

Ligonier Common Council Meeting
Monday, August 14, 2023 · Ligonier City Hall
301 South Cavin Street · Ligonier, IN – 7:00 pm

Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag

Call to order by Mayor Earle Franklin

Roll Call

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

Minutes from previous meeting of July 24, 2023

Motion to approve: Ken Schuman

Second: Matt Kreager

Vote: All Ayes

New Business

Margarita White – Marshmallow Festival

Margarita White was present to give an update on the upcoming Marshmallow Festival. This is the 32nd year for the festival. She expressed her thanks to the city for allowing them to host the festival here and allowing the departments to assist in the set up and clean up.

New things happening this year are: Superhero characters, a new company for fireworks and new food vendors for the fireworks event.

The Festival Committee applied for and received an Indiana Arts Grant through the Noble County Convention and Visitors Bureau.

Volunteers are still needed for the festival tent, and they would appreciate any assistance.

Margarita asked about continued use of the garage bays at the old fire station for storage. The city does plan to look into creating a community room. The city will allow use until that project commences.

On behalf of the Community Foundation of Noble County, Margarita White invited the council members to the open house from 1-4 tomorrow of the remodeled offices at the former City Hall/Fire Station.

Mayor Franklin - 2024 Pay Increase Proposal

City officials worked with Baker Tilly on the five-year comprehensive financial plan which includes budget items and capital items. The plan allows for a four percent pay increase for civil employees and \$4,000 per full time firefighter and police officer in 2024. For the police officers, this increase would change the way their overtime pay is calculated. Under the Fair Labor Standards Act, we would define their tour of duty at 14 days and overtime would be paid after 86 hours. Mayor Franklin asked for approval of the wage increases.

Motion to approve: Chris Fought

Second: Ken Schuman

Vote: All Ayes

The 2024 salary ordinances will be prepared and presented at the next meeting.

Clerk-Treasurer Hawn – Budget Hearing and Adoption Dates

The date selected for the budget public hearing is September 25 and budget adoption will be on October 9.

Claim Registers – APV # 68637-68812

Motion to approve: Chris Fought

Second: Ken Schuman

Vote: All Ayes

Comments by Members of Council and Administration

Fire Chief Jeremy Weaver

- Getting things around for the upcoming busy festival weekend.

Street Superintendent Mike Burdette

- Personnel are tearing out the shuffleboard courts in Kenney Park in preparation for the installation of the pickle ball courts
- The 50-50 sidewalk program for this year is being completed this week.

Public Safety Director/Police Chief Bryan Shearer

- The department is preparing for the festival. Our emergency plan is ready, and we are scheduling police officers for the event.
- At Ligtel's request, the recycle center was moved. We worked with Northeast Solid Waste District who is the provider of the service. We made an agreement with Advanced Metal Etching to move the recycle bins to land they own, east of their building at the corner of Bridge and Gerber Streets. Northeast Solid Waste District did some groundwork and added a temporary base for the bins. They plan to cut the tree line back about 25 feet to make it a more permanent structure and will add fencing and lighting. The city will assist with cameras in the hopes of cutting down the misuse of the site and dumping. The new site is open beginning today. We are pleased with the open communication between the city and Northeast Solid Waste.

Water Superintendent Jeff Boyle

- The Main Street lead line replacement project was completed. The patching was done, and the paving will be done after labor day. We will be starting the streets for next year's paving project on 4th, 5th, and 6th Streets.

WWTP Superintendent Kenny Sprague

- The old vactor truck is back from repairs.

Park Director John Parrish

- Thank you to Mike and Jeff for assistance with the projects in the park.
- Niblock will be here in September for the pickle ball court project. The final painting may not be completed until spring. There will be 5-foot sidewalks and fencing around the two courts which will be constructed end to end.

Building Inspector

- Appreciates all the help and support he is getting from everyone.

City Engineer Rick Pharis/John Nelson

- The Main Street paving project will be completed after the festival. We applied for a Community Crossing Grant in the second round this year for a project next year. Announcement of awards should be in December.
- Working with Kenny Sprague on the manhole at SR 5 and Union. Working with Niblock on manhole linings for five other manholes that need repairs.

Council Member Chris Fought

- September 12 will be the public hearing for the Plan Commission to remove garage sales from zoning ordinance. This will allow the city council to govern garage sales.

Council Member Doretta Wiegand

- Has received comments from residents regarding the pavement under the Viaduct getting rough and a large pothole where the cement meets the pavement in the turn onto Mercer. Not sure what to tell people. City Engineer Rick Pharis will contact INDOT.

Council Member Matt Kreager

- Gave an update on the new fountain. We are waiting to hear from the manufacturer about the final completion date for the fountain. We have not done the tear out yet and will wait until we have a firm completion date.

Mayor Earle Franklin

- Attending AIM Conference next week in French Lick.
- Appreciate the Departments Heads cooperation in getting things done.

Adjournment


Motion to adjourn: Ken Schuman

Second: Chris Fought

Vote: All Ayes



Barbara Hawn, Clerk Treasurer



Earle Franklin, Mayor