

**Ligonier Common Council Meeting
Monday, March 25, 2024 · 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 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 March 11, 2024

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

New Business

Mainstreet Ligonier Request

Mike Guerra and Larry Culp, members of Mainstreet Ligonier, a 501c3 organization, were present to discuss their plans to host events on Main Street on the third Saturday of each month from May through October (possibly November if the weather permits). The first event would be Cars and Coffee on May 18 from 9am to 1pm. It will include a 5k run, car show, Maker's Market pop up event, DJ playing music, food trucks, Fire Dept. porkburgers, 3 on 3 basketball, and the Cavin Street merchants will run special sales. They believe the first event will net them over \$2,000.

They have ideas for enhancing the beauty and functionality of the downtown and are planning workshops for the downtown area merchants on ways to enhance their business along with working with the building owners to recruit new business for downtown.

They made an ask of the city for \$2,500 to be used to get them up and running with their projects.

They would like permission to block off Main Street from Fourth Street to Lincolnway West for the car show. They will collaborate with Police Chief Bryan Shearer on the traffic flow. They would like to use the old fire station bays as well.

They feel we have a great community and would like to bring life to the downtown area and are hopeful they can work together with the city to make this happen.

David Cisney is a member of the board and will abstain from voting.

Liability insurance was discussed. They will have insurance in place before the first event in May. A hold harmless agreement was also discussed, and council asked City Attorney Birch to prepare the agreement.

The council was agreeable to holding the events, however wanted to verify where funding would be available from.

***Motion to table to the next meeting to find the funding: Chris Fought
Second: Brian Hite Vote: All Ayes***

Claim Registers – APV #70254-70375

Motion to approve: David Cisney Second: Doretta Wiegand Vote: All Ayes

Comments by Members of Council and Administration

Street Superintendent Mike Burdette

- Equipment is all cleaned up from winter – getting ready for the next season.

Public Safety Director/Police Chief Bryan Shearer

- We had a full-time officer resign, Jerod Bechtold, who made a lateral transfer to Elkhart. He started there today. The Board of Works will hold interviews on Wednesday in executive session prior to their meeting.

Water Superintendent Jeff Boyle

- The river crossing piping was installed last week.
- We will be digging at the mill tomorrow for a fire line.
- Street repairs are enough to get us by until the next community crossing grant application this summer for street rebuild next year.

WWTP Superintendent Kenny Sprague

- The project at the plant is expected to start on April 1, 2024.

Park Director John Parrish

- The Easter Egg Hunt is Saturday at Kenney Park.
- We will start concrete work in Woodlawn Park next week.
- We have 22 soccer teams this year, and 300 kids. We need additional coaches. Please refer anyone who may be able to help to the Park Dept.
- The drainage at the soccer field at Woodlawn Park was completed today.

Council Member Matt Kreager

- Hope to be able to start setting the fountain next week if the weather cooperates.

Council Member David Cisney

- Inquired about a missing stop sign on Union Street. Mike Burdette will check it out.
- Inquired about the city entrance signs that have the mayor information. We discussed it at our budget planning meeting but still need to produce a design and get them ordered.

Council President Chris Fought

- Thank you to Larry Culp and Mike Guerra for stepping up as business owners to improve the downtown. Thank you to Bryan Shearer, Dave Cisney and Earle Franklin for serving on the board. Appreciate the passion.

Mayor Earle Franklin

- Thanks to the Police Department for the speedy response to the two incidents on Friday.
- Appreciate the water department for the work on the river crossing.

Adjournment

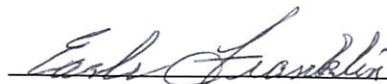
Motion to adjourn: Chris Fought

Second: David Cisney

Vote: All Ayes



Barbara Hawn, Clerk Treasurer



Earle Franklin, Mayor