

Ligonier Common Council Meeting
Monday, August 12, 2024 · Ligonier City Hall
301 South Cavin Street · Ligonier, IN – 7:00 pm

Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag

Call to order by Mayor Earle Franklin

Roll Call

Present: Council President Chris Fought, Council Members Brian Hite, Doretta Wiegand, and Matt Kreager
Mayor Earle Franklin, City Attorney Jack Birch, and Clerk Treasurer Barb Hawn

Absent: Council Member David Cisney

Minutes from previous meeting of July 22, 2024

Motion to approve: Brian Hite

Second: Matt Kreager

Vote: All Ayes

New Business

Ordinance 1009-2024 (Amended Salary Ordinance for 2024)

The 2024 Salary Ordinance was amended to include a contribution to employees who elected to participate in the city's high deductible insurance option. For the partial plan year of 2024, employees choosing the Employee Only option will receive \$750 contributed to their HSA account and employees choosing the Employee + Spouse, Employee + Children, or Employee + Family option will receive \$1500 contributed to their HSA account.

Motion to pass Ordinance 1009-2024 on the first reading: Chris Fought

Second: Matt Kreager

Vote: All Ayes

Motion to suspend the rules: Chris Fought

Second: Doretta Wiegand

Vote: All Ayes

Motion to pass Ordinance 1009-2024 on the second reading: Chris Fought

Second: Matt Kreager

Vote: All Ayes

Motion to pass Ordinance 1009-2024 on the third and final reading: Chris Fought

Second: Matt Kreager

Vote: All Ayes

Super Voluntary Annexation – Copper Ridge Rentals LLC

A Petition for Voluntary Annexation from Copper Ridge Rentals LLC for their parcel # 57-01-33-100-001.000-013 located along US Highway 6, southwest of the current city limits was presented to council for their review. They are the only owners of the property to be annexed. Along with the petition for annexation, a timetable for annexation was distributed to members.

Motion to confirm the signatures constitute 100% of Landowners per County Auditor's records: Chris Fought

Second: Brian Hite

Vote: All Ayes

A public hearing on the annexation will be held at the council meeting on Monday, September 9, 2024 at 7:00 pm.

Mayor Franklin – 2025 Pay Increase Recommendation

Mayor Franklin recommended the council approve an overall four (4) percent pay increase for employees in 2025.

Motion to approve: Chris Fought

Second: Matt Kreager

Vote: All Ayes

Claim Registers – APV #71264-71414

Motion to approve: Brian Hite

Second: Chris Fought

Vote: All Ayes

Comments by Members of Council and Administration

Street Superintendent Mike Burdette

- Working on painting curbs and crosswalks for school opening this week.
- We have been cleaning up the recycling center from people doing illegal dumping. Mayor Franklin has a meeting coming up and will speak with the Solid Waste District. There was discussion of getting access to the cameras to the police department to review daily so we can try to eliminate the abuse.

Public Safety Director/Police Chief Bryan Shearer

- Our Patrolmen have taken many pounds of drugs off of the streets in the last few months. Some people question the reasons for so many routine traffic stops but the normal road officer is responsible for many of the larger offenses. They recently confiscated four (4) pounds of methamphetamine at one traffic stop. They along with our narcotics officer are seeing results in getting drugs off the street.

Water Superintendent Jeff Boyle

- The control panel has gone out a couple of times recently. Nothing at the water plant has gone down, just the well field. We have rebooted the system and worked with Ligtel who also rebooted their system. When this happens, we have to physically monitor the well field.

WWTP Kenny Sprague

- The contractor is making progress on the plant project. It seems slow because they are waiting on materials. The walls are all up. The blowers were delivered and will be installed soon.
- We were finally able to get caught up with the sludge haul out.

Park Director John Parrish

- Thank the Mayor and the council for the pay increase for next year. Stated his employees will appreciate it.
- At Woodlawn Park, the three-sided shelter improvements have been completed. Need to find a sealer for the mortar and stone.
- Working on an issue with water pooling at Pettit Park. We will be putting a catch basin in to help take care of the issue.

Building Administrator Elroy Mast

- Family Express will be breaking ground in the next month or so at their property just north of the viaduct.
- Star of the West Mill is doing a slip this week. It will be 105 feet high.
- Update on the burnout houses. Progress is being made on the Second Street home. The owner of the home on Martin Street has someone lined up to tear it down. The home on 1000 N will be taken down and a new modular home will be put up.

City Engineer Rick Pharis/John Nelson

- The contract for the water-sewage line portion of the Commerce Drive Project was awarded to Niblock. We will be working with them to determine a start date.
- We submitted the Community Crossings Grant 2024 Round 2 to INDOT. We submitted a two million dollar project with the city portion being \$500,000.

Council Member Matt Kreager

- Commended the police department for the job they do every day – they never know who and what they will deal with in their routine stops.
- The last of the materials for the lighting finally arrived today. Will schedule to get it done.
- Inquired about the chicken ordinance and has noticed homes raising chickens. Police Chief Shearer asked him to contact him, and they will check into the issue.
- Concerned about the retaining wall at the viaduct. Asked if there a sealer we can put on the block. Street Superintendent Mike Burdette will check with his concrete installer to see if he can make a recommendation.

Council President Chris Fought

- Appreciate the police department and the job they do every day.
- Inquired about several properties accumulating cars and asked if we have a limit on the number of cars. Police Chief Shearer said that when zoning is changed to General Business, it takes away their ability to issue citations. Screening is only required for an established junk yard. He commented that the property north of town is not in the city limits but can be approached by the Zoning Administrator
- Inquired about public restrooms and drinking fountains at Woodlawn Park. Park Director John Parrish replied that we do have public restrooms. Water Superintendent Jeff Boyle stated that there formerly were drinking fountains, but they were destroyed and were taken out. Chris would like us to consider adding a drinking fountain since the park is being used more.
- Inquired about the downtown Wi-Fi that was in the original ARPA plan. It is being budgeted from CEDIT in 2025 budget.

Council Member Brian Hite

- Thank you to the police department for the job they do every day, they never know who and with what they will deal every day.

Council Member Doretta Wiegand

- Thank you to the Police Department. As someone living alone, appreciate everything they do.
- Inquired about the new signs INDOT installed near the viaduct. They impede vision for people on SR5 and Mercer Streets. There are close calls in that area.

Clerk-Treasurer Barb Hawn

- Working on the 2025 budget. The Comprehensive Plan gives the department heads targets for their budget, which has been helpful. Meeting with the DLGF is August 22.

Mayor Earle Franklin

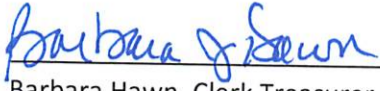
- Thanks to the police department for what they do every day.
- Thank you to the Street Department for the quick job with the storm clean up.
- Like the idea of promoting from within when possible and have appointed Ben Glowinski of the Water Department to be the new Wastewater Superintendent. He has all of the water certifications and will start working on the sewer certifications.

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn: Chris Fought

Second: Matt Kreager

Vote: All Ayes



Barbara Hawn, Clerk Treasurer



Earle Franklin, Mayor