

**COMMON COUNCIL
TUESDAY, MARCH 9, 2010
7:00 P.M.**

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

Council members

Walter Crowder – Present
Nicole Penrod – Present
Donald 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 Motion was made by Sexton to approve an overview of the February 23, 2010 meeting minutes as presented, Penrod second the motion, Crowder, Penrod, Sexton and Weigold voted aye, Seymoure abstained.

FRIENDS OF THE EEL RIVER TRAIL – TRAILHEAD PROJECT UPDATE

Barry Yeakle and Rod Mitchell were present to give an update on the trailhead project.

Mr. Yeakle reported there was a group of senior design students at IPFW who have adopted this project as their senior project. He advised many of the students work for contractors so have experience putting up buildings. He stated the students have done some planning and estimating and have come up with a better and cheaper design for the building. He explained because a student group is working on this it was easier to get donations from local companies. He advised if everything goes as scheduled ground breaking would happen this month and they would be done by the end of April.

Mayor Fleck mentioned as part of this facility the driveway and parking lot would be improved to accommodate additional parking that is anticipated. He advised the piece behind the museum the City would assist in because it does not meet our own requirements.

Walt Crowder questioned where the funding source came from. It was noted that they do not have all of the funding wrapped up yet. They were working on finalizing a grant from Parkview Hospital but also have funding from local donors and a number of different private sources. Walt confirmed there was no state or federal grant money involved for the building. It was reported that this would be done with private money and grants. Mayor Fleck advised this would not be done with any tax money and would be gifted to the City. He reported he talked with Attorney McNagny with respect to the requirements on the acceptance of the gift.

Dan Weigold discussed concerns he had with connecting the sewer into the existing sewer tap at the fire museum. He questioned if the sewer line would be big enough to handle the transmission of waste from that building. Jeff Walker advised a service lateral would be more than adequate.

SR 205 PROJECT Jeff Walker reported the City and Parkview met with representatives of INDOT last month to try and piece together everything that is the essence of the project. He advised they quickly realized the necessity of the opening of the hospital and our timeline for the balance of the project were not going to meld together very well. He stated INDOT recommended we separate the projects and allow Parkview to move forward with what would need to be done on their part to get a certificate of occupancy permit which allows us to move forward at a more responsible pace. He reported they have separated the projects but they are still interdependent of one another for the overall plan. He stated with Parkview there were some utility

relocation issues that need to be taken care of and likewise the City will require relocation of utilities for our portion of the project but will also require acquiring additional easements. He advised they continue to keep in contact with Parkview. He stated he is also in discussion with American StructurePoint almost daily. He advised they were moving forward but had to do it in steps approved by both INDOT and the Feds. He reported in addition to the \$2.9 million grant we also received a \$330,000 grant and then also the \$500,000 earmark out of the Federal Highway Program.

Mayor Fleck stated because the projects are not being combined there would be some reallocations with respect to some costs.

Roger Seymoure questioned if they were breaking them into two projects did that mean they have to be bid separately. Mayor Fleck advised that was correct. He stated we had no financial commitment at all to Parkview but they may to us. He reported there was an understanding with respect to engineering fees but when INDOT imposed the separation they just did not know the status. Roger advised we signed a contract to design the whole thing and questioned if it needed to be broken out into two pieces. Mayor Fleck advised it did not and the contract we signed was for our project only. Roger confirmed StructurePoint would have to design two different projects but they would tie together. Mayor Fleck advised they would and Parkview has almost complete approval of their design. He stated Parkview was not bound by the same rules as the Federal grant requires us to be bound by.

Walt Crowder questioned with breaking this into two independent projects if we would be looking at a 2 – 3 year completion. Jeff Walker advised in a Federal Aid project they still want it wrapped up in a 24 month period. Walt confirmed there were still more details to be defined from a utility standpoint. Jeff advised there were and stated up until now we were not allowed to do anything.

Nicole Penrod confirmed Parkview's project would be done before this project. Jeff Walker advised it would. Nicole questioned how it would affect getting into Parkview if there was going to be road construction. Jeff advised there would still be access but it does make it more difficult. Walt Crowder advised with being a State Highway they would keep it open but they may limit at different intervals.

MORSCHES PARK BRIDGE Mark Green reviewed a map with the Council on the proposed Blue River Trail extension that would connect the north side of town. He advised the estimated costs for the trail expansion was \$67,000 with a crushed limestone base and the bridge estimate had not been turned in yet.

Don Sexton confirmed the limestone would be conducive for a bicycle. Mark advised it was and the purpose of the limestone as opposed to asphalt was because it was significantly cheaper.

Roger Seymoure questioned if the land was being donated for the trail or was it in the right of way. Mayor Fleck advised the City owned most of the land.

Mayor Fleck noted the hope was that this would be a donated project and not a tax payer project.

