

**Ligonier Common Council Meeting  
Monday, September 9, 2024 · Ligonier City Hall  
301 South Cavin Street · Ligonier, IN – 7:00 pm**

**Call to order by Mayor Earle Franklin – Public Hearing for 2025 Budget**

The 2025 budget public hearing was properly advertised on the Indiana Gateway and available for review. There were no public comments, and the public hearing was closed.

**Call to order by Mayor Earle Franklin – Public Hearing for Annexation**

The public hearing for the super voluntary annexation of Copper Ridge Rentals LLC property was properly advertised. The Fiscal Plan was prepared by Baker Tilly, the city's financial advisor, and is available for review. Austin Shrock, owner of the property was present and available to answer questions. There were no public comments, and the public hearing was closed.

**Call to order by Mayor Earle Franklin – Common Council Meeting**

**Roll Call**

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

**Minutes from previous meeting of August 26, 2024**

***Motion to approve: David Cisney      Second: Matt Kreager      Vote: All Ayes***

**Unfinished Business**

**City Hall Brick Sidewalk Quotes**

The item was tabled at the last meeting in order to solicit additional quotes for the city hall sidewalk to be done in all brick. The following quotes were received:

- |                        |   |
|------------------------|---|
| 1. Countryscapes       | With existing sidewalk removal – \$48,850       |
| 2. Countryscapes       | Without existing sidewalk removal – \$44,930    |
| 3. Fawley & Sons       | Without existing sidewalk removal –\$ 44,625    |
| 4. Superior Hardscapes | With existing sidewalk removal – \$81,984.07    |
| 5. Superior Hardscapes | Without existing sidewalk removal – \$69,262.24 |

It was recommended that the complete job, with existing sidewalk removal be considered. David Cisney commented regarding other sidewalks in the city that also have issues he would like to see addressed as well, through the 50-50 sidewalk program, or through other avenues. He stated the city can lead by example by replacing our own sidewalk which led to the following.

***Motion to approve the sidewalk replacement quote from Countryscapes including removal of the existing sidewalk: David Cisney      Second: Brian Hite      Vote: All Ayes with Matt Kreager Abstaining***

**New Business**

**Margarita White – Marshmallow Festival Recap**

Margarita White, President of the Marshmallow Festival recapped the 2024 event. This is her twelfth year with the festival, eleventh as President.

She estimated that there were over 20,000 people in the city over the holiday weekend. Everything went well. The vendors doubled their sales on ride tickets, food, and merchandise compared to last year. Most of the other events are free and the Festival Committee makes money from ride ticket sales, but sponsorships are what fund the festival. There were a few minor mishaps. She encouraged council members to join the committee. She thanked the city stating the Festival Committee can put on the festival without the city's assistance. The collaboration works well, and she appreciates the team effort. She appreciates the city allowing the fourth bay at the old fire station to be used for storage during the year.

Mayor Franklin thanked Margarita and her staff for all they did to make the festival a success.

Council President Chris Fought stated he felt the regular face book updates during the festival were appreciated.

**PULSE Request to Use Former Fire Station Bays on Trick or Treat Night**

PULSE is a 30 year old countywide student service organization sponsored by the Community Foundation of Noble County. Jazmin Herrera, Noble County Community Foundation Program Director, and PULSE Navigator, along with the following West Noble Members of PULSE, Natalie Gow (Freshman), Nicholas Campos (Freshman), Dale DeLuna (Sophomore), and Finn Thornsberry (Senior), were present to speak about their program and their event, Festival of Frights, held on Trick or Treat night in Ligonier. They team with Drug Free Noble County to instruct kids about the dangers of long term drug use. They estimated about 500 kids came through the event last year.

They asked the council's permission to use the old fire station bays again this year on Trick or Treat night, Thursday, October 31, 2024 from 5 pm to 7 pm.

***Motion to approve: David Cisney      Second: Chris Fought      Vote: All Ayes***

### **Resolution 0909-2024 – Adopting Fiscal Plan for Annexation**

Resolution 0909-2024 adopts the fiscal plan and establishes a definite policy for services for the land owned by Copper Ridge Rentals LLC to be annexed into the city.

**Motion to approve: Chris Fought**

**Second: David Cisney**

**Vote: All Ayes**

### **Ordinance 1013-2024 – Annexation Ordinance**

Ordinance 1013-2024 was introduced to adopt the annexation of contiguous territory and was available for the first reading only.

**Motion to approve Ordinance 1013-2024 on the first reading: Brian Hite**

**Second: Matt Kreager**

**Vote: All Ayes**

### **Ordinance 1014-2024 – 2025 Budget Ordinance**

Ordinance 1014-2024 was introduced to adopt the 2025 Budget and was available for the first reading only.

