

Ligonier Common Council Meeting
Monday, January 12, 2026 · 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, and Matt Kreager,

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

Absent: Council Member David Disney

Minutes from the meeting of December 22, 2025

Motion to approve: Brian Hite

Second: Doretta Wiegand

Vote: All Ayes

Unfinished Business

Elkhart Township Fire Contract Renewal

Elkhart Township Trustee Donna Schartz was present to discuss the renewal of the fire contract with the city. The previous two years, there was no increase in the fee. She asked for a one-year contract as there may be some slight territory adjustments in 2027.

Motion to move forward for one-year with no increase, \$4,310.13: Chris Fought

Second: Matt Kreager

Vote: All Ayes

New Business

Election of President Pro-Tempore for 2026

Motion to elect Chris Fought President Pro-Tempore for 2026: Brian Hite

Second: Matt Kreager

Vote: All Ayes

Encumbrances from 2025 to 2026

Clerk-Treasurer Barb Hawn reported that there are three encumbrances from 2025 to 2026:

Vendor	Project	Appropriation #	Amount
Fashion Farm	City Hall Sidewalk	2209001311	34,195.00
BZ Automotive	Police Car	2209001444	26,856.02
Airgood Electric	Restrooms Improvements At Pettit Park	2204001490	1,760.64

Resolution 0112-2026 – Intra Fund Transfers

The resolution approves the intra fund transfers of budget lines items for 2025.

Motion to approve: Matt Kreager

Second: Brian Hite

Vote: All Ayes

Christmas Bonus for Full Time Employees

Clerk-Treasurer Barb Hawn presented a cost worksheet by fund for a proposed \$250 full-time employee bonus, noting that vendor-donated gifts have become more difficult to obtain. She stated a cash bonus would be a meaningful benefit and could be presented at the annual Christmas lunch. A revised salary ordinance will be presented if approved.

Motion to approve: Chris Fought

Second: Doretta Wiegand

Vote: All Ayes

Claim Registers – APV #s 74915-75056

Motion to approve: Brian Hite

Second: Doretta Wiegand

Vote: All Ayes

Comments by Members of Council and Administration

Public Safety Director/Police Chief Bryan Shearer

- Will have annual report prepared and delivered in February.

Park Director John Parrish

- Excited about the park improvements planned for this year.

Mayor Earle Franklin

- Reported that Hosler Realty will be opening a Ligonier office again, located on Cavin Street, with a ribbon cutting planned for Friday, January 23.
- Attended the Annual Fire Department Appreciation Dinner over the weekend and noted it was encouraging to see youth participating as volunteers and completing required training.
- Thanked Fire Chief Jeremy Weaver and the Fire Department for their service to the community, including their charitable work and sharing of funds.
- Expressed appreciation to all City employees for their work throughout the year, with special thanks for assistance during recent snow events.

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn: Chris Fought

Second: Matt Kreager

Vote: All Ayes



Barbara Hawn, Clerk Treasurer



Earle Franklin, Mayor