

**COMMON COUNCIL
TUESDAY, APRIL 14, 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 Penrod second by Weigold to approve an overview of the March 24, 2009 meeting minutes as presented, all voted aye.

Roger Seymoure noted that the Board of Works moved the leaf mulch pickup day from April 25 to April 18.

ORDINANCE 2009-6: ZONING ORDINANCE AMENDMENT – CHAPTER 8 – FLOOD HAZARD OVERLAY DISTRICT David Sewell reported there was an amendment to Chapter 8 of the zoning ordinance concerning the flood hazard overly district. He advised it was instigated by the Department of Natural Resources Division of Water. He explained the existing Chapter was reviewed and some amendments were made in order to comply with Federal and State regulations. He advised the amendments were fairly minor and it appeared to him that the change was so that the area outside of the municipal limits but within the jurisdictional area for zoning purposes would be included within the City’s regulatory area as far as the designation of the flood plain.

Mayor Fleck confirmed it would not affect anything with storm water. Mr. Sewell advised it would not.

Mr. Sewell reported the Plan Commission held a public hearing on it and recommended approval to Council to make the change.

Upon the motion of Sexton second by Seymoure to read Ordinance 2009-6 by title only, all voted aye. Clerk Treasurer Rosie Coyle read Ordinance 2009-6 an ordinance amending the zoning ordinance of Columbia City, Indiana amending Chapter 8 Flood hazard Overlay District.

Mayor Fleck questioned if there was any reason not to suspend the rules and adopt the ordinance. No comment was made.

Upon the motion of Crowder second by Sexton to suspend the rules and adopt Ordinance 2009-6 on first and final reading, all voted aye.

Upon the motion of Crowder second by Weigold to adopt Ordinance 2009-6 on first and final reading, all voted aye.

Mr. Sewell advised the only question anyone had was if it would affect any of the maps. He reported it would not.

HUMAN RESOURCE It was determined that there were two different committees to research this position. Rosie Coyle reported the committee of Roger Seymoure, Nicole Penrod and herself met and shared their opinions on the position. She advised she was to contact the Clerk's list to see how many cities or towns had an HR person and how they handled it. She also checked to see if there was anyone who resourced HR out as a part time position. She advised she checked with the County HR person but they were not interested.

A new committee was formed consisting of Don Sexton, Roger Seymoure, Mayor Fleck and Rosie Coyle.

SR 205 IMPROVEMENT PROJECT Don Sexton asked to open up discussion on the 205 project. He advised there was an article in the newspaper that made it sound like the project was a done deal. He questioned if the project was approved. Mayor Fleck advised it was not and until they had the scope the project was not clearly defined. He explained the rules from INDOT were that they had to have an initial meeting to lay out the scope of the project and the scope of the grant. He advised it was more complicated than an 80/20 grant and felt there were enough problems with respect to the details that it would be confusing to bring it up.

Don advised it was all tax money and felt at some point the City Council should determine if it was in fact a project they wanted to do. He stated Council approved to have an engineering group do a \$25,000 study that they have not even seen yet. He advised he would like to have discussions to determine if it was a doable project, realistic project or necessary project. Mayor Fleck advised they would have those discussions when they get the information. Jeff Walker advised there was an early coordination meeting requirement within 60 days of the announcement and at that meeting there would be a lot more information and clarity to the project.

Don discussed what the newspaper articles were saying and some of the things the Mayor had mentioned in meetings and advised he was not comfortable with the way it was being presented. Mayor Fleck advised they did get the report and it was the same report presented when they had the meeting in the Council room. He advised it was the same report sent to the State and approved in terms of the preliminary engineering plans. He reported there was not a final design and there was a lot of work to be done before they would have it.

Don felt the project was moving along and the City Council had not had the opportunity to show their consent. Mayor Fleck explained their decision would be whether or not to allocate the match and until they totally had the scope they did not have a number to present. He advised

there was an awful lot of stuff that had to be determined before they would have anything for the Council to act upon.

