

Ligonier Common Council Meeting
Monday, January 29, 2024 · Ligonier City Hall
301 South Cavin Street · Ligonier, IN – 7:00 pm

The meeting of January 22, 2024 was postponed to January 29, 2024 due to weather.

Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag

Call to order by Mayor Earle Franklin

Roll Call

Present: Council Members Chris Fought, Brian Hite, Doretta Wiegand, Matt Kreager, and David Cisney
Mayor Earle Franklin, City Attorney Jack Birch, and Clerk Treasurer Barb Hawn

Minutes from previous meeting of January 8, 2024

Motion to approve: David Cisney Second: Matt Kreager Vote: All Ayes

New Business

Purchase Orders Encumbered to 2024

Clerk-Treasurer Barb Hawn informed council members there are three purchase orders to be encumbered from 2023 to 2024 as the projects were not completed by the end of the year.

Ligonier Telephone Company – Wi-Fi Project	\$65,000
Jake’s Floor Care – Floor Coating in Park Dept.	\$3,000
MC Equipment – Plow for 2024 Chevy Truck	\$9,500

2023 Intrafund Transfers of Appropriations – Resolution 0129-2024

The annual balancing of appropriations within individual funds was provided in the form of Resolution 0129-2024.

Motion to approve: Matt Kreager Second: David Cisney Vote: All Ayes

Cancellation of Warrants – Old Outstanding Checks

There is one old outstanding check from February 18, 2021, check 41844 in the amount of \$24.24 which was a refund of overpayment on a water account. All efforts to contact the recipient have been exhausted. The check will be voided, and the funds deposited back into the Water Operating Fund 6101.

Discussion of Garage Sale Ordinance

The current garage sale ordinance was passed in 1991. Clerk-Treasurer Barb Hawn asked council to review the existing ordinance and discuss possible changes such as number of permitted garage sales per year, length of garage sales, and removal of the no garage sales on Sunday restriction. Members discussed which led to the following.

Motion to have City Attorney Birch draft a proposed ordinance for the next meeting: Chris Fought
Second: Doretta Wiegand Vote: All Ayes

Claim Registers – APV #69861-69963

Motion to approve: Chris Fought Second: David Cisney Vote: All Ayes

Comments by Members of Council and Administration

Fire Chief Jeremy Weaver

- The Fire Department 2023 Yearend Report was distributed to members of the council. Chief Weaver asked that any questions be addressed to him.
- Mayor Franklin thanked Chief Weaver and his staff for taking the recent visitors on a tour of the fire station.

Street Superintendent Mike Burdette

- Thanks to Tim Buchanan, Troy Arnold, and John Parrish for helping with the plowing during the snowstorms.
- The Street Department has a new CDL Driver. David Pena passed his test today.

Water Superintendent Jeff Boyle

- The new AMI System for meter reading is up and running pulling information about every hour. We can log on to see what accounts are not being read by the AMI System. Model 18 meters are not reading well, and new meter heads have been ordered for them. Tomorrow is a software training session.

WWTP Superintendent Kenny Sprague

- The new pump for the sludge press was installed and running so we can get caught up with the sludge.

Park Director John Parrish

- Busy getting quotes for the projects in the parks for the year.

Building Administrator Elroy Mast

- Family Express will start demolition of the building on the site on Cavin Street just past the viaduct. They will do some initial leveling and start the project in the spring.

Council Member Matt Kreager

- Asked about action on burnout houses
- City Attorney Jack Birch said there is an unsafe building procedure in state code. If the owners do not take the houses down, there are procedures where the city could take the house down and place a lien on the property to be collected with property taxes. We will send notices out. We have the authority to take action.
- Updates on the burn out houses from Building Administrator Elroy Mast:
Lincolnway – They are waiting on weather to clean up the remainder of the area.
Martin Street – We were contacted by an excavator about a permit to do the tear down. Granite Ridge is working with them as well so there will likely be a rebuild.
North Main – The Rose house is making some progress. For the other house, the owner says she has found someone to take it down.
West Second – The owner did not have insurance and says they have no funds to take the house down. Will have a discussion with city attorney regarding the next step.

Council Member David Cisney

- Thanks to the Street Department for keeping the streets clean – doing a job that nobody else wants to do.

Council Member Brian Hite

- Thanks to the Street Department for staying on top of the streets the last couple of weeks.

Council Member Doretta Wiegand

- Thank you for the street plowing, appreciate it.

Clerk-Treasurer Barb Hawn

- Working with Ross Hagen of Baker Tilly regarding a lower fee for the water used at the Splash Pad. After the annual utility reports are completed, he will make a recommendation on the amount he feels would be reasonable to charge.

Mayor Earle Franklin


- Received notice that the police department received their accreditation. The award will be given to them this week at the conference.

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn: Chris Fought

Second: David Cisney

Vote: All Ayes


Barbara Hawn, Clerk Treasurer
Earle Franklin, Mayor