

Ligonier Common Council Meeting
Monday, June 22, 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 – Public Hearing for Additional Appropriations

Mayor Earle Franklin called the Public Hearing to order. There were no public comments and the hearing was closed.

Call to Order – Common Council Meeting

Mayor Earle Franklin called the meeting to order.

Roll Call

Present: 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

Absent: Council President Chris Fought

Minutes from the meeting of June 8, 2026

Motion to approve: David Cisney

Second: Matt Kreager

Vote: All Ayes

New Business

Brian Shepherd – Milford Food Bank Request – WN Primary School Primary

Brian Shepherd, West Noble Primary School Principal and Representative of the Noble County Initiative discussed the possibility of conducting a trial run of a community food share store at the City's former fire station.

The concept would utilize food currently distributed through the local food bank, along with additional purchased food items. Some items would be provided free of charge, while others would be offered for sale through a cost-sharing model designed to help offset operating expenses.

The organization requested permission to use the bays of the former fire station during the month of July (possibly July 18) for a pilot program to gauge community interest and participation. Approximately eight to ten skids of food would be available for purchase during each event.

If approved, the pilot would be held at the former fire station as a practice run to determine the feasibility of establishing a community food share store. The organization noted that a similar program currently operates in Milford on the second and fourth Saturdays of each month.

Motion to approve the use of the building on July 18, 2026): Brian Hite

Second: Matt Kreager

Vote: All Ayes

Ordinance 1044-2026 (Additional Appropriations)

It was necessary to appropriate additional money from several funds. Ordinance 1044-2026 was prepared to include the amounts for each category within each fund.

Motion to pass Ordinance 1044-2026 on the first reading: David Cisney

Second: Matt Kreager

Vote: All Ayes

Motion to suspend the rules: David Cisney

Second: Matt Kreager

Vote: All Ayes

Motion to pass Ordinance 1044-2026 on the second reading: David Cisney

Second: Matt Kreager

Vote: All Ayes

Motion to pass Ordinance 1044-2026 on the third and final reading: David Cisney

Second: Doretta Wiegand

Vote: All Ayes

MUST Meeting Proposal

Meeting with Noble County officials and representatives of other governmental units throughout the county will be critical as communities evaluate the future of Local Income Tax (LIT) funding under the recently enacted legislation. The city has consulted with Baker Tilly regarding the new requirements and opportunities associated with the Municipal Services and Taxing Unit (MUST) process. Baker Tilly has offered to prepare and facilitate

informational meetings with county and local governmental unit representatives. Baker Tilly's expertise will help ensure that all stakeholders have a clear understanding of the legislation and its potential implications.

The City is proposing to take a leadership role in organizing these discussions and is requesting approval to engage Baker Tilly to assist with the process. While the City is willing to take the lead in organizing and facilitating the process, it is anticipated that a portion of Baker Tilly's costs may be shared among participating governmental units as discussions progress. The goal is to ensure that all units have access to expert guidance while distributing the costs in a fair and equitable manner.

Council was asked to approve the Baker Tilly Proposal.

Motion to approve: David Cisney

Second: Doretta Wiegand

Vote: All Ayes

Police Department Personnel Updates – Mike Crossley

Mayor Earle Franklin recently announced the appointment of current Assistant Police Chief Mike Crossley as Police Chief, effective July 28, 2026, following the retirement of current Police Chief Bryan Shearer. Chief-Appointee Crossley updated the Council on the proposed changes to the Police Department command staff, which will become effective July 28, 2026. He advised that he will present the following appointments to the Board of Public Works and Safety on Wednesday for approval:

- Assistant Chief – Jason Shearer
- Detective Sergeant – Grant Moser
- School Resource Officer – Nick Knafel

Chief-Appointee Crossley also stated that he will request approval from the Board of Public Works and Safety to begin the hiring process to fill the resulting vacancy within the department.

