

Ligonier Common Council Meeting
Monday, October 27, 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, Doretta Wiegand, Matt Kreager, and David Cisney

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

Absent: Council President Chris Fought

Minutes from the meeting of October 13, 2025

Motion to approve: David Cisney

Second: Matt Kreager

Vote: All Ayes

Citizen Comments

Grace Caswell – Noble County Convention and Visitor’s Bureau

Ms. Caswell provided an overview of Visit Noble County’s 2025 community engagement efforts with the City of Ligonier. She highlighted their participation in the official opening of the 2025 season at the Ligonier Visitor’s Center, the hosting of the May board meeting at the Center, and the installation of the *Destination Noble 2.0* banners throughout the downtown area.

She also noted the Ligonier recipients of Visit Noble County Tourism Grants — the Ligonier Marshmallow Festival and Stone’s Trace Pioneer Festival — as well as continued collaboration with the Ligonier Chamber of Commerce. Additionally, she shared that Ligonier business *Grounded Coffee House* was added to the Indiana Foodways Alliance.

Ms. Caswell expressed enthusiasm for ongoing collaboration and plans to continue the partnership into 2026, including involvement with the *America 250* project. She commended Cyndi Schlemmer for her service representing Ligonier on the Visit Noble County Board as Board Secretary.

Mayor Franklin thanked Ms. Caswell for her work and the informative update and also expressed appreciation to Ms. Schlemmer for her continued dedication to the Ligonier Visitor’s Center and the Noble County Convention and Visitor’s Bureau.

Nancy Davidson, 6644 W Cromwell Road, Kimmell, IN

Ms. Davidson, a vendor at the Ligonier Farmer’s Market, addressed the Council regarding discussion that the Market may be moved to Station Street. She stated that she would welcome the move but would like to know in advance and how to plan for next year. The council is not the board who oversees the Parks, it is the Board of Works/Park Authority. She will plan to attend their meeting on November 12.

Unfinished Business

Ordinance 1026-2025 – 2026 Budget

The 2026 Budget Ordinance passed on the first reading at the September 22, 2025 meeting and was available for the second and third readings.

Motion to pass Ordinance 1026-2025 on the second reading: David Cisney

Second: Brian Hite

Vote: All Ayes

Motion to pass Ordinance 1026-2025 on the third and final reading: David Cisney

Second: Brian Hite

Vote: All Ayes

Ordinance 1029-2025 – General Obligation Bond Ordinance

The GO Bond Ordinance passed on the first reading at the October 13, 2025 meeting and was available for the second and third readings.

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

Second: Brian Hite

Vote: All Ayes

Motion to pass Ordinance 1029-2025 on the third and final reading: David Cisney

Second: Doretta Wiegand

Vote: All Ayes

New Business**Ordinance 1031-2025 – 2026 Salary Ordinance**

The 2026 Salary Ordinance was prepared according to the wage increases approved by council at the August 11, 2025 meeting. It was noted that there will be 27 payrolls in 2026 due to the January 1, 2027 holiday falling on Friday. It will be necessary to do additional appropriations next year to cover the additional pay period.

Motion to pass Ordinance 1031-2025 on the first reading: 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 1031-2025 on the second reading: Matt Kreager

Second: David Cisney

Vote: All Ayes

Motion to pass Ordinance 1031-2025 on the third and final reading: Matt Kreager

Second: David Cisney

Vote: All Ayes

Ordinance 1032-2025 – 2026 Elected Officials Salary Ordinance

The 2026 Elected Officials Salary Ordinance was prepared according to the wage increase approved by council at the August 11, 2025 meeting.

Motion to pass Ordinance 1032-2025 on the first reading: David Cisney

Second: Doretta Wiegand

Vote: All Ayes

Motion to suspend the rules: David Cisney

Second: Doretta Wiegand

Vote: All Ayes

Motion to pass Ordinance 1032-2025 on the second reading: David Cisney

Second: Doretta Wiegand

Vote: All Ayes

Motion to pass Ordinance 1032-2025 on the third and final reading: David Cisney

Second: Doretta Wiegand

Vote: All Ayes

Acknowledgement of September 2025 Fund and Bank Reconciliation Reports

Council members acknowledged receipt of the September 2025 Fund and Bank Reconciliation Reports.

Claim Registers – APV #s 74439-74518

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**

- The annual Bike Giveaway was held on October 15.
- The City participated in its final Public Safety Day at Fashion Farm. Chief Shearer expressed appreciation to Fashion Farm for hosting the event over the years and congratulated the Beckers on their well-deserved retirement after more than 50 years. He also thanked all City departments for their participation.
- Members of the command staff attended the International Conference in Denver. Chief Shearer noted that the networking opportunities were invaluable and that it was particularly interesting to exchange ideas with representatives from other countries. He reported that 80 attendees were from Indiana.

Mayor Franklin thanked Chief Shearer for participating in the AIM Summit last week.

Street Superintendent Mike Burdette

- Phend & Brown has been out of town and is expected to return next week to complete the paving work. The access road near Lincolnway remains muddy.
- The crack sealing project will be completed this week.
- The department is currently focusing on leaf pickup.

Council Member Doretta Wiegand

- A concern was raised regarding State Road 5 near the hairpin curve, where trailers and semis are dragging through the yard in front of a residence. Attempts have been made to contact the State with no response. Chief Shearer stated he will meet with INDOT to discuss the issue.

Council Member David Cisney

- Expressed appreciation to the Street Department for their work on leaf pickup, noting that the area is looking well maintained.

Clerk-Treasurer Barb Hawn

- The transfer resolution that was tabled at the previous meeting has been withdrawn following receipt of an email from the SBOA Auditor. The email indicated contradictions between the information previously provided to the State Board of Accounts and the details published in the September 2025 SBOA Bulletin. According to the updated guidance, MVH Restricted Funds may be transferred to the Local Road and Bridge Matching Grant Fund.

Mayor Earle Franklin

- It was noted that the new INDOT stop lights and signs installed are quite large.
- The resident adjacent to the Visitor's Center removed a mulberry tree which drops its leaves on the center's parking lot.
- Appreciation was expressed to the department heads for their patience during the past week due to the Mayor's absence for illness, along with an apology for any inconvenience caused.

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn: David Cisney

Second: Matt Kreager

Vote: All Ayes



Barbara Hawn, Clerk Treasurer



Earle Franklin, Mayor