Ligonier Common Council Meeting Monday, August 13, 2012 – Ligonier City Hall 103 West Third Street – Ligonier, IN – 7:00 pm

Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag

Call to order Public Hearing for Library Grant by Mayor Fisel

Bob Murphy and Matt Kelty were present to answer questions regarding the library planning grant. The library board approved the plan and is looking for approval from council. The public was invited to ask questions and make comments.

Bob Buttgen inquired as to the dimensions of the expansion. Matt Kelty explained that option one was voted and approved. It doubles the library in size and respects the existing architecture allowing staff flexibility.

Lois Rosenogle inquired about parking which she feels is limited. The plan leaves all of the existing parking. All of the current parking is not currently being utilized.

As there were no further comments, the public hearing was closed by Mayor Fisel and Bob Murphy asked council to consider the resolution approving the Ligonier Library Plan.

Motion to allow the Mayor and Clerk-Treasurer to execute the documents approving the Ligonier Library Plan by: Ken Schuman

Seconded by: Chris Fought

Vote: All Ayes

This resolution will allow the grant to be closed mid-September. Application for a new planning grant could then take place by the end of September.

Call to order Common Council Meeting by Mayor Fisel

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 July 23, 2012

Motion to approve by: Ken Schuman Seconded by: Chris Fought Vote: All Ayes

Citizens Comments

Name & Address: Betty Peterson, 603 South Martin

Comment: The mural committee asked permission to put a mural on the east side of the fire department building. It would be on boards and would depict a horse drawn fire hose.

City Attorney Steve Hagen addressed a contract proposed by the committee for the mural which would grant an easement and control the transfer of property. He explained that the city cannot be bound by such a contract. On a previous mural on the police department building, permission was granted, but a contract was not signed. Mrs. Peterson amended her request to ask permission but not require the city to sign the contract.

Motion to allow the mural committee permission to place the mural as described on the fire department building by: Chris Fought Seconded by: Ken Schuman Vote: All Ayes

Unfinished Business

1. Park Board Discussion

Mayor Fisel stated she will be allowing public comment regarding the future of the park board. The park director answers to the park board and the city has no control over the park board or park director. She is recommending change as complaints regarding the park and referred to the park director have not been addressed. The Mayor added she was not asking for a decision tonight.

The following people addressed the council and asked that the park board remain in place as is as they felt the board and park department are doing a good job for the city and have the experience and expertise necessary to be in charge of the parks and park director:

Phyllis Hile, Grand Street; Chris Leslie, Union Street; Gary Byers, West Third Street; Angie Scott, McLean Street

No action was taken.

2. Budget Update

The budget was submitted for advertisement with an estimated tax levy of \$1,705,133. The public hearing on the budget is set for September 10, 2012 and adoption is set for September 24, 2012.

3. Trash Container Discussion

Council asked City Attorney Steve Hagen to draft an ordinance regarding placing trash containers out for pick up and removal after pick up. This will be ready for the next meeting

Motion to table the trash container discussion until the next council meeting by: Chris Fought Seconded by: Kelly Ware Vote: All Ayes

4. Sidewalk Discussion

Council member Chris Fought presented council members with information regarding other municipality's sidewalk programs. He would like the city to consider offering some type of 50-50 incentive program for sidewalk replacement. The city does currently offer to tear out existing sidewalks at no cost to the resident leaving just the replacement cost to the resident. Further discussion resulted in the following:

Motion to table the sidewalk program discussion until the next council meeting by: Ken Schuman Seconded by: Chris Fought Vote: All Ayes

New Business

1. Public Safety Director/Salary Approval

The Board of Public Works and Safety approved the position of Police Chief/Public Safety recommending Bryan Shearer at an annual salary of \$60,000 beginning August 6, 2012. The Public Safety portion of the position is an administrative position over the police and fire departments.

John Lutton, 100 W. Miller was given permission to address the issue. He noted that good administration is needed more today. He complimented and recommended that council approve Bryan Shearer for the position as he is not only a top law enforcement officer as recognized by his peers, but one of the best administrators as well. Council President Ken Schuman added that administrative loads have increased in all avenues of business. He stated he has the upmost faith in Bryan's ability and feels the city should try the position for 2012-2013.

