

Ligonier Common Council Meeting
Monday, September 14, 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 Bryan Shearer called the public hearing for the 2027 Budget to order. Proper notification was published for the budget amounts, levies, and rates for 2027. There was no public comment and the hearing was closed.

Call to Order

Mayor Bryan Shearer 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 Bryan Shearer, City Attorney Laura Kaufman, and Clerk Treasurer Barb Hawn

Minutes from the meeting of August 24, 2026

Motion to approve: David Cisney

Second: Matt Kreager

Vote: All Ayes

Citizens Comments

Name & Address: Margarita White, Marshmallow Festival

Ms. White thanked the City, department heads, and City employees for their efforts in making the Marshmallow Festival a success. She stated that it was a great weekend for the community and expressed her appreciation for everyone who contributed to the festival.

New Business

Proclamation Dedicating Council Chambers to Patricia Fisel

Mayor Bryan Shearer presented a proclamation dedicating the City Council Chambers in honor of former Mayor Patricia Fisel, recognizing her leadership, dedication, and vision for the City of Ligonier.

A photograph and commemorative plaque honoring Mayor Fisel were unveiled during the ceremony. Mayor Shearer stated that the dedication was intended as a lasting symbol for the Fisel family and spoke of his personal friendship with Patricia Fisel, noting that he was very proud to honor her.

Noble County Prosecutor's Office – Domestic Violence Awareness Month Proclamation

In conjunction with the Noble County Prosecutor's Office, Mayor Shearer presented a proclamation declaring October 2026 as Domestic Violence Awareness Month. Prosecutor Mowery and members of his staff were in attendance.

Police Department – Oath of Officer for Full Time Officer Eduardo Mendoza

Eduardo Mendoza was recently hired as a full-time officer. Clerk-Treasurer Hawn performed the Oath of Office.

Cyndi Schlemmer – Ligonier Visitor's Center

On behalf of the Ligonier Visitors Center, Cyndi Schlemmer provided an update on the Center's activities and accomplishments for the year. Following her presentation, she requested financial support from the City Council for the Visitors Center. Discussion led to the following.

Motion to approve a donation of \$1,000.00: David Cisney

Second: Matt Kreager

Vote: All Ayes

Ordinance 1046-2026 (2027 Budget)

Ordinance 1046-2026 (2027 Budget Ordinance) was available for the first reading.

Motion to pass Ordinance 1046-2026 on the first reading: Chris Fought

Second: David Cisney

Vote: All Ayes

Police Department – Recommendation for First Class Probationary Officer Wages beginning in 2027

Chief Crossley addressed the Council regarding the salary difference between First Class Probationary Officers and First Class Officers. He stated that currently, a First Class Probationary Officer earns approximately \$1,000 less per year than a First Class Officer.

Chief Crossley recommended that the salary difference be increased and proposed that, beginning with the 2027 Salary Ordinance, the annual salary difference between a First Class Probationary Officer and a First Class Officer be \$5,000.

Motion to approve: Chris Fought

Second: Brian Hite

Vote: All Ayes

Plan Commission – Recommendation for Zoning Map Change

The Plan Commission provided a favorable recommendation for a zoning change for Middlebury Community Church, changing the zoning designation from A District to R-1 District for the property located on the south side of US Highway 6 and Rochester Road. Current Parcel ID: 57-01-35-400-021.000-013

Motion to approve: Chris Fought

Second: David Cisney

Vote: All Ayes

City Attorney Laura Kaufman will prepare a revision to the Zoning Ordinance for consideration at the next meeting.

Plan Commission – Recommendation Zoning Ordinance Changes

The Plan Commission provided a favorable recommendation for three amendments to the Zoning Ordinance.

Motion to approve: Chris Fought

Second: David Cisney

Vote: All Ayes

City Attorney Laura Kaufman will prepare the revisions to the Zoning Ordinance for consideration at the next meeting.

