

Ligonier Common Council Meeting
Monday, June 23, 2014 – 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 President Ken Schuman, Council members Chris Fought, Becky Gray, and Julia Bell
Mayor Patty Fisel, City Attorney Steve Hagen, and Clerk Treasurer Barb Hawn
Absent: Council member Kelly Ware

Minutes from previous meeting of June 9, 2014

Motion to approve: Chris Fought

Second: Julia Bell

Vote: All Ayes

Citizens Comments

Ruth Elijah, Martin Street

Thanks to the city for removing the dead ash tree from the right of way at the corner of Martin and Union Streets.

Betty Peterson, 603 S. Martin Street

Thanks to all who helped with the car show. There were approximately 200 cars. The city received many compliments from the participants.

Gary Byers, Third Street

Gary commended Chris Fought and the Operation Foundation crew for their efforts during the clean up event.

Unfinished Business

▪ Department Heads Salary for 2015

At the previous meeting, Mayor Fisel proposed the department heads for Street, Water, Wastewater, Fire, and Park move from an hourly basis to salary in 2015, with the recommendation the salary be set at \$48,000. The topic was opened for discussion.

Council President Ken Schuman researched department head salaries from the annual IACT wage survey and felt \$48,000 was mid-range of those compared. He noted the cooperation between departments. He believes salary is cost effective.

Motion to approve a 2015 salary of \$48,000 for the following department head positions, Street, Water,

Wastewater, Fire, and Park: Ken Schuman Second: Julia Bell Vote: Ken Schuman Aye

Becky Gray Aye

Julia Bell Aye

Chris Fought Nay

Council member Fought cited his reason for voting nay being the salary amount is above the two percent (2%) the mayor intends to suggest as a salary increase for 2015.

Claim Registers – APV # 42675-42757

Motion to approve: Ken Schuman

Second: Chris Fought

Vote: All Ayes

Comments by Members of Council and Administration

Street Superintendent Mike Burdette

- The new dump truck should be ready in about two to three weeks
- The stump grinder was rented during Operation Foundation and approximately 70 stumps were removed

Park Director Alan Duncan

- Thanks to Mike and the street department personnel for grinding the stumps in the park. Approximately 35 stumps were removed.
- Thanks to Bryan and the police department personnel for patrolling in the park – vandalism is down
- Thanks to the committee for bringing the car show to the committee for hosting Strawberry Days for bringing both events to Pettit Park

Public Safety Director/Police Chief Bryan Shearer

- Bryan addressed the pay for part-time police officers. The PT officers play an important role as they cover 32 hours per week. We are currently at \$13.92/hour for academy trained and \$11.25 for non-academy trained (1 year maximum). The area average for trained PT police officers is \$18.32/hour. Bryan would like to see an increase for 2015.
- The part-time firemen pay is currently \$12.25 for primary and \$10.20 for secondary. Firemen are not academy trained but are classified as Class I or Class II as well as first responders. Bryan would also like to see an increase for 2015. Historically PT police officers have been paid at a higher rate and he is not expecting the same rate.

Motion to take the PT pay for police and fire under advisement until the next meeting: Chris Fought

Second: Ken Schuman

Vote: All Ayes

Council Member Chris Fought

- Just wanted to reiterate that he thinks the department heads do a great job and he appreciates them. Thanks to the departments for all they do.
- Operation Foundation had 80 projects this year and averaged 100 volunteers per day. The major project was the viaduct.

Council President Ken Schuman

- Thanks to everyone for their dedication and hard work

Council Member Julia Bell

- Congratulations to Bryan Shearer for his Sagamore of the Wabash award

Council Member Becky Gray

- Operation Foundation seemed more organized this year. Great job.

City Engineer Rick Pharis

- The BOW will certify bids and award the bids for the garment and former Superior building at the next meeting. Pre-construction meetings will be held with the contractors.
- Bids/quotes will be taken for the 2014 paving program. Eleven streets will be done. The engineer's estimate is \$145,000.

Clerk-Treasurer Barb Hawn

- The May bank reconciliation and fund reports were sent to council members. This was confirmed by council member Chris Fought.

Mayor Fisel's Comments

- The county received a grant to replace the Pigeon Street Bridge. The anticipated completion is 2018. The public's safety is first and foremost. The garment building will be coming down and we have a developer interested in the site. The only other access is the brick street. We will make another attempt with the railroad to open the Pigeon Street crossing
- Thanks to everyone. There are no words for the blessings we receive in our community.

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn: Ken Schuman

Second: Chris Fought