

**Ligonier Common Council Meeting  
Monday, February 13, 2023 · Ligonier City Hall  
301 South Cavin Street · Ligonier, IN – 7:00 pm**

**Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag**

**Call to order – Public Hearing for Annexation**

The Fiscal Plan for the Annexation was available for review by the public. The impact will be very minimal and we are already providing services to the area. The public was invited to comment. As there was no comment, the public hearing was closed.

**Call to order – Common Council Meeting by Ken Schuman**

**Roll Call**

Present: Council Members Ken Schuman, Chris Fought, Doretta Wiegand, Julia Bell, and Matt Kreager  
City Attorney Jack Birch, and Clerk Treasurer Barb Hawn

Absent: Mayor Patty Fisel

**Minutes from previous meeting of January 23, 2023**

***Motion to approve: Chris Fought***

***Second: Matt Kreager***

***Vote: All Ayes***

**New Business**

**Tenneco Personal Property Tax Abatement and Resolution 0213-2023**

The Redevelopment Commission passed Resolution 0208RDC-2023 recommending a 10-year tax abatement for Tenneco for the relocation of out of state equipment to the Ligonier Plant. Ligonier will become a service center with the addition of the equipment at an estimated value of \$3,212,453. This will allow them to retain 51 direct jobs that otherwise would be lost. Melanie Kellogg of Noble County EDC and Bob Gamble of Tenneco were present to make the request and answer questions.

***Motion to approve a 10-year tax abatement and pass Resolution 0213-2023: Ken Schuman***

***Second: Julia Bell***

***Vote: All Ayes***

**Triangle Park Fountain Project**

Countryscapes was asked by Mayor Fisel to create a plan to replace the fountain in Triangle Park. The existing fountain has been in place for over 120 years and is deteriorating. It is made of concrete and stone and is moss covered. It is believed that the moss is holding it together. The basin of concrete is cracked. City Departments have done what they could to keep the fountain going over many years.

Jason Becker presented a plan to replace the fountain with a granite fountain, completely redo the irrigation system, replace the flagpole with a larger one, add lighting for the clock, flagpole, and landscaping for the park. Last week, the Redevelopment Commission committed the funding for the project if the Council approves going forward. This would mean that residential taxpayer funds would not be used.

Council Member Chris Fought spoke against replacing the fountain stating it was a gift 129 years ago from Harrison Wood. He believes we should do what we can to preserve the history of the iconic moss covered fountain. He would like to pursue alternative options, to preserve and restore instead of replacement. He then offered the following.

***Motion to decline the replacement project and pursue different options for the fountain: Chris Fought***

***Motion died for lack of second***

Council Member Fought then offered the following:

***Motion to table the discussion: Chris Fought***

***Second: Ken Schuman***

***Vote: All Ayes***

**Police Department Employee Recognition**

Chief Bryan Shearer recognized Patrol Officer/SRO Christopher Shearer on receiving the National Association of School Resource Officers (NASRO) Practitioner Award. Ptl./SRO Christopher Shearer has attended and completed all advanced training, and this designates him as one of the elite School Resource Officers in the nation. Chief Shearer congratulated Ptl./SRO Christopher Shearer on his commitment and dedication to the program. He is proud of him and the West Noble School Corporation – Ligonier Police Department’s School Resource Officer program. The audience applauded and congratulated Ptl./SRO Christopher Shearer.

**Fire Department Employee Recognition**

Assistant Fire Chief Jerry Sprague recognized Ligonier Fire Chief Jeremy Weaver for his award from the IVFA (Indiana Volunteer Fire Fighter Association). Ligonier is in the IVFA District which Sprague represents. Each district honors one member with the MacQueen Award of Excellence. Sprague commented that Chief Weaver is a very deserving recipient of the award for his leadership in bringing the Ligonier Fire Department into the future with the new fire station and training programs that have been implemented. The audience applauded and congratulated Chief Weaver for his award.

### **Ordinance 984-2023 – Sewer Use Ordinance Amendment**

At the request of Wastewater Superintendent Kenny Sprague, City Attorney Jack Birch prepared an ordinance amending some minor errors/discrepancies in the sewer use ordinance.

***Motion to pass Ordinance 984-2023 on the first reading: Chris Fought***

***Second: Ken Schuman***

***Vote: All Ayes***

***Motion to suspend the rules: Chris Fought***

***Second: Ken Schuman    Vote: All Ayes***

***Motion to pass Ordinance 984-2023 on the second reading: Chris Fought***

***Second: Ken Schuman***

***Vote: All Ayes***

***Motion to pass Ordinance 984-2023 on the third and final reading: Chris Fought***

***Second: Ken Schuman***

***Vote: All Ayes***

### **Claim Registers – APV # 67248-67403**

***Motion to approve: Chris Fought***

***Second: Matt Kreager***

***Vote: All Ayes***

### **Comments by Members of Council and Administration**

#### **Fire Chief Jeremy Weaver**

- Chief Weaver distributed a copy of the year end 2022 report for the Fire Department to council members adding if they had any questions, to give him a call.

#### **Street Superintendent Mike Burdette**

- Have been able to get the street sweeper out with the nice weather.

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

- Will do the police report at the next meeting.

#### **WWTP Superintendent Kenny Sprague**

- Thanked the council for passing the amended sewer use ordinance.

#### **Park Director John Parrish**

- Been busy this winter working in all of the park buildings – replacing/repairing items that needed attention.

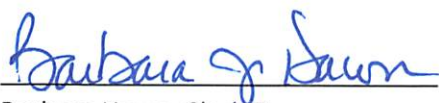
#### **Council Member Chris Fought**

- Thanked Jason and Countryscapes adding he appreciates all they do for the city. They do a great job, and we just disagree on the fountain project.

### **Adjournment**

***Motion to adjourn: Chris Fought***

***Second: Matt Kreager***



Barbara Hawn, Clerk Treasurer



Patricia Fisel, Mayor