

Ligonier Common Council Meeting
Monday, May 11, 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 April 27, 2026

Motion to approve: David Cisney

Second: Matt Kreager

Vote: All Ayes

Citizens Comments

Name & Address: Sadie Arnold, Gerber Street

Asked if she could offer a prayer, Mayor Franklin granted permission for her to do so.

New Business

CF-1 Approvals

AME –Personal Property (3)

AME representative Scott Senif was present to discuss the sale of the company to Sten Tech. The company will continue doing business in Ligonier and has increased business by 50%, adding five employees. They remain committed to the Ligonier community. Blake Geer and Scott Senif still own the buildings. Sten Tech signed a three-year lease with an option for an additional nine years. Scott noted that 33 years ago they came to Ligonier and expressed appreciation to the community for its support in helping make the business successful. He thanked all City departments for their support over the years.

Motion to approve all three personal property CF-1s for AME: Chris Fought

Second: David Cisney

Vote: All Ayes

Star of the West – Personal Property (1) and Real Property (1)

Motion to approve the personal property and real property CF-1s for Star of the West: Matt Kreager

Second: David Cisney

Vote: All Ayes

West Noble Waste Recovery – Real Property (1)

Motion to approve the real property CF-1s for West Noble Waste Recovery: Matt Kreager

Second: David Cisney

Vote: All Ayes

Acknowledgement of April 2026 Fund and Bank Reconciliation Report

The reports were included in the council packet and members acknowledged receipt.

Claim Registers – APV #s 75789-75935

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

- Cruz Belmares is currently attending the Police Academy. He completed week one of the 16 week program.
- With Fashion Farm closing we were contacted by Roberts Farms about doing a Public Safety/Touch the Truck Day this fall. Anticipate it will be sometime in October and will provide an update when available.

Street Superintendent Mike Burdette

- Reminder that the city cleanup is this Saturday.
- We have a new concrete contractor for the 50-50 sidewalk program this year. We currently have two sidewalks in process and are still taking applications

Park Director John Parrish

- Commented that staff is busy in the parks with day to day and several projects.
- Updated the timeline on the Gazebo. The original date for installation was early May but has now been backed up to the end of May. It should only take 2-3 days for the crew to assemble.
- For the lighting at the Pickleball courts, the conduit has been installed. The poles and lights should be installed this week
- Gutters for the two buildings at Woodlawn Park have been completed.

Council Member David Cisney

- An update was requested regarding the cameras at Kenney Park. It was reported that a meeting was held to review the camera plan and that cameras were purchased and installed. Both cameras are now in place and operational. The download needed to access the cameras on a phone has been received and is being set up. Access will also be provided to the Police Department.

Mayor Earle Franklin

- It was noted that the pole at the recycle center belongs to REMC. REMC no longer performs that type of work, but a contractor has been located who will remove the pole and reset it at the compost site for use in reading license plates.
- At the last Mayor's meeting, discussion was held regarding a webinar on the MUST Legislation. Representatives also attended the County Council meeting to discuss matters related to the Local Income Tax (LIT). A meeting is scheduled next week with Mayor Waters in Kendallville to provide additional information to the County Council. County Council members were aware of the legislation but had not yet received detailed information. House Bill 1210 introduced several changes, and implementation has now been delayed until 2029. The City is continuing to work with Baker Tilly to obtain better estimates comparing maintaining the City's own structure versus joining the county approach.
- Mayor Franklin shared that he has recently undergone several doctor appointments and tests related to heart health issues. Although not part of his original plans, he stated that he has had to make difficult choices between his responsibilities and his family. He announced that he will officially resign from the position of Mayor effective July 31, 2026, which will allow the party to conduct a caucus and appoint a new mayor. Mayor Franklin expressed gratitude for the trust the community has placed in him to care for the City and praised the City staff and department heads, stating it has been the best job he has ever had.

David Cisney thanked Mayor Franklin for all he has done for the City, noting that his work and dedication have not gone unnoticed.

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn: Chris Fought

Second: David Cisney

Vote: All Ayes



Barbara Hawn, Clerk Treasurer



Earle Franklin, Mayor