

**COMMON COUNCIL  
TUESDAY, JULY 28, 2009  
7:00 P.M.**

Mayor James Fleck – Present  
Deputy Clerk Treasurer Sally Wherry - Present  
Attorney Lindsey Grossnickle – Absent

**Council members**

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

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

**MINUTES** Upon the motion of Weigold second by Penrod to approve an overview of the July 14, 2009 meeting minutes as presented, all voted aye.

**WHITLEY COUNTY EDC – ALAN TIO: YEARLY UPDATE** Alan Tio distributed annual report packets to the Council. He reviewed services provided by the EDC as well as the 2008 results, discussed priorities and recapped the 2010 budget.

John Lefever felt one of the most exciting things during the course of the past 6 – 8 months was the Accelerated Innovation program they have in place. He stated it was really taking the lead in entrepreneurship particularly with smaller companies to bring them forward as they look to see how they can bring jobs to Columbia City and Whitley County.

Mayor Fleck reported he and Alan met with consultants from the Regional Partnership to discuss benchmarking and to establish best practices within an EDC. He reported they were very complimentary of Whitley County and advised we were doing a lot of things right by focusing on those particular kinds of issues and challenges where we can make an impact.

John Lefever discussed an additional committee that was formed that had to do with companies who come in and request CREDIT funding or even tax abatement. He advised it was made up of 5 individuals most not affiliated with the EDC or governmental entity. He explained it allowed them to look through financials without public display of everything they have and should the Common Council want a recommendation from the group they could provide that.

**FIBER COMMITTEE** Walt Crowder advised they were finalizing the cost and scope of work so that it could be presented to Council.

**ELECTRIC RATE ADJUSTMENT** Mayor Fleck reported they were looking at adjusting electric rates because of the impact of the wholesale rate increase that took place in January 2009 as well as the affect of the Tracking Factor for the first quarter. He stated the adjustment would

incorporate that wholesale cost increase but at the same time level the actual charges so that they do not have such dramatic peaks and valleys.

**SOUTH CHAUNCEY STREET SEWER IMPROVEMENT** Mayor Fleck advised they had all of the easements in place and the route established. He reported they were proceeding to prepare for financing. He stated if all goes well we would basically receive two grants; the first opportunity to receive stimulus funds which would be in the form of reduced interest rate and the second would be a grant from OKRA. He advised this would greatly reduce the impact of what rate payers would have to pay.

**SR 205 PROJECT** Mayor Fleck advised they put out notice for selection of design engineers. He reported the selection committee would meet and score the applications.

**COESSE WATER/WASTEWATER** Mayor Fleck reported they were informally meeting with County officials, EDC officials and others to see in what ways we could meet the challenge and how to partner and cooperate with each other.

**PARK TRAIL EXTENSION** Mark Green reported he should have numbers on Friday for the cost of the front sidewalks and trail extension in the back.

Roger Seymoure questioned if it would include a bridge. Mark advised it would.

Mayor Fleck advised this may be done in two different phases. He explained some of it would be in the 205 project and some of it would be in Park money. He stated until they had a projected number it was hard to determine where to apply for funds.

Mark advised they were trying to get bids for asphalt and crushed stone.

Dan Weigold questioned if we had gotten permission to put the trail in. Mayor Fleck advised we had not because until we had a pretty defined project we did not want to stir anything.

**ELECTRIC DEPARTMENT** Larry Whetstone reported they had the materials to switch over the Coesse lift station. He advised they cut some trees down so the high school band could have a better practice area. He reported they were laying out the second phase of Cheseapeake Landing. He advised they continue with transformer and meter replacements.

**STREET DEPARTMENT** Kelly Cearbaugh reported they were anticipating the concrete contractor being in town next week.

Mayor Fleck informed the Council of a resignation in the street department. He advised in the past it was routine to proceed with filling a vacancy but at this point with the revenues and caps that we have from the State we they needed to study what the right approach would be.

**POLICE DEPARTMENT** Brian Anspach reported their summer work schedule had been hectic because of vacations, mandatory military training and having an officer off for at least 4 weeks on sick leave.

**COMMUNICATIONS/IS DEPARTMENT** Terry Wherry reported they finished rebanding the radios for all of the utilities and fire department. He advised the police department was still left to do but everything went well.

Having no further business to discuss the meeting was adjourned.

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Mayor James Fleck

Attest:

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Deputy Clerk Treasurer Sally Wherry