

Common Council Meeting – Monday, July 11, 2011 – Held at Ligonier City Hall – 7:00 pm – Audio Available

Call to order by Mayor Fisel

Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag

Call to order Public Hearing for Library Planning Grant

Mayor Fisel opened the public hearing. Phyllis Gates was present to explain and answer questions regarding the federally funded planning grant for the library. The library board is requesting the planning grant as the library is in need of additional space. The study will allow for public meetings and input. The integrity of the building and accessibility must be maintained.

Jerry Nesbitt, Library Director was also available to offer comment and answer questions. The library has run out of space. In the 1908 portion of the library, there is only a certain amount of weight that can be maintained.

John Pettit of Ligonier asked when the back addition was completed, which was 1975.

Betty Peterson of Ligonier commented that her grandchildren love using the library.

Lois Rosenogle of Ligonier commented that the Library is the most beautiful building in the City.

Jerry Nesbitt commented that the first week of the summer reading program for 2011, 122 children were in attendance. The program which was originally to be outside was rained out and held inside in the community room which was filled to capacity with the children.

Phyllis informed the public that the library cannot just renovate, they must keep the integrity of the building and this is the reason they are requesting the planning grant. Phyllis thanked the public for their comments.

As there were no further comments or questions, the public hearing was closed by Mayor Fisel.

Call to order Common Council Meeting

Mayor Fisel opened the meeting of the Common Council. In consideration of Phyllis Gates, Resolution 07-11-2011, authorizing the submittal of the CDBG Planning Grant to the Indiana Office of Community and Rural Affairs for the Ligonier Public Library was moved up in the agenda.

Motion to approve Resolution 07-11-2011 authorizing the submittal of the planning grant for the Library and authorize Mayor Fisel to sign the resolution by: John Pettit

Seconded by: Ken Schuman

Vote: All Ayes

Minutes from previous meeting of June 27, 2011

Motion to approve by: John Lutton

Seconded by: Ken Schuman

A correction was noted by Gary Bishop as to the person seconding the motion to accept the Triad Engineer Contract. Minutes will be corrected to reflect Ken Schuman as seconding the motion rather than John Pettit.

Motion to approve corrected minutes by: John Lutton

Seconded by: Ken Schuman

Vote: All Ayes

Citizens Comments

Name & Address: Norma Donley, Ligonier

Comment: Norma presented a flyer for an auction of the Tuvell estate. She feels it would be advantageous for the City to try to purchase a triangle portion of the property which will be sold as a separate tract.

Motion to have City Attorney Steve Hagen look into the purchase of the property by: Ken Schuman

Seconded by: Gary Bishop

Vote: All Ayes

Unfinished Business

1. County Certificate Sale

The Mayor gave a recap of the County Certificate sale. The City was able to purchase the property at 201 Pigeon Street for the minimum bid of \$335.04. Prior to the sale, the Mayor polled each Council member with regards to an additional purchase at 103 W. 4th Street. All were in favor and the decision will be ratified at the next Council meeting when the City attorney is present. This property was also purchased for the minimum bid of \$820.36.

New Business

1. 2012 Pay Raise for City Employees

The Mayor asked Council to consider a 2% pay raise for City employees for 2012. The employees have not seen a raise in three years. Budgets will be tightened in other places to allow for the increase.

Motion to approve a 2% pay raise for City employees effective for 2012 by: Gary Bishop

Seconded by: Ken Schuman

Vote: All Ayes

2. 2012 Health Insurance

Discussion of the deductible for City employee's health insurance for 2012 was discussed. The deductible is currently \$500. Raising the deductible to \$1000 will save costs on premiums for both the City and employees with dependent coverage while the additional out of pocket cost will be incurred only by those with claims

Motion to change the health insurance deductibles for 2012 to \$1000 by: John Lutton

Seconded by: Ken Schuman

Vote: All Ayes

Claim Registers – APV # 33940 through 34088

Motion to approve by: Gary Bishop

Seconded by: John Lutton

Vote: All Ayes

Comments by Members of Council and Administration

Police Chief Bryan Shearer: At the July 25 meeting two police officers and five fire fighters will be recognized for their efforts in saving the life of Steve Hursey. A suggestion to move the meeting to a larger location was made, possibly the Rec Center, due to an anticipated increase in attendance. Alan will check back on availability and report back.

Bryan will have his semi-annual report available at the next meeting.

WWTP Manager Mark Schultz: We have just completed the first six months of the City managed WWTP. Mark will have his semi-annual report available at the next meeting and will include changes made and plan for the future.

Council Member Gary Bishop: Expressed concern about the wood carving at Prentice Park. Mayor Fisel reported that the statue is on the Operation Foundation project list. Alan Duncan reported that the statue has been water sealed and the he is looking into further ways to protect the wood.

Clerk-Treasurer Barb Hawn: The SBOA auditor questioned our minutes approving the salary for the mayor and clerk to be paid from only the WWTP (2/3) and General Fund (1/3) for 2011 with no portion coming from the Water Dept. which normally pays 1/3. Confirmation from Charlie Pride of SBOA revealed that this is not allowed. A revised Salary Ordinance will be on the next agenda and a transfer of half of the year to date amount paid by WWTP will be transferred to the Water Dept.

Mayor Patty Fisel: The Mayor addressed the completion of College Street to Sunnyside Street. It is currently a hindrance for plowing and leaf pick up as well as a public safety hazard as vehicles cannot get through the dead end. The Mayor would like Council to consider approving the completion when we do the first paving project this year. John Lutton also asked if the City could review stop signs on Oldsmobile and Pontiac Streets for possible changes.

Mayor Fisel reported that Rick Sherck of Noble County Economic Development met with management of Guardian and Star of the West at their corporate offices. He will provide a report on his findings and company concerns such as no local facilities for corporate meetings and overnight stays.

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn by: John Lutton

Seconded by: Ken Schuman