

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

Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag

Call to order by Council President Ken Schuman

Roll Call

Present: Council Members Ken Schuman, Chris Fought, Doretta Wiegand, Julia Bell, and Matt Kreager
City Attorney Jack Birch, and Deputy Clerk Robin Galloway
Absent: Mayor Patty Fisel and Clerk-Treasurer Barb Hawn

Minutes from previous meeting of February 27, 2023

Motion to approve: Chris Fought Second: Matt Kreager Vote: Aye

Unfinished Business

Driver Cards

Resolution 0313-2023 endorsing and urging the state legislation to provide a pathway for undocumented Indiana residents to obtain a Driver Card.

Motion to approve: Ken Schuman Second: Julia Bell Vote: Aye

A group of supporters from La Voz Unida were again in attendance. Ken Schuman thanked them for coming.

Fountain at Triangle Park

At the meeting of February 13, 2023, a plan to replace the fountain in Triangle Park was presented by Jason Becker of Countryscapes as requested by the Mayor. The Redevelopment Commission committed funding for the project which was then brought to council to approve the removal of the existing fountain and proceed. The project was tabled for further information and the topic is now ready to be resumed.

Chris Fought gave a history of the fountain and historical significance it has to the city, and of Harrison Wood, an early pioneer of Noble County, who donated the fountain to the city. He apologized for the negativity the Facebook post created. Met with department heads last week, not realizing the past problems we have had with the fountain and got the full story. He felt fully convinced we could save it until he learned the full story on the condition of the fountain and the history of the fixes the department heads have tried in the past. They have exhausted all options. Earle Franklin had two masons look at the fountain to see if it could be saved. One said he would not touch it. The other gave a cost just to take it down and try to rebuild it which was \$25,000 which would not include any plumbing. If we were to leave the fountain as is, it would deteriorate on its own because with no water feeding the moss it would die, creating an eye sore which is not the way we want to represent the city. With its historical significance he proposed we rebuild the fountain at Woodlawn Park which is filled with its own history and would be the perfect tribute to those who feel so strongly about the fountain. He added that he will not be voting against the replacement. This led to the following.

Motion to table the fountain proposal for one more meeting to discuss the details of the new fountain the possibility of rebuilding a new fountain at Woodlawn Park: Chris Fought

Stating Ligonier and its history is also very important to him as a lifelong resident of Ligonier, Ken Schuman said he is always for saving the history when we can but does not feel it is possible. Rebuilding a fountain in Woodlawn Park would be a perfect site for this fountain. Ken then seconded the motion.

Asking for discussion prior to the vote, Matt Kreager informed the council that the fountain vendor has been holding 2022 pricing for this project for a while and without a decision tonight, they will not be able to hold the pricing which would go up around 4%. The original design does not have to be decided today. Matt added that he will not vote on the project due to the fact he is an employee of Countryscapes and feels it is a conflict.

Julia Bell stated she would like to make a motion tonight to proceed with the project. With a motion and second already on the floor, Chris Fought withdrew his motion to table. This led to the following.

***Motion to proceed with the original fountain proposal to secure pricing, tweak the design, disassemble and rebuild the current fountain in Woodlawn Park: Julia Bell Second: Chris Fought
Vote: Aye – Ken Schuman, Julia Bell, Doretta Wiegand, Chris Fought Abstain: Matt Kreager***

Claim Registers – APV # 67490-67632

Motion to approve: Julia Bell Second: Doretta Wiegand Vote: All Ayes

Comments by Members of Council and Administration

Fire Chief Jeremy Weaver

- The statewide tornado siren testing will be tomorrow at 10:15

Building Administrator Earle Franklin

- Stated he prepared a speech to help everyone understand the fountain’s condition. He met with two independent masons on what repairs might be possible. To try to use the fieldstone to rebuild the fountain in Woodlawn Park would not be a good idea due to the process involved in cleaning the existing stones. It was suggested that when it is taken down, it is documented through pictures, and reconstructed in the same design using new field stone which would be at a lower cost.

Council Member Matt Kreager

- Thank you everyone for coming and participating in the meeting.
- Thank you to Chris Fought for his due diligence and time involved in researching the history of the fountain and park. That information needs to be placed on a plaque to preserve the history.

Council President Ken Schuman

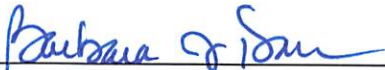
- Also thanked Chris Fought for his history lesson on the fountain asking if the plaque in the park made mention of the fountain. Chris said it did not, it only states Wood Triangle Park, 1905.

Council Member Doretta Wiegand

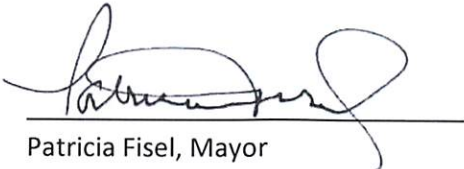
- Comment about the fieldstone. If new fieldstone is used to make the replica, could the old fieldstone be used in the landscaping the flower beds surrounding the fountain. Jason Becker said we could even create a monument surrounding the plaque.

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn: Ken Schuman Second: Matt Kreager



Barbara Hawn, Clerk Treasurer



Patricia Fisel, Mayor