

Ligonier Common Council Meeting
Monday, February 9, 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, Matt Kreager, and David Cisney

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

Minutes from the meeting of January 26, 2026

Motion to approve: David Cisney

Second: Matt Kreager

Vote: All Ayes

New Business

Ligonier Public Library Update – Director Angie Scott

Library Director Angie Scott provided an update on the Ligonier Public Library. She shared a brief history of the Carnegie Library, noting key building years of 1908, 1974, 1990, and 2015, which reflects the current facility. The library serves The City of Ligonier and Perry Township.

The library has transitioned to a fine-free model to remove barriers and encourage community use. Director Scott emphasized that the library offers much more than books, magazines, and DVDs. Available resources include:

- Mobile hot spots for families without internet access and for those traveling
- Audiobooks and e-books
- Museum passes, allowing patrons to check out experiences at regional museums
- Toys and books for children, puzzles, games, Giant Jenga, and disc golf frisbees
- A seed library, funded through a Community Foundation grant, encouraging residents to grow vegetables and fruits
- Streaming services such as Kanopy for downloadable movies

In 2025, the library recorded 25,277 visits, issued 1,060 new library cards, and saw increased program activity with 5,262 patrons participating in programs.

The facility offers a rentable community room and two study rooms for tutoring, visiting with children, and small meetings. The library also maintains a Free Little Library and Free Little Art Gallery.

Public computers are available, and staff assist patrons with technological needs, such as learning to use Zoom. Director Scott described the library as a fun and engaging community space. She thanked the City Council for their continued support and for speaking out on behalf of the library.

Resolution 0209-2026 – Temporary Interfund Loan

Due to a small shortfall in the 2025 tax distributions, the Debt Service Fund 3307 had a negative balance at the end of 2025 resulting in the need to make a temporary interfund loan. The CEDIT Fund 2209 has sufficient money on deposit to transfer to the Debt Service Fund. The interfund loan would be payable by June 30, 2026. The resolution is retroactive to December 31, 2025.

Motion to approve: Chris Fought

Second: David Cisney

Vote: All Ayes

Ordinance 1039-2026 – Updated Sewer Use Ordinance

Wastewater Superintendent Benjamin Glowinski worked with City Attorney Laura Kaufman to update the sewer use ordinance and presented the final document for passage. It must be updated every time we update our permit.

Motion to pass Ordinance 1039-2026 on the first reading: Matt Kreager

Second: Brian Hite

Vote: All Ayes

Motion to pass suspend the rules: Matt Kreager

Second: Brian Hite

Vote: All Ayes

Motion to pass Ordinance 1039-2026 on the second reading: Matt Kreager

Second: Brian Hite

Vote: All Ayes

Motion to pass Ordinance 1039-2026 on the third and final reading: Matt Kreager

Second: Brian Hite

Vote: All Ayes

Police Department 2025 Report

A copy of the 2025 Police Department Report was distributed to council members. Sergeant Detective Jason Shearer presented the report. He and Assistant Chief Mike Crossley were present and available to answer questions.

Police Department – Longevity Request and Accreditation Stipend Request

Assistant Police Chief Mike Crossley was present to discuss a longevity bonus for public safety employees. During the Capital Planning Meeting, Chief Shearer requested that Baker Tilly analyze the financial impact of implementing a \$5,000 longevity bonus for public safety employees who reach 25 years of service. He noted that the City of Kendallville recently adopted a similar incentive for employees at 20 years of service. He emphasized that the purpose of the bonus is recruitment and retention, stating that retaining experienced personnel preserves valuable knowledge and training within the department.

Assistant Police Chief Mike Crossley reported that Baker Tilly indicated the proposed bonus would fall within the City's current budget capacity. The bonus would currently affect two police officers and one firefighter. Assistant Chief Crossley requested that the Council consider amending the 2026 Salary Ordinance to include the \$5,000 longevity bonus for employees with 25 years of service.

It was noted that the Accreditation Manager currently receives an annual stipend of \$5,000. Assistant Chief Mike Crossley asked the Council to consider adding a \$2,500 annual stipend (paid equally in 4 quarterly payments) for the Police Department Administrative Assistant in recognition of her assistance with the accreditation process. He explained that the accreditation responsibilities she handles are above and beyond the normal duties of her position. He stated that the Administrative Assistant plays a crucial role in maintaining accreditation standards, including reviewing and processing daily proofs and documentation necessary to remain in compliance. He emphasized that her continued support is essential to the success of the accreditation program.

Motion to approve the longevity bonus and stipend: David Cisney

Second: Chris Fought

Vote: All Ayes

Claim Registers – APV #s 75113-75256

Motion to approve: David Cisney

Second: Doretta Wiegand

Vote: All Ayes

Comments by Members of Council and Administration

Water Superintendent Jeff Boyle

- We had a main break on North Martin Street and started the repairs today. Should finish in the morning.

Council Member Brian Hite

- Thanks to the street department for keeping the streets cleared through all of the snowfalls.

Council Member Doretta Wiegand

- Thanks for snow removal – hopefully be getting break this week.

Council Member David Cisney

- Echoed Brian Hite's comments.

Clerk-Treasurer Barb Hawn

- Asked the council to consider implementing the longevity bonus for civil employees as well as public safety employees, citing the importance of also retaining experienced civil staff. It was noted that there are currently four employees who have been employed for 25 years or more. Contacted Baker Tilly but has not heard back. Will bring back to the next meeting.

Mayor Earle Franklin

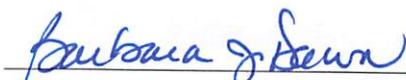
- Thanked the city employees for keeping the streets cleared – emphasized the teamwork.

Adjournment

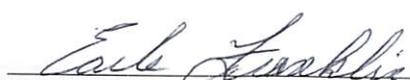
Motion to adjourn: David Cisney

Second: Matt Kreager

Vote: All Ayes



Barbara Hawn, Clerk Treasurer



Earle Franklin, Mayor