

Ligonier Common Council Meeting
Monday, September 8, 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 25, 2025

Motion to approve: David Cisney

Second: Matt Kreager

Vote: All Ayes

New Business

Jazmin Herrera – PULSE Request for Festival of Fright, October 30, 2025

Jazmin Herrera, Director of Community Engagement and Leadership for the Noble County Community Foundation, along with PULSE members (Natalie Gow, Karis Hilbish, Allison Bloss, and Yahaira Macias), requested use of the former fire station bays for the *Festival of Fright* on Thursday, October 30, 2025 (during Trick-or-Treat). The event was successful last year, drawing more than 500 participants, and the group would like to continue the tradition.

Motion to approve: Chris Fought

Second: David Cisney

Vote: All Ayes

Margarita White – Marshmallow Festival Recap

Margarita White, President of the Marshmallow Festival Committee, provided a recap of the 2025 Festival. While attendance numbers are still being finalized, vendors reported record sales and large crowds. She expressed appreciation to all City departments for their support, noting that the cement barricades were especially effective in preventing vehicle access. She thanked the City for its continued partnership.

Ordinance 1027-2025 – Prohibit Public Records For Commercial Purposes

Ordinance 1027-2025 prohibits the use of public records for commercial purposes. Similar ordinances have been enacted by municipalities across the state due to an influx of blanket records requests from organizations targeting multiple cities simultaneously.

Motion to pass Ordinance 1027-2025 on the first reading: Chris Fought

Second: Matt Kreager

Vote: All Ayes

Motion to suspend the rules: Chris Fought

Second: Matt Kreager

Vote: All Ayes

Motion to pass Ordinance 1027-2025 on the second reading: Chris Fought

Second: Matt Kreager

Vote: All Ayes

Motion to pass Ordinance 1027-2025 on the third and final reading: Chris Fought

Second: Matt Kreager

Vote: All Ayes

Claim Registers – APV #s 74043-74170

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

- Thanked Margarita White and the Festival Committee for their efforts; noted there were zero arrests despite thousands in attendance.
- Reported a record year for the Fire Department's pork burger sales.
- Provided an update on Opioid Settlement Funds:
Unrestricted funds may be used for purposes such as training; requested input from other departments on potential uses. Appropriations will be needed.

Restricted funds could be designated for treatment and education, possibly managed through the local community foundation to ensure compliance.

Motion to appropriate the unrestricted funds for training: Matt Kreager

Second: Brian Hite

Vote: All Ayes

Street Superintendent Mike Burdette

- Thanked all departments for their help with festival cleanup; reported it went smoothly.
- Reminded residents that the 50/50 sidewalk program is still available this year.

City Engineer John Nelson

- Reported that Phend & Brown will begin the Community Crossings Paving Project one week from today.

Council Member Matt Kreager

- Thanked all departments for their contributions to the festival's success.

Council Member Brian Hite

- Echoed Matt's comments, thanking police, fire, and street departments. Noted that cleanup was completed by early Tuesday morning, with the city back to normal.

Council President Chris Fought

- Praised the Festival Committee and departments for their efforts. Shared his appreciation for the Marshmallow Festival as a family and community tradition, noting he has attended every year except during COVID.

Council Member Doretta Wiegand

- Asked for an update on the Parkview Clinic program. Bryan Shearer responded that the school has resolved prior concerns, and a final agreement was expected but had not yet been received. The school board will review it again at their meeting tonight. Once finalized, the matter will return to Council for approval.

Council Member David Cisney

- Echoed everyone's comments regarding the Marshmallow Festival.

Clerk-Treasurer Barb Hawn

- Reported that the August Fund and Bank Reconciliation Reports were emailed to Council, and members acknowledged receipt.
- Noted that employee insurance open enrollment for 2026 will take place in October. For the first time since 2010, there is no increase in medical premiums.
- Announced that AIM Medical Trust will grant a *Premium Holiday* for November, meaning no medical premium will be charged to employees or the City for that month. A webinar on September 16 will provide details. Notifications will be sent to employees, and the City must confirm compliance. This represents significant savings for both employees and the City.
- Reported that the State Board of Accounts audit of 2023–2024 began today.

Mayor Earle Franklin

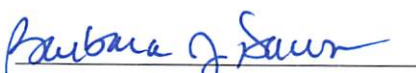
- Thanked the Festival Committee and all departments for their efforts, echoing prior comments.
- Reported that concrete for the plaza at the Veteran's Memorial was poured today, with progress continuing.
- Announced the passing of former Mayor Gary Bishop and directed that all City flags be flown at half-staff until the conclusion of his funeral on Tuesday, September 16, 2025.

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn: Chris Fought

Second: David Cisney

Vote: All Ayes


Barbara Hawn, Clerk Treasurer


Earle Franklin, Mayor