

REGULAR MEETING
Litchfield City Council - City Council Room
January 21, 2014 - 6:30 PM

Mayor Smith called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM.

Roll Call: Present – Mayor Edwin Smith, Councilpersons Jessica Bills, Rick Siebert, OR Smith, Dan Efstathiou, Brenda Thomas and Don Bannick.

Absent –

Also Present – City Manager- Douglas Terry, Clerk-Susan Ballinger, Treasurer-Jill Pelham, Chief, John Michelin, Admin/ Asst. - Lauren Skelly,

Consent Agenda – Councilman Siebert moved to approve the consent agenda, seconded by Councilwoman Bills. Motion Carried.

Call to the Public – None

Public Hearing-Flood Plain Ordinance - Mayor, Smith opened the Public Hearing at 6:31pm. Councilman, Siebert asked if there was any changes to the new Flood Plain Map and if the industries are aware and if their insurance rates are increasing. Manager, Terry stated the changes that are happening don't affect the buildings. Mayor, Smith stated the Flood Plain don't reach where the buildings set but we anticipate that there will not be a change with insurance but they will have to verify that through insurance carriers. Mayor, Smith stated what this does allow is that if someone is in the Flood Plain they would be able to buy flood insurance; if the city doesn't do this then that person wouldn't qualify to purchase the insurance. Manager, Terry stated that if the city does have a flood and if the city follows all these requirements, it aligns the city for federal disaster relief. Councilman, Siebert asked if any citizens are in the Flood Plain zone. Mayor, Smith stated he didn't believe there are any residents within the city that was in the Flood Plain zone. With no further questions, Mayor, Smith closed the public hearing at 6:34pm.

1st Reading Ordinance 2014-01 -Flood Plain Ordinance - Clerk, Ballinger gave the first reading of Ordinance 2014-01.

Resolution 2014-01 - Flood Plain Management/Development - Councilman, Bannick moved to adopt Resolution 2014-01 and authorize the signatures of City Manager, Terry and Hillsdale County, Building Inspector Martin Taylor, seconded by Councilman, Smith. Motion Carried.

Resolution 2014-02 - Annual MDOT Performance Permit - Councilwoman, Bills moved to adopt Resolution 2014-02 and authorize Clerk, Ballinger to sign, seconded by Councilman, Smith. Motion Carried.

Resolution 2014-03 - Budget Amendments 2013-2014 - Treasurer, Pelham informed the board that this document is a maintenance item and that all the city funds are doing just fine and at right around 50% which is where they should be, but the line items in front of them, Treasurer, Pelham anticipates them being over the original budgeted amounts and as council can see they are very small amounts. So, Treasurer, Pelham asked council to approve the presented budget amendments. Councilman, Bannick asked what expense did the council have that caused that line item to being over. Deputy, Clerk/Treasurer Skelly stated that part of it was the new council name plates and one other item that she couldn't recall at that time without looking into it. Councilman, Smith moved to adopt Resolution 2014-03, seconded by Councilman Siebert. Motion Carried.

Authorize Signatures of Mayor & Clerk for the 2014-2015 Fire Service Contract/Intergovernmental Agreement- Councilwoman; Thomas moved to authorize the Mayor and Clerk to sign the 2014-2015 Fire service Contract/Intergovernmental Agreement form July 1, 2014 - June 30, 2015, seconded by Councilman, Bannick. Motion Carried.

DDA Appointments -Tracy Dunn - Councilman, Smith motioned to appoint Tracy Dunn to the DDA board, seconded by Councilman, Bannick. Motion Carried.

Bills for Approval – Councilman, Bannick moved to approve the bills in the amount of \$97,333.47 and apply to the proper accounts, seconded by Councilwoman, Bills. Motion Carried.

Police Report - Chief, Michelin stated that he had nothing to add, but would answer any questions that the board may have for him. Councilman, Bannick moved to accept the police report as presented and place on file, seconded by Councilman, Siebert. Motion Carried.

Public Works Report – Manager, Terry informed the board that Superintendant, Langhann is on vacation for the next week. Manager, Terry stated that the last snow storm the public works department worked real hard cleaning that up and then the city had that cold spell and then rain which knocked down some of the snow which helped when it came to clearing the sidewalks. Councilman, Siebert moved to accept the public works report as presented and place on file, seconded by Councilman, Smith. Motion Carried.

Treasurers Update – Treasurer, Pelham informed the board that she has completed the year end reporting and taxes have being collected and tax spreads have been completed. Treasurer, Pelham went over the financial statements with the board. Treasurer, Pelham stated that the financial statements are where they should but that all the snow removal that was just done due to the latest snow storm is not yet reflected in these statements, but assured the board that she and Manger, Terry had budgeted conservatively and that the city should be ok in those areas of the budget. Treasurer, Pelham stated that the city is right where it should be as far as budget. There was discussion regarding this year's upcoming dumpster days and how it would affect the budget.

City Manager's Update – Manager, Terry stated that the city has a long way to go with winter and has budgeted conservatively. Soon the budget committee, treasurer, and himself would be meeting and in August there will be a voter referendum on personal property tax. By percentage the City of Litchfield is number two in the state on collecting personal property taxes from our industrial park through TIFA. If personal property is eliminated it will affect both the City and TIFA. TIFA contributes over \$300,000 and it has such a major impact of the way the city does business that I want the board to be aware. So the board will probably see two budgets one with and without. Now it's his understanding that personal property is to be phased out and those communities that are proactive will be burnt the least, it could have a significant impact on the way the city conducts business. Manager, Terry stated he is talking with people on reorganization issues. Manager, Terry has also been spending time on Litchfield Initiative projects and also there are a lot of people working behind the scenes to make sure our school succeeds our community needs a school to grow.

Committee Reports –

Councilman Concerns - Councilman, Siebert stated reading through the minutes that Harold Wolfinger and Bill Nobles have stepped down from their titles in the fire department and wants to thank them for their service. Councilman, Siebert asked about the West Litchfield Bridge and where it was located. Mayor, Smith stated that bridge is about three miles out of town.

Councilman, Bannick voiced some concerns over the article in the Homer Index in regards to an additional loan being granted to Litchfield Greens. Manager, Terry stated that this should be referred to Ed Smith since he is the TIFA Chairman, Mayor; Smith stated that there is nothing to worry about regarding the golf course. Mayor, Smith stated that questions should be taken to the TIFA board.

Correspondence –

Adjournment – Councilman, Bannick moved to adjourn at 7:10pm, seconded by Councilman, Smith. Motion Carried.