

Ligonier Common Council Meeting
Monday, March 27, 2017
West Noble Primary School · 500 West Union Street
Ligonier, IN – 7:00 pm

Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag

Call to order by Mayor Fisel

Mayor Fisel thanked Brian Shepherd, West Noble Primary School Principal, and his staff for hosting the city council meeting.

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 March 13, 2017

Motion to approve: Chris Fought

Second: Julia Bell

Vote: All Ayes

New Business

Housing Study

The Noble County Economic Development Corporation (NEDC) is seeking funding for a countywide housing study, asking individual units to share the cost of the \$12,500 study. Housing is currently an issue. We have jobs available in our local factories and we need homes for workers to live in. Discussion led to the following.

Motion to contribute \$2,000.00 from CEDIT funds towards the county Housing Study: Chris Fought

Second: Julia Bell

Vote: All ayes

WNP Program

West Noble Primary School hosted the council in their school library. Members of the staff presented a program on the new Dual Language program, new this year. They currently have 46 kindergarten families (50% native English speaking and 50% native Spanish speaking) participating. Children are in an English speaking classroom 50% of the day and Spanish speaking classroom the other 50% of the day. These same children will follow through each year through sixth grade (they also hope to develop a high school program) with the goal of becoming bi-literate. Mrs. Riegsecker, the teacher for the Spanish speaking classroom demonstrated a teaching technique with members of council and the audience.

Claim Registers – APV #50768-50935

Motion to approve: Chris Fought

Second: Julia Bell

Vote: All Ayes

Comments by Members of Council and Administration

Street Superintendent Mike Burdette

- Will start taking dead trees down. Currently about seven plus additional at the park.

Public Safety Director/Police Chief Bryan Shearer

- Recapped the highlights from the annual police report comparing the current with five year averages.

Water Superintendent Jeff Boyle

- Asked for contact to be made to legislators regarding SRF funding which is tied to federal funding currently under review for possible cuts by the federal government. Mayor Fisel commented that Congressman Jim Banks staff holds office hours the third Tuesday of the month from 9-12 in the office on the first floor of City Hall.

WWTP Superintendent Don Skinner

- The project is nearing the end and looking at the SCADA system.
- Compliments to Ligonier for aiding workers and providing funds for education and training.

Park Director Alan Duncan

- This is the last week for soccer sign up.
- The goal for the Story Walk was reached and the equipment has been ordered. Hope to have installed in May.

City Engineer Rick Pharis

- Three quotes for the sidewalk program were received and reviewed. The project will be awarded at the next Board of Works meeting. Young Services of Elkhart is the apparent low quote.
- The water project will bid late June/early July.
- A meeting was held with 10 building owners downtown regarding the river wall project. Thanks to Anna Fernandez for her assistance. The contractor is looking for equipment that will cause less vibration.
- Community Crossing grants for streets are under consideration in the legislature with a possible 80-20 match.

Council Member Kelly Ware

- Thanks to WNP for having us and for the program.
- Congrats to the police department for participating in a program at Richville Church.

Council Member Chris Fought

- Inquired about the concrete light poles downtown. They are currently being manufactured in Texas but we do not currently have an arrival date according to Bryan Shearer who has been keeping in contact with AEP.

Council Member Julia Bell

- Thank you to WNP.

Council Member Becky Gray

- Very good presentation. Thank you.

Clerk-Treasurer Barb Hawn

- Thank you for hosting our meeting. Great program, will be an asset to our community.

Mayor Fisel's Comments

- Thank you WNP very much for hosting and the program. It was very beneficial to hear about the DL program.
- Working with Congressman Banks' office regarding the railroad crossing on Pigeon Street. A meeting with Norfolk executives has been set up.
- Thanks to her team for all they do.

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn: Chris Fought

Second: Kelly Ware