**Motion to approve Ordinance 1014-2024 on the first reading: Brian Hite**

**Second: David Cisney**

**Vote: All Ayes**

### **Claims Registers APV 71509-71610**

**Motion to approve: David Cisney**

**Second: Chris Fought**

**Vote: All Ayes**

### **Comments by Members of Council and Administration**

#### **Street Superintendent Mike Burdette**

- Thank all of the other departments for the help with the festival clean up. Everything was cleaned up before daylight on Tuesday.
- AEP will start putting streetlights (14) up in the new park meadow addition.

#### **Public Safety Director/Police Chief Bryan Shearer**

- It is a breath of fresh air to have the youth in the community attend the meeting.
- Thank you to Margarita White for the success of the festival. There was one incident on Saturday night. It is a task to have officers here for the entire festival but is a great weekend for the community.
- The police department budgeted \$120,000 for two new vehicles in the 2025 budget. We have an opportunity to purchase a 2024 Pickup Truck that is on the lot for under \$40,000 (with trade of a 2014 explorer with 125,000 miles). We will make an additional appropriation for the purchase this year and the process has started. In addition, Chevrolet will begin making a Traverse Police Package Vehicle. Have been in contact with BZ Autos regarding quoting Fleet Vehicles and will be able to purchase a Traverse without the police package to evaluate the vehicle. After trade, the cost will be around \$35,000. With the issues state police are experiencing with the Police Package Durango, the timing is good to make a change. Will be requesting approval to begin the process of ordering, so the vehicle is ready early 2025. With the two purchases, should be able to turn back \$35,000 to the capital plan that will not have to be spent.
- Friday, September 13 is the Mexican Independence Day in Kenney Park. Encourage everyone to try to be a part of the festival. The police department will manage the festival this year.
- Saturday, October 12 is public safety and touch a truck day at Fashion Farm's Pumpkin Fantasyland.
- Saturday, October 19 is the Third Saturday event sponsored by Main Street Ligonier from 4 pm to 8 pm.
- Thursday, September 26 at 6 pm is the Dakich Foundation bicycle give away at West Noble Primary. Encourage everyone to attend.

#### **Council Member Matt Kreager**

- Thanks to the city departments for their assistance with the festival clean up.
- Inquired about the concrete wall at the viaduct. Street Superintendent Mike Burdette has not had a chance to look at it yet but will contact his concrete company to see if it can be coated/resealed.

#### **Council Member David Cisney**

- Asked for an update on the Reach Alert. Clerk Treasurer Barb Hawn has not yet but will make contact to get the project started.
- Asked IT Director Gary Cox about the viewing access to the cameras at the Recycle Center to try to control the dumping. Gary stated the Mayor asked him last week to grant access to the police department and tomorrow all police officers will have access.
- Asked IT Director Gary Cox about Security Cameras at Kenney Park. Gary stated there are currently some cameras installed but he has not been called to check video. The internet access was installed at the concession stand and public restroom for the Wi-Fi in the park and hot spots will be installed for public Wi-Fi. We will be installing hot spots, but Ligtel wants to evaluate new equipment, and the capital project was moved to the 2025 budget. He can install a couple of other types of hot spots to see how they will work. This will allow the ability for additional cameras.
- Thank you Margarita White and the Festival Committee for all they did.

#### **Council President Chris Fought**

- Checked our sidewalk ordinance and it talks about the condition and states the street superintendent or Board of Works deems which sidewalks need to be repaired and notifies owner. The ordinance gives guidelines about what is disrepair. Street Superintendent Mike Burdette commented that the silver maples on Main Street have

caused many issues with the sidewalks. The city does have a 50-50 sidewalk program to assist the homeowner in the repair of the sidewalks and Barret Law can also be used. City Attorney Jack Birch will look into the matter.

- There is a streetlight out at the old fire station. Mike Burdette will call it in.
- Thank you to the festival committee and all city departments for their part in the festival. It is a great event for Ligonier.

**Council Member Brian Hite**

- Thanks to the city departments for their help with all of the clean up after the festival.
- Thanks to Margarita White for a great festival.

**Council Member Doretta Wiegand**

- Thanks to Margarita White and thanks to the city departments.

**Mayor Earle Franklin**

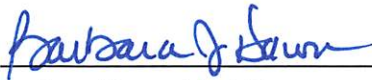
- Thank the police officers for their assistance at the festival, and the city departments for the cleanup.
- The Commerce Drive project should start in about a week.

**Adjournment**

*Motion to adjourn: David Cisney*

*Second: Chris Fought*

*Vote: All Ayes*



Barbara Hawn, Clerk Treasurer



Earle Franklin, Mayor