

REGULAR MEETING
Litchfield City Council - City Council Room
March 21, 2017 - 6:30 PM

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

Roll Call: Present – Mayor Ed Smith, Councilpersons – OR Smith, Jessica Bills, Andy Reynolds, Don Bannick, Rick Siebert and Dan Efstathiou.

Absent: None

Also Present – City Manager - Douglas Terry, Treasurer - Jill Barrett, Clerk - Susan Ballinger, Police Chief - Dan Roberts, Deputy Clerk – Lauren Skelly, DPW Superintendent - Tony Langhann, Andy Barrand – HDN, and Abraham Dane.

Consent Agenda – Councilman Siebert moved to approve the consent agenda as presented, seconded by Councilman Reynolds. Motion carried.

Call to the Public – None

Public Hearing – 2017 MNRTF Grant Application-Litchfield Pool and Splash Park Project- Mayor Smith opened the public hearing at 6:31 p.m. Manager Terry presented the board with a copy of the grant application and design layout of the new pool, splash park and playground area and stated that the purpose of this hearing is to inform the board that the city's administration has prepared a proposed grant application for the purpose of retrieving funds through the department of Michigan's Natural Resources Trust Fund. As the board is aware, the city pool has been a concern for some time. It was dedicated to the city on July 26, 1970 which makes the pool 47 years old. Manager Terry explained details regarding the layout of the pool/splash park. The new pool would only require one life guard and by reducing the size of the pool this will reduce our chemicals and filtration requirements. Manager Terry pointed out that next to the Pool and Splash Park is a new playground area that is already committed and installation of the park equipment will begin in April and is to be done by the first of June. Councilwoman Bills questioned if the splash pad water was designed to be recycled. Manager Terry stated that the splash pad is on its own system, it could be modified to be recycled back into the pool. Councilwoman Bills stated if it's not recycled that will be an added cost for water. Manager Terry stated he feels it should be an independent system, the other way would add more challenges. Councilwoman Bills asked if the fence is part of the grant application. Manager Terry stated we will utilize the existing fence for the pool, however we have not addressed the fence for the splash park. Councilman Smith stated then there would be no revenue from the splash park. Manager Terry stated we will have to have some type of attendant so there will be a charge. Mayor Smith stated then it will need to be fenced in. Councilman Bannick asked about the upkeep on the surface of the splash pad. Manager Terry stated from time to time there would need to be some type of bleach application and/or anti-bacterial put down. Councilwoman Bills stated she has concerns about future costs twenty years down the road and being in the same position the city is now. Manager Terry stated that down the road the public works department is going to be able to maintain the existing pool for who knows how long but there will come a point where it's going to come down to a hard decision that will have to be made regarding the pool. Manager Terry stated he is trying to give the board an opportunity to get in front of the problem of the pool and its deterioration and now would be the time. Councilman Smith stated it appears that there is a new pump and filter included in this so that will take care of that. Councilman Smith asked if the city pursues this project and we stand a good chance of receiving the grant would it be worth the time and effort to not doing anything with the pool this season and rest until we get the new pool. Manager Terry stated we were happy when we did our walk through with the department of public health and I think we will be able to get the pool into shape for this season. But as far as resting, if we receive this grant in a year from now we will begin construction and the pool will have to be shut down next year. Councilman Reynolds asked in regards to the heater is that a gas or electric heater and have we explored the option of solar heat as a possibility. DPW Superintendent Tony Langhann stated we have looked into solar heating a few years ago and it was very expensive because of the pools current shape. Mayor Smith stated that with the new shape of the pool being rectangular a pool cover would be more feasible. Councilwoman

Bills asked how many weeks is the pool open. Treasurer Barrett stated the pool is open roughly around 11 to 12 weeks in a season and the expense cost is around \$5,000.00 per week. Councilwoman Bills suggested maybe not opening the pool until July and save \$10,000.00. Manager Terry stated that is something that can be discussed at the budget committee meeting. Councilman Smith asked about possibly asking for a millage to see if residents would want to support the pool or not. Manager Terry stated that we spoke with our city attorney about this and we are not allowed to put an advisory question on a ballot. If the city puts the question on the ballot to support a 2 mill increase to support the pool and if voters said yes the city would levy those mills for the pool. The problem was that the city currently uses 13 mills and we can go up to 15 mills but if we use those 2 mills for the pool the city has no cushion left to fall back on. Manager Terry wanted the board to know that with the grant any overages on the project would be the responsibility of the city.