Bryan Shearer – Police Department Salary Proposals

In anticipation of upcoming staffing changes within the Police Department, Police Chief/Public Safety Director Bryan Shearer proposed revisions to the department's organizational structure. He explained that the department would transition from a combined Police Chief/Public Safety Director position to a Police Chief position. Chief Shearer requested approval of the following salary adjustments, effective July 27, 2026:

Position	Bi-Weekly	Annual Salary
Police Chief	\$3,077.00	\$80,002.00
Assistant Police Chief	\$2,962.00	\$77,012.00

Motion to approve: David Cisney

Second: Brian Hite

Vote: All Ayes

Chief Shearer also discussed transitioning the Police Department Administrative Assistant position to serve as the Police/Mayor's Administrative Assistant on a trial basis. The intent is for Kelly to assist the Mayor with telephone calls, scheduling, and email correspondence while continuing to perform her responsibilities for the Police Department. He emphasized that the additional duties would not compromise her existing responsibilities and that the arrangement would be implemented gradually to evaluate its effectiveness.

Chief Shearer further requested approval to increase the hourly wage for the Police/Mayor's Administrative Assistant position from \$20.86 to \$25.00 per hour, effective August 30, 2026.

Motion to approve the position and payrate: Brian Hite

Second: David Cisney

Vote: All Ayes

Acknowledgement of May Bank Reconciliation and Fund Reports

The May reports were included as part of the Council’s Meeting Packet. Members acknowledged receipt.

Claim Registers – APV #s 75057-76253

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

- Chief Shearer expressed his support for the Municipal Unit Strategic Taskforce (MUST) agreement and thanked the Council for its approval. He noted that participating in the countywide rate structure is advantageous for the City.

Street Superintendent Mike Burdette

- Funding remains available for the 2026 50-50 Sidewalk Program.

Water Superintendent Jeff Boyle

- The department responded to its first water main break of the year during the previous week, and repairs were completed successfully.
- A second water main break occurred today, with repairs scheduled to be completed the following morning.
- The lead line work on Martin Street has been completed. Street paving will begin as soon as practical, with additional stone being added as needed. The department is preparing the next list of street projects. Mr. Boyle stated that the department is working to stay ahead of scheduled infrastructure projects.
- Operations at the water treatment plant are progressing well.
- Only ten water meters remain that are not reporting readings. Once those meters are replaced, approximately 99% of the City's meters will be transmitting readings electronically.
- Water service shutoffs decreased during the previous month. Mr. Boyle encouraged residents to report standing water so the department can investigate potential leaks.

Council Member David Cisney

- Council Member Cisney provided a follow-up on EMS response times. He reviewed data covering the period from January 1 through June 1, 2026 for personal injury accident calls. Of the 22 dispatches reviewed, four were disregarded and excluded from the analysis. The average EMS response time was approximately 10 minutes. He noted that, while there is sometimes a perception that response times are longer, the data indicates that response times are reasonable and that residents can continue to rely on EMS services.

Mayor Earle Franklin

- Mayor Franklin will attend the Indiana Conference of Mayors in Greensburg, where two workshops will focus on Local Income Tax (LIT). He noted that representatives from the Indiana Conference of Mayors (ICOM), AIM, and members of the General Assembly will be in attendance, providing an opportunity to discuss municipal concerns.
- Mayor Franklin will also attend the Northern Indiana Mayors' Roundtable in Elkhart on Friday. Representatives from AIM and various state agencies will participate in discussions regarding regional issues, including task forces. Mayor-Elect Bryan Shearer will also attend.

Adjournment

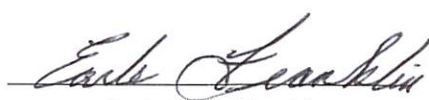
Motion to adjourn: David Cisney

Second: Matt Kreager

Vote: All Ayes



Barbara Hawn, Clerk Treasurer



Earle Franklin, Mayor