

**Ligonier Common Council Meeting
Monday, August 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, Julia Bell, and Bill Mills
Mayor Patty Fisel, City Attorney Steve Clouse, and Clerk Treasurer Barb Hawn
Distinguished guests present: Indiana State Senator Sue Glick and Indiana Representative David Abbott

Minutes from previous meeting of August 10, 2020

Motion to approve: Ken Schuman

Second: Chris Fought

Vote: All Ayes

New Business

Women's Suffrage Proclamation

Mayor Fisel offered a proclamation recognizing the impact of the 100th anniversary of women gaining the right to vote in the United States. She asked for council approval of the proclamation.

Motion to approve: Ken Schuman

Second: Julia Bell

Vote: All Ayes

Ligonier Public Library – Declaration of Fiscal Body

Due to legislation change, in the case of a triggering event under IC 6-1.1-17-20.3 or 20.4 which require a library to submit its budget to a separate fiscal body for binding budget adoption, the fiscal body determined to be responsible for the Ligonier Public Library is the Ligonier Common Council. The Library adopted the report on August 11, 2020 and asked the Council to adopt the report. Discussion and clarification from Senator Glick led to the following.

Motion to adopt the report: Ken Schuman

Second: Julia Bell

Vote: All Ayes

Trick or Treat

We are getting calls regarding Trick or Treat this year due to COVID. Public Safety Director/Police Chief Shearer recommended to the council that we proceed with Trick or Treat, suggesting that we make it on Thursday, October 29, 2020. The candy is wrapped, the kids are outside and will be wearing masks. There was also discussion of a possible trunk or treat at Kenney Park in the future.

Motion to table: Chris Fought

Second: Ken Schuman

Vote: All Ayes

Claim Registers – APV # 60583-60694

Motion to approve: Chris Fought

Second: Ken Schuman

Vote: All Ayes

Comments by Members of Council and Administration

Fire Chief Jeremy Weaver

- Since the Marshmallow Festival was cancelled and Labor Day weekend is the biggest fund raising weekend for the Fire Dept., they will be doing a pork burger fund raiser on Saturday, September 5, and Monday, September 7 at the Family Dollar parking lot.

Street Superintendent Mike Burdette

- Looking for a new tree service. Must be bonded and insured.

WWTP Superintendent Kenny Sprague

- Working to complete some projects before the cold weather.

Park Director Travis Brimhall

- Four pieces of equipment were installed around the trail at Kenney Park. We are waiting on parts to install the other pieces.
- With the start of school, the splash pad is winding down. It will close after Labor Day weekend.
- Doing some clean up in Woodlawn Park.

City Engineer Rick Pharis

- Received some numbers back from the contractor on the fire station changes due to the water. Waiting for a breakdown of the total.
- The Storm Sewer Drainage project will be awarded at the Board of Works meeting on Wednesday.
- The fix at the viaduct seems to be working as the rainwater appears to be draining properly. INDOT was contacted for a minor fix.

Mayor Fisel introduced Senator Sue Glick and Representative David Abbott who were invited to attend the meeting by Public Safety Director/Police Chief Bryan Shearer.

Police Dept. – Body Worn Camera Presentation

Public Safety Director/Police Chief Bryan Shearer gave a presentation on Body Worn Cameras. He commented that three years ago, he was not for body worn cameras because there was no automation, the cameras relied on the officer turning them on. After a demonstration of the Body Worn Camera system, and with the atmosphere in the country today, he now feels it is necessary. He provided information on the system which includes a body worn camera that cannot be knocked off or ripped off of the body – it is secure inside the officer's garment and is a Motorola smart phone guaranteed to stay put. There is real time communication and live stream. There is a holster sensor which activates the camera if a weapon is drawn. There is automated activation with a foot pursuit. If the officer is knocked down, the officer's GPS location will be dispatched. An in car camera system is included as well. Storage is cloud based. The equipment is not purchased so if it malfunctions, it is replaced. When there are updates, they are included at no additional cost. The system will offer security to the officers and the city. The cost of the system for our full-time and part-time officers for five years is \$176,255 with five annual lease payments of \$35,251 per year. Our current 5-year budget plan already has \$10,000 per year for in-car camera replacement. The additional \$25,000 needed for next year would be funded by moving the purchase of a UTV to a later year. The balance will be worked into the budget in next year's 5-year planning session. Discussion with questions being addressed led to the following.

Motion to approve: Ken Schuman

Second: Chris Fought

Vote: All Ayes

Mayor Fisel invited Senator Glick and Representative Abbott to offer their comments.

Senator Glick

Senator Glick commented that the body worn camera will offer protection to the officers and the city as well as to the residents. It protects the officers in the field as the real time information can be shared. It protects the citizens as there is a record of behavior which can justify police action when there is provocation and prevent liability in a potential wrongful death claim. It has real time proof with audio and video. She can appreciate that this is a lot of money but feels it will be worth the try and investment.

Representative Abbott

Rep. Abbott reiterated what Senator Glick said. In addition, he commented that the body worn cameras are an investment in the community. One lawsuit can easily pay for the cost of the program. He sees a shortage of police officers in the future due to the situations going on in the country at this time. The body worn cameras can ensure that officers can go on the job and feel safe without the worry of other people recording an incident.

Council Member Bill Mills

- Had a complaint about parking at the Farmer's Market and wondering if it could be moved temporarily. Park Director Travis Brimhall has asked the vendors to park across at El Paraiso to leave more room for customers due the limited parking with the fire station construction. Will look into what else might be able to be done.

Council Member Chris Fought

- Thanks to Bryan for the presentation on the Body Worn Cameras. Feels it will be a worthwhile investment.

Council President Ken Schuman

- Thanked Bryan for the presentation. It is protection for the city and department. Worst case scenario would put the individual officer at fault and not the entire department.

Council Member Julia Bell

- Thanks to Bryan for the presentation.

Clerk-Treasurer Barb Hawn

- The General Obligation Bonds were sold on August 18, 2020. Banker's Bank was the winning bidder on the bonds with an interest rate of .65454%. This is much better than the projected rate and will save us around \$25,000 in interest.
- Asked if council was comfortable with the budget as is and they were all agreeable. Form 3 will be submitted on Gateway tomorrow, which will advertise the budget to the public.

Mayor Fisel's Comments

The Elkhart River Restoration Association (ERRA) is working on a grant to help the region. They asked for the city's cooperation and non-monetary in kind support. There are several items on their list which the city is already doing and can count towards in kind. Ken Schuman has agreed to serve on the steering committee which will add additional in kind. Ken Schuman also commented that there are things the St. Joe River Water Shed is doing that can be beneficial to the ERRA. The Mayor asked council to approve the support of the ERRA.

Motion to approve: Ken Schuman

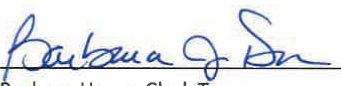
Second: Chris Fought

Vote: All Ayes

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn: Chris Fought

Second: Bill Mills



Barbara Hawn, Clerk Treasurer



Patricia Fisel, Mayor