

Ligonier Common Council Meeting
Monday, August 10, 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 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 July 27, 2026

Motion to approve: David Cisney

Second: Matt Kreager

Vote: All Ayes

Citizens Comments

Rafael Pizana – Noble County Community Church – Main Street Ligonier

Mr. Pizana requested permission to close a portion of Main Street for an outdoor church service on the church patio. The requested street closure is from Third Street to Station Street on August 23, 2026.

Motion to approve: David Cisney

Second: Doretta Wiegand

Vote: All Ayes

Jessica Craft – Makers Market

Ms. Craft requested permission to hold the Makers Market on September 26, 2026, from 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. The event is expected to include approximately 20–30 vendors and four to six food trucks.

The requested street closures include Main Street from Fourth Street to the Post Office and Third Street from Main Street to Station Street. Set-up will begin at approximately 3:30 p.m., with tear-down completed by approximately 8:30 p.m.

Motion to approve: David Cisney

Second: Matt Kreager

Vote: All Ayes

New Business

Be Noble Update – Tara Streb

Tara Streb, Interim Executive Director of Be Noble (Noble County Economic Development Corporation), provided an update on the organization's programs and activities.

Ms. Streb explained that Be Noble works to connect businesses with talent and assists businesses with available incentives, including tax abatements. The organization also focuses on workforce and talent development by helping students and workers develop skills needed by area employers.

Additional programs and initiatives discussed included:

- Career fairs at schools throughout Noble County
- Youth manufacturing camps
- Support for childcare initiatives in the county
- Mentoring for small businesses and entrepreneurs
- Shop Noble gift card program
- Youth Business Fair
- Housing and community development
- READI projects, including Club 720 and NEI projects totaling approximately \$400,000
- Spanish-language workshops in Ligonier

Ms. Streb also discussed Be Noble's efforts to support economic development and strengthen connections between local businesses, employees, students, and the community.

IT Project Quotes

Clerk-Treasurer Barb Hawn reported that EXOS, the City's new IT service provider, conducted an evaluation of the City's IT infrastructure following the resignation of the former IT Director. The evaluation identified several critical items requiring attention.

The following projects were presented:

1. Firewall Replacement – \$4,654.56

The City's current firewall is scheduled to expire in September 2026. The City was not previously made aware of the upcoming expiration, and the replacement was not included in the current budget. This project needs to be addressed immediately.

2. Network Infrastructure Upgrade – \$38,073.36

Currently, all City department switches are operating on the same network. Without network segregation, this creates security risks both internally and externally. Due to the Police Department's accreditation requirements, this project needs to be addressed as soon as possible. It would be beneficial to complete the network upgrade in conjunction with the firewall replacement.

3. Server Hardware Replacement – \$157,888.98

The City's current servers are approximately 14 years old. At this age, manufacturer support is no longer available, and obtaining replacement parts may become difficult.

The replacement was not included in the current budget. The standard life expectancy of a server is approximately five years, making the City's current equipment significantly beyond its expected service life.

EXOS is recommending the purchase of two new servers that would be mirrored to provide redundancy. In the future, the City could also consider transitioning to virtual servers, either completely or partially.

4. Server Operating System Upgrade and Modernization – \$55,000.00

This project would allow the City to better separate and organize the services currently running on the servers and provide greater stability. The project could potentially be delayed until 2027; however, if funding permits, completing the work at the same time as the other IT projects would likely be the most efficient approach.

Total Project Cost: \$255,616.90

Because these projects will benefit all City departments, the costs will be divided equally among the General Fund, Water Fund, and Wastewater Fund.

Clerk-Treasurer Hawn reported that she had spoken with Ross Hagen of Baker Tilly regarding the City's budget. The projects can be accommodated within the current year's budget by delaying the Controls for the City Hall HVAC project, which is not expected to be completed until 2027. This will allow the City to address the critical IT needs while maintaining the same overall budgeted costs.

Motion to approve: David Cisney

Second: Brian Hite

Vote: All Ayes

Claim Registers – July 21, 2026 to August 7, 2026

Motion to approve: David Cisney

Second: Matt Kreager

Vote: All Ayes

Comments by Members of Council and Administration

Fire Chief Jeremy Weaver

- Chief Weaver reported that a group of approximately 22 bicyclists, along with support vehicles, will be traveling from California to New York as part of a 9/11 25th Anniversary Memorial ride. The group will stay at the fire station and will be escorted through the area on August 30 before continuing on to New York.

Street Superintendent Mike Burdette

- Street Superintendent Burdette reported that Pulver Asphalt Paving is working on the trail project and replacing sections of sidewalk as part of the project.
- He also thanked Chief Weaver for providing the ladder truck and assistance in removing a trampoline from a tree.

Clerk-Treasurer Barb Hawn

- Clerk-Treasurer Hawn provided an update regarding the City's recent software transition.

Mayor Earle Franklin

- Mayor Franklin commented on the progress being made on the trail projects and the work being completed before the streets are repaved. He complimented the crews on the quality of the work.
- Mayor Franklin provided an update on the City's budget process and expressed his satisfaction with the proposed five-year plan. He noted that the plan allows for a 4% increase and provides an additional \$4,000 for Police and Fire. He asked for approval to proceed with these amounts in the 2027 budget.

Motion to approve: David Cisney

Second: Brian Hite

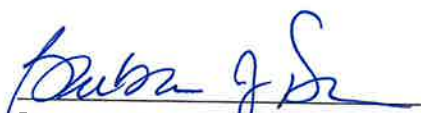
Vote: All Ayes

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn: David Cisney

Second: Matt Kreager

Vote: All Ayes


Barbara Hawn, Clerk Treasurer


Earle Franklin, Mayor