

**Ligonier Common Council Meeting**  
**Monday, August 25, 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 August 11, 2025**

***Motion to approve: David Cisney***

***Second: Matt Kreager***

***Vote: All Ayes***

**Unfinished Business**

**Parkview Shared Clinic**

A contract from Parkview has been received. The agreement had a discrepancy in the length originally discussed and the actual commitment, from one year to two years. It also had a clause for a 3% automatic price increase in year two.

WNSC Superintendent Nate Lowe will work with Parkview to be sure if it is a two-year commitment, there will be no increase for year two. Past two years he would require that WNSC and the city, the renewal would not be automatic but would approval by all parties. He is recommending to his board tonight that they approve contingent on these changes.

City Attorney Kaufman has a few details she feels should be addressed as well. In part, the Exhibit A, which addresses things which may not be covered under the agreement, does not give any indication of cost, or put a limit to the costs.

Bryan Shearer stated that shared clinics have become a recruitment and retainage factor in surrounding communities for both school and municipalities.

It was recommended that the city approve proceeding with a contract with Parkview contingent on the resolution of the concerns by WNSC and the city.

Based on the discussion, the following

***Motion to approve contingent on resolution of the concerns the above: David Cisney***

***Second: Brian Hite***

***Vote: All Ayes***

**New Business**

**Patty, Rusty, Jason, Vicki Becker - Fashion Farm/Countryscapes**

The Becker family personally expressed their gratitude to the City, Fire Department, Police Department, and the entire community for their support following the recent fire that destroyed the family restaurant. Jason Becker shared that his family is deeply appreciative of the outpouring of concern and encouragement they have received over the past two weeks, stating that he is proud to be part of Ligonier.

He praised the professionalism of the firefighters, noting they did everything possible to save what they could. Thanks to their efforts, several family heirlooms, Lions Club memorabilia, business computers, and files were preserved.

The family is grateful for the community's support and kindness during this difficult time and are looking forward to a special October celebration for the final Pumpkinland. Patty Becker announced that the theme will be **"Fashion Farm's Lasting Memories."**

**Ordinance 1024-2025 (Burn Regulations Within the City)**

The ordinance establishes burn regulations within city limits, specifying what materials may be burned and fines for violations. Police Chief/Public Safety Director stated that he and Fire Chief Jeremy Weaver reviewed and would like to add: The owner or occupant must attend each fire. The revision was made which led to the following.

***Motion to pass Ordinance 1024-2025 on the first reading with revision: Matt Kreager***

***Second: David Cisney***

***Vote: All Ayes***

***Motion to suspend the rules: Matt Kreager***

***Second: David Cisney***

***Vote: All Ayes***

***Motion to pass Ordinance 1024-2025 on the second reading: Matt Kreager***

***Second: David Cisney***

***Vote: All Ayes***

**Motion to pass Ordinance 1024-2025 on the third and final reading: Matt Kreager**

**Second: David Cisney**

**Vote: All Ayes**

**Resolution 0825-2025 (Appropriation Reductions)**

Due to the lower cost of the final Community Crossings Paving Project contract, project appropriations were adjusted to align with the actual cost.

**Motion to approve: Matt Kreager**

**Second: David Cisney**

**Vote: All Ayes**

**Claim Registers – APV #s 73963-74042**

**Motion to approve: David Cisney**

**Second: Doretta Wiegand**

**Vote: All Ayes**

**Comments by Members of Council and Administration**

**Public Safety Director/Police Chief Bryan Shearer**

- Chief Shearer expressed pride in the Becker family’s testimony recognizing Ligonier’s public safety departments, calling them the foundation of the community. He addressed recent negative comments from festival volunteers regarding the police department, noting they were offensive given many years of dedicated service. The issue has been addressed with those involved, and improved cooperation is expected during the festival. The Mayor was thanked for his role in resolving the matter.

**Street Superintendent Mike Burdette**

- Phend and Brown will be in town on September 15 to start the paving project.

**Park Director John Parrish**

- John voiced support for the Police Department, noting that behind-the-scenes planning is often overlooked and criticism can be unjustified.

**Council Member Matt Kreager**

- Commented that our public safety is a class act, second to none, and expressed appreciation for all they do.

**Council Member Brian Hite**

- Stated that public safety works diligently to keep the community and festival-goers safe, staying on top of everything, and he appreciates their efforts.

**Council President Chris Fought**

- Remarked that he is always impressed with the police presence at the festival and the work they do to ensure safety.

**Council Member Doretta Wiegand**

- Thanked public safety for all they do, noting their outstanding work, especially given the size of the city. She added her hope for a safe and successful festival.

**Council Member David Cisney**

- Echoed the comments of his colleagues, thanking all departments for their extra time and hard work to make the festival a success. He also commended Firefighter Josh Snyder after receiving a call from a Cromwell resident whose car would not start at a local store. Snyder assisted by jump-starting the vehicle, leaving a lasting positive impression. Cisney noted that the “little extras” public safety officers do are noticed and expressed his gratitude.


**Clerk-Treasurer Barb Hawn**

- The budget workshop is scheduled for Friday. All budget documents will be forwarded to the Council after review by the DLGF. The public hearing for the budget will be at the second September meeting (September 22, 2025), and the budget adoption will occur at the second October meeting (October 27, 2025).
- Citywide Fall Garage Sales will be held September 12–13, 2025.
- City Fall Clean-Up will take place on Saturday, September 20, 2025, at the Wastewater Treatment Plant.

**Mayor Earle Franklin**

- Reported that the Main Street group had strong volunteer support the past weekend, including helping a business owner paint their building. He shared the façade program with several downtown business owners to help improve the area.
- A new downtown store specializing in boots, hats, and cowboy apparel opened last week.
- Countryscapes is working on the Veteran’s Memorial, which is expected to be impressive once completed.

Adjournment  
Motion to adjourn: David Cisney  
Second: Matt Kreager  
Vote: All Ayes

  
Barbara Hawn, Clerk Treasurer

  
Earle Franklin, Mayor