

**Ligonier Common Council Meeting  
Monday, February 24, 2020 · Ligonier City Hall  
301 South Cavin Street · Ligonier, IN – 7:00 pm**

**Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag**

**Call to order by Mayor Fisel – Common Council Meeting**

**Roll Call**

Present: Council Members Ken Schuman, Chris Fought, Doretta Wiegand, and Julia Bell  
Mayor Patty Fisel, City Attorney Steve Clouse, and Clerk Treasurer Barb Hawn  
Absent: Council Member Bill Mills

**Minutes from previous meeting of February 10, 2020**

*Motion to approve: Ken Schuman*

*Second: Chris Fought*

*Vote: All Ayes*

**Citizens Comments**

***Name & Address: David Magnus, 105 W. Miller St., Ligonier***

First spoke as Commander of the American Legion

Expressed concern regarding comments he read in the paper regarding the Veteran's Memorial saying the Mayor was hoping to get the American Legion on board with the project. He stated that the American Legion members approve the project but are not happy with the location as they felt it would not be visible enough. The post has made contributions to the project as well as other community programs. Currently the American Legion Riders are helping the post to get a new sign which is their priority at this time. They will then turn their attention to additional fundraising for the memorial. He invited the Mayor and Council Members to attend American Legion meetings on Tuesdays at 6:00 pm.

He then spoke as a citizen who ran for Mayor, addressing the new fire station. He feels the fire department needs to grow for the city to grow but as he has previously stated, his opinion is that satellite stations would better serve the city. He stated the Pettit Park agreement does not state the new fire station has to be located in Pettit Park. He spoke about the TIF district and said he found information on the Indiana Gateway site regarding Ligonier TIF debt which he claimed to be 61 million dollars.

Clerk-Treasurer Barb Hawn addressed the debt amount he spoke about, stating it was incorrect. The city as a whole does not have debt close to the amount referred to. Logging onto the Indiana Gateway, members of the council discovered the amount Mr. Magnus thought to be debt was actually assessed value in the TIF district.

Mayor Fisel addressed Mr. Magnus' comments. She stated she appreciates everything the American Legion does for the community. She explained the location of the memorial as a peaceful setting by the river which will be very visible. It will be a place for memorial services and the parking lot and pavilion with restrooms will be close by for visitors. She stated that Pettit Park was chosen for the fire station since we already own the property and the donor expressed their wishes for a new fire station on the property and included permission in the agreement. She commented that Public Safety Director Bryan Shearer and/or Fire Chief Jeremy Weaver would be happy to meet with him about the fire station project.

Public Safety Director Bryan Shearer addressed the issue. He stated as a department head and resident, he appreciates and is pleased with the American Legion and their support of the community. He stated the City Council is here to support the fire station. The Redevelopment Commission is financing the building. He made the challenge to find another community our size that has been able to support infrastructure, improvements, sewer rates, and other projects the way Ligonier has with TIF revenues. All of the meetings regarding the fire station were public meetings, including the location to build the building. There was zero opposition at any public RDC meeting. Zero residential property tax dollars are being used for the project. The Redevelopment Commission members past and present should be commended for what they have done for the city. If there are any questions, please ask.

***Name & Address: Gary Bishop, 306 Pontiac Street***

Mr. Bishop stated he has lived in Ligonier since 1964. He has been a member of the Fire Dept., Police Dept., City Council, and has been the Mayor. He has watched the city grow and has stayed active on city boards such as the Plan Commission and BZA. While he originally was against the new fire station, the more information he has had on the project, he now supports it. He commented that the residents should attend the council meetings to find out what is going on and voice their opinions if they don't like what is happening.

**New Business**

***Margarita White – Marshmallow Festival***

Margarita White attended on behalf of the Marshmallow Festival. She has been in charge for nine seasons. In that time the committee has acquired items like golf carts, a gator, bleachers, stage, etc. and are in need storage. They would like to get everything in one location. They are hoping to build a 40 x 42 building which they estimate to be approximately \$33,000-\$36,000. They intend to apply for a grant along with donations. She asked if the city would provide land to build a building, perhaps in Woodlawn Park near the other city buildings, or near the Street Department. The committee would maintain and upkeep – just need the use of the land. In the event the festival would cease, the building would become property of the city.

City Attorney Clouse commented that if council wants an agreement drafted, not giving away property – but giving space to build a building which festival would maintain, he could do so.

Park Director Travis Brimhall commented that there are drainage issues in Woodlawn Park and if the building was to be located there, they would need to comprise a plan to dry the land to allow for a building.

Before applying for the grant in June, Margarita would need permission for the use of the property.

***Motion to let City Attorney Clouse to start drafting agreement and allow city officials and marshmallow committee to determine a location: Chris Fought      Second: Ken Schuman      Vote: All Ayes***

**Claim Registers – APV #59250-59319**

***Motion to approve: Ken Schuman      Second: Julia Bell      Vote: All Ayes***

**Comments by Members of Council and Administration**

**Public Safety Director/Police Chief Bryan Shearer**

- Jeremy, Jerry Sprague and I will be meeting with Triad on Wednesday after the BOW meeting about the fire station plans.

**Water Superintendent Jeff Boyle**

- Water main break on Lincolnway. There were so many lines they couldn't use the bucket to dig, it looked like spaghetti. Will be working to develop an ordinance regarding fiber locations.
- Waiting for weather break to resume work on meters.

**Park Director Travis Brimhall**

- Thanks to Grotrian Tool and Die for donating pieces for the backboard repair at the Rec Center. It saved us around \$1200.
- Starting to get things ready for spring installation of equipment.

**Clerk-Treasurer Barb Hawn**

- Annual Report was submitted on February 11 and advertised on February 13.
- Will not be at next meeting, will be attending classes in Muncie.

**Adjournment**

***Motion to adjourn: Chris Fought      Second: Ken Schuman***



Barbara Hawn, Clerk Treasurer



Patricia Fisel, Mayor