

Ligonier Common Council Meeting
Monday, June 10, 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 Brian Hite, Doretta Wiegand, Matt Kreager, and David Cisney
Mayor Earle Franklin, City Attorney Jack Birch, and Clerk Treasurer Barb Hawn
Absent: Council Member Chris Fought

Minutes from previous meeting of May 15, 2024

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

New Business

Notice of No Excess Assessed Value for 2024

The Notice of No Excess Assessed Value for 2024 was received from the Redevelopment Commission and distributed to the Council Members. No action was needed, just informational purposes.

Main Street Ligonier

A letter requesting permission to block off Main Street from Fourth Street to Lincolnway West for the car show and use the old fire station bays for the remaining Cars and Coffee (Third Saturday) Events sponsored by Main Street Ligonier. A drone video of the first event was shown to those in attendance. A September event will not be held. The hours for the July event will be 4 pm to 9 pm. June, July, August, October, November

Motion to approve: Brian Hite Second: Matt Kreager Vote: All Ayes
With David Cisney Abstaining

Resolution 2024-0610A – AIM Medical Trust

We have been working with AIM on insurance quotes with their Medical Trust. The quotes are lower than those of our current carrier, Cigna, and have determined it is in our best interest and our employees' best interest financially, to switch over to the AIM Medical Trust. AIM requires a council resolution to formally join. This is Resolution 2024-0610A. Our new plan with AIM will go into effect on August 1, 2024 as our current plan expires on July 31, 2024.

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

Resolution 0610-2024 (Declaring Fund 4443 Dormant and Transferring Funds)

This resolution is to declare the General Improvement Revolving Fund dormant. This fund was put into place to charge an assessment to property owners for sidewalks when a street project is done. The only thing the funds can be used for is another project in which we would do assessments. Todd Caldwell of Baker Tilly (former State Board of Accounts City and Towns Director) gave his opinion that council can declare the fund dormant and transfer the funds. Clerk-Treasurer Barb Hawn recommended that we transfer the funds to the Rainy-Day Fund since this will be a one-time transfer, and it would be best used to assist with capital projects.

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

Reach Alert Proposal

In a previous meeting, Clerk-Treasurer Barb Hawn was asked about an alert notification system for residents. She was contacted by Reach Alert. They are an AIM partner and were recommended by other AIM members. Based on our approximately 1350 households and businesses, the total annual cost is \$2975. Since we are an AIM member, the first-year cost is discounted to \$1490. There are no additional costs, and we receive unlimited messages free. A brochure was distributed to members. Residents would sign up for the free service and can personalize their account.

Motion to approve: Brian Hite Second: David Cisney Vote: All Ayes

Claim Registers – APV # 70772-70949

Motion to approve: David Cisney Second: Brian Hite Vote: All Ayes

Comments by Members of Council and Administration

Street Superintendent Mike Burdette

- Niblock will be moving in soon to begin the Community Crossings Project which includes resurfacing of 4th, 5th, and 6th Streets.
- Mayor Franklin commented that he appreciates the street dept picking up the branches.

Public Safety Director/Police Chief Bryan Shearer

- The Police Department will participate in the Main Street Ligonier event this Saturday.
- Challenge INDOT to install a crosswalk at the Fire Station. We have a city park and a public safety building. It is time for INDOT to pay attention to our citizen's needs for foot traffic. A crosswalk is overdue for the people crossing at this intersection.

Water Superintendent Jeff Boyle

- We had another water leak, this time at Jackson Street between Smith and Grand Streets. The repair was completed in about two hours.
- Will have quotes for asphalt to repair the roads from the digs on the water leaks for the Board of Works on Wednesday.

Park Director John Parrish

- The Pickleball Courts are completed, need to seed for the grass.
- Baseball started mid-May and is winding down.
- Have employees in the parks picking up and cleaning on Saturdays. The rental buildings are busy all of the time.
- Two concrete pads were installed for two swings which were donated from the Strauss family via Rotary.
- The Splash Pad opened Memorial Weekend. We repaired concrete and feel the leaks are taken care of. Everything was power washed prior to opening.
- The sidewalks and floor at Woodlawn Stone Building were installed. We added topsoil, seeded the area, and put straw down. Plants and mulch were added at the cabin.
- Future project: lateral field tiles through Woodlawn Park to get the excess water out of the park due to natural spring.
- One of our seasonal guys is off on medical leave and we are trying to keep up without him.
- July 6-7 we will close Kenney Park to seal all of the asphalt, the roads and parking lots. If there is inclement weather, the secondary dates will be at the end of July.
- We redid all of the posts at the disc golf pads at Kenney Park
- Rotary did a service project and helped to replace the glass and covers on the Story Walk around the track.

Building Administrator Elroy Mast

- Burn out house update: Vivian Wicker on Martin Street – assessed for asbestos and must be removed. Sergio Rodriguez is buying property on Second Street and is waiting to meet with the title company.
- Family Express hired a new development manager for the company. He is working to revise the plans for the property and will proceed soon. Hope to break ground in about a month.

Council Member Matt Kreager

- The fountain is waiting on the interior lights to arrive from Canada.

Council Member David Cisney

- Commented that about a month ago he was in the right place at the wrong time. He witnessed the motorcycle crash on the other side of the viaduct and watched off-duty officers come to the aid of the on-duty officers. We have good public safety people. We commended the police and fire departments.
- Streetlights in the new Granite Ridge. Mike Burdette will follow up. Need to verify that the streets have been accepted into the city.
- Asked if Jack had anything in the alley near Interra Credit Union. Jack will prepare for the next meeting.

Council Member Brian Hite

- Really impressed with the parks and the upgrades. There are people everywhere using the park.

Council Member Doretta Wiegand

- Asked about the construction at US6/US33/SR5 intersection. It was reported back that is the preliminary work for the division of lanes at Speedway. There will be curbs with pilons. When completed traffic can come out Speedway north but not south to avoid accidents.

Mayor Earle Franklin

- Meeting with INDOT regarding US33/SR5 South to Charger Avenue. We were asked for opinions on their tentative lines for right of way and a retention pond right which would have been directly over our water lines. They will widen the shoulder in certain areas and hopefully wide enough for the Amish buggies. The project will begin 2026-2027, shutting US33/SR5 down with resurface all the way to Churubusco. Looking at tentative detours. One of the things discussed was an alternate entrance and exit to WNSC campus, possible at the stop light.
- Thanks to Barb Hawn and Bryan Shearer for all of the work on the insurance process with AIM.

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn: David Cisney

Second: Matt Kreager

Vote: All Ayes

Barbara J. Hawn

Barbara Hawn, Clerk Treasurer

Earle Franklin

Earle Franklin, Mayor