

Common Council Meeting – Monday, May 23, 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

Present: Council President Ken Schuman, Council members John Pettit, Gary Bishop, and John Lutton

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

Absent: Council member Karen Richendollar

Minutes from previous meeting of May 9, 2011

Motion to approve by: John Lutton

Seconded by: Ken Schuman

Vote: All Ayes

Citizens Comments - None

Unfinished Business – None

New Business

1. Stahly – Request for Rezoning of Property

Larry and Candy Stahly, along with their attorney John Owen were present to ask the Council to grant rezoning for property at 705 Lincolnway West, from R2 to General Business. The Stahly's operated their business by way of variance and now intend to sell the property. The Plan Commission acted favorably on their request.

Because the item was just placed on the agenda on 5/23/11, Council was unable to act on the item at this meeting.

Motion to take the Stahly's request under advisement by: John Pettit

Seconded by: Ken Schuman

Vote: All Ayes

The ordinance will be placed on the 6/13/11 agenda. It is not necessary for the Stahly's and their attorney to appear before Council to be considered.

2. CF-1 Approvals

a. Guardian Automotive Products

b. Towne Village Apartments LP

c. Silgan Plastics Corp.

Because the above were late in getting their CF-1 forms to the City, the county granted each an extension until the end of May 2011.

Motion to grant CF-1 approval to all three companies: Guardian Automotive Products, Towne Village Apartments LP, and Silgan Plastics Corp. by: Gary Bishop

Seconded by: John Lutton

Vote: All Ayes

3. CEDIT Plan Approval for 2012-2013

The spending plan for the 2012-2013 County Economic Development Income Tax was presented to Council

Motion to approve the CEDIT 2012-2013 plan by: John Lutton

Seconded by: Ken Schuman

Vote: All Ayes

4. Request for 2012 Contributions to the St. Joseph River Basin Commission
Request to help fund the St. Joseph River Basin Commission was presented to Council. Ken Schuman personally urged Council to promote the Elkhart River Restoration since that is our watershed. Other members agreed with Schuman's comment. Because it is not known at this time if funds would be available for support, no further discussion ensued.
5. Mural on back of Police Dept.
Ruth Elijah was present to request permission to place a mural on the back of the Police Department building. Chief Bryan Shearer requested the mural be on panels to be attached rather than painted directly on the brick.

Motion to allow mural boards to be placed on the back of the Police Department building by: Gary Bishop
Seconded by: Ken Schuman
Vote: All Ayes

Further discussion of murals ensued. The mural boards formerly on the Lake City Bank building are being repaired and it has been suggested that they be placed indoors, with further suggestion that they be placed on the wall in the Council chambers.

Motion to place the mural boards on the Council chamber wall by: John Pettit
Seconded by: Gary Bishop
Vote: All Ayes

6. County certificate sale – 201 Pigeon Street
Information was provided regarding the County Certificate sale to be held on June 30, 2011. This is a rare sale. There are 19 properties in Ligonier to be offered. The City was notified of a property being offered adjacent to current City property at 201 Pigeon Street. This location is adjacent to the proposed location for the canoe launch on the River Walk. There is redemption time period of just 120 days.

Motion to appropriate \$10,000 for the purchase of real estate, to be defined specifically at a later date, and set a public hearing for June 27, 2011 for the additional appropriation by: Ken Schuman
Seconded by: Gary Bishop
Vote: All Ayes

7. Resolution 5-23-11 – Supporting Recreation Trail System
Gene Lightener was present on behalf of the Noble County Trails project. He made a request for Council to give non-binding approval to the advancement of the trails project in the form of Resolution 5-23-11. This requires no monetary contribution, just agreement to voice support.

Motion to pass Resolution 5-23-11 and support the Noble County Trails project by: Ken Schuman
Seconded by: Gary Bishop
Vote: All Ayes

8. Ordinance 788-2011 – Grass/Weeds
In the new codification of ordinances by American Legal, it appears that the weed ordinance was omitted. Because Council approved the new ordinance book, it is now necessary to pass a new weed ordinance. The ordinance was presented to Council just prior to the meeting.

Motion to pass Ordinance 788-2011 on the first reading by: Gary Bishop
Seconded by: Ken Schuman
Vote: Ayes – Ken Schuman, Gary Bishop, John Lutton

Nay – John Pettit with the comment he would prefer additional time to review the ordinance

Claim Registers – APV # 33466 to 33592

Motion to approve the claim register as presented by: John Lutton

Seconded by: Gary Bishop

Vote: All Ayes

Comments by Members of Council and Administration

Fire Chief Jeremy Weaver: Jeremy informed the Council of a grant for mobile data terminals received by the County with Ligonier receiving four terminals. They are able to do some mapping and are training to use the units for their full advantage.

Police Chief Bryan Shearer: Bryan asked the council to consider restricting parking at the Police Department. This topic had been tabled at an earlier meeting. There are six spots each, on the north and south side of the building. Currently, tenants in the nearby apartments are using the spots for 24/7 parking. Shear is requesting restricted parking for police business of 30 minutes. Discussion ensued as to the time frame, if 30 minutes was a reasonable amount of time which led to action.

Motion to restrict parking for the six spots located on the north and six spots located on the south side of the Police Department building to a one hour limit by: Gary Bishop

Seconded by: John Lutton

Further discussion ensued regarding the length of time. Bishop then amended his motion to a two hour limit

Vote: All Ayes

Bryan informed the Council about Walk to School Day which will take place on 5/24/11. The Ligonier Elementary students, teachers, parents, and others will meet at the Library lawn at 8:15 and walk to the school, in conjunction with Activate Noble County.

The Police Dept. will be hosting two interns this summer. One student is from The Crossing School and will be doing office tasks. The other is a Purdue University student studying forensic science.

Council Member Gary Bishop: Gary expressed his disappointment in the City employees for not supporting the Fire Dept. fundraiser.

Mayor Patty Fisel: The Mayor will be serving on a panel discussion in Kendallville tomorrow for the Activate Noble County and participating in the Walk to School day.

A special BOW meeting will be held on Friday, 5/27/11 to open the bids for the deconstruction of the property at 600 South Marin street.

The City received notice of a confined feeding structure. IDEM has granted the permit. The current building which housed 700 swine will be demolished. A new structure will be built to house 4000 hogs, 30 beef cattle, 14 horses and ponies. The location is 9374 N 450 W.

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn by: John Lutton

Seconded by: John Pettit