Motion to approve the position of Public Safety Director, name Bryan Shearer to the position and approve an additional \$6,000 in salary for the remainder of 2012 by: Ken Schuman
Seconded by: Chris Fought
Vote: All Ayes

2. Employee Pay Increase for 2013

The Mayor is recommending a 3% pay increase for city employees for 2013. The city employees were complimented by Chris Fought for their outstanding team work and the job they do.

Motion to approve a 3% pay increase for city employees for 2012 by: Chris Fought Seconded by: Ken Schuman

A roll call vote was taken
Kelly Ware: Abstain
Becky Gray: Aye
Chris Fought: Aye
Ken Schuman: Aye
Julia Bell: Aye
Motion Passed

It will be necessary to set the elected officials salary as well. Clerk-Treasurer Barb Hawn will supply council members with the IACT 2011 salary study for comparable salaries.

Motion to table the elected official's salary to the next council meeting by: Ken Schuman Seconded by: Kelly Ware Vote: All Ayes

3. Ordinance 816-2012 (Environmental Public Nuisances)

The legislature recently made changes regarding continuous notice to abate by posting continuous notice. In addition, the Board of Works and Park Board agreed to changes in the charges necessary to mow and clean up properties in violation of the ordinance at a minimum \$100 for set up and \$40 per man hour to be billed in increments of one-quarter hour.

Motion to pass ordinance 816-2012 on the first reading by: Ken Schuman

Seconded by: Chris Fought Vote: All Ayes

Motion to suspend the rules and pass ordinance 816-2012 on the second reading by: Ken Schuman

Seconded by: Julia Bell Vote: All Ayes

Motion to further suspend the rules and pass ordinance 816-2012 on the third and final reading by:

Ken Schuman

Seconded by: Kelly Ware

Vote: All Ayes

The ordinance will be advertised and take effect 30 days from the date of advertisement.

4. Ordinance 817-2012 (Sewer Use Ordinance)

The sewer use ordinance was revised to bring the effluent limits up to state requirements and IDEM compliance.

Motion to pass ordinance 817-2012 on the first reading by: Ken Schuman

Seconded by: Chris Fought Vote: All Ayes

Motion to suspend the rules and pass ordinance 817-2012 on the second reading by: Ken Schuman

Seconded by: Chris Fought Vote: All Ayes

The third reading will be held until the next council meeting.

5. Ordinance 818-2012 (Imposition of Surcharges for Certain Dischargers)

City Attorney Steve Hagen recommended that ordinance 818-2012 be held until the next meeting.

Motion to hold ordinance 818-2012 until the next council meeting by: Ken Schuman

Seconded by: Chris Fought Vote: All Ayes

Claim Registers – APV # 37253 through 37419

Motion to approve by: Ken Schuman Seconded by: Julia Bell Vote: All Ayes

Comments by Members of Council and Administration

Street Department: Superintendent Mike Burdette reported that the crosswalks and curbs are being repainted in preparation for the start of school on August 17.

Council Member Chris Fought: Chris thanked the public for coming. He has personally talked with a couple of the park board members and proposed a special park board/council meeting.

Motion to set a combined City Council/Park Board meeting for Monday, August 20, 2012 at 6:00 pm for the purpose of discussion of the future of the park board by: Chris Fought
Seconded by: Ken Schuman
Vote: All Ayes

Council President Ken Schuman: Ken thanked Chris for the sidewalk program idea. The sidewalks reflect not just on the property owner but on the city as well.

Clerk-Treasurer Barb Hawn: Barb updated council on the water disconnects. The courtesy notices sent to customers resulted in just 12 customer disconnects from the original list of 138. The new disconnection list resulted in only one disconnection required.

Mayor Patty Fisel: The Mayor thanked Ken Schuman for his cooperation with traffic using the mill lots for turnaround points due to the road closure for the sewer separation project on the north side. Ken commented that he appreciates API doing half of the street at a time.

Bob Buttgen asked those in attendance to spread the word that the Marshmallow Festival is going to happen. Mayor Fisel thanked those who have stepped up to share in the process of making sure the festival is successful. The community has stepped forward to make it possible for the festival to continue. The festival is good for the local service clubs, churches, and a marketing tool for the city.

Mayor Fisel expressed thanks to those in attendance. It is important for the community to be a part of the decisions for changes to make the city better.

Adjournment

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