

COMMON COUNCIL
TUESDAY, MARCH 23, 2010
7:00 P.M.

Mayor James Fleck – Present at 7:20 p.m.
Clerk Treasurer Rosie Coyle – Present
Attorney Lindsey Grossnickle – Present

Council Members

Walter Crowder – Absent
Nicole Penrod – Present
Donald Sexton – Present
Roger Seymoure – Present
Daniel Weigold – Present

The Columbia City Common Council met in regular session with all members except Walter Crowder and Mayor Fleck present, Roger Seymoure presiding.

MINUTES Motion was made by Penrod to approve an overview of the March 9, 2010 meeting minutes as presented, Sexton second the motion, all voted aye.

ONE SIDE STREET PARKING Roger Seymoure advised the Council should have received a list of the final group of streets being considered for one side street parking. He stated it was for the Business 30 and Westgate areas. He explained letters were ready to go out to the residents inviting them to the April 13 Council meeting to address any concerns or questions. He advised they were adding Jefferson Street between Wayne and Whitley Street due to a number of concerns with the high traffic area for the school and school buses. He explained it did not fit under the original criteria of being 26 ft. or less but it was a high concern area.

Dan Weigold thought, after sending out the letters, they were going to hear the concerns and opinions of the citizens before adding Jefferson Street to the ordinance. Roger Seymoure advised that was correct but it was being considered for the same ordinance so they don't have to run a separate ordinance just for Jefferson Street. Rosie Coyle explained the resident's would have enough time to get back with the committee if they had any concerns.

Roger Seymoure questioned Kelly Cearbaugh if all the houses on Jefferson Street had off street parking. Kelly advised they did.

IMPA PRESENTATION Larry Whetstone advised they were unable to attend or have a conference call tonight. He stated Chris Wheeler who is IMPA's lawyer sent additional information that she thought might help enlighten the situation with the IURC. He reported she has been meeting with the IURC two to three times a week.

Roger Seymoure asked Larry Whetstone to review the situation for the Council members. Larry explained the IURC has stressed to the 10 members still belonging to the IURC of the 52 members of IMPA that they would like a 10% reduction in electric usage. He stated they have given some helpful hints on how to do that and we have also passed out coupons for savings on

light bulbs. He explained they have come out with another program for cities under 35,000 and there was a possibility of us getting a grant for our downtown lighting. He stated their object of this whole thing was for conservation rather than building more power plants.

Larry advised IMPA came out with a similar project like this last year to offer ideas of saving energy so they have been trying to work hand in hand with the IURC. He stated they were trying to extend the deadline from July 1 to September 1.

Roger Seymoure questioned how they would measure the savings. Larry explained they would have a record and would basically go by our kilowatt usage each month. Roger wondered how they would measure the savings if we have new businesses and new usage; how would they know if we saved anything. Larry advised we could isolate the new businesses from what the monthly costs usually were.

Larry suggested the Council read through the new information and if there are still a lot of questions he could request IMPA make an appearance to get answers.

Roger Seymoure questioned what the grants, that were previously discussed, could be used for. Larry advised they could be used for street lighting, internal lighting and things like that. He stated he has asked for a couple different quotes just to see what the costs would be on the 116 decorative lights downtown.

Mayor Fleck now present.

Rosie Coyle explained Troy Gawthrop has already made changes at City Hall to work towards conservation.

Terry Smith understood the IURC issued a mandate to reduce the Demand Side Management by 2% over the next 10 years and questioned how they got 10% reduction. Mayor Fleck explained they broke it out by so many percentages each year. Rosie Coyle advised it accumulates to 10%. Mayor Fleck explained the 2% was off the gross amount of electricity being sold and in order to achieve that the members have to reduce their consumption by 10% as there was an assumption there would be growth. Mr. Smith understood new hook ups would not count against the 2%. He did not understand the difference between the 2% and 10% and felt the public needed to know what was being talked about. He advised he wrote a letter to the URC and Doc Dillon and just today received an email about this whole thing. He stated he was told his personal consumption would not be affected and he would not have to turn his electricity off. He did not understand that. Larry Whetstone explained the objective was not to make people shut their electric off for a day or two but it was to conserve energy by insulating your home, changing light bulbs or weatherizing windows.

