

Ligonier Common Council Meeting
Monday, April 22, 2019 · Ligonier City Hall
301 South Cavin Street · Ligonier, IN – 7:00 pm

Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag

Call to order by Mayor Fisel – Public Hearing for OCRA Grant

Matt Brinkman, Grant Administrator of Region 3a was present to conduct the first public hearing for the OCRA grant for the Stormwater project. The grant application is due on June 28 with a deadline of May 3 for the initial proposal. The grant request is \$480,000 with a city match of 120,000. It is a competitive grant. Evidence of need and letters of support are requested by June 21 will help in the scoring of the grant. The grant will be awarded mid-August.

Rick Pharis spoke to the specifics of the project from information provided by Jonathan Moen, the designer of the project. The city will benefit because stormwater will not be treated at the Wastewater Treatment Plant. It costs the same to treat clean water as wastewater. It will also help with stormwater issues on city streets with standing water.

Patty Fisel – important that we do comment regarding the project. Being able to lower the cost of running the plant is very beneficial to the city.

Julie Bell – help people with fixed income and low income by keeping the rates where they are and not raising the rates.

No further comments were made, and the public hearing was closed.

Call to order by Mayor Fisel – Common Council Meeting

Roll Call

Present: Council President Ken Schuman, Council Members Kelly Ware and Julia Bell

Mayor Patty Fisel, City Attorney Steve Clouse, and Clerk Treasurer Barb Hawn

Absent: Council Member Chris Fought and Becky Gray

Minutes from previous meeting of April 8, 2019

Motion to approve: Ken Schuman

Second: Julia Bell

Vote: All Ayes

New Business

Tax Abatement Request – West Noble Waste Recovery

Dan Stuckman of West Noble Waste Recovery was present to ask for tax abatement. The property is currently a bare lot. The company plans to build and improve the property and are requesting tax abatement. The expected improvements are approximately 1.8 million dollars.

Mr. Stuckman spoke about the project. The entire project will be several buildings utilizing 8 acres of 24 acres in first stage. This stage will include a 70-foot truck scale and office, a major transfer station facility which will allow the receipt of waste from local communities currently using landfills which are farther away (waste would come in and be consolidated and sorted into recyclables which will allow for price reductions at landfills) and semi-trailers would then haul to the landfill, and a truck garage to maintain equipment. All waste would be under building. IDEM permitting is required. Fencing would be installed. The only thing being stored outside would be equipment. They would become the middle guy to make things more efficient for the city and other communities that could benefit. There would also be the potential for recycle pickup in the city. They chose Ligonier to help this community and nearby who must go much farther for disposal. Mr. Stuckman is requesting 10-year tax abatement. They will be meeting with the city engineer very soon to go over the project. He is hoping to start the project in June and be open in November. No toxic materials will be accepted. Items such as construction waste, municipal waste, and possible electronics. Fees will be based on the landfill costs. This is his first facility of this type and will be like facilities that Kendallville and Warsaw offer.

Motion to pass Resolution 0422-2019 approving 10-year tax abatement to West Noble Waste Recovery and approve the finding of fact as presented: Ken Schuman

Second: Julia Bell

Vote: All Ayes

Claim Registers – APV # 56847-56910

Motion to approve: Julia Bell

Second: Kelly

Vote: All Ayes

Comments by Members of Council and Administration

Public Safety Director/Police Chief Bryan Shearer

- Kudos to Mr. Stuckman and the council for approval. The facility will assist code enforcement – option to tell people to take their waste to a local facility is a huge benefit. Enforcement is only as good as ability to provide service.

Water Superintendent Jeff Boyle

- Open House at the Water Plant on May 3, 2019 from noon to six. Will have some demonstrations.

City Engineer Rick Pharis

- Community Crossings bids were high. It was necessary to leave Martin Street off the project due to bids for that portion of the project being significantly higher than the engineer’s estimate. We will reapply in a later Community Crossings grant round.
- Next phase of the Strawberry Valley Trail will be bid in May.

Mayor Fisel’s Comments

- Entry signs for the city will be installed soon. Permits for two have been received and two additional highway permits are in process. One additional sign will be installed on Lincolnway West.
- Citywide Garage Sales are May 10-11. No permits needed.
- Community Clean up is May 18 from 8-1 at the Wastewater Plant.

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn: Ken Schuman

Second: Kelly Ware


Barbara Hawn, Clerk Treasurer


Patricia Fisel, Mayor