

**Ligonier Common Council Meeting
Monday, October 26, 2020 · Ligonier City Hall
301 South Cavin Street · Ligonier, IN – 7:00 pm**

Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag

Mayor Fisel asked for a moment of silence in memory of Cindy LeCount who passed away last week. Cindy was the Secretary for the Police Department for the past 16 years.

Call to order by Mayor Fisel – Common Council Meeting

Roll Call

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

Minutes from previous meeting of October 12, 2020

Motion to approve: Chris Fought

Second: Doretta Wiegand

Vote: All Ayes

New Business

IT Director/Facilities Manager

It was proposed that the city hire a full time IT Director/Facilities Manager. With all the technology including computers, cell phones, telephone and internet lines, security cameras, software monitoring, etc. we have city wide, it is becoming more difficult to have this handled on a part time contract basis.

Gary Cox is currently handling our IT services on a contract basis. We would like to hire him as our full time IT Director/Building Coordinator. We have spoken to him about the possibility and is interested. He has 32 years with the PD and would consider retiring from his position at the PD in January 2021 and if council were to approve his hiring as a Full Time IT Director/Building Coordinator beginning in February 2021.

The current contracted services are split equally between General, Water, and Wastewater. The new position would also be funded equally between the three. We are proposing a salary of \$55,000 with the same benefits as other civil employees. We are confident we will be able to fit the difference into the budget going forward.

Motion to approve position and salary of \$55,000 benefits with further details regarding job description and flow chart to come: Chris Fought

Second: Bill Mills

Vote: All Ayes

Police Dept. – Proposed Restructure of Police Command Staff

Chief Shearer publicly thanked Gary Cox for 32 years of service to the Police Department and the County. Appreciate his efforts and commitment.

Chief Shearer would like to restructure the chain of command and propose the creation of an Assistant Chief Position. The department formerly did have this position and it was discontinued a number of years ago. Mike Crossley would then move into that position with Board of Works approval. The promotion will come now with a pay increase in January.

The Patrol Sergeant Position along with the Detective/Sergeant Position would then be filled with current staff members.

He asked council to approve the addition of an Assistant Chief of Police Position back to our chain of command. He would directly supervise the two sergeant positions.

Motion to approve: Chris Fought

Second: Bill Mills

Vote: All Ayes

Claim Registers – APV # 61060-61151

Motion to approve: Doretta Wiegand

Second: Bill Mills

Vote: All Ayes

Comments by Members of Council and Administration

Street Superintendent Mike Burdette

- Leaf season has begun.
- Equipment is ready for winter.
- May take a couple of additional damaged trees down before winter.

Park Director Travis Brimhall

- Flag Football finished last week.
- Working on getting the Disc Golf Course set up.
- Everything is winterized.
- Statue at Prentice Park is rotting. The statue is split up the middle. Not sure we can save it. Will bring to the BOW-PA on Wednesday for a decision.
- Not sure if we will be able to have basketball this winter due to the limited number of people we can have in the gym at a time.
- Doing the Aerobics Class currently but are holding on the Senior Fitness.

Public Safety Director/Police Chief Bryan Shearer

- Had a conversation with Dr. Gaff at Noble County. He is recommending that we cancel Trick or Treat due to the surge of the virus and hospitalizations currently.

Motion to proceed as planned: Chris Fought

Second: Bill Mills

Vote: All Ayes

Clerk-Treasurer Barb Hawn

- The final check for the trails grant from RDA came last week.
- The trail at the industrial park is not for motorized vehicles – bikes and pedestrians only. Pass the word around.

Mayor Fisel's Comments

- Call from Jonathan Moen regarding bricks for the trail – to sell the bricks as a fund raiser. Will obtain more information.
- Working a Dekko Grant for the trails. Not quite ready for support letters but will be soon. Appreciate the funding we have received.

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn: Bill Mills

Second: Chris Fought


Barbara Hawn, Clerk Treasurer


Patricia Fisel, Mayor