at 7:30 a.m.

ORDINANCE 2009-3: AMENDMENT TO WASTE DISPOSAL – 1ST READING Upon the motion of Penrod second by Sexton to read Ordinance 2009-3 by title only, all voted aye. Clerk Treasurer Rosie Coyle read Ordinance 2009-3 an ordinance amending Title V, Chapter 53, Waste Disposal of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Columbia City, Indiana.

Upon the motion of Crowder second by Sexton to approve Ordinance 2009-3 as first reading.

Rosie Coyle explained because there had been so many changes over the years she and Attorney McNagny went through the different sections and cleaned them up to match the current ordinance.

Walt Crowder questioned if there was something in the ordinance that requires National Serv-All to maintain the trucks so they do not leak all over the roadway. Rosie Coyle advised there was something in the contract. Mayor Fleck explained the Solid Waste Board addresses the issues. Walt questioned who they should have people call. Mayor Fleck advised they should call Martha or the Solid Waste Board.

Dan Weigold asked TJ to put a notice in the newspaper reminding people to have their cans pulled back in by 7 p.m. on the day of collection. Nicole Penrod questioned what the consequences were if they did not have them pulled back by 7 p.m. Rosie Coyle stated they could be fined \$50.

Upon the motion, all voted aye.

FIBRE OPTIC COMMITTEE Walt Crowder reported he and Terry Wherry had been working together for the past several months in regards to fibre optic connectivity for the City government buildings. He advised they were meeting with the Technology Director at the school this Thursday. He explained they were still in the talking stages but were trying to work through some of the needs. He felt they were real close to presenting some feedback in regards to how they see there was some payback to it. He advised they have been working with the architect firm on an upcoming project that was still under design for South Chauncey Street to see if they could put the infrastructure in place that would allow them to take advantage of the construction period.

HUMAN RESOURCE COMMITTEE Mayor Fleck formed a committee of Rosie Coyle, Roger Seymoure and Nicole Penrod to further pursue the hiring of a Human Resources Director.

DIVERSITY TRAINING Rosie Coyle reported the first session of the Diversity Training would take place at the retreat with the department heads and Council. She advised there would be a survey going out to each employee before that session. She explained responses would be compiled and then they would set up individual meetings with the employees and department heads.

ELECTRIC UTILITY RATE STUDY Mayor Fleck reported the study had begun. He thought they were still looking at several months before it would be ready.

MAYOR'S INSTITUTE Mayor Fleck advised he attended the Mayor's Institute in Indianapolis and reported on the topics that were discussed.

Mayor Fleck also discussed the proposed changes in County Government with respect to the Trustees and County Commissioners.

DIGESTER MIXER Mayor Fleck reported one of the mixer blades fell off due to being undersized when constructed. He stated Donohue did not feel it was their responsibility but after discussions they now have agreed to pay.

Having no further business to discuss the meeting was adjourned.

Mayor James Fleck

Attest:

Clerk Treasurer Rosie Coyle