

**Ligonier Common Council Meeting
Monday, July 13, 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 June 22, 2026

Motion to approve: David Cisney

Second: Matt Kreager

Vote: All Ayes

New Business

Perry Township Fire Contract Renewal

Perry Township Trustee Barbara Donnelly proposed terms for the 2027 Fire Protection Contract. She recommended a one-year agreement with a 1.5% increase, raising the annual contract amount from \$33,871.60 to \$34,379.67. Ms. Donnelly explained that, due to uncertainty regarding potential changes to property tax and local income tax funding, she felt a one-year agreement was more appropriate than entering into a multi-year contract at this time. She noted that a longer-term agreement could be considered once additional information becomes available.

Motion to approve a one year contract for 2027 with a 1.5% increase: Chris Fought

Second: David Cisney

Vote: All Ayes

Jill Dunham Presentation – Big Brothers Big Sisters

Jill Dunn, Director of Community Development for Big Brothers Big Sisters of Northeast Indiana, provided an overview of the organization's mentoring programs and services available to youth in Noble County. She explained the Community-Based and School Buddy mentoring programs, highlighting the positive impact mentors have on children's academic success, confidence, and overall well-being. Ms. Dunn emphasized that all services are provided at no cost to families and discussed opportunities for community involvement, including recruiting volunteers, partnering with local businesses, hosting Lunch and Learn events, and participating in local festivals and community events. She encouraged the City and community members to support the organization's efforts to expand its presence and serve more local youth.

Resolution 0713-2026 – Approval of Economic Development Area Expansion

The Council considered Resolution No. 0713-2026, authorizing the expansion of the City's Economic Revitalization Area (ERA). This was the final step in the statutory process to expand the ERA to include the West Noble Primary School property and additional City-owned property, allowing tax increment financing (TIF) funds to be used for future redevelopment and potential renovation projects. The resolution also added the Turning Point property as an eligible property acquisition site.

Motion to approve Resolution 0713-2026: Matt Kreager

Second: David Cisney

Vote: All Ayes

Ordinance 1045-2026 – Amended 2026 Salary Ordinance

The Council considered Ordinance No. 1045-2026 amending the 2026 Salary Ordinance. The amendment reflected the personnel changes previously approved by the Council, including establishing the Police Chief position, adjusting the Assistant Police Chief salary, and creating the Police Department/Mayor Administrative Assistant position. The ordinance also established the effective dates for the salary changes.

Motion to pass Ordinance 1045-2026 on the first reading: Matt Kreager

Motion to pass Ordinance 1045-2026 on the third and final reading: Matt Kreager

Second: Brian Hite

Vote: All Ayes

Claim Registers – APV #s 76254-76413

Motion to approve: David Cisney

Second: Doretta Wiegand

Vote: All Ayes

Comments by Members of Council and Administration

Street Superintendent Mike Burdette

- Street Superintendent Mike Burdette reported that crews have completed painting crosswalks throughout the City and continue work on the sidewalk improvement program, with additional sidewalks scheduled for completion. He noted the program has progressed well this year.

Park Director John Parrish

- Parks Director John Parrish reported that due to the recent hot, dry weather, the department has implemented seasonal mowing practices to help preserve turf and conserve moisture. Irrigated properties continue to be maintained on a regular schedule, while mowing of non-irrigated areas has been reduced until weather conditions improve. He explained that taller grass in certain areas is intentional and will be addressed once adequate rainfall returns.

Clerk-Treasurer Barb Hawn

- Clerk-Treasurer Barb Hawn reported that staff recently completed three days of virtual training for the City's new BS&A software system. She stated that the integrated software will significantly improve efficiency by combining accounting, utility billing, payroll, receipting, and other financial functions into one system, eliminating many manual processes required under the City's current software.
- She advised that data migration is scheduled to begin the week of July 22, with live system training the following week. The Clerk-Treasurer's Office will be closed during the migration process to allow for final data conversion and implementation.

Mayor Earle Franklin

- Mayor Earle Franklin thanked the Street and Parks Departments for their work in preparing and cleaning up following the recent Main Street event in Kenney Park
- The Mayor also reported that he would be attending an upcoming meeting in Greensburg to continue discussions regarding proposed income tax (LIT) legislation and other matters being considered by the Indiana General Assembly. He noted that municipal officials and legislators continue to work collaboratively on the proposed legislation and a Noble County MUST taskforce is in the process of being established.

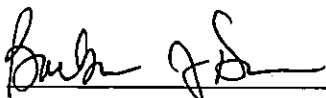
Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the council, Mayor Franklin called for adjournment.

Motion to adjourn: David Cisney

Second: Matt Kreager

Vote: All Ayes



Barbara Hawn, Clerk Treasurer



Earle Franklin, Mayor