Roger Seymoure stated there were a number of projects out there for stimulus and at some point if a number of those are awarded the City Council will have to make a decision on whether we have money to match, which projects we want to do or if we want to do any of them. He advised they were not at the point to pick and choose the stimulus requests. He added that they had limited number of dollars for matching so it would need to be decided where to use it and those decisions had not been made yet.

Mayor Fleck reported they received notification that we were awarded money for the Main Street and Jefferson Street lift stations. He advised it was a flood money award but they did not know what percent of funding it would be.

GRANT & STIMULUS MONEY Mayor Fleck reported they initially started the grant application process for the bridge that would connect Morsches Park to the mobile home park as well as for the extension of the Blue River Trail to Old Trail Road. Mayor Fleck questioned Mark Green where they were at with the application. Mark advised it had been sent in.

Mayor Fleck additionally discussed block grants and stimulus package monies. He advised there was also a tier of money from Mark Souder's office that was being applied for the SR205 project.

Walt Crowder confirmed a lot of this had to do with timing. Mayor Fleck advised that was absolutely correct.

Roger Seymoure questioned if awarded a grant was there a time limit on saying yes or no. Mayor Fleck advised there was.

Mayor Fleck advised they had not applied for anything with respect to any of the grants but had submitted lists. He stated the only grant they submitted was the park grant and SR 205 grant. He explained out of the list they did select us for the lift stations.

EAGLE GLEN GARAGE SALE Nicole Penrod reported the association garage sale was scheduled for May 1 & 2 and requested to have restrictions on the streets like they did last year. She advised it would be from 8 a.m. – 5 p.m. on Friday and 8 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. on Saturday.

The request was forwarded to the Board of Works for approval.

TAX ABATEMENTS – DEPARTMENT OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT FINANCE Dan Weigold advised he talked with a DLGF representative about tax abatements. He felt it would be a good idea to have a presentation given to the Council to help better understand what was being looked at. Rosie Coyle agreed it would be a good idea.

Roger Seymoure questioned Dan if he was referring to the initial request or the status updates. Dan advised for both.

Rosie advised she would set something up.

CITY WEBSITE - MINUTES Dan Weigold advised the website had been revised and reported he had a request to have the minutes put back on the website for public view. Terry Wherry advised they were still in the process of getting everything transferred over to the new website.

DIVERSITY TRAINING Rosie Coyle advised she was still working on getting a date locked in for the training and should have something by Friday.

FIRE DEPARTMENT Tom LaRue reported 7 members of his department including himself went through recertification classes. He advised he was preparing a list of the required training for his department.

Mayor Fleck questioned where they were at with the next set of streets for one side parking. Chief LaRue advised they just needed to have another committee meeting. Mayor Fleck requested a meeting be called soon so there was no lag time. A meeting was scheduled for Friday at 7:00 a.m.

OUTSIDE OPERATIONS Jeff Walker reported he would be attending the State storm water annual conference with members of the soil & water conservation district. He advised the Parkview project was moving ahead and the design engineers contacted him to coordinate a meeting for utility information as well as the potential for relocation of them on the site. He reported he would be meeting with the property owner of the old Cardinal Grain to pass on the information on the interceptor sewer project as well as trying to acquire easement from them. He advised they had pricing for the fine screen project and it was being reviewed. He reported the proposals for engineering services for the Jefferson Street and Main Street lift stations were in hand and scheduled on Friday's Board of Works meeting. He advised the paving of the Morsches Park drive was scheduled to start May 1.

IS/COMMUNICATIONS DEPARTMENT Terry Wherry reported J & K Communications replaced 2 of the mobile base stations in dispatch and were also scheduled to be in next week to put in the new digital voice logger.

STREET DEPARTMENT Kelly Cearbaugh reported they had 16 loads for limb pickup. He stated their normal pickup was usually around 7 to 8 loads. He advised they fixed a couple catch basins that had holes around them.

POLICE DEPARTMENT Mike Petersen reported they were working on training this month. He discussed their training schedule.

Having no further business to discuss the meeting was adjourned.

Mayor James Fleck

Attest:

Clerk Treasurer Rosie Coyle