C.F. GOMMA CLEANUP Mayor Fleck explained some time ago Tim Hill appeared before the Council to request to do an assessment grant application which would then be followed by an application to the agriculture department program where we would get funding for the clean up at C.F. Gomma. He advised that was underway and would hear in early May as to whether or not we would get that. He explained in the meantime we were approached by the EDC because there were prospects looking at the facility for purchase. He reported as the grant writer was looking for funding sources they contacted the State Revolving Loan Fund. He advised SRF contacted the City and suggested it might qualify for funding through SRF but it had to be completed by the middle of April and had to be shovel ready. He stated there was no way we could have

the PER completed by that date. He stated even though that was offered to us as a loan the City had not even decided what our involvement would be and that decision would have to come through the Council. He advised there was a lot of investigating but nothing has really changed and Mr. Hill was still investigating getting the grant.

Roger Seymoure questioned if part of that building was purchased. Mayor Fleck did not believe it had. Dan Weigold thought that had been brought up way back when they were looking at hiring somebody to come in and do an assessment. He stated because of the way the funding was going to happen at the time the City was going to purchase a portion of the building until the cleanup was done and then once the clean up was done the person who wanted to purchase the building could. He stated it sounded like that had gone out the door. Mayor Fleck advised the most recent had gone out the door and did not know the requirements of the initial one.

Jeff Walker explained there was a voluntary remediation agreement between Dana and IDEM but then Dana met their demise and after that shut the system down. He stated the problem now is there have been enough years go by that no one knows exactly what is occurring out there so would have to go back through a process which essentially is what the assessment grant would help identify. He stated it was certainly contaminating the ground but to what affect it was leaching away from the property was an unknown right now.

Mayor Fleck stated by sitting idle that building has cost the City close to \$1 million dollars and by putting it back on the tax role and back in production it would have a tremendous economic impact. He advised it was in the interest of the City to do something but was not sure it would be in the best interest to own it.

PHASE I WASTEWATER PLANT COMPLETION Mayor Fleck advised Phase I was basically a completed project but there were some things that still could be added back. Mike Cook advised he and Jeff Walker would be meeting to put together a list of potential things that they would like to see completed or updated that were either not in the project the first time or were removed during value engineering.

Mike Cook gave an update on the fine screen. He reported Siemens hired an independent consultant to look at the design specifications as well as the installation by possibly an onsite visit.

Mayor Fleck explained after the bids were let a contractor went through a process called value engineering which examined alternate ways that the project could be completed, some were additions some were deletions. He stated that process reduced the cost by \$1 million then after the project was completed in terms of construction it was completed with an additional about \$1.5 million less than anticipated, even after the value engineering. He stated there was confusion in that there were some people who think the City has all this money some place, but, we do not. He explained the way the loan worked was that SRF designated a fund that could be drawn down by the City for the project up to a certain dollar amount and we would only be charged for the amount that was drawn down. He stated it was anticipated that a portion of the left over money, which was about \$1.2 million at the present time, would be the source of funding for the new lift stations at Main and Jefferson Streets. He advised this would not affect the rates because those have already been figured on the total project.

PHASE II WASTEWATER PROJECT Jeff Walker reported this was an unfunded mandate debt and was part of the Long Term Control Plan. He stated this project was meant to reduce the sewer overflow conditions in our system as well as to be able to capture what is classified as the first flush. He advised the project consisted of sewer from Spencer Street at Chauncey to the treatment facility as well as a 3 million gallon equalization basin that would capture the first flush. He reported they have been working closely with Burgess & Niple on the design as well as Region 3A with the grant administration of the OCRA grant that was awarded to us to help fund the project. He advised the project was currently out for bid and on March 25 at 10 a.m. there would be a pre-bid meeting.

Roger Seymoure questioned when the bids could be anticipated to be back. Rosie Coyle advised they were due April 9. Jeff Walker thought once the bids were opened they would be under review for about 3 weeks.

Dave Ross questioned the Mayor if he felt this was a worthwhile project the taxpayers should be paying for. He advised he was confused about the term of unfunded mandates. Mayor Fleck explained with respect to this about 8 years ago when the order came down that we had to have a Long Term Control Plan that would meet certain requirements for the discharge going into the streams. Jeff Walker advised it had to do with the Clean Water Act that started in 1969 – 1970. Mayor Fleck advised we were not in compliance and until we complied we would be fined \$30,000 per day. He explained we hired counsel from Chicago and Indianapolis and they both concurred that we better get our act together and comply. He advised this was not any different than any other city so whether we were for or against it we were required to do it. Mr. Ross questioned Mayor Fleck if he was for or against it to begin with. He questioned if it was a good project because of the water quality issue. Mayor Fleck felt it was and made us comply with Federal standards. Mr. Ross advised compliance with the Federal government and doing the right thing were two different things. Mayor Fleck advised it was a good thing and there was a cost to doing a good thing. He explained what we were charged with was the money issue and we did not have the money so had to raise the rates. Mr. Ross questioned if there was potential maybe 10 years down the road of the rates coming down. Mayor Fleck advised they would continue to go up for 20 years which was under the Long Term Control Plan. Jeff Walker advised they had really started looking at the storm water side of it as well and felt they would eventually see the treatment of storm water. He felt there was going to be more regulatory devices come in to play instead of less.

