

Ligonier Common Council Meeting
Monday, August 26, 2013 – Ligonier City Hall
301 South Cavin Street – Ligonier, IN – 7:00 pm

Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag

Call to order by Mayor Fisel

Roll Call

Present: Council members Chris Fought, Becky Gray, Kelly Ware, and Julia Bell
Mayor Patty Fisel, City Attorney Steve Hagen, and Clerk Treasurer Barb Hawn
Absent: Council President Ken Schuman

Minutes from previous meeting of August 12, 2013

Motion to approve: Becky Gray

Second: Kelly Ware

Vote: All Ayes

Citizens Comments

Betty Peterson, Martin Street

Thanks to the street department and water department personnel. She appreciates the assistance they give her at the visitor's center.

Unfinished Business

▪ **Elected Officials Salaries for 2014**

Elected officials salaries were discussed at the previous meeting and tabled as two members were absent. Comparisons of nearby communities and communities in the state of the approximate size of Ligonier were given to council members for their review. One of the concerns previously expressed by Council President Ken Schuman was the designation of the mayor's position as full time in a class three city. As pointed out by Police Chief Shearer, all elected positions, no matter the level, (class three city, county, state, etc.) cannot actually be called out as full time positions. When elected to the positions, the officials are expected to spend the time necessary to do the job. Council Member Becky Gray commended Mayor Fisel and Clerk-Treasurer Hawn for the exemplary job they do. Council Member Chris Fought suggested that the salary be set around \$60,000 to make the positions attractive to qualified persons in demographics beyond just retirees. The salary of both the mayor and clerk are currently below the level of the department heads. Payment of the elected officials salaries are divided one-third from the general fund, one-third from the water utility, and one-third from the wastewater utility. Discussion ended and the following motion was made:

Motion to approve a two percent salary increase for city council members and set the annual salary of both the mayor and clerk-treasurer at \$60,000 for 2014: Chris Fought

Second: Julia Bell

Vote: All Ayes

New Business

▪ **Ordinance 841-2013 – Non-elected Salary ordinance for 2014**

Council previously approved a two percent increase for 2014 and salary ordinance 841-2013 was presented.

Motion to pass ordinance 841-2013 on the first reading: Julia Bell

Second: Kelly Ware

Vote: All Ayes

Motion to suspend the rules and pass ordinance 841-2013 on the second reading: Julia Bell

Second: Kelly Ware

Vote: All Ayes

Motion to further suspend the rules and pass ordinance 841-2013 on the third and final reading: Julia Bell

Second: Becky Gray

Vote: All Ayes

Claim Registers – APV # 40344-40439

Motion to approve: Chris Fought

Second: Julia Bell

Vote: All Ayes

Comments by Members of Council and Administration

Park Director Alan Duncan: A quote to create a master plan for Pettit Park was received. Alan will pursue funding for the plan. Information from the DNR was received regarding a boat launch on Pigeon Street through a federal government fund. Additional information will be forthcoming.

Police Chief Bryan Shearer: The Marshmallow Festival is this weekend, the city's biggest weekend of the year. Overtime by the police force will be necessary.

Council Member Chris Fought: Chris commended Mike Burdette on the new streets. Mike commented that the Gerber Street project will begin the week of September 3rd.

Clerk-Treasurer Barb Hawn: Barb thanked council for appreciating the job she does and for the salary increase.

Mayor's Comments

Mayor Patty Fisel: The Mayor thanked the council. She appreciates having a great council with vision for the city. She feels the salary will be a benefit in the future. Thanks to the street department for everything they do to get ready for the Marshmallow Festival. The festival benefits the community and gives great exposure to the city. Thanks to all the departments and employees that help with the festival.

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn: Chris Fought

Second: Kelly Ware

Barbara Hawn, Clerk Treasurer

Patricia Fisel, Mayor