

**Ligonier Common Council Meeting
Monday, August 24, 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 August 10, 2015

Motion to approve: Ken Schuman

Second: Julia Bell

Vote: All Ayes

New Business

Ordinance 867-2015 (Amended 2015 Salary Ordinance)

At the previous meeting council approved an adjustment to the first class fireman pay. Ordinance 867-2015 amends the 2015 salary ordinance.

Motion to pass Ordinance 867-2015 on the first reading: Ken Schuman

Second: Julia Bell

Vote: All Ayes

Motion to suspend the rules and pass Ordinance 867-2015 on the second reading: Ken Schuman

Second: Becky Gray

Vote: All Ayes

Motion to further suspend the rules and pass Ordinance 867-2015 on the third and final reading: Ken Schuman

Second: Julia Bell

Vote: All Ayes

Plan Commission Recommendation – First Floor Apartments

By a unanimous vote, the Plan Commission made recommendation that first floor apartments in the downtown be allowed with specific regulations and restrictions. This would allow a building owner the opportunity to have additional income for possible profitability.

Motion to have City Attorney Hagen draft an ordinance with the Plan Commission recommendation regarding first floor apartments: Ken Schuman

Second: Chris Fought

Vote: All Ayes

Enforcement of zoning ordinance violations was discussed at the previous Plan Commission. There was misconception that the Police Department should be enforcing these types of violations. Police Chief Bryan Shearer addressed the issue to clarify.

The Police Department and Code Enforcement Officer do not enforce Plan Commission ordinances such as building and zoning. They have no jurisdiction. Complaints regarding violations come to the Zoning Administrator, Earle Franklin. He then contacts the Plan Commission attorney who drafts a letter to the violator. If the violator does not comply, the attorney can take further action.

The Police Department is happy to assist, especially when violations are discovered during their daily patrols as they can report back to the Zoning Administrator. The Zoning Administrator actually has the ability to request a search warrant when necessary.

Noble Co. EDC – Incumbent Workers Funding Request

Noble County EDC is applying for a grant for an incumbent workers program. Matching funds are necessary and they are requesting \$2500 per year for three years from Ligonier. At a previous meeting Rick Sherck requested funding and council tabled until necessary. Funds could be provided from CEDIT to cover the expense but are not appropriated at this time, but can still be included in the 2016 budget.

Motion to approve funding \$2500 per year for three years to Noble County EDC as matching funds for the incumbent workers program: Ken Schuman Second: Julie Bell Vote: All Ayes

Claim Registers – APV # 46129-46260

Motion to approve: Chris Fought

Second: Becky Gray

Vote: All Ayes

Comments by Members of Council and Administration

Fire Chief Jeremy Weaver

- The Redevelopment Commission awarded the fire truck bid to Sutphen for the truck and equipment. Lead time is 8-9 months.

Public Safety Director/Police Chief Bryan Shearer

- The Redevelopment Commission approved up to \$625,000 total for the fire truck and equipment as radios are separate from the fire truck bid. Perry Township will be paying \$300,000 and will share the truck with the city.

Park Director Alan Duncan

- The Park Department will be hosting an NFL punt, pass, and kick contest on September 12 at 2:00 pm. Children ages 6-15 are eligible to participate.

Street Superintendent Mike Burdette

- Personnel are getting the truck ready for the upcoming winter season and preparing for the Marshmallow Festival.

Water Superintendent Jeff Boyle

- Thanks to the clerk's staff for their assistance in working through recent issues with certain meters and accounts. Appreciate the cooperation and help.

WWTP Superintendent Don Skinner

- API is ready to bore under SR5 and is preparing for the Smith Street portion of the project.

Building Inspector Earle Franklin

- The bowling alley building is completely down.
- The Pizza Hut remodel is complete and they have reopened.

City Engineer Rick Pharis

- Selge will be here in three weeks to complete the repair/replacement of the steps at city hall.
- Countryscapes has completed the brick replacement in the sidewalk at city hall.
- AEP is still looking at the bowling alley site for a substation but there are drainage problems on the property. INDOT has been contacted.
- A presentation to the Plan Commission was made for a planning grant to do a new Comprehensive Plan. The grant is for \$40,000 and will require a 10% match. Requesting funds for the match. Clerk-Treasurer Hawn confirmed that CEDIT funds would be available but are not appropriated, but could be included in the 2016 budget.

***Motion to commit \$4000 in CEDIT funds for the grant match to revise the Comprehensive Plan: Chris Fought
Second: Becky Gray Vote: All Ayes***

Council Member Chris Fought

- This was the eighth year of Operation Foundation. There were 188 volunteers, 74 projects, and 1,300 hours all within a three day period.

Council President Ken Schuman

- Thanks to the Police Department for the prompt response on their alarm system. Everyone was so professional. Appreciate it.

Clerk-Treasurer Barb Hawn

- The proposed budget was sent to council members for their review. Council members were given the opportunity to address any issues. With the exception of adding the two items to CEDIT from tonight's meeting, council agreed to the budget with these changes.

Mayor Fisel's Comments

- Notification was received from Silgan Plastics of an additional layoff, bringing the total to 54. This second phase will be completed by November 1st.
- The Mayor attended the Road to 1,000,000 rally in Fort Wayne. This is the Regional Partnership initiative to get 1,000,000 residents in the NE Indiana area. They feel that by 2027 there will not be enough people to replace the retiring baby boomers. Quality of life is a priority and plays a big part in the regional initiative for the state grant. Ligonier's project, Strawberry Valley Greenway, is included in the grant project submission.
- The property at 200 Water Street, former garment factory site, is being advertised for sale. The property is owned by the Redevelopment Commission. They will meet on September 11 to accept and award bids.

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn: Ken Schuman

Second: Chris Fought