

Ligonier Common Council Meeting
Monday, June 10, 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 of Region 3A was present to conduct the second public hearing for the Stormwater Grant. Applications are due June 28, 2019. This will be a \$480,000.00 grant request. The city anticipates \$120,000.00 in local matching funds. No written comments have been received since the publication of the legal notice. City Engineer Rick Phares provided an overview of the project. The public was invited to comment on the project. Carrie Nelson of 706 Water Street commented about having water in her basement during heavy rain, and her hope that this project would alleviate the problem. The City Engineer stated he would go look at her property to determine the nature of the problem. The public hearing was adjourned at approximately 7:13 pm

Call to order by Mayor Fisel – Common Council Meeting

Roll Call

Present: Council President Ken Schuman, Councilman Chris Fought, Councilwoman Becky Gray, and Councilwoman Julia Bell; Mayor Patty Fisel and City Attorney Steven Clouse.

Absent: Councilwoman Kelly Ware and Clerk-Treasurer Barb Hawn.

Minutes from previous meeting of May 13, 2019

Motion to approve the minutes by Councilman Fought: Second by Councilwoman Bell

Vote: 4-0. Minutes approved.

Citizens Comments:

Charles Porter of 106 North Martin Street. Mr. Porter has been having issues with loud noise complaints in the neighborhood. Mayor stated she has addressed this matter with the Police Chief and there will be an effort to provide better enforcement of the local ordinances.

Nancy Davidson of 6644 West Cromwell Road. Ms. Davidson is opposed to having the Board of Park and Recreation dissolved.

Barbara Wallace 101 West 2nd Street. Ms. Wallace is opposed to having the Board of Park and Recreation dissolved. Ms. Wallace requested the City Council to entertain an increase in pay for the Superintendent in order to attract a qualified candidate to the position.

Carrie Nelson, 706 Water Street. Ms. Nelson is opposed to having the Board of Park and Recreation dissolved.

Gary Byers, 1000 West 3rd Street. Mr. Byers questioned the process of how the ordinance will pass and the purpose of a special meeting for the Park Board on Wednesday, June 12th.

Jeff Boyle, 510 Water Street, Superintendent of the Water Department. Mr. Boyle commented that at one time his Department had an independent Water Board, which was dissolved by the City Council. He now reports to the Board of Public Works.

Brian Hite, 501 West 2nd Street. Current President of the Board of Park & Recreation spoke about the efforts that have been made to find a Superintendent candidate and explained that dissolving the Board of Park & Recreation seems to be the right thing to do.

Earle Franklin, 804 South Cavin Street. Stated that the move to dissolve the Board of Park & Recreation is about dollars and cents. The city cannot offer the dollars necessary to lure qualified Superintendent candidates to the city.

Christopher Fought, 506 South Main Street. Would prefer to have someone local to run the parks as opposed to hiring someone who simply meets statutory qualifications.

Rick Pharis, 805 Lincolnway South. Compared the situation in the Parks Department to a City Engineer versus an Engineering Supervisor. A city engineer must have specific qualifications, while an engineer supervisor does not have the same qualifications.

Matt Brinkman, 217 Fairview Boulevard. States that he will get clarification as to whether granting agencies differentiate between a Park Board and a Park Authority for purposes of awarding grants.

Grant Resolution 0610-2019

Following the public hearing, Resolution 0601-2019 committing the \$120,000 matching funds from stormwater user fees and allowing the Mayor to sign the necessary documents and submit the grant application was available for approval.

Motion to approve Resolution 0610-2019 was made by Council President Schuman; Second by Councilman Fought. Vote: 4-0. The resolution was approved.

Perry Township Trustee – Fire Contract Discussion

Barbara Donley, Perry Township Trustee was present to discuss the Perry Township Fire Contract. The existing contract goes through the end of 2019. The previous contract included a two percent increase per year over a three-year period. Discussion was held.

Motion to increase the fire contract by 1.5% each year for three years (2020, 2021, and 2022) was made by Councilman Fought; Second by Council President Schuman. Vote: 4-0. The motion passed.

Capital Plan Changes for 2019

The revised comprehensive financial plan and capital plan were received from Baker Tilly and distributed to council members. The capital portion has changes for 2019 and council was asked to approve the 2019 revisions. Councilman Fought questioned whether there had been an increase in funds allocated for tree planting. The consensus was that the changes did allow for an increase in tree planting funds.

Motion to approve the Capital Plan Changes for 2019 was made by Councilman Fought; Second by Council President Schuman. Vote: 4-0. The revised Capital Plan was approved.

Park Meadow Development – Recommendation from Plan Commission

Building Administrator Earle Franklin was present to discuss the Park Meadow housing development. Plan Commission has made a favorable recommendation for the new subdivision, Park Meadow III. The first phase will open approximately thirty (30) lots for development.

Motion to approve the first phase of the Park Meadow III housing development was made by Council President Schuman; Second by Councilman Fought. Vote: 4-0. The plan was approved.

West Noble SRO Position

Bryan Shearer presented a plan for the Ligonier City Police to take over a vacant SRO position as the West Noble School Corporation. Sheriff Max Weber was present to support Shearer's request. There would continue to be a second SRO at the West Noble Primary School located in the Ligonier city limits. West Noble School Corporation is willing to absorb half of the total cost for the two school resource officers. Shearer stated his plan is to advertise the position with the goal of having a qualified SRO hired before the start of the 2019-2020 school year. Shearer stated that the capital plan will need revised to allow for an additional vehicle purchase.

Motion made by Councilwoman Bell to revise the capital plan to allow for the purchase of a new police car. Second by Council President Schuman. Vote 4-0.

Motion made by Councilwoman Bell to approve the hiring on an 11th officer for the Police Department; Second by Council President Schuman. Vote 4-0.

Park Department Changes – Ordinance 931-2019

City Attorney Steven Clouse and Mayor Patty Fisel discussed recommended Park Department Changes. City Attorney gave a complete reading of the proposed Ordinance. Discussion was held.

Motion to pass Ordinance 931-2019 on the first reading was made by Councilman Fought; Second by Council President Schuman. Vote 4-0. Ordinance 931-2019 passed on 1st reading. The ordinance will be back before the council on June 24, 2019 for subsequent readings.

Claim Registers – APV # 57102-57308

Motion to approve the APV was made by Councilman Fought; Second by Councilwoman Gray. Vote: 4-0. The APV was approved.

Bank Reconciliations for April 2019

April Bank reconciliations and fund reports were included in the council packets. Members signed acknowledging receipt.

Comments by Members of Council and Administration

Street Superintendent Mike Burdette: Cleaning up trees from recent storms.


Councilman Fought: Thanked all the citizens who attended and participated in the meeting today and commented on the important issues facing the city. Councilman Fought also announced the passing of longtime Ligonier resident, Ruth Elijah.

Council President Ken Schuman: Questioned how many trees were lost during recent storms. An exact number was not known or given. Council President Schuman further commented that no one intends for the beautiful city parks to backslide during the transition from a Park Board to a Park Authority.

Mayor Fisel’s Comments: Mayor thanked all who came and commented during the course of the meeting today. Mayor encouraged anyone with comments/complaints to reach out directly to her to discuss the issues. Mayor further recognized the life of Ruth Elijah and the contributions Mrs. Elijah made to the City of Ligonier over the years.

Adjournment @ approximately 8:20 pm
Motion to adjourn made by Council President Schuman; Second by Councilman Fought. Vote: 4-0. Meeting adjourned.


Barbara Hawn, Clerk Treasurer


Patricia Fisel, Mayor