

**Ligonier Common Council Meeting
Monday, July 13, 2015 · 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, Kelly Ware, and Julia Bell
Mayor Patty Fisel, City Attorney Steve Hagen, and Clerk Treasurer Barb Hawn

Minutes from previous meeting of June 29, 2015

Motion to approve: Becky Gray

Second: Kelly Ware

Vote: All Ayes

Citizens Comments

Randy and Stephanie Penwell, 704 South Main Street

City code prohibits chickens inside the city limits. As he and his wife did not realize this, they currently have chickens at their home and were approached by coded enforcement to remove them. Mr. Penwell asked council to consider changing our ordinance to allow urban chicken keeping and allow him to keep his chickens until a decision is made. He provided information regarding several surrounding communities that now allow chickens and suggested a method of permitting as well as an offer to help educate the community on the proper way to keep urban chickens. Should the city decide not to change the ordinance, the Penwells do have an option outside the city to relocate the chickens.

Discussion and feedback from city administration led to the following.

Motion to not change the city ordinance: Ken Schuman

Second: Becky Gray

Roll Call Vote:

Kelly Ware

Nay

Chris Fought

Aye

Ken Schuman

Aye

Julia Bell

Aye

Becky Gray

Aye

Unfinished Business

PERF Enlargement

In the past Council President Ken Schuman had been against offering the PERF benefit to the Mayor's position. However, he stated that the points regarding offering PERF for the Mayor's position at the previous meeting were well founded.

Motion to pursue PERF for the Mayor's position: Ken Schuman

Second: Becky Gray

Vote: All Ayes

Actuarial forms are due to PERF by August 1, 2015. They will report back to us by the end of September. A resolution must be passed by November 1, 2015 for the position to be covered effective January 1, 2016.

Mayor Fisel stated she enjoys her job very much and PERF is not her motivation for the job. It is nice to know that PERF is available for the position for the future. She appreciates council's decision.

New Business

Perry Township – Fire Contract Discussion

Barb Donley, Perry Township Trustee, was present to discuss the fire contract for 2016. Last year's increase was 2%. The township is looking into some cost savings in their fire fund but for 2016 is proposing council look at a 1% increase.

Motion to approve a one (1) percent increase for the 2016 Perry Township Fire Contract: Chris Fought

Second: Ken Schuman

Vote: All Ayes

Perry Township –Agreement for Sharing Fire Truck Cost

City Attorney Steve Hagen prepared an agreement for the shared cost of a fire truck between the township and the city with the city's portion to be paid through RDC Bond proceeds. The approximate cost is \$600,000 with Perry's maximum contribution of \$300,000. The RDC will take bids at their August 10, 2015 meeting. Minor changes in the language will be made. The township board is meeting Tuesday evening to approve the agreement.

Mayor's Recommendation for 2016 Salary Increase

Annually the city generally has 26 pay periods. However, 2015 will experience 27 pay periods, which significantly increased the annual payroll dollars. Because 2016 will revert back to 26 pay periods, it would allow the city to offer a 3.5% increase to employees without increasing the payroll dollars. Therefore, Mayor Fisel recommended a 3.5% increase for employees covered by the non-elected salary ordinance.

Motion to approve a 3.5% pay increase for the non-elected salary ordinance for 2016: Ken Schuman

Second: Julia Bell

Vote: All Ayes

Claim Registers – APV # 45786-45961

Motion to approve: Julia Bell

Second: Becky Gray

Vote: All Ayes

Comments by Members of Council and Administration

Water Superintendent Jeff Boyle

- Thanks to the city departments for their assistance with the water leak near the BRC factory on SR5 last week

WWTP Superintendent Don Skinner

- Things in the project are going pretty well considering the rain. The department is getting the vector truck out as much as possible

Council Member Kelly Ware

- Congratulations to Patty and Bryan and the Ligonier Police Department on the second safest city award

Council Member Chris Fought

- The department heads are invited to a meeting at Fashion Farm on July 21 at 6:00 am to discuss Operation Foundation. Appreciate the city's cooperation with OF.

Council President Ken Schuman

- Congratulations on the second safest city award and thank you.

Council Member Becky Gray

- Thanks to the department heads for their input in the chicken discussion

Mayor Fisel's Comments

- Thanks to the council for making a decision on the chickens. It will make things less confusing
- The city was awarded the Second Safest City in Indiana award. It is an awesome honor not just for our public safety but for the whole community. Everyone cares about safety. She commended the citizens and police department and is very proud of the city. Chief Shearer added that it a true reflection of the officers and the respect of the citizens. The officers do not do their jobs for the rankings but because they care. It is good to have the support of the council and BOW with programs such as the SRO and take home cars. The department will continue to do what they do and try to get even better.
- Mayor Fisel congratulated Barb Hawn on her CMC (Certified Municipal Clerk) designation by the IIMC (International Institute of Municipal Clerks). She has been attending classes to earn her certification.

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn: Ken Schuman

Second: Julia Bell