

Ligonier Common Council Meeting
Monday, March 14, 2016 · West Noble Primary School
500 W. Union Street · Ligonier, IN – 7:00 pm

Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag

Call to order by Mayor Fisel

Mayor Fisel thanked the students and staff of West Noble Primary for hosting the City Council meeting.

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 February 22, 2016

Motion to approve: Chris Fought

Second: Becky Gray

Vote: All Ayes

Citizens Comments

West Noble Primary First Grade Students: Alex Scott, Lilly Storms, and Allison Bloss

Each of these students spoke to the council and audience about the Kindness Program at West Noble Primary School. Each first grade class has a project they sponsor and do random acts of kindness around the community. They did a great job of explaining the program, sharing their favorite part of the kindness program and why it was meaningful to them.

West Noble Primary Guidance Counselor Alyssa Juday

Mrs. Juday gave background information on the Kindness Program and how it really makes a difference. The kindergarten students learn about the agents of kindness but receive an agent of kindness badge when they are in first grade. The kids go on secret agents of kindness missions once a month. The missions include amongst other things, writing notes of encouragement, making paper clip angels at Christmas time, and leaving quarters at the Laundromat and vending machines in town.

West Noble Primary First Grade Teacher Joy Wert

Mrs. Wert spoke to the benefits of the Kindness Program, how it makes a connection to each other through caring and kindness as well as acceptance of each other. She has noticed behavior changes in children since the program was instituted. She gave examples showing how the acts of kindness have been returned. She commented that while all students might not be good at math or writing, all students can be good at being kind to one another and can carry it on in the future.

West Noble Primary Principal Brian Shepherd

Mr. Shepherd stressed the importance of not loosing site of the whole child. In addition to the educational aspect of school, they focus on the social aspect by teaching kids how to act, and the fitness aspect through their 50, 100, and 150 mile club which involves walking at recess. Making school fun is important – stating we have to remember they are kids. Mr. Shepherd asked council to consider making the date of the annual Kindness Parade – Ligonier Kindness Day. Mayor Fisel will issue a proclamation when the date has been determined.

RFQ Opening – Comprehensive Plan

Kristine Christlieb of Region 3-A explained that as part of the grant process, a three member committee of the city will review and score the submissions made by the firms who submitted their qualifications to prepare the comprehensive plan for the city. The committee selected consists of Mayor Fisel, Public Safety Director/Police Chief Shearer, and Building Administrator Franklin. The firm chosen will be announced at a later date.

Four firms submitted sealed RFQ which were opened during the meeting: Randall Ernstberger, DLZ, Troyer Group, and Martin Riley. Packets will be distributed to the committee for review. Mrs. Christlieb provided scoring sheets for the committee.

Parking on Main Street and 4-way Stop at Martin and Third Streets

Ken Schuman recapped the meeting with PS Director/Police Chief Shearer, Street Superintendent Mike Burdette, and Jerry Nesbitt of the Library. The angled parking on the north end of the Library makes entry from Third Street onto Main hazardous. They came to the following agreement and would like council approval to proceed with an ordinance revision:

- Change the angled parking between Second and Third Streets on the West side of Main Street to parallel parking.
- Change north half of the angled parking (beginning with the Library entrance) between Third and Fourth Streets on the West side of Main Street to parallel parking. Four parallel parking spots will be added to the north side of Third Street to accommodate library personnel parking.
- Change the 2-way stop to a 4-way stop at Third and Martin Streets

Motion to make the parking and stop sign changes to the ordinance: Ken Schuman

Second: Chris Fought

Vote: All Ayes

CF-1 – L & L Associates

The annual compliance form for abatement was received from L & L Associates (the building owners of Structural Composites). The actual numbers for employees and salaries far exceeded the estimates.

Motion to approve the CF-1 for L & L Associates: Ken Schuman

Second: Kelly Ware

Vote: All Ayes

Claim Registers – APV #47746-47921

Motion to approve: Chris Fought

Second: Becky Gray

Vote: All Ayes

Comments by Members of Council and Administration

Park Director Alan Duncan

- Registration for youth soccer ages 3-11 continues through March 26 at a cost of \$25.
- The Easter Egg Hunt is Saturday March 26, at 11:00 am sharp for ages 2-11 at Kenney Park. Normally 500-700 children participate. Thanks to local businesses for their donations totaling around \$1500 for prizes for the kids.

Street Superintendent Mike Burdette

- The department is busy cleaning the equipment from winter and sweeping the streets.

WWTP Superintendent Don Skinner

- The annual report was submitted.
- The replacement pump was received.
- UV structure begins tomorrow.
- Plans for improvements to the SCADA system were reviewed.

Council Member Kelly Ware

- Thanks to Mr. Shepherd for hosting the council meeting. It was great to hear from the kids.

Council Member Chris Fought

- Inquired about rusty water at his home on Mondays. The street department is opening a hydrant on Mondays to fill the street sweeper and this could be the cause. As soon as there is no threat of freezing, the water department will again begin flushing hydrants.
- Inquired about the final paving of Lincolnway West. Mike Burdette will check but the asphalt plants have not yet reopened from winter closings.

Council President Ken Schuman

- Thanks to Mr. Shepherd and the kids for sharing the programs.

Council Member Julia Bell

- Thanks to the primary staff for sharing their programs.

Council Member Becky Gray

- Thanks to Mr. Shepherd. When you build kids up its going to be a great town.

Clerk-Treasurer Barb Hawn

- Thanks to Mr. Shepherd and the primary staff for hosting the meeting and presenting their programs. The kids did such an amazing job speaking in front of the audience.

Mayor Fisel's Comments

- A legislative summary was received. The city should receive additional funding for roads.
- The road to 1,000,000 Regional Cities project includes the city's trail project. We will have to wait to see if our portion receives funding.
- A funding request from the St. Joe River Basin Commission will be presented at next meeting.
- The canoe launch at the Pigeon Street Bridge is available for use.
- A new Pigeon Street Bridge will be installed in 2017.
- Herman and Kittle received their tax credits and will proceed with the apartment structure at the former Wirk Garment property. It will be a 53 unit, 3 story building. The property will be prepared this year with construction anticipated in 2017.
- Information on a confined feeding operation was received from IDEM for M & M Troyer.
- IDEM approved air permits for Tenneco.
- We are working with Kristine Christlieb of Region 3-A on water grant application.
- The retaining wall in the river behind the downtown business will proceed with DR-2 grant funds which were awarded to the city.
- A meeting regarding a shelter for the Amish horses will be held March 15 at City Hall at 4:30.
- Thanks to Mr. Shepherd, teachers, and kids for the program. It was awesome. Thanks to Officer Shearer for the great job he does with the kids.
- Thanks to all of those who attended the meeting.

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn: Ken Schuman

Second: Chris Fought