

**Ligonier Common Council Meeting**  
**Monday, March 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 Deputy Clerk Robin Galloway

Absent: Clerk Treasurer Barb Hawn

**Minutes from the meeting of February 23, 2026**

**Motion to approve: David Cisney**

**Second: Matt Kreager**

**Vote: All Ayes**

**New Business**

**Margarita White – Marshmallow Festival Requests**

**Indiana Arts Commission Grant**

Margarita White provided information regarding a grant from the Indiana Arts Commission. She would like the City to partner with the Marshmallow Festival and possibly with the Community Foundation to apply for a grant for Ligonier.

Bryan Shearer suggested that Margarita go to the Redevelopment Commission to partner with this endeavor. Bryan said RDC is going to do the alley and that would tie in very well.

**Motion to table until next meeting: Chris Fought**

**Second: David Cisney**

**Vote: All Ayes**

**Marshmallow Festival Discussion and Attendance Data**

On behalf of Noble County Visitor's Bureau, Margarita White reported that geofencing technology is being used to collect anonymized data from mobile devices. This data is shared with the Marshmallow Festival Committee to provide insight into festival attendance and general visitor demographics. The Marshmallow Festival and parade continue to be the largest events in the county.

Margarita asked whether the Festival Committee would be open to hosting food trucks and vendors, such as Maker Markets, on the second Friday of each month from May through August along Station Street as a fund raiser for the Marshmallow Festival.

Bryan Shearer suggested that Main Street, specifically between Fourth and Third Streets, may be a more suitable location for these events.

**Motion to approve the closing of Main Street between Third and Fourth Street the second Friday of the month, May through August: Matt Kreager**

**Second: David Cisney**

**Vote: All Ayes**

**Resolution 0309-2026 – Transfer of Funds**

It is necessary to transfer excess matching funds from the Wastewater Grant Fund back to the originating fund, Sewage Constructions. The excess funds were due to the project coming in lower than projections.

**Motion to approve: Matt Kreager**

**Second: David Cisney**

**Vote: All Ayes**

**Claim Registers – APV #s75360-75483**

**Motion to approve: David Cisney**

**Second: Chris Fought**

**Vote: All Ayes**

**Comments by Members of Council and Administration**

**Fire Chief Jeremy Weaver**

Storm Season is here and tomorrow there will be statewide testing of tornado sirens around 10:20.

**Public Safety Director/Police Chief Bryan Shearer**

Stated he feels it is exciting to see what Margarita White is doing to help the Marshmallow Festival and community.

**Park Director John Parrish**

- Park staff are actively preparing for the season, including the launch of the annual spring clean-up.
- The existing gazebo at Gazebo Park is being removed, with a new gazebo scheduled for installation in May.
- Work is being completed on a new playset at Madden Park.
- The soccer season is beginning.
- Part-time staff are scheduled to return the first weekend in April.
- At Pettit Park, restrooms will remain open next winter rather than closing for the season.
- Landscaping improvements are underway at the Recreation Center, including removal of existing plants and installation of new plantings.

**Council President Chris Fought**

- A question was raised regarding whether a fund still exists for the maintenance of murals.
- Bryan Shearer indicated that some funding is available and will confirm details with Jeff Boyle.

**Council Member Doretta Wiegand**

- Commented that the Park looks very nice.

**Mayor Earle Franklin**

- A meeting was held with a local construction group to coordinate projects within the town under a single umbrella program. The goal is to consolidate efforts and complete multiple projects efficiently over the summer.

**Adjournment**

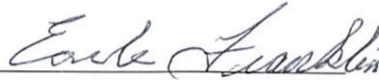
**Motion to adjourn: Chris Fought**

**Second: David Cisney**

**Vote: All Ayes**



Barbara Hawn, Clerk Treasurer



Earle Franklin, Mayor