

Common Council Meeting – Monday, April 11, 2011 – Held at Ligonier City Hall – 7:00 pm – Audio Available

Call to order by Mayor Fisel

Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag

Roll Call

Council members present: John Pettit, Gary Bishop, Karen Richendollar, Ken Schuman, and John Lutton.

Also present: Mayor Patty Fisel, City Attorney Steve Hagen, and Clerk-Treasurer Barb Hawn

Minutes from previous meeting of March 28, 2011

Motion to approve by: John Lutton Seconded by: Gary Bishop Vote: All Ayes

Citizens Comments - None

Unfinished Business

1. Building Permit Fees

Ken Schuman commented that there is a big variation in our building fees and those of the communities we were using as comparatives. Some are very complex and some are very simple. He added that if we were to increase our fees by 50% we would still be in line with the others.

Motion was made by Ken Schuman to increase our existing fees by 50%, using traditional rounding. After discussion, Schuman then amended his motion to exclude the Yard Sale fee from the increase, allowing the Yard Sale fee to remain at \$5.00.

Motion was seconded by Gary Bishop. Vote: All Ayes

John Pettit added that at a future date Council should broaden the definition of some of the line items on the fee schedule.

2. Building and Zoning Administrator and Salary including Ordinance 785-2011 – Amending Section 32.06 of Ligonier City Code

City Attorney Steve Hagen explained that Ordinance 785-2011 was proposed to make the position of Building and Zoning Administrator consistent with other Mayoral appointments in the City by making the position an at will employee with no fixed term of office.

Motion to pass ordinance 785-2011 by: Gary Bishop Seconded by: Ken Schuman Vote: All Ayes

Motion to suspend the rules and pass ordinance 785-2011 on the second reading by: Gary Bishop
Seconded by: Ken Schuman Vote: All Ayes

Motion to further suspend the rules and pass ordinance 785-2011 on the third and final reading by: Gary Bishop
Seconded by: Ken Schuman Vote: All Ayes

Gary Bishop then addressed the salary for the Building and Zoning Administrator position. He believes the part time position should be paid in line with other part time employees in the City.

Motion to pay \$13.00 for the position of Building and Zoning Administrator for up to 25 hours per week and any hours over 25 requiring approval by the Mayor by: Gary Bishop

Seconded by: John Lutton Vote: All Ayes

New Business – None

Claim Registers

APV# 33101 through 33223

Motion to approve by: John Lutton Seconded by: Ken Schuman

Vote: All Ayes

Comments by Members of Council and Administration

Police Chief Bryan Shearer: Bryan informed Council that the City Police Department is participating in the Take Back Drugs program in partnership with Drug Free Noble County. There is a drop box in the lobby of the PD building for unused prescription drugs. Shearer also informed Council that the City was awarded about \$18,000 in firearms for just a shipping charge of approximately \$528 from Alabama.

Street Superintendent Mike Burdette: Mike informed the Council that the 2011 tree program has started. The plan is to take down 19 dead trees that are between the curb and sidewalk.

Council Member John Pettit: John asked that a review of the policy on code enforcement be done. While the landlord is ultimately responsible, if the landlord identifies someone dumping, he would like to see the tenant targeted for the fine, not the landlord. The current policy leaves no deterrent for the tenant. The current ordinance would need modifications for this change to be made and is asking that the policy be reviewed for possible changes.

Council Member Gary Bishop: Gary reiterated his opinion that he felt Council did the correct thing in changing the salary for the Building and Zoning Administrator.

Clerk-Treasurer Barb Hawn: Barb informed the Council that the City's new website is now completed. It is user friendly and has added features to help keep residents informed. A community event calendar is posted and she invited the audience to submit any local events they would like added to her. Hawn commended Chris Fought for a job well done on the revamp of the website.

Mayor Patty Fisel: The Mayor let everyone know that the City Spring Clean up will be held this coming Saturday, April 16, from 8:00 to 1:00. If there are elderly who need assistance with removal they can call the street department who will assist them.

Adjournment

Motion by: John Lutton

Seconded by: Gary Bishop