Motion was made by Seymoure to approve joining together in using IMPA to file our motions with the IURC relating to the Demand Side Management program, Penrod second the motion, all voted aye.

PARK DEPARTMENT Mark Green reported they had 100 runners in the Big Green 8K. He stated the purpose of the event was to raise money for the fireworks and were able to raise around \$1300. He advised the bathrooms would be opening next week.

Nicole Penrod questioned how much they needed for the fireworks. Mark advised the fireworks cost \$10,000.

Mark advised he would like to make a presentation to Council regarding a new park sign. He stated with the expansion of 205 the current sign was going to have to be removed and placed somewhere else or get a new sign. He reported when they were given the Wolfe property they were also given about \$20,000 for a new sign. He advised there were some stipulations to the sign. He stated the total cost for the sign proposal was \$54,000 and it could be used by all departments. He advised they could also pursue other businesses for advertisements to help pay for the sign. Mayor Fleck advised in the Federal grant for 205 there was funding for moving things like signs but was not familiar with the entire details. Nicole Penrod questioned if the sign with a message board. Mark advised it would be something a little bigger than what Dairy Queen has.

STREET DEPARTMENT Kelly Cearbaugh reported the mulch give away was scheduled for April 17. He advised they were working on finding manholes for Mike Smith to GPS. He stated he would be reviewing the salt contract with Rosie. He advised limb pickup was scheduled for the week of April 5. He stated they continue with sign replacements.

WASTEWATER DEPARTMENT Mike Cook reported they had inspections on their high pressure air systems and everything checked out great. He also reported the overhead cranes were inspected but there were a few problems and they would be getting back with him on a full report and pricing to repair the deficiencies. He advised he would be amending the grease trap ordinance and making a small amendment to the pre-treatment ordinance.

ELECTRIC DEPARTMENT Larry Whetstone reported they continue with tree trimming and have a lot of logs available for the public if they are interested. He advised they completed the circuit to the hospital and everything checked out ok on the transfer switch. He advised they provided a new 600 amp service for Quality Tool & Gauge. He reported they hooked up the temporary for the trailhead project. He advised they were changing the split bolt connectors on the lines to compression types. He stated the new pole truck was ready to be inspected for the final ok. He advised they were taking bids on the country poles to be inspected.

WATER DEPARTMENT Mike Dear reported one of their high service pumps was pulled to be overhauled for maintenance. He stated they have been changing out meters and have a new tap and meter setting to put in for a new house of Business 30 West. He advised he had a couple guys attend training on trench rescue.

Don Sexton questioned in Mike's report the main breaks on Frontage Road. Mike felt it was something they needed to start setting money aside for. Don questioned if he would be doing the entire Frontage Road. Mike advised he would.

POLICE DEPARTMENT Mike Petersen reported he and Thor Hodges met with the Northeastern Emergency Response Team. He explained the purpose was to see what their training and certifications were and the possibility of a mutual aide agreement. Don Sexton questioned who was involved. Chief Petersen advised there were 4 counties and 3 departments; Stueben, Lagrange, Noble, Dekalb, Auburn, Angola and one other city municipality.

Dan Weigold reported he had called Chief Petersen regarding the speed limits in the alleys. He stated one of the concerns was over by the Mary Raber school in the alley that runs north and south. He questioned what the possibility was of putting up speed limit signs in the alleys. Kelly Cearbaugh stated if it was a violation that continues to happen and there was state statute to support it then the police could monitor it without a sign. He did not feel there was a need to post a sign. Chief Petersen advised they do lean more towards enforcement instead of signage. He stated signage works for a short period of time but unless it was supported by enforcement then it was just another piece of metal. He felt sometimes the Children at Play signs draw more attention than the speed limit signs. He suggested if there was a concern to have the resident or Council person call the police department directly.

Mayor Fleck questioned if there was any reason to be looking at getting a second speed limit sign. Chief Petersen advised he would have to talk it over with the Captain since he runs the program.

Mayor Fleck questioned if Officer Eber was called up for military duty. Chief Petersen advised he was still here but was pretty sure he was going to leave as well as Officer Leatherman in July.

Having no further business to come before Council the meeting was adjourned.

Mayor James Fleck

Attest:

Clerk Treasurer Rosie Coyle