

Ligonier Common Council Meeting
Monday, December 11, 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 President Ken Schuman, Council Members 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 November 27, 2023

Motion to approve: Ken Schuman Second: Julia Bell Vote: All Ayes

New Business

Resolution 1211-2023 (Resolution approving the Plan Commission Order)

The Redevelopment Commission passed a Declaratory Resolution (1129RDC-2023) which started the process to dissolve the capture of depreciable personal property and removal of Tenneco, Inc as the Designated Taxpayer in the allocation area. The Plan Commission then gave their approval of the Declaratory Resolution. Passage of Resolution 1211-2023 would give council approval of the Declaratory Resolution.

Motion to pass Resolution 1211-2023: Ken Schuman Second: Julia Bell Vote: All Ayes

Ordinance 1000-2023 (Employee Handbook Revision)

Members of the administration worked with New Focus HR to revise the Employee Handbook to keep up to date with current HR Laws and make minor changes to existing policies. The revised Employee Handbook was available for passage by ordinance.

Motion to pass Ordinance 1000-2023 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 1000-2023 on the second reading: Chris Fought
Second: Ken Schuman Vote: All Ayes

Motion to pass Ordinance 1000-2023 on the third and final reading: Chris Fought
Second: Ken Schuman Vote: All Ayes

Certification Form from the Plan Commission Regarding Minimum Square Footage for Residential Housing

The Plan Commission met on December 5, 2023 and passed a recommendation that the Zoning Ordinance for the City of Ligonier be amended to add the minimum square footage for a single-family detached dwelling to 950 square feet. The Certificate was presented to the Council for review.

Ordinance 1001-2023 (Amending the Zoning Ordinance 5.17)

Ordinance 1001-2023 approves the recommendation by the Plan Commission to amend the Zoning Ordinance for the City of Ligonier to add the minimum square footage for a single-family detached dwelling to 950 square feet.

Motion to pass Ordinance 1001-2023 on the first reading: Chris Fought
Second: Matt Kreager Vote: All Ayes

Motion to Suspend the Rules: Chris Fought Second: Matt Kreager Vote: All Ayes

Motion to pass Ordinance 1001-2023 on the second reading: Chris Fought
Second: Matt Kreager Vote: All Ayes

Motion to pass Ordinance 1001-2023 on the third and final reading: Chris Fought
Second: Matt Kreager Vote: All Ayes

Mayoral Appointments for 2024

Mayor Franklin made the following appointments for 2024.

Redevelopment Commission: Earle Franklin, Julia Bell, and John Mangona,
And Non-Voting School Representative Paul Fought

Board of Zoning Appeals: Mary Wysong and Miguel "Mike" Guerrero

Council Appointments for 2024

The Council has two appointments to the Redevelopment Commission for 2024.

Motion to appoint Chris Fought and Bryan Shearer: Julia Bell
Second: Doretta Wiegand Vote: All Ayes

The Council has one appointment to the Plan Commission for 2024 as City Engineer Rick Pharis who does not live within the city limits cannot be a voting member but can be an advisory member.

Motion to table: Chris Fought

Second: Matt Kreager

Vote: All Ayes

Claim Registers – APV #69544-69690

Motion to approve: Ken Schuman

Second: Chris Fought

Vote: All Ayes

Comments by Members of Council and Administration

Fire Chief Jeremy Weaver

- Thanks to the community for the great turnout for Breakfast with Santa.

Street Superintendent Mike Burdette

- Leaf season has wrapped up and we are hauling leaves from the compost to a farmer's field.
- Getting equipment ready for the winter season.

Public Safety Director/Police Chief Bryan Shearer

- Thank you Kenny Schuman and Julia Bell for their service to the community. It's been an honor to work with you. Appreciate what you have done.

Water Superintendent Jeff Boyle

- Three more water hook ups for Granite Ridge for new houses were completed before winter.

Park Director John Parrish

- Looking forward to next year with the new budget and new ideas for the parks.
- Working on a grant for handicap playground equipment in Kenney Park.

Council Member Matt Kreager

- The fountain is here in the city and being stored at the old fire station for the winter. When the weather warms up we will assemble it.
- Thanks to Kenny Schuman and Julie Bell for your service to the board, it has been an honor to serve with you.

Council Member Chris Fought

- Thanks to Mike and the Street Dept. crew for putting the Christmas lights up. Nice to see the extension of the lights along Cavin Street.

Council President Ken Schuman

- Ken stated he has been lucky to be a small part of Ligonier's government for 24 years and has been fortunate to see so many people work so hard to complete the projects we have accomplished. Is sure more positive things will continue. It has been a blast being on city council and will miss it.

Council Member Julia Bell

- Thanks to everyone for putting up with me! It has been a true honor. You have a great one coming in to replace me.

City Attorney Jack Birch

- Stated he will miss working with both of you (Ken Schuman and Julia Bell)

Clerk-Treasurer Barb Hawn

- Thank you Ken Schuman and Julia Bell for your combined 36 years of service to the city. It has been great working with and learning from both of you.

Mayor Earle Franklin

- Thank everyone for coming out for the Oath of Office Ceremony. It has been a really different year taking over for someone. There is such a great team here and there is no need to replace anyone other than the retiring members. When you have a great team, there is no reason to make change. Appreciate everything you all do for the community.

Recognition of Outgoing Council Members Ken Schuman and Julia Bell

Council President Ken Schuman did not seek re-election and was recognized for his 24 years of service to the city. Julia Bell did not seek re-election and was recognized for her 12 years of service to the city. Following the adjournment a reception was held in their honor


Adjournment

Motion to adjourn: Ken Schuman

Second: Chris Fought

Vote: All Ayes


Barbara Hawn, Clerk Treasurer


Earle Franklin, Mayor