

**Common Council Meeting – Monday, November 28, 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, John Lutton, Mayor Patty Fisel, City Attorney Steve Hagen, and Clerk Treasurer Barb Hawn

Absent: Council member Karen Richendollar

**Minutes from previous meeting of November 14, 2011**

Motion to approve by: John Lutton      Seconded by: Ken Schuman      Vote: All Ayes

**Citizens Comments**

Name & Address: Angela Scott, 703 McLean Street

Comment: Ms. Scott was present on behalf of the committee raising funds for a Splash Pad at Kenney Park. They are asking the City to commit \$25,000 towards the splash pad. The committee feels the splash pad would provide a draw to the City and increase revenue to local restaurants and stores. It would provide healthy outdoor behavior and exercise for the children. There is no standing water and no life guard is required. The bays would be separated by age group. Approximately 100 children could be accommodated at one time. The water is on a timing system. The overall project is estimated at \$185,000. The project could be scaled back and added to later. Monies have been pledged by various foundations. Council will take the request under advisement as the final budget order and the information regarding CEDIT funds for next year have not yet been finalized.

**Unfinished Business**

1. Fire Contract

While reviewing fire contracts from previous years, Clerk-Treasurer Barb Hawn and Perry Township Trustee Barb Donley discovered minutes from 1998 amending the split between the City and Perry of the Elkhart Township fire contract, a 50-50 split, referring to 1998. The 50% payment continued to be paid yearly to Perry until 2007, the term end of the Clerk-Treasurer. Because the actual contract did not spell out a payment to Perry, in the years 2008-2011, the new Clerk was unaware of the agreement. To bring the City up to date, the payment to Perry would be \$6052.55. Funds are available in the fire budget to cover the costs.

***Motion to pay Perry Township \$6052.55 and to revise the 2012 Perry Township fire contract to reflect the agreement to pay them 50% of the Elkhart Township fire contract by: Ken Schuman***

***Seconded by: Gary Bishop***

***Vote: All Ayes***

**New Business**

1. Tom Wigent – Interest in purchasing property off East Union Street

Mr. Wigent was present to offer his interest in purchasing four parcels of land owned by the City. He is currently cleaning up adjacent properties which he owns. He feels the area has potential to be a pleasant area and would like to clean it up for a campground/park/picnic area. Fishermen already use the lake. Hiking trails could be added. The area is approximate 36 acres. Selling the property would put it back on the tax roll and could be beneficial to the City. There is a process to go through to sell property.

***Motion to pursue selling the property to Tom Wigent by: Ken Schuman***

***Seconded by: John Lutton***

***Vote: All Ayes***

2. Draft – Vicious Dog Ordinance

A first draft of a vicious dog ordinance was prepared by City Attorney Steve Hagen. Discussion ensued regarding several aspects including the definition of a bite and exceptions regarding teasing or tormenting, trespassing on property. Steve will rework the ordinance with the requested changes and make available for the next meeting.

**Claim Registers – APV #35939 through 35210**

***Motion to approve by: John Lutton***

***Seconded by: Gary Bishop***

***Vote: All Ayes***

**Comments by Members of Council and Administration**

*Fire Chief Jeremy Weaver:* Breakfast with Santa at the Fire Station is set for Saturday, December 10, 2010 from 7-11

*Park Director Alan Duncan:* Thanks to council members for their years of service and support

*Street Superintendent Mike Burdette:* This is the last week of leaf pick up for the season

*Council Member John Pettit:* The students from Trine University will have their marketing survey results available at a program on their campus on December 15

*Council Member John Lutton:* John is in favor of a campground on the property off East Union Street

*Mayor Patty Fisel:* AEP has been cutting trees. Wood from trees between the sidewalk and street is available for anyone to pick up. The street department personnel will take any remain wood to the compost and there it is free for anyone. Other trees located on private property required contacting the owner.

An issue the Mayor hopes to see resolved in 2012 is the annexation of McDonalds and Pizana properties. A plan is in the development stages at this time.

A disaster relief program consistent with the county also need to be completed. City Attorney Steve Hagen is working on the ordinance.

**Adjournment**

***Motion to adjourn by: John Lutton***

***Seconded by: Ken Schuman***