Walt Crowder felt it was important to note that this project was forecasted to be about \$7.9 million but with the help of the OCRA grant of \$4.7 million they were down to \$3.1 million. He commended everyone involved because it did not just show up.

Roger Seymoure stated, in answering if it was the right thing to do, since we have a combined sewer when there are heavy rains we end up dumping raw sewage into the river because the system cannot handle it. Mike Cook thought they had 8 points where it dumps but after this project it should go down to 7 as far as combined.

PARKVIEW WHITLEY HOSPITAL Larry Whetstone reported that Parkview requested we have two separate sources from two different substations in case of a catastrophe to minimize outages. He advised they have completed one circuit to the hospital and were able to meet the deadline.

NETWORK SERVER UPDATE Terry Wherry reported we suffered a server crash about 2 weeks ago and had called in Preferred IT to try and bring the server back up. He advised they lost 2 out of 3 hard drives but were able to get the exchange and log on server back up on one hard drive. He advised some of the equipment was old enough that they were unable to replace it so they looked at going to virtual servers. He stated in the process the Komputrol server went haywire so they decided to order a new system which consisted of virtual servers where they all would run on a SAN unit. He advised they were able to virtualize the main server on Friday and they virtualized the Komputrol server today. He reported they hope to have the surf-control server virtualized by the end of the week.

Mayor Fleck questioned what would have happened if everything would have crashed. Terry reported if the main server would have gone down everything would be down and would not have been able to do anything.

Mayor Fleck questioned how much this has cost so far. Terry advised it was approximately \$35,000.

Mr. Ross advised he worked in IT and was impressed with the low costs.

WATER DEPARTMENT Mike Dear reported they fixed a 4" main break on Frontage Road.

PARK DEPARTMENT Mark Green reported they have an 8K race at the Park on March 20 and the purpose of the race was to raise money for the fireworks. He advised they were holding baseball and softball registration. He reported they have 2 interns from the high school helping out in the afternoons. He advised the Father Daughter dance went over very well and had pictures available at the park office.

Rosie Coyle questioned if the security cameras had been installed on the greenway yet. Mark advised they had not and were planned as a spring project.

Dan Weigold discussed the safety issues on the trail and the idea of color coding the trail for emergency identification purposes. Mark advised they had something in place and would explain after the meeting.

Mayor Fleck shared a letter with the Council from an 8 year old who lives on North Walnut Street asking that a park be put on a lot where a house was recently torn down. She shared that there were a lot of kids in the area and asked what she could do to help build the park. Mayor Fleck felt it should at least be looked at but was not sure anything could be done due to money restraints.

ELECTRIC DEPARTMENT Larry Whetstone reported he was proud of his guys in getting the work done for the Parkview project. He advised they continue with the tree trimming and put in a couple three new services.

STREET DEPARTMENT Kelly Cearbaugh reported they were gaining some ground on getting the streets cleaned up. He advised they were able to get the leaves ground up at the back of the park and would be setting a day for mulch give away. He stated Mike Smith has been GPSing the manholes around town and they have been working on patching streets.

Mark Green questioned the intent of the mulch giveaway because there were businesses coming in and taking the mulch for commercial purposes rather than residential. Jeff Walker explained when he applied to IDEM for a grant to help fund the leaf vacs part of the obligation was we had to divert all of the leaf mulch from being disposed in landfills. He advised beyond that it was at the discretion of the municipality. Dan Weigold advised his first thought was that it would be extremely difficult to monitor or regulate the entire time. Roger Seymoure questioned if there was ever a time when it was gone before the giveaway day. Kelly advised there was not. Roger questioned if it was all gone at the end of that day. Kelly advised sometimes. Walt Crowder confirmed we only assist for ½ day and after that they come on their own. Kelly advised that was correct. Roger did not think we should be too restrictive where there would be a big pile left all summer. Kelly suggested putting something in the paper notifying people that it was ready but that we would still have a day where we would assist. Walt suggested continuing as we have in the past but monitor it.

HOLDEN LAKE Mayor Fleck reported a resident came to the Board of Works regarding the Holden Lake. He stated the Lake has accumulated a lot of silt, has become very shallow and is destroying the vegetation. He advised they asked the City to participate in dredging the Lake. He reported they were researching to see if we could have any participation in it since it was a private lake but it was also in a watershed area.

WASTEWATER DEPARTMENT Mike Cook reported the construction permit and application has been sent on to IDEM for review. He advised once IDEM issue's the permit then they could move forward. He reported they have been cleaning things up around the plant and painting the inside of the blower room. He advised they would also be compiling a list to clean lift stations.

STATE OF THE CITY ADDRESS The State of the City address was scheduled for Friday, April 9 at the Eagle's Nest.

Having no further business to discuss the meeting was adjourned.

Mayor James Fleck

Attest:

Clerk Treasurer Rosie Coyle