

Ligonier Common Council Meeting
Monday, July 14, 2025 · Ligonier City Hall
301 South Cavin Street · Ligonier, IN – 7:00 pm

Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag

The meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Call to Order

Mayor Earle Franklin called the meeting to order.

Roll Call

Present: Council President Chris Fought, Council Members Brian Hite, Doretta Wiegand, Matt Kreager, and David Cisney

Also Present: Mayor Earle Franklin, City Attorney Laura Kaufman, and Clerk Treasurer Barb Hawn

Minutes from the meeting of June 23, 2025

Motion to approve: David Cisney

Second: Matt Kreager

Vote: All Ayes

Citizen's Comments

Margarita White

Margarita White appeared on behalf of the Ligonier Marshmallow Festival to express her appreciation to the city for its continued support. She thanked city staff for their invaluable assistance, noting that the festival would not be possible without their efforts and the financial contributions of festival sponsors.

Margarita provided a recap of last year's festival attendance, as measured through geo-fencing data collected by Datafy in partnership with the Noble County Visitor's Bureau.

She also shared that this year's festival will take place from August 29 through September 1 and provided a brochure outlining scheduled events and times.

Unfinished Business

Parking Restrictions in Park Meadow Addition

Street Superintendent Mike Burdette provided a list of newly developed streets within the Park Meadow Addition for which he is requesting approval to implement parking restrictions on one side of each street, as well as the installation of an additional stop sign. The proposed changes are as follows:

Restricted Parking:

- Grand Teton Place: No parking on the west side, from Park Meadow Drive to Bryce Circle.
- Bryce Circle: No parking on the south side, from Grand Teton Place to Park Meadow Drive.
- Zion Hill Road: No parking on the east side, from Bryce Circle to Jennifer Drive.

Stop Sign Addition:

- Zion Hill Road at Bryce Circle

Motion to direct City Attorney Kaufman to draft an updated traffic ordinance reflecting the above provisions: David Cisney

Second: Brian Hite

Vote: All Ayes

Compost Site

Doug Stukey, Director of the Northeast Indiana Solid Waste District, attended the meeting to discuss the condition and operation of the city's compost site. He shared photos comparing the local site with the DeKalb County site, offering his perspective on improvements that could be made.

Doug noted that he was present at a recent grinding project at our compost site and observed a city truck delivering a mixed load of grass and tree limbs. He emphasized the importance of separating grass and tree branches, as mixing them produces a less desirable end product. The resulting mulch is not attractive to those who typically use wood chips, and this mixture complicates the grinding process.

He explained that their equipment uses different screens depending on the material—grass and leaves are ground using one screen, while branches and trees require another. Switching between materials is time-consuming and less efficient.

While Doug is willing to work with whatever material is provided, he strongly prefers separate collection to maintain a higher-quality output. He also mentioned that income from chip material is minimal—around \$50 per truckload.

Doug appreciated the city's commitment to providing this service to residents and acknowledged the challenges involved. He recommended continuing discussions with Street Superintendent Mike Burdette to coordinate more efficient pick-up and separation practices moving forward. If it is not possible to keep the materials separate, he

suggested the city consider creating a third pile specifically for mixed grass and limb debris to improve processing and final product quality.

Motion to table: Chris Fought

Second: David Cisney

Vote: All Ayes

New Business

Confirmation of Receipt of June 2025 Fund and Bank Reconciliation Reports

Council members confirmed receipt of the June 2025 Fund and Bank Reconciliation Reports which were included in the email with their council meeting packet.

Claim Registers – APV #s 73631-73774

Motion to approve: David Cisney

Second: Chris Fought

Vote: All Ayes

Comments by Members of Council and Administration

Clerk-Treasurer Barb Hawn

- Received information to report back to the State Board of Accounts verifying financial and other city information required to initiate the examination of the 2023-2024 city records.

Mayor Earle Franklin

Community Food Giveaway

- A food giveaway event took place on Saturday, sponsored by the Milford Food Bank.
- Appreciation was extended to the Ligonier Police Department for managing traffic flow and ensuring the event ran smoothly.
- Approximately 7 to 8 volunteer groups assisted with loading food into vehicles.

New Mill Facility Update

- Toured the new mill facility today along with Elroy Mast. Elroy presented them with their Certificate of Occupancy after the tour and inspection.
- The facility is preparing to run its first batch to complete an initial system clean-out.
- Operations at the old mill are expected to continue concurrently with the new mill for approximately six months, after which the old facility will be phased out and demolished.

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn: David Cisney

Second: Matt Kreager

Vote: All Ayes



Barbara Hawn, Clerk Treasurer



Earle Franklin, Mayor