

Common Council Meeting – Monday, January 23, 2012 – Held at Ligonier City Hall – 7:00 pm – Audio Available

Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag

Call to order by Mayor Fisel – Public Hearing for OCRA Grant

Public Comment: Bob Buttgen inquired as to the amount of the grant. Mayor Fisel responded that the grant offering was reduced to a maximum of \$500,000 and there is only one round this year. Bob responded that he felt it was a good idea to apply for the grant.

As there were no further comments, the public hearing was closed by Mayor Fisel.

Call to order by Mayor – Common Council Meeting

Roll Call

Present: Council President Ken Schuman, Council members Chris Fought, Kelly Ware, and Julia Bell

Arriving Late: Becky Gray

Mayor Patty Fisel, City Attorney Steve Hagen, and Clerk Treasurer Barb Hawn

Minutes from previous meeting of January 12, 2012

Motion to approve by: Ken Schuman

Seconded by: Chris Fought

Vote: All Ayes

Citizens Comments

Gary Bishop, 306 Pontiac Street

Gary is working the monument for veterans. He had a rough drawing which was accidentally shred. He will try to have something available in the near future. The final decision on a home for the monument has not been made but Pettit Park has been suggested.

Lois Rosenogle, 1104 Westfield Drive

Lois thanked the street department for the great job in clearing the streets of snow. She also commented about the runners who run several across on the road, expressing concern that they might get hit by a car.

Unfinished Business

1. Update on property off East Union Street

The party interested in purchasing the property has had a change in the amount of land he is interested and is hoping the City might decide to divide the land and allow him to purchase only a portion of the land. The use of the land will take a special exception and requires a process which might determine the party's continued interest. A meeting of the BZA and Plan Commission will be required.

2. Plan Commission Appointment – Replacement for John Pettit

Interest in the plan commission appointment was expressed by Gary Bishop.

Motion to appoint Gary Bishop to the plan commission by: Julia Bell

Seconded by: Ken Schuman

Vote: All Ayes

New Business

1. SRF Financing for CSO Project

The SRF is the State Revolving Fund and the City has been approved for a loan on the CSO project on the northeast section of the City. The City was intending to pursue a \$500,000 OCRA grant in conjunction with the SRF loan to do further work as well as hydrant and meter replacement. However, the soft costs associated with the grant amount to approximately \$78,000 and the City would be required to come up with a match of approximate 30%, not 10% as originally anticipated.

Triad and Region III-A, along with Mayor Fisel feel it is in the best interest of the City at this time to suspend the grant application process. City Engineer Rick Pharis stated that grants sometimes tend to cost communities more than the project would without a grant. The vendor supplying meters is putting together a lease purchase proposal to purchase meters over time. The hydrants set for replacement are still in working condition but are difficult to open so will be replaced as the department can afford to do so.

Motion for the City to discontinue the OCRA grant application process by: Chris Fought

Seconded by: Kelly Ware

Vote: All Ayes

2. Outstanding Warrant Cancellation

A list of outstanding checks from 2009 was presented to Council by Clerk-Treasurer Barb Hawn totaling \$709.67. The three year time frame has expired and she asked Council's permission to void the outstanding warrants.

Motion to allow the cancellation of the outstanding warrants from 2009 by: Ken Schuman

Seconded by: Chris Fought

Vote: All Ayes

3. City Employee Clothing Allowance

The Mayor, Clerk-Treasurer, and department heads recently met with consultants from HR Unlimited for the revision of the City's employee handbook. One of the topics discussed was the clothing allowance offered to certain departments. Currently the amounts are spelled out in the handbook. The suggestion was to award the benefit in the handbook without an amount, making the amount part of the annual salary ordinance. The amount of the benefit was discussed. With the rising cost of boots and clothing, it was felt the amount should be increased, and benefited to the employees in the form of a direct payment in lieu of turning bills in for payment by the City. The following are the suggested annual amounts:

Department	Current Amount	New Amount Requested
Police	\$1000 per year	Remain unchanged
Fire	\$500 per year	\$1000 per year
Water	\$200 per year	\$500 per year
Waste Water	\$200 per year	\$500 per year
Street	\$200 per year	\$500 per year

It was also noted that the Park Dept. recently added an annual benefit for clothing allowance to employees in the amount of \$500.

Motion to approve the previously stated clothing allowances for City Departments by: Ken Schuman

Seconded by: Julia Bell

Vote: All Ayes

The salary ordinance will be amended at a later date.

Claim Registers – APV #35592 through 35699

New council members asked for clarification of certain amounts on the claim registers as they were not familiar with the City chart of accounts and categorization of certain payments. After clarification

Motion to approve by: Chris Fought

Seconded by: Kelly Ware

Vote: All Ayes

Request for copies of the City budget were also requested and will be provided by the Clerk-Treasurer.

Comments by Members of Council and Administration

Fire Dept. Captain Shawn Cox: Building inspections by the fire department will commence February 1, 2012. Mark Shaver, the state fire marshal will be working with Shawn on the initial inspections.

Park & Rec Director Alan Duncan: Alan provided Council with copies of his annual report for the Park and Rec. They had a successful year with 19 new memberships.

Street Superintendent Mike Burdette: Mike thanked the other City departments for their help in plowing snow.

Council Member Kelly Ware: Kelly apologized for missing the first council meeting due to the birth of her new grandson.

Council Member Becky Gray: Becky apologized for being late to the meeting

Council Member Chris Fought: Chris thanked the City departments for their team work and fast response to the snow

Council President Ken Schuman: Ken added his thanks to everyone for a job well done

Clerk-Treasurer Barb Hawn: Barb introduced the possibility of iPads for Council members to use in lieu of all of the printed documents currently supplied in packets. The documents could be electronic versions. Several cities are currently using iPads. Angola currently implemented the method with a savings of approximately \$2800 per year. Barb will investigate to see what the cost savings might be for Ligonier if this change is made.

Mayor Patty Fisel: The Mayor thanked the department heads for working together as a team on the policy book revisions. The meeting with HR Unlimited went well. A draft will be ready soon and will be brought before Council in an executive session. Mitch Ripley and Suzy Bass will be available to explain the changes made, some of which are federal law changes.

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn by: Ken Schuman Seconded by: Chris Fought