

Ligonier Common Council Meeting
Monday, October 13, 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 Members Brian Hite, Matt Kreager, and David Cisney

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

Absent: Council President Chris Fought and Council Member Doretta Wiegand

Minutes from the meeting of September 22, 2025

Motion to Approve: David Cisney

Second: Matt Kreager

Vote: All Ayes

New Business

Ligonier Visitor's Center Update – Cyndi Schlemmer

Ms. Cyndi Schlemmer provided an update on the Ligonier Visitor's Center and Heritage Museum to the Council. She shared a brief history of the center and noted that it operates as a 501(c)(6) organization, which allows for the sale of memberships. The center is staffed entirely by volunteers and operates on a minimal budget. Ms. Schlemmer reported that the volunteer base has declined, and additional volunteers are urgently needed to keep the center open during its operating months, May through October. She also outlined several programs and activities in which the center participates throughout the year.

Mayor Franklin commended Ms. Schlemmer for the excellent work she does with the center.

Ms. Schlemmer requested the City consider providing financial support to assist with the center's liability insurance premium, suggesting a \$1,000 contribution. Following discussion, the Council took the following action:

Motion to donate \$1,000 from CEDIT funds: Matt Kreager

Second: David Cisney

Vote: All Ayes

Resolution 1013-2025 (Transfer of Funds)

Due to conflicting information received from the State Board of Accounts, Clerk-Treasurer Barb Hawn requested this item be tabled.

Motion to table: David Cisney

Second: Brian Hite

Vote: All Ayes

GO Bond Timetable

A timetable for the issuance of GO Bonds of 2025 was distributed to council members.

Ordinance 1029-2025 (GO Bond Ordinance)

Ordinance 1029-2025 for the issuance of GO Bonds was introduced on the first reading.

Motion to pass Ordinance 1029-2025 on the first reading: David Cisney

Second: Matt Kreager

Vote: All Ayes

Ordinance 1030-2025 (GO Bond Additional Appropriations)

Ordinance 1030-2025 for GO Bonds Additional Appropriations was introduced on the first reading.

Motion to pass Ordinance 1030-2025 on the first reading: David Cisney

Second: Matt Kreager

Vote: All Ayes

Claim Registers – APV #s 74250-74438

Motion to approve: David Cisney

Second: Brian Hite

Vote: All Ayes

Comments by Members of Council and Administration

Public Safety Director/Police Chief Bryan Shearer

- He noted that the City may be able to request a portion of the Innkeeper's Tax from the County to help support the Visitor's Center; this matter will be reviewed further.
- The Public Safety Softball Games were held over the past two weekends, with donations benefiting the West Noble Food Pantry and the Noble County Humane Shelter.

- The final Public Safety Day at Fashion Farm's Pumpkin Fantasyland took place last Saturday. Chief Shearer praised the City's strong participation and expressed appreciation to Fashion Farm for their 53 years of support.
- He attended the funeral of former Councilman John Lutton, describing it as a wonderful tribute to John and his family.
- One of his goals as Chief has been to take the command staff to the International Conference. This year's conference will be held in Denver, Colorado. The Chief's Foundation will cover Chief Shearer's expenses, while the City funds the Assistant Chief's attendance. Noble County Prosecutor Jim Mowery generously provided funding for the two sergeants, covering registration and airfare. Chief Shearer was able to secure four round-trip tickets for a total of \$878. The conference begins this weekend.
- On Wednesday at 6:00 p.m., the Dakich Cycles for the City event will take place at West Noble Primary School, providing bicycles to children who have never owned one before. The program is fully funded through donations solicited by the Police and Fire Departments, and recipients are selected by teachers and School Resource Officers.
- On Friday, the Milford Food Bank will host a food giveaway at West Noble Primary School from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m., with officers assisting in traffic control.

Fire Chief Jeremy Weaver

- Reported that last week was Fire Prevention Week. Firefighters visited students at both the West Noble Elementary and Primary Schools, including today's visit to the Primary School. Kindergarten students toured the Smoke House and learned how to handle emergencies at home. Additional fire prevention activities will continue this week, with plans to include the Amish schools.

Street Superintendent Mike Burdette

- Phend & Brown had been progressing on the Community Crossings Paving Project but had to leave for approximately two weeks. They are expected to return next week, with an estimated three weeks remaining to complete the project.
- The City Clock bulbs were replaced with LED lighting, resulting in a much brighter nighttime appearance.

Park Director John Parrish

- Winterization of the parks is underway. All outdoor restrooms will be closed for the winter, except those at the former fire station (Community Foundation) which are heated. Plans are being considered to convert the Pettit Park restrooms to year-round use next year.
- Plans for next year include replacing the gazebo at Gazebo Park and implementing additional park improvements.

Council Member David Cisney

- Thanked all department heads for their participation at Public Safety Day at Fashion Farm last Saturday.

Mayor Earle Franklin

- Attended a BZA meeting prior to the council meeting. A special use request was denied because the property was not maintained as previously directed. The business owner attended, but tenants did not. The City will work with them to achieve compliance and may revisit the special use request if corrected.
- Next week, Mayor Franklin and Chief Shearer will attend the AIM Summit in French Lick.

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn: David Cisney

Second: Matt Kreager

Vote: All Ayes



Barbara Hawn, Clerk Treasurer



Earle Franklin, Mayor