

Ligonier Common Council Meeting
Monday, August 24, 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 August 10, 2026

Motion to approve: David Cisney

Second: Matt Kreager

Vote: All Ayes

Citizens Comments

Name & Address: Stanley Collet, 213 Mercer Street

Mr. Collet addressed the Council regarding parking in the front yard and the enforcement of the City's no-parking ordinance.

Mr. Collet stated that several years ago he had been contacted regarding parking in the right of way on his property. Now he stated and had photographs showing a school bus parked on what he felt was the front yard of the owner's property. He referenced City Ordinance No. 898-2017, Section 7-2-11, which addresses parking or driving in front yards.

Mr. Collet expressed concern that the ordinance was not being enforced consistently and stated that he had been informed that a vehicle needed to be moved out of a driveway but that no ticket had been issued. He also expressed concern about the appearance and deterioration of the neighborhood.

Mr. Collet stated that he had contacted the school and was told that the matter would be addressed. He subsequently expressed concern regarding a school bus being parked in the front yard.

Chief Mike Crossley stated that officers had been to the location regarding the issue. He explained that the bus was parked on a designated parking area within the yard and noted the distinction between parking on grass and parking in a driveway.

Mr. Collet thanked the Council for its time.

New Business

MCRC (Meet Christians Run Club) – Road Closure Request

Jessica Craft and Lupe Martinez were present to request permission to conduct a 5K run in conjunction with the Maker's Market event on September 26, 2026. MCRC (Meet Christians Run Club, a newly formed run club) stated they spoke with Brian Shepherd who has sponsored similar runs in the city and would use the same route as before.

The requested road closure will be from approximately 2:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. The run is scheduled to begin at 4:00 p.m. The organizers stated that cones and the route would be set up prior to the start time.

Motion to approve: Chris Fought

Second: David Cisney

Vote: All Ayes

Police Department – Staffing

Police Chief Mike Crossley addressed the Council regarding the 2027 budget. He reported that he had completed calculations regarding the addition of a thirteenth full-time police officer. He stated that adding the position could reduce the overall police budget by reducing overtime and relief wages.

Clerk-Treasurer Barb Hawn calculated the wages associated with adding a thirteenth full-time officer beginning in June 2027. Based on those calculations, the Police Department's Personal Services budget could be reduced by approximately \$10,000.

Bryan Shearer spoke in favor of the change, stating that he had discussed the matter with Ross Hagen at Baker Tilly. The recommendation was to wait until June 2027 and review the matter as part of the Capital Plan meeting and budget process, particularly if additional further reductions may become necessary.

Motion to approve the addition of a thirteen police officer beginning June 2027: David Cisney

Second: Matt Kreager

Vote: All Ayes

Acknowledgement of July 2026 Bank Reconciliation and Fund Reports

Members acknowledged receipt of the July 2026 Bank Reconciliation and Fund Reports included in their council packets.

Claim Registers – APVs from August 10, 2026 through August 21, 2026

Motion to approve: David Cisney

Second: Chris Fought

Vote: All Ayes

Comments by Members of Council and Administration

Street Superintendent Mike Burdette

- Reported that Pulver is working on the trails and doing a fine job.
- Presented Mayor Earle Franklin with a “Mayor” sign from one of the city’s gateway welcome signs.

Park Director John Parrish

- Expressed his appreciation to Mayor Earle Franklin for his support of the City managers.

Building Administrator/Inspector Elroy Mast

- Reported that several property owners have either started a façade grant project or are planning to bring a façade grant request to the Redevelopment Commission at its next meeting.
- Noted the improvements being made throughout the City and the importance of ensuring that projects are completed as required.
- Expressed his appreciation to Mayor Franklin, stating that it had been a pleasure working for him.

Council Member Matt Kreager

- Echoed the appreciation expressed by others and stated that it had been a pleasure serving with Mayor Franklin and thanked him for all he has done for the City.

Council Member Brian Hite

- Expressed his appreciation for the opportunity to work with Mayor Franklin and wished him the best.

Council President Chris Fought

- Thanked Mayor Franklin for his service to the City.

Council Member Doretta Wiegand

- Asked about the utility flags throughout the City.
- Thanked Mayor Franklin for all he has done for the City.

Council Member David Cisney

- Thanked Mayor Franklin for his service to the City.

Clerk-Treasurer Barb Hawn

- Thanked Mayor Franklin for his service to the City.

City Attorney Laura Kaufman

- Stated that it had been a pleasure working with Mayor Franklin.

Mayor Earle Franklin

- Stated that it had been his pleasure to serve as Mayor of Ligonier and expressed appreciation for the support he received from City employees.
- Reflected on his retirement from a full time job 15 years ago and noted that he had never actually been without a job.
- Borrowed a familiar saying, stating, "Old mayors never die, they just fade away."

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn: Chris Fought

Second: David Cisney

Vote: All Ayes

The image shows two handwritten signatures in blue ink. The signature on the left is for Barbara Hawn, and the signature on the right is for Bryan K. Shearer. Both signatures are written in a cursive, flowing style.

Barbara Hawn, Clerk Treasurer

Bryan K. Shearer, Mayor