Claim Register

Claims from August 21, 2026 through September 11, 2026 were included on the Claims Register for September 14, 2026

Motion to approve: David Cisney

Second: Doretta Wiegand

Vote: All Ayes

Comments by Members of Council and Administration

Street Superintendent Mike Burdette

- Pulver's will return to complete the remaining trail work. Lincolnway will be closed for approximately seven days, with signage posted directing traffic to designated detours.
- Phend & Brown will be in the City next week to begin work on the paving program.
- The City's new payloador is expected to arrive Thursday.

Council Member Matt Kreager

- Welcomed Mayor Bryan Shearer and expressed appreciation for having him serving as Mayor.
- Stated that it is a privilege to call former Mayor Patricia Fisel a friend and expressed appreciation for seeing her recognized through the dedication of the City Council Chambers.

Council Member Brian Hite

- Welcomed Mayor Bryan Shearer and expressed appreciation for his service.
- Thanked Mayor Shearer for honoring former Mayor Patricia Fisel, stating that it was a great way to recognize her.
- Congratulated Eduardo Mendoza.

Council President Chris Fought

- Thanked Mayor Shearer for recognizing former Mayor Patricia Fisel and stated that the dedication was a great idea.

Council Member Doretta Wiegand

- Welcomed Mayor Bryan Shearer.
- Congratulated Eduardo Mendoza.
- Raised questions regarding the laws and regulations applicable to e-bikes, including concerns regarding e-bikes running stop signs.
- Mayor Shearer and Police Chief Mike Crossley are researching the applicable laws and possible ways the City can address these concerns.

Council Member David Cisney

- Welcomed Mayor Bryan Shearer

Clerk-Treasurer Barb Hawn

- Welcomed Mayor Bryan Shearer.
- Thanked Patricia Fisel's family for attending the dedication ceremony and for sharing her with the Ligonier community.

Mayor Bryan K. Shearer

- Announced that an additional plaque honoring former Mayor Patricia Fisel will be placed outside the Council Chambers doors. He invited the public to visit and view the plaque. Mayor Shearer spoke highly of Mayor Fisel and her contributions to the City, noting her willingness to invest time in and inspire others. He stated that he was honored to recognize such an exceptional community leader and noted that City Hall was also one of her projects.
- Downtown Façade Program: Stated that the City's efforts to improve downtown properties are receiving increased attention. He has spoken with building owners about taking pride in their properties and maintaining them. He encouraged property owners to take advantage of the City's façade program, which is intended to assist with improvements. He noted the overwhelmingly positive response from property owners and discussed using AI technology to provide visual representations of what proposed improvements could look like. He expressed his goal of transforming the downtown area over the next two to three years in partnership with local building owners. He discussed the City's

willingness to provide a 50/50 match of up to \$20,000 for eligible improvements. He also noted that, for properties where owners may not be able to afford renovations, there are individuals interested in purchasing and renovating properties, including properties that could be used for apartments and short-term rentals.

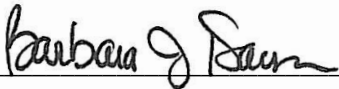
- Alley Project: Discussed plans to transform the alley across from City Hall into a green space and sitting area. He expressed interest in incorporating the history of the Kidd family and Kidd Marshmallows into the design, including marshmallow-themed features and seating resembling marshmallows.
- Downtown Beautification: Expressed his passion for improving the downtown area and discussed adding trees in planters and making other small improvements that can enhance the appearance of downtown and benefit the entire community.
- City Administration: Stated that department heads meet every Monday morning to review their respective to-do lists and actively plan for upcoming projects and priorities.
- Expressed appreciation for the City Councils that have served the community over the past 25 years, noting that the City has been fortunate to have individuals willing to work hard in what can be a thankless position. He expressed his appreciation to the current Council as the City's legislative body.
- Thanked everyone for attending and stated that it was a special evening and an honor to participate in his first Council meeting as Mayor. He encouraged everyone to remain positive as the City moves forward.

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn: David Cisney

Second: Chris Fought

Vote: All Ayes



Barbara Hawn, Clerk Treasurer



Bryan K. Shearer, Mayor