

Call to order by Mayor Fisel

Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag

Roll Call

Present: Council President Ken Schuman, Council members John Pettit, Gary Bishop, Karen Richendollar, John Lutton, Mayor Patty Fisel, City Attorney Steve Hagen, and Clerk Treasurer Barb Hawn

Minutes from previous meeting of September 12, 2011

Motion to approve by: John Lutton Seconded by: Gary Bishop Vote: All Ayes

Citizens Comments - None

Unfinished Business

1. **2012 Budget – Adoption**

Councilman John Lutton stated he had ample time to review the budget and felt it looked good as is, commending those involved with preparing the budget. He then proposed the following.

*Motion to pass Ordinance for Appropriations and Tax Rates on the first reading and adopt the 2012 Budget in the amount of \$2,927,782 with a property tax levy of \$1,799,654 and a total tax rate of 1.5976 by: John Lutton
Seconded by: Ken Schuman Vote: All Ayes*

*Motion to suspend the rules and adopt the 2012 Budget on the second reading by: John Lutton
Seconded by: Ken Schuman Vote: All Ayes*

*Motion to further suspend the rules and adopt the 2012 Budget on the third and final reading by: John Lutton
Seconded by: Ken Schuman Vote: All Ayes*

New Business

1. **Ordinance 800-2011 - Firearms**

City Attorney Steve Hagen explained that in the last session the state legislature took away the ability to regulate firearms. Ordinance 800-2011 amends section 132.01 and repeals section 132.02 of the Ligonier City Code which previously regulated firearms.

*Motion to pass ordinance 800-2011 on the first reading by: John Lutton
Seconded by: Ken Schuman Vote: All Ayes*

*Motion to suspend the rules and pass ordinance 800-2011 on the second reading by: John Lutton
Seconded by Ken Schuman Vote: All Ayes*

*Motion to further suspend the rules and pass ordinance 800-2011 on the third and final reading by:
John Lutton Seconded by: Ken Schuman Vote: All Ayes*

2. **County Tax Sale**

This item was added to the agenda by Mayor Fisel. A property located on Lincolnway West, adjacent to the Pettit Park, is listed in the county tax sale to be held on October 18, 2011. She felt it beneficial for the City to look into purchasing the vacant lot. The taxes outstanding are currently \$379.19. Although the property owner could pay the taxes prior to the sale, she felt it would be diligent on the City's part to try to acquire the property if it is still available at the sale. Further discussion resulted in the following:

Motion to authorize Council President Ken Schuman, on behalf of the City, to bid on the vacant lot adjacent to Pettit Park and 112 Lincolnway West at the county tax sale, and to purchase the property with a maximum bid of \$1000 by: Gary Bishop Seconded by: John Lutton Vote: All Ayes

Claim Registers – APV # 34574 through 34687

Motion to approve by: John Lutton Seconded by: Gary Bishop Vote: All Ayes

Comments by Members of Council and Administration

Police Chief Bryan Shearer

- The Police and Fire Department personnel will be participating in the annual Public Safety Day at Fashion Farm on Saturday, October 8.
- Bryan will be testifying on behalf of the Association of Police Chiefs regarding Pension reform. The plan currently has a defined benefit which the association is fighting to keep.

Water Dept. Superintendent Jeff Boyle

- The retention tank at the water plant will be cleaned on Wednesday, 9-28-11 around 10:00 am. He invited those interested to visit the plant and watch as the diver cleans the tank.
- The department will be replacing eight hydrants next month. Stopped meters are being replaced with the new digital meters. A special tool in the software allows daily consumption to be pulled for up to 30 days. This can aid is showing a customer their daily usage and help to determine if they have a leak.
- Jeff will also be assisting in a water quality program for the community in cooperation with Goshen College and Merry Lea Environmental Center.

City Attorney Steve Hagen

- Notices were recently sent to the property owners of the two properties purchased in the county certificate sale. The 120 day deadline for property owners to pay back taxes is October 30, 2011. If not paid, the City can redeem the certificates.

Mayor Patty Fisel

- The Indiana Dept. of Natural Resources has grants available for tree inventory and planting projects. The grants come with an equal match, which can be satisfied with in kind service. The application deadline is 11-30-11. At this time the City does not plan to apply but the trail association is considering applying.
- AEP presented a listing of City trees to the Mayor for removal due to power line interference. They will cut the trees and grind the stumps, leaving the wood stacked. Wood left on City property will be available at no charge to interested parties for fire wood. If not taken within two weeks, the street department will haul the wood to the compost. AEP will also be trimming and removing trees on private property. Removal of the stacked wood from private property requires permission from the property owner.
- The issues with aggressive dogs in the City seem to be increasing, including several bites. For the protection of the public it is the feeling that the City needs to address aggressive dogs with an ordinance. This will not be breed specific, rather aggressive dogs in general. A file of other cities ordinances and information was turned over to City Attorney Steve Hagen for his review and preparation of a new ordinance.

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn by: John Lutton Seconded by: Gary Bishop