

**Common Council Meeting – Monday, March 26, 2012 – 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 Chris Fought, Becky Gray, Kelly Ware, and Julia Bell  
Mayor Patty Fisel, City Attorney Steve Hagen, and Clerk Treasurer Barb Hawn

**Minutes from previous meeting of March 12, 2012**

***Motion to approve by: Ken Schuman***

***Seconded by: Chris Fought***

***Vote: All Ayes***

**Citizens Comments – None**

**Unfinished Business**

**Ordinance 805-2012 (Sewage Bond Ordinance)**

Ordinance 805-2012 was passed on the first motion at the March 12, 2012 meeting. This ordinance authorizes the issuance of bonds for the project on the north side. The SRF (State Revolving Fund) will be purchasing the bonds. An amended version was available for passage.

***Motion to pass ordinance 805-2012 with amendments on the second reading by: Ken Schuman***

***Seconded by: Kelly Ware***

***Vote: All Ayes***

***Motion to suspend the rules and pass ordinance 8052012 with amendments on the third and final reading by:***

***Ken Schuman***

***Seconded by: Kelly Ware***

***Vote: All Ayes***

**New Business**

**Creative Wood Design, Inc – Approval request for two CF-1/PP forms**

Creative Wood Design provided their CF-1/PP forms for two separate tax abatements.

***Motion to approve both CF-1/PP for Creative Wood Design, Inc. by: Ken Schuman***

***Seconded by: Chris Fought***

***Vote: All Ayes***

**Claim Registers – APV # 36080 through 36214**

***Motion to approve by: Chris Fought***

***Seconded by: Julia Bell***

***Vote: All Ayes***

**Comments by Members of Council and Administration**

***Fire Chief Jeremy Weaver:*** Jeremy presented members with copies of his 2011 Annual Report. The run totals are broken down by township. A listing of the new officers is also included. Any questions regarding the report can be directed to Jeremy.

***City Attorney Steve Hagen:*** The City was approached by the bank owning the vacant lot at 600 South Martin Street. They are willing to donate the property to the City, with the City paying the due taxes of approximately \$560. The property is located across from Prentice Park, which has no parking, and could be useful as a parking lot. The City previously paid to have the burned out house taken down with expenses of approximately \$5000.

***Motion to pursue ownership of the lot at 600 South Martin Street and accept the donation by: Ken Schuman***

***Seconded by: Becky Gray***

***Vote: All Ayes***

***Clerk-Treasurer Barb Hawn:*** The audit of the financial records of 2011 by the SBOA has been completed and the exit conference was attended by the clerk and mayor. The single comment regarded capital assets which are being addressed through the purchase of software to track the City's capital assets.

A second draft of the employee handbook was provided for council. The final draft will be available for approval at the next council meeting.

Utility billing clerk Judy Mullet will retire as of April 30, 2012. An employment ad will run in this week's paper for her replacement.

Three historical records containing records of births, deaths, and dangerous diseases from 1899 through 1907 were discovered in the City vault. The City was approached by the Noble County Health Department to have the record books transferred to their office as they currently hold all of these types of records.

***Motion to allow the donation of the record books to Noble County Health Dept. by: Chris Fought***

***Seconded by: Julia Bell***

***Vote: All ayes***

*Mayor Patty Fisel:* Thanks to everyone for their hard work on the handbook. Thanks to the new council members for their attendance and attentiveness, and thanks to returning council president Ken Schuman as well.

Mediacom sent notification they will be making changes to their cable service and will notify customers.

Mayor Fisel reported that there has been talk of complaints regarding tickets being issued to one culture more than others by the City's Police Department. Police Chief Bryan Shearer received the information from a third party. Mayor Fisel asked Bryan to research the allegation. While the City normally does not keep track of this information, all citations and warning include driver's license information including race. Therefore, the software was able to pull a report with the following results:

<b>Race</b>	<b>Warnings</b>	<b>Tickets</b>
White/Caucasian	1150	752
Hispanic	254	336
Black	24	29
Asian	14	6
Unknown	2	2

Chief Shearer asked that if a citizen has a problem, please bring it to him and they will try to work out a resolution. Mayor Fisel reiterated that it is City policy to take a complaint or problem to the department head first and if not happy with the resolution, they can then bring the problem to her.

The tax deeds were received for the properties purchased at the commissioner's sale last June at Pigeon Street and Fourth Street. The building at Fourth Street is over 100 years old and has history as a toy factory, bowling alley, and former home of Superior Sample. There are three floors. Originally the City considered taking the building down and putting a horse shelter for the Amish buggies. The salability is hampered by the unavailability of parking. The Mayor asked Council to consider uses for the building. In addition, Attorney Steve Hagen reminded that this is just a tax deed. A quiet title could be pursued which would take about four months at a cost of approximately \$2000. No further action was taken at this time.

#### **Adjournment**

***Motion to adjourn by: Ken Schuman***

***Seconded by: Chris Fought***