

Ligonier Common Council Meeting
Monday, March 28, 2022 · Ligonier City Hall
301 South Cavin Street · Ligonier, IN – 7:00 pm

Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag

Call to order by Council President Ken Schuman – Common Council Meeting

Roll Call

Present: Council President Ken Schuman, Council Members Chris Fought, Doretta Wiegand
City Attorney Jack Birch, and Clerk Treasurer Barb Hawn
Absent: Mayor Patty Fisel and Council Member Julia Bell

Minutes from previous meeting of March 14, 2022

Motion to approve: Chris Fought Second: Doretta Wiegand Vote: All Ayes

Citizens Comments

Steve Hathaway 206 South Main Street Ligonier

Has a neighbor that does not want to do repairs with their house. Realizes the city cannot force them to. However, he has a big tree that was falling down in the alley and did cut it down but now the pieces are in the alley. The traffic now goes through his yard. Tired of the constant mess and neglect of a beautiful home. Worked hard on his house to make it presentable and maintained. Like the community but will move on if necessary. Asked what can be done about the tree and if we can intervene.

Public Safety Director/Police Chief Bryan Shearer stated we will address the tree issue first thing in the morning.

Mark Stout 205 West Second Street Ligonier

The blower on the top of the roof at the flour mill is causing the loud noise again. He cited that chronic noise causes health issues which he named. The mill had installed a silencer but does not seem to be working. He cited an Indiana noise ordinance regarding disturbing the peace and quiet in neighborhoods. He stated he wants something done about it and threatened to go to IDEM if necessary. He wanted to know what the city was doing to rectify the problem to satisfy the residents and feels the sound level should be monitored at all times. He has lived in his home for 35 years and does not want to move. He stated it is a bigger deal than what some people think it is and feels it affects others, not just him. He thanked the council for their time.

Steve Hathaway 206 South Main Street Ligonier

Also spoke regarding the noise pollution. He is Mark Stout's neighbor. He does not experience the noise like Mark does, only hears it outside. He stated he realizes the mill is a vital part of the community and hopes that something can be done to improve the noise level. He did say he feels he can hear the noise more at Mark's house than his own. He hopes we can make it a priority to make an amicable solution.

Public Safety Director/Police Chief Bryan Shearer

Stated that the notion that the city has not done anything is incorrect. He has worked on the issue himself with the company. The mill recently had a staffing change that may have affected the problem. We continue to try to come to a solution. He introduced Kate Multon of Star of the West Mill.

Kate Multon of Star of the West Mill

Ms. Multon spoke regarding the noise from the mill. There was an abrupt management change at the mill, and she has come down from Michigan to try to make the mill run smoother. The mill is very invested in Ligonier and are trying to create even more jobs at the Ligonier facility. She stated she appreciates that you feel we are vital part of Ligonier. They have every intention of being good neighbors.

To her knowledge, a year ago the silencer was put on and this did take most of the noise away. However, the silencer was cracked and was repaired. She has been on the phone with contractors to put up a sound reduction or surround. She stated that industry does have noise, but they are committed to having the citizens of Ligonier happy with them. They are taking the issue seriously and looking at options. They want an all-around solution. When Mr. Stout asked about a timetable, she stated she cannot give a fixed timetable but hopes to have the issue rectified within a few months.

Unfinished Business

Community Foundation Lease Discussion

In the February 28 meeting, there was discussion regarding a lease with the Noble County Community Foundation. Using the parameters discussed, City Attorney Jack Birch drafted a lease and sent to council members and Brad Gaden for review. The proposed lease came back to the council for further discussion. We proposed a 30 year lease and can look to reassess every five years. Discussion of the dollar amount also took place. City Attorney Birch will reach out to Mr. Gaden and have a discussion regarding what changes they would like to see and bring information back to council.

New Business

Open Council Seat – April 5 Caucus

Bill Mills resigned his council seat due to health reasons. The Republican Party set a caucus for April 5, 2022 at 5:00 pm in the Police Department Training Room. Interested parties must contact Shelley Williams, Republican Chair in writing within 72 hours of the caucus.

Claim Registers – APV #64975-65063

Motion to approve: Chris Fought

Second: Doretta Wiegand

Vote: All Ayes

Council Member Doretta Wiegand

- We seem to have a drag strip on the north side of town – 3:30 and 4:30 daily – couple of pick-up trucks. Worry because of the bus route. Chief Shearer will look into the issue.

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn: Chris Fought

Second: Doretta Wiegand

Barbara Hawn

Barbara Hawn, Clerk Treasurer

Patricia Fisel

Patricia Fisel, Mayor