

REGULAR MEETING  
Litchfield City Council - City Council Room  
March 13, 2012 - 6:30 PM

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

Roll Call: Present – Mayor Edwin Smith, Councilpersons Greg Chapman, Brenda Thomas, Jessica Bills, Rick Siebert, O. R. Smith, and Don Bannick.

Absent - None

Also Present – City Manager-Doug Terry, Clerk-Susan Ballinger, Treasurer-Jill Pelham, Chief Michelin, DPW Superintendent-Tony Langhann, Will Foregrave (Index), and Senator, Bruce Caswell.

**Call to the Public** – Senator, Bruce Caswell spoke with the board and handed out flyers with information regarding current legislation in Lansing. The topics of discussion were on Changes to Income Tax Pensions, Transportation Infrastructure and Personal Property Tax. Senator, Caswell also gave an example and explanation of the Lansing's Budget over the last eleven years.

Consent Agenda. Councilman Siebert moved to approve the Consent Agenda, supported by Councilman Smith. Motion carried.

**ZBA – Public Hearing – Variance request 114 East St.** - Mayor Smith opened the Public Hearing at 6:55pm with no comments or questions regarding the variance request the Public Hearing was closed at 6:56pm. Councilwoman Thomas motioned to approve the construction addition with a front yard variance of 2ft. for 114 East St. making the front yard setback at 18ft, seconded by Councilman Siebert. Motion Carried. Manager Terry assured the board that the Zoning administration would observe that the motion will be followed as directed.

**Public Hearing Ordinance 2012-01 – Amendment 660.02 Subsection (b) (4) Discharging of any Firearm** - Mayor Smith opened the Public Hearing at 6:58pm to hear any comments/questions regarding Ordinance 2012-01. Councilman Siebert asked if there is some kind of display to show what an appropriate backstop is. Manager Terry stated that is subject to the police departments' inspection, there is no set configuration or backstop. Mayor Smith stated that he would like to have section (f) stricken out and also we need to add a section that states that with council's special permission to allow culling of deer if necessary. Mayor Smith stated the reason for opposing section (f) is he feels that there are plenty of places for people to hunt and the second reason being how difficult it would be for the city to police the ordinance. Mayor Smith stated that he knows and appreciates that the Planning Commission put a lot of time and work putting this ordinance together. Councilman Bannick stated the way it is now we don't have a law saying that they can't hunt in the city, a person could hunt wherever they want to in the city. The city currently has a policy in place that states that hunting on city property is not allowed, which means that currently hunting is allowed in the city as long as it's not on city property. Councilwoman Thomas asked Chief Michelin his opinion on the ordinance since it would be his department that would be handling it. Chief Michelins' opinion was that there should be no hunting allowed in the city limits whatsoever and that if passed his department would look for help from the DNR to police the ordinance. Consensus of the council was to have city administration to re-write the ordinance and bring it back to the board for review. The board discussed the use of air rifles and the new types of air rifles with compressed air and how powerful they can be and wish to also have that wording removed from the ordinance. Councilman Siebert stated concern on the backstops getting warn out. With no more comments/questions the Public Hearing was closed at 7:20pm. Councilman Smith motioned to accept the First Reading of Ordinance 2012-01 as presented, seconded by Councilman Bannick. Roll Call Vote: Councilman Smith Yea, Councilman Chapman Nay, Councilwoman Bills Nay, Councilman Siebert Nay, Councilwoman Thomas Yea, Councilman Bannick Yea, Mayor Smith Nay. Motion Failed 3 Yeas, 4 Nays, 0 Absent.

Councilwoman Thomas motioned that Ordinance 2012-01 be sent back to the city administration for amendment and brought back for a first reading with section (f) completely removed, seconded by Councilman Chapman. Motion Carried.

Mayor Smith stated that he would like the city attorney's opinion on what kind of liability the city would be getting into by allowing target practice within the city limits.

**Election Commission Appointment** – Kelsey Burroughs- Councilman Bannick moved to appoint Kelsey Burroughs to the Litchfield Election Commission, seconded by Councilman Smith. Motion Carried

**Resolution 2012-02 Establishment of a Receiving Board-** Clerk Ballinger informed the board that there is current legislation in Lansing that is going to require all cities to have a Receiving Board in place for every election. Clerk Ballinger gave a brief explanation as to the duties of the Receiving Board and expressed to the board that she was just trying to stay ahead of the game so that the city will be in compliance for when the legislation is passed. After some discussion it was consensus of the board that an Establishment of a Receiving Board was not necessary at this time and to table the Resolution until it was actually required by the State to have one in place and what requirements will be necessary within the resolution by the State.

**Bills for Approval** – Councilman Bannick moved to approve the bills in the amount of \$157,862.19 and charge to the proper accounts, seconded by Councilman Chapman. Motion Carried.

**Police Report** – Chief Michelin asked if the board had any questions regarding the police report. Chief Michelin informed the board that his department is participating in a job shadowing program with the Litchfield High School, so you might see a young person riding in our police cars with officers on duty. Councilman Bannick moved to accept the police report as presented, seconded by Councilman Siebert. Motion Carried.

**Public Works Report** – Councilman Siebert asked about salting State roads. Superintendent Langhann stated that the way its done is our crew usually beats the County to the salting and the city is fully reimbursed. Treasurer Pelham stated that she bills them quarterly for reimbursement and is reimbursed dollar for dollar. Councilman Bannick motioned to accept the Public Works Report and place on file, seconded by Councilwoman Bills. Motion Carried

**Treasurers Update** – Treasurer Pelham presented the board with a budget timeline for 2012-2013. The City Charters dictates what we do and when as far as adopting a budget and presenting it to council for review. Based on those requirements we anticipate having Budget and Finance Committee meetings in the two week span of March 26<sup>th</sup> to April 6<sup>th</sup>.

**City Manager's Update** – Manager Terry stated that he and the department heads are working on the budget. Manager Terry pointed out the Litchfield antique historical pictures to be displayed downtown on the side of the Recon Building. Manager Terry thanked Ken & Teresa Bonifield for bringing this idea to the city. Manager Terry wants to put together a flag schedule together since we have different types of flags for display.

Also, the city will be bringing back Lyndi Wolfinger as Manager for our 2012 pool season. Manager Terry stated that he and the Mayor have had a few Economic Development meetings and Tifa has been focusing on getting the welding lab set up for the Litchfield Initiative Program.

**Committee Reports** – None

**Councilman Concerns:** - None

**Adjournment** - Councilman Bannick motioned to adjourn at 7:40 pm, supported by Councilman Chapman. Motion Carried