

Ligonier Common Council Meeting
Monday, January 26, 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 Doretta Wiegand, Matt Kreager, and David Cisney

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

Absent: Council Member Brian Hite

Minutes from the meeting of January 12, 2026

Motion to approve: David Cisney

Second: Matt Kreager

Vote: All Ayes

New Business

Elkhart Township Fire Contract for 2026

The formal fire contract with Elkhart Township for 2026 was prepared. As agreed, the cost did not increase over the previous agreement.

Motion to approve: David Cisney

Second: Matt Kreager

Vote: All Ayes

Ordinance 1038-2026 (Amended Salary Ordinance for 2026)

A \$250 Christmas Bonus per full time employee was approved at the last meeting. Ordinance 1038-2026 amends the 2026 Salary Ordinance allowing for the bonus.

Motion to pass Ordinance 1038-2026 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 1038-2026 on the second reading: Matt Kreager

Second: David Cisney

Vote: All Ayes

Motion to pass Ordinance 1038-2026 on the third and final reading: Matt Kreager

Second: David Cisney

Vote: All Ayes

Claim Registers – APV #s 75057-75112

Motion to approve: David Cisney

Second: Doretta Wiegand

Vote: All Ayes

Comments by Members of Council and Administration

Fire Chief Jeremy Weaver

- The Fire Department 2025 Year-End Report was distributed to Council members.
- The department responded to 766 total runs: 316 medical calls, 78 public service runs, and 30 fire and rescue calls.
- The national reporting system will be changing.
- Average response time was 5 minutes and 4 seconds, remaining consistently around five minutes, noting that some runs are farther out.
- Three controlled burns were conducted, totaling 56.5 acres, providing mutual benefit.
- Three firefighters completed first responder training.
- Seven firefighters participated in the countywide Rescue Task Force training for active shooter situations.
- The department joined Project Fire Buddies, a support organization for critically ill children. The program currently has chapters in approximately 11 states and continues to grow.

Street Superintendent Mike Burdette

- Expressed appreciation for staff efforts during recent snowstorms.
- Reported that the new part-time employee is doing an excellent job.
- Quotes are being obtained for parking lot paving planned for this spring.

Water Superintendent Jeff Boyle

- Reported issues related to cold temperatures and wind causing frozen service lines for some homeowners.
- Noted a situation at the Presbyterian Church involving a new thermostat and frozen lines under the sanctuary.
- Reminded residents to contact the Water Department if issues arise.

Council Member Matt Kreager

- Thanked staff for keeping roads clear during snow events.

Council Member Doretta Wiegand

- Expressed appreciation for snow removal efforts.

Council Member David Cisney

- Commended the team following the most recent storm and noted the distinction between city and state roads, emphasizing the team effort involved.

Clerk-Treasurer Barb Hawn

- Provided an update on the Parkview Shared Clinic with WNSC – opening day is February 2, 2026.
- Provided an update on the Community Crossings Grant and a bill in the legislature that would allow communities who did not receive a grant in the last round to apply in Spring 2026.
- Distributed a copy of the Budget Order in the packets.

Mayor Earle Franklin

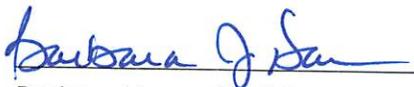
- Reported the meeting of the department heads on the capital plan went well and thanked Clerk-Treasurer Barb Hawn and Ross Hagen for their work.
- Stated that AIM is actively lobbying on behalf of cities and towns to revise the Local Income Tax funding.
- Expressed appreciation for staff efforts during the recent snowstorm.
- Thanked everyone for attending the meeting.

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn: David Cisney

Second: Matt Kreager

Vote: All Ayes



Barbara Hawn, Clerk Treasurer



Earle Franklin, Mayor