

Board of Public Works & Safety and Park Authority Meeting
Wednesday, January 28, 2026 – 10:00 a.m.
Ligonier City Hall · 301 S. Cavin St. · Ligonier, IN 46767

Call to order by Mayor Earle Franklin

Roll Call

Present: Board Members Tom Janes, Ronny Terry, and Mayor Earle Franklin
City Attorney Laura Kaufman and Clerk-Treasurer Barb Hawn

Approval of Minutes of January 14, 2026

Motion to approve: Tom Janes

Second: Ronny Terry

Vote: All Ayes

Citizens Comments

Name & Address: Nancy Davidson, 6644 W Cromwell Road, Kimmell, IN

Ms. Davidson is a vendor at the Farmer's Market and addressed the board regarding the market. She stated that she cares deeply about the Farmer's Market and expressed concerns about communication. She suggested that the market be operated by an entity other than the City, specifically mentioning the Community Foundation of Noble County. Mayor Franklin responded that the Farmer's Market was listed as an agenda item and would be discussed later in the meeting.

New Business

VS Engineering – 2026 On Call Agreement

VS Engineering provided their 2026 agreement for on-call services, naming Landon Geiger as our primary contact. A breakdown of labor costs for each type of services was included.

Motion to approve: Earle Franklin

Second: Ronny Terry

Vote: All Ayes

Fire Department – Equipment Quote

Fire Chief Jeremy Weaver provided a quote for 14 new pagers and accessories totaling \$14,891.38. This is included in the capital budget for 2026.

Motion to approve: Ronny Terry

Second: Tom Janes

Vote: All Ayes

Water Department – New Employee Hire

The board met in executive session to interview for the open position in the Water Department. Superintendent Jeff Boyle recommended that Jesse Shaffer be hired at a rate of \$18.00 per hour, with the opportunity for a 50 cents per hour increase after 90 days, pending pre-employment testing. Start date would be in approximately two weeks.

Motion to approve the hire of Jesse Shaffer pending pre-employment testing: Tom Janes

Second: Ronny Terry

Vote: All Ayes

Park Department – Fitness Equipment Quote

Park Director John Parrish provided quotes for a Seated Chest Press for the fitness room at the Rec Center.

Stone Fitness	\$3,474.00 (includes set up)
Hamilton Home	\$4,399.00
Fitness Superstore	\$3,899.00

He recommended purchasing from Stone Fitness, the lowest quote.

Motion to approve: Earle Franklin

Second: Ronny Terry

Vote: All Ayes

Park Department – Pick Up Truck Quotes

The department budgeted for a new pick-up truck in 2026. Two quotes were received:

BZ Autos	\$39,106.05 (\$40,102.30 including equipment)
John Jones	\$39,958.00

In addition, we would add running boards for \$570.00 and Snowplow Equipment for \$425.00

He recommended purchasing from BZ Autos, the lowest bid and local dealership.

Motion to approve the purchase from BZ Autos: Earle Franklin

Second: Tom Janes

Vote: All Ayes

Park Department – Gazebo Quote

The capital budget includes a replacement Gazebo for Gazebo Park due to the deterioration of the existing structure. Raber Patio Enclosures is an area company who specializes in this type of building. The cost for the gazebo would be \$28,188.00 without a floor since we will put it on new stamped concrete.

Motion to approve: Ronny Terry

Second: Earle Franklin

Vote: All Ayes

Park Department – Recommendation for 2026 Relocation of Farmer’s Market and Farmer’s Market Rules

Due to several concerns at the existing Farmer’s Market location, including parking and available space, members of department administration discussed relocating the Farmer’s Market to Station Street, closing the street off on Saturday mornings allowing for more space and parking. He also provided an Information and Rules document which was reviewed by the city attorney. Park Director John Parrish is recommending the market be relocated and the Information and Rules be adopted by the Park Authority.

Motion to approve the relocation of the market for 2026 and the rules: Ronny Terry

Second: Tom Janes

Vote: All Ayes

Wastewater Treatment Plant – Liquid Sludge Hauling Quotes

It will again be necessary to haul liquid sludge from the Wastewater Treatment Plant this year. Superintendent Benjamin Glowinski provided quotes from two haulers, which are lower than the haulers from last year.

Merrell Brothers \$.18 per gallon

Wealing Brothers \$.18 per gallon

Both can also provide disposal of dry biosolids

Merrell Brothers \$61 per ton (via Biocenter)

Merrell Brothers \$74 per ton (via Landfill)

Wealing Brothers \$50 per ton (via Regional Storage Facility)

We are currently just in need of wet hauling, so he is recommending Wealing Brothers since their dry price is lower.

Motion to approve: Earle Franklin

Second: Ronny Terry

Vote: All Ayes

Comments by Members of Council and Administration

Fire Chief Jeremy Weaver

- Distributed a copy of the year end Fire Department report with pertinent information from 2025.

Street Superintendent Mike Burdette

- Expressed appreciation to other departments for assistance during the recent snow events.
- Reported that salt supplies are running low; crews are prioritizing intersections rather than full street coverage

Water Superintendent Jeff Boyle

- Expressed appreciation to the board for approving the new hire.
- Reported several freeze-up incidents involving residents; noted that delayed reporting can result in freezing extending to the meter.
- Reported a frozen meter pit at the Presbyterian Church, which froze to a depth of approximately three feet; service has been restored.

Park Director John Parrish

- Expressed appreciation to other departments for their ongoing assistance to the Parks Department.
- Specifically acknowledged Kris Funk of the Wastewater Treatment Plant for assisting with equipment operations and thanked Ben for allowing his assistance.

Mayor Earle Franklin

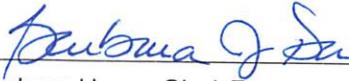
- Reported on the Noble EDC meeting, noting that approximately \$400,000 in grant funding is available for building projects. Expressed hope that the City will be able to secure a portion of the funds, particularly for infrastructure improvements on City-owned property along Lincolnway South.
- Provided an update from the Statehouse regarding new tax legislation, noting revised language and the possibility that provisions may be extended through 2029, including impacts to Local Income Tax (LIT) funding. Stated that the situation is changing daily.
- Commented on the capital plan, commending Ross Hagen from Baker Tilly and Barb Hawn for their work. Noted that adjustments may be necessary beyond 2029 and emphasized that the plan is effectively balancing capital needs to help avoid potential personnel cuts.

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn: Ronny Terry

Second: Tom Janes

Vote: All Ayes


Barbara Hawn, Clerk Treasurer


Earle Franklin, Mayor