Mayor Smith stated right now the question is does the board want to submit this application. If we submit the application and it gets approved the board still has the option to turn it down. It was consensus of the board to allow Manager Terry to proceed with the grant application.

With no further questions, Mayor Smith closed the public hearing at 7:10 p.m.

Resolution 2017-08 Litchfield Pool and Splash Park Project Grant and Application - Councilman Bannick moved to adopt Resolution 2017-08 as presented, support by Councilman Reynolds. Clerk Ballinger took a roll call vote. Councilman Reynolds – yes, Councilman Smith – yes, Councilman Efstathiou – yes, Councilwoman Bills – yes, Councilman Siebert – yes, Councilman Bannick – yes, and Mayor Smith – yes. Motion carried.

Discuss Saw Grant Computers Purchase for Department of Public Works – After a short discussion amongst the board Councilman Bannick moved to approve the quote from IT Right for the software in the amount of \$3,241.88, support by Councilman Siebert. Motion carried.

Request for Library Appointment – Mary Cooley- Councilman Siebert moved to appoint Mary Cooley to the Litchfield Library Board, support by Councilwoman Bills. Motion carried.

Accept Bid for Damaged Well House Roof Repair – Manager Terry informed the board that two weeks ago the city experienced a wind storm with wind gust up to 65 mph. Our well house roof received damage from that storm and there is a lot of electronic gear and motors that need to be enclosed. DPW Superintendent Langhann contacted both Triple J Construction and Jeff Rossman for quotes.

Councilman Bannick moved to accept the bid from Triple J Construction in an amount of \$5,100.00, support by Councilman Smith. Motion carried.

Bills for Approval – Councilman Bannick moved to pay the bills as presented in the amount of \$41,346.78, seconded by Councilwoman Bills. Motion carried.

Police Report – Councilman Siebert moved to accept the police report as presented and place on file, seconded by Councilman Smith. Motion carried.

Public Works Report – Councilman Smith moved to accept the public works report as presented and place on file, seconded by Councilwoman Bills. Motion carried.

Treasurers Update – Treasurer Barrett informed the board that the county tax settlement went well and there were some changes by the State Tax Commission and she was able to collect all of those changes so the city has only one personal property tax left to collect.

Treasurer Barrett stated that she will be meeting the Budget & Finance Committee before the April council meeting. Also, there is training going on with the city staff. Lauren was at training last week and Sue and I both have upcoming training.

City Manager's Update –Manager Terry informed the board that both he and Jessica Bills met with the school to try and find a way to work together and promote one another.

Manager Terry has spoken with Gavin Carr of Hi-Lex and they plan on breaking ground very soon for the new building. It's a huge project and involves about 110,000 square feet.

Manager Terry stated he is working on the Gonzalez project and is getting ready for budget.

Manager Terry talked about citizen complaints and the process that the city takes and how creating and amending ordinances affect the entire city.

Correspondence – None

Committee Reports –Mayor Smith stated the fire department is still working on the Jaws of Life and making those available for the city. Butler Township has requested to use the Litchfield Fire Department's services once again.

Councilpersons Concerns – Councilman Siebert referenced the letter from the attorney regarding the food truck and suggested maybe the planning commission could come up with some fees to apply.

Adjournment – Councilman Bannick moved to adjourn at 7:35 p.m., seconded by Councilman Smith. Motion carried.